

Labor Leader Visits Hillsboro Council About Upcoming Project

by Ron Deabenderfer

A standing room only crowd of visitors attended the Hillsboro City Council meeting on Tuesday night, March 19, primarily to support the presentation of labor leader Eric Oller. He and the laborers he represents hopes the city will enter into a Project Labor Agreement to ensure the soon-to-be constructed sewer and waste water plant will be built with union labor.

Oller presented two reasons the city

should enter into a PLA. The first is the assurance of the availability of a trained, qualified work force.

The second is that a PLA gives the city, the contractors, and the labor force a chance to mediate any disagreements before a work stoppage could occur.

Because it was on the agenda as discussion only, the council could ask questions of Oller and Matt Blankenship, the most well-known of the union members present, but a vote on the request couldn't be taken the

night of the meeting. Among the questions and remarks the council made was how such an agreement would affect the contractors; the answer was not much because of being federally funded (in terms of the loan money the city has to borrow because of the project extent), all bids were structured using prevailing wage standards.

Mayor Don Downs said the interim between the request formally made Tuesday and the meeting set for the vote would give the city "time to explore the pros and cons"

of the request.

Also making a presentation/request to the council was Imagine Hillsboro representative Caitlyn Voyles. She sought approval from the council to use Lincoln Plaza and adjacent parking places for the Farmers' Market on the first and third Saturday morning of each month, May through Sept. That permission was granted as presented on the agenda.

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Litchfield School Board Sets Fogleman Award

by Mary (Galer) Herschelman

Following a presentation from Chad Ruppert and Roger Krabbe of Bank and Trust, members of the Litchfield School Board unanimously set this year's Fogleman Trust Scholarship at \$2,800. The presentation was part of the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, March 19, at the South Central Illinois Regional Workforce Training and Innovation Center. Board President Julie Abel was absent from the meeting.

Farm Manager Chad Ruppert reported that the leases would be the same for the three farms in Virginia, Macoupin County and Standard City, citing a three-year low in commodity prices. He said he expects things to be about the same in the coming year, though they may need a little money for lime and to fix some tile.

Director of Trust Roger Krabbe reported the trust has a total of \$10.2 million in assets, including \$9.4 million in farmland and \$850,000 in investments. Currently, they

are investing in certificates of deposit, which have about a 5 percent interest rate.

Krabbe reported the farm income was \$185,000 last year, which was a 2 percent return on investment. The investment income was about \$28,820, which is a 4.3 percent return. Currently the portfolio is averaging a 5 percent return on investment.

This year, Krabbe said they have \$215,000 to award in scholarships. They are predicting they will award 75 scholarships to graduating seniors from Litchfield High School, as well as college students. The scholarship is renewable for four years.

Established in 1986, the Fogleman Trust has awarded over \$4 million in 3,030 scholarships in the past 38 years. "The Fogleman Trust has been such a blessing to Litchfield students and the community," Krabbe said.

Other Business

Board members unanimously approved the consent agenda, including the early graduation request of two high school students.

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Litchfield Musical Will Open Tonight

On Wednesdays, they may wear pink, but this weekend, the cast of the Litchfield High School production of *Mean Girls* will wear pink for four performances at the WD Kilton Fine Arts Center, located in the Unit Office at 1100 N. Old Route 66 in Litchfield. Members of the LHS Drama Club are excited to present a comedy that is an anthem to friendship, loyalty, girl power and being true to yourself. It is rated PG-13 for teenage content, but recommended for teens and adults of all ages. Performances will be held Thursday evening, March 21 through Saturday evening, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. with an additional matinee show on Sunday, March 24, beginning at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$8 each. Pictured above, cast members, from the left Cady (Joelle Hughes), Karen (Claudia Deren) and Gretchen (Ella Savage) check out the *Mean Girls* burn book. A complete cast photo will appear in an upcoming edition.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman



Shoal Creek Firefighters Receive Awards

Shoal Creek Fire Department hosted its annual awards banquet on Saturday evening, March 16, at their station in Sorrento. In front, from the left, are Shoal Creek Firefighter of the Year Daniel Revell and Special Recognition Award winner Chief David Caulk. In back, from the left, are board members Gerald Knight, Vice President Donald Sturgeon, President Brett Kunkel and Daniel Fenton. See page 7A for more.

Journal-News/Cayden Huber

County Primary Sees Low Voter Turnout

Montgomery County Democrats and Republicans alike filled out their ballots for the General Primary Election on Tuesday, March 19. The Democrat ballot was empty of contested county races, while the Republican ballot had multiple.

On the Republican ballot, incumbent State Representatives Brad Holbrook and Blaine Wilhour defeated Marsha Webb and Matthew T. Hall, respectively, for nominations. Incumbent Montgomery County Coroner Randy Leetham defeated challenger Talon R. Burton, and Keith E. Hancock defeated incumbent Kenneth Folkerts for nomination for the County Board Second District seat. Dennis Roy Atteberry won the nomination over Douglas C. Gruenke in the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court contest.

In the only non-partisan issue up for debate, county voters decided against the allowing non-highway vehicles to be operated within the City of Litchfield by a final tally of 532 against and 409 in favor.



Only 20 percent of Montgomery County voters participated in the primary election on Tuesday, March 19.

Journal-News Photo

Only 20.29 percent of the county's 16,565 registered voters cast ballots in the primary, down from 25.82 percent in the 2022 primary election and from the 25.29 percent during last presidential primary election in 2020.

Montgomery County vote totals follow.

