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Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Board Answers Questions From Public

by Mike Plunkett

"We're all angry," the Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service board meeting began with a public comment at the Thursday, Dec. 21 meeting. "We need a reliable service here in town."

The frank but productive public discussion lasted for just over an hour and ended with community

members present pledging their support while the ambulance district struggles through its financial crisis toward a solution.

The first step in that struggle is the ambulance district changing from advanced life support (ALS) to a basic life support (BLS) volunteer transport service with upgrade capability.

The problems that led to the

district's financial crisis are complicated and numerous.

First, paramedics are difficult for a small district to find and even more difficult to keep. The Nokomis-Witt Area Ambulance Service is down to two full-time employees.

Former ambulance service manager Joletta Hill explained the second problem.

"When I resigned, the line of communication between the manager and the accountant broke, and the board didn't know until it was too late," Hill said. "One of the managers over-spent. It has nothing to do with the board."

She pointed to a mistake at the county billing office as the third problem, where an old federal employer identification number

(FEIN) was used resulting in the stoppage of Medicare and Medicaid payments for more than six months.

"It has taken quite a while to get that all straightened out," ambulance board member Dave Schweitzer said. "Some were too late to be re-billed."

Continued on page 10A



Hillsboro painter Joseph Williams is sharing his talents with the community through a series of paintings in the children's section at the Hillsboro Area Public Library. Painting work has been done during the month of December. His work is titled "Reading Opens Your Mind to a World of Possibilities." *Journal-News/Nancy Slepicka*

New Paintings Add Splash Of Color At Library

Colorful and playful murals above book shelves in the children's area of Hillsboro Area Public Library exhibit the creative vision and talent of Joseph Williams of Hillsboro.

Titled, "Reading Opens Your Mind to a World of Possibilities," the individual paintings show children and animals in a variety of activities.

"The entire mural depicts scientific discovery in space, fantasy, mystery, puzzles, gardening, dancing, farming and baking," Williams said. "The happy pig being lifted by balloons shows how

anything is possible when your imagination takes flight in a book."

Williams and his wife, Sarah, own and operate JWS Artistic Inspirations LLC, a home-based business they started after moving to Hillsboro three years ago from Sacramento, CA.

Williams holds a bachelor of arts degree in studio art from Azusa Pacific University and a master of fine arts in illustration from the Savannah College of Art and Design. In addition to artistic creations, he is a professional residential painter.

As Williams explained to children and parents who attended the library's story hour on Dec. 18, he first makes pencil drawings in his sketchbook. When satisfied with his drawings and the order they will appear, he uses a small device to project each illustration onto the wall, where it's enlarged to scale and then traced.

With brushes and acrylic paints, Williams meticulously adds color and character to his creations.

Continued on page 10A

City Of Nokomis Hires Two Part-Time Officers

By Ben Schwarm

The Nokomis City Council took action at its regular Tuesday, Dec. 26 meeting to hire a pair of new part-time police officers.

Dalton King, currently the Police Chief in Witt, will begin work as a part-time officer for Nokomis after the first of the year. Nathan Brookshire will begin work as a code enforcement officer

in January and will enter the police academy for training as a police officer later in 2024. His work as a code enforcement officer will allow him to learn the city codes, police procedures and participate in ride-alongs with current working officers.

The council also voted to join Discover Downstate Illinois as its certified tourism bureau.

Continued on page 10A

Newspaper Kicks Off First Baby Competition

As soon as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, heralding the start of a brand new year, the official wait begins for the arrival of the first baby contest winner in Montgomery County.

Many area businesses donate prizes for the first baby and his/her parents in the traditional first baby contest sponsored by *The Journal-News*. The contest, which began 87 years ago, has specific rules for the winner.

in Montgomery County. The mother must have lived in Montgomery County for at least one year and have a legal address in Montgomery County.

Written proof of the baby's birth, normally a birth certificate, must be furnished to *The Journal-News* or to St. Francis Hospital personnel. The attending physician must certify the hour, minute and date of the newborn's birth.

Continued on page 10A



'Tis The Season Of Christmas Lights

It's the season for spectacular Christmas lighting displays, and the home of Dan and Linda Bilyeu on Lands End Road at Glenn Shoals Lake in Hillsboro is one to be admired. Bright white lights stream from a star across the yard to light the way to the Holy Family.

Journal-News Photo

Plunkett Retires From Newspaper

After a 33-year career in the newspaper business, Mike Plunkett, current publisher of *The Journal-News*, is retiring at the end of 2023.

Stepping in to fill his shoes will be a woman with a long family history in the newspaper business in Hillsboro, who will assume the role of publisher.

Mary (Galer) Herschelmann, who returned to *The Journal-News* in 2004, was co-editor at the newspaper with Plunkett until 2016 when she assumed sole editor responsibilities after his promotion to publisher.

"Community journalism is truly my passion," said Herschelmann. "Growing up, my dad always used to tell people I had ink in my veins, and I look forward to continuing the traditions of



Journal-News Publisher Mike Plunkett, at left, is retiring from the newspaper business at the end of 2023. Mary (Galer) Herschelmann, at right, has been named the new publisher. *Journal-News Photo*

our local newspaper, which was established more than 170 years ago."

Continued on page 10A

Thu 28	37°/32°	PM Snow Showers	56%
Fri 29	36°/29°	Rain/Snow Showers	58%
Sat 30	40°/30°	Partly Cloudy	8%
Sun 31	35°/27°	Mostly Cloudy	13%

Index	
Police.....	7B
Classifieds	6B
Family	4A-5A
Kids Page	5B
Obituaries	3A
Sports.....	1B-4B

Year In Review
Catch up on your favorite memories from last year!
See Section C.



Old Gym Foyer Gone As HHS Construction Continues

Following the Christmas holiday, O'Shea Construction crews are hard at work on the campus of Hillsboro High School. The foyer of the gym building was removed on Tuesday, Dec. 26. Although the foyer is gone, the gym building will remain as part of the new school building at Hillsboro High School. Another gym is currently being constructed near the concession stand as well.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy White

Red Cross, St. Louis Parish Hosting Blood Drive Jan. 2

On Tuesday, Jan. 2, the American Red Cross is partnering with St. Louis Parish Center to sponsor a community blood drive, running from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the St. Louis Parish Center gym in Nokomis.

All donors at Red Cross blood drives in the month of January will be entered to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. For more information visit rcblood.org/SuperBowl.



As we put the final paper together of 2023, all of us at *The Journal-News* wish you and your family all the best in the new year. We thank you for your loyal readership over the past year.

Due to the postal holiday on Monday, Jan. 1, the next issue of *The Journal-News* will not be published until Tuesday, Jan. 2. The office in downtown Hillsboro will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, but will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, Jan. 2. The deadlines for both ads and news items in the Tuesday edition is Saturday at noon.

In addition, the newspaper's office will also close early this Friday, Dec. 29, at 1 p.m.

And speaking of New Year's fun, you won't want to miss the annual New Year's Day Walk at Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro on Monday, Jan. 1.

The 90-minute guided hike begins at 11 a.m., following by a soup and sandwich luncheon. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots.

Don't forget that it's a great chance to start your Snowflake Search at Bremer as well!

Bremer Sanctuary is located at 194 Bremer Lane in Hillsboro.

Throughout the month of January, Hillsboro Area Public Library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to help those in need. All donations will be given to Harvest of Hope Food Pantry in Hillsboro.

Speaking of libraries, the Nokomis Public Library has announced a change in hours starting in the new year.

Beginning Jan. 2, the library will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Nokomis Public Library is located at 100 N. Spruce in Nokomis.

After nearly 20 years in the banking industry, Ron Norris of CNB Bank and Trust in Litchfield is retiring.

The bank, located at 501 N. State Street in Litchfield. Stop by from 1 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, and wish Norris well in his retirement.

Ring in the new year with your friends at the Litchfield VFW Post #3912.

They are hosting a New Year's Eve Party on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$25 each or \$45 per couple. Stop by for finger foods, party favors and champagne at midnight. Live entertainment will be provided by *The Strugglers*.

Love Packages in Butler shipped out its final shipment of the year this December, a package bound for India.

During 2023, the organization shipped more than 2,020 tons of literature all over the world from their two warehouses. "We know we serve a big God, who can do big things," said Steve Schmidt of Love Packages. "Who knows the impact 2,020 tons of Christian literature will have on the world. We estimate it is over 100,000,000 first time reads this year alone."

Love Packages is located at 220 Union Street in Butler. For more information, call 217-532-6701 or visit lovepackages.org.

St. Louis School in Nokomis has announced winners of its Santa Mega Raffle, held on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

The lucky winners were Sarah Collins, who won the Beats and JBL bundle; Dennis Hand, who won the Lululemon bundle and Jim Beeler, who won the Smith and Wesson bundle.

The school thanks everyone who helped to make it a successful fundraiser.

Leneata R. Huber, 94

Follower Of Jesus



Leneata R. (Kline) Huber, 94, of Litchfield, died on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.

A memorial service will be held Jan. 6, at Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. until the time of service at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Donnellson Cemetery. Terry Loskot will be officiating.

Mrs. Huber was born Jan. 22, 1929, to her parents, J.C. and Oda (Sutton) Kline, in Calumet City. She married Joyce C. Huber on Oct. 11, 1947.

She attended Hillsboro High School. Mrs. Huber spent most of her life as a homemaker, but also worked at the Hillsboro Glass Factory. She enjoyed doing crafts and activities, including Bingo and word games. She was a believer in Christ and her faith in the Lord was strong.

She is survived by her daughters Nancy (Denny) Black of Litchfield, Rhonda (John) Gagliardo of Wood River, Lory Gaddis of Litchfield; grandchildren Brigitte Krieg, Michele Connell, Renae Krieg, Richard Pieper, Jr., Leslee Gaddis, and Antonio Gagliardo; and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Huber is preceded in death by her two daughters, Jan Smith and Mary Kay Huber.

Memorials in Mrs. Huber's honor may be directed to the Montgomery County Cancer Association (MCCA). Condolences may be left online at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Vickie L. Cherry, 65

Lifelong Hillsboro Resident



Vickie Lynn Cherry, 65, of Hillsboro, died on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023 at 9:30 p.m. at Alhambra Rehab and Healthcare in Alhambra.

Cremation rites were accorded and no services are planned at this time. Bass-Patton-Dean Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Mrs. Cherry was born March 3, 1958 in Hillsboro, to Myrl and Betty Jean (Collins) Gurley. She lived in Hillsboro area all her life and graduated from Hillsboro High School. She went on to become a nurse. She married Ned Huber and they later divorced. She was a member of Free Methodist Church in Coffeen. Mrs. Cherry enjoyed going to church and listening to music.

Mrs. Cherry is survived by her mother, Betty Gurley; son, Eric (Nicole) Huber of Coffeen; four grandchildren, Hannah Huber, Mason Huber, Jake Huber and Lilly Huber; and two great-grandchildren, Harlow and Eleanor.

She is preceded in death by her father; two sons, Matthew Huber and Jacob Huber; grandson, Devin Cruthis; and sister, Cheryl Payne.

Memorials are suggested to Free Methodist Church of Coffeen. Condolences may be left online at www.basspattondeanf.com.

DJ Potts, 31

Avid Cardinals, Saints Fan



DJ Potts, 31, of Sorento, died on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023, at his home.

A celebration of life will be hosted by the family at a future date. The family has entrusted Perfetti-Assalley Funeral Home in Sorento with the ceremonies.

Mr. Potts was born July 8, 1992, in Hillsboro, the son of Stanley E and Pam J. (Beam) Potts. He had lived in Sorento since the age of two.

He was quiet, reserved, and considered a homebody, who stayed mostly to himself, and loved to play games on the X-Box. Mr. Potts was a great fan of the New Orleans Saints football team and the St. Louis Cardinal's baseball team. He also enjoyed listening to a wide variety of music genres. He leaves behind many grieving family and friends.

Mr. Potts is survived by his parents, Pam Potts of Mt. Vernon and Stanley Potts of Sorento; siblings, Amber Severtson of Mt. Olive, Jeremy Coolidge of Sorento, Tanya Bauer of Sorento and Michael Potts of Hillsboro; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his stepmother, Lori Potts. Memorial contributions may be given to the DJ Potts family, c/o Stanley Potts, 512 N. State St., Sorento, IL 62086. Visit www.assalleyfuneralhomes.com to share memories or offer condolences to the family.

Charles L. Jones, 82

Born In Hillsboro



Charles Lee Jones, 82, of Greenwood, IN, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 at Greenwood Health and Living Community in Greenwood.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. at Cedar Ridge Cemetery in Litchfield, IL 62056.

Mr. Jones was born Aug. 17, 1941 in Hillsboro, to Joseph Charles Jones and Ruby Davidson (Lentz) Jones. He married Mona Jean (Black) Jones on Sept. 1, 2001 in Benton, and she survives.

Mr. Jones was a 1959 graduate of O'Fallon Township High School in O'Fallon. He later graduated from Ranken Technical College. He worked as an auto mechanic for 36 years, last working for Dave Croft Sales and Service in Collinsville.

Mr. Jones had a lifelong love of hunting, fishing and the outdoors. He was also deeply involved in the "Overcomers" prison re-entry ministry at his church.

He is survived by his wife Mona Jean (Black) Jones of Greenwood, IN; sons Mike Jones (Amy) of Franklin, IN and Dave Jones (Tami) of Bose, ID; sister, Carol Sue Jones of South Pasadena, CA; two stepchildren, Sharayah Gordon (Chris Cogill) of Herrin and Jarrod Gordon (Emily) of Farmington, MO; and eleven grandchildren.

His parents preceded him in death. Condolences may be left online at www.basspattondeanf.com.

Mary Dycus, 74

Services Pending

Mary Dycus, 74, of Litchfield, died at her home on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023.

Final arrangements are pending at the Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield. A complete obituary will be published in a later issue of *The Journal-News*.

Public Meetings

Hillsboro City Council

Hillsboro City Council has scheduled a special meeting for at 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, at Hillsboro City Hall.

Agenda items include discussion and decision on the City of Hillsboro Employee Handbook, ordinance no. 1781 regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act for the City of Hillsboro, ordinance no. 1783 regarding the policy for paid leave for city employees not collectively bargained and an addendum between the city and Labors International Union of North America Local 773.

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Obituaries

Clifton E. Flowers, 87

Outdoorsman



Clifton Eugene Flowers, 87, of Hillsboro, died Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Services for Mr. Flowers will be held at a later date. Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro is assisting the family.

Mr. Flowers was born on Sept. 8, 1936, in Springfield, to parents Clint and Ruth (Behl) Flowers. He married Dolores Johnson in September of 1968, and the two had spent the last 50-plus years together. The couple enjoyed traveling between their properties in Mississippi and Illinois and finding new adventures along the way.

Mr. Flowers was an avid fisherman and always carried a fishing pole and bait with him wherever he went. He and his wife loved to fish together wherever they could find a place to cast a line. Mr. Flowers enjoyed hunting all his life, and growing up he raised and trained his dogs to enjoy the sport of hunting as well. He was also a gardener, having grown many vegetables and then flowers in his later years. He worked at Oak Ridge Cemetery, but had since retired.

Mr. Flowers is survived by his wife, Dolores; daughter Dawn Spinner of Mississippi and son Michael Flowers of Hillsboro; stepdaughter Debra K. (Randy) Jones of Hillsboro; grandchildren Kailyn Spinner, Nathan Spinner, Matthew Spinner and Elizabeth Flowers; and his four beloved dogs.

He was preceded in death by his parents and all eight of his siblings.

Condolences may be left online at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Juanita J. Mosby, 86

Owner Of 'The Lancer Den'

Juanita J. Mosby, 86, of Raymond, died on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023 at Hillsboro Rehab and Health Care in Hillsboro.

Graveside services are going to be held Friday, Dec. 29, at 11 a.m. in Asbury Cemetery in Raymond, with Pastor Paul Jones officiating. Hough Funeral Home in Raymond is assisting with arrangements.

Mrs. Mosby was born July 19, 1937 in Witt, the daughter of the late Reynolds and Eleanor Boston Miller. She married Ronald C. Mosby in Corinth, MS on May 31, 1963, and he preceded her in death on Aug. 16, 2004.

She and her husband owned several businesses in Raymond for many years: Mosby's North End Motors, Mosby's Raymond Motel, Raymond Tile, and probably most famously owning and operating "The Lancer Den."

Mrs. Mosby is survived by a nephew, Marvin (Linda) Waldeck of Farmersville; and companion Darrell Pitchford of Raymond.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Eileen Waldeck, and brothers; Karl Miller, Willard Miller and Gene Miller.

Memorials may be given to the Montgomery County Animal Shelter. Condolences may be given to the family by posting them online at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Dawn M. Durbin, 49

Loved Collecting Frogs



Dawn Michelle Durbin, 49, of Nokomis, died on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Nursing in Hillsboro.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Hough and Sons Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Durbin was born in Riverside, CA, on Dec. 13, 1974, to Melvin and Diana (Egghman) Durbin. She married Robbie Mays of Irving, and he survives.

She worked at FAYCO in Hillsboro, and enjoyed collecting lots of frogs.

Mrs. Durbin is survived by her husband, Robbie; father, Melvin Durbin of Nokomis; and brothers Randy Durbin of Nokomis and Christopher Durbin of Shelbyville.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Diana; grandparents Floyd Durbin and Bill and Bertie Egghman; adopted grandmother Carolyn Bandy; niece Darlene Robinson; and Uncle Don Durbin and Aunt Ella Durbin.

Condolences may be left online at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Robert Pearson, 94

U.S. Army Veteran



Robert "Bob" Pearson, 94, of Decatur, died at 10:54 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at Martin Health Center in Bloomington.

A visitation was held at the Saybrook Christian Church in Saybrook on Wednesday, Dec. 27. A graveside service will be held at Ware's Grove Cemetery in rural Butler at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 28. Calvert-Belangee-Bruce Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Pearson was born to John and Eula (Crites) Pearson in St. Louis on April 13, 1929. He married Joann Hayes, daughter of Louis and Ruth Hayes, on Nov. 4, 1950.

In 1947, Mr. Pearson began working for Phillips Pipeline Company. He entered the army in 1951 and was injured in the Korean War on his first wedding anniversary later that year. After spending 18 months in Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, MI, he returned to work for Phillips. He and his wife settled in Saybrook in 1958, where they lived until moving to Decatur in 2021. After 37 years with Phillips, Mr. Pearson retired and began the next chapter of his life filled with travel, spending time with family and friends, fishing trips to Canada and adventures with the Pearson Racing Team. He was a member of the American Legion and the Illinana Antique Auto Club.

Mr. Pearson is survived by his son, Terry (Sharon) Pearson of Forsyth and daughter Jody (Larry) Retter of Normal; grandsons, Michael (Dr. Matt Hale) Retter of Ft. Worth, TX, Ryan (Neda) Retter of Bloomington, Bobby (Katy) Pearson of Atlanta and Jeremy Retter of Normal; great-grandsons, Jackson, Logan and Aden Retter; step-grandchildren Paula Retter, Chris Retter and their families; sisters-in-law Georgia Eller of Nokomis, Joy Lemon of Irving, Janice Pearson of Taylor Springs and Sharol Hayes of Irving; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and brother, John Pearson.

The family requests that donations may be made to the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation at 663 13th St., Suite 100 in Oakland, CA.

Dale E. Keiser, 78

Served His Country



Dale E. Keiser, 78, of Witt, died on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, at Hillsboro Area Hospital.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Nokomis. A grave side ceremony with military honors will follow the visitation at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery with Pastor Christen Prumm officiating.

Mr. Keiser was born on Feb. 4, 1945, in Hillsboro. He graduated from Nokomis High School and went on to proudly serve his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Upon his honorable discharge, Mr. Keiser worked on a farm in Delphos, KS, the Martin Elevator in Witt and the Nokomis Township, where he served as highway commissioner for several more years.

He married Diana Wilson on July 16, 1966, in Salina, KS, and they enjoyed over 57 years of marriage. Mr. Keiser was raised in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Nokomis, and he and his wife were current members of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.

Mr. Keiser is survived by his wife, Diana Keiser of Witt; children, Cathy (Randy) Garrett of Rochester and Donald (Shannon) Keiser of Witt; grandchildren, Ben Garrett, Brian Garrett, Emily (Aaron) Fox, Douglas (Haley) Keiser, Tyler Wesley, Joey (fiancee Harley Page) Keiser and Olivia Keiser; great-grandchildren, Millie Fox, Annie Fox, Natalie Fox and Dayton Keiser.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mt. Zion Lutheran Church or the Witt Volunteer Fire Department. Condolences or memories may be shared online at www.stiehl-dawsonfh.com.

Trudy A. Mollet, 75

Ties To Local Area



Trudy A. Mollet, 75, of Highland, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, at her home in Highland.

Visitation was held on Friday, Dec. 22, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland. Funeral service was held on Saturday, Dec. 23, at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, with the Rev. William E. Kapp, pastor at the Evangelical United Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will be at Highland City Cemetery in Highland.

Mrs. Mollet was born on Friday, April 6, 1948, in Highland, the daughter of the late LaRue and Martha (Ainscough) Neudecker. She grew up in the Marine and Highland area, and was a 1966 Highland High School graduate. She attended SIU in Edwardsville, earning an associate's degree in accounting. On Friday, Feb. 14, 1975, she married Wayne A. Mollet at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, and he preceded her in death on May 11, 2022.

She worked at First National Bank in Highland. She stayed home caring for their children and then went to work as a teaching assistant at WeeCare Childcare. She was a farmer's wife first, helping with the grain, beef and hogs. She played the flute with the Troy Community Band ever since its inception, and was the longest tenured member of the band, with her last concert on Dec. 4. She was a great baker and enjoyed making homemade jelly. She adored her family. She especially loved "spoiling the grandchildren rotten."

She was a member of the Evangelical United Church of Christ and Evangelical United Church of Christ Bell Choir, as well as served as a Sunday School Teacher. She played in the Troy Community Band and was treasurer at St. Jacob Livestock Barn.

Mrs. Mollet is survived by her children, Lynn A. (David) Rivas of Highland, Lanna Kay Mollet of Houston, TX, Lisa Marie (Thomas "Andy") Lalor of Edwardsville and Gary Wayne Mollet of Pocahontas; grandchildren Dominic A. Rivas, Kaylen A. Rivas, Emma M. Rivas, Haley S. Lalor, Austin W. Schmonsees and Joshua A. Mollet; siblings Mardel L. (Daniel) Braun of Highland, Randal J. (Cindy) Neudecker of Highland, Kevin R. (Mary) Neudecker of Highland, LaDonna R. (David) Boyer of O'Fallon, MO, and Melissa "Missy" Athmer of Highland; brothers-in-law David L. (Angelena "Angy") Mollet of Highland, Dale W. (Karen) Mollet of Troy and Eldon R. Mollet of Highland.

She was preceded in death by her father LaRue Haley "Larry" Neudecker and mother Martha Lou Neudecker; husband Wayne Allen Mollet; daughter-in-law Melissa D. Mollet; father-in-law Gerald Earl Mollet and mother-in-law Edna Marie Mollet; brother-in-law Craig A. Athmer; and niece Danielle Braun.

Memorial contributions may be made to Evangelical United Church of Christ, Troy Community Band or Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Lisbeth A. Klaustermeier, 68

Born In Hillsboro



Lisbeth A. Klaustermeier, 68, of Benld, died at 1:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, with her loving husband by her side.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Kravanya Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Klaustermeier was born on Oct. 16, 1955, in Hillsboro, to the late Robert Dressen and Jean Laws Dressen. She graduated from Litchfield High School in 1973 and attended Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. She married Jim Klaustermeier on March 17, 1978, at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield. They lived in St. Petersburg, FL, for 28 years before moving to Benld.

Mrs. Klaustermeier loved working on the beach at the Miramar hotel while in Florida and then worked for various law firms after they moved to Benld to be near family and friends. She volunteered at Benld Adopt-A-Pet, and she enjoyed painting, puzzles, gardening and her animals.

Mrs. Klaustermeier is survived by her husband of 45 years, James C. Klaustermeier; stepsons Brad (Carla) Klaustermeier and Eric (Karen) Parks; brothers, Dr. Fred (Joni) Dressen and Doug (Karyl) Dressen and sisters Nancy (Don) Dressen-Kreffit and Caroline (Gary) Thompson; grandchildren Zachary, Kaylee, Keaton, Cole and Robert; great-granddaughter Tatum; and many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; step son, Jeff Klaustermeister; father-in-law and mother-in-law Vernon and Dorothy Klaustermeier; brother-in-law Vernon Klaustermeier Jr.; and nephew, James D. Dressen.

Memorials should be made to the family. Condolences may be left online at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

Margie K. Chesser, 83

Devoted Wife, Mother



Margie Kay Chesser, 83, of Hillsboro, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at Willowbrook Memory Care in Vandalia.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Visitation will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m., with services to follow, with Randy Sands officiating. Burial will be in Oak Grove Cemetery in Hillsboro. Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Chesser was born Nov. 22, 1940, in Panama, to the late Victor and Opal (Miller) Hammack. She attended Panama schools and was a graduate of Hillsboro High School, class of 1958. She married the love of her life, Roger "Butch" Chesser on Feb. 16, 1959, in Hartsville, TN. He preceded her in death on Jan. 18, 2021, after nearly 63 years of marriage.

Mrs. Chesser was a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was patient, kind, loved Christ and loved everyone unconditionally and taught her daughters this through the life she lived every day. She enjoyed bowling with her teammates and playing cards with her card club friends, and always looked forward to the Chesser girls' lunches. One of her favorite things in the world was making cookies with her grandkids every Christmas.

She is survived by four daughters, Pam (Jim) Roberts, Debby Cook (companion Dave Grotts), Kim (Craig) Pavolka and Faith (Brian) McCarty, all of Hillsboro; eight grandchildren, Natalie, Amanda, Jacob, Abbey, Rachael, Brett, Tessa, Sam and Julia; four great-grandchildren, Jarrett, Jordyn, Bo and Pearl, and little Margot Kay, due to arrive in January; and siblings Bob Hammack and Linda Dippold.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and brother, Bill Hammack.

Memorials can be directed to Cure Alzheimer's Fund where 100 percent of donations go directly to the research for a cure. Condolences can be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Robert E. Vazzi, 65

Leaves Brother In Hillsboro

Robert "Bob" Edward Vazzi, 65, of Savannah, GA, died on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, unexpectedly at his residence.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 6, from noon to 2 p.m. at the American Legion in Worden. Williamson Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Mr. Vazzi was born in Staunton on July 29, 1958, the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Straub) Vazzi. Growing up in Worden, he took his studies seriously and graduated from Worden High School in 1976, at the age of 16. He continued his education and Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, where at a young age he completed his bachelor's degree. Mr. Vazzi was also elected to the Worden School Board, and was the youngest member to serve on the board.

During his career, Mr. Vazzi earned a master's degree in industrial hygiene. He worked over the years at Clark Oil and Shell Oil Company in Woodriver and St. Louis County Department of Health, before beginning a long career with OSHA. His time with OSHA would see him work in Belleville, Milwaukee, WI, Mobile, AL, and eventually Savannah, GA, where he retired as area director in December of 2020. Shortly after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Mr. Vazzi volunteered to travel to New York City to assist with fit-testing the workers at ground zero to help protect them from toxic gases.

Mr. Vazzi loved to travel, take care of his yard and plants and cook. He was 'famous' for his extraordinary cheesecakes, and had even been featured in a St. Louis Dispatch story. Mr. Vazzi loved art and antiques, and was as creative as he was handy. He could repair antique wood furniture, re-cane a chair, paint a gorgeous sunset and arrange the most beautiful floral decorations. He was gifted in so many ways, and his home reflected his talents and good taste.

He loved to spoil his many nieces and nephews, and in the early years, his "little sister," taking her on vacations to places like San Francisco, Biloxi and the Bahamas. Mr. Vazzi especially loved to host friends and family at his beautiful home in Savannah, serving as chef and tour guide. He treated each guest with such care and hospitality to make every visit enjoyable and memorable. His pride and joy, however, was always his Westie dogs, Callie and Clyde.

Mr. Vazzi is survived by his brothers Frank (Sheryl) Vazzi of Staunton and Jim (Jan) Vazzi of Hillsboro, sister-in-law Rhonda Vazzi of Staunton and sister Lisa (Derek) Steinmeyer of Celina, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers Donald and J.D.

Memorials are suggested to either the Worden Fire Department or to the Worden American Legion Post # 564. Condolences may be left online at www.williamsonfh.com.

The Journal-News
The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County

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County Fair Royalty Help Spread Christmas Cheer

The trio of Montgomery County Fair royalty brightened the holiday spirits for residents in nine nursing homes across Montgomery County. On Friday, Dec. 22, the three delivered 440 handmade Christmas ornaments to residents. Pictured above, from the left are Kenny Williams of Hillsboro, 2023 Montgomery County Fair Queen Alexis Lessman, 2023 Little Miss Montgomery County Fair Karsyn Jones and 2023 Junior Miss Montgomery County Fair Nataleigh Jackson.

"This has probably been the most rewarding thing I have done so far as queen," said 2023 Montgomery County Fair Queen Alexis Lessman. "My favorite part was getting to meet the residents and see their reactions to the ornaments we made."

Camren's Causes Hosts Raffle To Win Club Cab

A limited number of raffle tickets are now available from Camren's Causes to win a Club Cab golf cart valued at over \$14,000.

Only 300 tickets at \$100 each will be sold. An early bird drawing for \$333 cash will be held on Camren's birthday on March 3, 2024.

That winning ticket will go back into the pot for the golf cart drawing, July 20 at the Camren's on the Green

memorial golf tournament at Lakeshore Golf Course in Taylorville.

Camren's Causes was founded in memory of Camren Neisler, who passed away in a car accident on Oct. 25, 2018. In the years since his death, Camren's Causes has donated thousands of dollars to community projects.

To purchase a ticket, message Brandy Chausse at 217-502-4875.

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Births

Tia (Lile) Niehaus and Tyler Phillips of Hillsboro announce the birth of their daughter, Nora Elizabeth Phillips, born on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, at 11:35 p.m. at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. She weighed 7 lbs. 8 ozs. and measured 18.5 ins. long.

She was welcomed into the world by big brothers Dominick Phillips, 6, Jonah Niehaus, 3, and big sister Grace Phillips, 1.5.

Maternal grandparents are Dawn Durbin of Greenville and Tony (Nicole) Lile of Hillsboro. Paternal grandparents are Steve and Toni Phillips of Mount Olive.

Maternal great-grandparents are Dave and Rae Durbin of Greenville and Larry and Debbie Lile of Greenville. Paternal great-grandmother is Shelby Foster of White Cloud, MI.

Tyler Stokes and Kimber Price of Hillsboro announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Dahlia Sue Stokes, born at 11:26 p.m. on Dec. 19, 2023, at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield. She weighed 5 lbs., 9.5 ozs. and measured 20 ins. long.

Paternal grandparents are Rebecca Stokes of Hillsboro and Kelly Wineburner of Irving. Maternal grandparents are Kim Price and Todd Price both of Hillsboro. Paternal great-grandparent is Della Stokes of Witt and maternal great-grandparent Carol Herrin of Morton.

Marriage Licenses

Jeffrey Alan Maass, Ohlman; Theresa Rose Dial, Ohlman



HAH Junior Board Celebrates Christmas

The Junior Board of Hillsboro Area Hospital celebrated a successful 2023 with a holiday party that included caroling for HAH swing bed patients and residents of Tremont Ridge Assisted Living. The young leaders also played reindeer games, took funny photos and enjoyed snacks.



4-H Make Turkeys For Tremont Residents

Starr Shooters 4-H were grateful to family and friends who supported their annual fundraising auction and witnessed their installation of officers and other business in November. Members are pictured with the thankful turkeys they made for Tremont Ridge residents, using pumpkins from Marley Pumpkin Patch at Fillmore. Members present included Drew and Koen Schweizer, Emma, Louie and Aleck Quattlander, Kaylee, Landon and Logan Hilgendorf, Fallon and Bond Knodle, Katelyn, Ethan and Thomas Marley, Kaden and Nathan Brown, Travis Broers, Lane Johnston, and Kinley and Kohen Stolte.

Hillsboro Church Hosts Blood Drive This January

The Hillsboro United Methodist Church will be hosting a community blood drive on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 1 to 6 p.m., at 537 Rountree St., inside the United Methodist Church's fellowship hall. The drive is sponsored by the First Pres-

byterian Church in Hillsboro. Those interested in making a donation should contact ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 61231 to locate the drive. Appointments are requested.

Blood donation is a safe,

simple procedure that takes 45 minutes to one hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors.

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo ID is required to donate.

For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401. Donors who

last gave on or before Nov. 15 are eligible to give at this drive.

ImpactLife is the exclusive provider of blood and blood components to Hillsboro Area Hospital and HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.

All donors will receive an ImpactLife promo voucher for their choice of either an EGift Card (Target, Amazon, Walmart, Olive Garden, etc.) or use the bonus points for one of the new ImpactLife blankets in the online Donor Loyalty store.

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Local Group Carols For Simeon Huber

Christmas caroling by candlelight took place Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Hillsboro home of Simeon Huber, the young son of Seth and Jessie Huber who was diagnosed in 2022 with hypodiploid acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Simeon is a grandson of Jim and Connie Harling and Stan and Cindy Huber.



Lady Redskins Raise Funds For AVM

The Nokomis High School Lady Redskins volleyball team has presented a donation of more than \$1,200 to Den and Roz O'Malley and Ayden's AVM Army. The funds were raised during October, AVM Awareness Month. Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a specific term used to describe a tangle of blood vessels with abnormal connections between arteries and veins. Funds are raised in memory of Ayden O'Malley, who died in January 2018, due to an undiagnosed AVM, when she was just 14 years old.

Pictured above, in front, from the left are Reagan Jonas, Den O'Malley, Roz O'Malley and Presley Mehochko. In the second row are Kinley Stolte, Cloey Dirks, Camryn Engelman, Addison Glenn, Grace King and Libby Watson. In the third row are Maddison DeWerff, Fallon Knodle, Alivia Sabol, Mackenzie Mehochko and Kennadie Johanssen. In back are Lizzy Hill, Natalie Brownback and Becca Hill. Not present for the photo was Remi Tester.



Harmony Group Entertains At MNRC

The singing group, *Harmony*, recently performed a selection of Christmas melodies at Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Taylor Springs. The music generated lots of smiles on the faces of MNRC residents and staff, and the program was held on Dec. 11.

Sisson Family Wins Virtual Tree Contest

One of the staples of the past few Christmas's has been the annual Virtual Christmas Tree Contest, organized by Adam Ortega, the connections pastor at Cornerstone Ministries in Litchfield. The contest asks participants to post a picture of themselves with their decorated Christmas trees to the "Litchfield Town News" page on Facebook.

This year's winners are first place winner Tori Sisson, second place finisher Vicki Walker and third place finisher Cathy Schmidt. Prizes will be delivered at the end of the week. The winners were determined based on the number of "likes" each picture received.

Ortega, who additionally is involved in the community by serving on the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce board, Route 66 Museum board and baseball boards, launched the contest in 2021 as a way to celebrate the holiday together as a community, while traditional events were on hiatus amidst the pandemic.

"I've lived in this city for about 8 years. We absolutely love it here. I'm just a simple guy trying to find simple ways to bring our community together," Pastor Ortega said. "Many families work so hard to decorate their house and nobody sees it but them. I threw out the idea a few years and I was overwhelmed by the support and participa-



Tori Sisson and her family tree, pictured above, were the first place winners of Litchfield's second annual virtual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest.

tion. So I decided to do it again this year."

This year's event is sponsored by Litchfield National Bank, House of Glow, Chintown Buffet, Maverick, Kismet Coffee, Los Rancheros, the Ariston Cafe, Briar Rose, Snappy Lube and Legacy Lawn and Landscape.

Pastor Ortega thanked this year's sponsors, giving a "huge shout out to all the businesses and thank them for their donations."

"Every tree looked great, and everyone did a great job," he said, "This city has some pretty amazing people in it."



