

Inside Today's Edition!



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Hillsboro, IL 62049

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Thursday, March 14, 2024

Hillsboro School Board Hears Update On Science Olympiad Team

by Isaiah Atkins

"We're going to State!" fourth grade teacher and junior high Science Olympiad coach Erin Hammann announced to members of the Hillsboro School Board and an enthusiastic audience to kick off the meeting on Tuesday, March 12.

"This is our first year doing this program," Hammann said. "We really didn't know what to expect."

She had previously introduced the Science Olympiad program at the elementary level after noticing other schools in the area competing. The middle school competition is much more intense, Hamman explained, expanding from eight grade school events to 23 different competitions for the junior high students.

"The scorers just kept saying 'Hillsboro'

and we kept receiving medals," she said. "We ended up placing fourth, missing third by one point, and qualifying for the state competition in Champaign-Urbana."

She explained that most teams roster about 15 varsity students. "We only have ten," she explains. "So that was a disadvantage. We were sprinting from event to event just to make it on time."

Science Olympiad varsity team members for Hillsboro are Lorelei Carlock, Claire Trader, Colby Wilkinson, Audrey Billington, Greyson Cyrus, Charles Thornton, Daineal Sullivan, Ari Lipe, Madison Kirk and Aiden Robinson. Junior varsity students include Brielle Harbert, Lilly Bell, Paxton Chesney, Kendall Markezich, Hudson Wright, Frankie Vangiesen, Henry Shultz, Liam Wolf and Kate Cunningham.

Students in attendance, wearing their

winning medals, then presented their competition building projects to the board, including a tabletop roller coaster with a loop and jump, a vehicle that traveled over 30 ft. and a tower that supported 33 lbs. They also explained to the board some of the other competitions, including constellation and astronomy questions and a experimental design event.

Hammann thanked Hope McBrain at the district office for her incredible support and aid to the program, providing materials and tools needed to be successful.

The board congratulated the students on their success, and unanimously approved the proposed overnight trip to the state competition to ensure that students are well rested for the events.

Superintendent David Powell announced that the final days of the 2023-2024 school

year have been set, barring some late season bad weather or emergency days.

The final day for senior students at Hillsboro High School will be Friday, May 17.

Exam days will be Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday, May 22. Wednesday, the last day of the school year, will be an 11:35 a.m. dismissal.

Graduation will be on Friday evening, May 24. The graduation date has been set and is not dependent on emergency. The other dates could be affected still should there be some ice or something, Powell explained.

Continuing the conversation on junior high social studies curriculum, McBrain recommended that the board approve the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt program.

Continued on page 7A

Nokomis Hosts March City Council Meeting

by Ben Schwarm

The Nokomis City Council met in its regular meeting on Monday, March 11 at the council room in City Hall.

In the meeting, commissioners approved a resolution to adopt the 2024 Montgomery County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and the 2024

Motor Fuel Tax resolution for the Municipal Maintenance Plan.

The council also approved building permits for a fence at 522 Young St. and a building at 334 Henry St.

The Henry Street plan was contingent on a variance and signoff from neighboring homeowners.

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County Residents May View Election Returns

Local residents may once again gather at the County Board Room located on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro on Tuesday, March 19, to view election returns as they become available after the polls close at 7 p.m.

Updated results from the Montgomery County website will be shown on an overhead projector, and individual pre-

cinct reports will be provided on an as-needed basis.

"We are pleased to once again offer this service to Montgomery County residents," said Montgomery County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, "and encourage voters to gather here at their Historic Courthouse to be a part of the elections returns process as it occurs."

Continued on page 7A



High School Teams Swing Into Spring

With one out in the bottom of the 10th inning, Brody Lush sent the fans from Lincolnwood and Morrisonville home happy Tuesday, March 12, as his single to center scored the go-ahead run and ended the Lancers' season opener with a 3-2 walkoff victory over Taylorville. Lush got a hero's welcome after touching first base as the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville dugout emptied to celebrate with Tuesday's hero. Seven of Montgomery County's eight baseball and softball teams started their seasons on Monday or Tuesday. For more on those games, see sports.

Jean Weitkamp Photo

Community Easter Egg Hunts

Saturday, March 23

Hillsboro • 10:30 a.m. • Beckemeyer School
Hillsboro Sensory • 11:30 a.m. • Beckemeyer
Taylor Springs • 10:30 a.m. • Community Center
Raymond • 10:30 a.m. • Raymond Park
Fillmore • 12:30 p.m. • Molly McDowell Park
Litchfield • 1 p.m. • Community Center
Harvel • 1:30 p.m. • Harvel Park

Saturday, March 30

Irving • 10 a.m. • Methodist Church
Witt • 1 p.m. • Witt City Park
Coffeen • 1 p.m. • Washington Park
Nokomis • 2 p.m. • Fred B. Johnson Park

Saturday, April 6

Farmersville • 11 a.m. • Village Square

County Board Dispatches Business In March

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

With one member absent, members of the Montgomery County Board dispatched of their business rather quickly on Tuesday evening, March 12, at the Historic Courthouse in downtown Hillsboro. Board member Bill Bergen was absent.

In calling the meeting to order, Chairman Doug Donaldson asked board member David Loucks to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members unanimously approved both the monthly mileage and per diem requests and the minutes from the February meeting, as well as the consent agenda, with no discussion.

In liaison reports, board member Ethan Murzynski said the 708 Board met on March 11 to discuss quarterly information. Board member Mark Hughes added that the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation met recently with a presentation from local author Tom Emery.

Public Comment

Larry Miller addressed the board and asked them to reconsider the county's animal control policy, which allows for the euthanization of dogs and cats that

have been at the facility for more than six months. Miller said it's often hard to adopt older dogs, and wished the county would consider a year instead of six months prior to euthanization.

John Galer, owner of *The Journal-News* in Hillsboro, gave remarks on the state of Illinois' attacks on public notices in newspapers. There is currently a bill in the House that would allow for government bodies to publish notices on websites instead of in newspapers. He said that the publishing of the notices, most recently property assessments, starts a policy procedure set out by the government. In some cases, once that notice is published, residents have 30 days to file a complaint.

"It's set up to be transparent so people will know what's going on," Galer said. "The more we can do to keep people informed, the better our society will be."

Bill Schroeder gave a report on his year-long quest to get a weather radio once again installed in the county. It was previously located at the Coffeen Power Plant, but has been since removed. He's been in contact with representatives from Senator Tammy Duckworth's and Representative Mary Miller's offices, and encouraged other local residents to do the same. Schroeder said he has

been referred to the national weather bureau, who has 60 to 90 days to respond to his request.

Coordinating

Donaldson opened his report with a resolution supporting National Agriculture Day in Montgomery County, which was approved unanimously.

"This board calls on our citizens to recognize and celebrate the contributions farmers and farm families have made to better the lives of our citizens," Donaldson read.

In information systems news, Donaldson reported that Curt Watkins handled 81 tech tickets in January. Watkins' report said the Cress Hill fiber project is complete, the redundant fiber loop is almost complete and the court grant has been approved. He continues to work on the county's new website as well.

Board members unanimously approved the hazardous mitigation plan, which EMA (the Emergency Management Agency) has been working on for several months. It is also available for inspection.

EMA Director Kevin Schott reminded county residents of the next solar eclipse on Monday, April 8.

Continued on page 8A

Thu 14	72°/45°	Thunderstorms	71%
Fri 15	56°/36°	AM Clouds/PM Sun	15%
Sat 16	63°/37°	Mostly Sunny	6%
Sun 17	50°/27°	Partly Cloudy	2%

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Meet this year's Litchfield Chamber of Commerce award winners on 9A-11A.

Hantla Continues Judicial Campaign

Judge Christopher "Kit" Hantla announces that he is running to sustain his current position of resident circuit judge on Montgomery County.

Judge Hantla was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to succeed Judge James Roberts, who retired in March 2023. He was appointed in April of 2023 after interviews by a committee of local attorneys and Illinois Supreme Court Justice David Overstreet.

Judge Hantla was recommended by the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) to fill Judge Roberts' vacancy. He is the only candidate to receive this nomination after a poll was taken of legal professionals with adequate knowledge to evaluate candidates.



Kit Hantla

didates.

Prior to Judge Hantla's appointment to the bench, he practiced law with his father, Brad, for 25 years

in Litchfield. Hantla and Hantla focused initially on personal injury litigation for the defense, later switching to represent the plaintiff or injured party.

He has also served as the city attorney for Hillsboro, Litchfield, Waggoner and Nokomis.

Judge Hantla is now a member of the Illinois Judges Association, as well as member of the American Bar Association, where he served numerous terms as vice president.

Judge Hantla and his wife, Molly, reside in Litchfield. They have three adult children, Jack, Julia and Mitch. Judge Hantla is the son of Brad and Anne Hantla, also of Litchfield.

Flack Named To LLCC Board Of Directors

The Lincoln Land Community College Foundation Board of Directors welcomed three new members, elected new officers and recognized outgoing board members at a recent meeting.

Earl Flack of Hillsboro was recognized as a new board member. Flack serves as president and CEO of McKay NAPA Auto Parts, which is headquartered in Litchfield and has 26 stores and a distribution center servicing central Illinois.

Flack also serves as an advisor for all NAPA stores across the country and at NAPA headquarters based in Atlanta, Georgia. He currently serves in an advisory position at local high schools and community colleges for



Earl Flack

the automotive aftermarket. Flack is an active member of numerous clubs and organizations including Hillsboro Health, Make-A-Wish and the South Central Innovation & Training Center.

Additional new board members recognized were Doreen Garza, Rachel Pennell and Margaret Teague.

Outgoing board members honored were Bill Fleming of Litchfield, Brett Jackson of Springfield and Neil Jordan of Springfield. They were acknowledged for their dedicated service on behalf of LLCC students.

The LLCC Foundation's mission is to cultivate and steward charitable gifts to support and enrich LLCC students, programs and services. For more information, visit llccfoundation.org.



Representatives of local businesses gathered to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday, March 8. They gathered at the steps of the old Litchfield library on State St. and Union Ave in Litchfield. *Journal-News/Cayden Huber*

Local Businesses Celebrate Women's Day

The celebration of contribution and achievement of women could be found in Litchfield to highlight International Women's Day on Friday, March 8. The 2024 theme for International Women's Day was "inspire inclusion," which emphasizes the importance of inspiring women to be included, fostering a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

Local businesswomen got together at the steps of the old Litchfield library sporting shirts that shared the message "women empowering women."

Businesses represented

include House of Glow LLC, Hazel Rae, Love the Skin You're In with Jen Fleming, Willow Lane Spa, Fit-to-Go, Gudelg Ranch Saloon Venue and Whiskey Lounge, Midwest Royals, Kismet Coffee Co., Petal Pushers, Chappis, Rise and Grind Coffee Co., Plexus with Sheila Budd and Victoria Furman, Fearless Beauty Co., The Briar Rose, Hair 51 LLC Salon and Spa, Station 3 Bar and Lounge, Maurices, Route 66 Skyview

Drive-In, Chelsea Lapolice Photography, Animal Medical Center, Meraki Studio, Pizza Man, Happy Tails, LHS Cheerleading coached by Britney Murphy and Shamera Robinson, Zylia Active Independent Rep with Brittany Winans, Reid Eye Care, Be Still Yoga and Meditation, Golden Paw Total Pet Care, NMT Photography, Jubelt's Restaurant and Bakery, Smart Styles, Tonya Flannery and John Hicks Maytag.

Donnellson Man Dies In Single Vehicle Accident

A 49-year-old Donnellson man was pronounced dead on the scene of single vehicle accident on Tuesday, March 13, on Mt. Moriah Ave., just east of Illinois Route 127.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the scene of the accident at 2:39 p.m. Driver

Corey A. Roberson, 49, of Donnellson, was pronounced dead at 3:18 p.m. by Montgomery County Coroner Randy Leetham's office.

The accident report states that Roberson lost control of his vehicle, which began to roll and overturned several times.

LITCHFIELD PARK DISTRICT

CASINO Night

MARCH 23, 2024 | 7-10PM

\$40 PER TICKET

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Ticket admission includes Casino chips. Chips have no monetary value. Great prizes to be awarded at the conclusion of play.

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Taylor Tire & Auto of Litchfield has been purchased by Best One of Central Illinois. (Effective July 5, 2023)

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Public Meetings

Hillsboro Library Board

Members of the Hillsboro Area Public Library District will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, March 19, beginning at 6:15 p.m. On the agenda will be discussion of a donor wall, basement improvements and the IHLS Polaris Library Software.

Inside today's edition, readers will find the 2024 Health and Wellness Guide. The special book features a variety of stories designed to help readers take control of their health.

Stories focus on mental health, exercise and healthy eating habits, as well as ads from across the medical community in Montgomery and Macoupin counties. You won't want to miss this very special section.

And speaking of special, take a peek inside for a closer look at this year's Litchfield Chamber of Commerce award winners on pages 9A-11A. The Journal-News is honored to be recognized as this year's Business of the Year, along with Shane Grammar as Citizen of the Year, Amy Newkirk as Educator of the Year, Kismet Coffee as the Rising Star and Kevin Schott with Special Recognition.

This year's honorees will be recognized at the annual banquet on Friday evening, March 15, at the Litchfield Community Center.

Donut you like to read? Join the Litchfield Public Library for a donut-themed reading event on Friday evening, March 15, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Fore! Swing into golf around Montgomery County with all the beautiful weather we've been having lately.

During the month of March, the Hillsboro Country Club is offering a special. Those who

Journalisms
News About People and Events of Interest Throughout The County

join the club in March and pay for the remainder of the year will get the first quarter free in 2025, plus golf the remainder of March for free. Applications are available at 5-Boys Bar and Grill or text 217-556-2352.

And speaking of golf, Montgomery County's very own Indian Springs Golf Course in Fillmore was voted seventh in the top 25 public golf courses in Illinois in the Golfers Choice 2024.

Owner Natalie Fuller said they are so grateful to be recognized and couldn't do it without their awesome staff and golfers.

Save the cooking for someone else this weekend! Join the Farmersville-Waggoner Volunteer Fire Department for a pancake and sausage breakfast on Sunday, March 17, from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Farmersville Knights of Columbus Hall.

On the menu will be pancakes, sausage, drinks and even sausage sales. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Sky View Drive-In in Litchfield is opening for the season this weekend with a very special event. They are

joining Team Hitch Up (Butch and Samantha Hitchings) for this year's Stamp Out Cancer competition.

Join them on Saturday, March 16, for live music with RetroRockit and a bags tournament, starting at 1 p.m. There will also be vendors and concessions and Jumanji will begin at dusk. Proceeds will benefit the Montgomery County Cancer Association.

Taylorville Community Credit Union is inviting its members to the 2024 annual meeting on Tuesday evening, March 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 401 S. Walnut Street in Taylorville.

Reservations are due by Friday, March 15 by calling 217-824-9658. Food and refreshments will be provided.

The Litchfield Eagles Club is hosting a membership drive this weekend on Saturday evening, March 16, with live music provided by the Tom Petty tribute band, Not Petty, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The public is invited to attend and learn more about the organization. The Litchfield Eagles Club is located at 116 W. Ryder in Litchfield.

After closing for renova-

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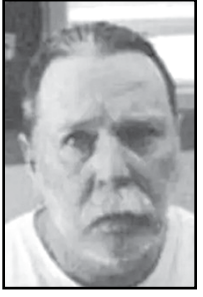
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Obituaries

Darrell L. Hoffstat, 69

Outdoorsman



Darrell Leon Hoffstat, 69, of Gillespie, died at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield on Saturday, March 2.

No public services will be held. Mr. Hoffstat was born Oct. 2, 1954, in Granite City to Willard Lee Hoffstat and Hazel Mae Holloway Hoffstat. He was retired after having been an assembler for Echlin.

Mr. Hoffstat enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping and water skiing.

He is survived by his sons, Zachary Hoffstat of Mt. Olive and Zane Hoffstat of Gillespie; and sisters, Sandra Elledge of Litchfield and Peggy (Joseph) Fischer.

Mr. Hoffstat was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Victor Hoffstat.

Anyone wishing to send an online condolence may do so at www.kravanyafuneral.com. Kravanya Funeral Home, Gillespie is in charge of the arrangements.

Patsy Marley, 81

Lifelong Local Resident



Patsy Marley, 81, of Pana, formerly of Nokomis, died Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at Pana Health and Rehab following a brief illness.

Visitation will be held at St. Louis Catholic Church in Nokomis, on Friday, March 15, from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a funeral mass at 11 a.m. A meal will be served after interment.

Mrs. Marley was born on Sept. 17, 1942, and lived most of her life within a 20-mile radius. In 1960, she graduated from Nokomis

High School and married Paul C. Marley in November of that same year. In 1965 the couple moved into a house in rural Oconee that they resided in for over 55 years. In that home, Mrs. Marley raised her children and doted on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, cooking many delicious meals and hosting frequent large and boisterous family functions.

Mrs. Marley was famous for her fried chicken, mashed potatoes and special chocolate chip cookies. Every grandchild that visited knew the toys were kept in the bottom drawer and that the Sesame Street house was in the closet. She loved animals and considered her four-footed furry friends her children, too.

In addition to her life as a homemaker, Mrs. Marley also spent a few years working at McDonald's in Pana as a lobby lady and eventual biscuit maker. In addition to being a wonderful cook and biscuit maker, Patsy loved to read and garden. She harvested and canned tomato juice and green beans and froze corn to enjoy during the long winter months.

Mrs. Marley is survived by her spouse of 63 years, Paul C. Marley; children, Paul (Marla) C. Marley, Jr. of Oconee, Inez (Darrin) Vits of Dixon and Rita (David) Harper of Rochester; nine grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Audrey and Katherine (Haycox) Brooks; sister, Delores Brown; and brothers, Everett, Kenneth and Russell Brooks.

Memorials may be made to St. Louis Catholic School at 509 E. Union, Nokomis, IL 62075 or Paws Care at 1123 School Street; Hillsboro, IL 62049

Grieving the loss of someone close to you?

Find comfort and support at GriefShare

Sundays, March 10th-June 2nd
4-5:30 p.m.

Raymond Baptist Church
511 East Broad • Raymond, IL

13-week grief support group.

You can join at any time.

For more information, call 217-710-4818

Billy G. Langston, 70

Served His Country



Billy Gene Langston, 70, of Coffeen, died Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 3:02 a.m. at Hillsboro Rehab and Health Care Center in Hillsboro.

Graveside service with military rites will be held Tuesday, March 19, at 1 p.m. at Waveland Cemetery in rural Hillsboro. The Rev. Randy Sands, pastor of Free Methodist Church in Hillsboro, will officiate.

Mr. Langston was born Aug. 15, 1953 in Red Bud, to Thomas Langston and Betty (Cole) Langston McFarlin, and Betty survives in Hillsboro.

He is a Hillsboro High School graduate and went on to get his degree from vocational school for Diesel Mechanics. He married Gail Malloy on May 31, 1973, in Coffeen, and she survives in Coffeen.

Mr. Langston spent nine years in the United States Army. He was a member of Operating Engineers Union Local 513 in St. Louis, employed as a heavy equipment operator. He also worked as a diesel mechanic. Mr. Langston was a member of the VFW in Hillsboro. His favorite pastime was fishing and he loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Langston is survived by his mother, Betty; wife Gail; children, Heather (Todd) Claxon of Taylor Springs and Billie (Harold) Havron of Hillsboro; four grandchildren, Dustin (Carrissa) Claxon; Ethan (Dallas) Roach, Jared Claxon and Garrett Havron; two great-grandchildren, Avian Claxon and Drake Claxon; and siblings, Greg Langston of Hillsboro and Carol Ellsworth of Troy.

Condolences may be left online at www.basspattondeanfh.com

Samuel L. Reynolds, 86

Enjoyed Traveling



Samuel L. Reynolds, 86, died on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at his home.

Visitation were held from 9 a.m. until time of the funeral services at 11 on Thursday, March 7, at Bethel Baptist Church in Jerseyville. The Rev. Joel Lohr officiated. Burial took place in Oak Grove Cemetery in Jerseyville.

Mr. Reynolds was born on Jan. 5, 1938, in Jersey County, the son of the late Charles E. and Mary Elizabeth Reynolds. He graduated in 1956 from Jersey Com-

munity High School. Following his graduation, he enlisted in the US Army Reserves.

After the Army, Mr. Reynolds took a job at McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft where he only planned on staying a couple of months "until it was time to plant the spring crops", but instead worked there for 36 years, retiring in 1993. During his time at McDonnell-Douglas he primarily worked as an inspector, advancing to foreman, working on many fighter aircraft, his favorite being the F-15 Eagle, and included traveling to California during the initial production of the F/A 18 Hornet.

Not one to sit still, after retiring from McDonnell-Douglas Mr. Reynolds worked as a bus driver for Jersey Community Unit District 100, retiring there after 10 years.

After retiring from being a school bus driver, Mr. Reynolds enjoyed being a seasonal farm worker. Additionally, he served on the Jersey Community Unit District 100 School Board for 12 years, including as serving as president. For many years he has been active in caring for and maintaining Keller Cemetery in rural Jersey County.

A lifelong member of Bethel Baptist Church, Mr. Reynolds served his church and showed his deep faith in many ways, including as serving as trustee, deacon and for many years as a Sunday School teacher.

It is at Bethel that Mr. Reynolds met and married his beloved wife of 63 years, Mary Lou. She preceded him in death on November 30, 2023.

The couple were avid travelers and enjoyed driving coast to coast enjoying this beautiful country on many long adventures. Mr. Reynolds had a deep love for his horses, spending countless hours on horseback and tending to them. But always, family was the most important part of his life. His wife, children, and grandchildren were all deeply loved and knew it. He was also a part of the large extended 'Smith' family, which included many aunts, uncles and cousins who he cherished.

Mr. Reynolds is survived by three children and their spouses, Paul and Lisa Reynolds of Carlinville, Marsha and Paul Boschert of Edwardsville, and Steven and Kim Reynolds of Litchfield; his four grandchildren and their spouses, Samantha Boschert of Portland, OR, Gregory Reynolds of Edwardsville, Matthew and Alexis Reynolds of Columbia, MO, and Maggie Reynolds of Litchfield; sister and brother-in-law, Jean and Roger Carroll of Jerseyville, and brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Peggy Reynolds of Jerseyville.