President (R)
Donald Trump 2,112
Nikki Haley 213

Ron DeSantis 51
Chris Christie 26
Ryan L. Binkley 11
Congress (R)
Mary E. Miller 2,204
Delegates (R)
Mary E. Miller 1,920
William J. Graff 1,697
Joseph D. Alexander 1,684
Alt. Delegate (R)
Chris G. Miller 1,842
Steven R. Drake 1,799
Mechtild 'Mecki' Kosin 1,648
55th District State Senator (R)
Jason Plummer 102

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Thu 21	46°/34°	Cloudy	1%
Fri 22	69°/29°	Partly Cloudy	22%
Sat 23	50°/31°	Partly Cloudy	4%
Sun 24	57°/48°	Mostly Cloudy	1%

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Hillsboro Man Nominated To Historical Society Board

The Illinois State Historical Society has announced that a Hillsboro man, Jeffrey Dunn, is among five nominees to be elected to three-year terms on the society's board of directors during its annual awards luncheon next month. He has served on the ISHS advisory board the past two years.

Dunn's nomination is described in the society's magazine, *Illinois Heritage*: "Jeff's dedication to historical preservation spans over 15 years, during which he has meticulously gathered more than half a million county records encompassing vital information, such as cemetery records, census data, and records of births, deaths, marriages and veterans. His efforts also include the digitization of over 100,000 photographs and documentation of some 60,000 headstones. Notably, Mr. Dunn has collaborated with the Illinois EPA on documenting the historical context of two of their Superfund sites, showcasing his commitment to historical research."

The nomination continues: "Mr. Dunn has made substantial contributions to the preservation of local history through his extensive writ-



Jeff Dunn

ing on topics ranging from Montgomery County's rich heritage to the histories of towns such as Olney, Ottawa, Streator and Jacksonville.

"His involvement extends beyond the written word, as he is an active member of the Walldogs, an international collective of mural artists dedicated to commemorating historical narratives through vibrant murals. Each year, Mr. Dunn and his fellow Walldogs embark on a journey to various locales across the country, leaving behind a legacy of captivating visual representations of history."

New Superintendent Faces Madison County Charges

Dr. Kelly L. McClain of Edwardsville, faces three charges in Madison County from March 1.

Dr. McClain, who is the incoming Litchfield Superintendent of Schools, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving 15 to 20 miles above the speed limit and disregarding an official traffic control device.

"The board of education was made aware by Dr. McClain of an issue that occurred on her personal time away from her current em-

ployer," said Litchfield School Board President Julie Abel. "Dr. McClain has assured the board the personal matter will not impact her ability to attend and perform her work for our district. The board will continue to monitor the situation, and remains committed to its educational mission for the students of Litchfield."

Dr. McClain has pled not guilty to the charges and has a pre-trial hearing at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, in Madison County.

Spring has officially sprung, and Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro is a great place to explore during the beautiful weather!

This weekend, the rescheduled Illinois Coyotes and Bobcats program will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Nathan Grider, wildlife programs section manager with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will dive into the biology, ecology and population trends of these species.

Birds are noticing it's spring too, as one of the four barred owl nest boxes has three eggs. It won't be long before they hatch!

And there's plenty for the whole family to do too. Young hikers ages three to ten are invited to join the hunt for inspirational signs on the Timber Trail. Find all 12 signs and be registered to win stickers and a gift card to Dairy Queen. There's also a brand new story walk, "I Am Spring," for all hikers to enjoy. Both end on April 1.

Warm up at the Bottomley-Ruffing-Schalk Baseball Museum in Nokomis this weekend with their annual Chili Warm-Up. It will be held on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 11 a.m. until the chili is gone! Stop by this year and meet author Kent Krause, who will be on hand to sign copies of his biography about Jim Bottomley.

It's also the last chance to turn in your home run 50/50 contest and get signed up for the calendar fundraiser. Don't miss out on any of the fun!

Montgomery County Republicans will gather this weekend for the annual Lincoln Day Dinner. This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 23, at The Lodge on Main in downtown Hillsboro. Social hour begins at 5 p.m. with a prime rib dinner at 6 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door. Call 217-556-1420 or 217-246-8486 for more



information.

Visitors to Eastern Illinois University in Charleston may find a familiar face in the hallways this year. Hillsboro High School biology teacher, Amber



Connor, is featured on a poster in the second floor hallway in the Life Sciences building. Thirteen EIU alumni are featured in the hallway.

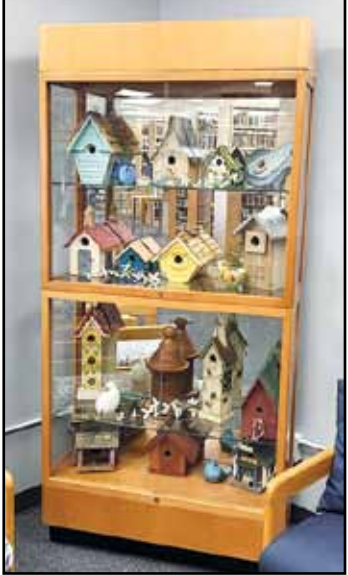
A 2004 graduate of Hillsboro High School, Connor graduated from Eastern in 2008 with her bachelor of science degree in biology and secondary education. The poster was spotted by another HHS grad and current EIU student, Morgan Jarrell.

The Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center also has a new exhibit, featuring the Litchfield Fire Department and members who have served. Volunteers are looking for additional pieces for the exhibit if local residents have any to loan. Stop in to see everything on display!

Speaking of exhibits, the Nokomis Public Library has a new temporary exhibit on display, featuring unique birdhouses on loan from Margie

Eisenbarth of Nokomis.

And while you're there, stop by and get a coloring sheet to enter the Nokomis Woman's Club annual Easter coloring contest. They are due back by March 26.



Mark your calendars for a crafts and coffee event for adults on Monday morning, April 1, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Participants will be making greeting cards.