Third place was awarded to the Cathy Schmidt family, tree pictured above. This is the third year of the annual virtual tree decorating contest, organized by Pastor Adam Ortega.



Second place in the annual virtual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest was awarded to the Vicki Walker family tree, pictured above.

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Opinion

6A - Thursday, December 28, 2023

A GRACE FILLED JOURNEY • by Mary Herschelmann

Wishing Mike Well On Next Adventure



I've been around the newspaper business my entire life, long enough for my dad to claim that I have ink running through my veins. He's probably not wrong.

I have so many memories growing up in the newspaper business, mostly good ones, and I'm grateful for the passion that it stirred in me all those years ago.

And while many of my memories involve my brother and I helping my dad out with odd projects, and trying to find ways to annoy him, many of those memories include our now publisher, Mike Plunkett, who is retiring from the newspaper business at the end of 2023.

Mike started at the then *Hillsboro Journal* in 1990, and I can honestly say I don't really remember a time Mike didn't work for the newspaper.

I was in fifth grade in 1990, and Mike always tells the story that his first official photo for the *Hillsboro Journal* was of me with curly hair (let's just say I had a thing for perms back in the day), standing in the hallway at Beckemeyer Elementary School next to a piece of a Scud missile. I did some digging in the archive room to find said photo (published in February 1991), though I can't say I actually remember that moment.

I do remember lots of other things though. In the days of cut and paste newspaper pages, I remember that Mike always wore a pair of scissors around his neck on a string. When the newspaper was honored by the Chamber of Commerce as business of the year, he even donned the scissors for his remarks.

In later years, I would turn to Mike as a partner in crime. When mom and dad celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, I had a coworker design an ad and then had Mike sneak it in the paper without my parents knowing. That's a pretty tough gig when my mom was a proofreader and saw every single page before it hit the press. But with Mike's help we managed to pull it off, and mom was surprised when someone stopped her at the bank the next day to tell her he saw the rather unflattering photo in the newspaper. I'm not sure my Grandma Nancy ever forgave either me or Mike for that.

It seems like I've always been learning something from Mike. In high school, I was in charge of developing black and white film for the paper, and it was Mike who helped teach me how to put the film on the reels in the dark.

I spent all my summers in college work-



This photo of me as a fifth grader in Dottie Paden's class was the first photo Mike Plunkett took for the then *Hillsboro Journal*, when he started his newspaper career 33 years ago.

ing for the paper when I returned home. Mike was always a good sounding board for learning how to write government meetings or edit photos.

Then I moved home in 2004 just before the newspaper became *The Journal-News*, and Mike and I became official colleagues, although Mike always says this place is more like a family.

When I started covering Litchfield School Board, he tried to explain property tax levies to me. God bless his effort. I definitely know more now than I did when I started, but I'll probably never really understand them.

Mike taught me how to work with difficult customers and finding ways to make peace, even if I didn't really want to.

And Mike taught me how this place is about being family. We don't always get along and we definitely don't always agree, but we are always there for each other, through thick and thin.

That's what makes this next week kinda tough. We embark on a new chapter at *The Journal-News* as Mike is retiring from the newspaper business for other endeavors. We certainly wish him the best of luck, but we will also miss his years of experience and expertise, not only in the newspaper business, but in the community too.

Other than my dad, I'm not sure anyone believes in newspapers and their importance in the community more than Mike, and we promise to keep that tradition going.

But most of all, we will miss having him as part of *The Journal-News* family. We hope he knows that once you're part of this family, you're always part of this family, and we know he won't be a stranger.

this cooperation between organizations. Wonderfully, the cooperation and friendship between the police and OUR has given each the tools to be more effective in their mission.

OUR works with the Italian Postal Unit and cyber crime units across the globe to ensure that everyone has the latest technological abilities and training to catch predators as quickly as possible to minimize the damage to the children and their families. The technologies used by the Italian police and OUR have several benefits. They help to catch the predator quickly, and remove the CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) material as quickly as possible. The latest technology also helps the officers extract identifying information from the images without having to view the abuse multiple times, which is damaging to the mental health of the officers.

Safeguarding the mental health of the officers reduces the risk of them leaving the unit because of stress overload, so that the experienced personnel are preserved. OUR estimates that over 2 million children are trafficked each year. With so many hidden dangers, even in places designed for children, how do we protect our children?

One of the biggest takeaways from the Italian police is universal; it truly takes a village to keep our children safe. Here are some tips I learned:

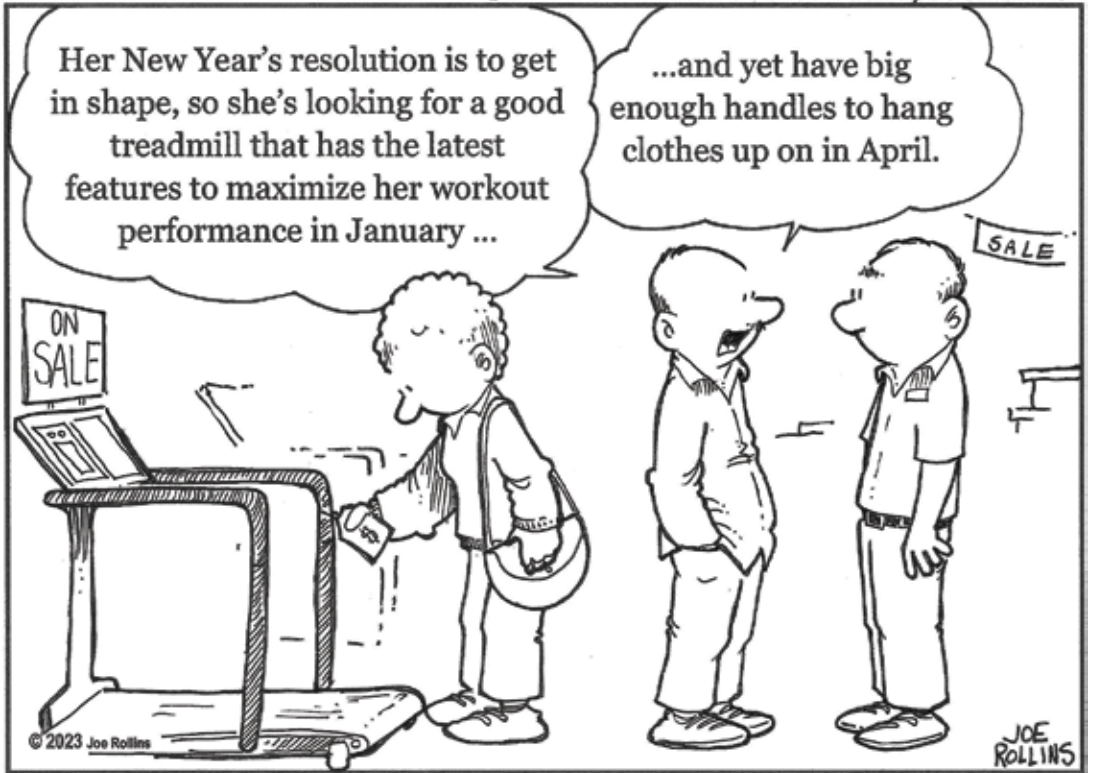
- Use the parental controls on your child's phone and computer. Establish an open dialogue with your children about the hidden dangers on the internet—chat rooms, games where they chat with strangers, etc. Teach your children that it's ok to say "no" if an online conversation feels uncomfortable.
- The internet is forever. It's so important that children and teenagers understand that everything they post and share on the internet is forever.

Although the subject matter of this column is dark, the intent is to shine light not only on the dangers around us, but to shine a light on the progress being made by real life superheroes like Italy's Cyber Crime Unit and Operation Underground Railroad. Help is available. If you are in a dangerous or abusive situation or suspect you know of one, please contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber Tipline, available 24 hours a day, at 1-800-843-5678. If you see something, say something.

Leigh Ann Miller is the daughter of Bonnie and the late Carl Miller of Hillsboro. She works in Italy, and is currently working with OUR on a series of articles on forced labor and human (especially child) trafficking. She will begin work in January as communication manager at the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center in Rome.

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



LETTERS to the editor

Thanks For Helping Us Celebrate Ten Years

The Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center Association greatly appreciates all those who have supported us during our first 10 years.

Both *The Journal-News* and the *News Herald* have run weekly "Did You Know" articles in celebration of our 10th anniversary. These articles in turn stirred the interest of area residents who visited the museum, many for the first time.

We have applied for and received several local grants over the years which have allowed us to complete numerous projects and Museum improvements. Our thanks goes out to those who work

to supervise and distribute these grants.

Our agreement with the city of Litchfield for advertising assistance in the end promotes not only the museum, but the city as well. Working together, we can hopefully bring more tourism into the city.

We are an all-volunteer group. Each and every volunteer helps us keep the doors open. Whether they work one three-hour shift a month or several, they are the life blood of the museum. They provide visitors with a welcoming atmosphere and information as needed. Many visitors comment that this is one of the best small

museums they have visited.

The generosity of our supporters has been amazing. A week does not go by without someone donating an article of some kind to the museum. Monetary donations assist us with the bills, repairs, and additional displays. The museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so monetary donations are tax deductible—we gladly provide receipts.

Again, thank you! May we all have a happy, prosperous 2024.

Carol Sneed, President
Nick Adam, Vice President
Anne Jackson, Secretary
Lynn Reener, Treasurer

McCann Taking Lessons From Trump

I read with interest and an open mind about citizen McCann and his troubles with lawyers, money and the courts in an article by Hannah Meisel of Capitol News in the Monday, Dec. 4, edition of *The Journal-News*.

After I was done reading it I said to myself, "my God this man is taking lessons from citizen Trump!" Does he also scream "I did nothing wrong and this is a witch hunt!"

What is it about this country and some of the people that they love crooks

and scoundrels so much? To quote Abe Lincoln, "One can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but one can't fool all the people all the time."

Does McCann have his little red ball cap yet? Well his MAGA leader will give him one. Something is rotten in America, and the man protests too much.

What has happened to the country I grew up in? Is there no rule of law anymore? Citizen Trump wants to be

king, and we already got rid of one in 1776.

Anyway, when citizen Trump won his first term and I was both amazed and angered, my liberal Democratic friends said, "give him a chance." So we did, and he blew it and now like a spoiled little child he wants a second piece of the pie that he does not deserve. Don't let him have it! As in 2020, let's dance in the streets again. Freedom through democracy.

Robert K. Kenney
Hillsboro

GUEST COLUMN • by Leigh Miller

A Light In The Midst Of Darkness

In late October, amidst the enchanting ambience of Rome, where cobblestone streets echo with centuries of history, I found myself strolling through the magical "This is Wonderland" event in Rome. It's like stepping into "Alice in Wonderland"—a story we all adore, but did you know it has a mysterious backstory? The author's famous tale, allegedly inspired by an equally mysterious love connection with a 10-year-old muse, invites contemplation on the delicate balance between innocence and unseen dangers. Just as the enigmatic origins of "Alice in Wonderland" are hidden and blurred, so too are the potential threats lurking beneath the surface of seemingly innocent places designed for children.

As I returned to my home that evening, I began thinking back to earlier this summer in Rome, when I had come upon an article about the arrest of a 36-year-old Roman man for pedophilia. What caught my eye in this article, however, wasn't just the heinous nature of the crime; it was the global cooperation that took place to bring about the arrest. Based on a tip from the Australian police about explicit images depicting abuse of a minor found on the internet, an arrest of the predator was quickly made. The Italian police were able to quickly infiltrate the dark web, find the images, and bring the predator to justice.

The speed and efficiency of global cooperation intrigued me, so I contacted the Italian National Police. I was led to their National Police Cyber Crime Unit, specifically, the Postal and Communication Police Service, and a special task force unit CNCPO (Centre for combating child exploitation online). CNCPO specializes in child sexual exploitation online and crimes against children. For those of you who are SVU fans, think of the real life version, in Italy, specializing in cyber crimes against children. I was able to get tremendous insight into the dark world of cyber sexual crimes against minors. But I was also shown some light in the form of well trained and compassionate officers, and an NGO (a non-government, non-profit organization) that supports law enforcement agencies to make sure they can benefit from specific training on the latest technologies, as well as providing a victim aftercare program.

The NGO is an American based, international organization known as OUR (Operation Underground Railroad) For ten years, OUR has been providing global support for law enforcement, as well as aftercare support for victims. The Italian Cybercrime Service began their cooperation with OUR a little over six months ago. The Italian Cyber Crime unit, having made it a priority to be trained in the latest technological tools to catch predators, developed and welcomed



A lifelong resident of Litchfield, Louis D. Yaeger served as the city's mayor for 16 years, holding the position longer than any other individual to date. Lake Lou Yaeger was named for him, in recognition of his efforts to develop the lake.

Montgomery County Genealogical Society Photo

DID YOU KNOW? • Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center

Did You Know...About Lewis D. Yaeger

Lewis Dozier "Lou" Yaeger, a lifelong resident of Litchfield, was born on Oct. 3, 1897, to Irving and Hattie (Bergdorff) Yaeger. He had two brothers, Ben and Dr. Harry Yaeger, and a sister, Hazel Sheetz.

Yaeger graduated from Litchfield High School in 1915 and attended Illinois College in Jacksonville. After college, he joined the family business, Yaeger's Clothing, and worked with his father and brother, Ben. He eventually sold his share of the business in 1948.

Yaeger was elected mayor in 1953 and served until 1969, holding the post longer than any other individual

to date. He ran unsuccessfully for state senate in 1960. Yaeger is best remembered for his efforts on the development of the lake, which was named for him - Lake Lou Yaeger was dedicated in 1967.

Yaeger died at his home at 501 East Union Avenue on Jan. 6, 1971, at the age of 73. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Further information about Litchfield's temporary Lewis D. Yaeger can be found by visiting the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center located at Historic Route 66 North in Litchfield.

The museum and welcome center is open to the public



Lewis Yaeger

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

THE JOURNAL-NEWS

1ST BABY OF 2024

CONTEST

The Montgomery County business firms whose names appear in this announcement will join in presenting gifts to the winner of the contest.

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- *Rules: (1) The first baby must be born within the geographical boundaries of Montgomery County, preferably at St. Francis Hospital, Litchfield.
(2) The mother of the first baby must be a resident of Montgomery County for the past year or longer and have a legal address in Montgomery County.
(3) Written proof of the baby's birth, preferably the birth certificate, must be furnished to The Journal-News, 431 S. Main St., P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro (or to St. Francis Hospital personnel). The hour, minute, and date of the baby's birth must be certified by attending physician.

Failure to notify The Journal-News immediately may eliminate a family from winning the contest.

(4) The decision of judges will be final.

(5) Mother of the winning child will receive a letter from The Journal-News to that effect.
Merchants will not make awards unless letter is shown to them, signed by The Journal-News.



From the left are 60-year Lion Larry Cearlock, District 1-M Governor Lion Amy Hill and 50-year Lion Marty Dawson.

Cearlock And Dawson Earn Lion Chevrons

Nokomis Lions Larry Cearlock (60-year member) and Marty Dawson (50-year member) received the Milestone Chevron Award presented by Lion Amy Hill, District 1-M Governor.

Presented by Lions Clubs International, the Chevron Award is aptly named after the chevron symbol in reference to a badge or insignia indicating rank or length of

service.

"Your commitment to providing many years of service as a member of our association is honorable and commendable, as you have touched the lives of many," Hill said in presenting the awards. "From the smallest project to the largest undertaking, your years of service have made an impact in your community."

State Supreme Court Announces CPTe Members

The Illinois Supreme Court has announced the members of the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Pretrial Education (CPTe), the seventh Standing Committee of the Illinois Judicial College.

The Judicial College Board of Trustees recommended CPTe members for the Court's consideration and approval, in particular individuals with demonstrated pretrial subject matter expertise in Illinois dedicated to the development and oversight of comprehensive pretrial education for the Illinois Judicial Branch.

Effective immediately, the following individuals are appointed to the Committee on Pretrial Education for staggered terms expiring on the dates as indicated, or until such time that an appointee is no longer a member of the Committee on Pretrial Education, whichever occurs earlier.

From Montgomery County, Shannon Keiser from the Office of Statewide Pretrial Services and Montgomery

County Pretrial Officer, has been named to the committee. Her term will expire on June 30, 2025.

Other nominees are as follows:

Reed Anderson, office of Statewide Pretrial Services and Iroquois County Pretrial Officer, June 30, 2024;

Julio Candelaria, Cook County Social Services pretrial officer and Cook County Social Services, June 30, 2025;

Shanelle Holland, office of Statewide Pretrial Services, June 30, 2024;

Thomas Jakeway, trial court administrator, 17th Circuit and Winnebago County Courthouse, June 30, 2026;

Debra Jarvis, director of Court Services, 17th Circuit and Winnebago County Adult Probation Dept., June 30, 2024

Tina Johnston, pretrial supervisor, 19th Circuit and Division of Adult Probation Services, June 30, 2026;

Patti Clark, director of Court Operations, 1st Circuit and Jackson County Court-

house, June 30, 2026;

April Felton, office of Statewide Pretrial Services and Marion County Pretrial Officer, June 30, 2024;

Andrew Friedrich, Office of Statewide Pretrial Services, Mason County pretrial officer and Mason County Courthouse, June 30, 2025;

Kasey Kellerman, Office of Statewide Pretrial Services and Perry County pretrial officer, June 30, 2026;

Hon. David R. Navarro, Appellate Court Justice and First District Appellate Court, June 30, 2024;

Hon. Brett N. Olmstead, Associate Judge and Champaign County Circuit Court, June 30, 2025;

Hon. Judith Rice, Presiding Judge and Domestic Violence Division of Cook County, June 30, 2024;

Hon. Debra Schaffer, Associate Judge and 17th Circuit Winnebago County Courthouse, June 30, 2026;

Hon. Cara LeFevour Smith, Ret. Director of Office of Statewide Pretrial Services, June 30, 2024 (ex-officio member);

Mike Venditti, director of Court Services and 23rd Circuit DeKalb County Courthouse, June 30, 2026;

Wendy Venvertloh, Deputy Director and Office of Statewide Pretrial Services, June 30, 2025 (ex-officio member);

Shannon Wright, Office of Statewide Pretrial Services and St. Clair County Pretrial Officer, June 30, 2025.

Debra Jarvis will serve as Chairperson of the Committee on Pretrial Education for a term expiring June 30, 2024.

Hon. Brett N. Olmstead will serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Pretrial Education for a term expiring June 30, 2025.

Created in August 2023, the CPTe provides judges, pretrial officers and other judicial branch justice partners ongoing continuing education and the educational opportunities to overview and discuss the substantive and procedural law, rules, materials, and pretrial resources.



Mt. Moriah Donates Check To United Service Organization

Members of Mt. Moriah #51 Masonic Lodge in Hillsboro traveled to the James S McDonnell USO located at the St Louis International Airport. These members presented a check for \$600 in honor of the past and present Veterans of Montgomery County.

The money was from donations collected at the lodge's annual SOS Veterans Day Free Breakfast at the Lodge. Pictured above, from the left are worshipful brother Michael Walters, Kelly Brownfield and USO facility manager and worshipful master Jason Wallace, photographed by Michael E. Jackson, most worshipful past Grand Master of Illinois.

Call the day before to reserve a meal: Litchfield, 217-324-3032, Hillsboro, 217-532-3662, Morrisonville, 217-526-3621.

Monday, Jan. 1, Closed for New Years Day

Tuesday, Jan. 2, Closed

Wednesday, Jan. 3, BBQ Pork, black eye peas, cooked cabbage, peaches, roll and chocolate chip cookies.

Thursday, Jan. 4, Taco soup with shredded cheese, corn chips, tossed salad, salad dressing, 1/2 turkey sandwich on whole grain bread and apricots.

Friday, Jan. 5, Italian beef on bun, parsley potatoes, California blend and chilled fruit.

Monday, Jan. 8, Chicken and noodles, glazed carrots, chilled pineapple and whole grain bread.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, Loaded baked potato soup with bacon

and cheese slice, crackers, broccoli cauliflower salad, chilled apricots and oatmeal cookie.

Wednesday, Jan. 10, Biscuits and gravy, sausage patties, hash rounds, fresh orange and apple juice.

Thursday, Jan. 11, Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, strawberries and bananas and whole grain roll.

Friday, Jan. 12, Lasagna, tossed salad with tomatoes, salad dressing, spiced apples, black bean brownie and garlic bread stick.

Monday, Jan. 15, Closed for Holiday.

Tuesday, Jan. 16, Country fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend, apricots and whole grain bread.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, Pork chop, baked potato, green beans and tropical fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 18, Spaghetti with meat sauce, tossed salad with tomatoes, salad dressing, corn and hot cherry crisp.

Friday, Jan. 19, Pork roast, glazed sweet potatoes, cooked cabbage, applesauce and whole grain bread.

Monday, Jan. 22, Meatloaf, whipped potatoes, brussels sprouts, mandarin oranges and peanut butter cookie.

Tuesday, Jan. 23, Broccoli cheese soup, crackers, 1/2 turkey sandwich on whole grain bread, green pea salad and blushing pears.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, Turkey, sweet potatoes, peas, apricots and whole grain roll.

Thursday, Jan. 25, Sloppy joes on bun, scalloped potatoes, calico baked beans and strawberries.

Friday, Jan. 26, Chicken pot pie with crust, creamy coleslaw, strawberries and angel food cake.

Monday, Jan. 29, Ham, hash brown casserole, brussels sprouts, chilled peaches and whole grain roll.

Tuesday, Jan. 30, Closed

Wednesday, Jan. 31, Beef Stroganoff over noodles, gourmet carrots, green beans, orange and whole grain roll.

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

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<p>Your Montgomery County Circuit Clerk DANIEL ROBBINS and STAFF</p>	<p>GLENN & WEST, LLC Law Offices of Attorneys Trent S. West & Michael G. Ginos glennwestlaw.com NOKOMIS OFFICE-320 W. Central-217-563-7777 LITCHFIELD OFFICE-118 W. Ryder-217-324-7777 DUI/Traffic • Personal Injury • Bankruptcy • Estate Planning & Administration • Municipal Family Law (Child Support, Custody & Divorce) • "Free consult on injury and bankruptcy cases" • NO FEE UNTIL WE COLLECT ON INJURY CASES • We are a debt relief agency. • We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.</p>	<p>Barbara Adams Attorney At Law Southeast Corner of Courthouse Square 109 S. Main St. • Hillsboro 217-532-2552</p>	<p>STEVE DOUGHERTY Mayor of Litchfield</p>	<p>We go where you go. CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE! 101 Main St. Harvel, IL (217) 229-4588 919 S. Main Hillsboro, IL (217) 532-9447 HOME AUTO BUSINESS FARM LIFE</p>	<p>First Community Bank of Hillsboro "Your Hometown Bank" 807 S. Main St. • Hillsboro 217-532-2030</p>
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Nokomis City Council

Continued from page 1A

Nokomis currently participates in the Great Rivers and Routes tourism bureau based out of Alton. Mayor Dylan Goldsmith stated that Discover Downstate Illinois more accurately fits the needs of Nokomis as it is designed to promote the rural

areas of central and southern Illinois as opposed to Great Rivers that concentrates more on the western edge of Illinois along the Mississippi River. There is no charge to join the bureau, but there would be opportunities to promote specific events for a small fee.

In other action, commis-

sioners approved a bid of \$1,500 from Beyers Land Surveying for a waterline easement estimate and property survey, modified the end date of the union contract from 2025 to 2026, and authorized and approved signatories for the renewal of certificates of deposit at Security Bank of Witt.

A motion to change the work hours of city water, sewer and maintenance employees from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. failed.

Commissioner Tisha Morris was absent from the meeting.

First Baby Of The Year

Continued from page 1A

The following merchants and financial centers have donated prizes to the winning infant and parents:

From Hillsboro, a free tire rotation from FastFlo, a gift from Hayes Abrasives, a gift from Hiller's Heating and Cooling, a gift from Chris Sherer at GWCB Attorneys At Law, a gift from Roger Jennings, a \$10 gift certificate to Park-N-Eat, a case of Gerber juice or strained baby food from Capri IGA, a gift from the Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a gift from Erie Insurance, a \$25 savings account from TCCU, a gift from Hillsboro Tax and Accounting, a \$25 savings account from the Bank of Hillsboro, a free infant eye exam at Family Eye Care Association and a one dollar U.S. sterling silver U.S. eagle coin from the First Community Bank of Hillsboro.

From Litchfield, a gift from Westside Cinema, a gift from Spears Title Company, a dozen cookies from Jubelt's Bakery and Restaurant, a gift from the First National Bank of Litchfield, a gift from Young's Roofing and a gift from Quality Flooring Co., Inc.

From Nokomis, a gift certificate from Nokomis Sav-Mor Pharmacy.

From Raymond, a gift from the First National Bank.

First Babies

1936-2022

Children lauded with first-baby status and wonderful prizes over the years are as follows:

1936: Beverly Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hapner of Taylor Springs. Beverly would be the mother of the 1955 first baby.

1937: Alice Gain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Jones of Hillsboro (Dr. L.S. Brown)

1938: Mary Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Meyer of Coffeen (Dr. F.W. Barry)

1939: Larry Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Jones of Coffeen (Dr. E.T. Douglas)

1940: David McLean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. McLean of Hillsboro (Dr. E.T. Douglas)

1941: Richard Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Mischenheimer of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1942: Jan Carol, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Myers of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1943: Amy Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Michael of Taylor Springs (Dr. E.T. Douglas)

1944: Dorothy Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon House (Dr. Herbert Swarsen)

1945: Michael Harold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thacker of Coffeen (Dr. F.W. Barry)

1946: Daniel Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther White of Coffeen (Dr. F.W. Barry)

1947: Dorcas Marlene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Weller of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1948: George Steven, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Randolph Jones of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1949: Eleanor Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.W. McCaw of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1950: Wanda Janella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Carter (Dr. E.T. Douglas)

1951: Gregory Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Keith of Hillsboro (Dr. Wm. T. Douglas)

1952: Dale Lynn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Bergman of Irving (Dr. George Telfer)

1953: Charles Otto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herman of rural Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1954: Eldon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Guthals of Hillsboro (Dr. Herbert Swarsen)

1955: Jamia Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Claxon of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1956: Kathy Denise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Joyce of Hillsboro (Dr. C.W. Draper)

1957: Michael Patrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Murphy of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1958: Robert Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Butler of Hillsboro (Dr. C.W. Draper)

1959: Brett George, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Westbrook of Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1960: Cindy Lea, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snow of rural Hillsboro.

1961: Twins, Keith Lynn and Kelly Gene, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Larry McElroy of Irving (Dr. Herbert Swarsen)

1962: Deborah Jo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne White, Jr. (Dr. Herbert Swarsen)

1963: Robert Earl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Price of Hillsboro (Dr. William Douglas)

1964: John William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry "Bud" Snoddy of Schram City (Dr. C.W. Draper)

1965: Rex Edgar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Segrest of rural Hillsboro (Dr. Herbert Swarsen)

1966: Robin Bernice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGill of rural Hillsboro (Dr. George Telfer)

1967: Erik Joe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chumley of Irving (Dr. C.W. Draper)

1968: Henry Wade, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Durbin of Taylor Springs (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1969: Kelly Lynne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Pendergrass of Coffeen (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1970: Catherine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Walker of Donnellson (Dr. C.W. Draper)

1971: Patricia Diane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodall of Irving (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1972: Michael David, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McBrum of Butler (Dr. Jim Telfer)

1973: Bliss Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David B. White of Hillsboro (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1974: Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Walter Lee Payne of Taylor Springs (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1975: Erin Sue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Lang of Hillsboro (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1976: Joshua Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Benny of Hillsboro (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1977: Serena Kay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hutchins of Hillsboro (Dr. Roger McFarlin)

1978: Amanda Christine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McClanahan of Coffeen (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1979: Kimberly Kay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Blankenship of Donnellson (Dr. Bill Douglas)

1980: Steven Adam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Douglas of rural Hillsboro (Dr. Jim Telfer)

1981: Amanda Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brown of Irving (Dr. Jim Telfer)

1982: Robert Earl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hayes of rural Butler (Dr. Robert Mulch)

1983: Nicole Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Liebscher of Hillsboro (Dr. Robert Mulch)

1984: Amanda Lynne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. White of Hillsboro (Dr. Robert Mulch)

1985: Aminda Jo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Moore of Witt (Dr. Douglas Byers)

1986: Ian Edward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Polus of Hillsboro (Dr. Joseph Dickstein)

1987: Justin Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Scott Zimmerman of Hillsboro (Dr. Brian Cady)

1988: Nathan Andrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Todd Hennings of Hillsboro (Dr. Doug Byers)

1989: Travis Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bost of rural Harvel (Dr. Doug Byers)

1990: Toni Leigh, daughter of Delbert and Beth Johnson Osborn of Hillsboro (Dr. Roger McFarlin)

1991: Spencer Grace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wilcoxon of Hillsboro (Dr. Jerome Epplin)

1992: Brittany Nicole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Phillips of rural Donnellson (Dr. Brian Cady)

1993: Samantha Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Sanders of Butler (Dr. Brian Cady)

1994: Derrick Gene, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Herker of Fillmore (Dr. Brian Cady)

1995: Johnathon LeRoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Durbin of Hillsboro (Dr. Joseph Dickstein)

1996: Alexander Wyatt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ervin of Hillsboro (Dr. Joseph Dickstein)

1997: Jennifer Rose, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Durbin of Hillsboro (Dr. Melody Schneipp)

1998: Joshua Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Gleason of Harvel (Dr. Melody Schneipp)

1999: Jack Rudy II, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hammarstedt of Hillsboro (Dr.

Plunkett

Continued from page 1A

Herschelman is the daughter of newspaper owners John and Susie Galer of Hillsboro, the granddaughter of former owners the late Phil and Nancy Galer, and great-granddaughter of former owner Del Galer and his wife, Pauline. A 1998 graduate of Hillsboro High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri in Columbia's School of Journalism in Princeton, IN, for two years before returning to Hillsboro to join the staff of *The Journal-News* in 2004.

Herschelman is married to *Journal-News* Sports Editor Kyle Herschelman, originally from Raymond, and the couple have one daughter, Charlotte, age six.

"When I visit schools on career day, I often get asked what my favorite assignment working for the paper has been," Herschelman said. "And it's so hard to pick. I have covered President George W. Bush in person, flown with the US Army Knights parachute team in a plane with no doors, flown to Las Vegas to cover UFC fights and even covered Nelly on the red carpet in St. Louis. But my favorite job of all is telling the stories of the wonderful people that live in Montgomery County. Every single day I'm proud of our staff and the role we play in providing great local news coverage."

In taking on the role of publisher of the newspaper, she succeeds Plunkett who is retiring from a 33-year career at the newspaper.

"I have never met anyone in the business anywhere

who works harder at making sure a newspaper serves its community than Mary," Plunkett said. "With her at the helm, the newspaper will have excellent leadership, and the communities in Montgomery County will remain in good hands."

Plunkett graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1983, earned an associate degree in business administration from Lincoln Land Community College in 1985 and a bachelor of arts degree in communications from Millikin University in Decatur in 1989 before joining the newspaper staff in 1990. He became editor of the newspaper in 1998 and publisher in 2016.

Over the years he has won awards for editorials, photos, headlines, and ad design.

"After more than three decades in the newspaper business, the thing that has never ceased to impress me is that the people of this place try to truly love their neighbors as themselves," Plunkett said. "The people in our communities care about one another because they really know one another, and I think a good community newspaper has a lot to do with that."

The son of Cleveland and Delores Plunkett of Hillsboro, he is married to Heather Plunkett, an aide at Hillsboro Junior High School and the two have one son, August Plunkett, a student at Greenville University pursuing a social work degree.

"We will miss Mike's leadership and the knowledge he brought to the newspaper business for more than 30 years," Herschelman said. "We wish him and his family all the best on his next adventure."

Nokomis Ambulance

Continued from page 1A

Board member Dennis Aumann said he has been in contact with the governor's office in an effort to get those payments released.

"It seems like the county is in the wrong—not intentionally but factually," Nokomis Commissioner Mike Glenn said, present as a member of the public. He suggested hiring an attorney to try to collect through the county errors and omissions insurance. "It sounds like there's enough money lost that we could recoup."

The fourth problem is that the board missed the deadline to increase their tax levy to the voter-approved cap. Because of that, the district cannot expect an \$80,000 increase in tax revenue until summer 2025.

The solution to the issues plaguing the district begins with the return to a BLS volunteer transport service.

To make that work, Nokomis Fire Chief Mike Smalley said 10 to 15 volunteer firefighters are willing to take first responder training, and Hill said she is willing to teach the training for no cost. The first responder training will allow the volunteers to drive the ambulances, monitor vitals, and administer a few meds. Any ALS services will require transport to an ALS service intercept; both Hillsboro and Pana have agreed to help in that regard.

Hill hopes to have another group of EMTs trained in six to eight months.

Schweitzer said the district appreciates the \$85,000 in donations already received from the community, and asked those who are able to consider volunteering for first responder training. Chief Smalley suggested getting the EMT class back at Nokomis High School to help develop trained long-term staff.

Library Murals

Continued from page 1A

The library project has a special meaning for Williams.

"Sarah and I have four artistic kids, a dog and two guinea pigs, so we love animals and creativity. My mom, Bonnie, was a librarian for nearly 12 years. She was very

proud of her children's book collection, and she instilled a love of children's literature," he said.

The new murals are funded jointly by the library Board of Trustees and by tax deductible donations to Friends of Hillsboro Area Public Library.

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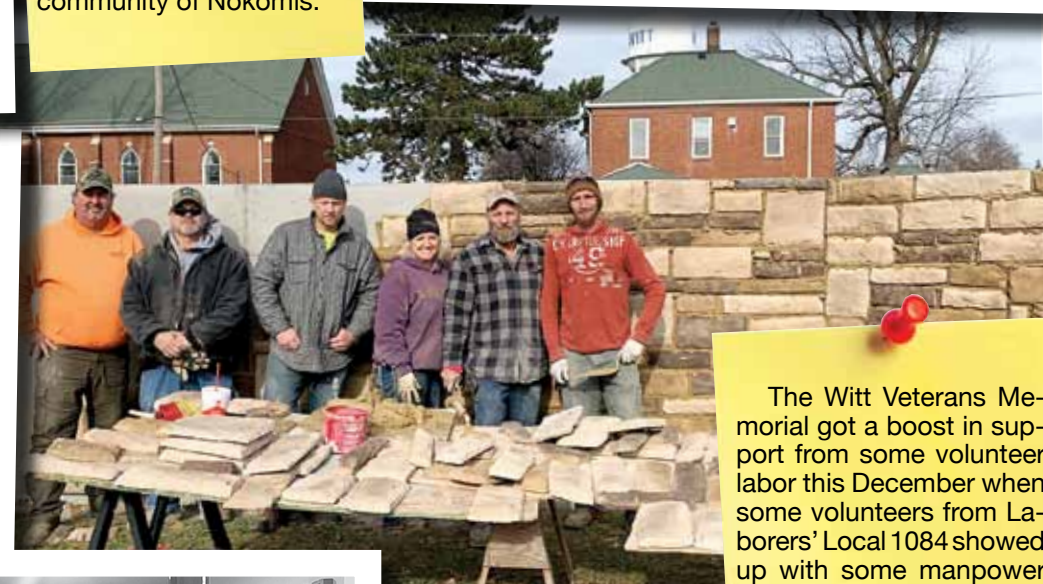
As three-year-old Simeon "Simmy" Huber of Hillsboro continues his battle against hypodiploid acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Hillsboro and the surrounding communities rallied their support with a Christmas parade on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10.



