

County Clerk Warns Property Owners About Scam

Montgomery County property owners are warned to disregard letters they may receive in the mail or via email from companies advising them to buy a copy of the deed to their property and a “property profile” for a cost of \$87 to \$95. County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser has received several recent reports from constituents about this consumer rip-off making the rounds again, which looks official because it includes public information, such as the owner’s name, the property’s address, tax property I.D. number and assessment data. She wants to pass along a warning to residents to not pay for this unneeded service.

“If you have the original recorded deed to your property, you don’t need another copy,” said Leitheiser. “Additionally, if you ever need a copy or a certified copy, we at your county recorder’s office will always

have it for you in most instances at a very low, reasonable cost.”

Leitheiser also notes much of this same public information can be found free on Montgomery County GIS Map portion of the county’s website at www.montgomery-countyil.gov.

The county recorder’s office on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro has copies of all land deeds in Montgomery County recorded from 1822 to the present. The cost of a copy of a non-certified land record in Montgomery County is 25 cents a page if the customer copies it and 50 cents a page if recorder’s office staff provides a copy to the customer. Most copies of deeds cost the customer under \$4. Customers may also print their own Montgomery County, Illinois land records on-line at a reasonable cost at landrecords.net.

Leitheiser notes that sadly, the elderly are particular targets of this scam, as the letter scares them into paying for something they usually already have or don’t need. She stated the office also offers a free Property Fraud Alert service that will text, email or leave a voicemail for landowners who want to track when land recording activity takes place on their property in Montgomery County, IL. Anyone interested may sign up on line at <https://www.montgomerycountyil.gov/countyclerk/recording/pfalert> or in the County Clerk/Recorder’s office.

She encourages those with questions regarding recorded Montgomery County land records to contact her or her office’s recording department staff at the Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder’s Office at 217-532-9535.



Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser warns local residents about a scam coming through the mail asking property owners to purchase a copy of their deed. Anyone concerned about something they receive in the mail may contact her office.



Sidewalk Work Begins

Construction is underway in downtown Hillsboro at the Historic Courthouse, where new sidewalks and curbs are being installed. The project is a collaboration between the city of Hillsboro and Montgomery County, with the hope of being completed for Old Settlers Days in August. Kinney Contractors of Raymond is working the job site.

Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

Panhandle Discusses Solar Project

by Kyle Herschelman

Members of the Panhandle School Board heard about one possible option for a solar energy project at its Raymond campus on Monday, June 26, during their regular board meeting.

Kyle Loyd of Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC) Powered by Future Green was on hand to lay out what his company’s plans would be for such a project and the savings the district could expect, which he put conservatively at \$20,000 a year.

IEC Powered by Future Green is Illinois’ largest school energy management group co-sponsored by the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (Illinois ASBO), Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) and Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). The Panhandle School District has been part of the energy purchasing consortium since 2006.

Loyd said that the district’s energy bill consists of two main portions: the actual cost of electricity and the ancillary fees charged by the electrical company. Deregulation of electricity allowed consortiums to lower the cost of the first part, while renewable energy is working to find savings in the second part, which comes from the utilization of the power company’s grid.

Continued on page 8A

Happy Birthday To You, Hillsboro!

Community members celebrated Hillsboro’s bicentennial year with a 200th Birthday Party at Central Park on Saturday, June 24.

Hosted by Imagine Hillsboro, the family-friendly event served as a chance for residents to check out the Reinventing Central Park Committee’s ongoing renovation of the public space, which now features a new playground and an updated wiffle ball field. In addition to being able to test out the new playground equipment, youth were treated to bounce houses and frisbees courtesy of the event’s sponsor, Lincoln Land Community College. Attendees were encouraged to picnic at the park, and Imagine Hillsboro sold sack lunches during the event, joined by local favorite Toast of the Town food truck.

A plaque dedication was held following the picnic. Imagine Hillsboro Bicentennial Committee Chair Terri

Casey welcomed guests, thanking all who helped organize the day’s festivities. Pastor Stefan Munker addressed the attendees and gave the invocation. Hillsboro High School student Lauryn Miller sang the National Anthem, followed by 2022 Old Settles Jr. Miss Kaelin Cress and Little Miss Indi Flowers, who led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Imagine Hillsboro President Tori O’Dell spoke briefly, thanking volunteers, fellow organizations and the city’s parks department, among others for their work in organizing the bicentennial bash. Mayor Don Downs, took the podium, speaking about the importance of community, which he deemed the city’s greatest asset and the driving force behind Hillsboro’s continued forward movement. Terri Casey, bicentennial chair, talked about the “Spirit of Hillsboro,” giving a glimpse into the city’s founding.

“Hillsboro is truly an extraordinary town...While the stately old architecture is pretty amazing, it is the people that make this place unique,” said Casey. “Little if anything will be remembered of us as individuals or of this day 200 years from now, but I sincerely hope that we will leave our make, like a ripple through time, by doing the little things every day that move us forward...The future is built atop the foundation of the past, but it will be determined by souls yet unknown. The ‘Spirit of Hillsboro’ will continue to be that of welcoming neighbors, hard work, ingenuity and grit.”

Mayor Downs returned to the podium to reveal the plaque, which has been installed next to the “H” sculpture located in the center of the park space. The “200th Birthday Party” culminated with a cake cutting.

Continued on page 2A



Pastor Stefan Munker, of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, gives an invocation during a plaque dedication, part of Hillsboro’s Bicentennial Birthday Party, on Saturday, June 24, at Central Park in Hillsboro, not far from the spot where the city’s first settlements were established in the early 19th century.

Journal-News Photo

Thu 29	95°/72°	 Partly Cloudy	23%
Fri 30	92°/70°	 AM Thunderstorms	43%
Sat 01	89°/68°	 Thunderstorms	59%
Sun 02	84°/64°	 Scattered Thunderstorms	58%

Index	
Police.....	5B
Classifieds	4B
Family	4A-5A
Kids Page	6A
Obituaries	3A
Sports.....	2B





Local youth got plenty of play time in over the weekend. In addition to testing out the new playground equipment, bounce houses were set up at Central Park, courtesy of Imagine Hillsboro's Reinventing Central Park Committee.

Journal-News Photo



Community members of all ages beat the heat by taking advantage of Central Park Pool's free swim on Saturday, June 24, in celebration of the city's bicentennial birthday.

Journal-News Photo



Happy Birthday, America!
Due to the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, July 4, the newspaper office in Hillsboro will be closed that day. There will be regular business hours on Monday, July 3 and Wednesday, July 5, and there will be no change to the production schedule next week.

~ ~ ~
The Imagine Hillsboro Farmers Market returns to town this Saturday, July 1, to the Lincoln Plaza. Many unique, local vendors will set up shop from 9 a.m. to noon, and you won't want to miss any of the great items! The Farmers Market is held on the first and third Saturdays of each month from May through September in downtown Hillsboro.

~ ~ ~
Summer is speeding right along, and if your high school class is hosting a reunion this year, we want to know about it! Give us a call at 217-532-3933 and we'll get you set up to come by and take a class photo from your reunion. It will be a keepsake forever!

~ ~ ~
The Litchfield Public Library kicked off its summer reading program this week with a Beach Reads theme. Youngsters can join the fun each Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the library, and the next program will be on July 11.

To celebrate Beach Reads, the library has updated its story walk behind the library to feature "Over and Under the Waves" by Kate Messner. Enjoy a nice evening walk with your family and check out a new book!

~ ~ ~
And speaking of walking, the Nokomis Homecoming Association has announced the theme of this year's parade as "Road Trip." The parade will be held on Saturday, July 8, beginning at 6 p.m. Line-up is at Fred B. Johnson Park in Nokomis at 4:45 p.m., and judging will take place at 5:15 p.m. Grab some friends or family and get entered in this year's parade!

~ ~ ~
Although they may not have brought home the top prize in this year's NCAA College World Series, the University of Tennessee did bring home some pretty big awards.

Their coaching staff, which includes Kate (Singer) Malveaux, originally from Nokomis, and her husband, Chris, was named 2023 Southeast Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the NCAA! Congrats to Chris, Kate and the Lady Vols!

~ ~ ~
This year's USTA tumbling national competition was held in Springfield in June with lots of local athletes taking their turn on the mat.

One local tumbler, Ella Odle of Hillsboro, was featured in a broadcast news segment by WAND TV. Her grandma, Patty Meyers of Hillsboro, shared the link with the newspaper.

This is the 52nd year for the USTA tumbling national competition and the third time it's been hosted in Springfield.

Hillsboro's Birthday Party

Continued from page 1A

In collaboration with the bicentennial celebration, the City of Hillsboro's parks and Recreation Department waived pool fees on Saturday, inviting all to come out and enjoy Central Park Pool. The Historical Society of Montgomery County joined in on the festivities by opening up the Montgomery County Museum, located directly behind the Harkey House at 305 S. Broad Street, so that the public could view the

ongoing renovations to the space. Hillsboro's birthday celebration continued into the evening with a community bike ride hosted by Bike Hillsboro, the "Oo-De-Lally Bike Trail" group.

Several commemorative items were sold during the bicentennial bash and are still available for purchase. Cups with the "Hillsboro 200" logo can be bought from Toast of the Town food truck and *Happy 200th Birthday Hillsboro*. A limited number of "Birthday Cake" candles,

created by Alpha Candles, are available to purchase through Imagine Hillsboro, and the newest illustrated tale written by Dr. Patty Whitworth, illustrated by Danielle Seago and edited by Barb Hewitt is currently available for purchase at *The Journal-News* and The Dressing Room. The book showcases many historical landmarks, buildings and events within the City of Hillsboro.

Bicentennial celebrations will continue throughout the

year. Among the highlights of the year, the city will be showcased in the Smithsonian Institution's "Spark! Places of Innovation" exhibition. The traveling exhibit centers on innovation in rural America and highlights the places, people and circumstances that generate innovation and invention in rural communities. The exhibit will open at Hillsboro Public Area Library at the end of July.

Follow the "Hillsboro200" page on Facebook for information on upcoming events.

Temporary Tax Relief Will Expire On July 1

by Jerry Nowicki
Capitol News Illinois

A new state fiscal year will begin July 1, ushering in the reinstatement of a 1 percent tax on groceries and a second increase to the state's motor fuel tax in 2023.

Amid record-high inflation last spring, the General Assembly temporarily waived Illinois' grocery tax for the coming fiscal year and delayed the annual increase in the state's motor fuel tax for six months. Democrats introduced both those measures as part of a larger tax relief package that drew criticisms for its proximity to the November general election.

"What we did last year was a temporary measure because

we had very high inflation," Pritzker said when asked at an unrelated news conference Tuesday whether the changes were election-related. "Inflation, you may notice, has come down."

Inflation was approaching 9 percent when the tax relief plan passed last year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, but it was 4 percent last month when the fiscal year 2024 budget was passed.

The Pritzker administration estimated at the time the temporary pause on the grocery tax would cost the state \$400 million. Most grocery tax revenues are distributed to local governments, so last year lawmakers directed state general revenue funds

to reimburse local governments for any financial hit they would have taken due to the pause.

"I would like very much to eliminate entirely the grocery tax, but it is a matter of local governments and what they would do if they didn't have that income as a result of the grocery tax," Pritzker said, faulting Republicans for "complaining" about the tax being reimposed without offering revenue alternatives.

The motor fuel tax on gasoline, gasohol and compressed natural gas, meanwhile, will increase by 3.1 cents on July 1, to 45.4 cents per gallon. The tax rate for diesel fuel will also increase by 3.1 cents, to 52.9 cents per gallon.

The automatic increase in

the fuel tax at the beginning of the new fiscal year is an annual process that became law in 2019 with bipartisan support. Lawmakers doubled the motor fuel tax and indexed it to increase at the rate of the federal government's Consumer Price Index each year.

The motor fuel tax revenue, combined with one-time increases to license and registration fees that took effect in 2020, provided the funding backbone of the state's \$33.2 billion six-year infrastructure plan for road and bridge upkeep, dubbed Rebuild Illinois.

According to the governor's office, Rebuild Illinois has funded \$10.9 billion of upgrades as of March 31, including 4,913 miles of roads, 479 structures, and 709 other safety improvements.

Last year's July 1 motor fuel tax increase was delayed six months, so the per-gallon tax already increased by 3.1 cents in January. Pritzker last year estimated that the temporary pause on the gas tax hike would have saved consumers about \$70 million.

As part of last year's tax relief plan, lost motor fuel tax revenues were replaced by money from the state's Leaking Underground Storage Tank fund, which is historically paid into by fees and fines related to underground chemical storage tanks, such as those at gas stations.

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Director Suzanne Tatham, RN, MSN, dressed as a superhero for Hospital Week

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Public Meetings

Montgomery County Board Coordinating

The Montgomery County Board Coordinating Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

On the agenda, the board will discuss approval and updates for sidewalks at the Historic Courthouse, as well as discuss approval and updates for the Animal Control facility and municipal contracts. They will also discuss approving a FY2023 agreement between Montgomery County and Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service.

Fire Calls

Car Fire

A car was destroyed during a fire at 9:17 p.m. Monday, June 26, at 1950 Panama Avenue between Panama and Sorento.

Members of the Shoal Creek Fire Department were training in the area with one of the department's fire engines when they passed the address and noticed that the vehicle in front was on fire. A total of 10 firefighters responded to the fire and were on the scene for an hour.

Odd Odor

Four members of the Shoal Creek Fire Department responded to a call regarding a strange odor on New Douglas Road at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 27.

The firefighters were on the scene for 15 minutes and determined that the odor was from the smoke from the wildfires in Canada that has filtered down to the area.

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Obituaries

Thursday, June 29, 2023 - **3A**

Sandra L. Thomas, 66

Enjoyed Bowling, Painting



Sandra Lee Thomas, 66, of Litchfield, died on Monday, June 26, 2023, at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond Heights, MO.

Funeral services for Sandra will be held on Saturday, July 1, at 12 p.m. at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield. Visitation will be held before the service at 10 a.m. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery in Litchfield.

Ms. Thomas was born in Chicago, April 30, 1957, a daughter of Robert Frederick and Jacqueline Mae (Dorf) Schneider. She graduated from Romeoville High School with the Class of 1975. She was employed with Marriot Hotels as a purchasing agent, and retired in 2018 after a long career in the hospitality industry. She enjoyed bowling, visiting the casinos, cooking, painting, gardening and being outdoors.