Mark your calendars for the return of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Art in the Park event on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Litchfield.

This year's theme is "Together Litchfield Can," inspired by the Mapping pro-

gram. More information will be available soon.

Think you're smarter than a fifth grader? Join the fun at the Panhandle Education Foundation's annual Crazy Eights trivia contest this Saturday, March 23, at the Waggoner Centennial Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins at 6:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required. Teams of up to ten players are invited for \$88 per table. Participants can bring their own drinks and snacks. There will also be a dessert wheel and fun surprises.

Proceeds are used to provide grants for Panhandle teachers and student scholarships.

Hillsboro Health is hosting a free informational class on managing diabetes this Monday, March 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Cloud Room.

The class is designed to help individuals with diabetes improve their health and well-being. Refreshments will be served, and there is no cost to attend.

Feeling lucky? The Litchfield Park District is hosting a Casino Night this weekend on Saturday, March 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Litchfield Community Center. Tickets are \$40, and include casino chips. Join the fun for games like black jack, roulette, three-card poker, craps and Texas hold 'em.

Tickets may be purchased at the park district office, located at 1100 S. State Street or from any park district commissioner. For more information, call 217-324-9075.

Public Meetings

Panhandle School Board Meeting

The Panhandle School Board will hold their regular meeting on Monday, March 25, at 7 p.m. at the Panhandle Learning Center, located at 113 N. School St. in Raymond.

Agenda items include a presentation from Grand Prairie Wind Park, summer maintenance needs and a discussion on district audit services.

Obituary

Sarah A. Davis, 49 Licensed Practical Nurse



Sarah A. Davis, 49, of Vandalia, died the evening of Saturday, March 16, 2024, due to injuries sustained in a vehicle accident.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 23, at the Family Worship Center in Vandalia with Pastor Tracy Zimmermann officiating. Visitation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., prior to the service. Interment will be held at a later date in Olive Hill Cemetery in Coffeen.

Ms. Davis was born on May 30, 1974 in Effingham, the daughter of Brenda Elam and Alvin Crouch.

Ms. Davis was a Licensed Practical Nurse for 22 years. Throughout the years, she worked various places in the area and was currently employed by Willowbrook Memory Care of Vandalia.

Ms. Davis was a very humble person and found joy in the simplest things in life. She loved nothing more than to spend time with her children, fiancé, family and friends. She was very involved in Celebrate Recovery and attended CenterPointe Church of Vandalia.

Ms. Davis is survived by her mother, Brenda Elam of Vandalia; father, Alvin Crouch and wife Lisa of Vandalia; fiancé, Gary Hamel of Highland; children, son Brayden Summers of Coffeen, daughter Maysen Hrabusicky and fiancé Carson McNutt of Vandalia and daughter, Issabella Davis of Vandalia; stepdaughter, Tiffany Lou Hamel of Highland; brother, Brent Bliss of Michigan; in-laws, Sam and Jody Davis of NC; special friend, Thelma Miller of Vandalia; canine companion, Chloe; and extended family and numerous friends.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Lacie Bliss. In lieu of flowers and gifts, memorials may be made to Celebrate Recovery; a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind. Online condolences can be expressed at www.hohltandfilefh.com

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Obituaries

Thursday, March 21, 2024 - **3A**

Barrett B. L. Koches, 7 Beloved Son, Brother, Friend



Barrett Bryor Lee Koches, 7, of Springfield, died Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Funeral services will be Saturday, March 23, at 12 p.m. at Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Visitation will be Saturday from 11 a.m. until service time, with Pastor Jeremy Morton of Truth and Grace Fellowship in Mattoon officiating. Burial will be in Irving Cemetery in Irving, Illinois.

Barrett was born on Nov. 3, 2016, in Springfield, to Jamie Hartman and Jeff Koches. He was in the first grade class of

Mrs. Mathon at Chester-East Lincoln School where he was a devoted friend and protector of his classmates. Barrett was not just sweet and smart; he was strong. He was a member of the Lincoln Youth Wrestling club and attended several meets where he was awarded several medals.

Barrett loved the outdoors, including fishing and dirt bike riding, and also sports such as football and baseball, and his favorite character was Sonic the Hedgehog. He was a beautiful, bright, loving and beloved son and devoted brother and friend, a natural caregiver to all.

Barrett is survived by his parents; siblings Ryder Koches, Kolton (Mckea) Koches, Nash Koches, Alec (Victoria) Koches, and Levi (Devin) Koches; grandmother Tammy (Tommy) Hartman of Ramsey; several aunts and uncles and cousins, including Gina (Jake) Hartman and special cousin Kale; close friends Kevin and Tina Lynn; and special friend Tobias.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, James A. Hartman of Irving; grandmother Joann Koches of Witt; grandfather Billy Koches; great-grandmother Darlene Durbin of Taylorville and great-grandfather Jim Hefley of Hillsboro.

Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro is in charge of arrangements. Condolences can be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com

Lila M. Criswell, 87 1954 Hillsboro Graduate



Lila Mae (Sellers) Criswell, 87, of Hillsboro, died on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 7:56 p.m. at her residence.

Visitation will be Saturday, March 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Hillsboro, with funeral to follow at 3 p.m. also at Calvary Baptist Church. The Rev. Michael Plummer, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will be in Oak Grove Cemetery, Hillsboro.

Mrs. Criswell was born June 24, 1936, in Hillsboro, to the late Lyman and Helen Marie (Coffey) Sellers. She lived in Hillsboro all her life and, after graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1954, she married her husband, Robert Criswell, on Aug. 15, 1954. They celebrated 64 years of marriage together before he preceded her in death on Sept. 26, 2018.