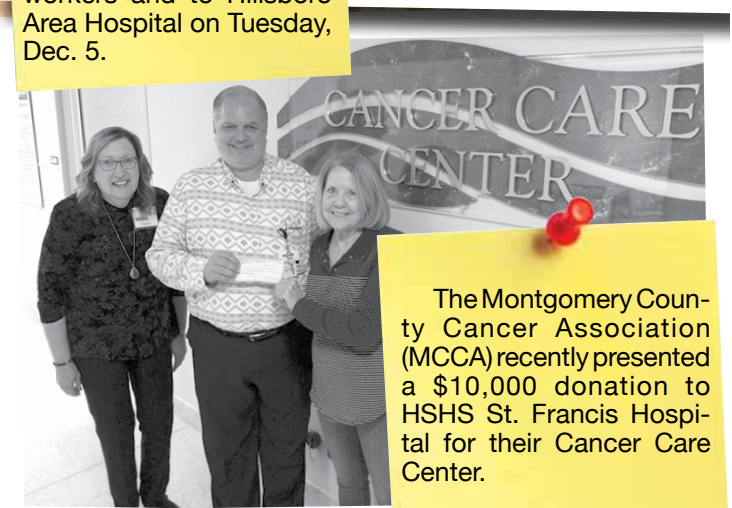
Bernadine (Tosetti) Hines of Hinsdale, a former resident of Nokomis and the daughter of the late Elio and Yolanda Tosetti has historically been a generous giver to her former community of Nokomis.



Young men and women in the Montgomery County Wild Roots 4-H group have been busy spreading holiday cheer. 4-H families baked cookies, which the club delivered to service workers and to Hillsboro Area Hospital on Tuesday, Dec. 5.



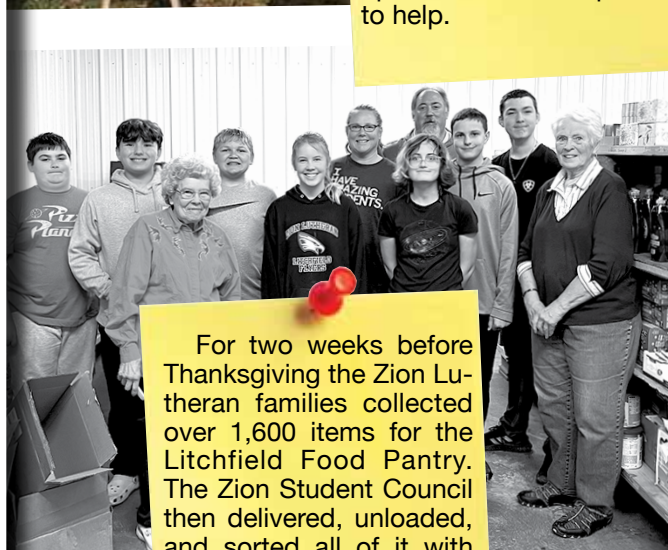
The Witt Veterans Memorial got a boost in support from some volunteer labor this December when some volunteers from Laborers' Local 1084 showed up with some manpower to help.



The Montgomery County Cancer Association (MCCA) recently presented a \$10,000 donation to HSHS St. Francis Hospital for their Cancer Care Center.



For the second consecutive holiday season, Summer Smith of Hillsboro partnered with Lisa Huber of Harvest of Hope to make and donate 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for clients of the local food pantry.



For two weeks before Thanksgiving the Zion Lutheran families collected over 1,600 items for the Litchfield Food Pantry. The Zion Student Council then delivered, unloaded, and sorted all of it with the wonderful helpers at the Pantry.



On Saturday, Dec. 2, McKay NAPA Auto Parts presented a \$72,000 check to Make-A-Wish Illinois. Throughout the year, McKay's held multiple fundraisers.



Students in the Litchfield Elementary School Student Council, LES Future Leaders, held a food drive the week of Nov. 27 through Dec. 1, for those in need in the community that have two legs or four paws.



During the course of the year, staff members in Montgomery County Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins' office can pay a \$1 surcharge per week for the privilege of wearing jeans to work on Friday. This year, the staff donated \$250 to Harvest of Hope food pantry and \$250 to the Angel Tree.



The Knights of Columbus and Lions Club served fish dinners at the 2023 City of Coffeen annual Fall Fest, held Sept. 23. They raised \$1,400 for the City of Coffeen Veterans' Memorial.



Raymond Celebration royalty hosted a special Christmas event to raise money for the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield.



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24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10492 MSRP \$59,935 NOW ONLY \$52,910	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss B10531 MSRP \$63,685 NOW ONLY \$62,230	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss B10524 MSRP \$68,700 NOW ONLY \$66,940
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23 Chevy Tahoe High Country B10450 MSRP \$83,510 NOW ONLY \$79,990	23 Chevy Trailblazer RS B10460 MSRP \$28,215 NOW ONLY \$27,400	23 Chevy Traverse LT B10538 MSRP \$46,780 NOW ONLY \$44,490
23 Chevy Traverse RS B10530 MSRP \$49,005 NOW ONLY \$47,080	23 GMC Acadia SLE B10474 MSRP \$40,195 NOW ONLY \$38,190	23 GMC Acadia SLT B10458 MSRP \$45,235 NOW ONLY \$43,190
23 GMC Acadia SLT B10439 MSRP \$46,035 NOW ONLY \$43,990	23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT B10356 MSRP \$68,835 NOW ONLY \$62,990	24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4 B10523 MSRP \$70,535 NOW ONLY \$70,535
24 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali B10526 MSRP \$79,195 NOW ONLY \$79,195	24 GMC Yukon Denali SUV B10550 MSRP \$86,935 NOW ONLY \$86,935	
24 GMC Terrain SLT B10475 MSRP \$35,435 NOW ONLY \$33,740	24 GMC Terrain SLT AWD B10476 MSRP \$36,885 NOW ONLY \$35,135	24 GMC Terrain AT4 AWD B10491 MSRP \$39,730 NOW ONLY \$37,740

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Hundreds Attend Hillsboro Block Party

With a touch of fake snow, hundreds of local residents attended the first-ever downtown Hillsboro Christmas Block Party on Saturday evening, Dec. 23. Main Street was closed in front of the Orpheum Theatre for the celebration, which included jelly of the month burgers from Q-1-7, hot cocktails and adult hot chocolate at Opera House Brewing, a chance to toast marshmallows and egg nog, hot chocolate and crepes at Black Rabbit Coffee. The Ruppert family won best honors in the costume contest, dressed as members of the Griswold family. To culminate the block party, more than 700 attended a special holiday viewing of *Christmas Vacation* across four screens at the Orpheum and Grand theatres.



Worksaver Honors Longtime Employees

This December, Worksaver in Litchfield recognized longtime employees for their hard work and dedication to the company over the years. Each person received a plaque, marking his years of service. Pictured above, from the left are Orville Stokes (45 years), Harry Loskot (25 years), LaMarr Young (20 years), Sam Taylor (20 years), Rick Savorgino (30 years) Leonard Ernst (45 years) and Larry Hopper (45 years).

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Nokomis Girls Snap Skid With Tourney Win

The Nokomis Lady Redskins picked up a win in their opening game of the Carlinville Holiday Tournament on Monday, Dec. 26, as they defeated South County in pool play.

The game was far from a walk in the park for the Redskins, despite outscoring the Vipers in three of the four quarters. Nokomis only led by three after the first quarter as they were held to six points on baskets by Mackenzie Mehochko, Kinley Stolte and Grace DeWerff. Fortunately the defense was just as tough as they limited the Vipers to just three points on a two by Savana Howell and a free throw by Marissa Heironimus.

Free throws were a big factor in the second quarter as South County took nine of them and made eight to account for half of their 16 points in the quarter. The other half came from three-pointers, conventional and other wise as Jenna McGrath hit two from behind the arc and Howell converted on an and-one opportunity.

The Vipers coupled their best offensive effort with a solid defensive stand as they held Nokomis to single digits once again. Natalie Brownback had four points in the quarter, while Stolte had two and Alivia Sabol had two, making it 19-14 at halftime in South County's favor.

Nokomis tried to cut into the lead in the third quarter, but were only able to shave one point off that margin as they outscored the Vipers 11-10 to make it 29-25 going into the fourth.

Continued on 4B



The members of the Arrowhead Open committee presented a check for \$26,125.38 to Nokomis athletics on Friday, Dec. 22, the proceeds from this year's golf tournament. In front, from the left are Liz Engelman, Shelia Keller and Cassie Watson. In the back row are Brandon Engelman, Alycia Gillock, Mandy Swick, Bonnie Brownback, Amy Stolte, Beth King, Rachelle McDowell and Paul Watson. The funds go toward such things as equipment and camp fees for athletes, along with helping to fund Nokomis' streaming of their basketball, volleyball and football games throughout the year on their YouTube channel.

Redskins Hit The Bullseye On Arrowhead Night

The Nokomis girls and boys basketball teams combined to outscore Mt. Olive 130 to 61, but the biggest score on Dec. 22 came in between the two Redskin wins.

The Nokomis Athletic Club raised \$26,125.38 for Nokomis athletes through the proceeds of the 10th annual Arrowhead Open, held Aug. 19, at Lakeshore Golf Course in Taylorville. The funds will be used for equipment and camp fees for Nokomis athletes, in addition to the group's partnership with the school district to provide live streams of home games free of charge.

Those who tuned in on YouTube and in person were treated to a dominant performance in both games, starting with the Nokomis' girls 59-41 win over the Wildcats.

The Redskins outscored Mt. Olive in all four quarters, but the youngsters from Macoupin County did keep it close for a while. Natalie Brownback had seven points in the first quarter to lead Nokomis to a 12-9 first quarter lead, while Grace DeWerff had seven of her own in the second quarter as the Redskins led 29-22 at halftime. Brownback finished the first half with 10 points, while DeWerff had nine, with Mt. Olive led by Lauren Bailey, who had all 10 of her points in the second quarter to keep Nokomis from stretching out their lead.

But that only lasted for so long as the Redskins more than doubled their lead in the third quarter. DeWerff hit her second and third threes of the game in the quarter and

finished with eight of Nokomis' 15 points in the frame as they led 44-29 after three.

After the big second quarter, Bailey was held to two points in the third. The sophomore guard did score six more points in the fourth for a game-high 18, but Mt. Olive only managed six more points in the final period, all of which came from the free-throw line. Five different players scored for Nokomis in the fourth, led by Natalie Brownback with five, as Nokomis improved to 8-6, with a 3-0 MSM Conference mark.

Brownback and Grace DeWerff led Nokomis with 17 apiece, while Alivia Sabol added eight points. Kinley Stolte finished with five points and eight rebounds, while Mackenzie Mehochko had four points and 11

boards. Camryn Engelman led the team in assists with four and added two points, with Becca Hill scoring three, Cydney Bertolino adding two and Cloey Dirks finishing with one.

Nokomis Boys

Comparatively, the Lady Redskins' 18-point win over the Wildcats was a barnburner compared to their male counterparts. The Nokomis boys led 29-0 after the first quarter and never looked back as they scored a 71-20 win over Mt. Olive.

Kennedy DeWerff and Reece Lohman worked and inside-outside game against the Wildcats in the opening frame as DeWerff had 13 points, including three threes, while Lohman had eight.

Continued on 4B

Panthers Too Slick For Oilers At Carlinville

The Litchfield Purple Panthers tipped off the 57th annual Carlinville Holiday Tournament on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 26, against the one-win East Alton-Wood River Oilers. On paper, Litchfield would be the favorite entering the tournament and they did nothing to dispel that in game one as they defeated the Oilers 70-36.

Basketball games the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas always seem to be the hardest for teams to get focused and the ball moving in the right direction. These games also have produced some major upsets throughout the years.

Litchfield avoided those troubles as they got things moving in the right direction early and often in this contest.

The Panthers sprinted out to a 24-7 opening quarter lead with Tate Dobrinich putting the first four points on the board for Litchfield. Dobrinich got those points as he pulled down two big offensive rebounds, putting those misses right back in.

After a made free throw by the Oilers, Litchfield put in the next eight points as they held a 12-1 lead with just under four minutes to play in the opening quarter.

Harrison Thomas, who got his first varsity start, made a slash during Litchfield's early success.

Thomas put in two points during the early run by Litchfield, but more important was his defense efforts as he took a charge on the defense side of the court.

Continued on 4B

Lincolnwood Bounces Back To Get Win 999

After falling to Auburn in their first game of the Waverly Holiday Tournament, the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville boys basketball team bounced back in game two and took a step closer to a historic moment for the program in the process.

The Lancers held North Greene to just nine first half points in their consolation quarterfinal game on Dec. 27, en route to a 44-32 victory over the Spartans, the 999th in the program's history.

Win number 1,000 for the program would be another feather in the cap for Lincolnwood athletics in a school year that has already seen its fair share of milestones. In addition to Coach Matt Millburg becoming the winningest coach in the history of boys' basketball (186 and counting), the Lincolnwood volleyball program also surpassed 1,000 wins and Coach Kimberly Denney topped the 300-win milestone and is currently at 311.

Add in a 30-win golf season for the Lincolnwood boys, a 17-4 golf season for the Lincolnwood girls and Lancer soccer's third straight winning season and you already have a school year worth remembering, with more than five months of it still to go.

With Gabe Armentrout injured and Karson Hayes out for the tournament, the Lancers have had to rely on their remaining starters to lead the way. On Tuesday, it was Brady Schmedeke and Jared Klein who stepped up as they scored 16 and 12 respectively for the Lancers. 12 of those 28 points came in

the first quarter for the duo as they accounted for all of the scoring as Lincolnwood took a 12-6 lead.

Tucker Armentrout (4) and Donny Daugherty (2) got in on the scoring in the

second as the Lancers took a 20-9 first half lead after holding North Greene to just three points, a three by Garrett Hazelwonder, in the second frame.

The Spartans would get

their offense on track in the second half, scoring 13 and 10, but weren't able to make up any of the ground they lost in the first two quarters. Lincolnwood countered North Greene's 13 third quarter points with 15 of their own, with Daugherty dropping in a three and leading Lincolnwood with five points in the eight minutes.

Brady Schmedeke added in four points and had seven of the Lancers' nine points in the fourth quarter as they held on for a 12-point win.

In addition to Schmedeke's 16 and Klein's 12, Donny Daugherty finished with seven points, while Kennedy Cook had five and Tucker Armentrout came up with four. North Greene was led by Jacob Hinsey with eight as Lincolnwood kept the Spartans out of double digits individually.

Auburn

Going into the Waverly Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26, the Auburn boys basketball team was the number three seed, but showed top-seeded talent on Tuesday as they improved to 11-1 with 65-45 victory over Lincolnwood in the opening round of the 73rd annual tournament.

Auburn, who had won seven straight coming into the game, hit seven threes in the game, five of which came from Cooper Carter, who led all scorers with 20 points. Three of Carter's five threes came in the opening quarter as the junior guard rained down half of Auburn's 22 points as the Trojans led 22-9 after one.

Continued on 4B

Warriors Come Out To Play Against Hillsboro

by Ron Deabenderfer

When Hillsboro's boys took the floor against the Calhoun Warriors mid-afternoon Tuesday, Dec. 26, to open play in the Red Pool of the boys' side of the 57th annual Carlinville Holiday Basketball Tournament, Hillsboro followers felt the Toppers had a chance to win.

Even though Calhoun was a game above .500 (5-4) at tip-off time, they and Hillsboro appeared to be a good match size-wise. Their pivot player was listed at 6'2", but another "big" senior Mason Eilerman wasn't available. He's 6'4", taller than any current Topper. 6'3" senior guard Chase Caselton had a reputation as a quick defender, and the other starters were quick, but it appeared that Hillsboro was a good match for a squad from western Illinois.

Appearances proved to be deceiving; the Toppers won only the last quarter, and only by two (21-19). Also, the Toppers had not one but two poor point producing quarters; in 13 games this season, the Toppers have had 14 sub-par (defined as fewer than 10 points) quarters. The worst game was against Pana when the Toppers didn't score 10 in any quarter. The last two losses, against Cumberland and Calhoun, had two unproductive quarters each.

Against the Warriors Tuesday, only Caleb Greenwood, Mitchell Lowe, and Nathan Matoush could score in the first quarter. Greenwood's cut to the basket

for a layup finished the six point period for Hillsboro; a bad omen was a rebound basket by Warrior Jack Zipprich which began a 6-2 end of quarter run for his team.

Providing a spark off the bench for Calhoun was freshman Lane Eilerman, who contributed six of his nine points in the fourth quarter, but who also added a solid floor game throughout. Their burly pivot man, Conner Longnecker, led his team with 15 points, and guard Jack Webster had 11, including all of the threes his team made. Seven Warriors dented the scoring columns.

After scoring only six in the first quarter, Hillsboro's offense sputtered a bit for the rest of the half as Nathan Matoush had eight, including one trey. Jace Stewart also had a three; even though Calhoun was up 26-19 at the half, it appeared the Toppers were still in the game if they could avoid another low-scoring eight minutes.

Two minutes into the second half, the game's result appeared settled. Webster had two treys to key the game-deciding surge; the lead grew from seven to fifteen. Wholesale substitutions for the Toppers resulted. Only Adrian Harston of the starters remained on the floor; he scored his four points then, while Jackson Tuetken contributed a trey.

Hillsboro's leading scorer, Stewart (13 points) caught fire in the fourth; Lowe added four underneath.

Continued on 4B



Lincolnwood's Cooper Poggenpohl (#1) tries to avoid the wingspan of North Greene's Luke Farris (#23) during the Lancers' consolation quarterfinal game at the Waverly Holiday Tournament on Wednesday, Dec. 27. The Lancers bounced back from Tuesday's loss to Auburn to beat the Spartans 44-32 as they advance to Thursday's consolation semifinal against Springfield Lutheran.

Jean Weitekamp Photo



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Nokomis Boys Split First Two Games At Vandalia

The Nokomis boys basketball team jumped out to a big lead, then withstood a three-point barrage by Okaw Valley to come away with a 63-54 win in their opening game of the Vandalia Holiday Tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 26.

Playing in the third game of the opening day, Nokomis led 18-7 after one, with Carter Weststen and Mason Stauder scoring five apiece and Saint Newman and Reece Lohman splitting the other eight equally. But the double digit lead turned out to be anything but safe as Okaw Valley began to catch fire from behind the arc.

Braden Montgomery hit a pair of threes for the Timberwolves, while Gibson Dickens hit a three and a two, all in the first three minutes as Okaw Valley erased the Nokomis lead with an 11-0 run to tie the game at 18.

Mason Stauder finally broke the seal for the Redskins with a pair of free throws and the two teams traded points back and forth before Lohman scored the final four points of the quarter to give Nokomis a 26-23 halftime lead.

Lohman had eight points to lead Nokomis in the first half, but he'd double that total with a strong third quarter. The senior forward got the first two points of the third with a pair of free throws to make it a five-point game, but Okaw Valley took back the lead with threes by Montgomery and Cameron George.

Lohman made sure that lead didn't last long as he used his length to drop in six straight points, backing the T-Wolves down, then dropping in a baby hook for a easy deuce. Okaw Valley finally stopped the run with a steal and score by Dickens, but Nokomis outscored the

Timberwolves 10-4 in the final three minutes to take a nine-point lead into the fourth, 44-35.

The Redskins worked to hold onto the lead in the final eight minutes, and successfully did so, although Okaw Valley's three-point shooting never allowed Nokomis to get comfortable. Lohman added eight more points to his total, while Kennedy DeWerff hit a three and went 3-for-4 from the free-throw line to hold off the Wolves, who got as close as four, but could never get closer.

In addition to his game-high 24 points, Reece Lohman also had four rebounds and four blocks. Mason Stauder added 13 points and six assists, while Kennedy DeWerff had 12 points and five rebounds. Saint Newman finished with seven points and 11 rebounds, followed by Carter Weststen with five points and Drake Taylor with two.

Okaw Valley was led by Braden Montgomery, who hit six of 10 three-pointers to finish with 23 points. As a team, the Timberwolves went 10-for-23 from behind the arc, while Nokomis made five of their 11 shots from deep.

Vandalia

In addition to their 45 percent clip from three-point land, Nokomis also went 16-for-36 from inside the arc against Okaw Valley. In their second pool play game on Dec. 27, their shooting percentage was much lower.

Playing in the second game of the day against the host school, Nokomis struggled to a 8-for-34 day from the field, with 22 turnovers. On the other side of the court, the Vandals were red hot, making 5-of-10 threes, plus 15 of their 25 shots from inside the arc to score a 49-23 victory over the Redskins.



Nokomis' Brody Steele and Reece Lohman try to wrestle the ball away from Wyatt Hildebrandt of Okaw Valley during the Redskins' opening game at the Vandalia Holiday Tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 26. Lohman had 24 points for the Redskins helping them to a 63-54 victory over the Timberwolves.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Like Nokomis, Vandalia had beaten Okaw Valley the day before in a 62-56 affair that the Vandals led 47-29 going into the fourth quarter.

In Wednesday's game against Nokomis, Vandalia got stronger as the game went on, holding the Redskins to nine second half points. Despite the final margin of victory, Nokomis kept it close early on, with Saint Newman and Kennedy DeWerff scoring four apiece to make it 9-8 in Vandalia's favor after one.

The Vandals only scored one more point in the second than they did in the first, but they also held Nokomis to just six points in the quarter as their lead grew to five at 19-14 at the break. Reece Lohman scored five of the six Nokomis points in the quarter, but those were the only points he'd get in the game as the Vandals held him to 10 points under his

season average. Vandalia made the most of their solid start to the game by putting more points between themselves and Nokomis in the third quarter. Issac Sachan had seven of his team-high 18 points in the third quarter, with five other Vandalia players also scoring as they rolled to an 18-7 frame. Only Saint Newman and Mason Stauder were able to find the bottom of the net from the field in the third as Nokomis trailed 37-21 going into the fourth.

The final eight minutes were equally unkind to the Redskins as they were limited to a Kennedy DeWerff field goal for their only two points of the quarter. On the other side, Vandalia spread 12 points between four different players as they improved to 6-5 overall and 2-0 in their home tourney.

In addition to Sachan, who was 4-for-5 from three with

a trey in all four quarters, Vandalia also got 11 points from Wade Brannon.

Nokomis was led by Saint Newman with seven, followed by Kennedy DeWerff with six, Reece Lohman with five, Mason Stauder with four and Drake Taylor with one.

The 23 points were the fewest Nokomis had scored this year, going into their second game of the day against Shelbyville (2-0 in pool play going into the game) at 8 p.m., nine hours after the start of their first game on Dec. 27.

The Redskins' final game of pool play is on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 3:30 p.m. against Cumberland. Crossover play begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, with the ninth place game and continues throughout the day, with the championship scheduled for 8 p.m.

Dec. 26 at Vandalia

Vandalia Holiday Tournament
Nokomis 18 8 18 19--63
Okaw Valley 7 16 12 19--54

Nokomis (63) - Reece Lohman 24, Mason Stauder 13, Kennedy DeWerff 12, Saint Newman 7, Carter Weststen 5, Drake Taylor 2. **Totals:** 21-47 16-20 63.

Okaw Valley (54) - Braden Montgomery 23, Gibson Dickens 16, Cameron George 7, Chase Crestviston 4, Dylan Miller 4. **Totals:** 19-43 6-8 54.

Three-point field goals: Nokomis 5-11 (DeWerff 3, Stauder 1, Weststen 1); Okaw Valley 10-23 (Montgomery 6, Dickens 2, George 2).

Records: Nokomis (6-6); Okaw Valley (6-6).

Dec. 27 at Vandalia

Vandalia Holiday Tournament
Nokomis 8 6 7 2---23
Vandalia 9 10 18 12---49

Nokomis (23) - Saint Newman 7, Kennedy DeWerff 6, Reece Lohman 5, Mason Stauder 4, Drake Taylor 1. **Totals:** 8-34 6-10 23.

Vandalia (49) - Issac Sachan 18, Wade Brannon 11, Andrew Casey 8, Tanner Robbins 6, Kohnor Deepew 2, Lucas Bowers 2, Andrew Kelly 2. **Totals:** 20-35 4-7 49.

Three-point field goals: Nokomis 1-8 (Lohman 1); Vandalia 5-10 (Sachan 4, Casey 1). **Records:** Nokomis (6-7); Vandalia (6-5).

Boys Basketball Holiday Tournaments

Carlville Holiday Boys Basketball Tournament

Green Pool: Litchfield, Gillespie, East Alton-Wood River, Carlville
Red Pool: Staunton, Hillsboro, Calhoun, Bunker Hill
Tuesday, December 26
• Litchfield 70, EAWR 36
• Calhoun 60, Hillsboro 47
• Staunton 60, Bunker Hill 31
• Carlville 62, Gillespie 36
Wednesday, December 27
• Hillsboro 41, Bunker Hill 39
• EAWR 67, Gillespie 60

• Litchfield 54, Carlville 35
• Calhoun 54, Staunton 48
Thursday, December 28
1:30 p.m. - Calhoun vs. Bunker Hill
4:30 p.m. - Carlville vs. EAWR
6 p.m. - Litchfield vs. Gillespie
7:30 p.m. - Staunton vs. Hillsboro
Friday, December 29
1:30 - 7th place - Green #4 vs. Red #4
1:30 - 5th place - Green #3 vs. Red #3
4:30 p.m. - 3rd place - Green #2 vs. Red #2
7:30 p.m. - 1st - Green #1 vs. Red #1

Vandalia Holiday Boys Basketball Tournament

Pool A: 1. Greenville, 4. Macon Meridian, 5. Flora, 8. Pana, 10. Christ Our Rock Lutheran (CORN)
Pool B: 2. Vandalia, 3. Shelbyville, 6. Okaw Valley, 7. Cumberland, 9. Nokomis
Tuesday, December 26
• Christ Our Rock 59, Greenville 40
• Macon Meridian 72, Pana 70
• Nokomis 63, Okaw Valley 54
• Flora 53, Christ Our Rock 45
• Shelbyville 50, Cumberland 32
• Vandalia 62, Okaw Valley 56
• Greenville 36, Flora 34
Wednesday, December 27
• Christ Our Rock 50, Macon Meridian 46
• Vandalia 49, Nokomis 23
• Shelbyville 69, Okaw Valley 46
• Macon Meridian 56, Flora 52
• Greenville 47, Pana 34

• Vandalia 52, Cumberland 33
• Shelbyville 42, Nokomis 35
Thursday, December 28
11 a.m. - Okaw Valley vs. Cumberland
12:30 p.m. - Pana vs. CORL
3:30 p.m. - Cumberland vs. Nokomis
5 p.m. - Flora vs. Pana
6:30 p.m. - Vandalia vs. Shelbyville
8 p.m. - Greenville vs. Macon Meridian
Friday, December 29
2 p.m. - 9th Place - 5th Pool A vs. 5th Pool B
3:30 p.m. - 7th Place - 4th Pool A vs. 4th Pool B
5 p.m. - 5th Place - 3rd Pool A vs. 3rd Pool B
6:30 p.m. - 3rd Place - 2nd Pool A vs. 2nd Pool B
8 p.m. - 1st Place - 1st Pool A vs. 1st Pool B

73rd Waverly Holiday Boys Basketball Tournament

Tuesday, December 26
Game 1: 9 a.m. - #1 South County vs. #9 Springfield Lutheran
Game 2: 10:30 a.m. - #5 Jacksonville Rount vs. #13 Pawnee
Game 3: 12 p.m. - #3 Auburn vs. #11 Lincolnwood
Game 4: 1:30 p.m. - #7 Athens vs. #15 North Greene
Game 5: 4:30 p.m. - #2 New Berlin vs. #10 North Mac
Game 6: 6 p.m. - #6 Greenfield/Northwestern vs. #14 Carrollton
Game 7: 7:30 p.m. - #4 West Central vs. #12 Edinburg
Game 8: 9 p.m. - #8 Triopia vs. #16 Tri-City/Sangamon Valley
Wednesday, December 27
Game 9: #9 Springfield Lutheran vs. #13 Pawnee
Game 10: #1 South County vs. #5 Jacksonville Rount
Game 11: #11 Lincolnwood vs. #15 North Greene
Game 12: #3 Auburn vs. #7 Athens
Game 13: #10 North Mac vs. #14 Carrollton

Game 14: #2 New Berlin vs. #6 Greenfield/Northwestern
Game 15: #12 Edinburg vs. #16 Tri-City/Sangamon Valley
Game 16: 9 p.m. - #4 West Central vs. #8 Triopia
Thursday, December 28
Game 17: 11 a.m. - #9 Springfield Lutheran vs. #11 Lincolnwood
Game 18: 12:30 p.m. - #5 Jacksonville Rount vs. #7 Athens
Game 19: 2 p.m. - #1 South County vs. #3 Auburn
Game 20: 5 p.m. - #10 North Mac vs. #12 Edinburg
Game 21: 6:30 p.m. - #6 Greenfield/Northwestern vs. Loser Game 16
Game 22: 8 p.m. - #2 New Berlin vs. Winner Game 16
Friday, December 29
Consolation Final: 11 a.m. - Winner Game 17 vs. Winner Game 20
Fifth Place: 12:30 p.m. - Winner Game 18 vs. Winner Game 21
Third Place: 2 p.m. - Loser Game 19 vs. Loser Game 22
Championship: 6:30 p.m. - Winner Game 19 vs. Winner Game 22

Third Quarter Pushes Nokomis Past Litchfield

by Kyle Herschelmann

A 20-7 third quarter advantage gave Nokomis a 55-48 win over Litchfield on Wednesday, Dec. 20, as the Redskins moved to 4-6 and Litchfield moved to 7-5.

Both teams held leads in the third quarter, but spent a good portion of the opening eight minutes tied. With 3:46 to go in the quarter, Maddux Himes broke a 4-4 tie with a three-pointer to give Nokomis their first lead of the game. Litchfield's Victor McGill answered with a three of his own to tie the game at seven, before Mason Stauder hit a three for the Redskins to return it to a three-point game with 2:38 to play. McGill brought the game back even again with 88 seconds to play as the first quarter ended in a 10-10 tie.

McGill and A.J. Odle got Litchfield off to a fast start in the second quarter as the Panthers went on a 6-0 run in the first two and a half minutes. Nokomis got on the board with a pair of baskets by Atticus Bertolino and Reece Lohman, but Odle and McGill knocked down a pair of threes and led by eight at the midway point of the quarter, 22-14.

Odle picked up his third three of the quarter a few minutes later and Tate Dobrinich scored to give Litchfield a 27-17 lead, their biggest of the game, with 2:06 to play. The Panthers wouldn't score again, but still held a 27-19 lead going into halftime. Both McGill and Odle hit three threes in the half as they led Litchfield in scoring with 12 and 11 points respectively. Reece Lohman led Nokomis, scoring all six of his points in the final five minutes of the second quarter to keep Litchfield from running away with the lead.

Carson Saathoff reupped the Litchfield lead to double digits with the first basket of the second quarter, but Nokomis wasn't ready to bow out just yet. Lohman made back-to-back baskets for the Redskins and a three by Mason Stauder with 5:12 to play trimmed Litchfield's lead to 29-26.

Saathoff picked up his second basket of the quarter at the 4:54 mark, but that was Litchfield's final field goal of the third quarter as they were held to three free throws the rest of the way out. Nokomis turned defense into offense as they went on a 13-3 run, with Reece Lohman (9) and Kennedy DeWerff (4) leading the way. The third quarter romp gave Nokomis a 39-34 lead going into the fourth quarter as Litchfield looked to get back on top.

And for a while, it looked as if they'd do just that. After an opening basket by Kennedy DeWerff to up the lead to

seven, Tate Dobrinich and Victor McGill scored four points in 18 seconds to cut the lead to three at 41-38. That was as close as Litchfield would get, though, with Nokomis going 7-for-10 from the free-throw line down the stretch to finish out the seven-point win.

Nokomis put three-players in double figures, led by Reece Lohman, who had 21 points, six rebounds and five blocks. Kennedy DeWerff had 16 points, including nine in the fourth quarter, thanks in part to a 5-for-6 performance from the free-throw line in the final frame. DeWerff also had five rebounds and three assists, while Mason Stauder finished with 11 points, nine of which came off three-pointers. Drake Taylor and Atticus Bertolino added in three points each, while Maddux Himes finished out the scoring with one.

Victor McGill and A.J. Odle had four threes apiece and led Litchfield with 20 and 15

points respectively. Tate Dobrinich added five points and eight rebounds, while Carson Saathoff had four points and five boards. Harrison Thomas (3) and Martavious Jones (1) also scored for the Panthers.

Both teams would be victorious in their next games as Nokomis beat Mt. Olive 70-20 two days later on Dec. 22, while Litchfield used the Christmas break to regroup and score a 70-36 victory over East Alton-Wood River on Dec. 26.

Dec. 20 at Litchfield

Nokomis 10 9 20 16---55
Litchfield 10 17 7 14---48

Nokomis (55) - Reece Lohman 21, Kennedy DeWerff 16, Mason Stauder 11, Drake Taylor 3, Atticus Bertolino 3, Maddux Himes 1. **Totals:** 19 12-19 55.

Litchfield (48) - Victor McGill 20, A.J. Odle 15, Tate Dobrinich 5, Carson Saathoff 4, Harrison Thomas 3, Martavious Jones 1. **Totals:** 15 10-22 48.

Three-point field goals: Nokomis 5 (Stauder 3, DeWerff 1, Lohman 1); Litchfield 8 (McGill 4, Odle 4). **Records:** Nokomis (4-6); Litchfield (7-5).



Nokomis Adds Five To 10,000 Shot Club

The Nokomis boys basketball program sponsored a 10,000 Shot Club where members attempted 10,000 shots or more during the offseason. Five members of the junior high program recorded more than 10,000 shot attempts between the months of February to October. Each member received a t-shirt and a free pizza courtesy of Nokomis Casey's. From the left are Maddox DeWerff, Dayne Brownback, Jack Province, Colby Wilson and Micah Barker.

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Hillsboro Girls To Play For Third At Riverton Tourney

It's been a roller coaster for the Hillsboro girls basketball team at the Riverton Christmas Tournament as the Lady Hiltoppers went 2-2 in their first four games and will play for third on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 4:30 p.m.

The Lady Hiltoppers won their first game at Riverton 47-46 over Auburn on Thursday, Dec. 21, in a rematch from the Toppers' last regular season game before the tourney. Hillsboro won that one, too, 56-50, in Auburn on Monday, Dec. 18.

Thursday's game started in the same fashion as Monday's did, with Auburn taking a four-point lead after the initial eight minutes. The Toppers spread nine points between four players, with Kamryn Langston, Aubrey Evans, Kearstynn Davis and Amya Greenwood all making two-pointers, with Greenwood also adding in a free throw.

In Monday's game, Auburn led 14-10 after one, but Hillsboro rallied to cut the advantage to one at 25-24 at the half. Again, Thursday's game was a near mirror image as the Toppers outscored Auburn 11-8 in the second quarter to make it 21-20 at halftime, with Ella Greenwood scoring seven points for Hillsboro in the frame.

After the break, Hillsboro hoped for deja vu all over again. In Monday's game they outscored the Trojans by six to take a five-point lead into the final frame. On Thursday, they won the quarter by eight as they doubled up Auburn, 16-8 to take a 36-29 lead into the final eight minutes. Amya Greenwood and Cheyenne Harston paced the Toppers with six and four points respectively, with Langston, Evans and Davis also finding the bottom of the net.

Hillsboro would need every single one of those points from the third quarter as they fought off a challenge

from the Trojans.

Hillsboro's lead stayed in the two to three possession range until Auburn got a put-back off an offensive rebound from Karlissa Clark and another two from Addison Wheatley that made it a 38-36 game with 4:18 to play.