Sandra is survived by her "magnificent other", Manfred Brandtner of Litchfield; her two children, son, Bradley (fiancée Amanda) Thomas of St. Louis, and daughter, Jeanette Thomas of Brumley, MO; sister, Carol (Mark) Busking of Romeoville; grandchildren, Brighton Thomas, Alyssa King-smith, and Gabriel Zamudio; niece, Michelle Schneider; and beloved dog, Grace.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, William Schneider and Richard Schneider.

Memorials may be made to Hearts United, 110 N. Jackson St., Litchfield, IL, 62056.

To sign the online register book, light a virtual candle, or for more information, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Eleanor J. Dubetz, 93

Ties To Litchfield



Eleanor June Dubetz, 93, of Benld, died at 7:38 a.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023, at Calhoun Nursing and Rehab Center.

Funeral mass was celebrated on Friday, June 23, at St. Joseph's Church in Benld. Burial was at Benld Cemetery. Kravanya Funeral Home in Benld assisted the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Dubetz was born on March 19, 1930, in Mt. Olive, to Michael Jatcko, Sr., and Eleanor (Hefner) Jatcko. She married Alex Dubetz on Sept. 5, 1953, in Benld, and he preceded her in death on June 29, 2012. Mrs. Dubetz worked at Brown Shoe Factory, East Side Bakery and Rice Stix Dress Factory. She was a member of the Mt. Olive VFW Auxiliary and Green Oaks Garden Club. Mrs. Dubetz was also a former Girl Scout Leader, and a volunteer at Heritage Health of Gillespie.

Mrs. Dubetz is survived by her children, Judy (Jeffrey) Dubetz Hagen of Godfrey, Loreen (John) DeAntoni of Wildwood, MO, and Jonathan (Raymelle) Dubetz of Pittsburg; grandchildren, Marissa DeAntoni and Christopher DeAntoni; siblings, Monica Woods of Orland Park, Michael (Pat) Jatcko of Litchfield and Patricia Schwab of Litchfield; and brother-in-law, Bill Kasich.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Joan Kasich; and brothers-in-law, Jim Wood and Buel Schwab.

Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be left online at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

Pam S. O'Keefe, 66

Doting Grandmother



Pam S. (Blankenship) O'Keefe, 66, of Litchfield, died on Wednesday afternoon, June 14, 2023, at her home.

Services will be held in St. Louis, MO, at a later date. Litchfield Family Funeral Service is assisting the family with arrangements.

Ms. O'Keefe was born on Sept. 12, 1956, in St. Louis, MO, a daughter of John and Mary (Nelle) Blankenship. She had been employed in the billing department at Charter Communications for several years before retiring. Ms. O'Keefe enjoyed scrap booking and knitting in her spare time. She was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and enjoyed watching them on television. Her grandchildren gave her great joy, watching them grow up and spending as much time as she could with them.

Ms. O'Keefe is survived by her children, Rebecca (Edward) Skaggs of Licking, MO, Patrick Wayne (Heather) O'Keefe of Litchfield, and Brian (significant other, Sonya) O'Keefe of Litchfield; 12 grandchildren, Tyler, Kaylin, Kayleigh, Dylan, Sean, Dominic, LJ, Aubrey, D.J., Verona, Bailey, Abby and Savannah; great-granddaughter, Aubrey; siblings, Rick (Barb) Blankenship of St. Louis, MO, and Keith (Linda) Blankenship of O'Fallon, MO; several nieces and nephews; and sister-in-law, Mary Ann Blankenship.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, Jim Blankenship.

Memorials may be made to Leukemia Foundation. Condolences may be left online at www.litchfieldffs.com.

Gene A. Gahr, 88

United States Army



Gene Alan Gahr, 88, of Carlinville, died on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at Heritage Health Care in Carlinville.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, June 27, at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Carlinville. Davis-Anderson Funeral Home of Carlinville assisted the family with arrangements.

Mr. Gahr was born on Jan. 23, 1935, in Litchfield, to Olin Gahr and Mary Oepke. He was raised by his paternal grandparents on the Gahr farm on Snell Road. On the farm, he grew to love hunting, fishing, gardening and building; skills he used until his last days. Mr. Gahr attended Hazelwood School, a quarter of a mile from the farm, where he completed grades first through eighth. He was the last graduating class from Hazelwood School. Mr. Gahr was 1952, graduate of Carlinville High School. He ran track and cross country and was a great long distance runner. He attended one year of college at Bradley University.

Mr. Gahr was drafted into the United States Army in 1957, and was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, for a year and a half where he fully embraced the adventure. He made many lifelong friends from his time in the army and looked fondly on his experience.

On March 29, 1958, he married Doris Caudle and they recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Their favorite pastime was spending time together and volunteering and working at St. Paul UCC of Carlinville. Mr. Gahr was a 60 year member of the Carlinville Rifle and Pistol Club in which he was a founding member. He retired from GTE in 1994 after 37 years. After retirement, Mr. Gahr enjoyed gardening and spending time at the family farm hunting, fishing, and putting. He had a sly wit and he loved his family with a passion and always had a smile on his face.

Mr. Gahr is survived by his wife, Doris Gahr of Carlinville; children, Leanne Gahr and Matt (fiance' Coleen McLaughlin Moore) Gahr, both of Carlinville; sister, Anna Jane Hornady of New Caney, TX; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Alvin Gahr.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul's United Church of Christ or the charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be left online at www.davisandersonfuneralhome.com.

Mount Olive Church To Celebrate America Day

Mount Olive Illinois First Baptist Church, located at 410 West 3rd North Street in Mount Olive, will be celebrating "I Love America" Sunday on July 2, in the 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5 p.m.

services.

The services will feature special patriotic music. Military uniforms are welcome. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call 217-299-0508.

Terry D. Frey, 84

Proud Army Veteran



Terry Dean Frey, 84, of Litchfield, died on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 5:55 a.m. at Heritage Health of Gillespie.

Funeral services for Mr. Frey will be held Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield. Visitation will be held from 4 until 7 p.m. on Friday, July 7, 2023, at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield. Burial will be in Elm Lawn Cemetery in Litchfield.

Mr. Frey was born June 2, 1939, in St. Louis, MO, a son of Lawrence O. and Mary L. (Panske) Frey. He married Roberta Ann Parrish on May 30, 1959, at St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Litchfield. Mrs. Frey died on July 13, 2004.

Mr. Frey graduated from Litchfield Community High School with the Class of 1957, and proudly served his country as an United States Army veteran. He was a salesman for M.J. Kellner Foodservice for many years. He was a member of the Litchfield Moose, and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. He also enjoyed watching NASCAR and working in his yard. He especially cherished time spent with family and friends, and his great-grand dogs.

Mr. Frey is survived by his daughter, Shelley (Scott) Schmidt of Litchfield; and granddaughters, Sarah Schmidt of Litchfield, and Dr. Kelly L. Schmidt (husband Seth McCormick) of Columbia, MO.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and two sons, Andrew Robert Frey and Timothy Frey.

Memorials may be made to the Litchfield Veterans' Memorial Garden, P.O. Box 593, Litchfield, IL, 62056 or Litchfield Baseball, Inc., c/o Adam Ortega, 829 W. Buchanan St., Litchfield, IL, 62056.

To sign the online register book, light a virtual candle, or for more information, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Ruth Marie Gillespie, 100

Homemaker, Farm Owner



Ruth Marie Gillespie, 100, died at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23, 2023.

A graveside service was held on Tuesday, June 27, at Shipman Cemetery. Kravanya Funeral Home in Bunker Hill assisted the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Gillespie was born on March, 8, 1923, the daughter of Sidney William Reno and Marjory (Leak) Reno. Her mother died following child birth, and her father married Genevieve Leak, who soon became the mother Mrs. Gillespie would know and love. On August 24, 1940, she married Lloyd Gillespie, and he preceded her in death in 1988.

Mrs. Gillespie was a homemaker. Following the return from war, Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie were active with the American Legion. Along with raising her children, Mrs. Gillespie helped a good friend of hers, Unma Beckham, at the Shipman Lumber Company. She always looked forward to spending time with her special friend, Mary Jean Reno, working at the Red Cross Blood Bank.

Mrs. Gillespie partnered with her mother, Genevieve, to purchase a small farm. Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie would go to the farm nearly every evening to feed calves and pigs. Her brothers lived close enough to help with answering questions. Mrs. Gillespie would often share farm stories with Bill Schoenman at church.

Mrs. Gillespie is survived by her children, Janet (Robert) Kykendal of Hillsboro, MO, Larry (Sandy) Gillespie of Shipman and Gerry Gillespie of Bunker Hill; brother, Don (Joan) Reno of Medora; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings, Russell and Virginia Reno, and Mary and Ernie Sons; daughter, Sondra Marie; grandson, Gerald Gillespie; and a daughter-in-law, Debbie Gillespie.

Memorials are suggested to Shipman Food Pantry or the American Red Cross. Condolences may be left online at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

David E. Smith, 61

Loved Coaching JFL



David E. Smith, 61 of Girard, died on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, at the First Christian Church in Girard, with Rich McElfresh and Shawn Burgess presiding. Burial will follow in Girard Cemetery in Girard. Davis-Anderson Funeral Home in Girard is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mr. Smith was born on July 7, 1961, in Taylorville, a son of Mitchell E. and Mary Ann (Pitchford) Smith. He married Lori Kemp on July 25, 1981, at the Oak Leaf Country Club in Girard.

Mr. Smith graduated from Girard High School with the class of 1979. He was the refrigeration branch manager and project engineer for Statco-DSI where he worked for 25 years. Mr. Smith's work ethic and effectiveness was unparalleled. Outside of his profession he was even more impactful. Mr. Smith was exceedingly kind and generous. He would drop anything to give someone a hand.

Mr. Smith loved coaching youth football. He loved all his players like they were his kids. His passion and enthusiasm was contagious. Mr. Smith loved golfing with his sons every chance he got. He loved his wife of 41 years from the moment he met her. Mr. Smith loved his family intensely. He always remained close with all of his siblings and would see them as much as possible. Mr. Smith would help his sons with any house project they had often neglecting his own projects in the process.

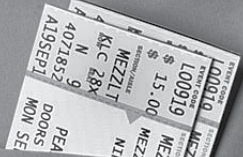
In addition to his wife, Mr. Smith is survived by his mother; children, Tyler D. (Megan) Smith of Virden and Derek A. (Chelsey) Smith of Williamsville; grandchildren, Kye David, Kendrek, Azlyn and Tevin; siblings, Diana (Brett) Brown of Girard, Randy (Colean) Smith of Girard, Dawn (Eric) Webb of Raymond and Danielle (Kyle) Marshall of Farmersville; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father; brother, Daniel; grandparents, Roscoe and Gladys Pitchford; and grandmother, Ruby Foster.

Memorials may be made to North-Mac JFL. Condolences may be left online at www.davisandersonfuneralhome.com.

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who called, sent texts, attended the service, brought food, sent donations, sent cards and remembered us in your prayers. Each and every gesture you have shared with us has made a difference.

Your support and love has lifted us up in our time of sadness. We are truly blessed by your kindness.

The Family of Marjorie Leefers

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Pastors Steve and Tim, the Christian Church of Litchfield, Plummer Funeral Home, our many family and friends for your prayerful and loving support at this time.

**The Family Of
Diana Parsons**



Hubbards Celebrate Platinum Anniversary

George and Shirleyann Hubbard will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary on Thursday, June 29, 2023. The couple was married at Trinity Lutheran Church on June 29, 1953.

“There was a full house. All of the windows were open, candles were burning, I was in a borrowed suit and sweat was a stream of water running down my back,” said Mr. Hubbard in reminiscence. “We celebrated with a big reception. We served dipped ice cream with a piece of cake. I remember that the first three plates split down the middle and we had to put them in an icebox for awhile so that we could use them.”

Mr. Hubbard was working for TWA in Kansas City at the time of their marriage. Mr. Hubbard was enlisted in the United States Air Force and stationed in Springfield, Texas and California. The couple has lived in seven different states throughout their marriage. Their first

son, Marc, was along for their travels and had been in every state West of the Mississippi River, with the exception of North Dakota before he was two years old.

The Hubbards are blessed with three sons, Marc, Blake “Andrew” and Lance, the apples of their mother’s eye.

Mrs. Hubbard was an active Sunday school teacher, a Den Mother for Cub Scouts. Mr. Hubbard had several jobs over the years. He was a laborer, helping to build the Taylorville Road, on active duty with the 170th Fighter Unit in Springfield, worked for Boeing in Wichita, KS, working on the final inspection line. He retired as a small business owner at the age of 62.

After Mr. Hubbard’s retirement, the couple enjoyed spending 28 years wintering in Florida, where they made many friends. They always returned to the home they built together and have lived in for 67 years.

Drive-In To Host Hope Food Pantry Fundraiser

Come on out to the Litchfield Rt. 66 Skyview Drive-In on Wednesday, July 26, for a night of family fun. For one night only, all ticket proceeds will be donated to the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry in Hillsboro.

The drive-in, located at

1500 North Route 66, will be showing the 2014 hit comedy “Moms’ Night Out,” and tickets will be \$7 per person. Gates and snack bar will open at 7 p.m., and the screening will start at sundown.

NOW AVAILABLE at THE JOURNAL-NEWS

New book celebrates the Hillsboro community and the effect of local journalism

BEACONS IN THE DARKNESS

Hope and Transformation Among America's Community Newspapers

by Dave Hoekstra

\$18⁹⁹

Beacons in the Darkness

Hope and Transformation Among America's Community Newspapers

Author Dave Hoekstra interviews the people trying to keep the lights on at community newspapers across the country amid buyouts, declining revenues, fake news, and a pandemic. The book is not an account of the death of local journalism, but rather a celebration of the community ties, perseverance, and empathy that's demonstrated in community newsrooms from Hillsboro to Charleston, SC, to Marfa, TX.

Births

Steve and Amanda Graves, of Greenville, announce the birth of their son, Moxley Stephen Graves, born at 3:56 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. He weighed 7 lbs., 9 ozs., and measured 20.5 ins., long.