Mr. Reynolds was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials may be given to the Bethel Baptist Church in Jerseyville, in care of Crawford Funeral Home.

Memories may be shared with the family by visiting www.crawfordfunerals.com.

Agnes L. Livingston, 88

Loving Mother



Agnes Lavon Cripe Livingston, 88, of Highland, formerly of Greenville, Hillsboro and Pittsburgh, died at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in the emergency room in St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, at the Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home in Greenville with the Rev. Dr. Ward Sussenbach officiating. The family will receive friends at Donnell-Wiegand from 11 a.m. on Thursday until service time. Interment will follow in Filmore-Glendale Cemetery in Filmore, IL.

Mrs. Livingston, the daughter of Roe Hubert Cripe and Millie Mancy Dickson Cripe, was born on Dec. 22, 1935, on the Cripe Farm near Pittsburgh in Fayette County. She was one of eight Cripe children. She grew up on the family farm and attended the one room schools in several parts of Bond County and graduated from Greenville High School in the class of 1953. She and Allen Lee Livingston were united in marriage on May 5, 1967, in Hillsboro, and only had 23 years together before his death on Feb. 17, 1990.

After graduation she worked for Rasler Plumbing for several years. After her marriage, she farmed alongside her husband on the farm south of Hillsboro. She was then a stay-at-home mom, caring for her two children. After Mr. Livingston's death at age 59, Mrs. Livingston rejoined the workforce and worked for Kelly Services and for Shell Oil Company in Woodriver as a shipping clerk.

Mrs. Livingston is survived by her two children, Amy Lynn (Jerry) Brennan of Highland and Timothy Lloyd Livingston of Highland; four grandchildren, Elizabeth Nicole Livingston, Matthew Lloyd Livingston, Jerome (Brianna) Brennan and Skylar Brennan; three great-grandchildren: Camden, Grayson and Jaxon Brennan; and her last sibling, Elvin (Sue) Cripe of north of Greenville.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Allen; great-granddaughter Nylah Sullivan; and 6 siblings, Gerald Cripe, Lola Zeeb, Georgia Lurkins, Norma Stoecklin, Melba Perkins and Doris in infancy.

For those who desire, memorials in Agnes's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. For online condolences please go to donnellwiegand.com

James L. DeWerff, 92

Provided For His Family



James Louis "Jim" DeWerff, 92, of Nokomis, died Sunday, March 10, 2024, at his residence.

Visitation for Mr. DeWerff will take place Saturday, March 16, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church, located at 311 South Elm in Nokomis. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow, officiated by Father Michael Meinhart at 11:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Nokomis. Stiehl Dawson Funeral Home of Nokomis is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mr. DeWerff was born Oct. 22, 1931, in Pana, to the late Louis George and Josephine (Donaldson) DeWerff. He was a graduate of Nokomis High School with the class of 1948. Mr. DeWerff went on to serve our country in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He and Elizabeth Durbin were united in marriage on August 20, 1955, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Litchfield and were married for 68 years. She survives.

Mr. DeWerff was a grain and dairy farmer. He was a devoted, loving, family man and a good provider for his seven children. He loved farming. His church was a very important part of his life, and he enjoyed volunteering for the fish fries during Lent. He was also a member of Knights of Columbus.

In addition to his wife, Elizabeth; Mr. DeWerff is survived by his children, Kevin (Kathy) DeWerff of Bloomington, Dennis (Vickie) DeWerff of Normal, Nancy (Rick) Roberts of Bloomington, Kathryn Finley of Nokomis, Timothy (Shell) DeWerff of Nokomis and Christina (Brad Whalen) DeWerff of Farmersville; 16 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and one on the way; sisters, Mary Lou Bertolino of Witt and Karel Ann (Bob) Bost of Witt and brother, Michael (Diane) DeWerff of Cape Girardeau, MO.

Mr. DeWerff was preceded in death by his son, Stephen J. DeWerff in 2020; grandson, Zach DeWerff; brother, Jeff DeWerff; and sister, Debbie Bowers; brother-in-law, James Bertolino; and son-in-law, Ed Finley

Memorials in Mr. DeWerff's memory are suggested to AMVETS Department of Illinois (Springfield), 2206 S. 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62703 or Calvary Cemetery, 19396 North 21st Avenue, Nokomis, IL.

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Bremer Sanctuary Gets Birdhouses Ready For Spring

It's that time of year again to get birdhouses ready for the breeding season.

The 50 nest boxes at Bremer Sanctuary were cleaned and repaired on Tuesday, Feb. 27. Three boxes were replaced and nine boxes were rewired to the post as the existing wires had rusted.

Many are speculating that many bird species have already begun their migration back to our area.



CNB Names Wright Student Of The Month

CNB Bank and Trust in Hillsboro has honored Hillsboro High School senior Annabelle Wright as the Student of the Month for January. Annabelle is the daughter of John and Kendra Wright of Hillsboro. She is a member of the HHS tennis team, scholar bowl team, band, choir, student council, interact club and culture club. After graduation, Wright is looking to attend the University of Illinois for material science and engineering and its relation with biology. She hopes to work on prosthetics.

As the January Student of the Month, Wright will receive a \$50 gift card and is eligible for the Student of the Year award, given in May. Pictured above, from the left are Melissa Caldwell of CNB Bank and Annabelle Wright. *Journal-News/Cayden Huber*

Hillsboro Snow Royalty Offers To 'Egg Your Yard'

The Snow Royalty of Imagine Hillsboro will become Easter Bunny helpers with their "Egg Your Yard" fundraiser. In exchange for a donation, the group will fill the specified number of eggs and hide them in your front yard the night before Easter.

Donation amounts are \$20 for 15 eggs, \$25 for 20, \$30 for 25, and \$35 for 30. Filled eggs can be hidden in yards in the Hillsboro, Taylor Springs, Schram City and Coffeen areas. In the event of rain, filled eggs will be delivered in a box and left on the home's porch with a note from the Easter Bunny. For more information or to order eggs, message Snow Royalty leaders Tiffany Reitz or Sheridan Lyerla on Facebook.

Births

Kyrsten and Dustin Morris of Litchfield announce the birth of their daughter, Adalee June Morris, born at 4:42 p.m. Sunday, March 10, 2024, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. She weighed 8 lbs. and measured 20 ins. long.

She was welcomed home by big brothers Easton, 12, Lincoln, six and Holden, two, and big sister Tinley, 11.

Maternal grandparents are Jennifer Hoos of Hillsboro and Kent McBrain of Litchfield. Paternal grandparents are Richard and Dawn Morris of Raymond.

Maternal great-grandparents are Jim and June Kuntz. Paternal great-grandparents are Michael and Barbara Bales and Danny and Karen Pence.

Waggoner Trivia Night Set In March

The Panhandle Educational Foundation is hosting their annual Trivia Night on Saturday, March 23, at the Waggoner Centennial Building.

This year the foundation will repeat the "Crazy Eights" theme, with eight rounds of eight questions for a cost of \$88 for a table of up to 10.

In addition there will be the usual dessert wheel and some other fun surprises. Tables are asked to bring their own drinks and snacks.

No pre-registration is required. Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia will begin at 6:30 p.m. Funds raised are used to provide grants for Panhandle teachers and Panhandle student scholarships.



Community and church members celebrated the opening of Clothed In Grace, a free clothing boutique ran by Raymond Baptist Church. Pictured above, from the left are Tiffany and Daniel Johnson, Mayor Denny Held, Tammy Butler, cutting the ribbon, Jeremy Cray, Kevin Ford, Harold Cantrall, Lee and Jacob Johnson, Mary Cantrall, Donna Elliott, Angel Kellow, Sherry Lewey and Pastor Ron Butler. *Journal-News Photo*

Raymond Baptist Opens Free Boutique

by Isaiah Atkins

Raymond Baptist Church announced the opening of their free community clothing boutique on Saturday, March 2, with a ribbon cutting attended by members of the church and community.

The boutique, named Clothed In Grace, carries clothing of all sizes for men, women, kids and babies, as well as hats, shoes, bags scarves and other accessories.

Clothed In Grace will be open the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. Community volunteers and church members will staff the location.

The boutique will be accepting clothing donations by appointment only. All donations must be clean and free of pet hair and/or dander. "We are so excited that this vision has been brought



Clothed In Grace clothing boutique opened their doors on Saturday, March 2, with a community ribbon cutting event. The boutique offers free clothing to the community and is open the first Saturday of each month and every Tuesday evening. *Journal-News Photo*

to life," Pastor Ron Butler said, "and we are looking forward to serving the Raymond community."

To make donations, pick up clothes, or for more information contact Tammy

Butler at 217-341-1469 or Pastor Butler at 217-710-4818.

Raymond Baptist Church and Clothed In Grace clothing boutique are located at 511 E. Broad St. in Raymond.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK'S EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE
 Pursuant to Article 19A of the Illinois Election Code, Early Voting for the March 19th, 2024 General Primary Election for all Montgomery County Precincts will be conducted at the Early Voting Center of the Montgomery County Clerk located in the street level basement of the Historic Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois beginning Thursday, February 8th, 2024 and continuing through Monday, March 18th, 2024 on weekdays from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Saturday Early Voting hours will be conducted from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon and will include Saturday, March 2nd, Saturday, March 9th, and Saturday, March 16th, 2024. Voters should use the west street level entrance to the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro for easy access to the Early Voting Center. Any voter validly registered in Montgomery County may vote during the Early Voting period, however any vote cast is final and may not be revoked and the voter is not eligible to cast a vote on Election Day. Voters with questions about the Early Voting schedule may email the Montgomery County Clerk at countyclerk@montgomerycountyil.gov or contact the County Clerk's office at 217-532-9530.
Sandy Leitheiser
 Sandy Leitheiser
 Montgomery County Clerk

Nokomis Women's Club Hosts Annual Egg Hunt

The Nokomis Women's Club will host a Nokomis community Easter egg hunt at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, in Fred B. Johnson City Park.

Children from the ages of toddlers through fourth grade are invited to bring their Easter baskets and line up in designated areas before the starting time. The Easter Bunny will be

on hand for photos and to pass out Dairy Queen tokens after the hunt. The Easter Bunny will also have extra eggs for toddlers who are too shy to participate in the big hunt.

There will be a box in the gazebo for anyone who wishes to recycle their plastic eggs from the hunt. Winners of the coloring contest will be able to pick up their prizes

and have a photo taken for the newspaper after the egg hunt. Winners will be notified before the hunt. The egg hunt will take

place regardless of the weather, so children are asked to come prepared to hunt in the conditions for that day.

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You Could Be Queen!
 The Old Settlers Committee is looking for young ladies, freshmen thru seniors in the Hillsboro High School District, who would like to run for Old Settlers Queen this year.
 Call or text Shawna Rovey at 217-556-6177 or stop in at the HHS office to sign up
 * Meet New People *
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Queen kick-off to be announced.
Deadline to enter is April 1st

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TOPPER TALK • by Annabelle Wright at Hillsboro High

Hiltopper Sports Are Now In Full Swing



Hello, Toppers! The Student Council at HHS is working to make HHS

more festive for St. Patrick's Day! "Lucky Cups" are available for \$1 in the cafeteria during all lunch modules. These cups contain a mystery prize, anything from a sweet treat to a special trinket. Each cup is a special surprise, so don't miss out on adding a bit of fun to your day!

The Post Prom sign-ups are open! The theme this year is "Let's Glow Crazy," which is sure to bring about exciting decorations and props. There will be a number of activities, including a hypnotist, inflatable games, Minute to Win It games, henna, a caricature artist, a DJ and prizes! Post Prom is a great opportunity to extend the excitement of Prom and have a blast with your friends. It is free to attend and will take place from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., directly after Prom!

This is the last call to get your baby pictures and senior pictures to Mrs. Rench. Seniors, these pictures will be on display when you walk across the stage, so make sure it's a good one! They are due by this Friday, March 15.

Sports are back at HHS in full swing!

This week, the Lady Toppers soccer team is working hard for the beginning of their season. They have two home games, the first one

on Friday, March 15 against Maryville Christian School. BTOP members, this game is going to be full of orange pride, so wear your orange shirts! Their next game is on Monday, March 18 against Metro-East Lutheran. Both of these games will take place at the Hillsboro Sports Complex.

The boys tennis season is starting up! Their second match of the season is Tuesday, March 19, at home against Bunker Hill. Even if it's a bit farther away from the school, it's still only a short drive away to the Sport Complex, where all of the home tennis games are.

Boys and girls track season is on the move! Their next match is taking place at North Mac High School on Tuesday, March 19. They will be facing off against both North Mac and Litchfield Schools. Good luck to all competitors!

As you go about this week, remember to celebrate every single day! This Thursday, March 14, is everyone's favorite math-related holiday, Pi Day! Celebrate March 15, National Shoe the World Day, with a donation to PAWS care or another related charity. St. Patrick's Day, March 17, is always an excuse to get together with your friends and have a party! Enjoy a tasty snack on March 19, Chocolate Caramel Day. Finally, try out a new activity on March 16, National Quilting Day. Overall, have a great week, and I'll talk to you next time!



Madison Park Students Honored By Principal Favre

Madison Park Elementary School Principal Adam Favre has announced the winners of the Principal Recognition Award for the week of Feb. 23. These students are recognized by their classroom teacher for positive achievements in academic and social skills. Students celebrate with the entire grade during the building morning meetings on Fridays and receive a certificate to recognize their hard work. In the photo at left are kindergarten winners, from the left, Layla Blankenship, Maggie Murphy and Rena Noyes-Kalaher. In the photo at right are first grade winners, from the left, Ashley Miller, Damian Votoupal, Layla Wall and Lucas Kessler.

Panhandle Picklers To Hold March Bake Sale

The Panhandle Picklers Food mart in Raymond, on Pickleball group will be holding a bake sale at West End Saturday, March 16, starting at 8 a.m.

Russell Scholarship Open For Applications

The Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee has announced that it will award a \$1,000 scholarship this spring to a graduating senior in one of the county high schools. The scholarship is available to any 2024 graduating senior from a Montgomery County high school, who is a resident of Montgomery County from a democrat family and who will be pursuing a degree at any post secondary educational institution.

Interested applicants should provide a letter of acceptance from the institution of higher learning the applicant will be attending, a 750 word essay on the topic, "The Importance of Local Election Officials in

Ensuring Election Integrity," a copy of the applicant's high school transcript and a statement of family income to their guidance counselor for transmittal to the committee. Failure to include all of the required items will result in failure of the application to be considered for the scholarship. Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, April 19.

The scholarship, named in honor of the longest serving Montgomery County Clerk, Eunice May Russell, will be awarded at the annual awards ceremony at the successful applicant's school. This will be the tenth annual awarding of the Eunice May Russell Democrat Scholarship.



Hillsboro Fourth Graders Head To State Tournament

A talented group of fourth grade girls in the Hillsboro Sports Association is headed to the state tournament later this month. The team went three and one in the TLK Hustle and Heart Tournament and won the Silver Division Championship with a double overtime win before heading into the championship game on just a few minutes of rest. They will compete in the Illinois Middle School State Tournament at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign March 15-17.

Pictured above, in front, from the left are Micah Holtschulte, Jayla Zaidi, Violet Limbaugh and Makinley Furness. In back are Loralei Atkins, Journey Tinchler, Sophia Odle and Adalin Lemaster.

Quad County Home Health Receives Prestigious Award

Quad County Home Health in Pana has been recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a "Superior Performer" for achieving an overall patient satisfaction score that ranked in the top 20 percent of all eligible SHP clients for the 2022 calendar year.

The annual SHP Best award program was created to acknowledge home health agencies that consistently provide high quality service to their patients. The 2022 award recipients were determined by reviewing and ranking the overall satisfaction score for more than 3,200 home health providers.

With the largest HHCAHPS benchmark in the nation, SHP is in a unique position to identify and recognize organizations that have made patient satisfaction a priority and have been rewarded for their efforts with high marks on the HHCAHPS survey.

"SHP is very excited to have the opportunity to recognize the hard work

and dedication of our top-performing customers with the annual SHP Best awards. We commend these organizations for their determination to provide top-notch care to the patients and caregivers that they serve," said Kevin Vogel, President of SHP.

This is the second consecutive year that Quad County has received this prestigious award. Tom Culberson, director of Quad County Health, said, "I am so honored to be a part of such an exceptional team of highly skilled professionals who deliver compassionate care."

Quad County has been owned and operated by Pana Community Hospital since 1984. They provide home health, hospice and medical equipment to Christian, Fayette, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby counties.


More information about the SHP Best awards program, including methodology and award recipient lists can be found at <https://www.shpdata.com/home-health/shpbest-hhcahps>.

THE CITY OF HILLSBORO WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING REMINDER: GLENN SHOALS LAKE LOT RENEWAL FEES ARE DUE BY MARCH 31ST

THE CITY OF HILLSBORO WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING REMINDER: GLENN SHOALS LAKE MARINA SLIPS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1ST

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JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,

vs.
EDGAR E. WELLER; CITY OF LITCHFIELD; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants,
23 FC 9

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Montgomery County will on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., Courthouse lobby, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 10-33-165-011.

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

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will **NOT** be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Colin Winters at Plaintiff's Attorney,

Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembroke Drive, Orlando, Florida 32810
(407) 730-4644
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Nurses at Hillsboro Health have recently been nominated for the DAISY Award. Pictured above, from the left, are Lisa Walden, DAISY Award nominee Marta Edwards, Julie Smith and Tommi Cline.



Starting in October of 2023, the DAISY Award program recognizes nurses that provide outstanding, compassionate care. Pictured above, from the left, are Lisa Walden, DAISY Award nominee Tara Geiger, Julie Smith and Tommi Cline.

Hillsboro Nurses Earn DAISY Award Nominations

Hillsboro Health kicked off The DAISY Award program in October of 2023. This internationally recognized award was established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes who died at age 33 of an auto-immune disease. The Barnes family was awestruck by the clinical skills, caring and compassion of the nurses who cared for Patrick.

To thank and honor nurses who embody these extraordinary qualities while caring for patients, the family created the award, and Hillsboro Health is excited to participate in this program.

Hillsboro Health nurses Marta Edwards RN from the Monitored Surgical/Inpatient sector, Tara Geiger,

RN of the Emergency Department and Kelsie Kline, LPN of the Assisted Living sector were recently nominated by patients, patients' families or coworkers for providing outstanding and compassionate care.

Hillsboro Health will recognize nominees throughout the year, and one winner of The DAISY Award will be announced and celebrated in October each year.

Hillsboro Health encourages patients and their families to nominate a deserving nurse. Paper forms can be found in the front lobby, near the Fitness & Aquatics Lobby, at nurses stations and online at the hospital's website at hillsborohealth.org.



Nurses in the running for the DAISY Award are nominated by patients, the families of patients or coworkers. Pictured above, from the left, are Tommi Cline, Kelsie Kline, Julie Smith and Lisa Walden.

Hearts United Named Business Of The Month

The Litchfield Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Hearts United Association as their February Business of the Month.

Hearts United is a thrift store and Christian-based ministry established in 1999, providing emergency assistance to residents within the Litchfield School District through direct assistance, education and resources. They aid in helping and bringing awareness to homelessness in the area in many different ways.

The thrift store ranges from art work, furniture, kids' toys, dishes, accessories, clothing and more, all of which are donated items.

"Litchfield is blessed to have a business and resource like Hearts United in our community," said Litch-

field Chamber of Commerce executive director Laura Plummer.

"They are always ready to help in any way they can and it's so great to see the ways in which the community gives to them and how they give back to the community. It's definitely a dynamic that isn't found in other towns and communities, so we are very fortunate to have them for our people."

Those interested in learning more about Hearts United Association or getting involved can find the organization on Facebook at Hearts United, online at www.hearts-unitedassociation.org, or in their store at 110 N. Jackson Street in Litchfield, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Hearts United Association was recognized by the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce as their February Business of the Month. Pictured above, from the left, are Litchfield Chamber of Commerce executive director Lauren Plummer, Hearts United store manager Jeanie Grove, Hearts United board president Evelyn Schuette and Hearts United administrator Jeanette Ackerman.

Taylor Springs Egg Hunt Set For March 23

Taylor Springs will hold its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 23. The Easter festivities will begin at 10:30 a.m., at the Taylor Springs Community Building, located on Mary Street in Taylor Springs.

Litchfield Park District To Host Casino Night

The Litchfield Park District will be holding a Casino Night on Saturday, March 23, from 7-10 p.m.

Admission cost is \$40 per ticket which includes casino chips. The chips have no monetary value, but prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of play.

The evening will feature blackjack, roulette, three

card poker, craps and Texas Hold'em. Light snacks will be provided and attendees are allowed to bring their own drinks.

Tickets may be purchased at the Park District office, located at 1100 S. State St. in Litchfield or from any Park District Commissioner. Those seeking more information may call 217-324-9075.

Timber Creek Village Hosts Easter Egg Hunt

Timber Creek Village in Litchfield will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m.

Entry to the event will be free for all and it will be held at Timber Creek Village, located at 101 W. Sallee Avenue in Litchfield. Games and snacks will also be available.

DRAGON BEAT • by Ella Schaake at HJHS

Dragon Athletes Leap Into Spring Sports



Welcome back to another week of the Dragon Beat!

This is a pretty calm week at HJHS.

Last week, our eighth grade volleyball team played in their regional championship and lost to Macon Meridian. They had a great season, and we can't wait to see them on the court at HHS! Their record for the season was 19-6 which is incredible!

Our sixth through eighth graders who are participating in track have been thankful that the weather has been nice this past week, as practice is in full swing. Pay attention to their schedule on Facebook for their upcoming meets.

Our scholar bowl team had a match on Tuesday. They traveled to Nokomis and had matches against them and Morrisonville. Our seventh grade team won their one match versus Morrisonville. The eighth grade team split their win/loss, beating Morrisonville, but losing to Nokomis. They play in Panhandle tonight for a triangular match with Panhandle and Greenville.