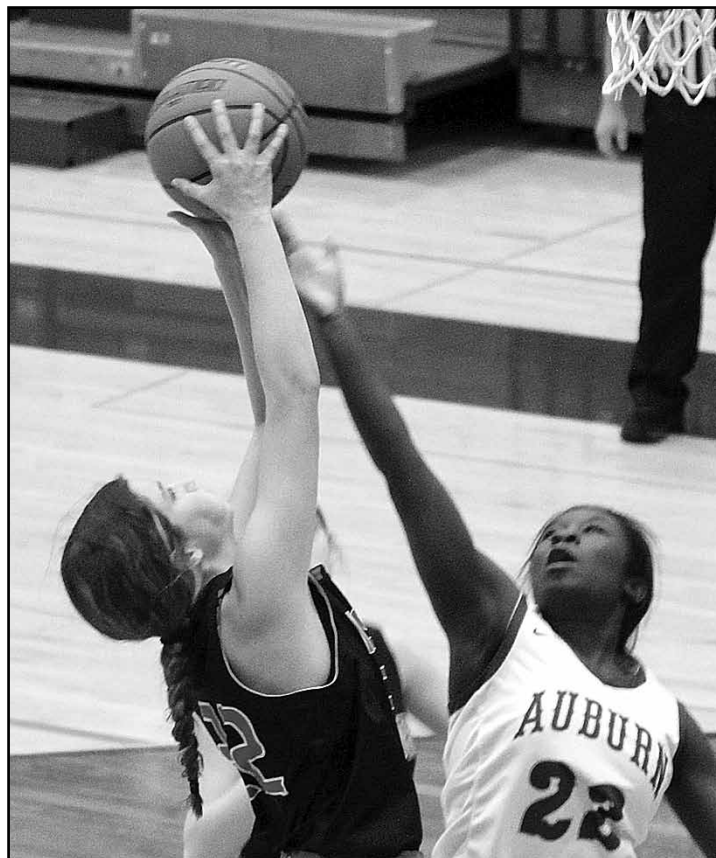
Almost six minutes into the fourth quarter, Hillsboro was still up two, but hadn't hit a field goal and only had two free throws in the scoring column in the final frame. That changed on a steal-and-score by Ella Greenwood as the junior guard snapped a three and a half minute scoreless drought by the Toppers.

Clark scored on another offensive rebound in Auburn's next possession, but Hillsboro got five quick points off two free throws by Amya Greenwood and a corner three by Ella Greenwood that brought the Toppers' lead all the way back to seven with 71 seconds to play.

Any thoughts that lead was safe were dashed as Auburn cut the lead to five on Clark's third basket of the game, then made it 45-43 after Graysen Allen drove to the basket for a layup and made the free throw after she was fouled on the play.

Needing to get the ball back, Auburn fouled Kamryn Langston and the Topper junior came through with a pair of free throws to make it 47-43 with just 11 seconds to go. Clark tried to will the Trojans to a win with a three, Auburn's only triple of the game, but with three seconds left, Kearstynn Davis was able to get the ball in to Ella Greenwood at mid-court, with Greenwood running out the final seconds.

The Greenwood siblings led a balanced Hillsboro offense as seven players had three points or more. Ella Greenwood had 12 points, including five in the fourth, while Amya Greenwood had 10 of her 12 points in the



Hillsboro's #22, Tatum Christian, extends for a rebound over Auburn's #22, Karlissa Clark, during the Toppers' opening game at the Riverton Christmas Tournament on Thursday, Dec. 21. The Toppers beat the Trojans by one 47-46, one of their two wins at the tournament so far. Hillsboro will have the chance to go out on a win on as they play PORTA for third at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28. *Byron Painter/South County Publications*

second half.

Kamryn Langston and Cheyenne Harston both had six points, including some big free throws in the final frame, while Aubrey Evans and Kearstynn Davis had four points apiece. Tatum Christian hit a three in the second quarter to round out the scoring for Hillsboro, who improved to 8-6 with the win.

Deer Creek-Mackinaw
Hillsboro's next game was on Dec. 27, against Deer Creek-Mackinaw, the second seed in the Red Pool behind Central A&M (who they would later beat by 21). The Chiefs moved to 13-1 on the season with a 48-38 victory over the Hiltoppers.

The difference in the game came in the second quarter,

when Deer Creek-Mackinaw outscored Hillsboro 12-6. Hillsboro was also outscored in the other three quarters, but just by four points total as the Chiefs held a 14-13 advantage in the first, an 11-10 advantage in the second and an 11-9 edge in the fourth.

Sophomore Dalla DeJesus was the driving force behind the Chiefs as she scored 25 of her team's 48 points. Lexi Cottingham and Elise Hahn also scored nine points apiece for Deer Creek-Mackinaw, whose only loss came in overtime to PORTA earlier in the year.

Hillsboro was led by the Greenwood sisters as both Ella and Amya finished with 10 points apiece. Kearstynn Davis added eight points,

margin in the second, with a 16-4 advantage and a 27-6 halftime lead. Nine different players scored for the Cavaliers in the game as they went on to outscore Lincolnwood 18-9 in the third and 7-2 in the fourth for a 35-point win.

Lilly Terneus led Lincolnwood with 10 points, while Sophia Foster had five and Tori Elvidge added two. Kaitlyn Reels was one of three Carlinville players in double digits with 12 points, with Isabella Tiburzi and Ruthie Reels adding 11 and

10 as well.

Dec. 26 at Carlinville
Carlinville Holiday Tournament
Carlinville 11 16 18 7---52
Lincolnwood 2 4 9 2---17
Carlinville (52) - Kaitlyn Reels 12, Isabella Tiburzi 11, Ruthie Reels 10, Jordyn Lovelless 5, Taylor Brandenburg 5, Braley Wiser 4, Addie Ruyle 2, Hannah Gibson 2, Madeline Murphy 1. **Totals:** 17 13-18 52.

Lincolnwood (17) - Lilly Terneus 10, Sophia Foster 5, Tori Elvidge 2. **Totals:** 6 5-8 17.

Three-point field goals: Carlinville 5 (K. Reels 4, Tiburzi 1); Lincolnwood 0.

Records: Carlinville (11-3); Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (4-12).

Dec. 21 at Brownstown
Nokomis 6 8 7 7---28
Brownstown/SE 15 10 11 11---47
Nokomis (28) - Grace DeWerrf 12, Mackenzie Mehochko 4, Natalie Brownback 4, Camryn Engelman 3, Becca Hill 3, Cydney Bertolino 2. **Totals:** 11 2-8 28.

Brownstown/St. Elmo (47) - Lexi Seabaugh 14, Dayana Haslett 13, Presley Williams 10, Jayna Ireland 5, Abbi Ledbetter 4, Adie Sasse 1. **Totals:** 11 15-23 42.

Three-point field goals: Nokomis 4 (DeWerrf 3, B. Hill 1); Brownstown/St. Elmo 2 (Williams 2).

Records: Nokomis (7-6), Brownstown/St. Elmo (8-3).

while Kamryn Langston and Cheyenne Harston had four points each. Tatum Christian finished out the scoring with two points.

Sangamon Valley/Tri-City
After a few days off for Christmas, the Toppers released their frustrations on Sangamon Valley/Tri-City in their pool play finale on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 9 a.m. Hillsboro provided a rude wake-up call for their opponents as they defeated the Storm 52-4 to improve to 2-1 in the tournament.

The Toppers led 23-0 after one, with Aubrey Evans leading the way with eight points, while Ella Greenwood had six. Sangamon Valley got on the board in the second with a pair of free throws by Sophia Caceres, but Hillsboro spread nine points out between four players, with Greenwood hitting her second three and Kamryn Langston, Tatum Christian and Cheyenne Harston adding two each.

Up 32-2 at halftime, the Toppers continued the rout in the second half. Christian hit a three and had seven of Hillsboro's 17 points as the Toppers spread the wealth around. The Storm hit their first, and only, field goal of the game as Allison Closs hit a two in the quarter.

With Hillsboro up 49-4 after three, the fourth quarter went quick as Sadie Houchlei scored the only three points for Hillsboro with the clock running continuously.

Houchlei's three points made her the ninth Topper to score in the game. Tatum Christian (13), Ella Greenwood (11) and Aubrey Evans (10) all hit double figures in the win, while Amya Greenwood added five and Kearstynn Davis finished with four. Kamryn Langston, Peyton Christian and Cheyenne Harston rounded out the scoring with two points apiece.

The win improved Hills-

boro's record to 9-7 and put the Toppers in the championship semifinal against Mt. Pulaski. The two-L Hiltoppers handed the one-L Hiltoppers their second "L" of the tournament as they advanced to championship game. Hillsboro will play for third against PORTA, who fell to Deer Creek-Mackinaw 55-47 on Wednesday.

Dec. 21 at Riverton
Riverton Christmas Tournament

Hillsboro 9 11 16 11---47
Auburn 13 8 8 17---46

Hillsboro (47) - Ella Greenwood 12, Amya Greenwood 12, Kamryn Langston 6, Cheyenne Harston 6, Aubrey Evans 4, Kearstynn Davis 4, Tatum Christian 3. **Totals:** 18 8-18 47.

Auburn (46) - Karlissa Clark 19, Addison Wheatley 13, Chloe Crissey 6, Graysen Allen 5, Reese Megginson 2, Kiana McGraw 1. **Totals:** 20 5-8 46.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 3 (E. Greenwood 2, Christian 1); Auburn 1 (Clark 1).

Records: Hillsboro (8-6); Auburn (6-7).

Dec. 22 at Riverton
Riverton Christmas Tournament

Hillsboro 13 6 10 9---38
Dee-Mac 14 12 11 11---48

Hillsboro (38) - Amya Greenwood 10, Ella Greenwood 10, Kearstynn Davis 8, Kamryn Langston 4, Cheyenne Harston 4, Tatum Christian 2. **Totals:** 12 10-15 38.

Deer Creek-Mackinaw (48) - Dalla DeJesus 25, Elise Hahn 9, Lexi Cottingham 9, Addyson Carithers 3, Kenzie Knowles 2. **Totals:** 19 5-8 48.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 4 (E. Greenwood 2, Langston 1, Davis 1); Deer Creek-Mackinaw 5 (Cottingham 2, Carithers 1, DeJesus 1, Hahn 1).

Records: Hillsboro (8-7); Deer Creek-Mackinaw (13-1).

Dec. 27 at Riverton
Riverton Christmas Tournament

Hillsboro 23 9 17 3---52
SV/TC 0 2 2 0---4

Hillsboro (52) - Tatum Christian 13, Ella Greenwood 11, Aubrey Evans 10, Amya Greenwood 5, Kearstynn Davis 4, Sadie Houchlei 3, Kamryn Langston 2, Peyton Christian 2, Cheyenne Harston 2. **Totals:** 20 9-18 52.

Sangamon Valley/Tri-City (4) - Sophia Caceres 2, Allison Closs 2. **Totals:** 1 2-4 4.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 3 (E. Greenwood 2, T. Christian 1); Sangamon Valley/Tri-City 0.

Records: Hillsboro (9-7); Sangamon Valley/Tri-City (0-12).

Girls Basketball Holiday Tournaments

Riverton Christmas Girls Basketball Tournament

Red Pool: Central A&M, Deer Creek-Mackinaw, Auburn, Hillsboro, Riverton, Sangamon Valley/Tri-City

Green Pool: PORTA, North Mac, Mt. Pulaski, Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary, Pana, Litchfield

Thursday, December 21
• Central A&M 53, Sangamon Valley/Tri-City 16

• Deer Creek-Mackinaw 60, Riverton 27

• Hillsboro 47, Auburn 46

• Central A&M 62, Riverton 32

• PORTA 59, Litchfield 17

• North Mac 48, Pana 43

• Mt. Pulaski 49, Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary 41

• PORTA 64, Pana 24

Friday, December 21
• Deer Creek-Mackinaw 48, Hillsboro 38

• Auburn 48, Sangamon Valley/Tri-City 11

• Deer Creek-Mackinaw 44, Central A&M 23

• Auburn 54, Riverton 39

• Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary 56, North Mac 43

• Mt. Pulaski 52, Litchfield 26

• PORTA 59, North Mac 47

• Mt. Pulaski 56, Pana 39

Wednesday, December 27
• Hillsboro 52, Sangamon Valley/Tri-City 4

• Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary 40, Litchfield 21

• Pana 57, Sangamon Valley/Tri-City 20

• Riverton 58, Litchfield 38

• Auburn 31, Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary 29

• Central A&M 68, North Mac 42

• Mt. Pulaski 48, Hillsboro 33

• Deer Creek-Mackinaw 55, PORTA 47

Thursday, December 28
12 p.m. - 11th Place - Sangamon Valley/Tri-City vs.

1:30 p.m. - 9th Place - Pana vs. Riverton

3 p.m. - 7th Place - North Mac vs. Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary

4:30 p.m. - 5th Place - Central A&M vs. Auburn

6 p.m. - 3rd Place - Hillsboro vs. PORTA

7:30 p.m. - 1st Place - Mt. Pulaski vs. Deer Creek-Mackinaw

Carlinville Holiday Girls Basketball Tournament

Green Pool: Carlinville, Nokomis, Lincolnwood, South County

Red Pool: Calhoun, Gillespie, Williamsville, Greenfield-NW

Tuesday, December 26
• Gillespie 58, Williamsville 40

• Nokomis 63, South County 54

• Calhoun 49, Greenfield-NW 19

• Carlinville 52, Lincolnwood 17

Wednesday, December 27
• Gillespie 56, Greenfield-NW 40

• Nokomis 49, Lincolnwood 16

• Calhoun 43, Williamsville 39

• Carlinville 47, South County 42

Thursday, December 28
Noon - Calhoun vs. Gillespie

Noon - South County vs. Lincolnwood

1:30 p.m. - Williamsville vs. Greenfield-NW

3 p.m. - Carlinville vs. Nokomis

Friday, December 29
Noon - 7th place - Green #4 vs. Red #4

Noon - 5th place - Green #3 vs. Red #3

3 p.m. - 3rd place - Green #2 vs. Red #2

6 p.m. - 1st - Green #1 vs. Red #1

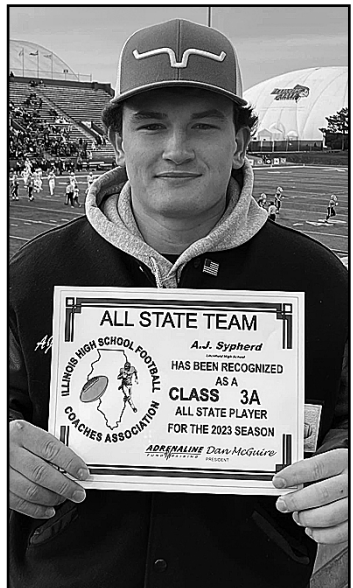
Sypherd To Play In Shrine All-Star Game

The 2024 Illinois Coaches Association 50th Shrine All-Star Game will be played on Saturday, June 15, at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington and one Litchfield High School senior will be amongst the all-stars on the field.

A.J. Sypherd was picked for this year's game and will play on the Red Team when things kick off at 11 a.m. on June 15. Sypherd is one of 63 players on the Red Team, with Southwestern's Logan Keith also on the squad representing the South Central Conference.

The Red Team will be coached by Hope Academy Head Coach Chris Malette and will be assisted by Mike Noll of Richmond, Burton, Patrick Lower of Fulton, Anthony Sheehan of Richards, Justin Groves of Benton and Jason Drengrwitz of Normal Community.

The Blue Team, which features 63 more of the state's best, will be coached by Monticello Head Coach Cully Welter and assisted by Ron Planz of Lake Zurich, Ryan Hebard of Knoxville, Colton Rhodes of Collinsville, Eric Lyons of Stanford, Olympia and Tolly Tsiamas of Peotone. Vandalia's Andrew Kelly



Litchfield's A.J. Sypherd, shown here after receiving his all-state recognition at the IHSA football state championships, is one of just 126 senior football players in Illinois to be selected for this year Illinois Coaches Association Shrine All-Star Game, to be played June 15 at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

and Southwestern's Rocky Darr will suit up for the Blue Team.

More information on the game can be found at www.ilshrinegame.com.

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Cavies Knock Off Lady Lancers Again

Lincolnwood's first opponent after Christmas was their last one before the holiday as the Lady Lancers played Carlinville in their opening game of the Carlinville Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26.

The first meeting went to the Cavaliers by a 46-19 final score and round two didn't turn the tides in the Lancers favor as they fell to the Lady Cavaliers 52-17.

Carlinville jumped out to an 11-2 lead in the opening quarter and increased that

Bombers Beat Nokomis Before Break

After falling to Gillespie by 22 on Dec. 18, the Nokomis girls basketball team dropped their second straight game for just the second time this year as they fell to Brownstown/St. Elmo 47-28 on the Bombers' home court.

The hosts held a 15-6 lead after one, getting four points apiece from Lexi Seabaugh and Dayana Haslett. All six of Nokomis' points came from Grace DeWerrf as she hit a pair of threes in the opening eight minutes.

The Bombers didn't add much to their lead as they outscored Nokomis 10-8 in the second, but the Redskins were still down 25-14 at the break.

Brownstown/St. Elmo continued to limit Nokomis on offense in the second half as they held the Redskins to seven points in each of the final two quarters to come

away with the 19-point win.

Grace DeWerrf led Nokomis with 12 points, hitting three threes in the game. DeWerrf also had a team-high four steals and three assists for Nokomis

Mackenzie Mehochko and Natalie Brownback finished with four apiece, followed by Camryn Engelman and Becca Hill with three each and Cydney Bertolino with two. Bertolino also had seven rebounds to lead the Redskins.

Fortunately, Nokomis' losing skid didn't make it to three games as they snapped the streak with a 49-42 win

over South County in the Carlinville Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26.

Dec. 21 at Brownstown
Nokomis 6 8 7 7---28
Brownstown/SE 15 10 11 11---47
Nokomis (28) - Grace DeWerrf 12, Mackenzie Mehochko 4, Natalie Brownback 4, Camryn Engelman 3, Becca Hill 3, Cydney Bertolino 2. **Totals:** 11 2-8 28.

Brownstown/St. Elmo (47) - Lexi Seabaugh 14, Dayana Haslett 13, Presley Williams 10, Jayna Ireland 5, Abbi Ledbetter 4, Adie Sasse 1. **Totals:** 11 15-23 42.

Three-point field goals: Nokomis 4 (DeWerrf 3, B. Hill 1); Brownstown/St. Elmo 2 (Williams 2).

Records: Nokomis (7-6), Brownstown/St. Elmo (8-3).

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Nokomis Wins County Clash At Carlinville Tournament

The Nokomis girls basketball team held Lincolnwood to six points or less in all four quarters as the Redskins moved to 2-0 at the Carlinville Holiday Tournament with a 49-16 win over the Lady Lancers.

The Redskins led by just five, 8-3, after the first quarter, but built up the bulk of their lead over the next two frames. Nokomis led 27-9 at halftime after a 19-6 second quarter, then led 43-13 going into the fourth after a 16-4 third quarter.

With a running clock in the fourth, the two teams combined for nine points, with Nokomis outscoring Lincolnwood 49-16 to finish off their second win of the tournament.

The Lancers were led in scoring by Taylor Lush, who had four points, while Jolee

Downs, Carly Armentrout and Taryn Millburg all had three. Lilly Terneus and Sophia Foster finished out the scoring for the Lancers with two and one as Lincolnwood fell to 4-13 on the season.

Nokomis put 10 different players on the scoresheet, with Kinley Stolte leading the way with nine, followed by Becca Hill with seven and Mackenzie Mehochko, Natalie Brownback and Lizzy Hill with six apiece. Cloey Dirks, Cydney Bertolino and Alivia Sabol all had four, with Camryn Engelman adding two and Grace DeWerff finishing with one.

Lincolnwood will wrap up pool play at Carlinville on Thursday, Dec. 28, at noon against South County, while Nokomis plays Carlinville at 3 in their pool play finale. A win by the Lancers would

have them in the fifth place game on Friday, Dec. 29, with a loss putting them in the seventh place game. Both Nokomis and Carlinville are 2-0 in the tournament, so the winner will play for first on Friday, while the loser tries for third.

Dec. 27 at Carlinville
Carlinville Holiday Tournament
Lincolnwood 3 6 4 3---16
Nokomis 8 19 16 6---49
Lincolnwood (16) - Taylor Lush 4, Jolee Downs 3, Carly Armentrout 3, Taryn Millburg 3, Lilly Terneus 2, Sophia Foster 1. **Totals:** 6 1-5 16.
Nokomis (49) - Kinley Stolte 9, Becca Hill 7, Lizzy Hill 6, Natalie Brownback 6, Mackenzie Mehochko 6, Cydney Bertolino 4, Alivia Sabol 4, Cloey Dirks 4, Camryn Engelman 2, Grace DeWerff 1. **Totals:** 15 16-24 49.
Three-point field goals: Lincolnwood 3 (Downs 1, Armentrout 1, Millburg 1); Nokomis 3 (B. Hill 2, Brownback 1).
Records: Nokomis (10-6), Lincolnwood (4-13).



Litchfield's A.J. Odle works his way toward the top of the key after a pick by Carson Saathoff during the Panthers' opening game at the Carlinville Holiday Tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 26. Odle had 11 points in the Panthers' 70-36 win over Oilers, one of four Litchfield players to reach double figures in the game.

Tabitha Ostermann Photo

Litchfield Boys Basketball

Continued from 1B

After building the commanding lead in the first four minutes of the contest, Litchfield did not let off the gas as they continued to build on that lead. Litchfield used the final four minutes of the opening quarter to increase their lead to 24-7 as they outscored the Oilers 12-6.

With a commanding 17-point lead entering the second quarter, the Purple Panthers and the Oilers would exchange baskets throughout the majority of the second quarter. Both teams put in nine points in the first five minutes of the quarter as Litchfield held a 33-16 lead late in the second quarter.

In the past few weeks, the Purple Panthers have overhauled their offense and it has shown as they have executed offensive plays, looking for the best shot available. This contest would show those changes being executed by the Purple Panthers as they shot 60% from the field in the first half, including a 62% shooting performance in the second quarter.

Throughout the half, Litchfield would not settle for the three-point shot as they worked their offense and put up 24 two-point field goals compared to six three-point field goals.

As Litchfield's offense would get the highlights in the first half, the Purple Panthers' defense contributed to much of their success in the half, forcing 13 Oiler turnovers, including nine steals.

The mixture of success on

the court contributed to the final push Litchfield made in the half as the Purple Panthers outscored the Oilers 10-3 to finish the half. The last burst of energy by the Purple Panthers helped contribute to a 43-19 half-time lead.

Keenan Powell led the Purple Panthers in the second quarter with seven points as six players put points on the board in the quarter.

For some teams, once you have an opponent down, it's difficult to keep them down. Litchfield didn't have that problem as they did not allow the Oilers to stand back up, as they would outscore East Alton-Wood River 7-1 to start the second half.

In the first half, the Oilers struggled to put the ball into the hoop as they shot 29%. Where Litchfield executed was only allowing nine offense rebounds by the Oilers and limiting the second chance points. In the third quarter, the Oilers continued their shooting woes as they would put up 12 shots and only made three of those shots.

Again the Purple Panthers would have a stranglehold on the boards as they only allowed two offense rebounds in the quarter. The early success by Litchfield in the opening minutes of the quarter allowed them to hit the 30-point lead mark as they went up 50-20. That margin of difference continued to stay the same throughout the remaining minutes of the third frame as both teams put in six points. Tate Dobrinich led Litchfield in the scoring

column in the quarter as he put in six points, giving him 12 points through three quarters.

With the Purple Panthers holding a 30-point lead at 56-26 entering the final frame, the fourth quarter would have a running clock.

The continuous clock did not slow down Litchfield's offense as they added 14 more points to their total. Harrison Thomas led Litchfield in the quarter as he put in five more points, including a three-point basket.

Thomas would be one of nine Purple Panthers who put points on the board in this contest. Four of those nine Purple Panthers hit double digits as Victor McGill led the way with 17 points. Tate Dobrinich and Keenan Powell followed with 12 points, and A.J. Odle added 11 points.

The 34-point win moved Litchfield to 8-5 overall, but more importantly it would start the Purple Panthers at 1-0 in pool play in the Carlinville Holiday Tournament

Dec. 26 at Carlinville
Carlinville Holiday Tournament
Litchfield 24 19 13 14---70
EAWR 7 12 7 10---36
Litchfield (70) - Victor McGill 17, Keenan Powell 12, Tate Dobrinich 12, A.J. Odle 11, Harrison Thomas 7, Brayden Ronco 4, Ethan Saathoff 3, Nathan Schaae 2, Carson Saathoff 2. **Totals:** 29 6-9 70.

East Alton-Wood River (36) - Devon Green 10, Tookie Smith 9, Harrison Smith 6, Caron Collins 5, Malyk Spiller 3, Tamarion Marshall 3. **Totals:** 13 6-10 36.
Three-point field goals: Litchfield 6 (Powell 2, E. Saathoff 1, Odle 1, McGill 1, Thomas 1); East Alton-Wood River 4 (T. Smith 1, Spiller 1, Collins 1, N. Smith 1).
Records: Litchfield (8-5); East Alton-Wood River (1-13).

Litchfield Girls To Play For 11th

It's been a tough road for the Litchfield girls basketball team this season, but the Lady Panthers still have a chance to go out on a win at the Riverton Christmas Tournament.

The Lady Panthers will play Sangamon Valley/Tri-City in their final game at Riverton on Thursday, Dec. 28, at 10:30 a.m. Both teams went 0-3 in pool play and are hoping for their first win in the 11th place game.

Litchfield played PORTA in their opening game, a daunting task as the Bluejays were 11-0 going into the game and have picked up two more wins in pool play since then. The Panthers were held scoreless in the first two quarters as PORTA led 16-0 after one and 30-0 at halftime.

The second half went much better for the Litchfield girls as they scored 11 points in the third, getting a pair of threes from Kyndal Law, and six points in the fourth,

with Chloe Law accounting for four of the six.

Chloe Law finished with five points against the Bluejays, one off the team lead, held by Kyndal Law. Madi Jenkins added four points, while Emma Diveley chipped in two.

Karlie Hoke led PORTA with 13 points, with five players scoring eight or more points for the Bluejays.

In their second game, Litchfield ran into another tough team, the Mt. Pulaski Lady Hilltoppers. The Toppers handed the Panthers their second loss of the tournament, winning 52-26 on Friday, Dec. 22.

That was Litchfield's final game before Christmas, but the Panthers were back at it on Wednesday, Dec. 27, for two more games. Playing their final pool play game of the tournament, Litchfield fell to the Pawnee/Lutheran/Calvary co-op team 40-21 to finish pool play 0-3.

With the loss, Litchfield

moved on to play Riverton in the ninth place bracket semifinal. The Hawks were also 0-3 in their home tournament, but picked up a 58-38 win over the Panthers for win number one.

Even with the rough patch, there may be light at the end of the tunnel for Litchfield. Sangamon Valley/Tri-City, Litchfield's opponent in the 11th place game, is 0-12 on the season and has been outscored 210 to 51 in their four games at Riverton.

Dec. 21 at Riverton
Riverton Christmas Tournament
PORTA 16 14 19 10---59
Litchfield 0 0 11 6---17
PORTA (59) - Karlie Hoke 13, Reese Cookson 10, Allison Vogel 8, Carson Arthalony 8, Jayce Privia 8, Cassie Cox 5, Marley Roberts 5, Aubrey Vogel 2. **Totals:** 23 9-11
Litchfield (17) - Kyndal Law 6, Chloe Law 5, Madi Jenkins 4, Emma Diveley 2. **Totals:** 6 3-5 17.
Three-point field goals: PORTA 4 (Privia 1, Hoke 1, Roberts 1, Vogel 1); Litchfield 2 (K. Law 2).
Records: PORTA (11-0); Litchfield (2-12).

Nokomis Girls Basketball

Continued from 1B

Kinley Stolte had six of Nokomis' 11 points, with Becca Hill adding four and Camryn Engelman contributing a free throw.

Once again half of South County's points came from the free-throw line, but this time the Vipers weren't as efficient as they went 5-for-10 from the charity stripe.

The missed opportunities proved to be costly as South County would need every single point they could muster and then some in the fourth quarter.

The Redskins outscored South County 24-13 in the fourth to pull ahead for good, but the points didn't come from just one source. Instead, it was like death by paper

cut as eight different players scored in the quarter, with no one scoring more than four points in the eight minutes.

What that did, in addition to giving Nokomis a 49-42 win, was provide balanced scoring for the Redskins, who had just one player in double figures, but seven with four points or more. Kinley Stolte was the exception to the rule as she scored 13 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, including 12 rebounds on the offensive end. Stolte also had a team-high four steals as Nokomis picked off the Vipers 14 times in the game.

Becca Hill finished with seven points, including Nokomis' only three of the game, while Mackenzie Mehochko, Natalie Brownback and Alivia Sabol all had six

apiece. Camryn Engelman added five, followed by Grace DeWerff with four and Cloey Dirks with two.

The win improved Nokomis' record to 9-6 going into their game against Lincolnwood on Wednesday, Dec. 27, in Carlinville.

Dec. 26 at Carlinville
Carlinville Holiday Tournament
Nokomis 6 8 11 24---49
South County 3 16 10 13---42
Nokomis (49) - Kinley Stolte 13, Becca Hill 7, Mackenzie Mehochko 6, Natalie Brownback 6, Alivia Sabol 6, Camryn Engelman 5, Grace DeWerff 4, Cloey Dirks 2. **Totals:** 21 6-12 49.
South County (42) - Jenna McGrath 11, Savana Howell 10, Callie Wagner 7, Jacee Alexander 7, Marissa Heironimus 4, Skylar Green 2. **Totals:** 11 15-23 42.
Three-point field goals: Nokomis 1 (B. Hill 1); South County 5 (McGrath 3, Wagner 2).
Records: Nokomis (9-6), South County (8-6).

Lincolnwood Basketball

Continued from 1B

Jonah Elvidge, who had one three in the first quarter for Lincolnwood, hit another trey and had five points to help the Lancers to a 12-8 advantage in the second frame. The shutdown on the defensive end helped the Lancers cut into the Auburn lead as they now trailed by just single digits, 30-21.

Even though Carter hit two more threes in the second, Lincolnwood managed to slow Auburn's scoring after the initial surge. They wouldn't be as fortunate in the second half as the Trojans found ways to get baskets and extend their lead.

Grant Dobson was one of six Trojans to score in a 21-point third quarter, netting seven points off three field goals. Sawyer Smith also had five points in the quarter as Auburn now led 51-31 going into the fourth.

Lincolnwood tried to limit the damage from there and held Auburn to two field goals and 14 points in the fourth quarter as the Trojans went 8-for-12 from the free-throw

line. The Lancers matched their 14 points, getting six from Brady Schmedeke and Tucker Armentrout and two from Jared Klein.

Schmedeke led the Lancers with 14 points, 10 of which came in the second half. Jonah Elvidge added 10, while Jared Klein finished with seven. Tucker Armentrout scored all six of his points in the fourth quarter, with Donny Daugherty (5) and Kennady Cook (3) rounding out the scoring. Cooper Carter led Auburn with 20, while Grant Dobson had 11 and Sawyer Smith finished with 10.

Lincolnwood will have the opportunity to join the select group of programs who have 1,000 wins in their history. To reach that milestone, they'll have to beat a Springfield Lutheran squad that defeated them by four earlier in the year at the New Berlin Thanksgiving Tournament, 67-63. That loss snapped a seven-game winning streak for the Lancers against the Crusaders. Game time on Thursday, Dec. 28, is 11 a.m., with a spot in the consolation

championship also at stake.

Dec. 26 at Waverly
Waverly Holiday Tournament
Auburn 22 8 21 14---65
Lincolnwood 9 12 10 14---45
Auburn (65) - Cooper Carter 20, Grant Dobson 11, Sawyer Smith 10, Clayton Kessler 8, Jacob Barth 5, Carter Hunley 4, Clayton Dinardo 4, Wyatt Thurman 3. **Totals:** 23 12-16 65.
Lincolnwood (45) - Brady Schmedeke 14, Jonah Elvidge 10, Jared Klein 7, Tucker Armentrout 6, Donny Daugherty 5, Kennady Cook 3. **Totals:** 18 4-8 45.
Three-point field goals: Auburn 7 (Cooper 5, Thurman 1, Dobson 1); Lincolnwood 5 (Elvidge 2, T. Armentrout 1, Daugherty 1, Cook 1).
Records: Lincolnwood (6-7); Auburn (11-1).

Dec. 27 at Waverly
Waverly Holiday Tournament
Lincolnwood 12 8 15 9---44
North Greene 6 3 13 10---32
Lincolnwood (44) - Brady Schmedeke 16, Jared Klein 12, Donny Daugherty 7, Kennady Cook 5, Tucker Armentrout 4. **Totals:** 17 7-12 44.
North Greene (32) - Jacob Hinsey 8, Garrett Hazelwonder 7, Brody Berry 7, Luke Farris 7, Talan Harney 2. **Totals:** 14 2-9 32.
Three-point field goals: Lincolnwood 3 (Cook 2, Schmedeke 1); North Greene 2 (Hazelwonder 1, Farris 1).
Records: Lincolnwood (7-7); North Greene (3-10).

Hillsboro Boys Basketball

Continued from 1B

When Matoush made a three, hope for a win flickered (after scoring 26 points in the first three quarters, Hillsboro had 21 in the fourth), but Calhoun's free throw shooting in the quarter (nine of fourteen) was just enough to smother that flicker - and Caselton's putback of one of the misses was fatal to comeback hopes.

The tournament continued for Hillsboro when they

faced Bunker Hill (they won 41-39) on Wednesday, Dec. 27, and Staunton at 7:30 Thursday, Dec. 28, before the Red and Green pools paired off on Friday, Dec. 29. The rest of pool play determines which team Hillsboro will play when; the three contests will be reported in Monday's *Journal-News*.

Dec. 26 at Carlinville
Carlinville Holiday Tournament
Hillsboro 6 13 7 21---47
Calhoun 10 16 16 19---60

Nokomis Basketball

Continued from 1B

Six players scored in the opening quarter for Nokomis, with three new faces adding their names to the scorebook in the second, including Daryl Evans (4) and Kadynn Petty (2), who scored their first varsity for their careers. Spreading the wealth gave Nokomis a 45-5 lead at halftime, with Jake Frizzo hitting a three and Briley Viviano adding a two for Mt. Olive's first points of the game.

The Redskins went on to outscore Mt. Olive 14-7 in the third quarter and 12-8 in the fourth as they finished off the game with a season-high 71 points. Twelve of the 13 players who dressed for Nokomis scored in the varsity contest (Kannon Jonas has been a contributor on JV and will get his first varsity points soon), with Kennedy DeWerff and Reece Lohman leading the team in scoring with 13 and 12 respectively.

Carter Weststen and Daryl Evans finished with nine and eight off the bench for Coach Dan DeWerff, while Drake Taylor also added eight for the Redskins. Atticus Bertolino and Saint Newman each had four, followed by Mason Stauder, Maddux Himes and Blain Goodwin (his first varsity points) with three each and Brody Steele and Kadynn Petty with two apiece. Mt. Olive was led by Briley Viviano, who had nine, and Matthew Bywater, who finished with six.

The doubleheader was the last game before Christmas for Nokomis, whose boys went to Vandalia and whose girls went to Carlinville after the holiday break. Both teams won their opening games on Dec. 26, as both teams now sported records of .500 or better.

Dec. 22 at Nokomis
Mt. Olive 9 13 7 12---41
Nokomis 12 17 15 15---59
Mt. Olive (41) - Lauren Bailey 18, Samantha Roeske 7, Ellie Borowman 7, Alyssa Aubuschon

5, Madison Rimar 2, Kosowski 1, Bella Lueken 1. **Totals:** 12 15-26 41.

Nokomis (59) - Natalie Brownback 17, Grace DeWerff 17, Alivia Sabol 8, Kinley Stolte 5, Mackenzie Mehochko 4, Becca Hill 3, Camryn Engelman 2, Cydney Bertolino 2, Cloey Dirks 1. **Totals:** 22 9-20 59.

Three-point field goals: Mt. Olive 2 (Aubuschon 1, Bailey 1); Nokomis 6 (Brownback 3, DeWerff 3).
Records: Nokomis (8-6, 3-0), Mt. Olive (2-7, 0-3).

Dec. 22 at Nokomis
Mt. Olive 0 5 7 8---20
Nokomis 29 16 14 12---71
Mt. Olive (20) - Briley Viviano 9, Matthew Bywater 6, Jake Frizzo 3, Dexter Frizzo 2. **Totals:** 8 2-20 59.

Nokomis (71) - Kennedy DeWerff 13, Reece Lohman 12, Carter Weststen 9, Drake Taylor 8, Daryl Evans 8, Saint Newman 4, Atticus Bertolino 4, Mason Stauder 3, Maddux Himes 3, Blain Goodwin 3, Kadynn Petty 2, Brody Steele 2. **Totals:** 30 6-9 71.