Moxley is welcomed to the world by his older siblings, Ashton Graves, age 20, Arya Graves, age five and Ivy Graves, age one year old.

Maternal grandparents are Maryann Scroggins of Staunton and Greg Knezik, Sr., of New Douglas. Paternal grandmother is Shirley Graves of Greenville.

~ ~ ~

Imagine Back To School Shop Seeking Donations

There is still a little time to donate items to Imagine Hillsboro’s Back to School Shop.

Donations of gently used kids (sizes 4t and up), women’s and men’s clothing, dance attire, new socks and underwear, school supplies and new or gently used backpacks can be dropped off at the United Methodist Church of Hillsboro or MCR Realty in Hillsboro through Friday, June 30, during their regular items of business. Monetary donations may

also be directed to the outreach project.

Donations should not include pajamas, swimwear, used socks/underwear, used shoes or items with rips or stains.

The Back to School Shop will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 22, at Hillsboro Free Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed to help with the store.

For more information contact Cassie Malloy at 217-710-2558 or email contact@imaginehillsboro.com.

‘Pack-The-House’ To Support Aaron Roach

Gianni’s Pizza will be hosting a pack-the-house fundraiser for Aaron Roach on July 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Hillsboro location and 4 to 9 p.m. at the Litchfield location. They will offer pick-up and dine-in orders.

Roach, 20, was in a tragic motorcycle accident on June 16. He was airlifted shortly after to HSHS St. John’s Hos-

pital, where he is currently still in the ICU, with a long road of recovery ahead.

Roach is a recent graduate from Litchfield High School. He is the son of Jeff and Stacey (Hughes) Roach. Stacey is a HHS class of 1991 graduate, while Jeff is a Montgomery County Sheriff’s deputy.

Mt. Zion Lutheran To Host Worship Service

Pastor Cynthia Munker announces worship for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 2, in the church sanctuary. The service will be livestreaming on the “Mt. Zion Lutheran, Litchfield, IL” page on Facebook.

Scriptures for study are Romans 6:12-23 and Psalm 89:1-4 and 15-18. The gospel for preaching and study is Matthew 10:40-42. The congregation will sing “All Are Welcome,” “Will You Come and Follow Me,” “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring,” “Children of the Heavenly Father” and “The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve.”

Mt. Zion Lutheran church’s Mission Beyond their Walls

for July is Litchfield Coats for Kids.

“We have seen how extreme the weather can become and how quickly and are thankful that Litchfield Coats for Kids prepares in time for whatever bitter weather may come to our community,” said Pastor Munker. “Let’s make sure there are plenty of dollars to secure coats, shoes, and necessary clothing for the children. We welcome your generous support.”

All Christians are welcome to join in Holy Communion with the church. Mt. Zion Lutheran Church is located at located at 824 North Monroe Street in Litchfield.



Team members pictured above, from the left are Tammy Johnson of Nokomis, Jill Wells, Colton Wells, Mary Ann Smith of Bloomington and Morgan Johnson. In front are little miracle twins Taylor Johnson, at left, and Quinn Johnson, at right.

Johnson Little Miracles Join St. John’s Benefit

The Little Miracles 5K was held on Saturday, June 10, at Washington Park in Springfield, and local participants included the family of Blake and Morgan Johnson of Nokomis.

All money raised, including entry fees and team fundraising, went to support HSHS St. John’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Springfield. Many participants were former NICU

babies and their families and friends.

The Johnson team raised \$650 toward the event, with a special donation made in memory of the twins’ grandmother Barbara Greenwood. Taylor and Quinn were born at 28 weeks gestation, weighing 2 lbs., 6oz. and 1 lb., 15oz. They spent 79 days in the NICU and the Johnson family is part of the St. John’s Miracle Family.



Area youth play “What’s That Strategy” a critical-thinking game during a program on decisions lead by Haley Woodson (standing) and Peggy Fox (sitting) from the Montgomery County Health Department at the Farmersville-Waggoner Public Library.

Weekly Library Program Focuses On Peer Pressure

Haley Woodson and Peggy Fox from the Montgomery County Health Department presented their weekly program at the Farmersville-Waggoner Public Library on Tuesday, June 13.

Woodson and Fox discussed decision making and peer pressure with the kids in attendance. Four steps were emphasized: “Stop, Think, Act and Reverse” to learn how to deal with peer pressure. Woodson read many scenarios of problems and the kids responded with yes or no. They discussed risk differences and healthy vs. dangerous solutions.

The youth participants discussed what to do when they make bad decisions and different steps to change them. Fox and Woodson advised the children to choose a person they trusted to talk

to when they have problems. Each child receives a worksheet coloring page that tasked them with choosing between good or bad decisions from pictures.

After the lesson the group completed a tissue paper butterfly or snail craft, and played “What’s That Strategy” a critical-thinking game where Woodson read questions and the youth participants selected the correct answers from printed sheets of paper inside their circle.

A snack of cookies and juice was served while completing their craft.

Attending were Kenden Rovey, Kolton Rovey, Payson Smith, Lennox Sidwell, Reece Sidwell, Quinn Sidwell, Ainsley Smith, Jake Arnold, Lindsay Arnold, Sam Clark, Cara Stone, Addi Stone and Zeke Mendoza.

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Heartland Show Shines Light On Unrefined Work

Above, Martha Radcliffe offers a sneak peak of "Calling It Finished," a unique art show that will open from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Heartland Gallery in downtown Hillsboro this Saturday, July 1. The unconventional exhibit will showcase the work of area artists in various stages of "refined" completion. Pieces will be available for purchase. Pheasant Valley Farms will host complimentary wine tastings during the show.



Local Youngsters Enjoy County Fair Petting Zoo

Paul and Lana Pershing and Patti Wartmann of Hillsboro brought a petting zoo to this year's Montgomery County Fair in Butler. Under the pavilion, youngsters of all ages had the chance to feed goats, pet rabbits and see geese and ducks. Pictured above, Maeva Jett of Irving carefully feeds a goat during the fair.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

'Love Letters' Opens At Grand Theatre In July

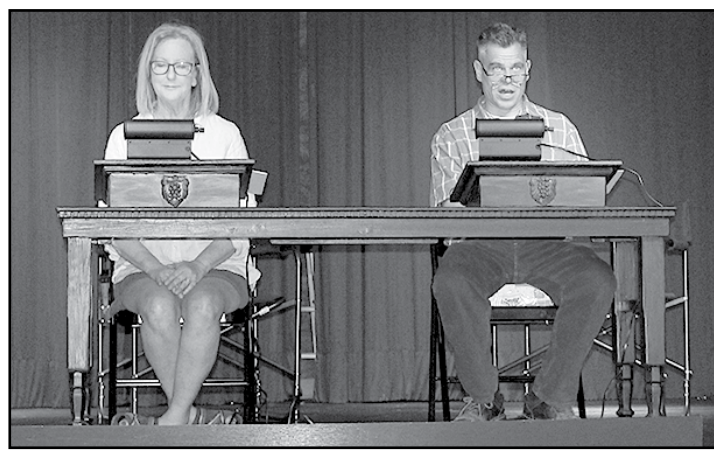
by **Tori O'Dell**

"It is a really different type of show," said Susan Collins, who is directing and producing the Blended Artists Imaginarium's upcoming production of "Love Letters" through her Hillsboro-based production company, Black Box Productions.

Written by American playwright A.R. Gurney in 1988, "Love Letters" is the epitome of a "black box theater production," and the perfect fit for the theater group's first official play at the Grand Theatre in Hillsboro.

"Love Letters" is very simple. It has a tremendous amount of depth, but the actual production is not overly polished. There are only two actors and the scripts are not memorized. Rather, the characters read letters they have written to each other throughout the course of their life. The audience gets the unique vantage of watching a love story unfold from a childhood friendship into adulthood," Collins explained. "The writing is incredible."

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize Drama, "Love Letters" centers on two characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III, and the



Liz Row Huber and Rick Cina prepare for the upcoming production of "Love Letters," which will open at The Grand Theatre in Hillsboro in July. Each performance is cast with a different pairing of local actors, adding a twist to the unorthodox play.

Journal-News/Tori O'Dell

"letters" they write to one another, discussing their hopes, ambitions, dreams and disappointments, over a period that spans almost 50 years.

The Grand Theatre, located in downtown Hillsboro, will offer the show multiple times throughout the month of July. Each showing is cast with a different pairing of local actors, who draw different elements out of the characters. Cast list: Michael Collins and Amber Kalaher at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 21; Denise Shrewsbury

and Brian Goss at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22; Rick Cina and Liz Rowe Huber at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 27; Mandy Hopper and Zach Wygal at 8

p.m. on Friday, July 28; and John Gibb and Brenda Donham Gibb at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 29.

Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased online at bestmoviedeal.com.

A portion of the proceeds from this production will be used by Blended Artists Productions to establish a \$1,000 scholarship, which will be awarded to a 2024 graduating senior who wants to study, or best communicates how arts can benefit rural America.

Among their many projects, Blended Artists Imaginarium is working on a murder mystery and plans to hold a Halloween-themed trivia night, with a twist, at the end of September. Follow "Black Box Production Co." and "Blended Artists Imaginarium" on their social media pages to stay abreast of what the group is doing.

Trinity Lutheran Invites Children To Bible School

Trinity Lutheran Church in Nokomis will host Vacation Bible School, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Monday, July 10, through Friday, July 14.

"Making Tracks" is the theme for this year's VBS, which is open to children ages three (nursery) through the sixth grade (this past school year).

The Vacation Bible School will center around Psalm 147:5, "Great is our Lord and mighty in power."

"Students are invited to 'climb aboard' to learn how

Jesus has all the power and helps physically and spiritually," said VBS organizer Vickie Detmers.

Trinity Lutheran's VBS will provide attendees with the opportunity to make new friends, enjoy crafts and learn songs.

The week-long VBS will conclude with a family picnic on Friday, afternoon.

Questions may be directed to Vickie Detmers at 217-855-0515. Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 204 N. Pine Street in Nokomis.



RetroRockit Takes Stage At Panther Palooza Event

Local band, *RetroRockit*, is one of six bands to take the stage in the inaugural Panther Palooza event on Saturday, July 22, at the Litchfield Country Club. This party-rock band covers popular music from the 1970s through today. And each of the musical acts playing Panther Palooza feature graduates from Litchfield High School. This live music show will be held from noon to 10 p.m. and will benefit the Litchfield Student Education Foundation.

Other bands performing that day include *10-55*, *Jarman/Rudolph Band*, *Hunter Sharp*, *Starkillers* and *Chaos Theatre*. Tickets are available online at <https://neartail.com/us/panther-palooza/tickets> for \$20 per person. Tickets will be available at the door, but those who purchase early will be entered to win a free LSEF license plate or 2023 family athletic pass.

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The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director.

This is a fully remote, part-time position with a salary range of \$30,000 - \$35,000. Applicants must reside in Montgomery County, IL.

The MCEDC Executive Director will be responsible for the following duties/operations:

- Work with the Executive Committee and other staff to manage operations.
- Cultivate relationships with all MCEDC members and elected and agency officials at the local, state, and national level.
- Develop and implement a business retention and expansion (BRE) program to further the mission of the MCEDC.
- Assist the MCEDC Chairman in preparing for MCEDC Board Meetings and possess a working knowledge of the corporate operation and budget.
- Promote tourism in the County by publishing updated activities and events to the website, Facebook page, and newsletter.
- Communicate regularly with all MCEDC members via quarterly email newsletters, monthly articles in The Journal-News, and regularly scheduled interviews with WSMI Radio.
- Perform frequent and timely updates to the MCEDC Website and Facebook page.
- Communicate with members to help promote their fairs, festivals, and special events.
- Serve as an advocate for local businesses. Keep a current listing of Montgomery County businesses on the MCEDC website.
- Grant writing.
- Other duties and special projects as assigned by the MCEDC Board of Directors.

Interested parties should email a cover letter, résumé, and references by July 26th to mcedctreasurer@gmail.com.

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Parades, picnics, swimming...





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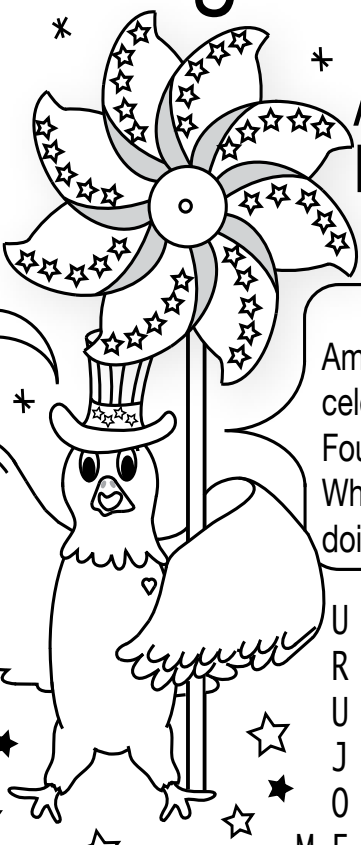
Kids: color stuff in!



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* Celebrating the * Fourth of July! *

My family and I are lucky that we can simply fly to the seashore. We plan to play all day on the beach and the rocks of the jetty.



At the Beach!

How are Americans celebrating the Fourth of July? What are you doing?

Can you fill in the crossword puzzle with the first word of each clue below to find out some ways in which we are celebrating?

- _____ to speeches of freedom
- _____ to cool off
- _____ red, white and blue bunting from buildings
- _____ the Declaration of Independence
- _____ a pie eating contest
- _____ decorated bicycles
- _____ places, battlefields and buildings where people fought for liberty
- _____ in the parade
- _____ fireworks light up the sky
- _____ patriotic songs
- _____ our country's flag
- _____ with our family and friends (and a few ants)

At Home! and at the Fireworks!



Can you find and circle at least 8 words that end with the letter "y"?