Yesterday, Sources of Strength Group 3 promoted the color green for mentors. A

mentor is an experienced person who shares their insight to guide us, and help us draw on our own strengths to be the best version of ourselves. Their activity was a "Guess Which Mentor Baby Picture". There are 15 adult advisors that help with the program. Students were asked to guess which baby picture went with each mentor. Winners will be announced at the end of this week.

The winners of last week's color (blue for healthy activities) were Alexa Compton, Kaelyn Benning, and Averie Miller. They won passes to Fusion.

This Friday, March 15, is your last day to order your 2023-2024 school yearbook! There's a link on the Hillsboro Junior High School Facebook page with where and how to purchase!

Another reminder: spring break starts March 25 and then school will resume April 1, which is only two weeks away!

That's a wrap for this week's Dragon Beat! Come back next week to hear about the exciting stuff happening at HJHS. Remember to spread positivity, always try your hardest and be yourself. Have yourselves a great rest of the week Dragons, see you next week!

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Panhandle Educational Foundation's annual

CRAZY EIGHT'S

Dessert
Wheel
Fun
Surprises!

**Trivia And
Night Raffle**

Saturday, March 23

Waggoner Centennial Building

Doors open at 6 p.m. ~ Trivia begins at 6:30 p.m.

No pre-registration is required.

Simply arrive at the Centennial Building.

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\$10 Adults • \$5 Children

Sunday, March 17

7:30 a.m.-Noon

Farmersville Knights of Columbus Hall

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Drinks • Sausage Sales

Team **HITCH** Up



Live Music & Bags Tournament March 16 Starting @ 1PM



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7-10 p.m.

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**It is the Club's membership drive night
Come Join Us For Some Great Entertainment!**

Hillsboro School Board

Continued from page 1A

"It's completely digital, so it will be updated and current, we'll have access to all the courses and it will support teacher collaborating," McBrain said. "We already use their curriculum for math at the junior high."

McBrain recommended signing up for a multiyear commitment to the curriculum to reduce costs and instill some continuity for teachers, allowing them to get familiar with the materials.

Board member Brian Patton suggested approving the curriculum for one year to make sure it's satisfactory and go to a multi-year plan after. "We saw what happened with the elementary school, when we signed up for a program and decided we didn't like it just a few months later," Patton said.

Board member Nathan Kirby motioned to adopt the generalized social studies program as presented for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

In other old business, Superintendent Powell continued the conversation from the previous meeting on the adoption of the American Library Association Bill of Rights in order to receive library grants, equal to about \$1200.

In order to receive the funding, districts must adopt the new policies, including Policy 6.2.33, 'materials should not be prescribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.'

"We still will reserve the right to deny books in our libraries," Powell said. "So I don't think practically it matters. The only time the policy language would come into play would be if there was a legal challenge and we found ourselves in court fighting about our refusal to put a book in. That's probably a stretch for it to really be a problem, but that's potentially where the problem would lie."

"I had expressed my interest on that policy on not accepting that language as accepted," Patton said. "I am not interested in banning books, and I think it is a legislative overreach in reaction to maybe what other states have done. And these are being litigated against school districts around the country."

He concluded, "I would

like to stay away from having that language in there to cover ourselves if we needed to cover it."

Superintendent Powell said, "Our options are two-fold, either adopt the policy, \$1,200, basically keep doing what we're doing, or reject the policy and the \$1,200 dollars."

"I have no interest in the policy myself," Board member John Lentz said.

"I trust our administrators and the people who would be determining what books are where," Board member Mike Cerutti said. "I'm good with the policy as written."

The board voted to unanimously approve all of the policy revisions other than Policy 6.2.33.

Patton noted that this is the second policy revision to Policy 6.2.33 in the last six months.

"My issue is not with our people," Patton said. "My issue is with the people I don't know."

"I trust administration and the teachers," Board President Lentz said.

Board member Kassie Greenwood motioned to adopt the Library Bill of Rights, including Policy 6.2.33. The motion passed 5-2, with Patton and John Lentz voting against.

McBrain then presented on a developing program at Hillsboro High School to better encourage future educators.

"We have always had a childcare program, but it had always been geared towards early educators, taking care of young children," McBrain said. "So to increase educators, beginning this fall, students will sign up to take Education 201, a dual credit class with Marci [Gutierrez]."

"After that class, they will choose a pathway, either to early childhood or to elementary/secondary," she explained. "If they choose early childhood, then it would be looking at an internship for early education and working towards a Child Development Associate (CDA) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) certifications."

The program would also be expanded to a two year program for juniors and seniors, to allow students to gain the necessary hours for a CDA certification, which upon graduation makes

them directly employable at the day care.

Should they go for the ECE, they would earn their level one ECE, then could continue at Lincoln Land for their level two and three, McBrain explained.

An ECE would qualify students to work as a teaching assistant, at a day care or to continue working towards a college degree in early education for a teaching license.

Should students take the elementary/secondary route, they would enroll in dual credit online courses taught by Dr. Doerr in Nokomis, with an in-person internship in the classroom. Students would graduate with 13 transferable college credits, and could work as a teaching assistant or continue towards a college degree.

"I have a lot of students going in different directions," Gutierrez said. "This clears it up a bit and gives a pathway for all the students, whether they want to be a teacher or work at a day care."

She added that students on the early childhood path would be eligible for 15 credit hours should they attend a community college for education or childcare.

Enrollment in the program is capped at 10, Gutierrez said, with acceptance based on attendance, grades, behavior and essay.

"We are willing to take suggestions and hoping to create more pathways for our students," McBrain concluded. "The state is requiring us to have a pathway by 2027, so we're hoping this can put us ahead of the game here and be submitted to the state as one of our first pathways."

School Resource Officer Frank Kenny then provided an impact report to the board, detailing recent activity in the district.

"You have to commend your administrators at your schools. They have their thumb on the heartbeat of each particular problem at the schools," Officer Kenny said. "I was supposed to be there to make their jobs easier but I think they are making my job easier."

John Lentz asked what

the board could do to make Officer Kenny's job easier.

"As of now, I'm just trying to feel my resources out," Officer Kenny said. "I know there's people in the district who talk about bullying or being mean, so I try to work with them so I can present the same information, just with a different face."

The majority of the schools doors lock well and cameras work well, Officer Kenny said. "If I do find an issue, if a door locks 99 percent of the time instead of 100 percent, then I always have a person to contact right away."

The board thanked Officer Kenny for his presentation.

Superintendent Powell announced that he met with Chris Daniels and county administrators to discuss an enterprise zone in Schram City. "Enterprise zones help businesses by relieving them of their property tax burden," Powell explained. "Improvements made to property in an enterprise zone, the difference in valuation gets a tax break."

He continued that Mayor Oberle of Schram City has asked all taxing bodies to extend to a business in Schram the same abatement schedule as if they were in the zone. The business is planned to be added to the zone this winter.

"I believe the tax break would only be covering the first year," Powell said. "Then they would be in the zone and would receive the zone benefits."

He added that he will continue to get clarifications and more information, but wanted to inform the board.

At 7:53, the board moved to executive session.

Following executive session, the board announced they accepted the resignations of licensed teachers Alana Eaker and Kelly Hoehn, effective at the conclusion of the school year, and high school cheerleading coach Kelly Kenny, effective immediately.

The board approved the employment of custodian Colton Fuller and elementary teachers Taylor Weiss, Ciara Hay and Carly Boden.



Scouts Promoted At Blue And Gold Meeting

On Monday, March 4, Hillsboro/Litchfield Cub Scout Pack 89 and Boy Scout Troop 89 held their annual Blue and Gold ceremony.

Pictured above, Mason Bradburn, Jackson Montes and Leo Woodring competed the highest rank of Cub Scouts and have earned their Arrow of Light badges. During the ceremony, the scouts crossed over to join the Boy Scout Troop 89.

Election Returns

Continued from page 1A

In addition to local radio, if residents have computer internet access and wish to view up-to-the-minute local election results as they come in through the county website at home, including the total number of precincts reported, the county clerk's

office will again be posting unofficial returns immediately as precincts report on the Montgomery County website at montgomerycountyil.gov.

All vote by mail and early ballots cast at the county clerk's office will be added to their individual precinct results.

Planning Commission Hears Update In March

by Ron Deabenderfer

The Hillsboro Planning Commission met for a brief time Tuesday afternoon, March 12, in city hall. The two officers, Chairperson Barb Hewitt and Secretary Don Karban, and commission member David Powell heard from Mayor Don Downs and Code Enforcement Officer Mike Lee.

Mayor Downs had a positive report on the Corner Block Building, once known as Shermans. He said the contracting crew has begun to reinforce the building, with plans to start in the basement, reinforcing the foundation before working upward. The south wall, facing Wood Street, and the west

wall, bordering the alley, seem to be the most compromised. Downs said it will be a long process but the result will be well worth the effort.

The father/daughter Princess Ball was termed a huge success, judging by both the smiles on display and the turnout at The Event Center. The celebration is an annual project of Imagine Hillsboro.

City Clerk David Jenkins hopes to provide podcasts of city council meetings in the future. Karban reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals made it halfway through their review of the zoning code at their last meeting.

The next planning commissioner meeting is scheduled for city chambers at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9.

Nokomis Council

Continued from page 1A

In other business, approval was given to join the Nokomis Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$50 annually and to set the week of May 13 to 17 as the city-wide clean-up days, pending approval of Tri-R Disposal for availability.

The council also approved agreements with Farnsworth

Engineering Group for the lead service line inventory inspection management agreement and the water treatment relocation and Coalton meter relocation. These costs will be covered by previously secured state and federal grants.

Commissioner Scott Arkebaun was absent from the meeting.



Main Dish

Hillsboro • 217-532-3474 • 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

**OPEN: St. Patrick's Day
Sunday, March 17**

**Corned Beef & Cabbage,
Fried Chicken, Chicken & Noodles**

Hillsboro Knights of Columbus


**Drive-through only
Lenten dinners
behind St. Agnes
Catholic Church**

Includes fish, hush puppies,
tater tots, slaw & dessert - \$12

Serving 5-7 p.m. on Friday evenings
during Lent beginning Feb. 16

•No Dinners on Good Friday•

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KENT KRAUSE WILL SIGN BOOKS**

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PROJECT THIRD DAY-PANHANDLE PRESENTS

FEED YOUR FACE FRIDAY

Pickup Date: Friday, April 26th
Where: Former Myer's Gas Station
(Across From Home Oil)

Time: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

In-town delivery to local businesses available.

Project Third Day-Panhandle will be taking lunch orders now until April 12th for chicken sandwiches \$6 (from Heaterz Chicken in Alton) or add chips and a water \$8. Orders may be placed by messaging us on FB (make sure you receive a confirmation), call or text 618-570-9089, or Venmo your order to @Cathie-Downey

PROJECT THIRD DAY-PANHANDLE PRESENTS

Tutus and Bow Ties 5K Run & Walk

2nd Annual 5K/1 Mile Fun Run

Saturday, May 18 • 9 a.m.
At Lincolnwood High School
ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE
<https://runsignup.com/ptd-ptutuesandbowties>
TIMED BY: M&M MULTISPORTS

Team HITCH Up

March Event Schedule

March 16: Pack the Drive-In
Bags Tournament, Live Music by RetroRockit,
& Vendors at Skyview Drive-In - 1 p.m.
Jumanji at Dusk

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Party
Caddyshack, Farmersville - 12-3 p.m.

March 22: Grand Moff Band Live
at Uptown Saloon, Farmersville - 7 p.m.

March 23: Putt Putt Golf and Bounce House
The Event Center, Hillsboro 1-5 p.m.
Adult Putt Putt - 6-9 p.m.

March 29: 4-Person Scramble Golf Outing
at Shoal Creek Golf Course - Noon

Donations Benefit Team Hitch-Up
& Stamp Out Cancer
For details, follow Team Hitch-Up on Facebook

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St. Louis Parish Center
523 E. Union St., Nokomis

FRIDAY FISH FRY BUFFET

February 16-March 22 • 4:30-7 p.m.

Dine In • All You Can Eat!
Our famous fried fish, baked fish, fries, mac-n-cheese, pizza,
green beans, baked beans, applesauce, cole slaw, dessert

Adults/Carryouts: \$15 • Box of Fish Only - \$25
Kids 5-11: \$7 (4 & under free)

Coffeen Veterans Memorial Committee

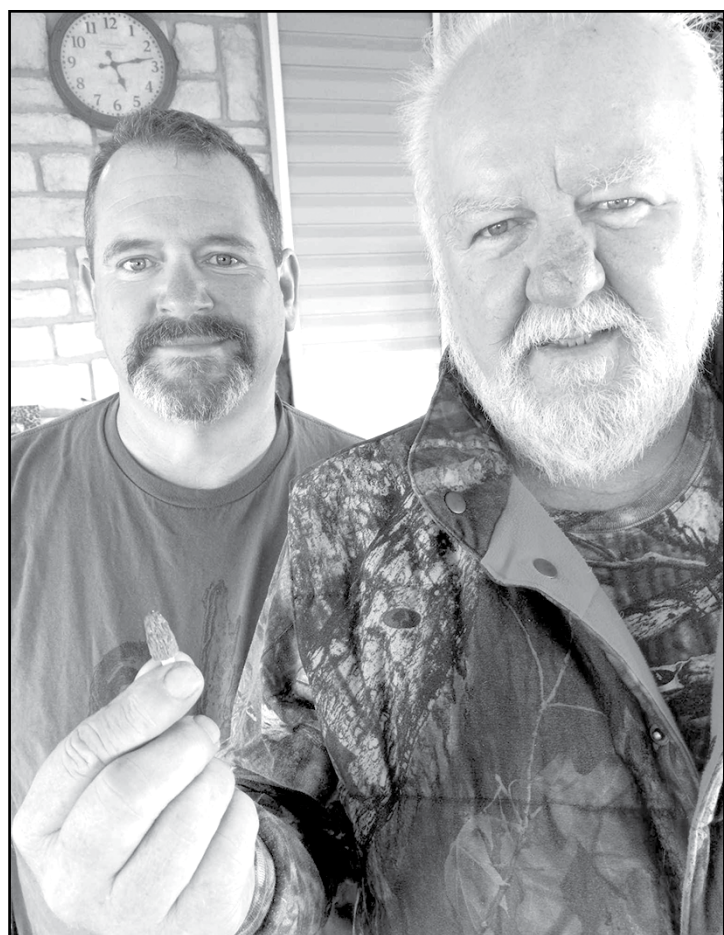
—Quarter Auction—

The Lodge on Main in Hillsboro

Saturday, April 13 • 7-10 p.m.
Doors open at 6 • Cash bar
Bring your own snacks
Many items to bid on
50/50 Drawing
\$5 Entrance fee




**Bring your quarters
to support our
efforts to honor
our veterans!**



Miles Men Find First Mushroom Of Spring

Jerry and Jason Miles, both of rural Fillmore, found this very early mushroom, pictured above, on Tuesday, March 12. The fungi was found in the undisclosed area where most of Miles' first mushrooms have appeared over the years.

Bremer Sanctuary Holding Kids Inspiration Hike

H&B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary is excited to announce they have launched a Kids Inspiration Hike for younger hikers, ages 3 to 10.

The hike will lead visitors around the sanctuary's Timber Trail, and feature 12 inspirational signs along the path. Beginning at the covered bridge, record all the sayings (i.e. you are precious, you are great) found on the trail and submit it to be entered in a drawing for a set of inspirational signs and a \$10 Dairy Queen gift card.

Entries are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 1. A paper form can be picked up inside the Little Free Library at Bremer and submitted online on the Facebook page or website.

Bremer Sanctuary is located at 194 Bremer Ln in Hillsboro.



County Cloverbuds Study Rocket Science

At their February meeting, the Montgomery County Clovers Cloverbuds studied rockets and how they fly. First, they considered how fins help rockets fly in a straight line by making their own small paper tube rockets they could launch with a breath of air through a straw. Next, they built model rockets out of paper towel tubes to demonstrate the three parts of a rocket: the nose cone, body, and fins. Pictured above are Andrew Stoneburner, son of Matt and Marlayna Stoneburner and Connor Schmidt, son of Andrew and Rachel Schmidt, who both did a great job assembling and flying their rockets.

The Montgomery County Clovers Cloverbud 4H Club meets the third Sunday each month at the Litchfield Public Library at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Extension office at (217) 532-3941.

Montgomery County Board

Continued from page 1A

He said the largest time to view the eclipse will be in the Carbondale area and encouraged those who travel to be prepared for heavy traffic. Schott didn't expect it to make much of an impact in Montgomery County, but did say his office would be staffed that day in case of emergencies.

Donaldson reported that the West Central Development Council met on Jan. 18, and continues to discuss goals they are working on. The group will meet again in Carlinville on April 18.

The DCEO Energy Grant Ad Hoc Committee met as applications phase one of the second year of funding are due March 15. The county's grant application has been submitted. Donaldson added the county was just notified that the first round of grants will be ready to proceed for a variety of projects that were approved last year.

Donaldson reported that the Carbon Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee also met in February and will meet again in May. They have been in touch with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) about who is responsible for the test well in Audubon Township. IDNR has been in contact with Navigator and the well site is under administrative review, but is compliant at this time.

Donaldson said they held a mayors' meeting on Feb. 28, with generally positive feedback about the animal control municipal contracts. Municipalities will be given a choice to pay for each call or pay a flat rate per capita of the municipality. They are still discussing the cost of the per capita contract. They also discussed the Enterprise Zone, which has been extended from 15 square miles to 20 square miles.

Board members unanimously approved a resolution prohibiting the county from spending any money on transient migrants seeking asylum.

In a final note, Donaldson presented the list of annual and multi-year county board action items.

Building and Grounds
Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Bob Sneed said maintenance and cleaning items were going well around the county.

He presented a bid from Klein's Chimney Service in Springfield for \$12,720, which was approved by the committee, for a stainless steel flue liner inside the chimney at the Historic Courthouse. Sneed said there is a growing wet spot on the east side, and a liner will help protect the chimney.

Sneed reported that the interior door project at the county clerk and recorder's office inside the Historic Courthouse will begin once the construction crews are finished at the new courthouse, which should be any day.

Sneed said Thompson Electronics did a walk through of the county board meeting room, as they will

supply updated technology equipment to the facility through a technology grant.

In a final note, Sneed said the highway department did a great job cleaning up three lots on the University Street side of the former highway department building. The committee is in discussion about the possibility of donating those lots to the Hillsboro School District for the building trades program to build houses.

Development and Personnel

Development and Personnel Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert presented a report with the usage of HRA so far in 2024 for the county's employee health insurance.

In animal control news, Ruppert said they were looking to make some changes to the front of the building and add some fencing. However, bids came in higher than expected and it's not in the animal control budget. Ruppert said they have added the requests to the county's DCEO Energy Grant, in hopes to fund it that way.

Ruppert said they are going to offer two animal control contracts for municipalities, but are just working on setting the prices and working with those involved. He added they are waiting on the county's animal control policy updates until the municipal contracts are finished.

Ruppert reported that county staff met with ICRMT, who offers a human resources program as part of the insurance premium the county pays for. Ruppert said they would be a good resource, but were also looking into services provided by a company called Bushue.

Ruppert said the committee heard from UKA, a company looking to build a wind farm in the county, as well as Pinion Advisory, a consultant from Moweaqua, about the company's permit drainage plan. Ruppert said the company is supposed to fix any drainage tile damage within 24 hours.

UKA officials Charles White and Maggie were present at the meeting. White said they are still working on their permit for the Virden wind project, and expect to submit it soon.

Ruppert thanked County Coordinator Chris Daniels for the completion of a map and spreadsheet with information about all the proposed solar and wind farms in the county. Ruppert said that would be helpful as they field questions moving forward.

As part of the DCEO Energy Transition Grant, the county has been awarded \$182,935 for small business start-up grants. County Coordinator Assistant Mike Plunkett has developed an application form, and grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$50,000 can be awarded depending on the number of employees. The board approved it unanimously.

The board also approved the annual tourism grant application form, which was unchanged from last year.

Finance and Budget

Finance and Budget Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie reported the supervisor of assessments office is working on the multi-township assessment contract for Grisham-Walshville-East Fork, and should have it ready next month. Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus reported that her office is one week ahead of

last year's tax schedule and mailed 444 board of review tentative notices on March 6.

Ritchie presented a resolution from the supervisor of assessments in support of House Bill 4512, which would allow government bodies to decide whether or not to publish public notices in newspapers or on government websites. Ritchie said that in a typical year, the supervisor of assessments office spends roughly \$4,400 on public notices, but in a quadrennial year (like 2023), they spent over \$22,000.

Donaldson opened discussion about the resolution by saying that the county is currently in talks with Nextlink about providing better internet access in parts of the county. He felt that while if the House Bill were approved, it could save the county money, but parts of the county don't have good enough internet access to rely on being able to look those notices up online.

Board member Patty Whitworth echoed those concerns, noting Montgomery County has many rural areas and felt it wouldn't be appropriate to take a stand at this time.

"Having a published record is just so crucial," Whitworth said.

Montgomery County State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti said he was in support of the resolution, based on the number of times the state mandates things for governing bodies to do. He felt this bill was important because it gave them a choice.

Board member Mark Hughes said he found out the resolution didn't make it out of committee, and felt it should go back to committee before it was voted on.

Ritchie said as an engineer, he likes to look through the newspaper and see how assessments compare. He added that his mom and other elderly residents of the county would have trouble finding those types of notice electronically.

Board members unanimously voted against supporting the resolution.

In capital improvement news, Ritchie said the county received \$268,795.04 in coal royalty for January. The county has just over \$9.2 million in the entire capital improvement fund.

Board members unanimously approved a four-year salary schedule for the coroner and circuit clerk. Both must be done more than 180 days before the general election in November. The salary was set with a \$2,200 per year raise over four years. From 2025 to 2028, the coroner's salary will go up from \$35,547 to \$42,147. Over the same period, the circuit clerk's salary will go up from \$74,977 to \$81,577.