Three-point field goals: Mt. Olive 2 (Viviano 1, J. Frizzo 1); Nokomis 5 (DeWerff 3, Goodwin 1, Weststen 1).
Records: Nokomis (5-6, 2-0); Mt. Olive (2-11, 0-3).

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Hillsboro Names Topper Pride Award Winners

Four Hillsboro High School students have been chosen for the Topper Pride Award for the second quarter of the 2023 to 2024 school year. The students are senior Ben Hoehn, Andrea Huber, Sophia Mullen and Roberto "Beto" Quiroz.

The Topper Pride Award is earned by one student from each grade level each quarter at Hillsboro High School. Nominations are submitted by faculty for a student showing exemplified characteristics in leadership, attitude and direction. It may be an ongoing act and/or one specific and deliberate act of random kindness. Students are nominated by teachers and the winner is chosen by administration.

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.

Ben Hoehn
Ben Hoehn is a senior this year at Hillsboro High School. Ben has been chosen

to represent the senior class for the Topper Pride Award for the second quarter of the 2023 to 2024 school year. Ben is the son of Dennis and Kelly Hoehn. Ben enjoys playing the trombone, racing games, and fetch with his dog Lucy. Ben's favorite part of high school is the weight room. He feels starting his morning with a workout helps him be productive throughout the day. Currently Ben is the president of the senior class, a member of the Culture Club and Science Club. He is active in HHS band, Scholar Bowl and Pit Orchestra. Ben enjoys science fiction books; his favorite book is *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman. Ben would like to give a shout-out to Caesar Edwards because he inspires him to do what he does every day. After high school graduation, Ben sees himself working on a master's degree in computer engineering at SIUC. He aspires to become a computer hardware engineer.

Andrea Huber
Andrea Huber is a junior this year at HHS and is the daughter of Don and Carrie Huber. Andrea has two sisters and two dogs. Andrea likes to spend time with her family, including watching movies or playing

games. Her favorite part of Hillsboro High School is the various options of clubs and activities that are available to students. Currently, Andrea is in Scholar Bowl, band, Chamber Choir, Culture Club, Debate Club and Interact Club. She likes to read mystery, romance and action books. Andrea would like to give a shout-out to Emily Lanter for being a great friend. After high school graduation, Andrea is looking forward to college and a career she really enjoys.

Sophia Mullen
Sophia Mullen is a sophomore at HHS this year. Sophia is the daughter of Kristen and E.J. Mullen. She lives with both of her parents and her older brother. Sophia has three dogs and two cats and her family also owns and operates a cattle farm with about fifty head of cattle. Sophia's favorite part of HHS is the passion that teachers have towards the success of all of their students. So many teachers have pushed Sophia to be her best. In her spare time, Sophia likes to read and go on walks. She also volunteers with many different organizations. Currently, Sophia is the sophomore class vice-president. She is also a Hillsboro FFA Chap-

ter Officer. She is involved in Debate Club, BTOP and Science Club. Sophia would like to give a shout-out to Rylie Jones for being her best friend. After high school graduation, Sophia plans to go to college and get a degree in English Education.

Roberto "Beto" Quiroz
Roberto "Beto" Quiroz Garcia is a freshman at HHS this year and is representing the freshman class Topper Pride recipient for the second quarter of this school year. His parents are Saul Quiroz and Lupita Quiroz. He has an older brother who is currently attending Loyola College. Beto would like to recognize his parents for being amazing and always trying their best for him and his brother. Beto's favorite part of HHS is the teachers. Beto says they are all very nice and they deeply care for each one of their students. Beto likes to play and watch sports. He is a goalie in soccer. In his spare time he likes to hang out with his friends. It is also very important to him to be around his family. Beto would like to give a shout-out to Kash for always making him laugh and always being there for him. After high school, Beto plans to attend college.

Title Transfers

December 4
Dawn Renee Elam Exec., Richard A. Elam Estate, Jodi L. Summers Exec. to Jo Beth Imel, Thomas A. Imel, Executor's Deed, Lots 37 & 38, Taylor Springs.
Montgomery County Tr. Trust No. 1003402001, Trust No. 1003402007, Trust No. 1003402017 to Country Bend Campground, Deed, Lot 23, 29 & 39, Blk. 402, Deer Creek Condo Campground, Parcels 1 - 3.
Montgomery County Tr. Trust No. 1003402018, Trust No. 1003402019, Trust No. 1003402020 to Country Bend Campground, Deed, Lots 40, 150 & 151, Blk. 402, Deer Creek Condo Campground, Parcels 1 - 3.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

MON., JAN. 1 - 9 a.m. Simulcast live & online New Year's Day auction at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Dec. 28, 4-6 p.m. View online & prebid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Case knives, St. Louis Browns mem., SW & Indian artifact, WWII items, rare antique items, more. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

TUES., JAN. 9 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Hilton Plumbing: Going Out Of Business auction of all inventory, vehicles, heavy equipment, tools, generators, furniture and more located at 103 W. 2nd St., Pana. Bid now at aumannauctions.com, 217-563-2523. Open House: Jan. 4, 2-5 p.m. Removal of items: Jan. 12, 1-5 p.m. Aumann Auctions.

TUES., JAN. 9 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Multi Family Liquidations sale. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Pickup & preview at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Jan. 15, 4-6 p.m. & checkout Jan. 19, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., JAN. 18 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Extensive Dolls & Pillsbury Collections, Quilts, More sale. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Pickup & preview at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Jan. 15, 4-6 p.m. & checkout Jan. 19, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

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Checkout will be Day of Sale, Jan. 1st 2024, until 5PM
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Full Listings & Photos at: auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925 | fb Mollett Auction Service | mollettauctions.hibid.com



Curt's Towing Supports Litchfield Police Officers

Litchfield Police Department officers who worked during the holiday were treated to a meat tray donated by Curt's Towing. Pictured above, from the left are Curt Simmons of Curt's Towing and Litchfield Police Officer Shane Grammer.

Police

- Keenan J. Edwards, 21, of Litchfield, was jailed for domestic battery... Jacob W. Cheatham, 27, of Litchfield, was cited for battery at 2:10 p.m. Friday... Thomas W. Mitchell, 56, of Standard City, was cited for retail theft at 3 p.m. Friday... Jacob M. Robbins, 19, of Benld, was jailed for retail theft and possession of a controlled substance... A Gillespie juvenile, 16, was cited for retail theft... Cristy A. Watson, 48, of Litchfield, was cited for violation of open burning... Stephen A. Golden, 61, of Fountain Valley, CA, was jailed for possession of drug paraphernalia... Cristy A. Watson, 48, of Litchfield, was cited for violation of open burning...

Hogs And Pigs

Illinois inventory of all hogs and pigs on Friday, Dec. 1, was 5.5 million head, up 1 percent from Sept. 1, but unchanged from last year. Breeding inventory, at 630,000, was down 40,000 from the previous quarter and down 20,000 from last year. Market hog inventory, at 4.87 million head, was up 2 percent from last quarter and up slightly from last year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO. 2023TX19 FILED December 7, 2023 TAKE NOTICE TO: SANDY LEITHEISER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK... This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property: The South Five (5) feet of Lot Ten (10) and all of Lot Eleven (11) in Block Six (6) in J.J. Frey Subdi-

Fire Calls

Head On Collision The Raymond-Harvel Fire Department was dispatched to a two-vehicle head on collision just north of McKay Avenue on Rt. 127 near Raymond on Monday, Dec. 25, at 6:19 p.m.

Seventeen firefighters responded to the accident, with Raymond-Harvel Ambulance also responding. The Litchfield and Hillsboro Ambulance services also provided mutual aid.

A section of Rt. 127 between Butler and Raymond was closed during the accident. Firefighters were back in service at 8:09 p.m.

Outside Fire Thirteen fire fighters from the Raymond-Harvel Fire Department responded to a call just outside of Harvel on Rt. 48 at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26. The call was for an outside fire and was handled, with the fire fighters back in service at 7:52 p.m.

Structure Fire Shoal Creek Fire Department and Coffeen Fire Department provided mutual aid to Greenville Fire Department on Friday, Dec. 22, to a two floor building fire at 519 LaDue in Greenville at 9:47 a.m. Nine firefighters from Shoal Creek and five from Coffeen were on the scene for over four and half hours.

Carbon Monoxide Hillsboro Fire Department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at 12:11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. Two fire fighters responded.

Smell of Smoke Hillsboro firefighters responded to the smell of smoke at Hillsboro Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 27, at 3:08 p.m. There were 15 firefighters on the scene and nothing was found.

House Fire Nokomis and Witt Fire Departments responded to a home fire in Christian County on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4 a.m. The home suffered extensive damage, and the five occupants all made it to safety. The firefighters were on the scene for four hours.

Landing Zone Shoal Creek Fire Department was dispatched to set up a helicopter landing zone on Donnell Ave. after a motorcycle accident. Six firefighters responded and were on the scene for an hour on Wednesday evening, Dec. 20.

Ground Fire At 5:27 a.m., Shoal Creek responded to a ground fire on Shoal Creek Tr. on Thursday, Dec. 21. Taylor Springs provided mutual aid. There were 12 firefighters on the scene for about two hours.



Litchfield Fire Department Earns Grant For New Gear

Members of the Litchfield Fire Department accepted delivery of new Scott SCBA gear this December. The department received an AFG award for \$186,400 in the Operations and Safety category. Pictured above, from the left are firefighter Chris Beirworth, Chief Adam Pennock, Grant Consultant Dan Rogers, Captain David Rogers and firefighter Chris Bates.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO. 2023TX18 FILED December 7, 2023 TAKE NOTICE TO: SANDY LEITHEISER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK; BOBBY PEASE, OCCUPANT; KATRINA RALSTON; BRADLEY PHELPS; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS. This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property: 524.39 feet along the South line of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 2 to an iron pin set for the point of beginning; thence North 0 degrees 21' 57" West 339.05 feet to an iron pin set; thence North 88 degrees 54' 07" East 770.28 feet to an existing iron pin; thence North 0 degrees 33' 47" West 339.09 feet to an existing iron pin; thence North 88 degrees 53' 52" East 646.75 feet to an existing iron pin; thence South 0 degrees 39' 42" East 678.27 feet to a point on the South line of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 2; thence South 88 degrees 54' 23" West 1419.36 feet along said South line to the point of beginning, situated in Montgomery County, Illinois AND Parcel 2: Non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress for the benefit of Parcel 1, over and across the North 30 feet of the South 393.01 feet of the West 524.39 feet of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, Township 9 North, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Montgomery County, Illinois. Excepting the North Half (N1/2) of the South Half (S1/2) of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section Two (2), Township 9 (9) North, Range One (1) West of the Third Principal Meridian, Montgomery County, Illinois. Excepting title to all coal within and underlying the premises, together with all mining rights and other rights, privileges and immunities relating thereto. Also excepting Parcel 1: Part of the South Half of the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter in Section 2, Township 9 North, Range 1 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Montgomery County, Illinois, described more particularly as follows: commencing at an existing iron pin marking the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Said Section 2; thence North 88 degrees 54' 23" East

Hillsboro's Dyer Arrested By Sheriff, U.S. Marshals

On Friday, Dec. 15, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), the United States Marshal's Service and Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Parole Agents conducted a joint operation in rural Hillsboro.

During the morning hours of Dec. 15, MCSO Deputies, U.S. Marshals and IDOC Parole Agents went to a residence in rural Hillsboro known to be the residence of William Wade Dyer in an attempt to locate and apprehend Dyer. Dyer was wanted on an outstanding IDOC warrant for a parole violation.

William Wade Dyer, 47, was located inside his residence and taken into custody on the outstanding warrant.

During Dyer's apprehension, suspected drug paraphernalia was observed inside the residence. A search warrant for Dyer's residence was sought and obtained from Montgomery County State's Attorney Affrunti.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2023TX17 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ILLINOIS PUBLIC AID FIELD CONSULTANT, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPT OF REVENUE, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY TREASURER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY AND CITY OF LITCHFIELD, CITY OF HILLSBORO, CITY OF NOKOMIS, VILLAGE OF FILLMORE, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Owners/Parties Interested, Cert Number, Street Or Common Address. Lists various parcels and their owners.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON OCTOBER 25, 2021, FOR GENERAL TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2020 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES MAY 13, 2024. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE SAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PARCELS BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON JUNE 10, 2024 AT 10:00 AM [COURTROOM TBD], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE MAY 13, 2024, IS/ MONTGOMERY COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: #1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, HILLSBORO, IL 62449 TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530

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23 BUICK ENVISION M196, AWD, Avenir, SAPHIRE RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$44,375	24 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS N130, FWD, 4 dr., FOUNTAIN BLUE RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$26,075	24 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500HD N129, crew cab, 4WD, STERLING GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$90,000	23 BUICK ENVISION AVENIR M200, AWD, 4 dr., MOONSTONE GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$46,335	23 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE 1LZ M201, AWD, STERLING GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$52,465
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24 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD N104, crew cab, Duramax, dark ash RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$71,255	23 CHEVROLET EQUINOX RS M190, FWD, BLUE GLOW METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$33,325	24 CHEVY EQUINOX LT N116, FWD, STERLING GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$31,065	23 BUICK ENVISION ESSENCE M199, AWD, 4 dr., cinnabar metallic RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$40,940
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23 BUICK ENVISION AVENIR M193, AWD, CINNABAR METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$44,180	24 BUICK ENCLAVE ESSENCE N112, AWD, EMPEROR BLUE METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$52,000	24 BUICK ENCORE GX SPORT TOURING N123, AWD, SUMMIT WHITE RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$28,695	24 BUICK ENCORE GX SPORT TOURING N124, AWD, MOONSTONE GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$30,685	23 BUICK ENVISION AVENIR M195, AWD, SAPHIRE METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... \$44,375
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22 JEEP COMPASS HIGH ALTITUDE Y7187 4x4, ONLY 3K MILES \$31,815	22 RAM 2500 LARAMIE M174A 4x4, CREW CAB, 25K MILES \$61,900	21 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 TRAIL BOSS Y7270 CREW CAB, SHORT BOX, 4WD, LT \$46,900	20 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT Y7257 AWD, 19,221 MILES \$23,900	22 GMC SIERRA 1500 LIMITED Y7281 CREW CAB, SHORT BOX, 4WD 24K MILES..... CONTACT US
20 BUICK ENVISION ESSENCE Y7267 FWD, 4 DR., 15K MILES \$27,900	21 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LTZ Y7271 CREW CAB, SHORT BOX, 4WD, 32,286 MILES \$46,900	22 CHEVY COLORADO Z71 Y7198 CREW CAB, 4WD, 11K MILES \$39,900	19 NISSAN TITAN SV M179A 4x4, CREW CAB, 21,619 MILES \$32,900	22 CHEVROLET EQUINOX RS Y7277 AWD, 4 DR., 1,241 MILES..... CONTACT US
22 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD LTZ Y7228 CREW CAB, 4WD, ONLY 3K MILES..... \$69,967	22 CHEVROLET COLORADO Y7260 CREW CAB, 4WD W/T, 10K MILES \$33,900	22 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD LTZ Y7213 4WD, CREW CAB, 14K MILES \$67,144	15 AUDI Q5 PREMIUM PLUS Y7200B QUATTRO, 79K MILES \$16,900	20 CHEVROLET BOLT EV PREMIER Y7263 5 dr. wagon, only 6K MILES \$19,900
22 CHEVY SILVERADO 3500HD LT Y7215 CREW CAB, 4WD, 27K MILES \$59,900	21 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD LTZ Y7229 CREW CAB, 4WD, ONLY 5K MILES \$68,689	22 CHEVY EQUINOX LT Y7253 FWD, 14K MILES \$26,900	21 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT Y7278 4WD, 4 DR., 19,180 MILES Contact Us	20 CHEVY EQUINOX LS Y7194 FWD, 18K MILES \$22,900
20 CHEVY EQUINOX PREMIER Y7242 FWD, 19K MILES \$26,900	21 CHEVY EQUINOX LT Y7203 FWD, ONLY 6K MILES \$25,910	20 GMC TERRAIN SLT Y7217 FWD, ONLY 9K MILES \$27,839	22 CHEVY TAHOE Z71 Y7230 4WD, DARK ASH METALLIC, ONLY 8K MILES \$68,900	23 CHEVROLET MALIBU RS Y7268 4,440 MILES, STERLING GRAY METALLIC \$25,753
21 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L Y7166 FWD, GRANITE CRYSTAL, 64K MILES \$28,720	19 GMC CANYON SLE Y7262 4WD, 38K MILES \$30,900	18 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED Y7256 SPORT, 4x4, 25K MILES \$32,900	23 GMC ACADIA SLT Y7223 AWD, 22K MILES \$35,900	23 GMC TERRAIN SLT Y7264 AWD, 4 DR., STERLING METALLIC, 9K MILES \$30,900
23 GMC TERRAIN SLT Y7219 AWD, 11K MILES \$32,900	16 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED Y7232A SPORT, 4WD, 56K MILES \$29,500	21 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE 1LT Y7282 4x4, SATIN STEEL METALLIC, 15K MILES CONTACT US	19 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE N113A 4x4, REDLINE PEARL COAT, 92K MILES \$17,900	20 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED Y7191 WILLYS, 4x4, BLACK CLEAR COAT, 9K MILES \$39,900

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FOR

THE PEOPLE

January

Jan. 1 - Bryson Lee Harshani-Bayne was born to Haley and Michael Harshani of Litchfield at 9:09 a.m., making him the winner of *The Journal-News* First Baby of the Year contest.

Jan. 1 - With temperatures in the 50s, approximately 60 local residents attended the annual New Year's Day hike at Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro.

Jan. 3 - Hillsboro Public Library celebrated the one-year anniversary of operating out of the building located at 420 S. Main Street in downtown Hillsboro.

Jan. 4 - Sydney Budd, owner of Rise and Grind Coffee Co. offered her menu to local customers in drive-thru fashion in a trailer parked outside of her business' new home, the former Coffee Xpresso building.

Jan. 9 - The Hillsboro Area Hospital Board of Directors appointed Michael Alexander, FACHE, as interim CEO.

Jan. 12 - Longtime Litchfield resident Dr. D. Ross Billiter, presented \$100,000 to the Litchfield Student Education Foundation. Half of the money will be used for \$500 gift cards for teachers to spend in their classrooms while the other half will be used on projects at Litchfield High School and the under-construction Litchfield Elementary School.

Jan. 18 - Investigators worked into the night trying to determine the source of a substance that caused mass overdose-like symptoms at Graham Correctional Center in Hillsboro. Victims were transported to Hillsboro Area Hospital (who treated eight patients), St. Francis Hos-

pital in Litchfield, Fayette County Hospital in Vandalia and Holy Family Hospital in Greenville.

Jan. 21 - After 14 years of serving veterans and their families, Dave Strowmatt retired as Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission, passing the torch on to Cassandra Hampton.

Jan. 22 - Four days of festivities taking place in Springfield for the 2023 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen pageant ended. Madalynn Kraus of Farmersville competed with 71 other county fair queens from Illinois at the event.

Jan. 23 - Moose International officially closed the Hillsboro Moose Lodge, citing non-compliance with Moose guidelines.

Jan. 27 - Although it was postponed one day due to a snow day, kindergarten students at Beckemeyer Elementary School celebrated 100 days of school. To celebrate, the students dressed like they were 100 years old, spelled out 1-0-0 in the school gym and had a dance party, as well as other activities.

February

Feb. 4 - Glenda Decker of Nokomis, who serves as the lead semi driver for Knodle, Ltd. Farms in Fillmore, was honored by the Midwest Truckers Association at their annual awards banquet in Peoria. Decker received first place in the Safe and Courteous Driver Class 3 trucking division and received a custom embroidered Carhart coat, a plaque and a monetary reward.

Feb. 5 - The First Presbyterian Church of Witt members and Presbytery made

a decision to dissolve the church. The church was first organized in April of 1875.

Feb. 7 - The Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild voted to participate in the "Wrap Ukraine With Quilts" project. The goal of the project is to continuously create quilts to be sent to Ukraine to help residents stay warm as the conflict with Russia continues.

Feb. 8 - The Hillsboro Moose lodge closed permanently during a meeting of local members and Moose International officials after failing to get five members to fill board officer positions.

Feb. 11 - The Hillsboro Area Health Foundation's annual gala fundraiser brought in more than \$65,000 to support programs and services at Hillsboro Area Hospital, as well as provide medical scholarships for a variety of positions at the hospital. Around 300 people attended the event, which featured raffles, a silent and live auction, a fire dance performance, dinner and dancing. The fundraiser was held at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs.

Feb. 16 - Litchfield High School boys basketball players held their last home game of the season in Simmons Gym. 2023's final game included a special presentation in memory of Faith Hartzell, who would have been a senior at LHS in the fall of 2023. Hartzell passed away in 2015 at nine years old from complications due to cancer. A special dance was performed by the cheerleaders at halftime of the varsity game, along with members of the student section and her sister, Sicily Lamb.

Feb. 16 - Litchfield wrestler Alex Powell earned his second consecutive sixth place finish in the IHSA State



It was a beautiful winter day, and with temperatures in the 50s, approximately 60 local residents attended the annual New Year's Day hike at Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro. Participants ranged in age from two to 88, and could choose from two hikes. Pictured above, from the left, Grove, Redman and Sloan Tuetken spot a red-headed woodpecker flying amongst the trees.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

Finals in Champaign.

Feb. 17 - For the 12th time in the program's history, the Hillsboro High School girls basketball team beat Pittsfield 56-39 at the Pittsfield Regional to become regional champions.

Feb. 18 - Merchants celebrated Mardi Gras with the first #ShopHillsboro event of the year. In addition to the opportunity to visit stores throughout town and take advantage of fun Mardi Gras promotions, the line was long outside the Q-1-7 food truck on Wood Street. Participating businesses from Frida's Tacos and 3 Fern Hill to the south to Lomas Del Sol to the north were Alpha Candles, Sage on Sage, Black Rabbit Coffee and The Dressing Room.

Feb. 27 - Dan Donbrinich, a Montgomery County Native and an advocate for

youth hunting and fishing, was named the Illinois Recreational Access Program Landowner of the Year.

March

March - Members of the Waggoner Centennial Players presented "This Old House" for several performances.

March 4 - The BRS Baseball Museum in Nokomis held its annual Chili Warm-Up, where visitors were immersed in baseball nostalgia, watched a replay of Nokomis native Reid Detmers' no-hitter against Tampa Bay on May 10, 2022 and took part in the 15th annual BRS Home Run 50/50 contest.

March 4/5 - Many girls gathered at My Formals in

Litchfield to be assisted by renowned designer Johnathan Kayne in choosing the perfect prom dress. Every year, Kayne visits retailers across the country in an effort to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

March 9 - Governor J.B. Pritzker and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced the recipients of Energy Transition Community Grants, to help communities impacted by the closing of fossil fuel plants or coal mines. Local areas included Hillsboro School District (\$4,170,803) and Montgomery County (\$2,267,334). Also receiving grants were the City of Hillsboro, Mt. Olive School District, Nokomis Community Unit School District, the Village of Butler and the Village of Schram City.

John Winans, CFP® | Private Wealth Advisor
Jimmy Gorowski, CFS®, BFA™ | Financial Advisor
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March 12 - Logan Farrar, son of Laura and Roy Farrar of Waggoner, received his Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in scouting.

March 14 - After 37 years of practicing Illinois law, Circuit Judge James "Jim" Roberts officially hung up his judicial gown and put down his gavel, retiring from the 4th Judicial Circuit and serving his last day on the bench. His actual final day as judge was March 31.

March 18 - The first Lake Lou Car and Truck Show was held in the parking lots at Lake Lou Yeager. The event was organized in memory of Spencer Hughes, a Montgomery County native and car/truck enthusiast who passed away due to complications related to Williams Syndrome, a genetic condition.

March 25 - At his 100th birthday party, Kenny Wil-

liams of Hillsboro was awarded a Quilt of Valor for his service in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict. The Quilts of Valor Foundation was started in 2003 and has the mission of using quilts to thank active servicemen and women, as well as veterans, for their service.

March 25 - The dance floor was full as more than 200 attended the 2023 Imagine Hillsboro Father-Daughter Princess Ball at the Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs. The dance, hosted by the Imagine Hillsboro Snow Royalty, had young princesses dress in their finest attire, pose for photos and enjoy balloon animals, candy treats and an evening of dancing to some of their favorite songs.

March 25 - The Shoal Creek Fire Protection Dis-

trict hosted their annual awards banquet. Special recognition awards were given to Dan Revell and Tyler Tarran, while Captain Calab Daniken was awarded with firefighter of the year. Vice President Brett Kunkel was given the Lifetime Achievement award for reaching a 50 year milestone of being in the fire service.

March 26 - Flossie Pierce celebrated her 105th birthday. Pierce says "The secret to a long life is to keep moving. And having a little fun while you are doing it doesn't hurt." She attributes reaching her centenarian years to having an active lifestyle, particularly her love of dancing.

March 27 - A Litchfield man was killed after being struck by a train. Billy J. Mallow, 59, of Litchfield, was pronounced dead by the Montgomery County Coroner's office shortly after the incident occurred at the east set of railroad tracks crossing Sargent Street in Litchfield.

March 29 - Litchfield High School musical cast members presented two special previews of their 2023 show, *Seussical: The Musical*, to elementary school students throughout the district, in Simmons Gym. The show would run throughout that weekend.

March 31 - The Lincolnwood High School production of *The Little Mermaid* opened and ran throughout the weekend.

March 31 - Litchfield Chamber of Commerce held its 75th annual awards banquet. 2023's award winners were Cody and Jennifer Gudgel (Rising Star), Larry and Wyatt Pence (Business of the Year), Pastor Jon Magnuson (Citizen of the Year) and Penny Niemann (Educator of

the Year).

April

April 1 - The previous donation record for Stamp Out Cancer's celebrity lip-synch battle event was broken twice. Team Go Hard or Go Homa (Katie Homa and Dylan Richter) took first place, raising more than \$54,000. Team O'Kink (Brandy O'Malley and Drew Kinke-laar) raised over \$50,000 and Team Pizza and Beer (Joyce Schoen and Lacy Glover) raised over \$13,000. The total amount raised during the event was \$117,617.14.

April 1 - Kendra Wright of the Christiana Tillson chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution revealed the winners of the 2022-2023 DAR Good Citizen Awards. Winners were Sierra Compton of Hillsboro High School, Justine Seelbach of Lincolnwood High School, Staley Schoen of Mt. Olive High School, Mason Morris of Nokomis High School and Laura Boston of Litchfield High School.

April 4 - Voters selected their next school board, city and village, park and library and other representatives during the consolidated election.

April 6 - Earl Flack, president of McKay NAPA Auto Parts, was awarded 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Kaskaskia College Foundation Teachers and Coaches Entrepreneurship Program.

April 13 - Mike Alexander was named CEO of Hillsboro Area Hospital after serving as the interim CEO since January, 2023, replacing longtime CEO Rex Brown

after his December, 2022 retirement.

April 15 - Nokomis defeated Litchfield to earn their fifth county title in baseball since 2013 with a 5-0 victory.

April 15 - Nokomis Christian Missions celebrated its 25th anniversary of serving its local, as well as surrounding, communities. A special Open House/ Customer Appreciation Day was held and featured special sales and drawings for gift certificates, and refreshments. What was once known as the Nokomis Community Closet first opened in January 1998.

April 16 - An open house was held at the Taylor Springs Community Center where board members officially proclaimed April 15, Edmund Pesko's Birthday, as "Edmund Pesko Day", as a means to celebrate the life and legacy of Edmund Pesko, a lifelong Taylor Springs resident who took many pictures of the village throughout his life, as well as serving as a volunteer firefighter and treasurer for the village. He also ran the taxicab service, "Ed's Cabs" for 30 years.

April 17 - Hillsboro runner Laura Lessman completed the Boston Marathon for the second year in a row finishing in three hours and 27 minutes.

April 20 - The Hillsboro High School operetta, *Mamma Mia!* opened and lasted throughout the weekend with four showings.

April 22 - The members of the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville baseball team faced Breese Central at Busch Stadium, home of the St. Louis Cardinals. Breese Central took an 11-2 victory for the game.

April 24 - The Litchfield Chamber of Commerce held a

special ribbon cutting at the Sky View Drive-In in Litchfield to mark the changing of ownership and a new chapter for the historic theater, which first opened in the spring of 1950.

April 27 - Jim and Kelly Hewitt announced that they had taken ownership of the former Moose Lodge in downtown Hillsboro. They announced the building would reopen as "The Lodge on Main," and be an extension of "The Abbey on Broad."

April 29 - Emily Cress and Joey Barker were crowned as Nokomis High School's 2023 Prom Queen and King. April 30 - Hillsboro Rotary Club #1459 celebrated its centenary anniversary throughout the month of April, with festivities concluding with a dinner party at The Abbey on Broad. The club was established on April 9, 1923 and officially granted charter #1459 on April 23, 2023.

May

May 1 - Joseph Rudis of Hillsboro has spent two three-month stints defending Ukraine as part of the International Legion of Ukraine, and prepared to return after spending a month back home. Upon volunteering, Rudis hoped to do humanitarian work or help with a technology-oriented aspect of the conflict, but instead was put in the infantry.

May 1 - A 72-vehicle accident occurred on Interstate 55, due to low visibility caused by blowing dust. The accident led to 8 deaths, 7 of which occurred on the day of the accident, and many injuries



The dance floor was full as more than 200 attended this year's Imagine Hillsboro Father-Daughter Princess Ball at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs on Saturday evening, March 25. Pictured above, Nora Fuller is all smiles dancing with her dad, Michael Fuller of Hillsboro to "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from Disney's Encanto.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman

Happy New Year!

We'd like to chime in with our best wishes for a festive holiday with friends and family

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Hillsboro High School seniors got a send-off in style as they visited Beckemeyer Elementary School and Hillsboro Junior High School for a graduation walk on Wednesday morning, May 17. At Beckemeyer, many of the students made congratulations signs to show the graduates as they walked around the Lincoln Trail in their caps and gowns. Pictured above, HHS senior Layne Rupert has a high five for some young students. Also pictured are seniors Isabella White and Adyson McCammack.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

May 6 - Hillsboro High School seniors Levi Arkebauer and Sierra Compton were crowned 2023 Prom King and Queen at the Hollywood-themed dance held in the HHS Gym.

May 6 - Jasmine Vickery and Matt Barker were crowned queen and king of the Lincolnwood High School prom held with an "Under the Stars" theme in Raymond.

May 6 - Litchfield High School seniors Blair Johnson and Gavin Thimsen were crowned 2023 LHS Prom Queen and King. The dance was held at the Unit Office with a Masquerade theme.

May 9 - Chad Rupert of Witt was appointed to the Montgomery County Board. Rupert fills the vacancy left

when board member Gene Miles passed away on April 19, 2023.

May 11 - The Litchfield girls track team became back to back sectional champions at the Class 1A sectional in Carlinville, the first time the achievement had been earned since 2009. Litchfield beat North Mac by 59 points, 94-35, as well as earn seven qualifying spots for the IHSA State Finals.

May 12 - The Hillsboro High School soccer team defeated Litchfield 9-1 to win the regional championship in Greenville.

May 12 - Montgomery County Treasurer Nikki Lohman was voted Illinois County Treasurer's Association 2023 Zone Two Treas-

urer of the Year during the Illinois Association of County Officials spring conference in Springfield.

May 13 - The lower parking lot at Hillsboro High School was bathed in sunshine and buzzing with activity for a Mental Health Awareness Fair sponsored by the Montgomery County Health Department in support of Mental Health Awareness Month. In addition to a dozen information-packed booths hosted by various health department services and Cross Over Ministries, there were also plenty of activities and snacks. Activities included balloon animals crafted by Mys Jill and Professor Longhair as well as bags and obstacle courses in which participants would wear goggles that simulate being under the effects of various drugs.

May 15 - More than 600 students and staff from the Nokomis School District filled the Nokomis High School gym for a surprise assembly where they learned both Nokomis North Elementary Junior/Senior High School were selected as National

Showcase Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. There were a total of 630 schools selected across the country, meaning Nokomis was recognized in the top six percent of the country. They were also one of only 11 school districts to be recognized as an entire district.

May 17 - The Hillsboro Breakfast Sertoma Club held their Service to Mankind Award dinner and 50th anniversary celebration at the Hillsboro Lions Club building. Hillsboro High School graduates Summer Smith and Aurelie Granito each earned a \$2000 scholarship while Bruce and Nancy Redman of Bremer Sanctuary earned the Service to Mankind Award.

May 19 - The Litchfield High School class of 2023 had their graduation ceremony, with Hailey Rentz and Laura Boston selected as class speakers for the ceremony by their peers.

May 19 - Valedictorian Justine Seelbach and salutatorian Jasmine Vickery addressed their Lincolnwood High School classmates during commencement exercises.

May 20 - Litchfield junior Kendall Stewart finished second in the 300 meter hurdles at the IHSA Class 1A State Finals in Charleston. She ran a personal best time of 45.25.

May 20 - Nokomis junior Irene Vandenberg made NHS history, according to IHSA records. Vandenberg placed eighth in the triple jump, earning a medal at the IHSA State Finals in Charleston. Alongside 2023 being Nokomis' first year competing in track since the 1980s, it was also Vandenberg's first year at the school after moving to Montgomery County from Greece with her family. Vandenberg jumped a personal best 10.5 to take the medal.

May 20 - Hillsboro eighth grader Jaida Linn cleared 5'1" and beat Beardstown's Jenny Bongo in a jump-off to claim the state championship in the event at the IESA State Finals in East Peoria.

May 20 - The Litchfield Middle School boys track team earned five state medals

at the IESA State Finals in East Peoria. Ryker Witt, Jalen Stewart, Andrew Boston and Jaxon Ray earned the medals in the 4x200 relay, placing second and the 4x400 relay, placing second and beating the previous school record the team ran at sectionals. Jaxon Ray finished sixth in the 200 and eighth in the 100, while Ryker Witt and Jaylen Stewart placed 8th and 12th in the 400.

May 20 - The Litchfield Middle School girls track team won medals in five events at the IESA State Finals in East Peoria. The seventh grade 4x200 relay team of Emma Weidner, Lydia Gruelle, Kilee Hoover and Jada Carroll placed first, while Amari Vickery placed second in the 400 and 800. The eighth grade 4x200 team of Gabbie Jarden, Leighton Warchol, Lana Cress and Vickery placed third in the event.

May 25 - Litchfield High School's boys track program brought home two state medals from the IHSA Class 1A State Finals in Charleston. Keenan Powell placed third in the triple jump with 13.43 meters, which broke the school record as well. Camden Quarton broke his own school record and placed sixth in the 3200 meter competition with a time of 9:42.3.

May 25 - Hillsboro's Brayden Fowler, Tanner Clayton and Blaze Helton all earned a trip to the IHSA Class 1A State Finals track meet in Charleston. Fowler ran a 16.56 to finish 26th in the 110m hurdles while Clayton cleared 3.65 meters, but couldn't manage to clear the 3.8 meter cut on that particular day. Helton placed 23rd in the shot put, throwing 12.91 meters.

May 26 - Six Hiltoppers took top honors and led the class of 2023 during the commencement ceremony held at the Hillsboro High School Gym. Emilee Romelin earned the honor of salutatorian while valedictorian honors were earned by Kamryn Kiper, Kyle Butler, Alexander Sticha, Alexandra Kuhns and Sally Mattson.

May 26 - Nokomis Salutatorian Natalie Engelman,

Valedictorian Emily Cress and Honor Student Hailey Engelman addressed their classmates during the class of 2023 graduation commencement ceremony at Nokomis High School.

May 31 - Nokomis Public Library Director Debby Lehman retired from her position after 33 years of service. Lisa Casterline stepped into the role on June 1.

June

June 1 - Nokomis State Farm Agent Tim Huber officially retired from the insurance agency, ending a 95 year-old legacy of the Huber family's impact on State Farm.