G A M E S
O D A A L
C F S N O
H T E P H
E F L A G S
E A C H D B
R T N J S F V W
S D U K O P J H N B S J A Q U H T G L H O P
K J S K R O W E R I F B O N F I R E S J H O
G N I M M I W S D F E I C I N C I P J A S T

U P M V T
R I D E S
U N F S A
J W N G D
O H F O T
M F E G D I
C O N C E R T A

Can you find and circle all the words that describe the fun at the beach?

swimming	flags	cheers	picnic
pinwheels	concert	bonfires	games
Uncle Sam	hot dogs	fireworks	rides



Happy Independence Day

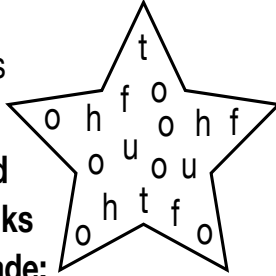


At the Parade!

Bicycles are in! Old railroad tracks are being paved to make wonderful bike and walking trails. Riding bikes is cool. Here are some ideas for decorating bikes for the Fourth of July holiday:

- streamers
- battery-powered string of LED lights
- flags and stars
- cards clipped to spokes
- bells and horns

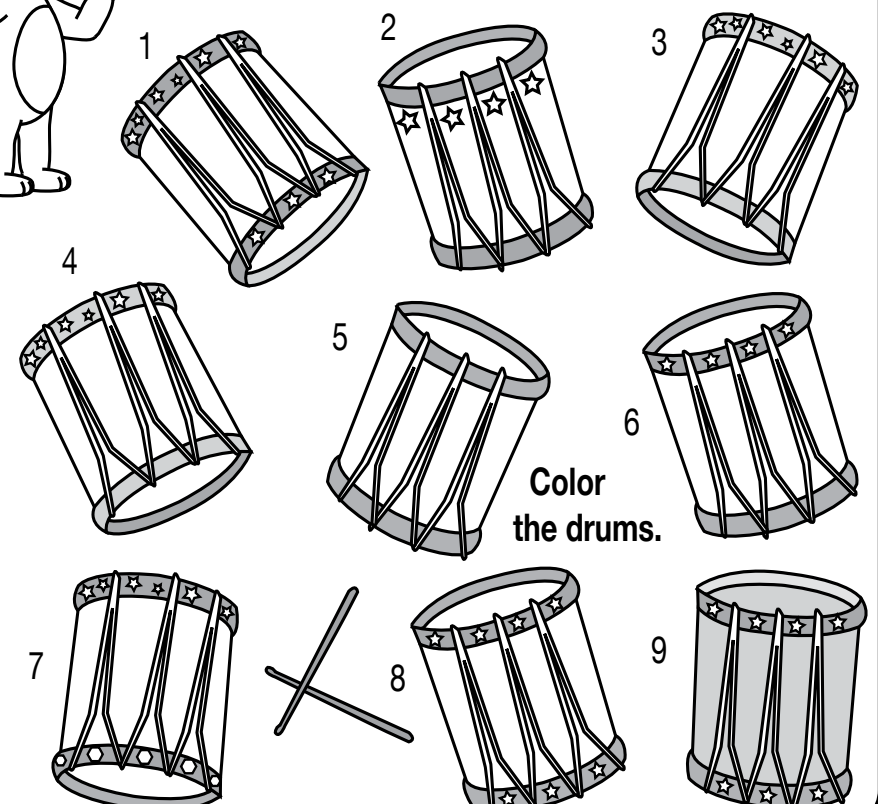
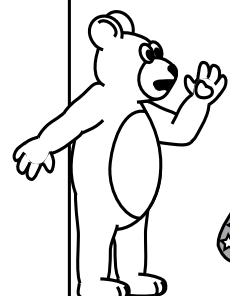
Use letters in the word "Fourth" to fill in the blanks to see what is at the parade:



- Uncle Sam walking on s _ _ ils
- cl _ _ wns spilling out of a car
- colorful _ _ loats rolling by
- bands marc _ _ ing
- a beauty q _ _ een waving
- soldiers and p _ _ lice marching
- j _ _ ggles wobbling on unicycles
- vendors selling novelty _ _ oys
- c _ _ stumed characters high fiving
- shadows dancing under giant ball _ _ _ ns
- brig _ _ t streamers flowing from bicycles
- colorguard throwing _ _ lags high into the air
- smell of h _ _ t d _ _ gs cooking on a grill
- clanging bells of the red _ _ iretrucks
- c _ _ eerleaders leaping and spinning

Uh-oh!

Forest has to find his school's drums for the parade. They own two drums that are exactly alike. Can you study the drums and find two exactly the same?



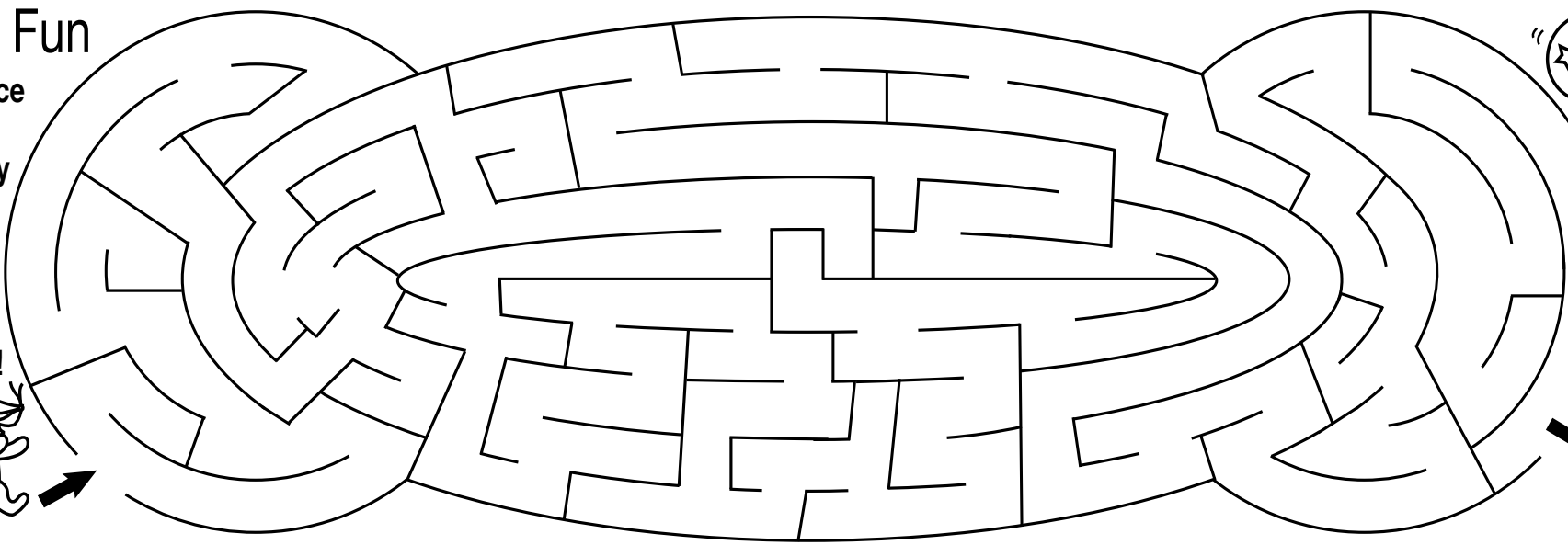
Color the drums.

Floating Fun

Help the mice get to the Fourth of July balloons!



Yay!





Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2023



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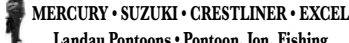
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Julie Watson Lends Hand To Brighten Up Raymond

Raymond residents can thank Julie Watson (above) and her green thumbs for the beautifully arranged flower pots that brighten up the village's communal spaces.

Raymond News Photo

Nokomis Prepares For Homecoming Celebration

by Ben Schwarm

At its June 26 regular meeting, the Nokomis City Council took action to accommodate organizations and businesses for special permitting for several upcoming events. The annual Nokomis Homecoming celebration is scheduled for Friday, July 7, through Sunday, July 9, and at the previous meeting commissioners granted permission to the homecoming committee for a parade and fireworks; and to the Knights of Columbus for a special event liquor license. At Monday's meeting, the council approved a motion to allow the Bernardini Hotel to stay open an hour later on Saturday, July 8, and to block off a section of Front Street in front of the establishment on the afternoon of that day for an event.

City commissioners also approved a motion to block off three of the streets that border Fred B. Johnson Park on Saturday, Sept. 16, for an event. According to Jessica

Durbin, who presented the idea, there will be a dog adoption, farmer's market, and car show in and around the park. Food trucks will also be at the location that day. Further details are still being worked out. Durbin hosted a dog adoption in May which she said was very successful.

At the meeting, approval was given to advertise for bids for portable generators for the water plant lift station. The notice will be published in mid-July for a mid-August award. The council also authorized the spending for three new computers for the central administrative office of City Hall.

In other business, commissioners approved the list of city surplus property to be disposed of, updated the ordinance on code enforcement, accepted a bid for work on the Union Street sewer project, approved city staff and commissioners to attend the annual Illinois Municipal League conference, and updated the city's travel code ordinance.

Panhandle School Board

Continued from page 1A

Lloyd's initial proposal called for the project to create 86 percent of the power needed for the Raymond campus. If the project creates more power than it can use, the power company basically gets that extra power for free, while if the project doesn't create enough, then the district has to purchase more.

Lloyd said that on days where the panels create more energy than needed, the district would receive energy credits, which could be used to offset days where the panels create less energy than needed.

In the all-inclusive power purchase agreement, Lloyd's company would own the panels and equipment and lease the land used for \$1 a year for 25 years. After the 25 year lease is complete, the two parties would have the opportunity to continue the agreement or the company would remove the equipment and restore the land at their cost.

Lloyd said that there is a two percent escalator cost increase each year to lock in inflation, but added that would be less than the average increase in commercial power rates over the last 30 years (5.5 percent) and the 8 to 10 percent increase in inflation during the last quarter. Upgrades to the equipment are also included in the agreement at the company's cost.

The solar panel system would be interconnected with the current power grid, which would guarantee that the school had power if something happen to the solar system. Lloyd said that the power companies do have one charge, a demand or capacity charge, that they assess in an effort to recoup money from businesses/schools/etc. that utilize renewable energy.

Lloyd said if the power company increases the de-

mand charge by 25 percent, which he said would probably be a worst case scenario, the district's savings would be around \$20,000. If the increase in the charge was 10 percent, which he said was more probable, the savings would be greater.

Superintendent Aaron Hopper asked who was in charge of the mowing inside the area where the solar panels are. Lloyd said that much of the area will be gravel, but his company would be in charge of maintaining the space inside the fenced in area. He added that someone with the district would also have a key to the area if they needed to get inside that area for some reason.

Hopper asked what the timeline would be for the project. Lloyd said 12 to 14 months, in part because utilities are involved in the process and can be deliberately slow.

Board member Gabe Pope asked if there was any chance the electric supplier would no longer offer electricity to the district if Panhandle went through with a solar project. Lloyd said if the district was on its own, that was possible, but since they are part of the IEC consortium, there is very little chance that would happen. Lloyd added that the IEC currently represents 35 percent of the school districts in the state and are close to getting a wholesale rate on electricity brokerage, which could reduce electricity rates more.

After Lloyd's presentation, the board discussed the proposal. Board President Terri Payne asked Hopper what the downside of the project could be. Hopper said it would be important to get community input on whether they thought the project was a good idea and said that some could also be concerned with aesthetics on the campus. He added that the district has worked

with IEC for a long time, but is constantly receiving calls from other solar companies and other options are available.

Payne also asked where the solar panels would be located, with Hopper saying that most would be on the land that is now used for the PE softball field.

Board member Gretchen Rovey asked if any of the other schools Hopper had spoken with had any pros or cons from their solar projects. Hopper said most schools were just beginning their projects and it was too soon to tell at this point.

Pope said that he thought it would be a good idea to see a proposal from another company. Hopper said that was possible and he would gather more information and bring it back to the board for the next meeting.

In other business, the board approved the consent agenda, the amended budget for the 2023 fiscal year and the first reading of board policies as presented, with board member Scott Cowdrey absent. The board had a policy committee meeting and a budget hearing prior to the regular meeting on Monday.

In old business, Hopper said during his building update that nearly all of the classroom floors had been waxed and carpets were being cleaned. He added that tiles had been removed in one classroom, which was now ready for paint, that the junior high bathroom remodel was underway and that the Panhandle Learning Center would be ready for use and would be the site of the July board meeting.

Board member Dana Pitchford asked about concrete repair in front of the high school. Hopper said that the area would be filled in after other more decorative options were cost prohibitive. Payne asked when the au-

ditorium would be painted, with Hopper saying the work would begin in July.

In new business, the board approved the tentative 2023-24 Lincolnwood schedule in addition to the first reading of the policies.

Hopper also detailed plans for board development activities, which will take place at board meetings in smaller time fragments than in one day at a board retreat. A handout detailing the district's mission statement, goals, motto and improvement plan was handed out to the board members and to those in attendance, with Hopper mentioning that July 1 will be the 75th anniversary of the day that the district's board was created.

Hopper said that several things should be looked at to see if they can be modernized or updated, including the history of the district on the website, the district's motto (which has been "Good Students, Good Schools" since before Hoppers' arrival in 2005) and the district's goals, which he said were still very relevant.

Hopper said he hopes that the board development activities can also provide the board and community more information on the inner workings of the schools, what specific individuals do at the school and what the plans for the district are in the future, including projects associated with the facility sales tax fund.

The board went into closed session at 8:40 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 9:15 p.m. with four motions to vote on. The board approved Emily Grandchamp as a special education teacher and Ryan Webb as an assistant soccer coach. Also approved were the pay for non-certified and administrative staff for the 2023-24 school year.

The board's next meeting will be July 24 at 7 p.m.

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The Journal-News Section B

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Thursday, June 29, 2023



Ten-year-old Isabel McLaughlin, at right, was this year's honorary chairman. She shared her battle with cancer, along with her parents, Phil and Lindsey McLaughlin of Hillsboro.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

OVERCOME THROUGH COURAGE & STRENGTH



MCCA board member Trina Britton, at left, presents a carnation to cancer survivor Jerry Wesley of Witt, as part of the survivorship ceremony.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

"Overcome Through Courage And Strength." That's what each of the shirts read as the Montgomery County Cancer Association hosted its

annual Birthday Party and Celebration of Life event on Saturday, June 24, at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs.

"That's what we fight for every day," said emcee Nikki Bishop in talking about this

year's shirts.