In a 13-1 vote, the county approved a two-year lease for their baler to DC Waste and Recycling, with options for years three and four. The terms remain the same at \$700 a month, plus the addition of a 65-gallon recycling toter for the county. Donaldson inspected the baler, and said it's in great shape. Board member Evan Young voted against the lease, saying he felt the county should sell the baler, lest there be a traumatic injury. Donaldson said the company does have insurance for that. He added that the company has no interest in buying the baler. However, at the end of this two-year lease, the county will have recouped the money

they spent purchasing the baler in 2018.

Board members unanimously approved the annual agreement with the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service, and the county will levy \$113,405. They also unanimously approved an agreement with the Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Service with a levy of \$319,172. Initially, the committee was worried the levy was so much more than Hillsboro's, but they discovered it was in line with what Nokomis-Witt Ambulance levied last year.

In a final motion, board members approved the appropriation of \$10,000 in ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funding for pagers for the Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Service. Ritchie said the pagers came in at higher than \$10,000, but that's what was approved, so that's what they will receive.

Roads and Bridges

Roads and Bridges Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski said the committee heard a presentation from the UKA wind farm project in Virden and discussed how it might impact the roads. Hughes asked if they will fix damage to the roads or if they will have similar problems like when the pipeline came through. County Engineer Cody Greenwood said they will have to work on road use agreements. Affrunti said they had some pretty good ones, and Greenwood said those were mostly for solar farms. The equipment for wind farms is much bigger and heavier and would require different road use agreements.

Murzynski said the county is still working on specifications for drainage tile across county highways. He added that Greenwood is also working on an engineering agreement for a cost study for reconstruction of the Nokomis Road and should have that ready next month.

Board members unanimously approved three culvert replacement projects, all 100 percent county-funded through the County Aid to Bridge Fund. Approved were culverts on Witt Ave. for \$12,000, New Bethel Ave. for \$8,000 and Fillmore Trail for \$8,000.

Murzynski said the county is advertising for bids for roof repair on the white block building at the new highway department. He added his thanks to the highway department for fixing up the lots at the former highway department property.

In a final motion, board members unanimously approved the purchase of a Caterpillar Model CW 16 Pneumatic Compactor from Altorfer, Inc. in Chicago for \$139,265. Funds will come from coal royalty money.

Other Business

The board went into executive session for less than 15 minutes to discuss pending, probable or imminent litigation.

Upon returning to open session, Donaldson reminded the board of the primary election on Tuesday, March 19. Polls are open across Montgomery County from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and he encouraged residents to vote. Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser said early voter turnout has been very light so far and hoped residents would go to the polls on Tuesday.

Before adjourning at 6:59 p.m., board members unanimously voted to pay the monthly bills and payroll. They will meet again on Tuesday evening, April 9, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

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REPUBLICAN

Grammer Honored As Litchfield Citizen Of The Year

by Kyle Herschel

On Friday, March 15, Litchfield Police Officer Shane Grammer will receive the Citizen of the Year award from the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce. But way back in 2019, Grammer is standing outside the front entrance of Maverick Steaks and Spirits in Litchfield, surrounded by a dozen or so purple clad football players who have just wrapped up their eighth grade season with a win over Pana.

That victory gave the young Panthers a final record of 8-1, a vast improvement from their 2-5 mark just three years earlier. Grammer's been there every step of that journey, trading in the dark blues of his uniform for a purple polo shirt with the logo of his alma mater, Litchfield High School, and a badge for a clipboard.

"Like I said at the game, it's been a pleasure," Grammer tells the young men that he has helped mentor, not just for the last four years, but over the next four years as well. "Panther Family on six."

One-Two-Three
Number 20 hangs particularly close to the huddle, dirty blond hair, cut close on the sides and longer on top. That's Shane and Dana Grammer's son Easton, the reason why Grammer has dedicated hours upon hours of time to Litchfield football.

Before that it was baseball, starting in 2010 with blastball, where he coached with his friend and fellow police officer and current chief, Kenny Ryker. The two didn't know each other at the time, but they actually took the police exam the same day, along with another current officer, Eric Lamb. All three passed, with Ryker and Lamb being hired on June 16, 2002 and Grammer getting his badge exactly one year later.

Ryker's son Braydon is the same age as Easton and the two dads aren't done coaching together yet. They recruit more to help, namely Anthony Robinson, Chris Eichelberger and Mark

Sypherd, who also have children on the team.

The fact that Grammer can sincerely say that the 2019 season was a pleasure is a testament to his passion for the sport and for the kids who play it, because the year before was rough. On July 31, 2018, Mark Sypherd passed away after an unfairly short battle with cancer, leaving behind his wife of 14 years Rose, his 12-year-old son A.J. and his 10-year-old daughter Amanda.

Grammer mourned his friend, but he and others stepped up to try and fill Mark's absence in the life of his family, through hunting, through football, through just being there.

As his son and his classmates made the jump to high school football, Grammer jumped with them as an assistant coach under Dan Carlson. At the time, Litchfield High School was 37 games into a 47-game losing streak that started when the Class of 2024 was still playing flag football. But as they did for the JFL program, things got better at LHS.

The Panthers skipped the COVID-shortened 2020-21 season, then went 0-9 in 2021-22. They'd lose their first game of the next season in a nail-biter, before ending the streak with a 22-14 win over Staunton. And then, they lost their next seven games, finishing the season 1-8.

But despite the start of a new streak, 2023-24 was different. There was a confidence that not only could the Panthers play with anyone, but they could beat them. And they did, at least more often than not, as they finished the season 6-4, nearly scoring a first round playoff win against Olympia.

No one was prouder than Grammer, who had been telling anyone who would listen for the past four years that the Class of 2024 was special. And he was right. A.J. Sypherd became one of the most prolific running backs in the area and earned all-state honors. Some, in-

cluding Tate Dobrinich and Carson Saathoff, are moving on to play football at the next level, while others are choosing other sports, like Keenan Powell and Easton, who are planning to run track for North Central College in Naperville. There's a good chance Grammer will be there too.

"I'm so proud of all of those kids because I know where they came from in flag football. I don't know what I'm going to do," Grammer said on the prospect of the group he has gotten to know so well graduating. "They'll say, 'Hey Coach, I'm going to this college. You wanna come watch me play?' Well, I absolutely want to watch them play. I told Dana we're going to be traveling a lot."

Panther
When it comes to traveling, Grammer will be trying to make up for lost time. He's never lived anywhere other than Litchfield, and while he's proud of what he's accomplished, he encourages others not to take the same path.

"I've poured my whole heart and soul into this community, but I think it's important to go outside your comfort zone," said Grammer. "It's not that you don't want kids to come back to Litchfield, but you want them to go experience other things. If you don't know what's outside your bubble, you're never going to flourish."

Grammer very well could be correct, but that hasn't stopped him from being a remarkable asset to his hometown. From his work with youth sports to serving on the Litchfield Park Board to other volunteer efforts, Grammer has given 100 percent to whatever he has done and Litchfield is the better for it.

Perhaps the best example of this is his work with the department's K9 unit, which is one of the most successful and well respected in the state.

"From 2003 to 2007 I was kind of getting my footing in the department, but in 2007, I found my place when I got Ari," Grammer said of the Belgian Malinois that was his partner for 10 years. "I knew Ari was successful when the Secret Service or DEA or drug task force would wait until their target got into my district, so they could use him."

The partnership with Ari also gave Grammer the chance to be out in the community and connect with them through demonstra-

tions. People have a tendency to gravitate toward dogs, even ones you can't pet. Between that conduit to the community and the pride of a job extremely well done, it was easy to understand why Grammer was in limbo, professionally, when Ari retired.

"I still had a job, but I wanted a purpose," Grammer explained about the three years after his K9 partner retired. "With K9 coaching, I had a purpose. Then when Lee was here, there was a rumor about a school resource officer."

Four-Five-Six
"Lee" is former Litchfield Police Chief Lee Jarman, who retired in 2019, but not before getting the ball rolling on the partnership with the Litchfield School District for a school resource officer. Once the position became official, Grammer put in his letter of interest and started working in the Litchfield schools around the same time his son was starting high school at LHS in 2020.

"I wanted to get more into changing the culture of kids' view toward law enforcement," Grammer told The Journal-News back in 2020. "Everyone loved the dog, but now I want to be that mentor that the kids can come to if they need help. If there's something they won't tell the teacher or principal, something they're embarrassed about, maybe they'll tell me. I want to be that figure they're not afraid to approach."

Three and a half years in, Grammer feels like he's been able to make that connection with the students, with each school a different experience.

"The most rewarding thing about this position is the kindergartners and the first graders still think I'm 10-feet tall and bulletproof. The smiles on their faces when I'm standing in the hallway when they walk in the door in the morning is amazing," Grammer said. "So, the kids that don't have a lot..."

He pauses there to collect himself. It's tough to see kids whose only escape from a rough home life is school. He wants them to have what he has, a family that believes in him and supports him, past, present and future. Grammer's parents, Linda and Dennis, and other family members crowded the snug confines of Corwin Hall in August when he was honored for 20 years of service to the Litchfield Police Department, and again in November when he was honored with



Longtime Litchfield police officer and now school resource officer Shane Grammer is being recognized as the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for his dedication to the Litchfield youth.

the American Police Hall of Fame's Honor Award for Community Service. He knows the benefits of that kind of support.

"Me telling them that I like their hair or cool shoes or whatever, and then they smile, because they don't get that at home," Grammer continued. "If I can make them smile and brighten their day, then they know that someone cares about them."

That same attitude continues at the other schools, which have different challenges and benefits, but the same goal - to change the lives of the students for the better and hopefully their attitudes toward the police.

"I know some of them are looking at me like, 'You've been to my house. You've arrested my parents.' And that can be tough," Grammer said. "But if I talk to them, if I say, 'Hey, have a great day, if we get to know each other as people, then maybe they think he's not so bad.'"

Football helps at the high school level, but it's not just those kids that Grammer talks to. He's worked to get more kids out for the program, but that's not always possible. Sometimes high school kids are forced to become adults when the family's bills are due.

Those connections are just as important to Grammer. He recently received an email from Litchfield High School teacher Jo Brummet, whose students were doing a project about a time someone did something nice for them. One of the students wrote about Grammer and how he always makes a point to talk to him when he sees him.

"It felt so good to hear that," said Grammer. "I don't know which kid it is, and there are a lot of kids who kind of walk with their heads down, but I always try to say good morning or hope you have a great day. Or make good choices. I yell that down

the hallway a lot." It's fitting, because it seems that Grammer's choice to pursue his current position was definitely a good one.

Family
If there is one thread that ties together all of the aspects of why Shane Grammer deserves to be citizen of the year, it's family. It's why he coached youth sports. It's why he chose a career path that puts himself in danger, but keeps others safe. It's why he goes into the schools and tries to make things better for the kids in the community.

Talk to him for a few minutes and it doesn't take long for the conversation to turn to his family. He's so proud of what Easton has accomplished in track and football at LHS ("This is from senior night," he says, showing a picture of the two of them hugging on the sidelines), but also because of the person that he is becoming.

"You see the kids that gravitate toward Easton and talk to him," Grammer said. "They know his reputation. Some of the kids he's friends with look at him differently."

Easton is becoming the type of person that you want in the community, the type of person that his dad hopes he is building up in the schools, the type of person that his dad already is. Like most of the past honorees of citizen of the year, Grammer doesn't do what he does for recognition. He does it because he wants Litchfield to be a better place. A better place for the kids. A better place for the adults. A better place for family.

One-two-three. Panther. Four-five-six. Family.
"For 50 years I've been here. My goal is always to make the community a better place. It's why I became a police officer. It's why I became a coach," Grammer said. And the award? "It's just icing on the cake for all of these things I've been doing in Litchfield."

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Journal-News Selected As Chamber Business Of The Year

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

For nearly 200 years, *The Journal-News* has been at the forefront of telling the history and the stories of Montgomery County and its people. Although the newspaper's name and employees have changed over the past two centuries, their commitment and dedication to local news remains the same.

"Local news is our business," said John M. Galer, third generation owner of the family newspaper. "We're so proud that each and every edition of the paper is full of local news from around the county."

This year, the newspaper is being recognized as the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year. The paper's staff will be honored at the organization's annual banquet on Friday evening, March 15, in Litchfield.

In addition to *The Journal-News*, the Galer family owns several publications in central Illinois, including *The Raymond News*, *the Macoupin County Journal*, *Mt. Olive Herald*, *Staunton Star Times*, *Bunker Hill Gazette News*, *Southwestern Journal* and the *Madison County Chronicle*, as well as Journal Printing Company, which prints those publications and a dozen others in the state.

"It's such a privilege to be given this award for what we do day in and day out," Galer said. "But we couldn't do it without really great employees. *The Journal-News* family works hard to make sure we report on what's going on across Montgomery County in a fair and balanced way."

The Journal-News dates back to 1838, when it was started as *The Prairie Beacon* with Aaron Platt as editor. In 1850, Frank and Cyrus Gilmore established *The Prairie Mirror*, which was changed to *The Montgomery Herald* in 1856 and again to *The Herald* in 1862.

It would change names two more times before becoming *The Hillsboro Journal* in 1871.

It was owned and operated by a variety of residents over the years, but just after the turn of the century, it was purchased by Sam Little and Harry Shipman. Although Shipman moved to Texas in 1912, Little was part of the operation until his death in 1970.

"Throughout the years, one thing has remained the same, and that's our responsibility to the citizens of Montgomery County in sharing all the news, both good and bad,



John M. and Susie Galer, owners of *The Journal-News*, will be recognized with staff members as the Business of the Year at the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce annual banquet on March 15.

Journal-News Photo

our democracy," Galer said.

Over the years, *The Hillsboro Journal* and *The Journal-News* have been recognized by a variety of organizations. They were honored in 1991 by the Illinois Historical Society as a centennial business, and have been recognized by Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District, Montgomery County Fair, Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge, the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and the University of Illinois Extension among others. The newspaper and its employees have also won dozens of awards from the Southern Illinois Editorial Association, Illinois Press Association and the National Newspaper Association, where Galer currently serves as chairman.

Most recently, the newspaper was featured in a book by *Chicago Sun Times* writer Dave Hoekstra called *Beacons in the Darkness*. The book is a celebration of community journalism and the newspapers that continue to lead the way in their communities across the nation.

Continuing on in the family tradition, Herschelmann's husband, Kyle Herschelmann of Raymond, has served as the newspaper's sports editor since 2007. The couple met covering Litchfield High School football together for the newspaper and still enjoy covering assignments together today.

"My mom always says that life is what you make it, and we've been known to make some pretty fun date nights on newspaper assignments, as I'm sure my parents did too," Herschelmann said.

Today, the pages of *The Journal-News* remain filled with local news, sports, obituaries, social, school news and more. They continue to adapt and change, utilizing social media and their website to keep up-to-date on the most current news.

"You'll find us at the school board meetings, the basketball games and anywhere else our community wants us to be," Herschelmann said. "And we hope to be there for the next 200 years too."



Brayden and Ann Helgen, owners of *Kismet Coffee Co.* in Litchfield, have been recognized as this year's Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Rising Star Award winners.

Kismet Coffee Receives 2024 Rising Star Award

by Cayden Huber

Kismet Coffee was recently honored with the Rising Star award from the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce as part of its annual awards.

Recipients for the Rising Star award are nominated by the annual event committee/board and are voted on by the board. Criteria for nomination include being a Litchfield Chamber of Commerce member, having been in business for three years or fewer, having seen an increase in business, the aesthetics of the business, community participation, excellent customer service, potential for job creation and being independently owned.

Kismet Coffee is owned and operated by Ann and Brayden Helgen of Litchfield. Ann also works as an elementary school teacher in Litchfield and Brayden works in cybersecurity for Check Point Software, based out of Tel Aviv, Israel.

"We were very excited and feel very honored," said Ann, describing their reaction to earning the Rising Star award. "We were very surprised."

The Helgens hope to revitalize downtown Litchfield with the opening of Kismet, not only creating a spot for local residents, but also for touring guests. "We feel like we have the local community behind us," said Ann. The couple say that not only have their expectations for feedback been exceeded, but they have been exceeded much faster than they expected.

Kismet Coffee was opened in 2023 after renovations to the building at 400 N. Monroe Street had been completed. "We both love historic old buildings," said Ann Helgen

of Kismet Coffee. "We are most proud of saving that building."

The building was most recently home to Minndora's Speciality Photography and Salon, with roots in the early 1900s as a doctor's office for Dr. Lee G. Allen and later, his son, Dr. George Allen. That certainly resonated with local residents, as the Helgens have received thanks for saving the historic downtown building.

The Helgens hope that Kismet can serve not simply as a place to get coffee or food, but a place to socialize that isn't a bar. "Really sitting down and having a conversation" was what Brayden said of the atmosphere the couple is trying to provide.

The Helgens want anyone and everyone to be able to enjoy their time at Kismet. As of now, they offer a family friendly experience, including an area for children to enjoy themselves inside. They hope to add on a patio with outdoor seating, as well as offer the possibility for people to have a Sunday brunch at Kismet. "We're trying to offer food a lot more," said Ann, speaking on additional goals for the coming months.

Kismet has also collaborated with other local businesses, such as holding a candle night with Alpha Candles in Hillsboro, or working with Brittain's Princess Parties in Litchfield. The couple also keeps in touch with Kayla Brauer of Grounds to Grounds Coffee in Hillsboro. "Kayla has been wonderful," said Ann.

The Helgens hope that other locations in Litchfield will do the same and take care of historic buildings and bring pride back to the city. "We like to give back when we can," said Brayden.

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Longtime fifth grade teacher Amy Newkirk has been named the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. *Journal-News Photo*

Newkirk Recognized As Top Educator

by Mary (Galer) Herschelman

"Our students need someone to be in their corner and root for them, and that's what Amy does," said Litchfield Elementary School Principal Jeremy Heigert.

Longtime fifth grade teacher Amy Newkirk has been honored this year by the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce as the Educator of the Year. She will be recognized with fellow award winners at this year's banquet on Friday evening, March 15, at the Litchfield Community Center.

Born and raised in Litchfield, Newkirk is the daughter of Elvis Titsworth of Litchfield and the late Nancy Titsworth, both longtime teachers in the Litchfield School District. Elvis taught industrial arts his entire career at Litchfield High School and Nancy taught math at Litchfield Middle School and Litchfield High School and then served as a guidance counselor. Both were graduates of Litchfield High School and beloved as teachers for the district.

Though Newkirk didn't have either of her parents as a student in the district, she learned a lot from them both.

"I have very big shoes to fill," Newkirk said. "I feel like they always treated everyone fairly. They taught me that we have a job to do, we should do the best we can and sometimes it's bigger than teaching. We have to have empathy for our students too."

After graduating from LHS in 1987, Newkirk decided she wanted to go somewhere far away for college.

"I was never going to come home," she said. "I wanted to be near the city. I wanted to go somewhere where no one knew me, so I did, and I loved it."

Newkirk earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from North Central College in Naperville, where she met her husband, Dan Newkirk. He was her freshman orientation leader. The couple were married the summer before her senior year.

After graduation, Dan was teaching at Bolingbrook High School and Amy worked

in retail, where she loved managing a clothing store.

But then she decided she wanted to return to Litchfield.

"I worked in several banks, but there weren't a lot of marketing opportunities at home," she said. "My parents were teachers, Dan was a teacher. So I went back and got my teaching certificate at UIS."

She later earned her master's degree in teacher leadership from the same school.

Newkirk student taught with Litchfield fifth grade teacher Ann Tester of Hillsboro.

"And I never left," Newkirk said with a smile. "She got pregnant the next year and I did her leave. She didn't come back, so I got to stay."

She's now in her 22nd year teaching fifth grade in the Litchfield School District.

"I think fifth grade is the most fun," she said. "They're old enough that I'm not wiping noses and tying shoes, but at the end of the day, they just want to know that you care about them. I just love fifth grade."

Heigert added that the fact that Newkirk cares so much about her students is what makes her such a special teacher.

"Mrs. Newkirk has spent her life teaching students not only math, reading, science and social studies, but more importantly, how to be a good and decent human being," he said. "She prepares her students for how to be productive members of our community and expresses to them the importance of not giving up."

Among her favorite teaching memories throughout her career is moving from Ida J. Russell Elementary School to the new Litchfield Elementary School building this year. She loves seeing the younger second and third graders each day and felt it brought a sense of rejuvenation to the staff.

She also loved when her kids were in fifth grade. Although she didn't teach either of them, she loved having them close and has lots of fond memories from

their time at Russell.

Newkirk also gives credit to those who have helped her along the way in her career, including former fifth grade teacher Terri Norris.

"I looked up to her a lot," Newkirk said. "She was wise beyond her years and never seemed to get ruffled."

Former LMS Principal Andrea Lee also made an impact on Newkirk.

"I learned a lot from her as an administrator," Newkirk said. "She taught me to always keep my eye on the bigger picture and not to get bogged down in the little things."

Newkirk is also very grateful to the teachers at Litchfield Elementary School who she teaches with each and every day, as well as Heigert for his leadership at the school.

"My team of five gals are amazing to work with and make me a better teacher daily," she said. "And Jeremy puts up with a lot from me and helps me refocus on what's important."

Newkirk resides in Litchfield with her husband, Dan, who retired from the Litchfield School District in 2023 after a long career teaching physical education, health and coaching a variety of sports. The couple have two children, Betsy (husband Jake) Szerletich of Chatham and Seth Newkirk of Peoria. Seth works in HR at Morton Buildings and Betsy is a nurse at the Springfield Clinic. They also have two grandchildren, Emma Szerletich, age six and Chloe Szerletich, age three.

Outside of teaching, the Newkirks are active members of Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield, where Amy plays the piano. She also plays the piano in the pit bands for both the Litchfield High School and Hillsboro High School operettas this spring.

Her advice to future teachers is to remember that every day is a different challenge.

"But even on a really bad day, there's always something good," she said. "And at the end of the day, students just want someone to remember them."

Schott Awarded Special Recognition

by Isaiah Atkins

"It's just something that gets in your heart. As long as I'm capable, I'll be involved," Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) director Kevin Schott says.