June 3 - Al and Mary Ann Rimini were honored as Citizens of the Year in Farmersville as part of the Irish Days celebration. The couple is involved in multiple community efforts such as the Waggoner Centennial Players and the Farmersville Knights of Columbus.

June 3 - The Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center celebrated its 10-year anniversary with an open house. Along with the museum's interior, there were first responder vehicles from the Litchfield fire and police departments, Illinois State Police and Arch Air Medical Services, alongside food from A&G's Kookin' Kitchen. Special merchandise, giveaways, door prizes, a scavenger hunt and many other snacks and activities were also on-site.

June 3 - Sheffield Stimac was crowned as 2023 Little Mister Irish Days and Maylee Hampton was crowned as 2023 Little Miss Irish Days on June 1, two days before Arya Stimac was crowned as the first-ever Junior Miss Irish Days and Kamryn Russell was crowned as 2023 Miss Irish Days.

June 6 - Steve and Patty Beal of Waggoner, along with their dog, Stymie, opened the doors to their M&M museum for the first time, welcoming a fellow M&M collector from Australia to view their collection.

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June 8 - *Journal-News* owner John M. Galer won the James C. Craven Freedom of the Press Award during culminating ceremonies at the Illinois Press Association annual convention in Bloomington.

June 12 - Surrounded by family and friends, Betty Darda of Hillsboro celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at Montgomery County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hillsboro.

June 12 - After nearly three decades of service as Schram City Village Treasurer, Lois Guinn entered retirement, while her granddaughter, Courtney Guinn will take her place.

June 15 - A 750-pound, seven-foot-wide and ten-foot-tall monarch butterfly sculpture was installed to welcome travelers to the Route 66 Prairie on Interstate 55, just north of Litchfield. The installation of the statue was a project five years in the making.

June 21 - Alexis Lessman of Hillsboro was named 2023 Miss Montgomery County Fair Queen during the opening day of the 37th Montgomery County Fair in Butler. 2023 Junior Miss Montgomery County Nataleigh Jackson of Hillsboro and 2023 Little Miss Montgomery County Fair Karsyn Jones of Hillsboro were also

crowned that night.

June 24 - Montgomery County Cancer Association held its Birthday Party and Celebration of Life at the Event Center in Taylor Springs. The honorary chairman for 2023 was ten-year-old cancer survivor Isabel McLaughlin of Hillsboro. At the end of the event, the total board had read over \$293,000 had been raised over the past year, with a final total not known at the time.

June 24 - Community Members celebrated Hillsboro's bicentennial year with a 200th Birthday Party at Central Park. The event, hosted by Imagine Hillsboro and sponsored by Lincoln Land Community College, offered residents a chance to check out the Reinventing Central Park Committee's renovation of the public space, as well as enjoy a picnic lunch, food trucks, new playground equipment, bounce houses and frisbees.

June 25 - The Montgomery County Fair honored longtime volunteers before the first of the truck and tractor pulls. An expanded grandstand near the pull site was dedicated to Dallas Steward, Don Walker and Bernie Leitschuh, while a new bench, which converts into a table, was dedicated to Fred Pezold. Everyone honored had dedicated many

hours to the fair and especially the truck and tractor pull event.

June 30 - The Illinois Department of Transportation held a ceremony where they announced the District 6 Headquarters at 3215 Executive Drive in Springfield has been named in honor of the late longtime employee and former Director of Highways James L. Easterly. Easterly worked for the Department of Transportation right out of High School until his retirement in 2003.

July

July 2 - The first annual "Wing'd Rider Rally" was held at Niehaus Cycle Sales in Litchfield. The event, which started on June 29 and lasted throughout the weekend, drew over 1000 motorcycle riders and raised over \$2,800 for charity while offering a trade show, adventure rides and many other activities.

July 7 - The Nokomis Royalty of 2023 was crowned. Mila Heldebrandt was named 2023 Junior Miss. Aubrey Sabol was named 2023 Miss Nokomis. Autumn Kitchens was named 2023 Little Miss and Keagan Scoles was named 2023 Little Mister.

July 8 - Santa's Helper Donald Baxter, greeted children of all ages in the 2023 Nokomis Homecoming Parade through Downtown Nokomis.

The theme of the parade was "Road Trip" and Santa's entry as "World Traveler" earned him second place in the Local Adult division.

July 15 - The Imagine Hillsboro Cardboard Boat Regatta was held, with Lili Cruzin and Sophie Jacoby of Edwardsville paddling the fastest in their boat, Super Slayers, while also lasting the longest on the water. Other awards include "Most Creative" going to Ariel Isbill and Mallory Robinette's Boo Boo Boat and "Titanic" for the most spectacular sinking going to Captain Hudson Walker's boat, Vitamin Sea.

July 16 - The two-day festivities of the annual Old

Tyme Tractor Show came to a close after returning to Lake Hillsboro. The event featured a variety of tractor and lawn and garden tractor games, a kids pedal tractor pull, kids' pedal races, tractor train rides, food trucks and more.

July 16 - With a line half-way down the block, The Sweet Spot held its grand opening on Main Street in downtown Hillsboro. In addition to a huge selection of candy, the store offers specialty chocolates, ice cream, craft soda, gift ideas, a monthly membership program and more.

July 17 - Longtime friends Harold Green and Kenny Williams will co-lead the 2023 Old Settlers Days parade. The two friends attended Hillsboro High School together, graduating with the class of 1942.

July 20 - In the month of July, Hope for Hendrix, established in honor of Hendrix and Lakota Porter, grandsons of Helen Saxby of Litchfield, donated \$50,000 to The Heller Center for Kids with Cancer in Peoria. Funds for the donation had been raised over a three-year period through the Hope for Hendrix golf outings.

July 20 - Boston Chapel Christian Church in Girard is celebrating its 150th anniversary, being founded on Feb. 2, 1873, with a church building being dedicated in 1874.

July 27 - The Nokomis Library starts a new chapter after moving to its new location and incorporating a variety of improvements such as renovated children's shelves and expanded collections of not only books. Other forms of entertainment include as DVDs, audiobooks, CDs or cassette tapes.

July 27 - Volunteers went to work setting up poles to light the high school soccer field at the Hillsboro Sports Complex, one of the final stages of an over 10-year project that was made a reality by \$80,000 in fundraising and donations from the community.

July 28 - The "Spark! Places of Innovation" exhibit, a part of the Smithsonian Institute and Illinois Hu-

manities' "Museum on Main Street" program, opened to a packed house during a launch party co-hosted by Imagine Hillsboro and Hillsboro Public Library on Friday night, July 28.

July 28 - Madison Hollo of Hillsboro won the 51st annual Bull Frog Jumping Contest with a jump of 20'11" during Morrisonville's Homecoming and Picnic. Second place went to Lester Clayton of Irving as well as Jeff Budd and Jan Volentine, both of Litchfield, with jumps of 17'5".

July 29 - Kendall Stewart of Litchfield was crowned 2023 Miss Litchfield Chamber of Commerce and Miss Congeniality by retiring Miss Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Alyssa Lohman during the annual pageant held in Simmons Gym at Litchfield High School. Other members of her court include 2023 Little Miss Chamber of Commerce Tilly Ferguson and 2023 Junior Miss Adelyn Winans.

July 30 - The Haven Home of Hope was opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house.

The home, operated by Cross Over Ministries, began serving those with mental health or substance crisis "through Biblical principals of compassion, empathy and authenticity" the following day.

August

Aug. 5 - Following the annual Old Settlers Pageant held at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs, five new faces started their year of representing the Hillsboro community. Jonah Niehaus was crowned 2023 Old Settlers Tiny Toddler. Jackson Craig was crowned 2023 Little Mister Old Settlers.

Rylan Wright was crowned 2023 Old Settlers Beautiful Baby. Avery Robinson was crowned 2023 Junior Miss Old Settlers, and Arvee Meyer was named 2023 Little Miss Old Settlers.

Aug. 9 - Hillsboro High School sophomore Jenna

Durbin was crowned 2023 Old Settlers Queen at The Lodge on Main in downtown Hillsboro. The coronation was held inside due to inclement weather and the Queen's parade was cancelled. Durbin is the first Old Settlers Queen to have also served as Little Miss Old Settlers and Junior Miss Old Settlers.

Aug. 9 - The annual Old Settlers Art Show opened once again in the basement of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Best of Show awards went to Jo Hutson of Vandalia, Marvin Thomas of Taylorville, Mette Lee of Hillsboro and Lilly Jeffers of Hillsboro.

Aug. 11 - The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office said goodbye to a veteran dispatcher with a reception at Half Time Bar and Grill in Hillsboro. Telecommunicator Mary Shipman began as a 911 dispatcher in 1996-the early days of the 911 service in Montgomery County.

Aug. 12 - Gregory M. Bierman, 62, of Raymond, was pronounced dead at the scene where a plane, built by Bierman, had crashed into a tree line near a bean field just southwest of Virden.

Aug. 12 - Descendants of Valentine Beeler were recognized at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, as his Raymond farm was honored as a Centennial Farm.

Aug. 14 - Members of the Schram City Village board officially dedicated the property on Broadway and Washington as Washington Park.

Aug. 21 - Laura Naugle of Carlinville started as the library director at Hillsboro Area Public Library in the month of August, 2023.

Aug. 25 - Extreme weather posed challenges for many Montgomery County football teams, with mid-80s temperatures in Arcola during their game against Nokomis, which would later be postponed due to a thunderstorm, as well as torrential rain interfering with the Litchfield/Carlinville bout.

Litchfield and Nokomis both fell to their opponents, 35-14 and 34-16 respectively, while Hillsboro managed to take a 31-6 win over North Mac.



Surrounded by family and friends, Betty Darda of Hillsboro celebrated her 100th birthday on Monday, June 12, with a party at Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hillsboro. From the left are great-nephew Sam Darda of Montana, Betty Darda, nephew Dave Darda of Washington and great-nephew Joe Darda of Michigan. *Journal-News Photo*

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Aug. 28 - After 42 years at the Hillsboro Springfield-East Clinic, Dr. Doug Byers, MD is calling it a career.

Aug. 28 - After 44 1/2 years serving her community, Nurse Cathy Adams is calling it a career as she retires from the Hillsboro Springfield-East Clinic.

Aug. 28 - Illinois Governor JB Pritzker stopped in Litchfield for the grand opening of the South Central Illinois Regional Workforce Training and Innovation Center.

September

Sept. 3 - The village of Panama was again alive with the smell of burning wood and simmering stew during the annual Panama Mulligan.

Sept. 3 - Across the 2023 Witt Labor Day pageants, several smiling faces will represent the Witt community. Colt Porter was named Tiny Mr. Witt, Indi Flowers was named Little Miss Witt, Brynn Connor was named Miss Witt, Kaelin Cress was named Junior Miss Witt and Charleigh Camp was named Tiny Miss Witt.

Sept. 6 - Officials from the village of Butler celebrated the start of construction of a new water tower with a ceremonial ground-breaking. A project that, according to village president Ricky Lane, has been in the works for around five years.

Sept. 7 - Joyce Knodle was inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame after 20 years as a volunteer 4-H leader in Montgomery County.

Sept. 9 - Nine lucky winners split the \$10,000 prize at the 30th annual Taylor Springs Fire Department \$10,000 dance. The winners, taking home \$1,111.11 each, were Tim and Vicky Lipe, Wayne and Tina Jansen, Dottie Corcoran and Robert Stamper, Brooke Lang, Todd and Lora Dean, Wayne Slighthom, Roger Menghini, Becky and Mary Moler-Billo and Mike Gonzalez.

Sept. 9 - The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville volleyball team won the championship

game for the Montgomery County Invitational Grace Tournament, beating Hillsboro 25-19, 23-25 and 25-19. The tournament is held in honor and remembrance of the late Grace Herschelmann, who passed away in 2021 from infantile neuroaxonal dystrophy (INAD.)

Sept. 9 - The 132nd annual Farmers Institute drew 309 entries in a variety of categories. Mike Burdell of Hillsboro had the Grand Champion basket and Genevieve Hill of Nokomis won Grand Champion Quilt and Best Miscellaneous Fancywork.

Sept. 12 - The Hillsboro Junior High School girls softball team earned back-to-back regional championships with a 11-3 win over Gillespie.

Sept. 14 - Three Graham Correctional Center officers, Rodney Stewart, Sergeant John Schaake and Correctional Food Supervisor Patty Rufus, were presented with Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) awards for their actions during the events of Jan. 18, 2023. On that day staff and inmates in one housing unit began experiencing various difficulties, up to and including seizures after believed exposure to a substance that was never officially confirmed.

Sept. 15 - Jesse Carron was named 2023 Mister Muscle and Hadleigh Millburg was named 2023 Little Miss Independence as part of the annual Raymond Celebration.

Sept. 16 - New Raymond Royalty was crowned as part of the annual Raymond Celebration. Kirsten Pope was named 2023 Miss Independence and Paislee Krager was named 2023 Junior Miss Independence.

Sept. 16 - The inaugural Canines and Cars event drew 55 vehicles to Fred B. Johnson Park in Nokomis. The event hosted adoptable animals, fundraising efforts for Montgomery County Animal Control and a car show.

Sept. 17 - Nearly 20 local fire departments and first responders lined the Frontage Road outside Farmersville

on Sunday, Sept. 17, to pay their respects to longtime Farmersville-Waggoner Fire Chief Jeffrey Brown. Ladder trucks from the Raymond, Harvel and Chatham fire departments hoisted a giant American flag at the entrance to St. Martin's Cemetery in Farmersville, which is Brown's final resting place.

Sept. 18 - After a 90 minute game during the Grace Cup finals, the Hillsboro and Lincolnwood soccer teams walked off the field with a tied game, 0-0, after an exhilarating match which resulted in Lincolnwood's Carson Contreras and Hillsboro's Mitchell Lowe receiving MVP honors and a Grace Filled Journey scarf. The tournament was held in honor of the late Grace Herschelmann.

Sept. 19 - Nearly 30 Gold Star Mission bicycle riders arrived at Litchfield High School just after 5 p.m., after the first 110 miles of a 500-mile ride to raise awareness and scholarship funds in the name of fallen military service members.

Sept. 23 - The annual Coffee Fall Fest drew a crowd to Washington Park in Coffee. This year's event was a fundraiser for the proposed Coffeen Veterans memorial, which will be located just across the street from Washington Park. The event featured craft vendors, food, live entertainment, free kids games, a bounce house, a dessert walk and horseshoe pitching and bags tournaments.

Sept. 23 - Tate Dobrinich and Amy Frerichs were crowned king and queen of the Litchfield High School homecoming during a coronation ceremony at Simmons Gym.

Sept. 23 - Lincolnwood High School seniors Ashley Evans and Eldon Brown were crowned 2023 Homecoming Queen and King in the Lincolnwood High School gym in Raymond.

Sept. 23 - Nokomis High School seniors Irene Vandenberg and Brenton Lyons were crowned 2023 Nokomis Homecoming Queen and

King at this year's Homecoming dance, held in the school cafeteria.

Sept. 23 - Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 51, AF and AM, celebrated their 175th anniversary with a re-dedication ceremony. The lodge was originally chartered in 1848.

Sept. 27 - Families from the Prairieland Homeschool Co-op gathered outside the Historic Courthouse in downtown Hillsboro for the annual See You at the Pole event. They joined millions of students from all over the country who prayed that morning around school flagpoles for local students, educators and their communities.

Sept. 30 - Hillsboro High School seniors Kinley Richardson and Ian Anderson were crowned 2023 HHS Homecoming Queen and King during this year's neon-themed Homecoming dance, held in the HHS Gym.

October

Oct. 2 - About 30 women gathered at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church to celebrate the fifteenth birthday of the Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group. Started by the late Alicia Grosenheider in the spring of 2008, the group was designed to support Montgomery County women undergoing treatments for breast cancer.

Oct. 6 - After hosting the South Central Conference tournament, the Hillsboro High School girls tennis team was awarded with a doubles championship and a third place finish in singles. The doubles win came courtesy of Ryder Hoover and Aly Leisure, who went 3-0 on their home court. Aubrey Reincke went 2-1 in the tournament and earned third place honors.

Oct. 7 - The Village of Harvel celebrated its 150th birthday with a day of festivities including an exhibition baseball game, inflatables, a golf cart parade and live music featuring Antics.

Oct. 7 - The Litchfield boys golf team took third at the



Dan Ricketts of St. Louis Sign and Mural Company works on a postcard mural on The Opera House building in downtown Farmersville on Thursday, Oct. 12. The new addition is part of the Route 66 Postcard Mural Trail. Also helping to paint the mural was Mike Meyer. *Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann*

IHSA Class 1A State Finals Golf Tournament held at Prairie Vista Golf Course in Bloomington. Panther Tug Schwab tied for 7th, earning his second state medal of his career.

Oct. 12 - Dale Nowlan of Coffeen Trucking, LLC, retired after 53 years of service. His son, Brian, has been working to help with the hauling company since 1994, and will be now be continuing the family business. Nowlan has also served his community as a member of the volunteer fire department for 51 years, the Olive Hill Cemetery Board, city mayor of Coffeen and commissioner for 44 years.

Oct. 14 - Jeff Sandlin of Waterloo, IA, formerly of Hillsboro, earned an Emmy Award during ceremonies in Minneapolis, MN. Sandlin, the Director/Technical Director at KWLL News 7 in Waterloo, IA, won the Upper Midwest Region Emmy Award for best live newscast director. This was his sixth consecutive nomination for the award.

Oct. 16 - The village of Farmersville became home to a new mural as a part of the Route 66 Postcard Mural Trail, created to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026. Thanks to a tour-

ism grant from the state of Illinois and painters from the St. Louis Sign and Mural company, the mural, located on the Opera House building in downtown Farmersville was completed in less than a week.

Oct. 21 - Five Loaves Food Pantry in Fillmore opened its doors after months of preparations.

Oct. 24 - Former Oklahoma City firefighter Chris Fields spoke with Montgomery County first responders about trauma at the Event Center.

Oct. 25 - A retirement reception was held at the Hillsboro community building to honor the housing authority's Chief Executive Officer, Kelly Moroney, who retired at the end of 2023. Moroney had held the position since 2005.

Oct. 26 - The Nokomis Lady Redskins claimed their first volleyball regional championship since 2007, beating Lincolnwood in three games in Raymond. The scores of the games were 25-18, 18-25, and 25-15.

Oct. 27 - Ownership of the Capri IGA stores in both Hillsboro and Greenville will transfer from Randy and Debbie Vassel to Tyler Morse, who is a 26-year veteran of the grocery business.

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Oct. 28 - Mike Fleming of Litchfield was revealed as the veiled non-profit after the Litchfield Community Partners Halloween Parade. Fleming is the president and CEO of Litchfield National Bank. He has also served on many boards such as library and school, as well as being a member of many organizations like being a Rotarian and a Knight.

Oct. 28 - Litchfield High School senior Camden Querton earned his third shot at state in his career after placing 14th at the Class 1A Decatur St. Theresa Sectional at South Shores Park.

Oct. 28 - The 2023 Litchfield Purple Panthers became the sixth team in the history of the program to make it to the 3A IHSA Playoffs at Olympia High School, where they would fall to the Olympia Spartans, 20-17.

Oct. 28 - After a 5-4 regular season, the Nokomis Redskins made it to their first playoff game against Greenfield-Northwestern, where they would lose, 52-13.

Oct. 30 - The Nokomis Redskins Volleyball team played the Valmeyer Pirates in the sectional semifinal. Nokomis would fall 26-24, 24-26, 25-23.

November

Nov. 2 - Volunteers with the Hillsboro Area Health Foundation raised more than \$20,000 at this year's "It's in the Bag" purse auction. Nearly 200 guests attended the auction at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs.

Nov. 4 - Volunteers from Coats for Kids in Litchfield served 174 youth for 76 local families. The volunteers bought items that would later be brought back to The Next Network in Litchfield, where items were sorted and bagged for pick-up.

Nov. 4 - Hillsboro High School FFA member Ethan Blackburn earned his Ameri-

can Degree, an achievement fewer than one percent of FFA members receive, at the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Nov. 4 - Two Nokomis High School FFA Alumni received one of the highest honors in FFA during the National Convention held in Indianapolis, IN. Cooper Bertolino and Kendall Knodle earned their American Degrees.

Nov. 4 - The Nokomis High School FFA chapter was honored on stage at the National FFA Convention, which was held in Indianapolis, IN for 2023. The chapter was honored as a Three Star Chapter, which is the highest ranking at the national level. Only 29 chapters of 355 in Illinois have received the honor.

Nov. 4 - A project of the Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild, a patriotic Quilt of Valor was given to Nick Bourdouis to thank him for his service.

Nov. 5 - The Illinois Volleyball Coaches Association all-state team was revealed. Local players making the team are first team pick Makenzie Mehochko from Nokomis, second team pick Kierstyn Denney from Lincolnwood, honorable mention selection Addison Glenn of Nokomis and honorable mention selection Morgan Cowdrey of Lincolnwood.

Nov. 8 - A project of the Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild, two patriotic Quilts of Valor were given in surprise presentations ahead of Veterans' Day, as a way of saying thanks. Bob Fuehne and Chris Gutierrez were given theirs at Beckemeyer Elementary School in Hillsboro.

Nov. 11 - Hillsboro held its annual Veterans' Day program. The 2023 program was held at the Hillsboro Veterans Memorial in downtown Hillsboro. The ceremony featured music, speeches, hearing from local veterans and more.

Nov. 15 - The Sweet Shop candy shop and Or-

pheum Theatre of Hillsboro launched a new custom milk chocolate 'Boro Bar' in anticipation of the movie "Wonka." Five golden tickets were distributed in the wrappers of the chocolate, and awarded the winner with a year of free movies at the Orpheum, as well as free candy for a year from The Sweet Spot. Ten silver ticket winners received one free pound of candy and one free movie ticket each.

Nov. 16 - Throughout the week, all four Montgomery County girls basketball teams hit the floor for the first time of the season, with Lincolnwood and Nokomis earning wins in their debuts.

Nov. 18 - Imagine Hillsboro crowned new snow royalty at pageants which were held at Hillsboro Junior High School. Adilyn Milanos was named 2023 Snow Princess, while Clara Armbruster was crowned 2023 Snow Queen and Demi Maass was crowned 2023 Little Miss Snow Princess.

Nov. 20 - After setting school records in rushing yards, touchdowns and points scored, A.J. Sypherd was selected to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 3A all-state team.

Nov. 21 - The Litchfield Community Thanksgiving meal, hosted by the Litchfield Ministerial Alliance was held. Approximately 400 carry-out boxes were loaded with turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce and more by volunteers.

Nov. 23 - The Hillsboro community served nearly 600 meals as part of the 32nd annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, held at The Event Center of Montgomery County. The event also featured holiday music.

Nov. 25 - The Hillsboro community gathered around the tree to ring in the Christmas season with the return of the annual Christmas parade, which took place at 6 p.m. as the finale of the Small Town Christmas activities that had taken place throughout the day.

Nov. 25 - The Village of Farmersville held its 12th annual lighting of its Christmas tree planted in the park



Santa Claus made his long awaited arrival to Nokomis on Saturday, Dec. 8 as part of the weekend's Snowkomis activities. Leading the parade atop a Nokomis fire truck, Saint Nick was just one of many participants in the annual Christmas parade down Main St.

Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

on the square. Other features of the event included crafts, hot chocolate and cookies, a silent auction and a visit from Santa Claus.

Nov. 25 - Since May of 2023, the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce has had Litchfield Native Lauren Plummer in the position of executive director. She provided a holiday gift guide, a Passport to Christmas punch card and a scavenger hunt to bring people into local businesses, helping the City of Litchfield's economic development office as part of Small Business Saturday.

Nov. 25 - The Raymond community held their annual Christmas Mall at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Local businesses treated residents to open house events throughout town with numerous door prizes to be won throughout the day.

Nov. 27 - A donation dance was held in memory of Alicia Grosenheider, one of the founders of the Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support group, who lost her battle to cancer in October 2018. The dance took place at the wedding of her grandson,

Cole and raised \$1,500 for the cause.

December

Dec. 7 - Caitlyn Voyles of Hillsboro, coach of Hillsboro tumbling since 2003, officially bought the Hiltop Elite Academy of Tumbling and Trampoline (HEAT) from Heather Greenwood and Amanda Cunningham in September.

Dec. 8 - The City of Nokomis held its annual Snowkomis event, which featured a visit from Santa Claus, free ice skating courtesy of Camren's Causes, a parade, a live nativity, carriage rides and a tree lighting.

Dec. 9 - The fifth annual T. Todt Shootout Vs. Cancer was held to honor late WSMI personality Terry Todt. Proceeds earned from the basketball tournament benefitted the Montgomery County Cancer Association.

Dec. 13 - Superintendent David Powell and members of the Hillsboro School Board invited the community to a special ground breaking ceremony as construction for the new Hillsboro High School project began.

Dec. 16 - The Litchfield Train Group held their annual model railroad open

house as part of the Litchfield Lighted Christmas celebration. The event, was hosted by Clockwise Financial Services Ameriprise Financial in their downtown Litchfield location and served as a fundraiser for Litchfield High School cheerleaders.

Dec. 16 - Three Montgomery County cemeteries joined more than 4,000 cemeteries nationwide as part of the Wreaths Across America campaign, which serves to remember fallen veterans and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Dec. 19 - The Litchfield School Board hired Dr. Kelly McClain as the new superintendent at their December meeting. A native of Mt. Olive, Dr. McClain will officially begin when current superintendent Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau retires on June 30, 2024.

Dec. 20 - The Calvary Baptist Church in Hillsboro hosted its 36th annual Live Nativity scene, sharing the love of Jesus this Christmas season.

Dec. 31 - Journal-News Publisher Mike Plunkett officially retired from the newspaper business after a 33-year career. Taking the reins will be Mary (Galer) Herschel, who will be the fourth generation of her family to serve as publisher.

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Best Wishes at the New Year
As we wrap up another year, we'd like to send our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous year. We look forward to serving you in the new year.

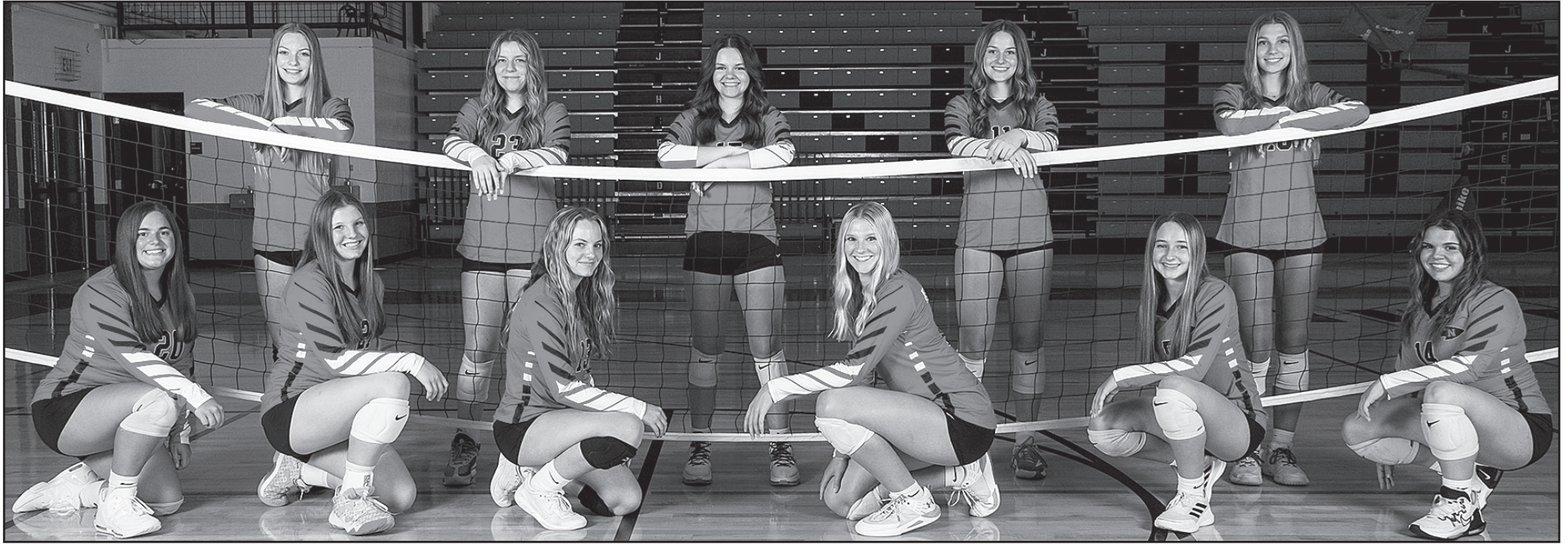
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**2023 FALL
SPORTS WRAP-UP**



2023-24 Nokomis Volleyball

Date....	Opponents	Result/Record
8/22.....	Central A&M.....	25-13, 28-26 (1-0)
8/24.....	at Litchfield	25-21, 22-25, 25-18 (2-0)
8/28.....	St. Elmo/Brownstown	25-18, 25-13 (3-0)
8/29.....	at Gillespie	26-24, 25-14 (4-0)
8/31.....	at Shelbyville	14-25, 13-25 (4-1)
at Altamont Tournament (3-1-1, 2nd)		
9/2	Heritage	21-11, 21-12 (5-1)
9/2	Altamont	21-10, 16-21 (5-1-1)
9/2	Vandalia	21-17, 21-17 (6-1-1)
9/2	Armstrong.....	25-14, 25-8 (7-1-1)
9/2	Cerro Gordo.....	12-25, 25-17, 9-15 (7-2-1)
9/7.....	Macon Meridian	25-12, 25-17 (8-2-1)
at MCI Grace Tournament (4-1, 3rd)		
9/8	St. Elmo/Brownstown	25-19, 25-7 (9-2-1)
9/8	Civic Memorial.....	25-12, 28-30, 15-13 (10-2-1)
9/8	North Mac.....	25-20, 25-23 (11-2-1)
9/9	Hillsboro.....	25-17, 17-25, 12-15 (11-3-1)
9/9	Father McGivney ..	17-25, 25-17, 15-13 (12-3-1)
9/11.....	South County*.....	25-16, 25-16 (13-3-1, 1-0)
9/13.....	at Vandalia	25-11, 25-16 (14-3-1)
9/19.....	at Lutheran*	23-25, 25-21, 25-16 (15-3-1, 2-0)
9/21.....	at Tri-City*	25-21, 25-10 (16-3-1, 3-0)
9/25.....	Hillsboro	25-12, 28-26 (17-3-1)
9/26.....	Lincolnwood*.....	25-15, 18-25, 22-25 (17-4-1, 3-1)
9/28.....	at Mt. Olive*	25-18, 25-19 (18-4-1, 4-1)
10/2.....	at Pawnee*	25-11, 25-13 (19-4-1, 5-1)
10/4.....	Bunker Hill*.....	25-9, 25-17 (20-4-1, 6-1)
10/10....	at Edinburg*	25-19, 25-8 (21-4-1, 7-1)
10/12....	at Mulberry Grove	25-11, 25-8 (22-4-1)
10/16....	Greenfield-Northwestern.....	25-14, 25-13 (23-4-1)
10/17....	Calvary*	25-12, 25-15 (24-4-1, 8-1)
at Pawnee Tournament (3-2, 3rd)		
10/21 ..	Altamont.....	25-10, 25-20 (25-4-1)
10/21 ..	Taylorville.....	25-19, 23-25, 6-10 (25-5-1)
10/21 ..	Tri-City	25-10, 25-20 (26-5-1)
10/21 ..	Mendon Unity.....	25-20, 16-25, 2-10 (26-6-1)
10/21 ..	Macon Meridian.....	25-13, 25-21 (27-6-1)
at IHSA Class 1A Lincolnwood Regional		
10/24....	Sandoval.....	25-4, 25-6 (28-6-1)
10/25....	Christ Our Rock	25-15, 25-7 (29-6-1)
10/26....	Lincolnwood	25-18, 18-25, 25-15 (30-6-1)
at IHSA Class 1A Nokomis Sectional		
10/30....	Valmeyer.....	24-26, 26-24, 23-25 (30-7-1)

Nokomis High School Varsity Volleyball

Members of the 2023 Nokomis High School varsity volleyball team, in front, from the left are Maddison DeWerff, Kinley Stolte, Presley Mehochko, Reagan Jonas, Camryn Engelman and Grace King. Standing in back are Natalie Brownback, Lizzy Hill, Becca Hill, Mackenzie Mehochko and Addison Glenn.

James Ryan/Noko Photo

2023 Nokomis High School Volleyball Statistics

Name	Serving		Attack		Defense	
	Aces	Points	Assists	Kills	Blocks	Digs
Camryn Engelman	2	4	7	72	13	34
Natalie Brownback	0	2	1	42	5	29
Addison Glenn	0	0	4	282	75	32
Mackenzie Mehochko	63	155	17	334	29	407
Presley Mehochko	32	128	12	6	0	137
Grace King	35	228	7	1	0	170
Rebecca Hill	59	200	308	73	36	125
Reagan Jonas	0	0	5	55	72	41
Maddison DeWerff	1	7	0	1	0	23
Kinley Stolte	52	250	495	84	29	259
Elizabeth Hill	52	179	6	3	0	210
Remi Tester	0	3	0	5	1	1
Totals	296	1156	862	958	179	1468

Record: 30 wins, 7 losses, 1 ties MSM: 8 wins, 1 losses (1st)

Nokomis High School JV Volleyball

Members of the 2023 Nokomis High School junior varsity volleyball team, in front, from the left are Libby Watson, Maddison DeWerff, Ella Huelson and Kennadie Johannsen. In back are Camryn Engelman, Remi Tester, Fallon Knodle, Alivia Sabol and Cloey Dirks .

James Ryan/Noko Photo





Nokomis High School Varsity Football

Members of the 2023 Nokomis High School varsity football team, in front, from the left are Daryl Evans, Noah Simonton, Nolan Herpstreith, Levi German, Bruno Fox, Kadynn Petty, Riley Reynolds, Riley Steele, Garrett Engelman, Saint Newman and Dolan Harrison. In back are Skylar Pavolko, Jensen Masten, Casen Varner, Connor Wilson, Drake Taylor, Kaeden Loafman, Atticus Bertolino, Brenton Lyons, Ryan Quinn, Kyle Reynolds, Brody Steele, Lucas Stinson and Jaxson Batty. *James Ryan/Noko Photo*



Nokomis High School JV Football

Members of the 2023 Nokomis High School junior varsity football team, in front, from the left are Noah Simonton, Nolan Herpstreith, Levi German, Kalasandra Cook, Kannon Jonas, Hunter Arkebauer, Konnor Reynolds, Nic Huston and Chase Varner. In back are JJ Denby, Riley Reynolds, Caleb Bauer, Trenton Clark, Daryl Evans, Kadynn Petty, Devin Robertson, Griffen Engelman and Braden McNeill.