Mrs. Criswell spent her life as a housewife and was a dedicated member of Calvary Baptist Church in Hillsboro. Since 1944 she spent time as a bible school teacher and financial secretary for 40 years, in addition to being a longtime pianist, assistant organist, and twelve years as GA leader, substitute teacher and Sunday school secretary. She loved her family and spending time with them.

Mrs. Criswell is survived by her children, Cathy (Ed) Butler of Hillsboro and Alan (LaDeana) Criswell of Mount Vernon, IN; grandchildren, Jamie Bigge, Ashley Zentmyer and Abbie Crouch; great-grandchildren, Alexis, Zoey, Liam, Braelynn, Landon and Rykar; sisters, Beverly Ernst and Shirley Moody; sister-in-law Bea Sellers and many loving nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; grandson, Lee Butler; brother, Tom Sellers and brothers-in-law, Frank Moody and Henry Ernst.

Memorials are suggested to Calvary Baptist Church in Hillsboro. Condolences may be left online at basspattondeanfh.com

Clinton R. McGlothlin, 66 Architect



Clinton Ray "Gus" McGlothlin, 66, of Springfield, died Sunday, March 17, 2024, at his residence.

Funeral services for Mr. McGlothlin will be held Saturday, March 23, at noon at the Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield. The Rev. Jimmy Coyle, pastor of the Ashland Church of Christ, will officiate. Visitation will be held Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be in the Elm Lawn Cemetery in Litchfield.

Mr. McGlothlin was born on Feb. 11, 1958, in Washington, D.C., a son of the late Keith Dwayne and Mary Alvora (Lynch) McGlothlin. He was a graduate of Litchfield Community High School with the class of 1976. He then studied architecture at the St. Louis Technical School and graduated from that program.

He married the former Lisa Marie Greenwalt on August 11, 1979 at the First Baptist Church in Litchfield, and she survives.

Mr. McGlothlin was self-employed doing business as CMA Architects, specializing in school building design. Some of his projects include school buildings in Bunker Hill, Tinley Park, Collinsville, Robinson, and Newton. Prior to being self-employed, Mr. McGlothlin worked for Sarti-Huff Architects, Huff Architects and Trans-Continental Builders, all in Springfield.

Mr. McGlothlin was a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He enjoyed putting together LEGO sets, playing rummy, shopping at Menard's and tinkering in his garage. His real enjoyment was spending time with his grandchildren and riding his RZR side-by-side.

In addition to his wife, Mr. McGlothlin is survived by his two sons, Brian (Megan) McGlothlin of Springfield and Michael (Missy) McGlothlin of Ashland and daughter, Sarah McGlothlin of Springfield; brother, Rodney "Louie" (Debi) McGlothlin of Bowling Green, KY, and sister, Karen Mathies of Kalamazoo, MI; six grandchildren, Ethan, Evan McGlothlin, Jaxon Pierce and Cale, Collin and Claire McGlothlin; nieces and nephews Heather and Chad (Jennie) McGlothlin, Lance (Suzanne) Greenwalt, Christy (Jody) Hillberry and Lyndsay (Adam) Gradyan.

Mr. McGlothlin is preceded in death by his parents.

The family asks memorials be directed in Mr. McGlothlin's memory to the ALS Association, at Donations@ALS.org

To light a virtual candle, sign the online guestbook, or for directions, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com

Betty A. Pugh, 77 Wonderful Grandmother



Betty Ann (Lazenby) McDill Pugh, 77, of Irving, died March 20, 2024, at Hillsboro Health.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, April 2, at 2 p.m. with a visitation from 1 until service time at Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro.

Mrs. Pugh was born on Sept. 28, 1946 in Hillsboro to the late Hubert A. and Olpha Bernice (Morell) Lazenby. She married Guy McDill Jr., and he preceded her in death in 1975. She then married Larry Pugh, and

he preceded her in death in 1999.

Mrs. Pugh was a graduate of Hillsboro High School and Southern Illinois School of Cosmetology in Centralia. She was a past member of Calvary Baptist Church where she worked in the library and was a current member of East Fork Baptist Church and Red Hat Society.

Mrs. Pugh worked as a hairdresser and at Hedlund Manufacturing (The Ski Factory) in Nokomis, as well as a homemaker.

Mrs. Pugh is survived by three daughters, Karen Sue McDill Eggersmeier of Benton, MO, Kathy Victoria (Dan) Pugh Brewer of Litchfield and Karel Ann Pugh Sanchez of Irving; grandchildren Andrew Eggersmeier, Alexander and Cameron Sanchez and Isabella Brewer and Daniel Brewer Jr.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; one brother, Larry Lazenby; and grandson Lee Edward Eggersmeier.

Memorials can be directed to her family.

Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro are assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences can be left at houghfuneralhome.com

Timothy L. Jordan, 71 Raised In Farmersville



Timothy Lawrence Jordan, 71, formerly of Farmersville, died on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

A service will be announced some time in the future.

Mr. Jordan was born on Jan. 7, 1953, in Springfield, to Charles and Mary (McCormick) Jordan. The second of seven siblings, and the only boy, he was raised in Farmersville, where as the name suggests, he spent his childhood helping his family on the farm

where they grew corn and soybeans; he raised pigs and chickens and even had a pony.

Mr. Jordan had a passion for motorcycles, music and for fixing things from early on; rumor has it that it was the sale of a motorcycle that funded his way to technical school in Louisville, Kentucky where he earned an associates degree. From there, Mr. Jordan went to Colorado before moving on to Los Angeles to try to make it in the music industry.

Going to Los Angeles turned out to be a huge success. It was there where he met his first wife, B.J., whom he won over by fixing her toaster. The two of them built a successful business, Tim Jordan Rentals, which still exists today, renting analog and digital audio and video equipment.