For his incredible commitment to improving the lives of those around him, Schott was recently awarded the prestigious 2024 Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Special Recognition Award. The award honors a local citizen who has made a lasting and meaningful impact on the community over a sustained length of time, consistently going above and beyond what is expected with their time, talent and actions.

Schott certainly meets the high standards of service for the award. He has served the community faithfully for the past seven years in a variety of roles, with the clear and honorable intention to help those around him.

The Carlinville native moved to Litchfield in 2017 to serve as interim Fire Chief, after retiring from the office of the State Fire Marshal and from the 183rd National Guard. Just a few years later, he found himself presented with a new opportunity.

"When COVID-19 hit, I was asked to help the county with the EMA and planning," Schott explains. He would be hired as agency director in June of 2021 and has served in the capacity ever since.

While his responsibilities have since changed, his work ethic and commitment to service haven't.

"I believe in being proactive," Schott says. "Not just reactive. Our community has to look after all the members in the community for it to thrive."

The EMA is responsible for creating emergency operations plans and assisting emergency services, including utilizing drones, dive teams and other search and rescue units.

For Schott, he knew he wanted to help people from the beginning. "Growing up in Carlinville, I lived a block from the Fire Department," Schott says. "I would hear the siren go off, and then I'd hop on my bike and follow the fire trucks to wherever they were going."

The firefighters were fond of Schott's enthusiasm for the job and never brushed the young observer aside. Many of them were veterans of World War II or the Korean War. "They were my heroes," Schott says. "I learned a great deal from them."

He would leave the area for a few years, but remarkably found himself living across the street from Carlinville's new Fire House as a young adult in 1982. "Back then they let you ride on the tailboard [of the fire truck]," he remembers. "I was always the first one there and would ride on the back to every scene."

Schott began serving as



Kevin Schott, pictured above on the right with his son, John, was recently honored as the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Special Recognition Award winner. Schott, a longtime firefighter, currently serves as the Montgomery County EMA director.

a volunteer firefighter in Carlinville in 1982. After a few years, a friend mentioned to him that the 183rd Illinois Air National Guard was hiring firefighters. Schott joined the service and became a full-time firefighter in 1989.

"I've been involved with it since 1982," Schott says, "but I've loved it since I was a child."

He served as a fire protection specialist until 2012 when he began work in the Office of the State's Fire Marshal. Schott presently serves as the vice president of the Illinois Firefighter Association.

"It always was a great time to be a firefighter," he adds. "It still is."

He still finds himself on the scenes, often reporting to emergency calls as a first responder. "I see myself as being on call 24 hours a day," Schott says. "I do my best to be on the scenes to help in any way I can."

Just recently, Schott dispatched himself to a local structure fire at Gianni's Italian Ristorante in Litchfield. "The firefighters knew that it was going to be difficult because of the building layout," Schott explains. "So I set up a staging area for them so they wouldn't have to worry about that part of it."

Schott has also proven to be a passionate voice for mental health awareness and wellness in the community. He currently serves as chairman of the Community Wellness Committee (CWC), a subcommittee of the 708 Board that is focused on bettering the mental health of county residents.

"It's difficult to talk about. People are often scared to bring it up, but it's important," Schott says, referring to the mental health crisis. "We have to take care of all the people in the community."

Schott and the CWC are committed to identifying what mental health services are provided in Montgomery County and what needs are being addressed. For Schott, looking after the mental well-

ness of first responders is a personal mission.

"I am being proactive about ensuring that first responders are healthy and safe," he says. "They have to deal with some awful things daily, and they can be overlooked."

He points to the Litchfield MAPPING project as a project he is excited to see implemented. The MAPPING project is evaluating the current status of the community and making goals for the future, both for the economy and people. Schott also commends the work of the local recovery program at Beacon Church led by Pastor Jon Magnusson.

"To be a viable, successful community, we've got to take into account not just economic development, but the people too," he says, emphasizing the importance of taking into account the local homelessness and mental health crisis.

"I'm optimistic for the future, and I plan to be a part of it," Schott says. "We are put on this world to help each other, and that's what I am going to do."

"Winning this award, it's just a warm, amazing feeling," Schott says. "I never did it ever for the recognition, but when I got the call to let me know that I had won, I got tears in my eyes."

He refers to it as "truly one of the highlights" of his career, and gives credit to his "incredible team" at the EMA, including Dan Hough and Joe Gasparich, for all the work they have done. "We've got an amazing team that's striving to make a difference. I'm extremely blessed," Schott says.

He also mentions the dedicated team at St. Francis Way, who provide vital access services to those in need in the community, helping address mental health and addiction.

"It means the world to me," Schott says. "I am so thankful, and I look forward to continue serving this community for as long as I can."

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LANCER LINES • by Kaylee Gerlach at Lincolnwood

Six FFA Students Advance To State



Lincolnwood High School has many hard workers.

Some of these students have been put to the test this past week interviewing at the Illinois FFA District 3 Proficiency Awards. Within the halls of LHS, students can experience and take advantage of FFA and ag classes.

There is a wide range of classes that are provided to students within the Agriculture Department. For example, Introduction to Agriculture and advanced Lincoln Land Community College Ag classes like Farm Management are expanding students' knowledge and skills within the industry.

Lincolnwood FFA students can record hours worked within their project. These books are called Supervised Agricultural Experiences or SAEs. These projects range from plant-

ing and growing a field of soybeans to a student running their very own honeybee farm.

Several students within the Lincolnwood FFA program have SAE projects. Students have been working to prepare their record books so they can be judged at the section level.

This year, the following students won their proficiency area within Section 15: Luke Armentrout, Trenton Hemann, Kylie Neisler, Tori Elvidge, Eldon Brown, Cole Reimann, Abilene Norris, Kaylee Gerlach, Brayden Morris, Jonah Elvidge, Morgan Hampton, Drew Gilpin, Jenna Matli and Taryn Millburg.

These students attended the Illinois Association FFA District 3 Proficiency Awards on Wednesday, March 6, at Jacksonville High School, where they competed with students from across the district. Students who competed interviewed in front of a panel of judges as they were

asked questions about their project. This was a way to test their knowledge.

If students advance, they advance to the state competition on March 23 at Mt. Zion High School. The following Lincolnwood students advanced to the State contest: Jonah Elvidge in sheep production, Morgan Hampton in specialty animal production, Trenton Hemann in agriculture mechanics repair and maintenance, Kylie Neisler in animal systems, Drew Gilpin in specialty crop production and Kaylee Gerlach in fiber and/or oil crop production.

We are so excited for our students! Good luck to everyone as they prepare for their state interview!

This week's quote is by George Washington. "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man."

Thank you for reading another week of Lancer Lines! Have a great rest of your week!



Pictured above, in front, is Hudson Wright. In the first full row, from the left are Frankie Vangiesen, Kate Cunningham, Madison Kirk, Kendall Markezich, Ari Lipe, Claire Trader and CJ Thornton. In the second row are Greyson Cyrus, Lilly Bell, Dain Sullivan and Liam Wolf. In back are teacher Mrs. Erin Hammann, Audrey Billington, Lorelai Carlock, Brielle Harbert, Aiden Robinson and Colby Wilkinson. Not present for the photo were Henry Shultz and Paxton Chesney.

Dragon Students Honored At Olympiad

On Saturday, March 2, several students went to compete for Illinois Science Olympiad Competition at SWIC.

These students have been preparing for their events for months after school with coach Mrs. Erin Hammann, a fifth grade teacher at Beckemeyer Elementary School. They competed against sev-

eral schools in the area in 23 different events.

Every single student placed and left with a medal and the varsity team finished fourth overall and will head to the state competition on April 20, at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Members of the junior varsity team are Hudson Wright,

Kate Cunningham, Brielle Harbert, Lilly Bell, Henry Shultz, Frankie Vangiesen, Liam Wolf, Paxton Chesney and Kendall Markezich.

Members of the varsity team are Colby Wilkinson, Aiden Robinson, Ari Lipe, Madison Kirk, Claire Trader, Lorelai Carlock, Audrey Billington, Dain Sullivan, Greyson Cyrus and CJ Thornton.

United To Revive Will Host Banquet

United to Revive, a local missionary ministry dedicated to spreading the Gospel and revitalizing churches across the Riverbend and Metro East area, is thrilled to announce its upcoming fundraising banquet.

With over 40 volunteers from 14 local churches, United to Revive collaborates with pastors, ministries and local communities to reach individuals beyond the confines of traditional church settings.

Through providing both

physical and spiritual nourishment, the ministry welcomes them into the family of Christ. In 2023, they held 11 events spanning five local cities and saw many baptized and receive eternal life in Christ Jesus.

United to Revive invites the community to join them for a free meal to hear about this collective mission for a great move of God to take place across the Riverbend and Metro East region.

The meal is scheduled for

Friday, April 5, at 5:30 p.m. at the East Alton Recreation Center, with a venue capacity limited to 150 people. The Recreation center is located at 615 3rd St. in East Alton.

Those interested are urged to register at <https://www.unitedtorevive.org/fundraiser2024> to secure their seat and meal. More information may be found by emailing Amanda Goltz at admin@unitedtorevive.org or visiting their website at <http://www.unitedtorevive.org>.

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SPECIALTY CLINICS

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Hillsboro, Lincolnwood Square Off In Softball Season Opener

by Kyle Herschelmann

It's usually a toss-up when it comes to early March weather in Illinois, but the Lincolnwood and Hillsboro softball teams had about as good of conditions as you can get for their season opener at the Hillsboro Sports Complex on Monday, March 11.

Both teams showed a little bit of rust, but flashes of brilliance during the game, which Hillsboro won by a 10-5 final score. Both also have a good mix of youth (Hillsboro started three freshmen and a sophomore, while Lincolnwood started a freshman and two sophomores) and experience, with seniors Sophia Blankenship and Aubrey Evans starting for the Toppers and Taryn Millburg, Kaci Bethard and Kirsten Osterholt starting for the Lancers.

Hillsboro also brings back junior Anika Camp, their top pitcher last year, who got the start on Monday. Camp ran into trouble in the opening inning when the Lancers loaded the bases with singles by Taryn Clarke and Taryn Millburg, with Ella Jenkins reaching in between the two Taryn's after being hit by a pitch. The right-handed hurler got out of the jam, though, striking out the next two batters and getting a ground ball to third, which Kenzie Jarman fielded cleanly and tagged third for the force out.

In the bottom half of the inning, one of Hillsboro's new additions made her presence felt immediately. Freshman Briley Kirby doubled to center field, then scored when Camp helped her own cause with a single



Beating the throw from the outfield to Lincolnwood-Morrisonville catcher Kaci Bethard, Hillsboro's Audrey Shultz slides into home plate for the Lady Hilltoppers' eighth run of the game. Hillsboro went on to score two more after Shultz's sprint to the plate as they defeated the Lady Lancers 10-5 in Hillsboro on Monday, March 11.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

to left. Camp went to second on the throw, but the inning ended in the next at-bat when Lincolnwood second baseman Kirsten Pope made a diving catch on a short line drive, then doubled Camp off second.

After a quick top half of the second, Hillsboro added to their lead. Jarman doubled to deep right-center, stole third and scored on an infield single by freshman Peyton Chappellear. The Toppers stranded two runners in the inning, Mikenna McSperritt (Hillsboro's third freshman

starter) was hit by a pitch two batters after Chappellear reached, but they still led 2-0 after two innings.

Lincolnwood picked up their first run in the top of the third, with Taryn Millburg driving in Taryn Clarke with a double after Clarke led off the inning with a base hit. Hillsboro answered quickly as the first four batters reached base. Briley Kirby reached on an error, then scored on a double by Camp to make it 3-1. Camp moved to third when Sophia Blankenship reached on a

single, then scored on a failed fielder's choice off the bat of Kenzie Jarman.

Lincolnwood got the next three outs, but not before Blankenship and Jarman came around to score as Hillsboro now led 6-1 after three.

The Lancers put two runners on base in the fourth and fifth innings, but stranded all four runners as they continued to look for ways to get runs across the plate. Hillsboro had fewer problems with that as Ella Greenwood doubled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Camp in the

fourth, followed by three more runs in the fifth. All three runs in the fifth came with two outs as Audrey Shultz doubled and scored on a single by Greenwood, who scored in the next at-bat on a double by Briley Kirby. Kirby took third on the throw home and scored on a wild pitch shortly thereafter.

Down 10-1 going into the sixth, Lincolnwood put together a rally in an effort to get back into the game. They would load the bases when Kaci Bethard singled and Kirsten Osterholt and

Kirsten Pope walked, with the first run of the inning coming in the next at-bat on an RBI single by Taryn Clarke. An error off the bat of Ella Jenkins allowed Osterholt to score and Pope scored on a passed ball to make it 10-4. Clarke went to third on the pitch and scored on a sacrifice fly by Taryn Millburg, but Hillsboro ended the inning on Camp's 11th strikeout of the game.

After Hillsboro stranded one in the bottom of the sixth, Camp went back to work and picked up her 12th strikeout to start the top of the seventh. After a ground out and a walk, Camp got the final out on a foul pop down the first base line to end the game.

In addition to her 12 strikeouts, Camp also walked three and allowed five runs (two earned) on eight hits in her seven innings of work. Taryn Millburg took the loss on the mound, allowing 10 runs (six earned) on nine hits and two walks, with two strikeouts. Osterholt threw the final inning in relief for the Lancers, allowing one hit and striking out one.

At the plate, Camp, Briley Kirby, Ella Greenwood and Peyton Chappellear all had two hits apiece, with Camp driving in three runs and Chappellear plating two. Kirby (2), Greenwood (2) and Kenzie Jarman (2) combined for seven of Hillsboro's 10 runs. Taryn Clarke went 3-for-4 for Lincolnwood, with Taryn Millburg and Kaci Bethard picking up two hits apiece. Clarke also had two runs scored, while Millburg drove in two runs.

Continued on 3B

Panthers Turn The Tables On Bluejays

A year ago, PORTA Bluejays spoiled the Litchfield-Mt. Olive baseball team's season opener with a 4-1 victory. On Monday afternoon, the Purple Panthers flipped roles with the visiting Jays as they used a four-run second inning to win the 2024 season opener by a 5-3 final score.

After a brief scoring threat in the bottom of the first, the Panthers struck first in the contest. Litchfield collected four hits in the bottom of the second inning, which produced four runs, building a 4-0 lead after two innings of action.

Prior to the big inning the Purple Panthers loaded the base paths with two outs in the home half of the first. The scoring threat would be short-lived as PORTA collected the third out of the inning.

Litchfield made sure they didn't leave any ducks on the pond in their attempt at the plate in the second inning, though. Titan Hires and Ian Otto got things going as they led off the inning with two singles. PORTA once again threatened to end the Purple Panthers' scoring threat as they shut down the next two batters, leaving Hires and Otto on the base paths with two outs.

Carson Saathoff quickly put an end to the possibility of another scoreless inning as he teed off on the first pitch he saw, sending it into center field. The hit moved Saathoff all the way to third base and cleared the base paths as Litchfield took a 2-0 lead.

Litchfield was not done scoring in the inning as they added two more runs in the next at-bat. Max Leitschuh would

do one better than his teammate's big hit, as he homered on the fifth pitch he saw to plate two more runs.

PORTA ended the inning during the next at-bat, but the damage was already done as Litchfield took a 4-0 lead after two innings of action.

Litchfield was not done scoring, though, as they put another run on the board in the bottom of the third inning. That run once again came with two outs on the board as the Purple Panthers had now threaten two-out rallies in each of the first three innings.

Drake Gasperson started the third frame off with a single, but would stay stranded on first base during the next two at-bats.

Continued on 3B



Litchfield's Ethan Saathoff allowed just three hits in five innings, while striking out five PORTA batters as he helped the Panthers defeat the Bluejays 5-3 in the season opener on Monday, March 11, in Litchfield.

Tabitha Osterman Photo

Walk-Off Single Gives Lancers Opening Win

It was just the first game of the season for both teams, but the March 12 tilt between Taylorville and Lincolnwood-Morrisonville will be hard to top.

A one-out, bases-loaded single by Brody Lush in the bottom of the 10th inning gave the Lancers a 3-2 win over the Tornadoes in a marathon at Stierren Field in Raymond.

The majority of the five runs in the game came in the first inning as Taylorville held a 2-1 lead after one. The first three players reached base as Baron Odam doubled, Maxx Grieme reached on an error and Colton Gatton walked to load the bases for Taylorville junior Jacob McWard. The Tornadoes' clean-up hitter got the job done with a grounder to Donny Daugherty at short, which resulted in a fielder's choice at second, but a run for Taylorville.

The visitors would add another run in the next at-bat, when Grieme scored on a passed ball, but Lincolnwood starter Jonah Elvidge got another grounder to short and his first strikeout of the game to end the inning.

The Lancers cut the two-run lead in half in the bottom of the first, with Lance Weitekamp lacing a double to right field to start things off. After a fly out to center, Mason Tryon singled to give the Lancers runners at the corners with one out.

Taylorville starter Colton Gatton got Brodey VanHooser to ground to short for out number two, but Weitekamp scored on the play to make it 2-1. Drew Gilpin walked in the next at-bat, but Gatton got the final batter out on strikes as the game moved to the second inning.

The Tornadoes threatened again in the top of the second, despite not getting a hit.

Blake Ladage was hit by a pitch to start the inning and moved to second on a walk to Lane Wemple. That was as far as either would get, though, as Elvidge retired the next three batters on eight pitches.

The Lincolnwood starter walked two more batters in the top of the third, but the free passes came with two outs and Elvidge got the third out on a fly ball to Brody Lush in center. The Lancers got one runner in both the third and fourth innings, but both were left stranded as the score remained 2-1 going into the fifth.

After four solid innings and no earned runs from Elvidge, Lincolnwood Coach Josh Stone went to Mason Tryon in relief. Tryon walked a pair of batters in his first inning of work, but got himself out of trouble and got the third out with no runs coming across.

In the bottom of the fifth, Tryon helped his own cause as he singled with two outs to score Brody Lush. Lush started the inning with a single, stole second and moved to third on an errant pickoff throw. The Lancers got another baserunner on a walk, but Gatton coaxed a ground out back to the mound for the final out of the inning.

Neither team got a hit in the sixth or seventh, but stranded one runner each after a pair of walks. In the eighth, Taylorville tried to get a two-out rally going with a single by Kade Beckmier, but Brodey VanHooser, who came on in the eighth to relieve Tryon, struck out the next batter to end the inning.

Lincolnwood loaded the bases in their half of the eighth against Baron Odam, who came on in relief of Gatton in the seventh.

Continued on 8B

Lohman Named To All-State Team

Reece Lohman was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-State Special Mention Team recently after a banner year for the Nokomis High School senior.

Lohman, the son of Trent and Nikki Lohman, posted career highs in total points (540), points per game (16.4), total rebounds (209) and rebounds per game (6.3), while also leading the team in blocks with 102. For his career, Lohman finished first in school history in blocks with 278, while also finishing 15th in points (1,155) and just outside the top 10 in rebounds (549).



Reece Lohman



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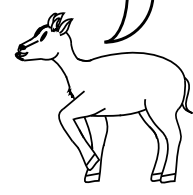


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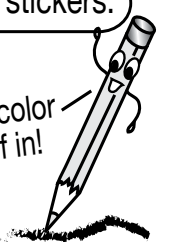
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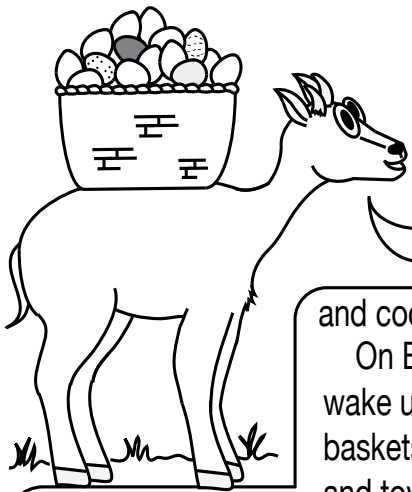
...eggs using sparkles and mini stickers.



Kids: color stuff in!



Happy Easter!



Easter is an important Christian holiday. It is a joyous and fun day. Families spend a lot of time cleaning, shopping and cooking to get ready.

On Easter morning children wake up to find Easter baskets filled with treats and toys. There may be hot-cross buns, fruit and eggs for breakfast.

Next, the family may go to a church service, often dressed in new spring clothing. When they get home they share a large meal, often with ham or lamb. Later, everyone watches the children hunt for Easter eggs!

I am a baby rabbit. I am a kit or kitten. Later, I can be called a bunny or a rabbit.

I helped to dye all the eggs.

Whew!

One gazillion and one... almost done!

1 This puzzle has 2 parts to it. First, read the clues below to fill in the puzzle about Easter customs.

1. the Easter Bunny leaves _____
2. go to church _____
3. color, dye and decorate _____
4. wear new _____
5. clean the _____
6. share large _____ with family
7. send Easter _____ and greetings
8. church _____ ring
9. bake hot-cross _____
10. visit _____

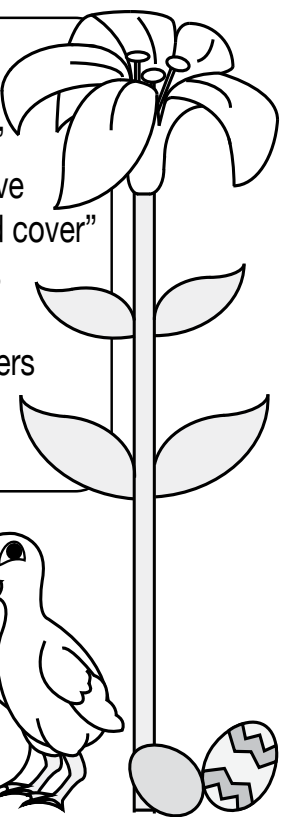
In "two shakes of a lamb's tail" the weather turned as "gentle as a lamb."



When you are finished with the clues, notice that there are 10 unused words left around the puzzle.

The second step is for you to fill in the rest of the puzzle with the words that are left.

When we "ducks are out of water" we never have to "duck and cover" when it rains because spring showers just "roll off our backs!"