And it's exactly what the MCCA has been doing for nearly the past 20 years.

The 19th annual event kicked off with the always-popular silent auction, which featured more than 200 items donated by local businesses and individuals. This year's silent auction raised \$10,000.

Participants enjoyed the brightly colored floral tributes on display throughout the event, both in honor of and in memory of those who have fought cancer. And due to a cancellation by the Bobby Remack Band, Lacey Minnis of Morrisonville and Kirsten Osterholt provided musical entertainment during dinner.

Bishop welcomed about 350 residents to this year's event, as Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder led the singing of God Bless America. The Rev. Ralph Ward, a cancer survivor himself, opened with an invocation before the meal, provided by Milanos Catering. Ward asked for a moment of silence to remember those who have been lost to cancer, as well as those who continue to carry on.

Bishop thanked all of this year's sponsors and volunteers who make the event possible each year, as well as the families of cancer patients.

"I'm so blessed to be here to celebrate," Bishop said.

She honored the board members who continue to serve residents of Montgomery County and provide patient financial assistance, educational grants and funding for cancer research. Board members include Robin Andrews, Daniel Britton, Trina Britton, Treasurer Pat Cailey, Brenda Cobetto, Pacey Collins, Lisa DeLuka, Susie Galer, Tina Hagemeyer, Shelley Halleman, Deborah Kious, Chairman Linda Klotz, Laura Lemme, Vice Chairman Joyce Lipe, Marla Marley, Mercedes Meyer, Pam Meyers, Dawn Rosenreter, Glenn and Nancy Savage, Hannah Tomazzoli and Zach Wygal.

Bishop also went on to recognize this year's fundraising teams, including Ethan's Angels for a Cure, Our Gang, Stamp Out Cancer, Banking on a Cure (Bank of Hillsboro), Old Tyme Tractor Show and Heritage Health in Litchfield. Together they

raised over \$170,000 for the mission of the MCCA, with Stamp Out Cancer taking home honors once again as the top fundraising team.

After announcing the teams, Treasurer Pat Cailey made an update to the total board, changing the numbers from \$55,000 to over \$293,000, with an audible gasp from the crowd.

"That is just amazing, Montgomery County," Bishop said.

Pacey Collins introduced this year's educational grant recipients, many of whom were volunteering at the event that night. They include Katelyn Armour, Hailey Engelman, Dolan Harrison, Emma Keller, Jossalyn Kimbro, Reece Lohman, Chloe Martincic, Lydia Mutchler, Layne Rupert, Isabella White and Sierra Compton. To be eligible, each student must complete 50 volunteer hours throughout the year, including 30 hours for the MCCA.

Two of this year's grant recipients, Hailey Engelman and Emma Keller, both of Nokomis, had a chance to reflect on what it's meant to them to be a volunteer.

Engelman said she has been a grant recipient for four years and has enjoyed volunteering at events and meeting new people.

"I enjoy the feeling of helping others, and I'm so thankful for this time I had," Engelman said.

Keller echoed those sentiments and said she's also thankful to be part of the MCCA. She talked about some of the events she's helped with during her time as a grant recipient.

"It's helped me to realize what's really important," Keller said.

Tina Hagemeyer, president of the Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group, presented a \$5,000 donation to the MCCA.

The guest of honor for this year's event was ten-year-old Isabel McLaughlin of Hillsboro, who was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of childhood cancer, when she was just eight years old. Together, with her parents, Phil and

Lindsey McLaughlin, she talked about her experience.

"What got me through was God's love and my family's love," Isabel said. "So if you know a kid that has cancer, tell them that God loves them and that you love them. And tell other family members the same."

After her remarks, Phil shared a bit of their journey, which started in June 2021, when Isabel was diagnosed with cancer after they discovered a bump in her mouth. Their journey included 105 chemo treatments, 28 radiation treatments, 42 nights in the hospital and more than 100 shots, local labs and blood transfusions.

The McLaughlins thanked Isabel's doctor at Cardinal Glennon in St. Louis, Dr. Lauren Draper, as well as the MCCA and the community for its support along the way.

"We couldn't have gotten to this point without this amazing community," Phil said.

Following their presentation, MCCA Vice Chairman Joyce Lipe led the annual survivorship ceremony, recognizing 108 cancer survivors, celebrating 1,555 years of survivorship.

"Today, we are celebrating,

hope, friends and victory over cancer," Lipe said.

She also read a poem in their honor called "There's Something About You We Truly Admire."

As cancer survivors were recognized for their years of survivorship, each was presented with a carnation. And with a little help from Isabel McLaughlin, Sierra Compton, Rylie Jones and Vanessa Compton, led the singing of the chorus of *Kool and the Gang's* "Celebration."

As Hal Langheim of Langheim Auctioneers began this year's live auction, Professor Longhair and Mys Jill provided balloon animals and a magic show for this year's youngest participants.

Before the conclusion of the evening, a few drawings were held. Joyce Lipe won the 50/50 drawing and Janice Crabtree won the quilt raffle for the Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group.

A final total has not yet been announced for this year's event, but organizers are grateful for all the donations to help them fulfill their mission, "Montgomery County citizens helping citizens of Montgomery County."



MCCA Treasurer Pat Cailey makes one final update to the total board. There was an audible gasp as she changed the number to nearly \$300,000.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



Tina Hagemeyer, president of the Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group, at left, presented a \$5,000 donation to the MCCA. Accepting the donation is emcee Nikki Bishop.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



Jensyn Lipe and his mom, Shiloh, bid on a Hiltop-themed silent auction item. More than 200 silent auction items were donated to this year's event by local businesses and community residents.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



Educational grant recipients were also honored during the event. From the left are Sierra Compton, Katelyn Armour, Chloe Martincic, Jossalyn Kimbro, Reece Lohman, Emma Keller and Hailey Engelman. Not present for the photo were Dolan Harrison, Lydia Mutchler, Layne Rupert and Isabella White.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



Drex and Sue Fuller of Hillsboro enjoying looking over the floral memorial board at the conclusion of this year's Birthday Party and Celebration of life. Brightly colored paper flower tributes could be purchased in honor of someone who battled cancer or in memory of someone who has since passed away.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

County Fair Honors Four Longtime Volunteers

by Mary (Galer) Herschelman

Before this year's first full pull, members of the Montgomery County Fair Board took a few minutes to pay tribute to four long-time volunteers at the fair's truck and tractor pulls on Sunday morning, June 25, in Butler.

An expanded grandstand near the truck and tractor pull site was dedicated to Dallas Steward, Don Walker and Bernie Leitschuh. In addition, a new bench, which can converted into a table was dedicated in memory of Fred Pezold. All four donated many hours to the fair and the truck and tractor pull event.

After reigning Miss Montgomery County Fair Alexis Lessman sang the National Anthem, Montgomery County Fair Board President Mary Bishop made a presentation,

honoring each of the four men.

Bishop said that Dallas Steward served as president of the fair board for many years. He passed away 16 years ago.

"He kept us moving when there wasn't any energy left," Bishop said. "He spent many Father's Days out here building something we needed at the last minute."

Don Walker, who passed away in September 2022, was a stalwart of the county fair as well as the Butler Homecoming. Bishop said he spent many hours volunteering at the fairgrounds, both building and repairing things. He built the expo building and the refreshment stand addition.

"He has put the grandstand back together as age has taken its toll," Bishop said. "He's kept equipment

running. He's taught all of us so much and was usually patient with us."

Longtime volunteer Bernie Leitschuh passed away in March 2023. Bishop said Leitschuh helped to start many of the buildings on the fairgrounds, including the arts and crafts buildings and the bathrooms. She added that he also served as the announcer for the truck and tractor pulls many times and even filled in as security when needed.

In a final presentation, Bishop dedicated a bench to the late Fred Pezold, who passed away in October 2019. Pezold volunteered many years with the horse show when it was held at the fair. He also helped with the truck and tractor pulls, even before his sons were involved. The horse arena and entrance gates to the grandstand were built with material he provided.

"The bench can be opened to make a table which is a fitting way to honor Fred because Fred also had many facets and ways to be useful."

Many family members from all four families were present for the dedication and some spoke after Bishop's remarks.

Debbie Compton, daughter of Don Walker, thanked the fair board for honoring her father and for all the love and support they provided over the years.

"My father lives on in our hearts and on these dirt tracks," she said. "He's smiling from above. And don't forget his favorite phrase, 'always volunteer.'"

Danny Eickhoff also spoke on behalf of Walker, having worked with him many years on the truck and tractor pulls. "He was Mr. Truck and



Helping to dedicate the new grandstand were Missy Dean, Junior Miss Nataleigh Jackson, Little Miss Karsyn Jones, Miss Montgomery County Fair Alexis Lessman, Debbie Compton, Montgomery County Fair Board President Mary Bishop, John Eickhoff and Terry Leitschuh.

Journal-News Photo



Fair board members also dedicated a new bench near the grandstand in memory of longtime volunteer Fred Pezold on Sunday. Pictured above are members of his family. In front is his wife, Loretta Pezold of Walshville. Standing behind, from the left are Charlie Pezold, Kenny Pezold, Mia Merano, Diane Spinner, Stacie Merano and Cheryl Frerichs.

Journal-News Photo



A special plaque marks the addition to the grandstand, which was dedicated to longtime Montgomery County Fair volunteers Dallas Steward, Don Walker and Bernie Leitschuh. It was dedicated on Sunday, June 25.

Journal-News Photo

Fair Holds First Pulls Without Walker, Leitschuh

Two staples of the Montgomery County pulling community were absent from the announcers booth for the 2023 Montgomery County Fair tractor and truck pulls in Butler on June 25, but those who appreciated the contributions of Bernie Leitschuh and Don Walker made sure to make that appreciation known.

Mary Bishop, representing the Montgomery County Fair Board officially christened the announcers box as the "Steward Walker Leitschuh Pavilion" in honor of Leitschuh, who passed away in March 2023, and Walker, who passed away in September 2022, along with another county fair stalwart, the late Dallas Steward, who passed away in 2007.

Family members of all three men were present for the announcement, along with this year's fair royalty, before the start of the pulls, with jack of all trades Trent Boarden filling Walker's shoes as the announcer this year.

As for the pulls themselves, veteran Daryl Keiser won the Don Walker Memorial Class (12,000-pounds), while Adam Hayes of Shipman took first in the 12,500-pound and over class. Keiser pulled 325.24

feet in his win, while Hayes won with a 327.69-foot pull.

In the truck pulls, Adam Meisenheimer of Litchfield won the MITTP Super Stock 4-Wheel Drive class, pulling 339.61 feet to take the top spot over Jeffrey Burke of Owaneco and Vance Steward of Raymond. In the MITTP Hot Street class, Jerseyville pullers took first and second as Kenny Nelson pulled 377.42 feet, followed by Kyle Cummings of Jerseyville at 72.23.

Bailey Weise of Marseilles took first in the Diesel class, pulling 357.52 to beat out Joe Dowson of Auburn by nine feet.

In the CITP classes, Trey Gibson of Warrenton, MO, won the Hot Street class with a pull of 339.01, beating Billy Saathoff of Hillsboro by just six feet. Paige Roemelin of Glendale, AZ, was third, while Mike Everett of Litchfield was fourth. Everett pulled in memory of the late Greg Matthew, who passed away in March, after he and Greg's brother Doug fixed up Greg's 1977 Ford.

In the Super Stock 2-Wheel Drive class, Mark Craig of Nokomis took the top spot with a pull of 346.94, while Drew Kinkelaar of Witt

was second, six feet behind the champ. Morrisonville's Ray Schmedeke and John Cray were third and fourth, respectively.

In the Super Stock 4-Wheel Drive class, Harry Roberts of Columbia took the win with a pull of 348.85 feet. Butch Fulk of Edinburg was second, while Adam Meisenheimer of Litchfield was third.

The next truck pulls on the CITP schedule is Friday, July 14, at the Wayne County Fair in Fairfield, followed by the Clinton County Fair in Carlyle on July 18, and the Christian County Fair on July 20.

June 25 at Butler
Montgomery County Fair Truck and Tractor Pulls
Tractor Pulls
12,500 lbs. Plus: 1. Adam Hayes (Shipman) John Deere 6030 - 327.69; 2. JP Roberts (Carlinville) John Deere 4520 - 324.44; 3. Mitchell Wiegmann (St. Rose) John Deere 6030 - 307.38; 4. Justin Paul (Shipman) John Deere 6030 - 272.56.
Don Walker Memorial Class 12,000 lbs.: 1. Daryl Keiser (Nokomis) 1150 Massey - 325.24; 2. Carl Marten (Raymond) John Deere 4240 - 262.49; 3. Andy Whalen (Morrisonville) John Deere 4230 - 201.68; 4. D.J. Compton (Edwardsville) - 181.43; 5. Lucas Compton (Edwardsville) - 153.74.
Tractor Pulls
MITTP Super Stock 4-Wheel

Drive: 1. Adam Meisenheimer (Litchfield) 1971 Chevrolet - 339.61; 2. Jeffrey Burke (Owaneco) 1983 Chevrolet - 327.29; 3. Vance Steward (Raymond) Chevrolet - 310.28; 4. Jeff Cray (Girard) 1972 Chevrolet - 301.65; 5. Kenny Nelson (Jerseyville) 1975 Chevrolet - 293.37; 6. Kyle Cummings (Jerseyville) 1999 Chevrolet - 293.07; Ryan Bachman (Brighton) 1980 Chevrolet - 263.19.
MITTP Hot Street 4-Wheel Drive: 1. Kenny Nelson (Jerseyville) 1975 Chevrolet 377.42; 2. Kyle Cummings (Jerseyville) 1999 Chevrolet - 372.23; 3. Trey Gibson (Warrenton, MO) 2008 Chevrolet - 366.84; 4. Ryan Bachman (Brighton) 1980 Chevrolet - 320.40; 5. Jarrett Hagen (Taylorville) 1978 Ford - 98.97.
Diesel: 1. Bailey Weise (Marseilles) 1998 Dodge - 357.52; 2. Joe Dowson (Auburn) 2006 Dodge - 348.39; 3. Nick Strack (Hillsboro) Dodge - 324.54; 4. Abe Wiser (Jacksonville) 2004 Dodge - 311.27; 5. Aaron Culley (Franklin) 2005 Chevrolet - 298.95; 6. Travis Periman (Alexander) 1998 Dodge - 294.61.
CITP Hot Street: 1. Trey Gibson (Warrenton, MO) 2008 Chevrolet - 339.01; 2. Billy Saathoff (Hillsboro) 1970 Dodge - 333.37; 3. Paige Roemelin (Glendale, AZ) 1990 Chevrolet - 323.20; 4. Mike Everett (Litchfield) 1977 Ford - 287.18; 5. Kimberly Werner (Gillespie) 2003 Ford - 235.90; 6. Brandy O'Malley (Witt) 1980 Chevrolet - 19.26.
CITP Super Stock 2-Wheel Drive: 1. Mark Craig (Nokomis) 1941 Chevrolet - 346.94; 2. Drew Kinkelaar (Witt) 1970 Chevrolet - 340.75; 3. Ray Schmedeke



Mitchell Wiegmann brought his John Deere 6030 from St. Rose for the Montgomery County Fair tractor pulls and finished third in the 12,500-plus class with a pull of 307.38 feet on June 25.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman

(Morrisonville) 1948 International - 329.28; 4. John Cray (Morrisonville) 1972 Chevrolet - 321.20; 5. Brian Bell (Nokomis) 1981 Chevrolet - 306.58; 6. Tyson Craig (Oconee) 1996 Chevrolet - 306.09.
CITP Super Stock 4-Wheel



Homa Golf Outing Helps Support Cancer Association

Although their Stamp Out Cancer golf outing was postponed due to inclement weather earlier this spring, Team Go Hard or Go Homa made up for it with a 20-team event on Saturday, June 24, at Indian Springs Golf Course in Fillmore. The winning team of Chad Zimmerman, Greg Zimmerman, Jeff Eickhoff and Kyle Loucks shot a 21-under par to take home top honors in the tournament. The event marked the one-year anniversary of the death of Mike Homa, who lost his battle to brain cancer in 2022. Several golfers donned blonde wigs for the day in his memory.