Photo courtesy of James Ryan/Noko Photo

2023 Nokomis Varsity Football	
Aug. 26 ...at Arcola	16-34
Sept. 1 ....Argenta-Oreana	46-14
Sept. 8 Villa Grove	12-19
Sept. 15 ..at Cerro Gordo-Bement	46-7
Sept. 22 ..Tri-County	42-0
Sept. 29 ..at Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond ..	23-43
Oct. 6 .....at Sullivan-Okaw Valley	22-30
Oct. 13 Cumberland.....	22-12
Oct. 20 ....at Sangamon Valley	41-23
Oct. 28 ....at Greenfield-NW	13-52
Totals (5-5).....	283-234

Tackles

Name	Solo	Ast	All
Kadynn Petty	4	8	12
Brenton Lyons	5	6	11
Riley Reynolds	18	31	49
Daryl Evans	21	25	46
Drake Taylor	17	19	36
Nolan Herpstreith	16	14	30
Atticus Bertolino	11	18	29
Garrett Engelman	9	20	29
Jaxson Batty	9	15	24
Hunter Arkebauer	7	14	21
Caleb Bauer	5	11	16
Ryan Quinn	6	9	15
Skylar Pavolko	6	8	14
Conner Wilson	3	11	14
Totals	123	274	397

Rushing

Name	TC	YDS	YPC	TD
Nolan Herpstreith	225	1621	7.2	20
Daryl Evans	94	577	6.1	9
Brenton Lyons	66	417	6.3	4
Saint Newman	20	204	10.2	1
Brody Steele	31	77	2.5	1
Ryan Quinn	4	55	13.8	0
Drake Taylor	2	34	17.0	0
Dolan Harrison	3	19	6.3	0
Garrett Engelman	6	16	2.7	0
Skylar Pavolko	5	15	3.0	0
Totals	456	3035	6.7	35

Passing

Name	Comp.	Att.	YDS
Brody Steele	38	73	570
Brenton Lyons	1	1	35
Nolan Herpstreith	2	2	6
Totals	41	76	611

Receiving

Name	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
Drake Taylor	7	153	21.9	1
Kadynn Petty	5	112	22.4	0
Atticus Bertolino	10	92	9.2	0
Brenton Lyons	7	85	12.1	0
Ryan Quinn	2	51	25.5	1
Kaeden Loafman	1	35	35.0	0
Skylar Pavolko	3	18	6.0	0
Saint Newman	1	13	13.0	0
Nolan Herpstreith	2	11	5.5	0
Totals	38	570	15.0	2

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Nokomis High School Cheerleading

Members of the 2023 Nokomis High School cheerleading squad, in front, from the left, are Alexis Linn, Alyssa Huddleston and Kiley Lawhorn. In the back are Marcie Carroll, Jahna Guinn, Chloe Flowers and Abby O'Malley. Not pictured is Leah Hand.

James Ryan/Noko Photo

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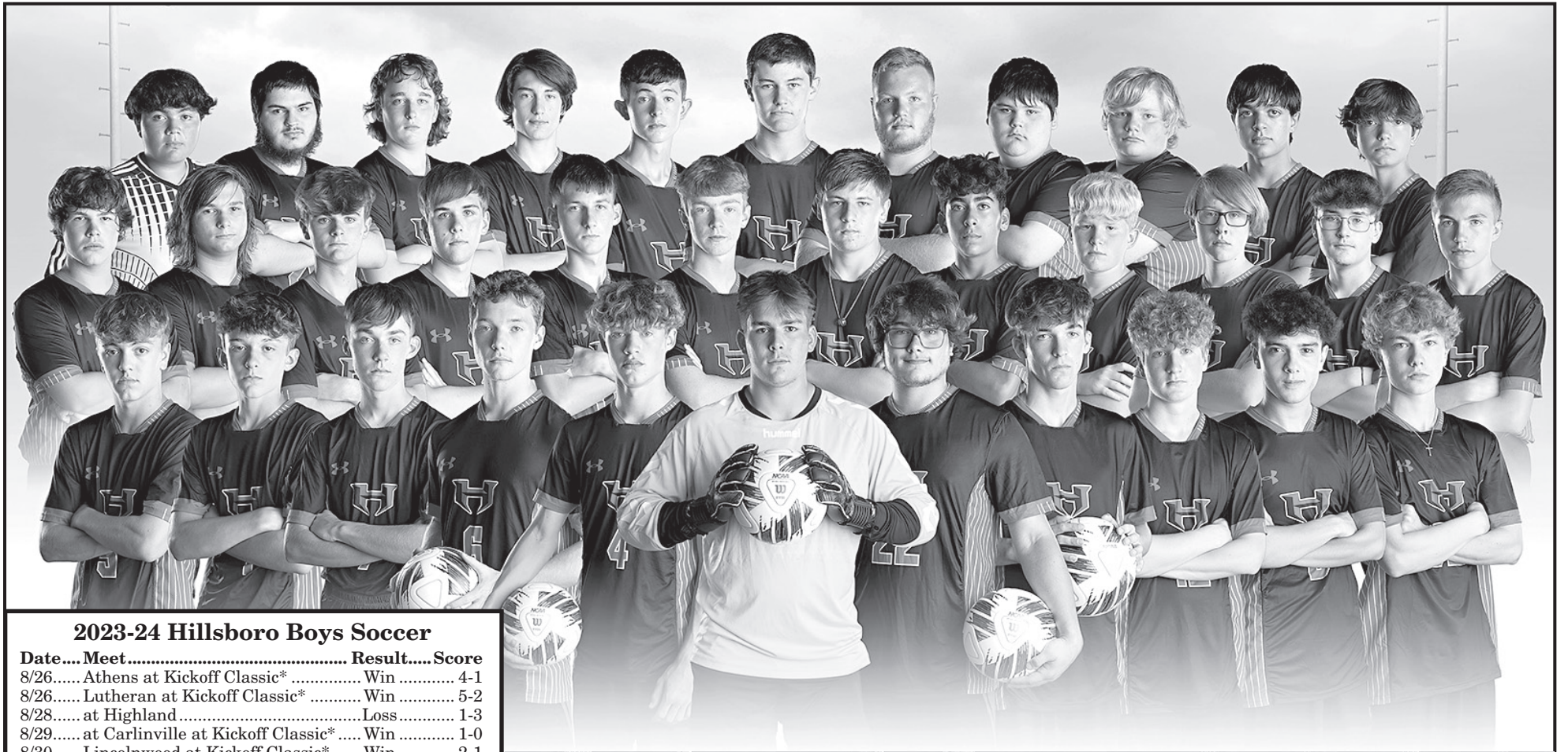
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2023-24 Hillsboro Boys Soccer

Date.....	Meet.....	Result.....	Score
8/26.....	Athens at Kickoff Classic*	Win	4-1
8/26.....	Lutheran at Kickoff Classic*	Win	5-2
8/28.....	at Highland.....	Loss	1-3
8/29.....	at Carlinville at Kickoff Classic*.....	Win	1-0
8/30.....	Lincolnwood at Kickoff Classic*.....	Win	2-1
8/31.....	Jerseyville.....	Tie	3-3
9/2.....	at St. Anthony.....	Win	5-0
9/5.....	at Litchfield.....	Loss	1-1
9/7.....	Southwestern.....	Win	8-1
9/9.....	at Civic Memorial.....	Loss	0-4
9/12.....	Greenville.....	Win	2-1
9/14.....	at North Mac.....	Win	8-0
9/18.....	Lincolnwood.....	Tie	0-0
9/19.....	Staunton.....	Win	3-0
9/21.....	at Pana.....	Win	4-0
9/23.....	Riverton.....	Win	7-2
9/26.....	Carlinville.....	Win	2-1
9/27.....	Effingham.....	Win	3-0
9/28.....	at Rochester.....	Loss	0-6
10/2.....	at Mater Dei.....	Win	3-2
10/3.....	Vandalia.....	Win	8-0
10/13.....	Robinson**.....	Win	5-1
10/17.....	Newton**.....	Loss	1-0

Record: 16-5-2..... **SCC:** 7-1 (2nd)..... **(75-30)**

* At The Kickoff Classic On Route 66 - 1st

** At IHSA Class 1A St. Anthony Regional

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Hillsboro High School Boys Soccer

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 boys soccer team, in front, from the left are Caleb Greenwood, Tony White, Mitchell Cunningham, Kyle Holcomb, Hunter Payne, Mitchell Lowe, Dawson Guinn, Griffen Hughes, Logan Murray, Nico Clark and Izac Zerrusen. In the second row are Quinn Hunt, Kaiyden Brown, Clayton Rufus, Aiden Meyers, Brodie Clinard, Mark Mattson, Brady Stritzel, Antonio Valentin, Noah Andrews, William Yeske, Brennan Harston and Abraham Putnam. In the back row are Roberto Quiroz Garcia, Joshua Pineda, Rhys Riggs, Lennon Guinn, Isaiah Hopley, Blake Cullison, Jaxon Wittenmyer, Nykolas Pineda, Mason Currie, Landon Bandy and Chanse Liebscher.

Ashley Christ Photography

Hillsboro Soccer Goals Scored

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nico Clark 19 | 7. Caleb Greenwood 2 |
| 2. Mark Mattson 18 | 7. Hunter Payne 2 |
| 3. Clayton Rufus 12 | 10. Griffen Hughes 1 |
| 4. Logan Murray 9 | 10. Dawson Guinn 1 |
| 5. Brodie Clinard 4 | 10. Antonio Valentin 1 |
| 6. Tony White 3 | 10. Aiden Meyer 1 |
| 7. Mitchell Cunningham 2 | |

Hillsboro Soccer Assists

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mitchell Cunningham 8 | 6. Tony White 2 |
| 2. Mark Mattson 7 | 8. Mitchell Lowe 1 |
| 3. Nico Clark 5 | 8. Izac Zerrusen 1 |
| 4. Logan Murray 3 | 8. Hunter Payne 1 |
| 4. Clayton Rufus 3 | 8. Caleb Greenwood 1 |
| 6. Brodie Clinard 2 | |

Goalkeeper: Mitchell Lowe 8 shutouts

WHITE & ASSOCIATES

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Angie Eickhoff and Gina Burke

Financial Advisors*

Jeff Eickhoff

Certified Public Accountant

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2023-24 Hillsboro Volleyball

Date	Opponents	Result/Record
8/22	at Pana	25-23, 25-23 (1-0)
8/28	Auburn	25-19, 25-16 (2-0)
8/29	at Carlyle	17-25, 26-24, 25-20 (3-0)
8/31	Litchfield	25-12, 25-22 (4-0)
9/7	at Vandalia*	16-25, 27-25, 25-22 (5-0, 1-0)
at MCI Grace Tournament (4-1, 2nd)		
9/8	South County	25-19, 25-19 (6-0)
9/8	Auburn	25-21, 26-24 (7-0)
9/8	Lanphier	25-12, 25-9 (8-0)
9/9	Nokomis	17-25, 25-17, 15-12 (9-0)
9/9	Lincolnwood	19-25, 25-23, 25-19 (9-1)
9/11	Alton Marquette	25-18, 25-14 (10-1)
9/14	Carlinville*	25-20, 21-25, 21-25 (10-2, 1-1)
at Vandalia Tournament (3-1, 3rd)		
9/16	Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City	25-16, 25-18 (11-2)
9/16	New Athens	25-22, 25-16 (12-2)
9/16	Carlyle	25-19, 17-25, 19-20 (12-3)
9/16	East Alton-Wood River	25-20, 25-19 (13-3)
9/21	North Mac*	25-18, 25-20 (14-3, 2-1)
9/25	Nokomis	12-25, 26-28 (14-4)
at Morrisonville Tournament (4-1, 2nd)		
9/27	Taylorville JV	22-25, 25-23, 15-11 (15-4)
9/27	Edinburg	25-16, 25-17 (16-4)
9/27	Greenveiw	25-23, 25-20 (17-4)
9/28	at Greenville*	25-15, 25-18 (18-4, 3-1)
9/30	Mulberry Grove	25-12, 25-17 (19-4)
9/30	Taylorville JV	24-26, 16-25 (19-5)
10/2	Lincolnwood	8-25, 20-20 (19-6)
10/5	Staunton*	10-25, 21-25 (19-7, 3-2)
10/10	at Litchfield*	25-20, 25-13 (20-7, 4-2)
10/12	Gillespie*	25-11, 25-14 (21-7, 5-2)
10/17	at Southwestern*	19-25, 26-24, 25-17 (22-7, 6-2)
10/19	Pana*	15-25, 23-25 (22-8, 6-3)
at IHSA Class 2A Vandalia Regional		
10/24	Litchfield	25-27, 25-14, 25-18 (23-8)
10/26	Shelbyville	21-25, 26-24, 15-25 (23-9)

Hillsboro High School Varsity Volleyball

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 varsity girls volleyball team, in front, from the left are Ellie Miller, Kennady Clayton, Hanna Hughes, Kinley Richardson, Sophia Blankenship, Leah Satterlee and Maycie Fuller. In the second row are Emoree Shepard, Albany Kindernay, Tatum Christian, Kearstynn Davis, Addison Lowe, Reagan Lentz, Amya Greenwood and Tyler Beard.

Ashley Christ Photography

2023 Hillsboro Volleyball Statistics

Name	Serving		Attack		Defense	
	Aces	Points	Assists	Kills	Blocks	Digs
Leah Satterlee	8	44	15	3	0	79
Maycie Fuller	19	143	8	25	0	181
Kennady Clayton	11	85	17	7	0	462
Reagan Lentz	0	0	9	2	0	3
Amya Greenwood	28	190	390	62	4	146
Hanna Hughes	32	132	6	121	4	234
Tyler Beard	0	1	0	0	0	0
Tatum Christian	5	66	6	148	10	77
Kearstynn Davis	0	8	6	51	10	25
Emoree Shepard	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ellie Miller	31	144	206	57	5	136
Albany Kindernay	0	4	1	2	0	0
Addison Lowe	16	62	5	272	29	77
Totals	150	897	669	750	49	1420

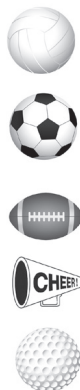
Record: 23 wins, 9 losses SCC Record: 6 wins, 3 losses

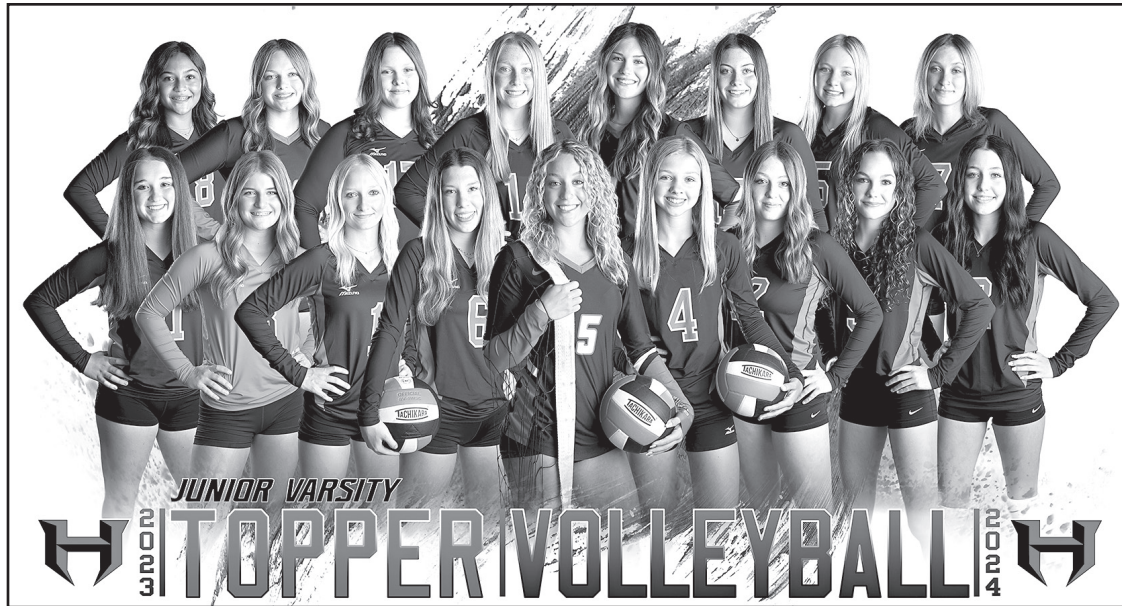
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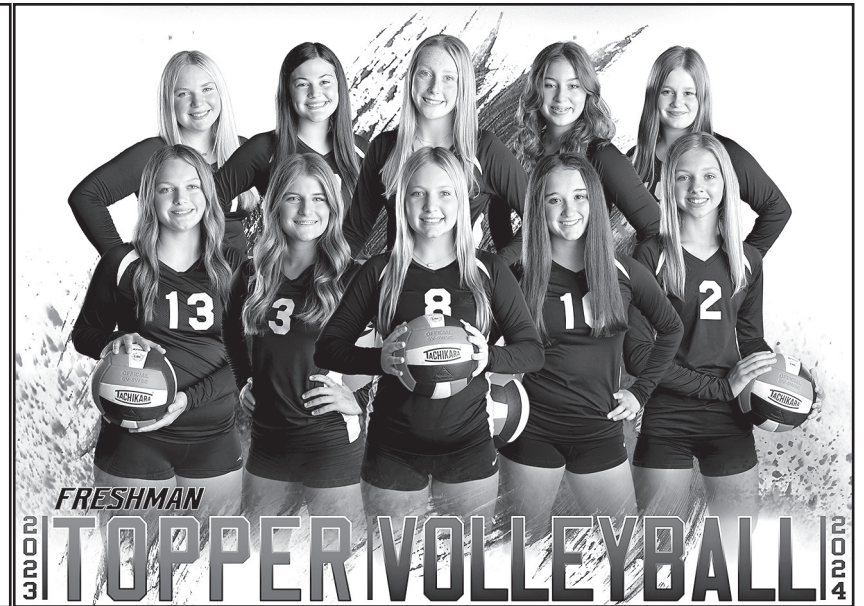




Hillsboro High School Junior Varsity Volleyball

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 junior varsity girls volleyball team, in front, from the left are Peyton Christian, Briley Kirby, Addison Compagni, Kamryn Langston, Reagan Lentz, Peyton Chappellear, Makaela Martin, Maryn Tarver and Chloe Atkins. In the back row are Brooklyn Kirby, Albany Kindernay, Jossalyn Kimbro, Delaney Adams, Kearstynn Davis, Sadie Houchlei, Olivia Keiser and Brooklyn Fisher.

Ashley Christ Photography



Hillsboro High School Freshman Volleyball

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 freshman girls volleyball team, in front, from the left are Albany Kindernay, Briley Kirby, Karsyn Greenwood, Peyton Christian and Peyton Chappellear. In the back are Olivia Keiser, Sloan Bertolino, Delaney Adams, Natalie Atkins and Kenley Hefley.

Ashley Christ Photography


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Hillsboro High School Boys Golf

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 boys golf team, from the left are Austin Loskot, Carson Walker, Dylan Lessman, Colton Weiss and Tycen Thacker.

Ashley Christ Photography

2023-24 Hillsboro Boys Golf

Date....	Course (Par)	Score	Record
8/10.....	Lakeshore ¹ (72).....	368.....	9th
8/14.....	Belk Park ² (72).....	348.....	10th
8/29.....	Oak Terrace (36).....	168.....	(2-0)
9/5.....	Indian Springs (36).....	163.....	(4-0)
9/7.....	Hillsboro Country Club (36).....	156.....	(5-0)
9/8-9.....	Mattoon C.C./Meadowview ³ (144).....	722.....	27th
9/11.....	Hillsboro Country Club (36).....	175.....	(6-0)
9/15.....	Oak Hills (32).....	160.....	(8-0)
9/18.....	Hillsboro Country Club (36).....	177.....	(8-1)
9/19.....	Hillsboro Country Club (36).....	170.....	(9-3)
9/25.....	Indian Springs ⁴ (71).....	330.....	5th
9/27.....	Lakeshore ⁵ (72).....	360.....	4th
10/3.....	West Berwick ⁶ (72).....	N/S.....	N/A

¹At Taylorville Invitational; ²At Hickory Stick Invitational; ³At Craig Dixon Invitational; ⁴At South Central Conference Tournament; ⁵At Taylorville Regional Regional; ⁶At Mt. Carmel Sectional.

Average Per 9 Holes: Colton Weiss (So.) 40.14; Tycen Thacker (Jr.) 42.95; Austin Loskot (Sr.) 44.74; Carson Walker (Sr.) 45.95; Dylan Lessman (Sr.) 55.50. **Team:** 173.52.

Girls Average Per 9 Holes*: Sam Frailey (Sr.) 53; Emma Bell (Jr.) 68.44

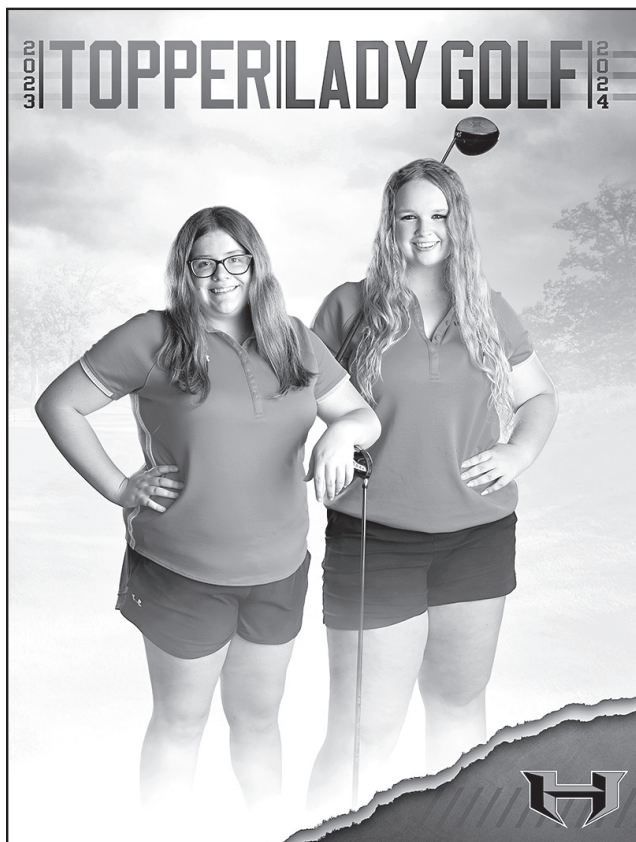
**The Hillsboro girls golf team did not have enough players to qualify for a team score, but did participate in nine events.*

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Hillsboro High School Girls Golf

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 girls golf team, from the left are Emma Bell and Sam Frailey.

Ashley Christ Photography

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2023-24 Hillsboro Girls Tennis

Date.....	Opponents	Result	Score
8/28.....	Civic Memorial.....	Loss	0-9
8/29.....	Greenville.....	Win	6-3
8/30.....	at Highland.....	Loss	1-8
8/31.....	East Alton-Wood River	Win.....	5-2
9/5.....	at Father McGivney	Loss	0-9
9/7.....	Vandalia.....	Win.....	8-1
9/13.....	Roxana.....	Win.....	7-2
9/18.....	Alton Marquette.....	Win.....	5-4
9/19.....	Taylorville.....	Loss	4-5
9/23.....	at Centralia Annies Invite.....	3rd	7 pts.
9/25.....	at Vandalia	Win.....	5-4
9/27.....	at Mt. Vernon.....	Loss	1-8
9/28.....	at Greenville.....	Loss	3-6
10/5.....	Shelbyville.....	Win.....	9-0
10/6.....	at SCC Championships*.....	2nd.....	10 pts.

Record: 7-6..... **Matches:** 54 Won, 61 Lost
 *At South Central Conference Championships at Hillsboro
 *Ryder Hoover / Aly Leisure South Central Conference Doubles
 Champions; Aubrey Reincke 3rd in Singles.

Hillsboro Girls Tennis Varsity Wins*

Singles

Jesse Balla - 5
 Aubrey Reincke - 4
 Ryder Hoover - 8
 Chloe Martincic - 3
 Melissa Bell - 9
 Annie Wright - 4
 Aly Leisure - 6
 Claire Matthews 2
 Avery Reynolds 1

Doubles

Ryder Hoover 7
 Aubrey Reincke 3
 Chloe Martincic 9
 Zoey Spinner 9
 Jesse Balla 3
 Claire Matthews 2
 Alexis Carlyle 2
 Aly Leisure 8
 Reagan Voyles 1
 Annabelle Wright 1
 Avery Reynolds 1

* Unofficial - Does not include matches in the Toppers' 7-2 win over Roxana on Sept. 14.



Hillsboro High School Girls Tennis

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 girls tennis team, in front, from the left are Rylie Jones, Alexis Carlyle, Melissa Bell, Jesse Balla, Ryder Hoover, Annabelle Wright, Avery Reynolds and Chloe Martincic. In the second row are Coach Marian Williams, Isabella Collins, Lilly Huber, Claire Matthews, Aubrey Reincke, Aly Leisure, Zoey Spinner, Sara Milanos and Reagan Voyles.

Ashley Christ Photography



Brian Limbaugh,
Agent



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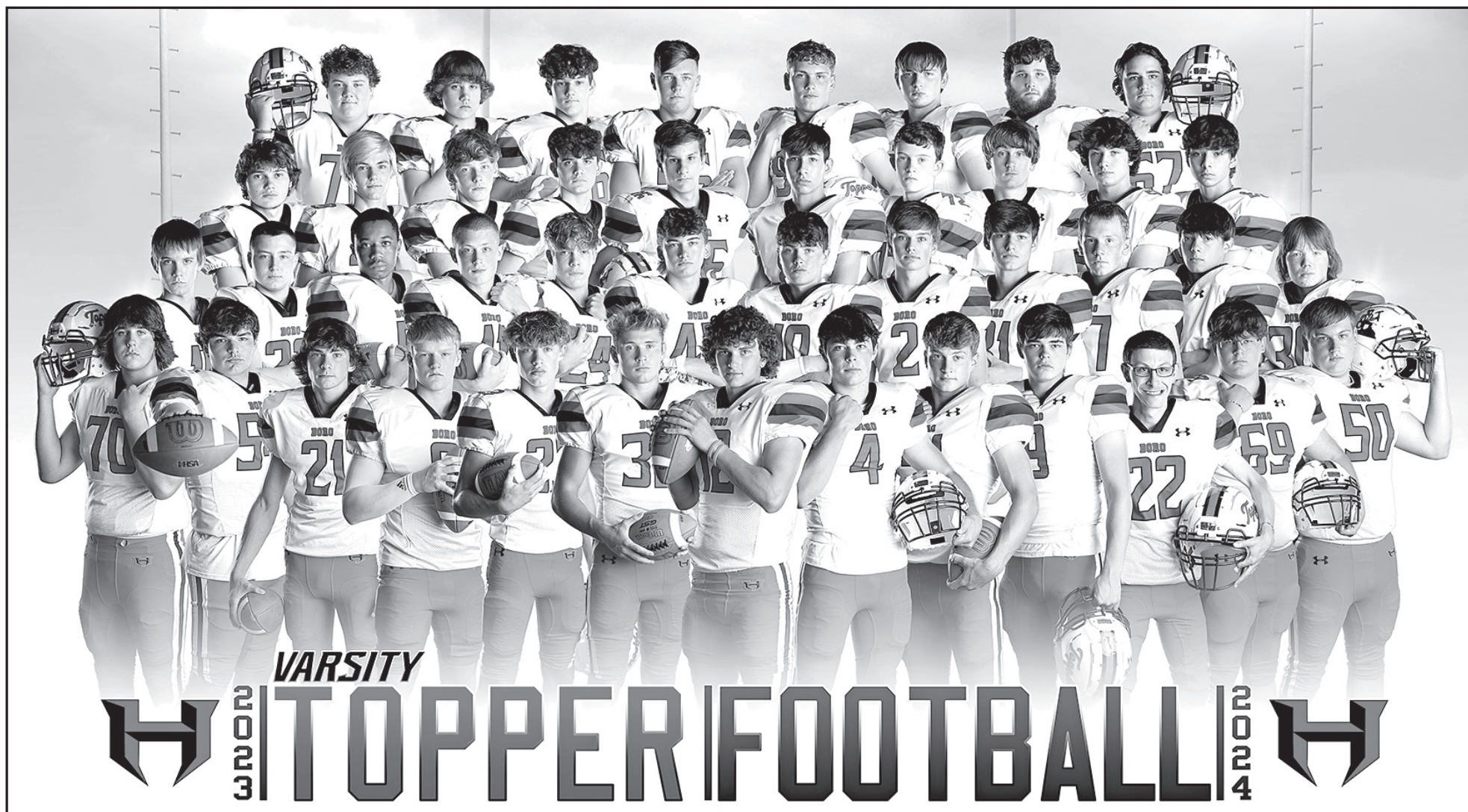
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Hillsboro High School Varsity Football

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 varsity boys football team, in front, from the left are Alec Leetham, Elliot Lentz, Treyton Kuhl, Zander Wells, Hunter Payne, Dylan Lessman, Jace Stewart, Ketch Mills, Landon Reincke, Chase Knetzer, Cam Hendricks, Hayden Titsworth and Cole Lenczycki. In the second row are Liam Kalar, Austin Newingham, Amoy Claybrook-Anderson, Seth Hubbard, Elias Baney, Drake McSperritt, Jackson Tuetken, Cody Boerckel, Rheece Malloy, Kaden Long, Ethan Hamby and Briar Kuhl. In the third row are Ryan Page, Gunner Hefley, Jaden Loskot, Logan Gill, Devin Hartman, Connor Chappelle, Hunter Wilson, Trenton Phillips, Daniel Kenny and Brayden Elliott. In the fourth row are Chase Kershaw, Westin Fenton, Derek Hartman, Wesley Myers, Olan Lentz, Matthew Currie, Caleb Page and Jesse Ringhausen.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Christ Photography

Passing

Name	Comp.	Att.	YDS
Jace Stewart	14	49	256
Chase Knetzer	6	16	43
Zander Wells	1	1	15
Cody Boerckel	0	9	0
Totals	21	75	314

Receiving

Name	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
Zander Wells	10	168	16.8	1
Chase Knetzer	2	68	34.0	2
Dylan Lessman	3	34	11.3	0
Ketch Mills	4	23	5.8	0
Jace Stewart	2	21	10.5	0
Totals	21	314	15.0	3

Tackles

Name	Solo	Ast.	All	Chase Knetzer	4	7	11
Seth Hubbard	35	41	76	Austin Newingham	5	6	11
Landon Reincke	35	39	74	Hunter Payne	3	5	8
Elliott Lentz	22	34	56	Ketch Mills	4	2	6
Jackson Tuetken	26	28	54	Caleb Page	2	4	6
Jace Stewart	26	23	49	Cole Lenczycki	3	1	4
Treyton Kuhl	18	26	44	Gunner Hefley	4	0	4
Zander Wells	27	12	39	Olan Lentz	1	2	3
Elias Baney	14	18	32	Jaden Loskot	0	2	2
Drake McSperritt	9	23	32	Cody Boerckel	0	1	1
Hayden Titsworth	6	16	22	Ethan Hamby	1	0	1
Alec Leetham	4	14	18	Totals	260	308	568
Dylan Lessman	11	4	15				

Rushing

Name	TC	YDS	YPC	TD	Name	TC	YDS	YPC	TD
Zander Wells	74	664	9.0	5	Elias Baney	3	10	3.3	0
Dylan Lessman	74	537	7.3	8	Chase Knetzer	5	6	1.2	0
Treyton Kuhl	81	386	4.8	2	Austin Newingham	4	6	1.5	0
Drake McSperritt	53	272	5.1	4	Rheece Malloy	2	5	2.5	0
Jace Stewart	34	121	3.6	2	Cody Boerckel	8	-5	-0.6	0
Seth Hubbard	4	22	5.5	0	Totals	348	2045	5.9	21
Amoy Anderson	6	21	3.5	0					

2023 Hillsboro Varsity Football

Aug. 25	..... North Mac	..... 31-6
Sept. 1	..... at Greenville	..... 7-27
Sept. 8	..... at Staunton	..... 21-35
Sept. 15	..... Gillespie	..... 62-17
Sept. 22	..... at Litchfield	..... 7-9
Sept. 29	..... Pana	..... 28-21
Oct. 6 at Vandalia 3-27
Oct. 13 Carlinville 7-28
Oct. 20 at Southwestern 7-35
Totals (3-6)	177-205



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FRESHMAN

Hillsboro High School Freshman Football

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 freshman boys football team, in front, from the left are Fontane Gifford, Kash Malloy, Hunter Caldwell, Jayse Stockwell, Elijah Patton, Tytin Wells, Jermaine DeClue, Sawyer Hindle and Folsom Gifford. In the second row are Tucker Wilson, Aidan Snider, Gavin Shomaker, Eli Zaidi, Liam Blackburn, Camden Civitate, Landon Zbinden and Carson Huber.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Christ Photography



Hillsboro High School Cheerleading

Members of the Hillsboro High School 2023-2024 cheerleading squad, in front, from the left are Jenna Durbin, Brynn Connor, Audrey Shultz, Marah Huber, Ava Pollard, Madie Hollo, Hailey Christian, Clara Armbruster and Miah Garmon. In the second row are Ady Ulrich, Hannah Laurent, Amber Carroll, Anika Cunningham, Kinsley Trader, Zoe Fulhorst, Emma Roach, Taylor VanOstran, Kamdyn Putnam and Bailey Davis.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Christ Photography

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Lincolnwood-Morrisonville-Pawnee Boys Golf

Members of the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville-Pawnee 2023-24 boys golf team, in front, from the left, are Griffin Boblitt, Luke Pope, Jonah Elvidge, Zane Whalen, Liam Page, Hudson Wort, Bryce Cowdrey and Zachary Waldeck. In the back row are Patrick Lipe, Brady Schmedeke, Reise Downen, Luke Armentrout, Jared Klein, Ezekiel Castleberry, Kade Osterholt and Lance Weitekamp.

Ramie Meisner/Ramie Jayne Photography

2023-24 Lincolnwood/Morrisonville Boys Golf

Date....	Course (Par)	Score..	Record
8/10.....	Moweaqua Golf Course ¹ (72)	349	3rd
8/14.....	Shoal Creek (36)	182	(2-1)
8/17.....	Greenville Country Club	173	(4-1)
8/28.....	Terry Park (35)	170	(6-2)
8/29.....	Litchfield Country Club (35)	172	(8-4)
8/31.....	Shoal Creek (36)	177	(9-5)
9/5.....	Bunn Golf Course (36)	177	(11-5)
9/6.....	Edgewood ² (71)	356	2nd
9/7.....	Carlinville Country Club (36)	152	(15-5)
9/11.....	Edgewood (36)	182	(17-5)
9/12.....	Timber Lakes (36)	167	(21-5)
9/14.....	Oak Terrace (36)	168	(23-6)
9/18.....	Timber Lakes (36)	155	(25-7)
9/19.....	Country Hills (36)	171	(28-7)
9/21.....	Shoal Creek (36)	178	(30-7)
9/22.....	Shoal Creek (36)	171	(31-7)
9/25.....	Shamblee	178	(32-8)
9/27.....	Spencer T. Olin ³	370	8th

¹At Meridian Tournament; ²At MSM Conference Tournament; ³At Alton Marquette Regional.

Average Per 9 Holes: Bryce Cowdrey (Fr.) 42.62; Zeke Castleberry (Jr.) 42.82; Brady Schmedeke (Sr.) 43.24; Lance Weitekamp (Sr.) 45.74; Zach Waldeck (Sr.) 46.46; Luke Pope (Fr.) 48.27; Jared Klein (Jr.) 49.89; Jonah Elvidge (Jr.) 49.25; Griffin Boblitt (Sr.) 50.60. **Team:** 173.71.



Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Girls Golf

Members of the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville 2023-24 girls golf team, in front, from the left, are Abby Norris, Emmy Norris and Ally Norris. In the back are Kennedy Klinger, Rian Deardorff, Jenna Matli, Kaylee Gerlach, Anna Jones, Carly Armentrout and Sally Corso.

Ramie Meisner/Ramie Jayne Photography

2023-24 Lincolnwood/Morrisonville Girls Golf

Date....	Course (Par)	Score....	Record
8/11.....	Moweaqua Golf Course ¹ (72)	477	5th
8/14.....	Shoal Creek (36)	220	(2-1)
8/17.....	Greenville Country Club (36)	212	(3-1)
8/28.....	Terry Park (35)	201	(4-2)
8/31.....	Shoal Creek (36)	205	(4-2)
9/5.....	Shoal Creek (36)	217	(6-2)
9/6.....	Edgewood ² (72)	418	1st
9/7.....	Lakeshore (36)	220	(9-2)
9/9.....	Terry Park ³ (70)	415	2nd
9/11.....	Carlinville Country Club (36)	201	(10-2)
9/12.....	Timber Lakes (36)	202	(12-2)
9/14.....	Pana Country Club (36)	191	(13-3)
9/18.....	Timber Lakes (36)	210	(14-3)
9/19.....	Country Hills (36)	207	(14-3)
9/21.....	Shoal Creek (36)	212	(14-4)
9/22.....	Shoal Creek (36)	200	(15-4)
9/28.....	Edgewood ⁴ (72)	425	6th
10/2.....	Belk Park ⁵ (72)	NS	NS

¹At Meridian Tournament; ²At MSM Conference Tournament; ³At Lady Viper Invitational; ⁴At Auburn Regional; ⁵At Roxana Sectional

Average Per 9 Holes: Carly Armentrout (So.) 50.43; Kaylee Gerlach (Sr.) 52.89; Jenna Matli (Jr.) 53.95; Abby Norris (Jr.) 59.20; Anna Jones (Jr.) 55.27; Rian Deardorff (So.) 56.05; Sally Corso (So.) 69.00; Kennedy Klinger (So.) 56.32. **Team:** 211.10.