Easter Basket Fun

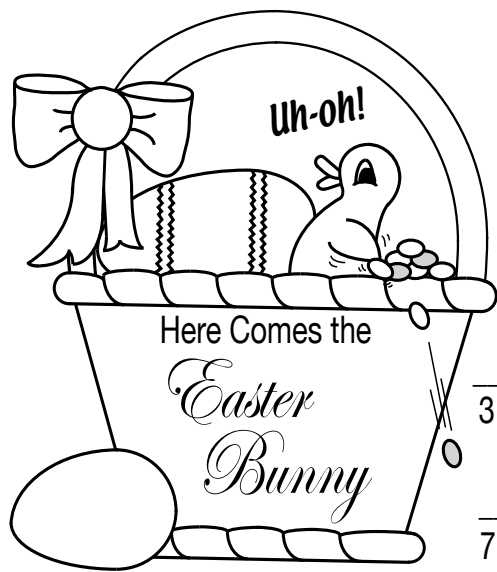
Can you help the bunny pick up all the eggs and the chocolate rabbit to fill the Easter basket?

Sunrise Surprise!

If the weather is nice on Easter morning, some people will attend church services outdoors at sunrise. If it rains, they will go inside.

Can you find your way through the maze?

Did it rain on this Easter morning or was the sun shining?



Have you ever heard the Easter Bunny hopping by? On Easter morning you might find a basket full of surprises. Follow the alphabet code to "see" some treats that might be in an Easter basket.

- beans: 10 5 12 12 25
- animal: 13 1 18 19 8 13 1 12 12 15 23
- rabbit: 3 8 15 3 15 12 1 20 5
- egg: 4 5 3 15 18 1 20 5 4
- grass: 7 18 5 5 14 16 12 1 19 20 9 3
- toy: 19 13 1 12 12

Alphabet key for secret message:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
O	P	Q	R	S	T	
15	16	17	18	19	20	
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
21	22	23	24	25	26	

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Redskins Shut Out Staunton

Six Nokomis pitchers combined for a two-hit shutout on Monday, March 11, as the Redskins defeated Staunton 5-0 in the season opener for both teams.

The combination of Ian Keller, Drake Taylor, Levi German, Izaak Doyen, Conner Wilson and Bryce Gillock stymied the Bulldogs for seven innings, allowing five walks and one hit batsman in addition to the two hits.

The first of the two hits came in the first inning, when Staunton starting pitcher Brady Gillen singled to right after Victor Buehler reached on an error in the at-bat before Keller, who got the start for Nokomis, got out of the jam, though, as the Bulldogs stranded a runner after a strikeout and a fielder's choice to end the inning.

Runners left on base would be a theme for Staunton throughout as they stranded nine runners in seven innings, including two more in the bottom of the second. That proved to be costly for the Bulldogs as Nokomis mounted a two-out rally to break the scoreless tie in the top of the third.

After a walk to Garrett Engelman, Gillen got the next two batters on a fly ball and a strikeout. Nolan Herpstreith kept the inning alive, though, lacing a two-strike single to right that moved Engelman, who stole second in the previous at-bat, to third base.

Brenton Lyons wasted little time in notching his first RBI of the season as he singled to score Engelman before the Bulldogs got out of the inning.

Staunton put two runners on for the third straight inning when they got the chance to bat, but Levi German struck out the final batter of the inning to keep Nokomis out in front.

The Redskins extended that lead in the top of the fourth, chasing Gillen from the mound in the process. Drake Taylor led off the inning and reached on an error, before Staunton got German out on a line drive to right field for out number one.

Three more batters would step to the plate before out number two lit up the scoreboard as Conner Wilson singled and Garrett Engelman walked to load the bases, with Blain Goodwin unloading them with a two-run single that scored Taylor and Wilson.

After a ground out for out number two, Herpstreith put the ball in play and reached on an error that allowed Engelman to score for the second time and make it 5-0 in Nokomis' favor.

The extra runs took a little pressure off the Redskins, who had flirted with disaster in the first three innings. That courtship ended in

the fourth as Izaak Doyen pitched back-to-back 1-2-3 innings in the fourth and fifth.

Conner Wilson came on in relief in the bottom of the sixth and gave up a two-out single and walk, but as was the case earlier, Staunton was unable to get anything across the plate. Bryce Gillock came on to pitch the seventh and allowed a two-out walk, but a ground ball to Doyen at third retired the side and ended the game with Nokomis still up five.

Doyen also had two of Nokomis' seven hits, all of which were singles. Blain Goodwin had a hit, two RBIs and a run scored, while Garrett Engelman walked twice and scored twice.

Metro-East Lutheran

On Tuesday, the Redskins were home for the first time this season and were greeted rudely by the Knights of Metro-East Lutheran (MEL). The Edwardsville private school scored nine runs in the first two innings, then held on for a 9-8 victory over the Redskins.

MEL picked up two runs on three hits in the first inning, then added seven more runs in the top of the second to take an early lead.

The Redskins' comeback started in their half of the second as they plated three runs on three singles, a walk and an error. Two of the singles came to start the inning as Drake Taylor and Levi German had base knocks. A walk to Conner Wilson loaded the bases, but MEL starter Thijson Heard struck out the next batter for out number one.

Out number two came in the next at-bat on a sacrifice fly from Ian Keller as Nokomis scored its first run. A single by Garrett Engelman and an error on a ground ball by the Knights plated two more runs before Heard got a fielder's choice to end the rally.

Keller came on in relief in the top of the third inning and set the Knights down in order in the third, then got out of a jam in the fourth to keep MEL scoreless, despite a pair of singles in the inning.

Nokomis cut the lead to 9-4 in the bottom of the fourth with a two-out rally. Garrett Engelman, who was hit by a pitch from reliever Abe Oberhauser, stole second base and scored on a single by Nolan Herpstreith to pull the Redskins closer.

Nokomis scored three more runs in the bottom of the sixth, with Saint Newman starting things off by reaching base on an error with one out. Three straight singles from Keller, Engelman and Herpstreith resulted in Newman and Keller scoring, with Engelman scoring on a fly ball to center off the bat of Brenton Lyons. Unfortunately, Herpstreith

was out at third while trying to move up on the sacrifice fly and the game went to the seventh with the Knights still up 9-7.

Drake Taylor, who came on in relief of Keller with two outs in the fifth, pitched a scoreless seventh as Nokomis went back to the plate.

The Redskins got to reliever Drake Luebbert early with a single by Izaak Doyen, a walk to Taylor and a single by Levi German to load the bases, but the sophomore hurler settled down after that and struck out the next batter. The Knights' defense gave Nokomis new life when Saint Newman reached on an error that scored Doyen, but Luebbert got the final two outs on a strikeout and a ground ball to second to end the game.

Nolan Herpstreith went 3-for-4 with three RBIs in the loss, while Garrett Engelman and Levi German added two hits apiece. Drake Luebbert, Caleb Conrad and Thijson Heard had two hits apiece for Metro-East Lutheran, with five runs batted in between them.

Nokomis closes out the opening week with a road trip to Taylorville tomorrow, Friday, March 15, with first pitch at 4:30 p.m.

March 11 at Staunton

Nokomis	001	400	0--5	7	1
Staunton	000	000	0--0	2	5

Pitching Statistics						
Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Keller	1.0	1	0	0	0	2
Taylor	1.0	0	0	0	2	2
German	1.0	0	0	0	1	1
Doyen	2.0	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson	1.0	1	0	0	1	2
Gillock	1.0	0	0	0	1	1

*German 1 HBP						
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gillen	3.1	3	4	2	2	3
Overby	3.2	4	1	0	0	0

Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: Nokomis - Izaak Doyen 2-4, Caleb Conrad 2-4, Thijson Heard 2-5; Nokomis - Nolan Herpstreith 3-4, Garrett Engelman 2-4, Levi German 2-4. **2B:** MEL - Thijson Heard 2, Drake Luebbert 2, Jacob Kober 1, Owen Halusan 1, Thijson Heard 1, Ella Jenkins 1; Hillsboro - Anika Camp 3, Peyton Chappellear 2, Ella Greenwood 1, Briley Kirby 1, Kenzie Jarman 1, Aubyrey Shultz 1, Aubyrey Evans 1.

Records: Nokomis (1-0); Staunton (0-1).

March 12 at Nokomis

MEL	270	000	0--9	10	4
Nokomis	030	103	1--8	11	3

Pitching Statistics						
Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Doyen	1.1	4	4	4	1	0
Jonas	0.2	3	5	3	2	0
Keller	2.2	2	0	0	1	3
Taylor	2.1	1	0	0	0	0

*Home						
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
Heard	3.0	4	3	2	1	3
Oberhauser	2.1	5	4	2	0	1
Kober	0.2	0	0	0	0	0
Luebbert	1.0	2	1	0	1	2

Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: MEL - Drake Luebbert 2-4, Caleb Conrad 2-4, Thijson Heard 2-5; Nokomis - Nolan Herpstreith 3-4, Garrett Engelman 2-4, Levi German 2-4. **2B:** MEL - Thijson Heard 2, Drake Luebbert 2, Jacob Kober 1, Owen Halusan 1, Thijson Heard 1, Gage Trendley 1; Nokomis - Nolan Herpstreith 3, Garrett Engelman 1, Brenton Lyons 1, Saint Newman 1, Ian Keller 1.

Records: Nokomis (1-0); Metro-East Lutheran (0-0).



Hillsboro senior Dawson Guinn gets a fist bump from first base coach Joshua Fulhorr after being robbed of a hit by the Rochester shortstop in the seventh inning of the Hiltoppers' season opener in Hillsboro on Monday, March 11. The Rockets return their starting nine from last year's team that made it to the sectional championship game in Class 3A and looked like a team to beat on Monday as they defeated the Toppers 12-0 in seven innings.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Rockets Power Past Hillsboro

by Ron Deabenderfer

When Hillsboro's varsity baseball team opened their 2024 baseball season by hosting Rochester Monday afternoon, March 11, the weather, windy but in the 60s at game time, was better than one might expect for mid-March. Hillsboro's pitching survived wild streaks to keep the game close for six innings, but hopes for a win crashed in the top of the seventh when the visitors scored seven runs enroute to a 12-0 win.

The Topper offense could collect only two hits against the Rockets, a scratch single by Jackson Tuetken in the second and a double by Elias Baney leading off the third. Three Rocket pitchers walked only two while striking out 12; particularly impressive was Ajay Runkel, who collected seven strikeouts while facing nine batters in his three innings of relief. He did hit one batter but then picked him off first.

Winning pitcher Jack Swaney started the game and surrendered the two hits; he was ahead 3-0 when Rochester scored three times in the third. The final inning belonged to junior Breck Calvert, who struck out two of the three batters he faced. The visitors committed no

errors in the game.

The Toppers weren't as efficient on the mound or in the field. Left handed Nathan Matoush was bothered by uncharacteristic wildness, walking five batters while throwing 55 pitches in his two innings of work. The walks created drama though; he picked off the leadoff man after walking him, then gave up a single and walked two to load the bases. He then struck the next two batters to end the threat.

In the second he walked the seventh and eighth men in their lineup, then struck out number nine, one, and two to end his pitching efforts.

The third inning runs came off reliever Jace Stewart; with one out, cleanup hitter Tyson Binion singled and Jett Myren walked. An error loaded the bases before a triple by Adam Nieves emptied them. Stewart stranded Nieves on third by striking out the next two hitters. The fourth inning run was unearned.

Freshman Eli Zaidi gave up a walk, a single, and an earned run in his one inning of work; Clayton Rufus worked his way out of trouble to pitch a scoreless sixth, but a combination of walks, hits, and an error pushed the lead

to 12-0 in his last inning of work as 12 batters came to the plate.

Weather permitting, the Toppers host the East Alton Wood River Oilers beginning at 4:30 this afternoon, Thursday, March 14. Friday they travel to Brownstown to play the co-op team (St. Elmo also has players on the Bombers' team); Saturday morning the site is Gordon Moore Park in Alton, and the opponent is Marquette Catholic.

March 11 at Hillsboro

Rochester	003	110	7--12	10	0
Hillsboro	000	000	0--0	1	3

Pitching Statistics						
Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Swaney	3.0	1	0	0	1	3
Runkel	3.0	0	0	0	0	7
Calvert	1.0	0	0	0	0	2

*Swaney 1 HBP

Home						
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
Matoush	2.0	1	0	0	5	5
Stewart	2.0	3	4	2	2	3
Zaidi	1.0	2	1	0	2	1
Rufus	2.0	4	7	6	5	1

*Stewart 1 HBP, Rufus 1 HBP

Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: Rochester - Jorey Myren 2-3, Adan Nieves 2-4. **2B:** Rochester - Parker Gillespie 1; Hillsboro - Elias Baney 1. **3B:** Rochester - Adan Nieves 1. **Runs:** Rochester - Jett Myren 2, Tyson Binion 2, Jorey Myren 2, Runkel 1, Bryan Zulauf 1, Adan Nieves 1, Parker Lyons 1, Parker Gillespie 1, Jack Swaney 1. **RBI:** Rochester - Adan Nieves 3, Parker Gillespie 2, Bryan Zulauf 1, Jett Myren 1, Jorey Myren 1.

Records: Hillsboro (0-1); Rochester (1-0).

Litchfield Baseball

Continued from 1B

Otto followed the second out with his second hit of the ball game, a single that moved Gasperson to third base and into scoring position.

Following Otto's hit freshman Josh Boerkel collected his first career RBI on his first career hit. Boerkel's hit plated Gasperson, giving Litchfield a 5-0 lead. The lead would stay that way as the inning would come to a close as PORTA struck out the next batter.

As Litchfield's offense produced early and often, Ethan Saathoff held PORTA's bats at bay. Getting the nod as the opening day starter, Saathoff made the most of the honor as he struck out five batters and walked one in five innings of three-hit ball.

More importantly Saathoff, along with his brother and battery mate Carson, did not allow a Bluejay to touch home plate in his outing.

The Bluejays eventually found a way to put runs on the board after a pitching change

by the Purple Panthers. Coach Rocky Giannuzzi would swap one Saathoff with another as Carson Saathoff replaced his younger brother on the mound.

After Saathoff shut down the first batter, the next three PORTA players reached base. With the bases loaded and one out, PORTA finally broke into the scoring column on a field's choice, the second out of the inning.

A single and an error before the final out of the inning was recorded allowed PORTA to put two more runs on the board as the late push narrowed the Purple Panthers' lead to 5-3 after five and a half innings of action.

In the bottom half of the sixth inning Litchfield put a runner on the base paths but failed to get that runner across home plate. The same would happen in the visitors' half of the seventh inning as PORTA had one on with two outs, but failed to get him across the dish before the Purple Panthers closed out the inning.

With a 5-3 victory the

Purple Panthers started the season on the right track. Ethan Saathoff was awarded the victory in his strong outing. Max Leitschuh and Ian Otto led the Purple Panthers at the plate as both collected multiple hits in the game.

Litchfield continued action on Wednesday, March 13, when they traveled to Lebanon, before welcoming Southwestern on Thursday, March 14, in a non-conference showdown with the Piasa Birds. They wrap the opening week up on Saturday, March 16, as they travel to Carrollton to battle the Hawks.

March 11 at Litchfield

PORTA	000	003	0--3	6	1
Litchfield	041	000	x--5	10	3

Pitching Statistics

Home						
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
E. Saathoff	5	3	0	0	1	5
C. Saathoff	2	3	3	2	2	3

*E. Saathoff 2 HBP

Litchfield Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: Max Leitschuh 3-4, Ian Otto 2-2. **2B:** Ethan Saathoff 1. **3B:** Carson Saathoff 1. **HR:** Max Leitschuh 1. **Runs:** Carson Saathoff 1, Max Leitschuh 1, Drake Gasperson 1, Ian Otto 1, Briley Viviano 1. **RBI:** Carson Saathoff 2, Max Leitschuh 2, Josh Boerkel 1.

Records: Litchfield (1-0); PORTA (0-1).

Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers

Thursday, March 14
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts East Alton Wood River

4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts East Alton Wood River

Friday, March 15

4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Brownstown
5 p.m. - Girls Soccer hosts Maryville Christian

Saturday, March 16

11 a.m. - Baseball at Alton Marquette
11 a.m. - Softball at Granite City
1 p.m. - Softball vs. Wesclin at Granite City

Litchfield Purple Panthers

Thursday, March 14
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Southwestern

4:30 p.m. - Softball at Greenfield
Friday, March 15
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Alton

Saturday, March 16

11 a.m. - Baseball at Carrollton

Nokomis Redskins

Thursday, March 14
4 p.m. - Track at Illinois College
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Greenville

Friday, March 15

4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Taylorville
Saturday, March 16
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Warrensburg-Latham

Lincolnwood Lancers

Thursday, March 14
4:30 p.m. - JV Baseball at Greenville
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Ramsey

Friday, March 15

4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Taylorville
Saturday, March 16
11 a.m. - Baseball hosts Warrensburg-Latham

11 a.m. - Softball hosts Staunton

Get the scores when we do
twitter.com/JNSports

Softball

Continued from 1B

Both teams will be back at home on Thursday, March 14, with Hillsboro playing host to Wesclin and Ramsey hosting the Lady Lancers.

March 11 at Hillsboro

Lincolnwood	001	004	0--5	8	2
Hillsboro	114	130	x-10	12	2

Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Millburg	5.0	11	10	6	2	2
Osterholt	1.0	1	0	0	0	1

*Millburg 2 HBP

Home

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	
Camp	7.0	8	5	2	3	12

*Camp 2 HBP

Batting Statistics

Multiple Hits: Lincolnwood - Taryn Clarke 3-4, Taryn Millburg 2-3, Kaci Bethard 2-4; Hillsboro -

Anika Camp 2-2, Briley Kirby 2-3, Ella Greenwood 2-4, Peyton Chappellear 2-4. **2B:** Lincolnwood - Kaci Bethard 1, Taryn Millburg 1; Hillsboro - Briley Kirby 2, Kenzie Jarman 1, Ella Greenwood 1, Mikenna McSperritt 1, Anika Camp 1, Audrey Shultz 1.

Runs: Lincolnwood - Taryn Clarke 2, Kaci Bethard 1, Kirsten Osterholt 1, Kirsten Pope 1; Hillsboro - Briley Kirby 3, Ella Greenwood 2, Kenzie Jarman 2, Anika Camp 1, Sophia Blankenship 1, Audrey Shultz 1. **RBI:** Lincolnwood - Taryn Millburg 2, Taryn Clarke 1, Ella Jenkins 1; Hillsboro - Anika Camp 3, Peyton Chappellear 2, Ella Greenwood 1, Briley Kirby 1, Kenzie Jarman 1, Aubyrey Evans 1.

Records: Lincolnwood (0-1); Hillsboro (1-0).

Bloom Into Savings This Easter!

NON-INSULATED GARAGE DOORS
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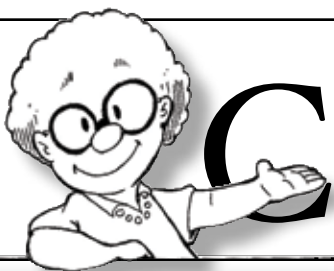
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SELMA CAN SELL THAT

4B - Thursday, March 14, 2024



Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD

CALL: (217) 532-3933

WEB: www.thejournal-news.net

EMAIL: thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Announcements
Notices

ORDER SELF INKING stamps at The Journal-News, 217-532-3933.

Employment
General Help

HELP WANTED: Part-time truck driver needed for early morning delivery and other routes, 15 to 20 hours per week. Fill out application at The Journal-News, 431 S. Main, Hillsboro.

For Rent
Apartments

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom upstairs apartment in Hillsboro, IL. No pets, no smoking. \$500 mo. 217-229-3188

Houses

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom house, Hillsboro, IL. No pets. No smoking. \$600 mo. 217-229-3188

For Rent
Houses

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom house in Hillsboro. \$700 mo. No smoking, no pets. References and deposit required. 217-532-5962

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom house in Raymond, IL. No pets, no smoking. \$800. mo. 217-229-3188

Garage Sales

YARD SALE: March 15 & 16, 8 to 4. 11418 Waresgrove Ave., Irving. (Cobetto) Farmhouse and seasonal decor. Lots of antiques, old wooden boxes, drawers, cabinet, tables. Paint, baskets, flowers, copper boiler, kitchen scales, misc., 1904 Minnesota sewing machine in cabinet, Nintendo 64 with games.

Merchandise

Auto Parts

FOR SALE: 2 All Terrain tires, 235/75R15, very good condition. \$50 ea. or \$90 for the pair. 217-691-9198

Merchandise
Firewood

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. 217-825-9730, 217-710-5973

Furniture

MATTRESS SALE: Twin mattress \$159, full \$209, queen \$249, Mattress Direct across from Litchfield Walmart. 217-324-3636

Miscellaneous

PUSHMOWERS and many other items for sale. 217-851-1411

Services
General Services

E&W Decking, fencing, vinyl siding, and garage door installation. Free estimates. Call 217-825-5951

WANTED: Lawns to mow for the summer by retiree. Litchfield area. 217-313-0795



Faith Bible Basketball Competes At IACS

The boys basketball team at Faith Bible Christian Academy in Rosamond placed third after defeating East Moline in the IACS State tournament on Saturday, Feb. 10. The team is pictured above. In front, from the left, are Kadyann Carter, Caleb Beetem, Carson Garrett, Elijah Beetem, Judah Jeffrey and Seth Vallelonga. In back, from the left, are Isaac King, Zane Lutz, Colt Garrett and Coach Brandon Lutz.



The junior high boys basketball team from Faith Bible Christian Academy in Rosamond took second after being defeated by Danville at the IACS State tournament on Saturday, Feb. 17. In front, from the left, are team members Ricky Beetem, Grayson Christer, Kashton Morrison, Zane Lutz, Elijah Beetem and Caleb Beetem. In back, from the left are Coach Brandon Lutz, Hudson Downen, Joshiah Houser and Coach Taylor Hardwick.

HILLSBORO health

Hillsboro Area Hospital, now called Hillsboro Health, is hiring clinical, clerical and management positions!