"My dad would have been ticked to see everyone out playing golf in his honor," said Katie Homa. Pictured above, from the left are Dylan Richter, Katie Homa, Betsy Homa and Mike Homa. All proceeds from the tournament benefit the Montgomery County Cancer Association.



Jeff Cray of Girard finished fourth in the MITTP Super Stock 4-Wheel Drive class, pulling 301.65 feet in his 1972 Chevrolet at the Montgomery County Fair truck pulls on June 25.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman

For more photos from the truck and tractor pulls at the Montgomery County Fair, go to thejournal-news.smugmug.com.

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CALL: (217) 532-3933

WEB: www.thejournal-news.net

EMAIL: thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Announcements

Notices

U-PICK BLUEBERRIES at Stoecklin's Orchard, 1709 Ayers Rd., Donnellson, IL Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays 8 a.m. til noon. 217-537-3801

For Rent

Houses

FOR RENT: Nice 2 bedroom home in Coffeen, attached garage, central air. No smoking, no pets. \$650 month plus deposit. 217-710-4604

Garage Sales

LARGE GARAGE Sale: Friday, June 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, July 1, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Halleman, 16277 N. 23rd Ave., Nokomis. Concrete mixer, tools, housewares, grandfather clock, beanie babies and collection of vintage Avon bottles, plus much, much more.

FAMILY YARD sale: Fri. 6/30 - Sun. 8 to 3 p.m., 636 Miller Branch Trail, Hillsboro. Name brand boy clothes, birth to 4T. Baby gear, toys, & shoes, men's and women's clothes, household items. Something for everyone.

Merchandise

Furniture

MATTRESS SALE: Twin mattress \$169, full \$199, queen \$239, Mattress Direct across from Litchfield Walmart. 217-324-3636

LIFT CHAIR \$1000; Hoyer lift \$800; adjustable bed, orthopedic, massage \$2000. Litchfield. 217-825-8420

Miscellaneous

SELL UNWANTED items in The Journal-News. 217-532-3933

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Services

General Services

TV ANTENNA Installation and repair, electronics recycling. KB Electronics, Carlinville. 217-556-1385

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5 GALLONS filtered water \$1; bag or bulk ice. 611 N. Monroe, Litchfield. Twice the Ice machine.

JJ's HANDYMAN and Construction Service. Free estimates. 217-825-5951

PRESSURE WASHING, commercial and residential, fence and deck stripping and staining. Insured and bonded. 217-710-9587

Transportation

RVs, Campers

FOR SALE: Travel trailer, 2013 Cougar X-Lite. \$18,000. Call for appointment. 217-313-8581

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: High School Boys' Head Tennis Coach
Qualifications: ISBE certification or IHSA approved coaching certification or willingness to attain

Description: Organize and manage practices and competitions; establish and present schedules, rosters and records in a timely fashion; conduct and supervise fundraising activities and training camps; promote athleticism and sportsmanship; promote and grow the program; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines

Salary: Per Teacher's Contract Schedule B
Submit Letter of Interest and District Application to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; E-mail to: pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841
Due By: August 1, 2023

We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Pre-K Teacher Aide (1 FTE) at Coffeen Early Childhood Center
License: Current Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain the certification.

Job Description: Working with Prekindergarten Students

Starting Date: 23/24 School Year

Salary: To be determined by the Board of Education

Send Employee Application (available at the District's website), Resumé, Copies of Transcripts and Certificates, and 3 letters of reference to: Marci Gutierrez, Pre-K Director, Coffeen Elementary School, 200 School St., Coffeen, IL 62017 or email to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-7822
Due By: Open Until Filled

We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Full Time Pre-K Teacher (1.0 FTE)
Duties: Responsibilities include working with student accommodations, managing classroom behavior, developing differentiated instruction, co-teaching with ECSE teacher. Effective communication and strong collaboration skills with other professionals are essential to this position
Certification: Early Childhood License required, ECSE approval preferred
Starting Date: Beginning of the 2023-2024 school year

Salary: Regionally competitive. District paid TRS. Final salary and other potential incentives to be discussed with successful candidates
Send application/resumé/transcripts/certificates/letters to: Marci Gutierrez, Pre-K Director; Coffeen Early Childhood Center; 200 School St.; Coffeen, IL 62017 or email to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-7822
Due By: Open Until Filled

We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

The Montgomery County Housing Authority is accepting applications for a full-time Maintenance Mechanic. Applicants may apply by picking up and filling out an application at the MCHA Administrative office at 216 Shelbyville Road, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049.

All applications will be reviewed, and appropriate applicants will be interviewed before the opening is filled. Applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent. Have experience in building and grounds construction, electrical, carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, and possess a valid driver's license. Leadership skills are a plus but not required. The Authority may conduct a criminal background check and drug testing.

Excellent benefit package and starting hourly wage will be dependent upon qualifications and/or experience.

Montgomery County Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability.

Litchfield Police

• Ronnie W. Spence, 32, of Brownstown, was cited with expired registration at 6:57 a.m. Friday, June 16, at Franklin and Union in Litchfield.

• Joseph M. Allen, 27, of Litchfield, was cited with driving on a suspended license, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and operation of a motor vehicle while registration suspended, at 7:48 a.m. Friday, June 16, at Jackson and Ryder in Litchfield.

• Janice L. Rowland, 64, of Litchfield, was cited with operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 4:13 p.m. Friday, June 16, at 616 N State in Litchfield.

• Colin E. Becker, 19, of Walshville, was cited with violating license class 1st division and operating at a speed too fast for conditions at 6:12 p.m. on Friday, June 16, at Perdon and State in Litchfield.

• Evan K. Freytag, 40, of Litchfield, was cited with driving on a suspended license at 3:43 p.m. Monday, June 19, at Beach and Van Buren in Litchfield.

• Jacy J. Hajostek, 39, of Aledo, was cited with operating an uninsured motor vehicle with suspended registration at 12:39 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, at IL Rt. 16 and NB I-55 in Litchfield.

• Trinity A. Eddington, 18, of Pocahontas, was cited for failure to reduce speed at 2:06 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at Harrison and Union in Litchfield.

• Mendy L. Jett, 55, of Litchfield, was cited for speeding 11 to 14 over the limit at 7:54 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at Clinton and Water in Litchfield.

• Emilio R. McGill, 19, of Hillsboro, was cited for speeding 15 to 20 over the limit at 1:10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21, at State and Worksaver

Trail in Litchfield.

• Harry L. Buckley, 37, of Litchfield, was cited for driving on a revoked license and improper lane traffic usage at 6:32 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at Illinois and Water in Litchfield.

• Victor M. Renteria, 18, of Chicago, was cited for speeding 26 to 34 over the limit at 11:18 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at I-55 MM 52.

• Zachary M. Sartin, 20, of Litchfield, was cited for driving without a license at 2:04 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at 200 blk Ohren Lane in Litchfield.

• Kathryn E. Jordan, 21, of Burlington, KY, was cited for speeding 15 to 20 over the limit at 7:07 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at Union and Chestnut in Litchfield.

• Ezekiel A. Gray, 24, of Carlinville, was cited for speeding 15 to 20 over the limit at 7:34 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at 400 blk W Union in Litchfield.

• Coralie E. Brewer, 44, of Litchfield, was cited for traffic laws apply to bicycles at 10:13 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at Franklin and Water in Litchfield.

• Willie Parker, 38, of Forest City, AR, was cited for driving without a license at 10 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, at Union and Corlew in Litchfield.

• Jeremy W. Vann, 43, of Witt, was cited for disregarding a stop sign at 12:40 a.m. Friday, June 23, at Woodlawn and Vassel Dr. in Litchfield.

• Rickey J. Gleich, 48, of Ypsilanta, MI, was cited with operating an uninsured motor vehicle, expired registration, driving with a more than a year expired driver's license, and mufflers' 1st., at 1:30 a.m. Friday, June 23, at 4 Corvette Drive in Litchfield.

• Tyler J. Jones, 20, of Staunton, was cited for operating an uninsured motor

Police

vehicle at 10:59 a.m. Friday, June 23, at State and Weir in Litchfield.

• Haley D. Harshani, 23, of Litchfield, was cited for endangering the life or health of a child at 3:17 p.m. Friday, June 23, at Kirk Terrace in Litchfield.

• Damerone R. Rozier, 23, of Springfield, was cited for retail theft at 3:21 p.m. Friday, June 23, at Wal Mart.

• Klemarcus A. Rudd, 23, of Springfield, was arrested for retail theft at 3:28 p.m. Friday, June 23, at Wal Mart.

• Tara M. Hancock, 30, of Litchfield, was arrested at 4:47 p.m. Friday, June 23, in Litchfield on outstanding Montgomery and Macoupin County warrants.

• Deborah A. Bray, 44, of Litchfield, was cited with operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 5:11 p.m. Saturday, June 24 at Monroe and Chapin.

• Douglas J. Bourgeois, 35, of Carl Junction, MO, was cited for driving without a license at 1:44 a.m. Sunday, June 25, at I-55 MM 52. He was arrested at 1:58 a.m. on an outstanding Macon

County warrant and possession of meth.

• Cameron A. Hokenson, 30, of Litchfield, was arrested at 12:43 p.m. Sunday, June 25, in Litchfield on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant.

• Jacob D. Olson, 32, of Litchfield, was cited for possession of ammunition without a FOID card at 1:18 p.m. Monday, June 26, at Ryder and Harrison in Litchfield.

• Dylan B. Vickery, 30, of Raymond, was arrested on possession of meth, five to 15 grams with intent to deliver, and possession of a controlled substance at 8:38 p.m. Monday, June 26, at Washington and Frontage Rd. in Litchfield.

• Dustin A. Chapman, 40, of Waverly, was arrested for possession of meth and obstruction of justice at 11:14 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at 1700 blk N State in Litchfield.

• Jessica Ulery Huffines, 23, of Carlinville, was arrested for possession of meth and obstruction of justice at 11:44 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at 1700 blk N State in Litchfield.

Police Searching For Stolen Car

On June 24, at 7:50 p.m., officers from the Taylor Springs Police Department were called to 315 Mill Ln. regarding a burglary and stolen vehicle.

Fresh tool pry marks were found where a person(s) pried open the latch to the east-facing back door of the garage, away from other homes' line of vision. The unknown person then manually opened the garage door and stole the homeowner's daughter's black 2018 Chevy Malibu out of the garage.

The burglary took place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. while the homeowner was away at work. The homeowner did not have any security cameras and at this time there are no witnesses to the burglary and theft.

TSPD has put out a statewide broadcast for the vehicle stolen, a black 2018 Chevy Malibu. If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please call Crimestoppers or message TSPD privately on its police Facebook page

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Head Wrestling Coach
Qualifications: Qualified candidates will have knowledge of and experience in High School Wrestling and possess an Illinois Professional Educator's License, or IHSA approved coaching certification or willingness to attain IHSA certification
Job Description: Plan and manage practices, arrange training camps, conduct fundraisers, develop and grow the program; model and promote athleticism, sportsmanship, and character; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines

Start Date: August 2023
Salary: Per Teacher's Contract Schedule B
Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; E-mail to: pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841
Due By: August 1, 2023

We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: (2) Full Time Classroom Teacher's Aide at Beckemeyer Elementary
License: Current Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain certification with district assistance.

Job Description: Working with Elementary age children in the classroom
Salary: Teacher's Aide Salary Schedule

Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax to: 217-532-5142; E-mail to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-6994
Application Due Date: June 30, 2023

We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

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Acting Library Director Position

Do you like working with people of all ages?
Are you creative and well organized?

An Acting Library Director is needed in Hillsboro, Illinois. The desired individual should have great people skills. Library experience would be helpful but experience with customer service, basic accounting, supervision, and computer applications are also important. The successful applicant can be taught State of Illinois rules and regulations for libraries; library policies and reports; developing, implementing, and evaluating library programs for all ages. The applicant will interact with the school district, school librarians, and community organizations to represent the library. Individuals with a bachelor's degree will be considered; however, a library science degree would be beneficial. New graduates will be considered. This is a 40 hour per week position. Evening and Saturday hours are rarely required. Starting salary is \$40,000 per year. Benefits include IMRF retirement, vacation, and sick time.