Mr. Jordan worked with a number of artists, from Madonna and Michael Jackson to Dr. Dre and Ice Cube. After Mr. Jordan's sister, Marge, brought her babies to visit, he declared, "I want one of those," and the couple eventually had three children, Timothy, Tessa and Paul, who were the loves of Mr. Jordan's life.

The family eventually sold their business and made their way to Downieville, California, for a simpler life. Mr. Jordan got a job with Sierra County doing dispatch and, later, I.T.

While their lives were simpler, they were far from boring. Mr. Jordan was an amazing father, fostering whatever passion his children had at the time. When his sons were into computer games, he filled the house with computers connected by cables strewn from floor to ceiling; when his daughter decided she loved music, he drove her to concerts every month, even on school nights. When snowboarding became the thing he packed up the car and took his kids to the ski resort as often as he could.

Although Mr. Jordan and B.J. grew apart, it was this that allowed him to remarry and have his fourth child, another son, Kean, and his family was complete.

While his second marriage didn't last either, he eventually rebuilt his friendship with B.J. He spent the last years of his life putting his passions to use doing the sound at the Yuba Theatre in Downieville, helping his daughter fix things at her house, and working on engines and writing poetry with his friend, Will, at his house on the Ridge.

Mr. Jordan's favorite thing was spending time with his family, especially his grandson, Rudy, who remembers his grandpa as the happiest person who never got mad. Mr. Jordan never complained, even after being diagnosed with leukemia and a tumor in his brain, he was always optimistic and was very excited about the treatment he was receiving at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

Although his life ended sooner than anyone could have imagined, after a stroke from which he could not recover, his family thinks he would have been happy that he left this world easily and without pain. The number of people at his bedside, laughing, crying, and sharing memories, was a testament to the amount of love Mr. Jordan had in his heart. His family will miss him more than words can express.

Mr. Jordan was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Mary Jordan; and his sister, Kathy Godkin.

He is survived by his partner in life, B.J. Jordan; his grandson, Rudy Jackson; his children, Timothy Jordan, Tessa Jordan, Kean Jordan and Paul Jordan, whose wife, Amy Lei, is expecting Tim's first granddaughter in March; five sisters, each of whom made the trip to his bedside to say goodbye, Marge (Carl) Bell, Colleen Wisar, Joanne (Greg) Young, Karen (Mark) Yingling and Teresa (Al) Darabaris; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other extended family and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at the UC Davis Medical Center for taking such good care of Mr. Jordan, both before his stroke and after. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mr. Jordan's name to the Sierra County Arts Council.

Shirley Borcharding, 80 Ties To Local Area



Shirley "Jean" (Lentz) Borcharding, 80, of Saint Charles, MO, died Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Visitation will be held Monday, March 25, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Baue Funeral Home in St. Charles, located at 620 Jefferson St. in St. Charles. Funeral service will be Tuesday, March 26, 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at St. John U.C.C. Cemetery. The family is being served by Baue Funeral Home.

Mrs. Borcharding was born Dec. 11, 1943.

She delighted in organizing a Christmas baking weekend with her family annually. She had a passion for reading and indulged in crafting, particularly quilting. Traveling with her family and friends on bus trips to destinations such as Branson, MO, brought her immense joy. She was deeply cherished and will be profoundly missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Mrs. Borcharding was preceded in death by her husband, the late Elwood "Woody" P. Borcharding; and parents, Mary and James Lentz.

She is survived by her son, Mark (Michelle) Borcharding; granddaughters, Helena and Nora Borcharding; siblings Richard (Joyce) Lentz, Marlyn (Gary) McCafferty and Bob Lentz; and many in-laws, nieces, nephew, cousins and friends.

Mrs. Borcharding was preceded in death by her husband, the late Elwood "Woody" P. Borcharding; and parents, Mary and James Lentz.

Memorials made be made out to St. Charles County Library.

Norman L. Stout, 87 Truck Driver



Norman Lee Stout, 87, of Fillmore, died Monday, March 18, 2024, at Hillsboro Health in Hillsboro.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, March 22, at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in rural Ramsey, with Pastor Joe Lawson officiating. Friends and family may gather at the cemetery at 10 a.m. on Friday.

Mr. Stout was born Jan. 17, 1937, in Ramsey, the son of Louie G. and Edith Pauline (Craig) Stout. He married Judy M. Floberg on May 5, 1962, in Sandwich. He was a retired

truck driver for National Transport and was a former member of the Teamsters Union.

Mr. Stout is survived by his wife, Judy Stout of Fillmore; daughters Norma Morgan of Herrick, Natalie Stout of Greenville and Nancy Stites of Fillmore; brother David (Diana) Stout of Plano; sisters Florence Keay of Plano and Veda Stout of Ramsey; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and one on-the-way.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Bobby and Joe; sister Judy Lynn Crouch; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made out to Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Rural Ramsey, IL. Miller Funeral Home in Fillmore is in charge of arrangements. Online memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.millerfh.net.

Leroy H. Kuhl, 76 Longtime County Resident



Leroy Henry Kuhl, 76, of Coffeen, died Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 2:10 a.m. at Hillsboro Rehab and Health Care Center in Hillsboro.

Cremation rites will be accorded and no services are planned at this time.

Mr. Kuhl was born Dec. 7, 1947, in Breese, to the late Leo and Henrietta Mary (Hermeling) Kuhl. He graduated from Greenville High School. He married Sally Campbell, and they later divorced. He then married Paula M. Randle in Florida, and she preceded him

in death on March 14, 2019.

He spent ten years employed at Olin in Alton. He then worked as a laborer for Union Labor Local #1084 in Hillsboro until retirement. During his life he lived in Panama, Sorento and Coffeen.