NOW HIRING:

- Health Information Management (HIM) Manager
- Emergency Department Technician (CNA, MA, EMT)
- Monitored Medical Surgical (MMS) RN or LPN, Night Shift

We offer RN sign-on bonuses up to \$25,000!

If you're looking for a career with competitive pay and benefits in a positive environment with great leadership, apply online now!

To view ALL current openings for full-time and part-time positions at Hillsboro Health, scan this QR code or visit our Careers page at HillsboroHealth.org.

Hillsboro Health is an Equal Opportunity Employer
1200 E. Tremont St., Hillsboro, Illinois 217-532-6111

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FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

The Regional Office of Education #3 is accepting applications for a full-time Family Support Specialist to provide home-visiting services to families with children ages 0-3. Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development, Family and Social Services, Family and Consumer Sciences, or a related field and experience working with children and families is preferred.

Please send a cover letter and resumé to:
Regional Office of Education #3
Attn: Paula White
203 S. Main Street, Hillsboro, IL. 62049

NEUHAUS Heating & AC, Inc.

Hiring Full-Time HVAC Installer

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Apply in person at 10235 S. Old Rt. 66, Litchfield or send resumé to kim@neuhausvac.com

APPROXIMATELY 20,000 CARDS FOR SALE

Mostly baseball, football, basketball and presidential candidates (2008, 2016, 2020 elections). Panini, Topps, Topps Chrome, Bowman, Bowman Chrome, Donruss, Gypsy Queen, and Heritage. Many inserts, autographed and worn-jersey cards, Most are in binders and top loaders. All are in perfect condition. Appr. 150 have been graded. Most are big-name players - 1970s through 2023. Many rookies. May inspect any time.

Must see to appreciate. \$8,000. Call 217-827-6201.

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CITY OF HILLSBORO SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

The City of Hillsboro will be accepting applications for summer employees in the Parks Department, Marina, Street Department, Hillsboro City Hall and groundskeepers, concession workers and baseball/softball umpires at the Sports Complex. All applicants must obtain an application from the City's website, www.hillsboroilinois.net, or the Hillsboro City Clerk's Office, 447 S. Main St., Hillsboro, IL between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. **The completed applications must be returned to Hillsboro City Hall by Friday, April 12, 2024.** For more information on the positions contact City Hall at 217-532-5566.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: High School Math Teacher. Primarily Algebra 1 with possibility of Geometry and/or Algebra 2 depending upon candidate qualifications.

License/Qualifications: Secondary Illinois Professional Educator's License with appropriate endorsement or willingness to attain.

Salary/Benefits: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract. Benefits include health insurance, tuition reimbursement and district-paid TRS contribution.

Additional Notes: Various extra-curricular sports and club sponsorships may be available.

Application Due Date: May 10, 2024

Start Date: August 2024

How to Apply: Please email a letter of interest, district application (see website), resumé, letters of reference and transcripts to pheyen@hillsboroschools.net or mail to Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; 217-532-2841.

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

TIRES FOR SALE

5 Firestone tires, Jeep Wrangler, LT255/75 R17
New 5-lug with Black Rims
4 RAM truck tires, 285/45 R22
New 6-lug, Pirelli Scorpion Verde, Black Rims

217-254-2364

HIGHWAY MAINTAINER

The Montgomery County Highway Department is accepting applications for a Highway Maintainer. This position is responsible for all maintenance functions necessary to keep the County's highways, bridges, and right-of-way in acceptable and functioning condition. This is a full-time position and requires a valid Illinois Class B CDL or ability to acquire one. Experience in highway maintenance and operating construction equipment is desirable. Preference will be given to residents of Montgomery County. Interested individuals can view the complete job description and application at www.montgomerycountyil.gov or can call 217-532-6109 for more information. Send a completed application to:

Montgomery County Engineer
11159 Illinois Route 185
Hillsboro, IL 62049

Applications will be accepted through Thursday, March 28th, 2024 or until position is filled. Montgomery County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CEMENT MASON AND PLASTERER'S UNION SEEKS NEW APPRENTICES

The Cement Masons Local No. 90 and Southern Illinois Builders Association Joint Apprenticeship Committee and The Plasterer's Apprentice Program will accept applications from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 (Noon) April 1, 2, 4 and April 8, 9, 11, 2024 at the Local No. 90 office, 820 Lions Drive, Troy, Illinois.

The Cement Masons apprenticeship is a three-year program. The Plasterer's apprenticeship is a four-year program.

Qualifications are:

- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age
- Birth Certificate required
- High School Diploma or GED
- Reside within the territorial jurisdiction of: Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery and St. Clair counties.

For more information, call 618-667-2562.
We are an equal opportunity employer.

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT

Montgomery County is seeking bids for a roof replacement on an equipment storage building located at 11159 IL Route 185, Hillsboro, IL 62049. Interested contractors can view and print the Plans and Specifications from www.montgomerycountyil.gov or can call 217-532-9577 for more information. Sealed bids shall be delivered to the County Coordinator's Office by 8:30 am on April 2nd, 2024 at which time they will be opened and read.

Montgomery County reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informalities in the bidding, and to accept the bid deemed most favorable to the interest of the County after all bids have been examined and evaluated.

Police

Litchfield Police
 • A Litchfield juvenile, 15, was released to their parents after being cited for possession of drug paraphernalia at 9:50 a.m. Friday, March 8, at Litchfield High School.
 • Julius E. Turner, 21, of Girard, was jailed for domestic battery at 12:20 a.m. Saturday, March 9, at the 1000 block of S. Montgomery.
 • Joshua L. McDonald, 41, of Mt. Olive, was jailed for domestic battery at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at the 600 block of W. Ferdon.
 • Salvador Amina, 55, of Charleston, was cited for trespassing at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at Walmart.
 • Jesse W. Woodford, 33, of Greenville, was jailed for possession of meth at 8:01 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at Walmart.
 • Alyssa M. Randall, 41, of Greenfield, was cited for expired registration at 8:06 a.m., Friday, March 8, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Corvete.

• A Litchfield juvenile, 16, was cited for unsafe backing onto a roadway at 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 8, at the intersection of Douglas and Union.
 • Alysa J. Cunningham, 44, of Walshville, was cited for failure to obey a stop sign at 4:15 p.m. Friday, March 8, at the intersection of Old Rt. 66 and Weir.
 • Amanda D. Majors, 38, of Litchfield, was cited for unregistered expired registration at 8:53 a.m. Monday, March 11, at the intersection of Kirkham and Monroe.
 • Morton C. Licker, 44, of Granite City, was cited for driving on a suspended license at 10:49 p.m. Monday, March 11, at the intersection of the I-55 exit ramp and Rt. 16.
 • Jessica D. Law, 39, of Litchfield, was jailed on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant at 4:11 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the 600 block of W. Union.



The Lodge On Main Adds Community Bingo

Luck be a lady tonight, as The Lodge on Main in downtown Hillsboro has added community Bingo nights to their roster. Starting on Thursday, Feb. 8, the upstairs hall featured Bingo games open to the community with more than 160 in attendance on opening night. Pictured above is the first cash prize winner, Lora Dean, center, along with Gail Downs, at left, and Kelly Hewitt, at right. Bingo continues each Thursday night at The Lodge on Main with dinner specials for players as well. Doors open at 5 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE
 Public Notice is hereby given that on March 4, 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: ARCO AURA located at 606 E. MARTIN ST. in the city of LITCHFIELD and state of IL.
 Dated March 4, 2024
 Sandy Leitheiser,
 County Clerk
 86-31T*

Fire Calls

Grass Fire
 Hillsboro Fire Department responded to a grass fire at 1408 E. Seward St. on Wednesday, March 13, at 11:57 a.m. Sixteen firefighters were on the scene until 4:25 p.m.
Car Fire
 Raymond-Harvel Fire Department was dispatched to a vehicle fire at the intersection of N. 18th Ave. and E. 4th Rd. on Wednesday, March 13, at 4:04 p.m. Fifteen firefighters were on the scene for just over an hour.

Bremer Presents Coyotes And Bobcats Program

Curious about the interesting history of coyotes and bobcats in Illinois? The H&B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary will present an exciting program and presentation by Nathan Grider. Grider, a wildlife programs section manager with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is a native of the Hillsboro area and will dive into the biology, ecology and population trends of these species across the state. The program will be held on Sunday, March 24, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Bremer Sanctuary barn, located at 194 Bremer Ln. in Hillsboro. The 90 minute program is free to the public, and all are invited. Donations are welcome.

Local Artists Invited To Submit Pieces To Show

The Greenville Artist Guild is announcing their annual Spring show, "I Had A Dream." Opening reception will be held on Friday, April 19, at the Maves Art Center on Beaumont Ave. in Greenville. Show dates include Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, and Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27. The gallery is open on Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artists ages 18 years and above are invited to submit their pieces before the closing deadline of Saturday, March 30. To submit a piece, send a JPEG photo of artwork to greenvilleartistguild@gmail.com. All media is considered via a juror of photographic entries including photography, two and three-dimensional art, fiber, poetry and sculpture. All entries must relate to the broad theme of dreams. Accepted works must remain in the gallery for the duration of the show. Cash prizes awarded to top entries. Additional information may be obtained via the Guild website, www.thegreenvilleartistguild.com or the Guild's Facebook page.



Bremer Stewards Upgrade Trifold Information Center

The Stewards of Bremer took advantage of the extremely warm weather on Tuesday, Feb. 27, for some renovation and repurposing, laying some street pavers under the trifold information center near the barn. The area was leveled and packed with sand from the Cress Creek area and paver bricks which once lined the streets in Nokomis were laid as a floor. The area still needs to be tamped into place and finished with sand grout.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Central Illinois Storage will be holding a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. **SALE WILL TAKE PLACE AT www.storage-treasures.com.** Property being sold includes all contents in units of the following:
Hillsboro
 H45 Thomas Light H79 Linda Harris
Litchfield
 L256 Jamie Wellman L69 Cory Evans
 L88 Jerry Price
 Auction (5 units) March 14, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.
Central Illinois Storage, Carlinville, IL 62626 • 217-854-3492

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE INTEREST OF M.M.
Case No. 22-JA-39 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 NOTICE IS GIVEN TO UNKNOWN FATHERS, and to all whom it may concern, that a petition for TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the State's Attorney's Office in this court and that in the courtroom of presiding Judge Nathan A. Frisch in Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, on **May 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing on the petition for adjudication of wardship. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.
 Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgement entered.
 March 7, 2024
 Daniel T. Robbins,
 Clerk of the Court
 Amy Taylor,
 Deputy Clerk
 88-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

Landers Self Storage will sell the following properties in our sheds to satisfy a landlord's lien. Properties being sold include all contents of the following Coffeen, IL sheds.
UNIT NUMBER NAME
#20, #21 & #49 Jarred Fisher
Landers Self Storage
Main Street, Coffeen, IL 62017

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GLEN LOUIS GREENWOOD, Deceased.
No. 2024-PR-7 CLAIM NOTICE
 Notice is given of the death of Glen Louis Greenwood, of Coffeen, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 27, 2024, to Theresa Greenwood, of Coffeen, IL as Independent Executrix, whose attorney is Erik Hyam of Silver Lake Group, Ltd. of Litchfield, IL 62056.
 Claims may be filed within six (6) months from the date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred as to the estate which is inventoried within that period. Claims must be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro Illinois, and copies mailed or delivered to the Executrix and to her attorney.
Erik Hyam
IL Bar No. 6311090
Attorney for Executrix Silver Lake Group, Ltd. 314 N. Monroe St. P.O. Box 98 Litchfield, IL 62056
Phone: (217)324-6147
erik@silverlakelaw.com
 86-31T

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NICOLE MARIE THUNHORST, TO ADOPT DAVID ISAIAH HALLORAN. **NO. 2024-AD-1**
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, ELIZABETH WASHINGTON and ROBERT MALDONADO REYES JR., Respondents, that this case has commenced in this court against you asking for an Answer to Petition for Adoption and for other relief.
 UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the clerk of this court, Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, on or before 30 days from this publication, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE PETITION.
 WITNESS, MARCH 4, 2024
 DANIEL ROBBINS
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
PREPARED BY: MICHAEL G. GINOS, IL #6326948
Attorney for Petitioner Law Offices of Glenn & West, LLC 320 W. Central St. P.O. Box 36 Nokomis, Illinois 62075
Telephone: (217) 563-7777
office@glennwestlaw.com
 86-31T

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY - HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS
 JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 EDGAR E. WELLER; CITY OF LITCHFIELD; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD
 CLAIMANTS
 Defendants,
23 FC 9
NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Montgomery County will on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., Courthouse lobby, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
 THE WEST HALF OF LOT 7 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 6 EXCEPT 10 FEET OFF THE NORTH SIDE OF SAID LOT 6, IN
 BLOCK 1 OF SCHERER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.
 P.I.N. 10-33-165-011.
Commonly known as: 123 W. Ferdon Litchfield, IL 62056
 The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.
 Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will **NOT** be open for inspection.
 For information call Mr. Colin Winters at Plaintiff's Attorney,
Lender Legal PLLC 1800 Pembroke Drive Orlando, Florida 32810 (407) 730-4644
 LLS11014-IL SHERIFF I3239045
 84-31T

PUBLIC NOTICE

Vegetation Management Activities in Adams, Alexander, Calhoun, Christian, Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Dewitt, Edwards, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, LaSalle, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Massac, McLean, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Sangamon, Scott, Shelby, St. Clair, Tazewell, Vermilion, Washington, Wayne, Williamson, and Woodford Counties
 Please be advised that Ameren Illinois will perform vegetation management in your area in the near future. Our professional vegetation management specialists will be managing vegetation on transmission rights-of-way that could affect our electric lines. This vegetation management work is necessary to protect the integrity of the electric system and to prevent potential safety hazards.
 This work might include:
 aerial or manual trimming, removal of vegetation, mowing, application of environmentally-safe herbicides, and inspections. Interested persons may call the Ameren toll free number 1-800-232-2477 or visit our website at www.ameren.com/transmission to understand any potential dispute resolution opportunities, processes, rights and/or remedies. Customers and property owners may appeal the particular vegetation work planned on their property by 1) calling the Ameren toll free number mentioned above referencing CODE TMT or 2) accessing the website mentioned above referencing CODE TMT or 3) contacting the Illinois Commerce Commission Consumer Services Division at 1-800-524-0795. Common addresses of properties affected by the planned vegetation management have been provided to the office of the mayor of any affected municipality and the office of the county board chairman of any affected county.
 Sincerely,
 Ameren Illinois
 88-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, JUVENILE DIVISION IN THE INTEREST OF K.P.
Case No. 24-JA-5 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 NOTICE IS GIVEN TO KYRA PETTY AND UNKNOWN FATHERS, and to all whom it may concern, that a petition for adjudication of wardship was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the State's Attorney's Office in this court and that in the courtroom of presiding Judge Nathan A. Frisch in Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, on **May 8, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing on the petition for adjudication of wardship. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.
 Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgement entered.
 March 7, 2024
 Daniel T. Robbins,
 Clerk of the Court
 Amy Taylor,
 Deputy Clerk
 88-1t



Nokomis High School's FFA chapter lead tractor safety programs at Nokomis Junior High and Nokomis High School on Friday afternoon, Feb. 23. Pictured above, FFA member Kaeden Loafman is presenting his tractor and proper safety to junior high students.

Nokomis High Celebrates FFA Week

Nokomis High School's FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter kept themselves busy celebrating FFA week, Saturday, Feb. 17, through Saturday, Feb. 24.

The student members kicked off the week with a community breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 17, serving pancakes, sausage and biscuits and gravy in the NHS cafeteria.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, the Nokomis FFA officers were interviewed on WTIM radio station in Taylorville, and then provided snacks for the school staff to show their appreciation. The FFA members also sold popcorn to the student body during their lunch period to raise money for charity.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, they held "Ag in the Classroom" activities for younger students at St. Louis School and North Elementary School.

To end the week, Friday, Feb. 23, marked the FFA's annual "Blue and Gold Day," and members were encouraged to drive their tractors to school. The FFA chapter then taught tractor safety programs to students at



Nokomis FFA officers were interviewed on air on Tuesday, Feb. 20, as part of FFA Week. Pictured above from the left are Kinley Stolte, Cydney Bertolino, Grace King, Levi German, Walker Stewart and WTIM radio host Tim Zalabak.

Nokomis Junior High and elementary students. Students had a chance to show off their tractor to younger students in the district.

Throughout the week the FFA members collected soda tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. They also held a school assembly featuring an 'Ag Olympics' competition for students to compete in. The week was highlighted by dif-

ferent dress-up themes each day for students.

Nokomis FFA thanks the school district for their support as well as the community for helping them have a successful and fun week.



Nokomis FFA Competes In Contest

The Nokomis High School FFA program competed in the Section 19 Parliamentary Procedure contest on Tuesday, Feb. 6, in Greenville. Team members performed a mock meeting to show their parliamentary skills and completed a knowledge-based exam. Pictured above, from the left, are team members Kinley Stolte, Levi German, Kaeden Loafman, Shelby Johnson, Grace King and Jack Johnson. The team placed third overall, while German earned first place chairperson and Johnson earned fifth place floor member.

Litchfield FFA Competes In Interviews

Litchfield FFA members Grason Thimsen and Amanda Niemann participated in the IL FFA District 3 Proficiency Award interviews Wednesday, March 6, held at Jacksonville High School.

Thimsen is the son of Luther and Jennifer Thimsen of Mt. Olive and interviewed in the area of Safety and placed third overall.

Niemann was selected as the IAVAT District 3 FFA Proficiency Winner in Vegetable Production. She is the daughter of Jay and Connie Niemann from Litchfield.

FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through record keeping, leadership and scholastic achievement may be considered for this award. SAEs allow students to learn by doing by either owning and operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Receiving this honor now



Pictured above, Litchfield FFA members Amanda Niemann and Grason Thimsen recently competed in District 3 Proficiency Award Interviews on Wednesday, March 6.

makes Niemann eligible to compete in the State FFA Awards Selection process in Mt. Zion on Saturday, March 23. She was previously chosen as the chapter and section awardee in this area, as well as the Litchfield and Section 15 Star Farmer.

Niemann and Thimsen will receive plaques for their accomplishments. These plaques are made possible by gifts by individuals, businesses, corporations and organizations through the Illinois Foundation FFA.



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Ad deadline: March 20
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Preview Date: March 25th 12noon-6PM
Pickup Date: March 30th 9AM-4PM

Mollett Auction Service, LLC

Wayne 618.920.6694 or Adam 618.267.3086
auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925
mollettauctions.com FB Mollett Auction Service

DON & RUTH SMITH from VANDALIA, IL ESTATE

ONLINE ONLY! BID NOW thru MAR 21ST 7PM
 Register / Bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com

Preview & Pickup ON LOCATION AT 608 Ridge Avenue, Greenville-IL
Preview Date: Mar 18th 4-6PM
Checkout: Mar 22nd 4-6 PM

Adam 618.267.3086 & Wayne 618.920.6694
auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925
mollettauctions.com FB Mollett Auction Service

PUBLIC AUCTION

THURS., MAR. 14 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction for 1950-70s Baseball Cards, John Wayne and Bing Crosby. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Avenue, Greenville. Preview Mar. 11, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Mar. 15, 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.

SUN., MAR. 17 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction of 36 +/- Acres Tillable & Hunting Property, xxx N. 100 St., Mulberry Grove. Property viewing Mar. 3, noon-2 p.m. 21 +/- tillable, some timber & grass, small pond. Soil type is mostly Bluford & Ava with a Pl of 99.87. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SUN., MAR. 17 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction for the estate of Barbara Joan Beckett, 2573 N. 450 St., Ramsey, Open house Mar. 4, 4-6 p.m. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. 3BR/1BA country home, att. gar., full bsmt. Septic & well water (not drinkable). Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., MAR. 24 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction for Don & Ruth Smith Estate. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & Checkout at 608 Ridge Avenue, Greenville. Preview Mar. 18, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Mar. 22, 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., MAR. 21 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for Large Spring Machinery Auction. Bidding begins Mon., Mar. 4. Register/bid at <https://micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com>. Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, James Micenheimer, auctioneer, 217-820-9324 and Cory Meyer, auctioneer, 217-710-5642.

SAT., MAR. 23 - Time TBA. Located at 937 US Rt. 40 Frontage Rd., Greenville. Spring equip. & lawn/garden consign. auction. Lawn/garden, heavy equip., const. & farm related items such as tractors, tillage tools, harvest & hay equip., semi tractors, trailers, mowers, tillers, golf carts, ATVs, tools, etc. Call Adam at 618-267-3086 or Wayne at 618-920-6694 to make an appt. to drop off your consignments. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., MAR. 28 - 6 p.m. soft close for Estate of Robert & Karen Mitchelar online auction at 809 Veterans Memorial Dr., Livingston. Preview: Mar. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pick up date: Mar. 30, 9 a.m.-Noon. Register/bid at ahrensauktion.hibid.com. Many items from Mitchelar Garage & Hardware store in Livingston incl. cast iron dinner bell, misc. shop tools, old signage, Ford 960 tractor, JD rider, 3 bottom plow, fishing lures, galvanized tubs, American flag w/48 stars, Ahrens Auction LLC, Dennis Ahrens, 618-779-1883.

SAT., MAR. 23 - Time TBA. Located at 937 US Rt. 40 Frontage Rd., Greenville. Spring equip. & lawn/garden consign. auction. Lawn/garden, heavy equip., const. & farm related items such as tractors, tillage tools, harvest & hay equip., semi tractors, trailers, mowers, tillers, golf carts, ATVs, tools, etc. Call Adam at 618-267-3086 or Wayne at 618-920-6694 to make an appt. to drop off your consignments. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., MAR. 28 - 6 p.m. soft close for Estate of Robert & Karen Mitchelar online auction at 809 Veterans Memorial Dr., Livingston. Preview: Mar. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Pick up date: Mar. 30, 9 a.m.-Noon. Register/bid at ahrensauktion.hibid.com. Many items from Mitchelar Garage & Hardware store in Livingston incl. cast iron dinner bell, misc. shop tools, old signage, Ford 960 tractor, JD rider, 3 bottom plow, fishing lures, galvanized tubs, American flag w/48 stars, Ahrens Auction LLC, Dennis Ahrens, 618-779-1883.