Please send a cover letter, resume, and 3 references to:
hillsborocitylibrary@gmail.com
or mail to 420 S. Main St. Hillsboro, IL. 62049



Hillsboro Lions Donate To Oak Grove Cemetery

Members of the Hillsboro Lions Club made a donation to Oak Grove Cemetery in Hillsboro at their regular meeting on Thursday evening, June 22. Proceeds will be used to help with the clean-up costs from storm damage earlier this spring. Pictured above, Kyle Furness of the Hillsboro Lions Club, at left, presents a check to Daniel Robbins of the Oak Grove Cemetery Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
FOURTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF:
STEVEN D. CAIN,
Deceased.
No. 2023-PR-11
CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Steven D. Cain, of New Douglas, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 2, 2023, to Joshua S. Cain, of Litchfield, IL as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Erik Hyam of Silver Lake Group, Ltd. of Litchfield, IL 62056.

Claims may be filed within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim

not filed within that period is barred as to the estate which is inventoried within that period.

Claims must be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, and copies mailed or delivered to the Administrator and to his attorney.

Erik Hyam
IL Bar No. 6311090
Attorney for Administrator
Silver Lake Group, Ltd.
314 N. Monroe St.
P.O. Box 98
Litchfield, IL 62056
Phone: (217) 324-6147
erik@silverlakelaw.com
10-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
JUVENILE DIVISION
IN THE INTEREST OF
B.B.J.
Case No. 23-JA-2
AMENDED**

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO JESSICA JENKINS and to all whom it may concern, that on January 31, 2023, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the State's Attorney's Office in this court and that in the courtroom of presiding Judge MARC KELLY in Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, on **August 2, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.**, a pre-trial status

hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under that Act. The court has the authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, AN ORDER OR JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION.

June 21, 2023
Daniel T. Robbins,
Clerk of the Court
/s/ Amy Taylor,
Deputy Clerk
14-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF SALE
OF PROPERTY OWNED
BY THE CITY OF
HILLSBORO, IL
AND INVITATION TO BID
THEREON
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest, to be transferred via Quit Claim Deed, in the following real property and any structure(s) thereon:

Lot Forty-three (43) in Rountree's Addition to East Hillsboro, situated in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois.

P.I.N.: 16-01-384-003
**Property Address:
123 South Douglas
Hillsboro, IL 62049**

Said real property is vacant.

Sealed bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois during normal business hours until 12:00 Noon on Friday, July 14, 2023. Said proposals shall be addressed to the City of Hillsboro, Attention: City Clerk, 447 South Main Street, P.O. Box 556, Hillsboro, Illinois, and shall bear the legend: "PROPOS-

AL - SALE OF 123 SOUTH DOUGLAS, HILLSBORO, IL" and shall include the name and address of the bidder. **All bids received after 12:00 Noon on July 14, 2023 will be rejected.**

The aforementioned real property and any structure(s) thereon are being sold "AS IS" without any warranties or representations. The sale is a cash only sale.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Hillsboro City Council at 7:00 p.m. on July 18, 2023, at City Hall, located at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois. A contract may be awarded to the highest bidder or any other bid found to be in the best interest of the City of Hillsboro. The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Copies of the required sales contract and any bidding documents may be obtained in the office of the City Clerk. Please call (217) 532-5566 with any questions.

10-3T

Meals On Wheels

Call the day before to reserve a meal: Litchfield, 217-324-3032, Hillsboro, 217-532-3662, Morrisonville, 217-526-3621. The Litchfield and Hillsboro locations are now open.

Monday, July 3: Pork chops, roasted red potatoes, green beans, peaches and a whole grain roll.

Tuesday, July 4: Closed in observance of Fourth of July.

Wednesday, July 5: Spaghetti with meat sauce, carrots and peas, tossed salad with tomatoes, baked apples and garlic bread.

Thursday, July 6: Ball park frank with a bun, macaroni and cheese, California blend and strawberries.

Friday, July 7: Fish on a bun, cauliflower with cheese, baked beans and cantaloupe.

Monday, July 10: Salisbury steak, whipped potatoes, peas, Mandarin oranges and oatmeal cookies.

Tuesday, July 11: Fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, hot apple crisp and a biscuit.

Wednesday, July 12: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, succotash, apricots and whole grain roll.

Thursday, July 13: Sub sandwich on a hoagie bun with lettuce and tomato, broccoli/cauliflower salad and cantaloupe.

Friday, July 14: BBQ pulled pork, au gratin potatoes, four bean salad, baked apples and a whole grain bun.

Monday, July 17: Sweet and sour chicken with pineapple over steamed rice, steamed broccoli and jello

with fruit cocktail.

Tuesday, July 18: Taco salad with tortilla chips, meat and refried beans, lettuce, tomato, onions, shredded cheese and apple.

Wednesday, July 19: Egg, sausage and spinach casserole, hash browns, hot herbed tomatoes, orange juice and a cinnamon roll.

Thursday, July 20: Grilled pork tenderloin, roasted red potatoes, lima beans, watermelon and a whole grain bun.

Friday, July 21: Chicken strips, broccoli rice and cheese, carrots, strawberries with bananas and whole grain bread.

Monday, July 24: Bratwurst, grilled peppers and onions, blushing pears, and a hot dog bun.

Tuesday, July 25: Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, butter beans, melon medley and a whole grain roll.

Wednesday, July 26: Pork roast, sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, applesauce and a whole grain roll.

Thursday, July 27: Grilled chicken breast, baby baked potato, broccoli with cheese, chilled peaches and a peanut butter cookie.

Friday, July 28: Tuna salad sandwich, tomato/cucumber medley, black bean and corn salad and watermelon.

Monday, July 31: Sloppy joes, au gratin potato, calico baked beans, cantaloupe and a bun.

Milk, bread and margarine are served with every meal. Substitutes will be made in emergencies.

www.thejournal-news.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
JUDITH ANN SCHOEN,
Deceased.
No. 2023-PR-15
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATIONS
CLAIMS**

Notice is given of the death of Judith Ann Schoen. Letters of office were issued on June 12, 2023 to Jami N. Koniak, whose attorney is Sims Law Office, 130 East Main Street, Suite A, Carlinville, Illinois 62626.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Hillsboro,

Illinois 62049, or with the representative, or both, on or before the December 22, 2023 (which date is not less than 6 months from the date of first publication or 3 months from the date of mailing and delivery, whichever is later), and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Jami N. Koniak,
Executor of the Estate of
Judith Ann Schoen,
deceased

**SIMS LAW OFFICE
130 East Main Street
Suite A
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
Telephone: (217) 854-3283
12-3T**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF SALE
OF PROPERTY OWNED
BY THE CITY OF
HILLSBORO, IL
AND INVITATION TO BID
THEREON
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest, to be transferred via Quit Claim Deed, in the following real property and any structure(s) thereon:

Lots Eighty-nine (89) and Ninety (90) in Prairie Heights, a subdivision in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois, EXCEPTING any coal or mineral rights previously severed from the surface and subject to all easements of record.

P.I.N.: 16-12-253-029
**Property Address:
672 Virginia Street
Hillsboro, IL 62049**

Said real property is vacant.

Sealed bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 447 South Main Street, Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois during normal business hours until 12:00 Noon on Friday, July 14, 2023. Said proposals shall be addressed to the City of Hillsboro, Attention: City Clerk, 447 South Main

PUBLIC NOTICE

**ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
CITY OF WITT
Fiscal Year Ending April 15, 2023**

REVENUE SUMMARY:

American Rescue Plan Act \$32,654.61; Cable TV Fees \$3,942.86; Cannabis Use Tax \$1,356.83; Cemetery Income \$1,800.00; DCEO Grant \$22,500.00; Fines \$4,466.00; Fire Department Grants \$174,588.77; Fire Department Income \$4,011.04; 2% Fire Insurance \$1,614.18; Fire Department Subscription Fees \$16,100.00; IL Replacement Tax (PPR) \$3,989.75; Interest Income \$774.70; Liquor and Amusement Licenses \$1,725.00; Material Sold \$3,463.75; Misc. Receipts \$19,116.36; MFT Allotment \$19,012.18; MFT Renewal Fund \$14,869.35; Property Tax \$53,156.27; Rebuild Illinois Bond Grant \$9,918.54; Rural Fire Calls \$500.00; State Income Tax \$139,188.10; State Use Tax \$34,333.16; Sales Tax \$35,281.86; Township Garbage & Cleanup \$220.00; Utility Tax Received \$47,857.85; Video Gaming Tax \$10,444.07; Water & Sewer Revenue \$241,730.87.

TOTAL REVENUES: \$898,616.11

COMPENSATION SUMMARY:

Under \$25,000.00 - David Anderson, Brian Bourke, David Cearlock, Kaitlin Govaia; Harley Hedderman, Sonia Hodson, Nancy Hughes, Dillon Joyce, Donald Keiser, Dalton King, John Livesay, Randall Lowe, Scott Lynch, Jay Martin, Kaden Mateer, Kristy Richardson, Ashlin Taylor, Timothy Taylor, Richard Tolle, Dorothy Ulrici, Jeffrey Woods, Alvin Yeske.

\$50,000.00 to \$74,999.99 - Heath Cunningham.

TOTAL COMPENSATION: \$148,188.50

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

AmerenIP \$64,464.89; American Trademark Co. \$8,920.00; Beelman Logistics, LLC \$13,847.32; Beyers Land Surveying, PLLC \$4,250.00; Chad Craig \$6,000.00; Computer Techniques, Inc. \$5,291.14; Dinges Fire Company \$18,492.80; Eagle Engraving, Inc. \$12,875.92; EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. \$143,793.05; Farmers Oil Co. \$25,194.43; Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, PC \$13,196.37; Huels Oil Co. \$2,851.86; Illinois Road Contractors, Inc. \$12,000.00; IMCO Utility Supply \$9,496.75; John Deere Financial \$7,225.70; Lehigh Hanson \$15,405.02; Litchfield Bituminous Corp. \$44,140.86; Mac's Fire & Safety \$43,167.97; Marten Insurance \$38,576.00; Martin Equipment of Illinois, Inc. \$2,787.72; Masten Mosquito Control LLC \$5,060.00; Metal Culverts, Inc. \$20,524.85; Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC \$35,000.00; Municipal Emergency Services \$90,815.00; Nancy Hughes (Health Inc.) \$3,149.41; Nokomis Excavating & Trucking, Inc. \$2,500.00; Outdoor Power Sales \$2,857.24; Patton & Co. P.C. \$8,000.00; Progressive Chemicals & Lighting, Inc. \$9,027.01; Randy's Rolloff \$11,515.95; Route. 66 Truck Repair, Inc. \$5,356.30; S. Lynch, LLC \$32,881.30; The Family Tree Service, Inc. \$6,800.00; Witt Volunteer Fire Department \$15,950.00; All other disbursements in amounts less than (\$2,500) \$45,289.32.

TOTAL VENDORS: \$786,704.18

Subscribed and sworn on this 27th day of June, 2023.

Sonia L. Hodson, Treasurer, City of Witt
I, Nancy Hughes, City Clerk of the City of Witt, Montgomery County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the Fiscal Year ending in 2023.

Nancy Hughes, Witt City Clerk
14-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
ILLINOIS - CHANCERY
DIVISION**

JPMORGAN CHASE
BANK, NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION,

Plaintiff,
vs.

EDGAR E. WELLER, ET
AL.,

Defendants.
**Case No.: 2023FC9
Property Address:
123 W. Ferdon
Litchfield, IL 62056**

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, EDGAR WELLER, defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

THE WEST HALF OF LOT 7 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 6 EXCEPT 10 FEET OFF THE NORTH SIDE OF SAID LOT 6, IN BLOCK 1 OF SCHERER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

**Commonly known as:
123 W. Ferdon
Litchfield, IL 62056**

Names of the titleholders of record: EDGAR E. WELLER.

Date of the Mortgage: February 13, 2009.

Name or names of the mortgagors: EDGAR E. WELLER.

Name of the mortgagee: UNITED FIDELITY FUNDING, CORP.

Date and place of recording: February 19, 2009; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Montgomery County, Illinois.

Identification of recording: Document No. 200900050280.

NOW THEREFORE, un-

less you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before July 17, 2023, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegallaid.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegallaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

**Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembroke Drive,
Suite 250
Orlando, Florida 32810
Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails:
cwinters@lenderlegal.com
ESService@LenderLegal.com
**LLS11014-IL - Weller
s/Colin Winters, Esq.
Colin Winters, Esq.
Counsel of Record
for Plaintiff
ARDC # 6297980
I3222375****

10-3T

Hillsboro High School Students Receive Topper Pride Award

Hillsboro High School (HHS) has announced that Milla Anderson, Zoey Spinner, Lily Churchwell and Will Christian were selected for the Topper Pride Award for the fourth quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

The Topper Pride Award is designed to promote a positive school climate of connected individuals. Ghandi suggested that one should, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." The Topper Pride Program recognizes those who exhibit a willingness to contribute their efforts in making Hillsboro High School a better place. The special recognition is awarded to students who show exemplified characteristics in leadership, attitude and direction. Students are nominated by teachers and the winner is chosen by administration.

Milla Anderson

Milla Anderson is a freshman at Hillsboro High School and is the daughter of Adam Anderson and Jacqui Anderson. Anderson enjoys learning new things, spending time with friends and family, watching movies, napping and singing. This year, she was selected to be a part of



Milla Anderson

the Illinois All-State Honors Choir and was a lead role in the HHS "Musical Mamma Mia!" Anderson is currently serving as the FFA Chapter reporter and is also an Interact Club Peer Leader. Her activities also include Student Council, Interact Club, HHS Chamber Choir, FFA, 4-H and Operetta. She currently also plays on the HHS volleyball and soccer team. Anderson would like to give a shout out to the HHS Chamber Choir Singers, Mrs. Lemons and Mrs. Powell for always putting her in a good mood and making her smile every day. After high school,



Zoey Spinner

Anderson plans to go to business or medical school and get a doctorate in either field. She enjoys school and plans to go for a while. Anderson has recently been thinking about majoring in music, but she is not sure yet.