Mr. Kuhl is survived by his children, Veronica Cofer of Donnellson and Steve Kuhl of Coffeen; stepchildren Ben (Trisha) Johnson and Haley (Chris) Glenn; five grandchildren and nine stepgrandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and siblings, Bernetta Spaeth, Ruth Ann Daiber, George "Bud" Kuhl, Mary Mullen, Urban Kuhl, Herman "Red" Kuhl, Edward Kuhl, David Kuhl, Mike Kuhl and Aggie Huston.

Mr. Kuhl is preceded by his parents; wife, Paula; son, Danny Kuhl, at six months old, and sisters, Annetta Kuhl-Middleton and Alice Campbell.

Condolences may be left online at www.basspattondeanfh.com

The Journal-News
The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County
Published Monday & Thursday
431 S. Main, PO Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049
217-532-3933 • thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Owners John and Susan Galer
Publisher/Editor Mary (Galer) Herschelman
Sports Editor Kyle Herschelman

The Journal-News (USPS 245-560) is published twice-weekly (Monday and Thursday) by Hillsboro Journal, Inc., 431 S. Main St., Hillsboro, IL 62049. Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, IL and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal-News, PO Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049.

Subscription Information

Subscriptions are payable in advance. Complete the following and mail to The Journal-News, P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049-0100. Or call 217-532-3933 to order a subscription and charge it to VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express, or pay online at www.thejournalnews.net.

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Pictured above, in front, from the left are Willow McSperritt, Calie Martincic, Clara Armbruster, Hazel Holshouser, Kate Cunningham, Ella Reynolds and Ainsley Pollard. In back are Kenna Weiss, Lauren Storm, Avery Reynolds, Claire Trader, Emily Irvine, Brylee Connor, Miah Garmon, Brynn Connor, Audrey Billington and Shayla Sikorski.

Fusion Dancers Earn Competition Awards

Dancers from Hillsboro and Greenville Fusion Dance Center's competition team showcased their talent and dedication at the Positive Vibes Regional Dance Competition held in Godfrey, from March 9-11. The team delivered outstanding performances, earning numerous high gold and platinum awards, as well as top overall scores in various categories.

The exceptional performances of Fusion Dance Center's groups and solos secured them coveted spots to compete at nationals. Among the standout achievements, Clara Armbruster and Hazel Holshouser received National Opening Number invites, with Armbruster also clinching the Senior Miss Positive Vibes Title and Hazel Teen Miss Positive Vibes.

Additionally, Kate Cunningham was recognized with a special award for her artistry in movement in her solo performance, "The Space Between," and achieved the Teen Miss Positive Vibes Runner-Up title.

In the group categories, "Wonderland" captivated the judges and audience



Pictured above, in front, from the left are Iris Moxey, Andi Cady and Thea Lang. In back are Camryn Dambacher, Caroline Helgen and Zoey Seago.

alike, winning the "Grooviest Costume" award, while the routine "Money" impressed with its "FANTastic Prop" and "Awake My Soul," choreographed by Alyssa Watson, was honored with a choreography award.

Under the expert guidance of Fusion Dance Center's Director, Heather Edwards, and the dedicated instruction

of Assistant Director Alyssa Watson and Instructor Shanna Connor, the Fusion Dance Center competition team continues to excel and inspire with their passion for dance and commitment to excellence.

For more information about Fusion Dance Center, visit fusiondancecenteril.com.

Hillsboro Health Hosts Diabetes Class

Hillsboro Health, formerly known as Hillsboro Area Hospital, is hosting a diabetes management class on Monday, March 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

This class, open to the public at no cost, is designed to help people with diabetes improve their health and well being, including how to make behavioral changes, understand risk factors, eat healthy, create a balanced meal plan, improve blood

Births

Michael and Jennifer (Reincke) Cassilly of Collinsville announce the birth of their son, Cohen Robert Cassilly, born at 3 p.m. on March 14, 2024, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. He weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and measured 20.5 ins. long.



Cohen was welcomed home from the hospital by his big brother, Declan Cassilly, age 18 months. Their father is an aircraft mechanic and their mother is a nanny.

Paternal grandparents are John and Christine Cassilly of Fairhope, AL. Maternal grandparents are Larry and Michelle Reincke of Irving.

~ ~ ~
Rebecca and Nathan Meyer of Fillmore announce the birth of their son, Easton Edward Meyer, born at 8:09 a.m. Monday, March 18, 2024, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 ozs. and measured 20 ins. long.

He was welcomed home by big sister Ellie, age five.

Maternal grandparents are Konnie Durbin of Fillmore and Kent Robertson of Keysport. Paternal grandparents are Rex and Melissa Boliard of Fillmore, Katrina Boliard of Nokomis and Scott Meyer of Farmersville.

Maternal great-grandparents are Andy and Shari Durbin of Fillmore and Carol and Bud Gaeschel of Keysport. Paternal great-grandparents are Nancy and Merle Herpstreith of Butler and Don and Neoma Boliard of Butler.

~ ~ ~



Jansen, Mauney United In February Ceremony

Kelly Jansen of Hillsboro and Caleb Mauney of Virden were united in marriage on Feb. 10, 2024, at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Hillsboro. Father Dan Willenborg and Deacon Lee Johns officiated the ceremony.

The new Mrs. Mauney is the daughter of Wayne and Tina Jansen of Hillsboro and granddaughter of Diane Giller of Hillsboro and the late Kenneth "Butch" Giller and Mardell Jansen of Green Creek and the late Anthony "Toby" Jansen. Her husband is the son of Joel and Sarah Mauney of Springfield and grandson of Ed and Mary Mauney of Palmyra and Jerry and Sherry Vespa of Springfield.