SAT., APR. 13 - 9 a.m. Robert Hensley Estate live at 1890 1st Ave., Keyesport. RE of 21.23 surveyed acres w/home-outbuildings, vehicles, electronics/music, antiques/collectibles, household, tools/outdoor/misc. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

WED., APR. 17 - 10 a.m. Virtual online auction of Fayette Co. land for SDDC Farms, LLC. 774 +/- acres subject to survey in 6 tracts. Auction mgrs.: Rodney Borrowman, 217-430-0645, Sullivan/Big Iron auctioneers, www.sullivanauctioneers.com, 844-847-2161.

VIRTUAL ONLINE

FAYETTE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

774 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 6 TRACTS

The SDDC Farms, LLC real estate contains approximately 774 acres± (subject to survey) to be sold in 6 tracts and is located in Fayette County, IL. The real estate is further described as being in part of Sections 4 & 5, T5N-R1E, Kaskaskia Township, and Sections 29, 31, & 32, T6N-1E, Vandalia Township, Fayette County, Illinois.

This farm in the Kaskaskia River bottoms presents an ideal opportunity for hunters, anglers, farmers, and investors due to the diverse wildlife, such as whitetail deer, wild turkey, and waterfowl. With a prime location bordering the Kaskaskia River, this property offers both excellent hunting and fishing possibilities, along with full farming rights for the upcoming 2024 crop year. It's an exceptional investment for those seeking a desirable hunting area with potential for agricultural use.

SDDC FARMS, LLC
 Closing & Title Work: Burtschi Bros & CO.
 415 W. Gallatin Street, Vandalia, IL 62471 | (618) 283-2102
 Auction Managers: Rodney Borrowman (630) 247-0667
 John Borrowman (217) 430-0645

BigIron SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS
 (844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

VIRTUAL ONLINE

MONTGOMERY & BOND COUNTY, IL LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

342.24 TAXABLE ACRES± • 6 TRACTS

The Noel Rex Hill Estate real estate is located approximately 5 miles southeast of Coffeen, IL, or 11 miles southeast of Hillsboro, IL. The property is further described as being in Section 19, South Fillmore Township, Section 24, East Fork Township, Montgomery County, and Section 26, Lagrange Township, Bond County, Illinois.

Tracts 1 through 4 are nearly 100% tillable, highly productive farms. Tract 5 is a combination farm with productive tillable and recreational acres improved with several buildings. Tract 6 is a small all timber tract. Farmers, investors, and outdoor enthusiasts - be sure to check out these properties which offer something for everyone.

NOEL REX HILL ESTATE
GARY HARRIS - EXECUTOR
 Representing Attorney: Dale F. Wolff | McDevitt Osteen Chojnicki & Deters, LLC | (217) 342-8060
 127 W. Jefferson Ave, P.O. Box 507, Effingham, IL
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Hillsboro Library Adds New Titles

The Hillsboro Area Public Library has added many new books for the month of February.

Adult regular print titles include *3-Inch Teeth* by CJ Box, *The Friendship Club* by Robyn Carr, *The Lost Love Note: A Novel* by Emma Grey, *The Women* by Kristen Hannah, *Ghost Orchid* by Jonathan Kellerman, *Summer Book Club* by Susan Mallery, *Teacher* by Freida McFadden, *Hidden Picture* by Jason Rekulak, *You Always Come Back* by Emily Smith, *Embers in the London Sky: A Novel* by Sarah Sundin, *The Cleaner* by Brandi Wells and *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros.

Adult large print titles include *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston, *Her Pretend Amish Boyfriend* by Rachel Good, *The Chaos Agent* by Mark Greaney, *Crosshairs* by James Patterson, *Private Missing Persons* by James Patterson and *Everyone on This Train is a Suspect* by Benjamin Stevenson.

Adult nonfiction titles include *A Prairie Faith* by John Fry and *Secret History*

of Bigfoot by John O'Connor Children's fiction and easy reader titles include *Welcome to the Island* (Isla of Adventure book one) and *The Secret Cabana* (Isla of Adventure book two) by Dela Costa, *Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key* by Tracy Ocomy Crowder, *Owl Diaries: Eva For President* by Rebecca Elliott, *The Secret Society of Aunts and Uncles* by Jake Gyllenhaal, *Nya McLure the Brave Science Girl* by Douglas Haddad, *Bathe the Cat, The Buzzy Bee, A Story for Small Bear and The Water Lady* all by Alice B. McGinty, *Frank and Bean: The Stinky Feet Monster* by Jamie Meihalak, *Fergus and Zeke For President* by Kate Messner, *Best Wishes* by Sarah Meynowski, *The Adventures of Otto: See Otto Say Hi!* by David Milgrim, *The Gingerbread Man Class Pet on the Loose* by Laura Murray, *Who Would Win: Coyote vs Dingo* and *Who Would Win: Rhino vs Hippo* by Jerry Pallotta, *Adventures with Waffles, Astrid the Unstoppable* and *Lena, the Sea and Me* by Maria Parr, *Great Day*

for Up and The Lorax and *Oh the Things You Can Think* by Dr. Seuss, *Goodnight Train Easter (Board Book)* by June Sobel, *The Last Mapmaker* by Christina Soontornvat, *Bad Princess: Meet Me at Midnight* and *Bad Princess: Perfect Villains* by Jennifer Torres and *I Lived Inside a Whale* by Li Xin.

Children's graphic novels include *Punycorn* by Andi Watson and *Hilo Book #1: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth*, *Hilo Book #2: Saving the Whole Wide World*, *Hilo Book #3 The Great Big Boom* and *Hilo Book #4: Waking the Monsters*, all by Judd Winick.

Children's nonfiction titles include *Would You Believe It?* by Mary E. Ceney, *Feasts and Festivals Around the World* and *Pancakes to Parathas* by Alice B. McGinty and *Are You Big?* by Mo Willems

Young adult titles include *Chain of Thorns* by Cassandra Clare and *Tumble* by Celia Perez.

In the young adult graphic novel category, *Superman: The Harvests of Youth* by Sina Grace was added.



Pictured above, in front, from the left are Taelyn Payne, Skylynn Thrasher, Josey Webster and Alexis Young. In the middle row are Loudon Reed, Daxton Spangler and Liam Wilson. In back are Zayne Lipe, Vincent Connor, Brecken Trader, Mason Bates, Grayson Brewer, Sonney Clevenger, Drew Schweizer, Breeawna Reincke and Isabel McLaughlin.

Fifth Graders Compete In Science Contest

Under the leadership of fifth grade teacher Erin Hammann, Beckemeyer Elementary School fifth graders entered their unique Rube Goldberg contraption in competition with 15 others on Friday, March 1, at Lincoln Land Community College in

Springfield. Although they did not place, Hammann said, "We are so proud of the hard work they put into their ten-step chain reaction contraption. They have worked for months learning about engineering, making a journal/log, and

applying their knowledge in their Rube."

Hammann thanks Chase Connor and Kyle Schweizer for the second year in a row volunteering their time with the Rube Goldberg program.

Camden's Crew Scramble To Be May 4

Family and friends of Camden Burke are making plans for the sixth annual "Crush for Camden's Crew Golf Scramble" on Saturday, May 4, at the Indian Springs Golf Club in Fillmore.

Camden is the eight year old son of Jason and Gina Burke of Irving, who is diagnosed with Cri Du Chat syndrome. The syndrome is characterized by delays in both physical and cognitive function caused by a deletion on one arm of the fifth chromosome.

Proceeds from the event go towards helping cover costs of Camden's therapies, some of which aren't covered by insurance.

This year's 18-hole golf scramble begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded to the top three places in both flights. There will also be awards for the longest drive and longest putt, as well as closest to the pin contests and a brand new 'Beat The Pro' contest.

In addition to a day on the golf course, the scramble will feature several raffles. Lunch will be provided, along with a free drink, courtesy of White and Associates.



Registration is \$240 for a team of four. Each golfer will receive a special edition Camden's Crew logo rope hat.

Hole sponsorships are also available for \$50.

In addition to Camden's therapies, a portion of the money raised from the tournament will also be used to provide grants to special needs families in need of assistance, as well as

Camden's Crew scholarships to high school seniors that are planning to continue their education in the field of special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy.

Registration forms are available at Hillsboro High School and White and Associates. They may be returned to either location or mailed to Jason Burke, 570 McCords Trail, Irving, IL 62051.

Payments must be sent along with registration forms by Monday, April 22. Checks may be made payable to "Camden's Crew."

For more information about the tournament, contact Burke at 217-313-1586 or by email at jburke@hillsboroschools.net.

Proudly presented by HSHS St. Francis Foundation and the Agriculture Committee.

You are invited to attend a

Farm Family Event

Monday, March 18, 2024

HSHS St. Francis Hospital | Litchfield, IL



Jack Tosetti

- 7 - 9 a.m. Complimentary health screenings
- 7:45 a.m. Hearty breakfast buffet
- 8:15 a.m. "Farm Business Planning"
Presented by Jack Tosetti of Tosetti and Associates
A seasoned professional, Jack will share his 50 years of experience in the areas of property taxes, wills, trusts, estate planning and life insurance.
- 9:00 a.m. "News You Can Use"
Presented by Katie Wilson, Montgomery County Farm Bureau Manager
Katie will provide information regarding the programs of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau.
- 9:30 a.m. St. Isidore Friend of Agriculture Award

Pre-registration required.

Please call Crystal Lilley at (217) 324-8564 by March 14 to sign up for lab tests.

This event is FREE OF CHARGE as a thank you to our farming community. Breakfast provided by Litchfield Family Practice Center.

Health Screenings:

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24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10492 MSRP \$59,935 NOW ONLY \$53,290	24 Chevy Tahoe High Country B10557 MSRP \$87,850 NOW ONLY \$85,212	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10558 MSRP \$61,605 NOW ONLY \$56,105
24 Chevy Silverado 2500 LTZ HD B10560 MSRP \$82,915 NOW ONLY \$81,915	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss B10531 MSRP \$63,685 NOW ONLY \$60,435	24 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali B10526 MSRP \$79,195 NOW ONLY \$75,800
24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4 B10523 MSRP \$70,535 NOW ONLY \$65,535	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10500 MSRP \$33,545 NOW ONLY \$31,490	24 GMC Yukon XL Denali Ult. B10552 MSRP \$104,295 NOW ONLY \$102,183
24 Chevy Equinox RS B10511 MSRP \$34,040 NOW ONLY \$31,990	24 Chevrolet Trailblazer RS B10589 MSRP \$33,080 NOW ONLY CALL	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10581 MSRP \$33,545 NOW ONLY \$32,990
24 Chevy Equinox RS B10601 MSRP \$33,545 NOW ONLY CALL	24 Chevrolet Tahoe LT B10588 MSRP \$74,030 NOW ONLY CALL	24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4K B10597 MSRP \$83,585 NOW ONLY CALL
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Nokomis Puts Up 23 Against Eagles

The Nokomis Lady Redskins scored 23 runs on 17 hits as they picked up their first win of the season with a 23-2 victory over St. Elmo-Brownstown (SEB) on the Eagles' home field.

Nokomis sent 14 batters to the plate in the first inning and collected seven hits, the first of which was a single by Reagan Jonas to score Presley Mehochko and Grace DeWerff, who walked to start the game. After a walk to Cloey Dirks, Jayde Gonet doubled to drive home two more runs and Nokomis was up 4-0 almost before fans could sit down after the national anthem.

A double by Maddison DeWerff, singles by Camryn Engelman and Ella Huelson and a double by Lizzy Hill all scored runs as the lead increased to 8-0 before SEB picked up their first out by retiring Mehochko on a bunt in her second at-bat of the inning.

A single by DeWerff and a sacrifice fly plated Allie Sneddon, who was courtesy running for Hill, and Nokomis got another runner on when Dirks was hit by a pitch. The scoring stopped there, though, at least temporarily, as the Eagles got out of the inning with a fly ball to left.

Dayana Haslett got SEB on the board in the bottom of the first as she singled and moved around the bases on three pitches that got past the catcher in three different at-bats. All three of those at-bats ended in outs, however, as freshman Cloey Dirks struck out two batters in her first inning of work in her high school debut.

After it took 10 batters for the Eagles to get their first out in the first inning, it only took them three batters to record out number one in the second. That wasn't without problems, though, as Maddison DeWerff was hit by a pitch, moved to third on a bunt single by Camryn Engelman and scored on a dropped third strike.

Engelman, who went to second on defensive indifference and to third on the dropped third strike, scored the 11th run for Nokomis when Lizzy Hill reached on an error.

A walk to Presley Mehochko and a single by Grace DeWerff drove in Hill's courtesy runner, Allie Sneddon, to make it 12-1, with Mehochko scoring in the next at-bat on a Reagan Jonas groundout for out number two.

The Eagles were unable to avoid further damage, however, as Cloey Dirks doubled to drive in DeWerff and Jayde Gonet hit an inside-the-park home run before the final out was made.

Up 16-1, the pressure was off Dirks on the mound as she worked a scoreless second

inning. The Eagles did get two runners on base with a walk and a hit batsman, but Dirks struck out the final batter of the inning to send it to the third.

In what turned out to be the final inning, Camryn Engelman led things off with a single, then stole second and third before scoring on a passed ball. Haslett, who came on in relief of starting pitcher Leila Wright, did get Ella Huelson on strikes after Engelman's single, but back-to-back walks to Lizzy Hill and Presley Mehochko put two runners on.

The Eagles got out number two when Allie Sneddon was caught stealing, but the third out proved to be harder to come by. Grace DeWerff reached on a failed fielder's choice that moved Presley Mehochko to third. The Redskin senior scored on a passed ball and DeWerff wasn't far behind her as she scored on a single by Reagan Jonas to make it 19-1.

After a single by Cloey Dirks, Jayde Gonet hit her second home run of the game, a three-run shot to right field that made it 22-1 in Nokomis' favor. The Redskins picked up one more run after a walk to Maddison DeWerff and an RBI base-hit by Sneddon before the Eagles finally got out of the inning.

Down 23-1, SEB needed to score eight runs in the bottom of the third to avoid the 15-run, three-inning mercy rule. Dirks got a strikeout to start the inning, but four straight singles gave SEB their second run of the game. The hits proved to be a minor speed bump, though, as a hit back to the mound resulted in a force out at home and a ground ball to second ended the game soon after.

Dirks finished the game with four strikeouts, one walk and one hit batsman, while giving up two runs (one earned) on five hits.

Offensively, every player who had an at-bat contributed to the scoring, with Presley Mehochko, Grace DeWerff, Cloey Dirks, Jayde Gonet, Maddison DeWerff and Camryn Engelman all scoring three runs apiece. Three players also had multiple RBIs as Gonet drove home seven, five of which came from her two home runs, Reagan Jonas drove in five and Ella Huelson drove in two.

Staubton
 Nokomis started their season off on Monday, March 11, with a tough test as they traveled to Staubton. After winning 27 games in both volleyball and basketball, it seems that the Lady Bulldogs are good at just about everything this year as they held the Lady Redskins to one hit in an 8-0 Staubton win.

Nokomis' lone hit came in

the top of the sixth with one out as Grace DeWerff put an end to Gianna Bianco's no-hit bid. DeWerff didn't stay on base for long, though, as Bianco got a ground ball to short for a double play to end the inning and the threat.

The Redskins' best chance to score came in the first inning as Reagan Jonas and Cloey Dirks drew back-to-back two-out walks. Bianco settled down after that, picking up her second of eight strikeouts in the game.

Nokomis got another baserunner in the second on a two-out walk by Huelson, but Staubton retired the next 11 batters before DeWerff broke up the no-hitter.

Senior Reagan Jonas got the start on the mound for the Redskins and gave up eight runs, only four of which were earned. The Bulldogs scored solo runs in the first, second and sixth innings, plus two runs in the third and three runs in the fifth. Kylie Lucykow went 3-for-3 for Staubton, while Lilly Bandy and Chloe Reynolds combined for five runs with two hits apiece.

The Redskins have one more road game tonight, March 14, in Greenville, before returning home on Saturday, March 16, to face Warrensburg-Latham at 4:30 p.m.

March 11 at Staubton

Nokomis	000 000 0--0 1 3
Staubton	112 031 x--8 9 0

Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Jonas	6.0	9	8	4	2	1
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bianco	7.0	1	0	0	3	8

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Staubton - Kylie Lucykow 3-3, Chloe Reynolds 2-2, Lilly Bandy 2-4. **3B:** Staubton - Lilly Bandy 1. **Runs:** Staubton - Lilly Bandy 3, Chloe Reynolds 2, Samantha Anderson 1, Taylor Nolan 1, Koryn Keehner 1. **RBI:** Staubton - Samantha Anderson 1, Taylor Nolan 1, Ele Feldmann 1, Chloe Reynolds 1, Kylie Lucykow 1, Evin Frank 1.

Records: Nokomis (0-1); Staubton (1-0).

March 12 at St. Elmo

Nokomis	977	--23 17 0
SE-B	101	---2 5 2

Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Dirks	3.0	5	2	1	1	4

***Dirks 1 HBP**

Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Wright	2.0	11	16	11	4	1
Haslett	1.0	6	7	7	4	1

***Wright 2 HBP**

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Nokomis - Camryn Engelman 3-3, Jayde Gonet 3-4, Cloey Dirks 2-2, Reagan Jonas 2-3, Grace DeWerff 2-3. **2B:** Nokomis - Cloey Dirks 1, Jayde Gonet 1, Lizzy Hill 1, Maddison DeWerff 1. **HR:** Nokomis - Jayde Gonet 2. **Runs:** Nokomis - Presley Mehochko 3, Grace DeWerff 3, Cloey Dirks 3, Jayde Gonet 3, Maddison DeWerff 3, Camryn Engelman 3, Reagan Jonas 2, Allie Sneddon 2, Ella Huelson 1; St. Elmo-Brownstown - Dayana Haslett 1, Daisy Chandler 1. **RBI:** Nokomis - Jayde Gonet 7, Reagan Jonas 5, Ella Huelson 2, Grace DeWerff 1, Cloey Dirks 1, Maddison DeWerff 1, Camryn Engelman 1, Allie Sneddon 1, Lizzy Hill 1; St. Elmo-Brownstown - Jayna Ireland 1. **Records:** Nokomis (1-1); St. Elmo-Brownstown (0-1).

Lincolnwood Baseball

Continued from 1B

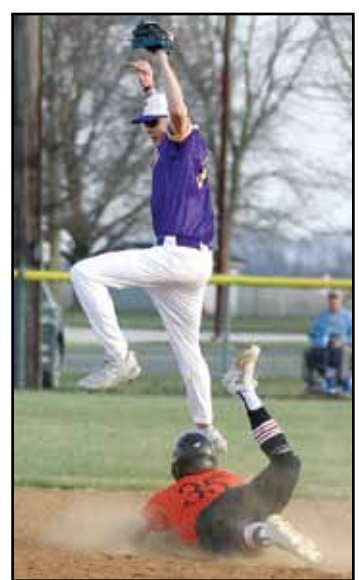
Van Hooser was hit by a pitch and after back-to-back strikeouts, Izeck Matli and Donny Daugherty walked. The marathon continued, however, with Brody Lush flying out to right to send the game to the ninth.

VanHooser and Odam pitched a scoreless ninth inning, with Lincolnwood stranding one after a two-out walk to Mason Tryon. VanHooser didn't give up a hit in the 10th either, but a pair of errors nearly gave Taylorville the lead.

Jacob McWard reached on the first of the miscues, then stole second to put himself in scoring position. VanHooser struck out the next two batters, but Blake Ladage put the ball in play in the next at-bat with a hard grounder to short. Lincolnwood made an error on the hit, but recovered and threw McWard out at the plate for the final out.

While the Tornados narrowly missed their opportunity to end it in the 10th, Lincolnwood made the most of their chance. After getting the first out, Odam walked Karson Hayes on five pitches and gave up a single to Izeck Matli to put two runners on. Donny Daugherty then drew the second walk of the inning to load the bases.

With just one out, all Brody



Lincolnwood's Izeck Matli slides into second with a stolen base during the Lancers' 3-2 win over Taylorville on March 12. *Jean Weitekamp Photo*

Lush had to do was put a fly ball into the outfield, but he did one better than that as he singled to score Hayes and give the Lancers the 3-1 win.

Lush was one of two Lincolnwood players with two hits and the only player on either team to both score a run and drive one in. Mason Tryon also had two hits for the Lancers, while Baron Odam had a pair of singles for Taylorville. The Tornados were held to just three hits in the game, the last of which was Kade Beckmier's two-out

single in the eighth.

That hit was also the only one Taylorville got against Brodey VanHooser, who earned the win in relief for the Lancers. VanHooser struck out six and walked none in the win, with Jonah Elvidge (4) and Mason Tryon (3) adding in seven more strikeouts to give Lincolnwood 13 for the game. Taylorville also had 13 Ks (Gatton with nine and Odam with four), but also had nine walks, compared to seven for the Lancers.

The Lancers next varsity game is set for Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m. in Raymond against Warrensburg-Latham.

March 12 at Raymond

T'ville	200 000 000 0--2 3 2
L'wood	100 010 000 1--3 6 4

Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gatton	6.0	4	2	1	3	9
Odam	3.1	2	1	1	6	4

***Odam 1 HBP**

Home

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Elvidge	4.0	2	0	0	4
Tryon	3.0	0	0	0	3
VanHooser	3.0	1	0	0	6

***Elvidge 1 HBP**

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Taylorville - Baron Odam 2-5; Lincolnwood - Mason Tryon 2-3, Brody Lush 2-5. **2B:** Taylorville - Baron Odam 1; Lincolnwood - Lance Weitekamp 1. **Runs:** Baron Odam 1, Maxx Grieme 1; Lincolnwood - Lance Weitekamp 1, Karson Hayes 1, Brody Lush 1. **RBI:** Taylorville - J McWard 1; Lincolnwood - Brodey VanHooser 1, Mason Tryon 1, Brody Lush 1.

Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (1-0); Taylorville (0-1).