Zoey Spinner

Zoey Spinner is a sophomore at HHS and is the daughter of Victoria Spinner and Matthew Spinner. Spinner really enjoys spending time with friends and family. She also loves spending time with her dogs Izzy, Millie and Goose. Spinner also loves playing tennis and soccer. In her spare time, she



Lily Churchwell

enjoys cruising with all of her friends, babysitting for local families and spending time with her Grandpa Gerry. Spinner also enjoys spending time with her little sister, Layla. At HHS, she is on the soccer and tennis teams. Spinner participates in the Chamber Choir, the HHS Jazz band, and is active in Sources of Strength. Her advice to others is to "always be kind." She would like to give a shout out to her grandpa Gerry Spinner for being the most kind, loving, and caring person she has ever met. After high school, Spinner plans to go to college for pre-med and become a pediatrician.

Lily Churchwell

Lily Churchwell is a junior at Hillsboro High School and the daughter of Tracy and Roger Churchwell. She



Will Christian

has a little brother named Logan and a dog named Chewie. Churchwell loves music and in her spare time she likes to play 2048 and complete crossword puzzles. Churchwell's favorite part of Hillsboro High School is the good teachers that care about you and your well being. She is active in scholar bowl, choir, operetta and band. Her favorite book is *Catcher in the Rye* and her favorite song is "I Want You Back" by The Jackson 5. Churchwell would like to give a shout out to Allie Krummel for having the biggest heart and being her best friend. After high school, Churchwell plans to attend college and pursue education in choir or band.

Will Christian

Will Christian is a senior this year at HHS and is the son of Bill and Heidi Chris-

tian. Christian likes to play sports, watch sports, and anything else competitive. He has four sisters and no brothers. Christian has a cat named Ash and a dog named Daisy. On the weekends, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend. His favorite part of high school is the gymnasium "so many memories in that gym, including a 14-0 basketball season in the Covid." In his spare time, Christian also likes to play Playstation and card games with his family. During high school he was very active on the basketball team for four years and the soccer team for four years. He is not really a book reader but this semester in Mr. Vaughn's Readers Response class he read a book called *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds that he enjoyed. Christian would like to give a shout out to Mr. Burke. He says, "Ever since I stepped foot into the school he was always and I mean always there for me. He became a fatherly figure and mentor to me. I spent so much time around him with soccer and having him as a teacher and I'm very glad I got to do that. He taught me how to not quit no matter what, just give it your all because that's all you can do. He believed in me and I'm very grateful for that." After high school, Christian plans on going to college to major in occupational therapy.



Kaylee Gerlach (pictured above) of Lincolnwood High School received two awards at the annual Illinois FFA State Convention.

Lincolnwood FFA Honored At Illinois State Convention

Members of the Lincolnwood FFA chapter attended the 95th annual Illinois State Convention on June 13 to 15, along with more than 5,000 other FFA members, advisors and guests. With a 2023 theme of "Electrify," the three-day event annually recognizes achievements of Illinois FFA members, elects the major state officer team, and celebrates agriculture.

During the convention, the following awards were presented to the Lincolnwood FFA:

Kaylee Gerlach and JoBeth Matli were awarded with the State FFA degree by the Illinois Association for meeting all requirements including productive financial investments and earnings in a supervised agricultural experience, FFA participation, leadership and academic excellence. The State FFA

Degree is the highest achievement any FFA member can achieve in Illinois; less than 2 percent of members statewide earn this prestigious recognition.

Gerlach was also recognized as one of the top five outstanding section reporters in the state for exemplary dedication and diligence in communicating with chapters and the media throughout the section. This award is sponsored by Illinois AgriNews.

Students at the convention were greeted with activities including a career fair featuring colleges and agribusinesses and an opportunity to engage in the history of Illinois' capital city. The sessions featured addresses by National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy, of Illinois, and from each of the retiring major state officers.

Litchfield FFA Honored At State Convention

Members of the Litchfield FFA chapter attended the 95th annual Illinois State Convention on June 13 to 15, along with more than 5,000 other FFA members, advisors and guests. With a 2023 theme of "Electrify," the three-day event annually recognizes achievements of Illinois FFA members, elects the major state officer team, and celebrates agriculture.

During the convention, Amanda Niemann was awarded with the State FFA degree by the Illinois Association for meeting all requirements including productive

financial investments and earnings in a supervised agricultural experience, FFA participation, leadership and academic excellence. The State FFA Degree is the highest achievement any FFA member can achieve in Illinois; less than 2 percent of members statewide earn this prestigious recognition.

Students at the convention were greeted with activities including a career fair featuring colleges and agribusinesses and an opportunity to engage in the history of Illinois' capital city.

Nokomis FFA Members Sign Up For Fair

The Section 19 FFA Fair is approaching.

Any Nokomis High School FFA members interested in showing an animal in the fair on July 7, needs to update his or her records and contact Mr. Fesser or Ms. Hartke before July 5 to get animals registered. This is only for large animals. The small animals/projects show has been moved to September.

Crop Condition

There were 6.8 days suitable for field work during the week ending Sunday, June 25.

Statewide, the average temperature was 75.5 degrees, 1.7 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 0.49 inches, 0.49 inches below normal.

Topsoil moisture supply was rated 39 percent very short, 50 percent short, and 11 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture supply was rated 33 percent very short, 53 percent short, and 14 percent adequate. Corn silking reached 1 percent, compared to the five-year average of 2 percent.

Corn condition was rated 6 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

Soybeans blooming reached 2 percent, compared to the five-year average of 8 percent. Soybean condition was rated 6 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 52 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

Winter wheat harvested for grain was 49 percent, compared to the five-year average of 49 percent. Winter wheat condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 20 percent excellent.

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The Journal-News

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THURS., JUNE 29 - 6 p.m. RE closes; 6:30 p.m. personal property closes. 404 South St., Gillespie. Viewing June 25, Noon-2:30 p.m. Pickup/checkout July 1, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. by appt. Register/bid now at mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. RE of 2BR/2 1/2 BA 2400 sf brick home w/bsmt. on 2 lg. corner lots. Lawn mowers, furniture, appliances, grandfather clock, antiques-collectibles-household, shop tools-tools-etc. Heirs of Robert Brown, sellers. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

THURS., JUNE 29 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Gerald & Sharon Schreckenberger Trust auction. Register/bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Checkout June 30, 4-6 p.m. at 1221 S. Clinton Rd., Caseyville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

FRI., JUNE 30 - Simulcast (online & live) auction of 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on 1.7 acres & 2012 Chevy Equinox for Gerald & Sharon Schreckenberger Trust. Register/bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. 1221 S. Clinton Rd., Caseyville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

WED., JULY 5 - 6 p.m. soft close. 823 N. O'Bannon St., Raymond. Viewing July 2, Noon-2:30 p.m. Pickup/checkout July 8, 9 a.m.-noon. Register/bid now at mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. Ag collectibles, collectibles, tools, etc. Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lewey & Others, sellers. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

THURS., JULY 6 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends. 823 N. O'Bannon St., Raymond. Viewing July 2, Noon-2:30 p.m. Pickup/checkout July 8, 9 a.m.-noon. Register/bid now at mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. Motorcycle trailers, drones, ammunition, hunting/fishing related items, quality hunting clothing, collectibles, tools, etc. Items from 2 local estates. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

THURS., JULY 6 - Bidding ends for online only auction. Preview July 2, 1-3 p.m. at 418 S. Main St., Benld. Mickenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, James Mickenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, 217-820-9324, 217-710-5642, mickenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com, mickenheimerauctions.com.

SAT., JULY 8 - 9 a.m. Charles & Velda Carson estate live auction at 302 W. State St., Pocahontas. Open house June 19, 4-6 p.m. RE of 2BR/1BA Sears home w/det. 2 car garage, close to schools. 2002 Chevy S-10, antiques, collectibles, household, misc., tools & accessories. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SAT., JULY 15 - 12 Noon. Selling simulcast (live & online) RE auction for Carolyn Johnson & the late Bob Johnson of 114 +/- acres hunting & rec with mobile home & outbuildings located at 814 S. Frontage Ave., Greenville. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Acreage is loaded with whitetail, turkeys & cleared areas for food plots. Vehicles, trailers, tractors, mower, lots of misc. items. 3 rings, 20+ wagons of tools, power equip., more! Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., JULY 20 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only tractors-boats-mowers-vehicles auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at 939 US Rt. 40 Frontage Rd., Greenville. Preview: July 17, 4-6 p.m. Call to consign. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

MON., JULY 31 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only 7 acres-A frame home-lake house cabin. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Open house July 9, noon-2 p.m. & July 17, 4-6 p.m. at 603 McCracks Trail, Irving. Great summer home or BNB (check zoning). Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., AUG. 24 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only machinery auction. Bidding begins Mon., Aug. 7 at 5 p.m. All items must be delivered to Mickenheimer Auction lot, 4.5 mi. S of Taylorville, by Sun., Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. Register/bid at mickenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com. Mickenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, Jim Mickenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, 217-824-9324 or 217-820-9324 or 217-710-5642.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

BIDDING ENDS THURSDAY, JULY 6
PREVIEW SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1-3 P.M.
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LITCHFIELD'S

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9:30 p.m.

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\$29,616

23 Buick Encore GX
B10302
NOW ONLY
\$29,906

23 Buick Encore GX Sport
B10366
NOW ONLY
\$32,335

23 Buick Envision Preferred
B10184
NOW ONLY
\$36,999

23 Buick Envision Essence
B10303
NOW ONLY
\$40,489

23 Chevy Bolt EV 2LT
B10373
NOW ONLY
\$32,675

23 Chevy Silverado 1500
Custom B10364
NOW ONLY
\$48,740

23 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST
B10358
NOW ONLY
\$58,620

23 Chevy Silverado 1500 ZR2
B10374
NOW ONLY
\$76,755

23 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD
Custom B10313
NOW ONLY
\$55,340

24 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD LT
B10314
NOW ONLY
\$68,890

23 Chevy Trailblazer Activ
B10350
NOW ONLY
\$32,905

23 Chevy Traverse LT
B10369
NOW ONLY
\$40,085

23 Chevy Traverse RS
B10371
NOW ONLY
\$45,945

23 GMC Acadia SLE
B10334
NOW ONLY
\$40,440

23 GMC Acadia Denali
B10310
NOW ONLY
\$56,285

23 GMC Acadia Denali
B10349
NOW ONLY
\$57,785

23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT
B10367
NOW ONLY
\$67,840

23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT
B10273
NOW ONLY
\$62,413

23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT
B10368
NOW ONLY
\$68,440

23 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali
Ultimate B10355
NOW ONLY
\$86,640

23 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali
Ultimate B10362
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\$86,640

23 Buick Enclave Essence
B10323
NOW ONLY
\$47,290

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B10325
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\$44,785

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23 Chevy Blazer 3LT, B10396.....\$43,780

24 Buick Encore GX Preferred.....\$30,365

24 Buick Encore GX Sport Touring.....\$30,415

23 Buick Encore GX Preferred.....\$30,850

24 Buick Encore GX Sport.....\$31,630

24 Buick Encore GX Avenir.....\$34,345

23 Chevy Colorado Trail Boss, B10384.....\$43,215

24 Chevy Equinox RS, B10383.....\$33,545

23 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST.....\$60,620

23 Chevy Trailblazer RS.....\$28,255

24 Chevy Trax LT, B10390.....\$25,980

23 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4, B10391.....\$70,195

24 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate.....\$95,435

Bikers To Hit The Streets On Saturday

The Hillsboro Hill Topper Bicycle Club will meet for their weekly Saturday morning bike ride at 9 a.m. on July 1, at Lincoln Plaza in Hillsboro. The group rides are open to biking enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. For more information contact Dan Clotfelter at dclotfel@msn.com or 720-635-3619. Those interested in becoming members of the club are encouraged to join the “Hillsboro Hill Topper Bicycle Club” group on Facebook. Above, a group of local bikers prepare to embark on the 12th annual Tub Tobias group ride on Saturday, June 12.

HSHS Offers Tips For Easier Breathing

With smoke from wildfires in Canada traveling down into the region, the air quality has deteriorated rapidly, leading the National Weather Service in Lincoln to issue an air quality alert.

HSHS Medical Group pulmonologist Dr. Brian Reichardt shared, “People can see that it looks smoggy in the air but may not realize the affect wildfire smoke can have on the lungs, especially for older adults, pregnant women, children, and people with preexisting respiratory and heart conditions. If there is enough smoke in the air, it can affect someone who is healthy if they are exposed to it long enough.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), breathing in smoke can have immediate health effects, including: coughing, trouble breathing normally, stinging eyes, a scratchy throat, runny nose, irritated sinuses, wheezing and shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, an asthma attack, tiredness, and fast heartbeat

Those whose age or health conditions such as asthma puts them in a higher-risk category are encouraged to limit their exposure as much as possible. Here are some tips from the CDC to protect your health:

1. Pay attention to local air quality reports and the US Air Quality Index at airnow.gov. Pay attention to public health messages and take extra safety measures such as avoiding spending time outdoors.
2. If you are told to stay indoors, stay indoors and keep your indoor air as clean as possible. Keep windows and doors closed unless it is very hot outside. Run an air conditioner if you have one but keep the fresh-air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent outdoor smoke from getting inside. Seek shelter elsewhere if you do not have an air conditioner and it is too warm to stay inside with the windows closed.
3. Use an air filter. Use a freestanding indoor air filter with particle removal to help protect people with heart disease, asthma or other respiratory conditions and the elderly and children from the effects of wildfire smoke. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions on filter replacement and where to place the device.
4. Do not add to indoor pollution. When smoke levels are high, do not use anything that burns, such as candles and fireplaces. Do not vacuum, because vacuuming stirs up particles already inside your home. Do not smoke tobacco or other products, because smoking puts even more pollution into the air.
5. Follow your doctor’s advice about medicines and about your respiratory management plan if you have asthma or another lung disease or cardiovascular disease. Call your doctor if your symptoms worsen.
6. Do not rely on dust masks for protection. Paper “comfort” or “dust” masks commonly found at hardware stores trap large particles, such as sawdust. These masks will not protect your lungs from smoke. An “N95” mask, properly worn, will offer some protection. If you decide to keep a mask on hand, see the Respirator Fact Sheet provided by CDC’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

For more information on protecting yourself during low air quality days, visit cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/smoke.html

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