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Lincolnwood-Nokomis-Morrisonville-Pawnee High School Soccer

2023-24 Lincolnwood-Nokomis-Morrisonville-Pawnee Boys Soccer

Date	Game	Result	Score
8/26	North Mac*	Win	9-0
8/26	Litchfield*	Win	3-1
8/28	Vandalia	Win	9-0
8/29	Staunton*	Win	5-0
8/30	Hillsboro*	Loss	2-1
9/5	at Staunton	Win	1-0
9/7	Beardstown	Tie	3-3
9/9	Pleasant Plains	Tie	1-1
9/11	North Mac	Win	7-0
9/14	at Metro-East Lutheran	Win	FF
9/15	at Springfield Lutheran	Tie	0-0
9/18	at Hillsboro	Tie	0-0
9/19	at Maryville Christian	Loss	2-3
9/22	Riverton	Win	3-0
9/25	at Athens	Win	3-0
9/29	Greenville	Win	4-0
9/30	Southwestern	Win	7-0
10/2	at Carlinville	Loss	0-1
10/5	at Williamsville	Loss	1-2
10/6	at Litchfield	Win	2-1
10/13	Springfield Lutheran**	Win	2-1
10/17	Pleasant Plains	Loss	0-1

Record: 14-5-4..... (72-16)

* At The Kickoff Classic On Route 66 - 2nd

** At IHSA Class 1A Pleasant Plains Regional

Members of the Lincolnwood-Nokomis-Morrisonville-Pawnee 2023-24 soccer team, in front, from the left, are Leigha Smith, Nathan Cox, Anikan Pasdeck, Carter Wexstten, Austyn Hefley, Charlie Clavin, Keaton Thomas and Ari Vanden Bergh. In the middle row are Jack Johnson, Donny Daugherty, Mason Stauder, Cooper Poggenpohl, Grace DeWerff, Kirsten Pope, Jackie Carrillo, Eliana Nudo, Halen Barnes, Ryan Decker and Travis Kahn. In the back row are Lilly Terneus, Kennedy DeWerff, Cade Johnson, Jacob Butler, Reece Loman, Ian Keller, Gabe Armentrout, Bond Knodle, Maddux Himes, Tucker Armentrout and Carson Contreras. *Ramie Meisner/Ramie Jayne Photography*

Lincolnwood Soccer Goals Scored

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ian Keller 31 | 6. Reece Lohman 3 |
| 2. Jacob Butler 10 | 6. Donny Daugherty 3 |
| 3. Gabe Armentrout 8 | 9. Mason Stauder 2 |
| 4. Kennedy DeWerff 5 | 10. Tucker Armentrout 1 |
| 5. Cade Johnson 4 | 10. Carter Wexstten 1 |
| 6. Austyn Hefley 3 | |

Lincolnwood Soccer Assists

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jacob Butler 10 | 5. Tucker Armentrout 3 |
| 2. Kennedy DeWerff 9 | 9. Carter Wexstten 2 |
| 3. Cade Johnson 8 | 9. Bond Knodle 2 |
| 4. Donny Daugherty 4 | 9. Austyn Hefley 2 |
| 5. Ian Keller 3 | 12. Reece Lohman 1 |
| 5. Maddux Himes 3 | 12. Mason Stauder 1 |
| 5. Gabe Armentrout 3 | |

Goalkeeper: Carson Contreras 12 shutouts

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2023-24 Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Volleyball

Date.....	Opponents.....	Result/Record
8/24.....	at Bunker Hill*	25-13, 25-9 (1-0, 1-0)
8/28.....	Edinburg*	25-13, 25-15 (2-0, 2-0)
8/29.....	Greenfield-NW.....	25-27, 25-21, 25-14 (3-0)
9/5.....	Calvary*	25-22, 25-20 (4-0, 3-0)
9/7.....	Tri-City*.....	19-25, 25-19, 25-13 (5-0, 4-0)
at MCI Grace Tournament (5-0, 1st)		
9/8.....	Southeast.....	25-17, 26-24 (6-0)
9/8.....	Mt. Olive.....	26-24, 25-8 (7-0)
9/8.....	Ramsey.....	25-21, 25-7 (8-0)
9/9.....	Father McGivney....	25-20, 29-27, 15-1 (9-0)
9/9.....	Hillsboro.....	25-19, 23-25, 25-19 (10-0)
9/11.....	at Carlinville.....	20-25, 26-24, 25-23 (11-0)
9/14.....	at South County*...	25-15, 25-21 (12-0, 5-0)
at New Berlin Tournament (3-2, 13th)		
9/15.....	Valmeyer.....	22-25, 22-25 (12-1)
9/15.....	North Mac.....	29-27, 25-23 (13-1)
9/16.....	Cumberland.....	18-25, 21-25 (13-2)
9/16.....	West Central.....	25-23, 25-13 (14-2)
9/16.....	Springfield Lutheran.....	25-7, 25-8 (15-2)
9/18.....	Gillespie.....	23-25, 25-8, 25-8 (16-2)
9/25.....	at Litchfield.....	25-18, 24-26, 25-7 (17-2)
9/26.....	at Nokomis*.....	15-25, 25-18, 25-22 (18-2, 6-0)
at Morrisonville Tournament (3-2, 3rd)		
9/29.....	Bunker Hill.....	25-9, 25-12 (19-2)
9/29.....	Mulberry Grove.....	25-11, 25-20 (20-2)
9/29.....	Calvary.....	24-26, 25-20, 12-15 (20-3)
9/30.....	Taylorville JV.....	24-26, 25-23, 12-15 (20-4)
9/30.....	Mulberry Grove....	16-25, 25-23, 15-6 (21-4)
10/2.....	at Hillsboro.....	25-8, 25-20 (22-4)
10/10.....	at Mt. Olive*.....	17-25, 27-25, 25-21 (23-4, 7-0)
10/12.....	at Lutheran*.....	19-25, 25-22, 13-25 (23-5, 7-1)
at Waverly Tournament (1-2-2, 5th)		
10/13.....	Camp Point Central.....	21-25, 14-25 (23-6)
10/13.....	PORTA.....	8-25, 22-25 (23-7)
10/14.....	West Central.....	25-17, 23-25 (23-7-1)
10/14.....	South County.....	23-25, 25-16 (23-7-2)
10/14.....	Pittsfield.....	21-25, 25-22, 15-9 (24-7-2)
10/16.....	Pawnee*.....	11-25, 18-25 (24-8-2, 7-2)
10/19.....	Athens.....	19-25, 19-25 (24-9-2)
at IHSA Class 1A Lincolnwood Regional		
10/25.....	Mulberry Grove.....	25-10, 25-16 (25-9-2)
10/26.....	Nokomis.....	18-25, 25-18, 15-25 (25-10-2)

Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Volleyball

Members of the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville 2023-24 volleyball team, in front, from the left, are Morgan Cowdrey, Jazmin Seaton-Hobson, Taryn Millburg, Kierstyn Denny and Morgan Hampton. In the middle are Mackenzie Hattenbach, Camryn Poggenpohl, Taryn Love, Kinlee Morris, Macie Daugherty, Ava Walton, Khloe Klinger and Yza Apaitan. In the back are Zarah Guzman, Kylie Jack, Ella Jenkins, Peityn Reagan, Audrey Germann, Tori Elvidge, Sophia Painter, Elsa Burenga and Taryn Clarke.

Ramie Meisner/Ramie Jayne Photography

2023 Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Volleyball Statistics

Name	Serving		Attack		Defense	
	Aces	Points	Assists	Kills	Blocks	Digs
Morgan Cowdrey	73	222	402	164	12	171
Kierstyn Denney	40	198	153	253	31	221
Taryn Clarke	35	160	21	74	1	265
Taryn Millburg	33	133	18	6	0	334
Jazmin Seaton-Hobson	25	85	1	113	2	93
Camryn Poggenpohl	26	76	18	7	1	114
Ella Jenkins	20	76	4	126	30	47
Tori Elvidge	14	52	4	110	28	61
Zarah Guzman	4	27	148	10	1	65
Ava Walton	2	10	0	5	0	22
Khloe Klinger	3	9	2	0	0	0
Macie Daugherty	1	7	2	17	1	39
Morgan Hampton	0	2	7	0	2	53
Alea Wagahoft	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	276	1057	780	886	78	1485

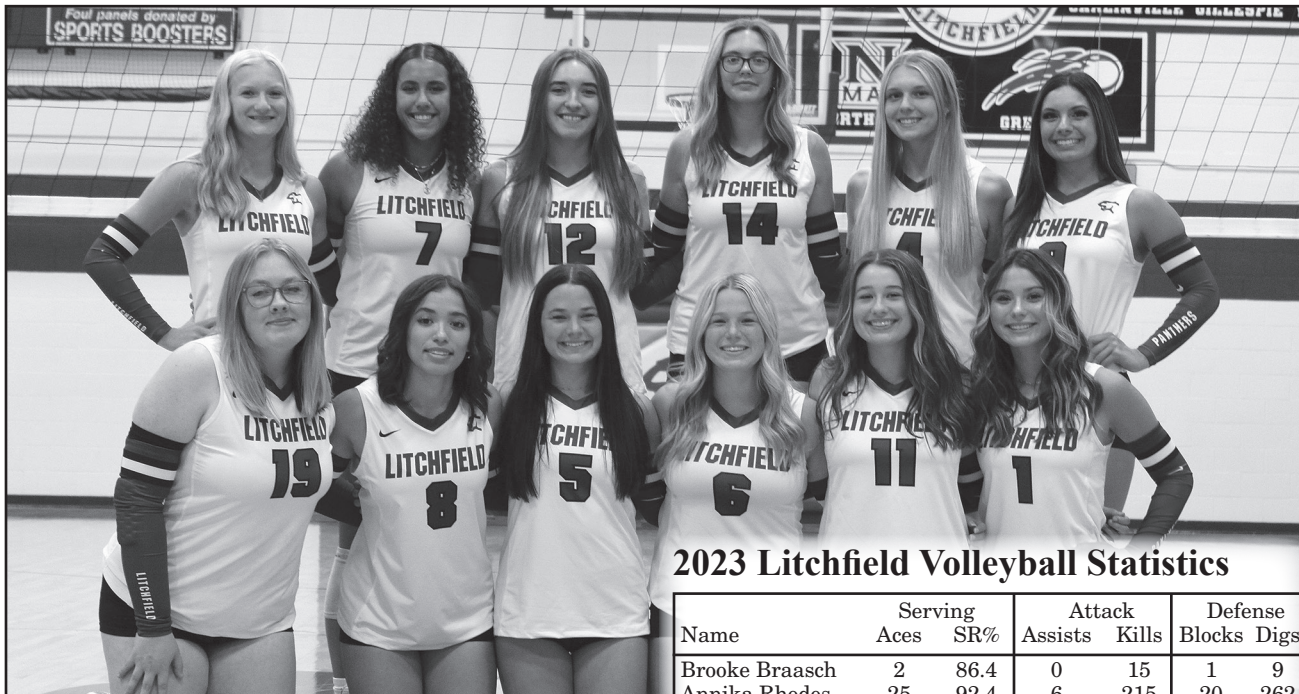
Record: 25 wins, 10 losses, 2 ties MSM: 7 wins, 2 losses (T-2nd)

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2023 Litchfield Volleyball Statistics

Name	Serving		Attack		Defense	
	Aces	SR%	Assists	Kills	Blocks	Digs
Brooke Braasch	2	86.4	0	15	1	9
Annika Rhodes	25	92.4	6	215	20	262
Amy Frerichs	14	92.1	46	0	0	483
Alli Frerichs	20	89.8	5	0	0	177
Gina Painter	29	78.7	3	117	47	44
Jaydah Caldwell	0	NA	0	0	0	2
Kendall Stewart	19	93.1	4	95	20	186
Kyndal Law	0	NA	0	0	0	8
Avery Stewart	13	93.4	482	31	7	158
Megan Lee	1	83.3	0	96	51	19
Leighton Warchol	0	NA	2	0	0	1
Laurin Hamm	0	NA	0	3	0	0
Taylor Bradburn	2	81.1	1	24	5	42
Totals	125	90.2	549	596	105	1391

Record: 14 wins, 16 losses SCC Record: 5 wins, 4 losses

Litchfield High School Volleyball

Members of the 2023-24 Litchfield High School volleyball team, in front, from the left, are Taylor Bradburn, Jaydah Caldwell, Amy Frerichs, Alli Frerichs, Avery Stewart and Brooke Braasch. In the back row are Elise Walch, Gina Painter, Megan Lee, Laurin Hamm, Annika Rhodes and Kendall Stewart.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School

2023-24 Litchfield Volleyball

Date	Opponents	Result/Record
8/24	Nokomis	21-25, 25-22, 18-25 (0-1)
8/28	at Maryville Christian	25-18, 29-27 (1-1)
8/31	at Hillsboro	12-25, 22-25 (1-2)
9/4	at Pawnee	24-26, 15-25 (1-3)
9/7	at Gillespie*	25-18, 16-25, 25-18 (2-3, 1-0)
at MCI Grace Tournament (3-2, 6th)		
9/8	Vandalia	23-25, 25-21, 15-10 (3-3)
9/8	Father McGivney	12-25, 14-25 (3-4)
9/8	Edinburg	25-14, 25-16 (4-4)
9/9	Southeast	20-25, 25-8, 15-12 (5-4)
9/9	Civic Memorial	27-25, 25-16, 15-10 (5-5)
9/14	Southwestern*	25-19, 26-24 (6-5, 2-0)
9/18	Metro-East Lutheran	23-25, 19-25 (6-6)
9/19	at Vandalia	25-14, 25-23 (7-6)
9/21	at Pana*	22-25, 18-25 (7-7, 2-1)
9/25	Lincolnwood	18-25, 26-24, 7-25 (7-8)
9/28	Vandalia*	25-20, 25-20 (8-8, 3-1)
10/2	Mt. Olive	25-16, 25-23 (9-8)
10/5	Carlinville*	21-25, 14-25 (9-9, 3-2)
10/10	Hillsboro*	20-25, 13-25 (9-10, 3-3)
10/12	at Greenville*	23-25, 25-22, 25-18 (10-10, 4-3)
at Civic Memorial Tournament (1-3, 4th)		
10/14	Carrollton	23-25, 26-24, 15-8 (11-10)
10/14	Roxana	13-25, 12-25 (11-11)
10/14	Jerseyville	28-26, 22-25, 15-11 (11-12)
10/14	Carlinville	23-25, 20-25 (11-13)
10/16	at Collinsville	18-25, 17-25 (11-14)
10/17	Stanton*	9-25, 15-25 (11-15, 4-4)
10/18	Alton Marquette	25-15, 25-10 (12-15)
10/19	North Mac*	25-18, 25-23 (13-15, 5-4)
at IHSA Class 2A Vandalia Regional		
10/23	Greenville	25-18, 25-15 (14-15)
10/24	Litchfield	27-25, 14-25, 18-25 (14-16)



Litchfield High School JV Volleyball

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield High School girls junior varsity volleyball team, in front, from the left are Jaydah Caldwell, Melody Ellinger, Madilynn Jones, Kyndal Law, Megan Boyd and Leighton Warchol. In the back row are Melanie Pence, Brooke Braasch, Paislei Foss, Laurin Hamm, Ava Becker and Chloe Law.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School



Litchfield Freshman Volleyball

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield High School freshman girls volleyball team, in front, from the left, are Rylee Hamm, Myla Burris, Dimarys Portorreal-Cruz and Kathryn Cox. In the back row are Janet Mazza, Kyndal Law, Leighton Warchol, Gabriella Jarden and Lexi Logan.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School



Litchfield High School Boys Golf

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield High School boys golf team, in front, from the left, are Caleb Heyen, Hudson DeBarr-Walker, Brawley Jacobs, Sam Schwab, Tucker Pastrovich, Tucker Maguire and Wesley White. In the back row are Zachary Leitschuh, Garrison Cleaver, Will Cress, Ian Otto, Tug Schwab, A.J. Odle and Brevin Birkenkamp. Not pictured is Syon Jade.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School

2023-24 Litchfield Boys Golf

Date	Course (Par)	Score	Record
8/14	Belk Park ¹ (72)	320	5th
8/15	Litchfield Country Club (35)	146	(3-0)
8/17	Rend Lake ² (72)	323	6th
8/30	Litchfield Country Club (35)	151	(7-0)
9/1	at Richland Golf Club ³ (72)	319	3rd
9/5	Lakeshore (36)	168	(9-0)
9/6	Vandalia Country Club (35)	169	(11-1)
9/8-9	Mattoon C.C./Meadowview ⁴ (144)	621	4th
9/12	Timber Lakes (36)	168	(15-1)
9/18	Indian Springs (36)	152	(18-1)
9/19	Hillsboro Country Club (36)	160	(21-1)
9/21	Jerseyville Country Club	160	(22-1)

9/26	Indian Springs ⁵ (71)	299	1st
9/27	Spencer T. Olin ⁶ (72)	324	3rd
10/2	The Acorns ⁷ (72)	311	1st
10/6-7	Prairie Vista ⁸ (144)	636	3rd

¹At Hickory Stick Invitational; ²At The Battle at Rend Lake; ³At Olney Tiger Invitational; ⁴At Craig Dixon Invitational; ⁵At South Central Conference Tournament; ⁶At Alton Marquette Regional; ⁷At Waterloo Gibault Sectional; ⁸At IHSA Class IA State Finals.

Average Per 9 Holes: Tug Schwab (Sr.) 37.78; Sam Schwab (So.) 38.57; A.J. Odle (Sr.) 40.46; Ian Otto (Sr.) 43.44; Brawley Jacobs (Sr.) 44.05; Tucker Maguire (So.) 42.79; Tucker Pastrovich (So.) 45.00. **Team:** 158.11.

Go Panthers!



Katie Wilson, Manager

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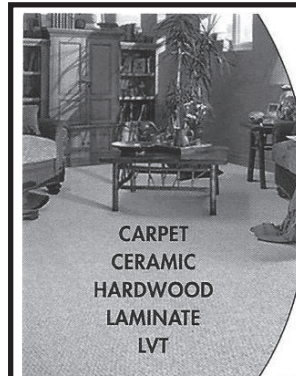


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Litchfield High School Girls Golf

Members of the 2022-2023 Litchfield High School girls golf team, from the left are Kennedy Isaacs, Aryn Dooley, Faith Ellinger and Keeley Tabor. *Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School*

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2023-24 Litchfield Girls Golf

Date	Course (Par)	Score	Record
8/15	Timber Lakes (36)	254	(0-1)
8/18	Timber Lakes (36)	234	(0-2)
8/30	Litchfield Country Club (37)	234	(0-2)
9/5	Litchfield Country Club (37)	235	(0-5)
9/7	Cloverleaf (35)	221	(1-7)
9/9	Terry Park ¹ (70)	487	6th
9/11	Carlville Country Club (36)	240	(1-8)
9/12	Litchfield Country Club (37)	222	(2-9)
9/19	Hillsboro Country Club (36)	248	(2-9)
9/20	Oak Terrace (36)	229	(3-10)
9/21	Vandalia Country Club (35)	222	(3-11)
9/25	Indian Springs ² (71)	451	3rd
9/28	Edgewood ³ (72)	518	10th

¹At Lady Viper Invite; ²At South Central Conference Tournament; ³At IHSA Class 1A Auburn Regional.
Average Per 9 Holes: Kennedy Isaacs (Fr.) 56.50; Keeley Tabor (Jr.) 57.88; Faith Ellinger (Fr.) 59.75; Aryn Dooley (Fr.) 63.44
Team: 237.19.


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2023-24 Litchfield Cross Country

- Date..... Meet (Distance in Miles)..... Girls.... Boys**
- 8/29 at Carlinville Invite (3 mi) 2nd 7th
 - 9/9 at Shelbyville Invite (3 mi)
 - 9/12 at Dave Holden Open (5K)*
 - 9/16 at Highland Invite (3 mi)
 - 9/23 at Springfield Invite (3 mi).....
 - 9/26 at Litchfield (3 mi).....
 - 9/30 at S'western Invite (3 mi)..... 1st..... 2nd
 - 10/3 at Carlinville Invite (3 mi)
 - 10/7 at EAWR Invite (5K)
 - 10/14 at SCC Championships (3 mi)**
 - 10/21 at Sullivan Regional (3 mi)
 - 10/28 at St. Teresa Sectional (3 mi)..... N/A N/A
 - 11/4 at IHSA State Finals (3 mi) N/A N/A

* At Greenville High School

** SCC Championships at Southwestern High School.

Litchfield Boys Times (Correspond To Above)

Camden Quarton (Sr.): 1. 16:32.17; 2.NA; 3. 17:17.0; 4. 16:39.5; 5. 17:13.6; 6. 16:22.0; 7. 15:37; 8. 15:49.0; 9. 15:50.6; 10. 15:37.0; 11. 16:00.7 (7th at regional); 12. 16:14.6 (14th at sectional); 13. 15:15.7 (15th place at state)

Kenny Traylor (Jr.): 1. 19:32.45; 2. 18:43.3; 3. 19:43.0; 4. 19:01.2; 5. 19:24.3; 6. 17:54.0; 7. 17:59; 8. 17:54.7; 9. 18:00.7; 10. 17:56.0; 11. 19:11.0 (59th at regional)

Chris McGee (Fr.): 1. 19:48.30; 2. 18:51.9; 3. 19:52.0; 4. 18:37.8; 5. 21:00.8; 6. 18:54.0; 7. 18:13; 8. 18:23.5; 9. 19:16.4; 10. 18:06.0; 11. 18:33.1 (43rd at regional)

Mitchell Floyd (Sr.): 1. 20:04.33; 2. 18:16.7; 3. 19:37.0; 4. 19:31.4; 5. 20:14.5; 6. 19:40.0; 7. 18:22; 8. 18:39.7; 9. 18:24.6; 10. 18:49.0; 11. 19:26.2 (64th at regional)

Braxton Kieffer (So.): 1. 21:59.77; 2. 20:12.2; 3. 21:57.0; 4. 21:37.5; 5. 23:16.4; 6. 19:41.0; 7. 20:14; 8. 19:21.1; 9. 18:57.4; 10. 20:18.0; 11. 20:09.1 (75th at regional)

Lucien Quarton (So.): 1. 22:21.05; 2. 20:59.1; 3. 22:08.0; 4. 20:48.6; 5. 21:26.1; 6. 20:09.0; 7. 21:37; 8. 20:53.1; 9. NA; 10. 21:06.0

Alec Roach (So.): 1. 22:59.42; 2. 20:50.1; 3. 23:08.0; 4. 21:36.3; 5. 23:32.5; 6. 20:58.0; 7. 21:45; 8. 21:01.5; 9. 19:39.6; 10. 20:24.0; 11. 20:14.0 (76th at regional)

Matt Green (Jr.): 1. 23:45.39; 2. 20:41.9; 3. 22:00.0; 4. 23:14.0; 5. NA; 6. 24:13.0; 7. 23:39; 8. NA; 9. 21:09.2; 10. 26:05.0

Litchfield Girls Times (Correspond To Above)

Emma Diveley (Sr.): 1. 22:12.0; 2. NA; 3. 23:36.0; 4. 21:45.6; 5. 24:13.8; 6. 21:41.0; 7. 23:19; 8. NA; 9. NA; 10. 22:39.0; 11. 23:13.2 (46th at regional); 12. 23:06.8 (102nd at sectional)

Joelle Hughes (Jr.): 1. 27:10.3; 2. 23:25.1; 3. 26:12.0; 4. 24:30.1; 5. 25:59.0; 6. 22:54.0; 7. 24:07; 8. 22:23.1; 9. 21:55.6; 10. 22:29.0; 11. 22:36.6 (38th at regional); 12. 22:51.2 (93rd at sectional)

Alex Gasperson (Jr.): 1. 24:17.9; 2. 22:40.4; 3. 25:22.0; 4. 22:51.0; 5. 24:37.7; 6. 22:05.0; 7. 23:11; 8. NA; 9. NA; 10. 24:10.0; 11. 25:41.3 (63rd at regional); 12. 24:29.9 (121st at sectional)

Caitlyn Travis (Jr.): 1. 21:43.4; 2. 22:06.2; 3. 23:35.0; 4. 22:14.7; 5. NA; 6. 23:33.0; 7. through 12. NA

Darby Braasch (So.): 1. 22:47.4 2. 21:14.4; 3. 23:25.0; 4. 21:05.6; 5. 22:39.4; 6. 20:58.0; 7. 21:08; 8. 20:49.3; 9. 21:03.6; 10. 21:05.0; 11. 21:30.9 (21st at regional); 12. 21:37.8 (66th at regional)

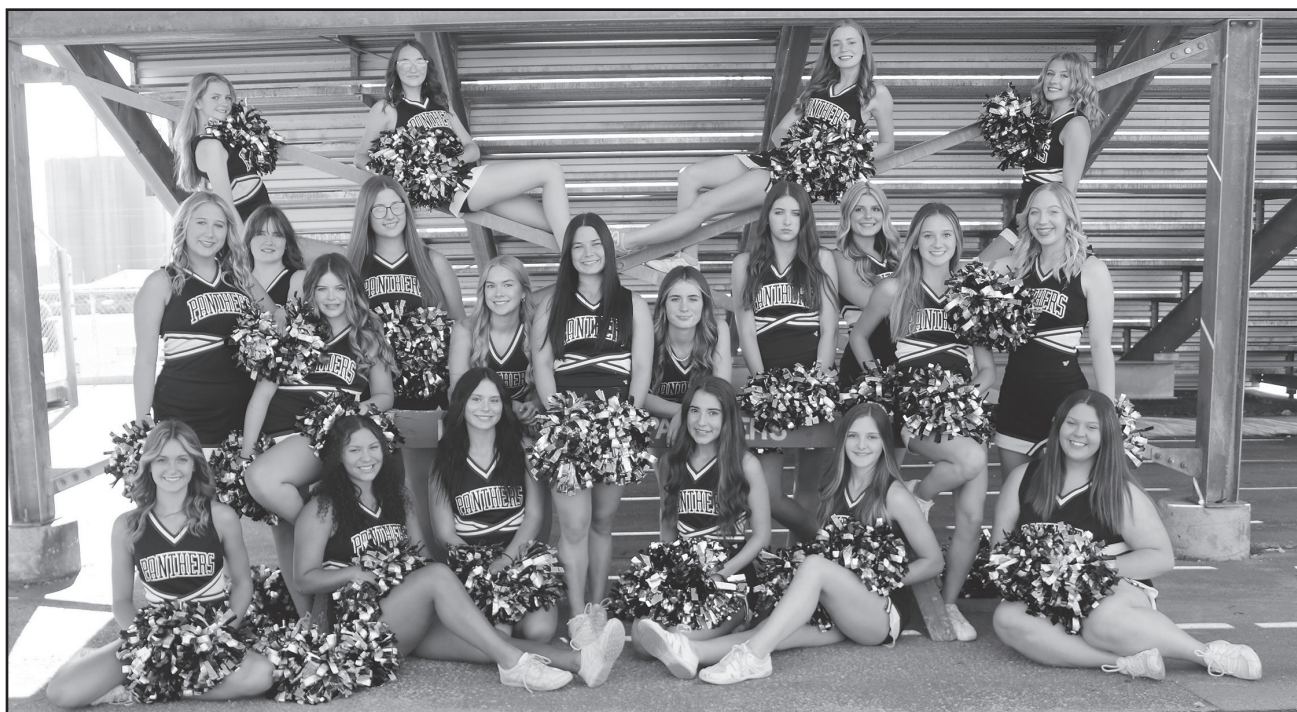
Rilynn Younker (Fr.): 1. 23:52.7; 2. 22:37.2; 3. 24:56.0; 4. 22:40.4; 5. 24:26.2; 6. 22:59.0; 7. 22:46; 8. 22:43.1; 9. 24:37.9; 10. 22:49.0; 11. 22:43.0 (40th at regional); 12. 22:57.2 (96th at sectional)



Litchfield High School Cross Country

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield High School cross country team, from the left are Joelle Hughes, Caitlyn Travis, Emma Diveley, Darby Braasch, Alex Gasperson and Rilynn Younker. In the back row are Matt Green, Camden Quarton, Lucien Quarton, Kenny Traylor, Alec Roach, Mitchell Floyd and Christopher McGee.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School



Litchfield High School Cheerleading

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield High School cheerleading squad, in front, from the left are Alyssa Lohman, Sofia Ray, Darby Braasch, Paityn Buzick, Maya Estell and Kirsten Gudausky. In the middle row are Carly Favre, Emma Rhodes, Megan Boyd, Laynie Wyatt, Claudia Deren, Amy Frerichs, Georgia Glover, Gretchen Heigert, Reese Logsdon, Caitlyn Travis and Madison Mix. In the back row are Scarlett Ledford, Keke Hawley, Tisha Jarden and Sophia Hollo.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School



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Litchfield-Gillespie High School Boys Soccer

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield-Gillespie boys soccer team, in front, from the left are Tyler Belusko, Ryder Olroyd, Landon Wernsing, Joe Reid, Devin White, Frankie Koniak, Drake Gasperson, Gabe Melchert, Kamden Marten, Isaiah Burdell, Cambren Buzick and Nolan Zeisler. In the back row are Head Coach Chris Bates, Casson Schmidt, Brody Dykema, Anthony Bader, Brayden Ronco, Will Wujek, Cooper Martin, Kenden Longwell, Logan Rhodes, Braden Alexander, Chance Holliday, Nicholas Adam and Assistant Coach Lonnie Law. Not pictured are Titan Hires, Caleb Siar and Leo Li.

Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School

2023-24 Litchfield-Gillespie Boys Soccer

Date	Meet	Result	Score
8/26	Staunton*	Win	4-0
8/26	Lincolnwood*	Loss	1-3
8/29	North Mac*	Win	6-0
8/30	Carlinville*	Loss	0-1
9/2	Maryville Christian	Win	1-1
9/5	Hillsboro	Win	1-1
9/7	at North Mac	Win	7-0
9/9	at Springfield Lutheran	Win	8-5
9/12	Staunton	Win	1-0
9/14	at Pana	Win	8-0
9/16	at Metro-East Lutheran	Win	4-1
9/19	Carlinville	Win	2-1
9/21	Athens	Win	9-0
9/23	at Civic Memorial	Loss	3-4
9/26	Vandalia	Win	13-0
9/27	Taylorville	Win	9-0
9/28	at Greenville	Win	3-1
9/30	Pleasant Plains	Loss	0-3
10/3	at Southwestern	Win	8-1
10/5	East Alton-Wood River	Win	7-0
10/6	Lincolnwood	Loss	1-2
10/14	Jerseyville**	Loss	3-4

Record: 16-5-2..... **SCC:** 8-0 (1st)..... **(99-28)**

* At The Kickoff Classic On Route 66 - 4th

** At IHSA Class 2A Civic Memorial Regional

Litchfield Soccer Goals Scored

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Drake Gasperson 39 | 6. Anthony Bader 3 |
| 2. Landon Wernsing 31 | 8. Frankie Koniak 2 |
| 3. Kenden Longwell 7 | 9. Nolan Zeisler 1 |
| 4. Chance Holliday 6 | 9. Cooper Martin 1 |
| 5. Joe Reid 4 | 9. Cason Schmidt 1 |
| 6. Brayden Ronco 3 | 9. Brody Dykema 1 |

Litchfield Soccer Assists

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Landon Wernsing 24 | 7. Joe Reid 3 |
| 2. Drake Gasperson 16 | 7. Anthony Bader 3 |
| 3. Kenden Longwell 15 | 9. Will Wujek 1 |
| 4. Brayden Ronco 6 | 9. Cambren Buzick 1 |
| 5. Chance Holliday 5 | 9. Braden Alexander 1 |
| 6. Brody Dykema 4 | |

Goalkeeper: Cooper Martin 5 shutouts



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Litchfield-Mt. Olive High School Football

Members of the 2023-2024 Litchfield-Mt. Olive football team, in front, from the left are Tate Dobrinich, Hunter Hancock, Mannix Hancock, Ryan Vollintine, Carson Saathoff, Keenan Powell and A.J. Sypherd. In the second row are Gavin Kernebeck, Vincent Moore, Jonathan Bowles, Isaiah Johnson, Cale Winstead, Cal Frerichs, Ethan Ruemmler, Keaton Morgan, Tyler Diamond and Trais Dobrinich. In the third row are Brody Stewart, John Peek, Landon Pryor, Grason Thimsen, Briley Viviano, Riley Ayres, Zackary Hansel, Hunter Law, Devin Hansel, Martavious Jones and Dean Gibbs. In the fourth row are Zaden Steinbach, Clayton Logsdon, Max Leitschuh, Devon Chew, Jayden Ellinger, Dylan O'Keefer, Caiden Lamb, Kayden Bergman and Cooper Martin. In the back row are Cason Schmidt, Laityn Gray, Keaton Buske, Jace Rovey, Harrison Thomas, Ethan Saathoff, David Schoen, Caleb Coulter and Maddox Compton. Not pictured is Lucas Gipson. *Photo courtesy of Litchfield High School*

Passing

Name	Comp.	Att.	YDS
Tate Dobrinich	102	203	1468
Ethan Saathoff	1	3	18
Totals	103	206	1486



Tackles

Name	Solo	Ast.	All	Jayden Ellinger	6	6	12
Martavious Jones	56	14	70	Cal Frerichs	7	4	11
A.J. Sypherd	44	25	69	Devon Chew	4	1	5
Carson Saathoff	46	21	67	Briley Viviano	2	2	4
Keaton Morgan	33	26	59	Tate Dobrinich	2	0	2
Caiden Lamb	41	17	58	Hunter Law	2	0	2
Harrison Thomas	20	18	38	Ethan Ruemmler	1	0	1
Easton Grammer	29	8	37	David Schoen	1	0	1
Kayden Bergman	18	9	27	Tyler Diamond	0	1	1
Devin Hansel	18	9	27	Isaiah Johnson	0	1	1
Hunter Hancock	10	12	22	JB Bowles	0	1	1
Keenan Powell	12	10	22	Cooper Martin	1	0	1
Mannix Hancock	13	9	22	Ryan Vollintine	0	1	1
Max Leitschuh	9	6	15	Totals	375	201	576

Rushing

Name	TC	YDS	YPC	TD
A.J. Sypherd	220	1388	6.3	15
Keaton Morgan	12	73	6.1	1
Tate Dobrinich	24	67	2.8	4
Tyler Diamond	1	0	0.0	0
Totals	257	1528	5.9	20

Receiving

Name	REC	YDS	YPC	TD
Carson Saathoff	33	509	15.4	5
Martavious Jones	20	414	20.7	2
Keenan Powell	20	233	11.7	1
Easton Grammer	13	205	15.8	5
Kayden Bergman	6	67	11.2	0
Max Leitschuh	4	28	7.0	0
A.J. Sypherd	6	10	1.7	0
Totals	102	1466	14.4	13

2022-23 Litchfield Varsity Football

Aug. 26	..... Carlinville.....	14-35
Sept. 1	.....at Southwestern.....	21-27
Sept. 8	.....North Mac	42-21
Sept. 15	.....at Greenville.....	20-34
Sept. 22	.....Hillsboro	9-7
Sept. 29	.....at Gillespie	53-19
Oct. 6	.....at Staunton.....	37-0
Oct. 13Pana	20-15
Oct. 20at Vandalia	38-34
Oct. 28at Olympia.....	17-20
Totals (6-4)	271-212

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