The theme for the winter wedding was rustic, and music for the ceremony was provided by instrumentalist Michelle Sweet and vocalist Maddie Mizera.

For her special day, the bride selected the Carley dress from Elegant Brides in Edwardsville. Clear sequins were sewn into the lace pattern, adding an irresistible subtle glimmer that catches the light just right at every angle. The fit and flare silhouette was made up of stretch chiffon to comfortably hug her curves for all-day wear. Cap sleeves framed the sweetheart neckline, with a show-stopping illusion lace back. A soft tulle train extended 72-inches, complemented by a matching fingertip veil.

Her bouquet was made by family, with a personalized wrap and charms of the bride's late grandfathers.

The bride chose her friend, Allison Fitzgerald of Riverton as her maid of honor. Also standing up with the bride were bridesmaid Elizabeth (Jansen) Schewe of Green-

vile, sister of the bride; and junior bridesmaid Rayanna Mette of Teutopolis, cousin of the bride.

Serving as flower girl was Hadley Brumleve of Teutopolis, cousin of the bride; and the ring bearer was Adam Schewe of Greenville, nephew of the bride.

The groom chose his brother, Joshua Mauney of Springfield, to be his best man. Allan Schewe of Greenville, brother-in-law of the bride, was also a groomsman.

Ushers for the ceremony were Ryan Vespa of Zionsville, IN and Griffin Liles of Sherman, both cousins of the groom.

Prior to the ceremony, a rehearsal dinner was provided by Gianni's of Litchfield. Following the ceremony, a reception for 500 guests was held at the Litchfield Community Center in Litchfield.

The new Mrs. Mauney is a 2019 graduate of Hillsboro High School. She earned her associate's degree in fine arts from Lincoln Land Community College in 2022 and is currently a collection representative for SIU Medicine.

Her husband is a 2018 graduate of Sacred Heart Griffin High School in Springfield. He earned his associate's degree in science with an emphasis in biology from Lincoln Land Community College in 2022. He is currently employed as a laborer for the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District.

The couple enjoyed a honeymoon trip on a Virgin Voyages cruise to Cozmel, Playa del Carmen, Mexico and Bimini Bahamas, planned by Seas the Day Travel with Nancy Richardson.

They are making their first home together in Virden.

Marriage Licenses

Timothy Joe Catalano, Wright City, MO; Amie Elizabeth Stump, Wright City, MO

~ ~ ~

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**THE CITY OF HILLSBORO
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GLENN SHOALS LAKE LOT RENEWAL
FEES ARE DUE BY MARCH 31ST**

**Lincolnwood
Student
Spotlight**



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Top bulldogs in the kindergarten classrooms, from the left, are Leo Yount, Troy Wood, Drake Beach, Everly Walther and Elin Reed.



Top bulldogs in the first grade classrooms, from the left, are Lucca Range, Sadie Lawson, Emberlie Clark and Remington Gutierrez. Not present for the photo was Saylor Stewart.



Top bulldogs in the second grade classrooms, from the left, are Brylee Morris, Ryker Holtschulte, Beau Arkebauer and Bryer Reitz.

Beckemeyer Students Recognized As Top Bulldogs In February



Top bulldogs in the third grade classrooms, from the left, are Ruger Sherman, Charlotte Reams, Myrah Noyes, Hadley Kennedy and Cashlyn Hanger.



Top bulldogs in the fourth grade classrooms, from the left, are Micah Holtschulte, Mckenzie Spellious, Hayden Pachesa, Kourtney Thomet and Weston Lockett.



Top bulldogs in the fifth grade classrooms, from the left, are Kamrynn Timo, Zada Beeler, Lyv Fuller and Olivia Delisle.

PANTHER PRESS • by Amy Frerichs at Litchfield

Fairy Godmother Boutique Opens At Litchfield



Welcome back to another week of the Panther Press! Surprise! The Fairy Godmother Boutique is now open! If you would like to take a look at Prom dresses, please see Mrs. Ortega.

Come celebrate with us! We honored our seniors who will be continuing their education and athletic career at the next level in a special celebration on Monday, March 18.

Seniors: Jostens was here March 19 to deliver your graduation items. They arrived at 7:45 a.m. Late start students needed to come early that day or make arrangements to get items picked up. If you looking for summer

or after school employment, please just check the Help Wanted slide for more info.

National Honor Society Seniors: If you want to purchase your NHS stole, please bring \$20 to the main office.

This week, the track team began their outside meets on Tuesday at North Mac.

The baseball team played at home on Tuesday and will be home again on Friday and Saturday. On Wednesday, they played at Robert's Stadium with another away game on Thursday at New Berlin.

Softball played at home on Tuesday and will again on Thursday. Friday they will play at Pawnee.

Soccer will continue their season on Thursday at Athens.

Good luck, Panthers! Have a good week!



Doyle Memorial Library Hands Out New Dictionaries

"Oh my goodness, I love it," said a student as she received her free dictionary on Thursday, March 14. Members of Terri Albers' fourth grade class at Raymond Grade School (above, left) and Landon Hayes' fourth grade class at Raymond Grade School (below) were among the students who each received a brand new dictionary courtesy of the Doyle Public Library in Raymond. The "Dictionary Project" is a national movement aiming to give a dictionary to every student, that involves a variety of organizations including Rotary Clubs, American Legion Posts, Elks Lodges and others, with over 10,000 different organizations participating.

Journal-News Photos



Students in Alicia Welsh's third grade class, left, and Kenneth Wolf's third grade class, right, received free personal dictionaries from Doyle Public Library on Thursday, March 14. Additionally, each book includes other resources such as a map of the United States, the Declaration of Independence and mathematical conversions.

Journal-News Photos

LANCER LINES • by Kaylee Gerlach at Lincolnwood

Share Reliable Information On Social Media



Hello and welcome back to another week of Lancer Lines!

This week I was asked what I thought was the most important challenge agriculture faces today.

Since Tuesday, March 19 was National Agriculture Day, I thought that this would be a great time to share my thoughts with everyone, especially as the planting season is about to begin.

The agricultural industry faces a variety of challenges every day. In my opinion, one of the most challenging issues is the lack of knowledge about our industry.

In the world of social media, anyone can write an article and share it online, even if the information in the article is false or inaccurate. Addressing this challenge by sharing truthful information while presenting facts from reputable resources is very important.

As community members, it is important to share reliable information with others, especially within social media. Adding more articles and online podcasts with a positive social media presence will allow misleading and inaccurate news to decrease. If we all work together and share knowledge-based facts about agriculture with others, we can advocate for an industry that is so important to our community.

As we near planting season, we also know that this means that spring is here, and the end of the school

year is among us. This week at Lincolnwood a lot of traditional spring events are happening as we near the end of the school year.

The Lincolnwood Drama Club is continuing to practice for their upcoming spring production of *Peter Pan, Jr.* on April 5, 6 and 7.

There was also a spring blood drive this week on Wednesday, March 20, where several students and teachers donated their blood to help others.

Also on Wednesday, March 20, the Lincolnwood boys basketball team, cheerleaders and coaches celebrated their 2023-2024 season at their annual banquet.

Spring also means that the baseball and softball seasons are going strong at Lincolnwood!

On Thursday, March 21, there will be a varsity boys baseball game at Shelbyville, while the girls softball team will play at home. On Friday, March 22, both teams will play at home, as the girls play Riverton, while the boys take on Pana.

Saturday, their streak will continue as the baseball team will hit the road as they travel to Marion to take on Vernon Hills. The softball team will also be in action at home against North Mac. Good luck to both teams as they conquer their busy week!

This week's quote is by Thomas Edison, who said: "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thank you for reading Lancer Lines! I hope you have an amazing week!

Darte Named To Dean's List At Fort Hays

Fort Hays State University has named 1,646 students to the Deans' Honor Roll for the fall 2023 semester.

Litchfield's Lee Darte was one of the students honored.

The Deans' Honor Roll includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have completed 12 or more credit hours and earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.60 for the semester. Full-time on-campus and FHSU Virtual College students are eligible.

St. Louis School Names Students On Honors Lists

St. Louis School in Nokomis has announced the students that have made the honor roll lists for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors
Sixth Grade: Adalyn Gillock

Honors
Sixth Grade: Cooper Forsee and Garret Bauer
Seventh Grade: Coda Barnes and Landon Glenn

Eighth Grade: Michael Albright and Carsyn Bertolino



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Hillsboro Organization Plans Annual Egg Hunt

Volunteers with the Greater Hillsboro Ministerial Fellowship will host the annual Hillsboro community Easter egg hunt this Saturday, March 23, at Beckemeyer Elementary School in Hillsboro. The community hunt will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a sensory friendly egg hunt at 11:30 a.m.

Pictured above, Junior Miss Montgomery County Fair Nataleigh Jackson, at left, and Little Miss Montgomery County Fair Karsyn Jones, fill more than 300 eggs in March to get ready for this year's hunt.

Retired Teachers Will Meet Tuesday

Retired teacher living in Montgomery County? If so, attend the Montgomery County Retired Teacher's Association (MCRTA) fall meeting on Tuesday, March 26, at 11 a.m., at the Maverick Steaks and Spirits in Litchfield.

A representative of Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) will present the many benefits and discounts available to Illinois retired teachers.

TASC Plans Movie Event On Saturday

Eisentraut Theatres and TASC (The Autism Support Connection) are partnering to host a sensory-friendly film at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Hillsboro at 1 p.m. this Saturday, March 23. The feature film will be the newly released, PG-13 film "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire." This event is being held specifically for teens and young adults affected by autism and other related neurodivergences. TASC will cover the cost of admission for this event.

In order to provide a more accepting, comfortable environment the auditorium lights will be left on during the movie and the sound will be turned down lower. Audience members are also welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing, and the usual "silence" policy is not enforced unless the safety of the audience is in question.

All attendees must be accompanied by an adult. Families are also invited to bring their own gluten-free or casein-free snacks. Popcorn and drinks are available for purchase.

For additional information, email tascillinois@gmail.com or contact Lynn Sellers at 217-556-9535 or Kim Draper at 217-710-3598. Check out "Sensory Friendly" at www.bestmoviedeal.com.



Panhandle Group Plans Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteers with Project Third Day-Panhandle were feeling lucky on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, when they filled hundreds of eggs for the community Easter Egg Hunt in Raymond. This year's hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Raymond Park. Age categories include pre-K, kindergarten and first grades, second and third grades and fourth and fifth grades. In the event of rain, an alternative date has been set for Saturday, March 30.



Nancy Redman Will Present Bluebird Event

Nancy Redman of Hillsboro, also of the Illinois Audubon Society, will be presenting an educational program on eastern bluebirds at Wild Birds Unlimited in Edwardsville. The event will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 23 at the Wild Birds Unlimited store, located at 2216 Troy Rd. in Edwardsville.

Harvel To Host Easter Egg Hunt On March 23

The Village of Harvel will host its annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the Harvel Park. In the event of rain, the date will be pushed to Saturday, March 30.

Age groups include zero to two, three to four, five to six and seven to ten. Each participant receives a prize and there are golden and silver egg prizes to find too.

The egg hunt is sponsored by the Village of Harvel.

Waggoner Community To Hold Easter Egg Hunt

The Village of Waggoner will hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Waggoner Christian Church, located at 182 N. Wing St. in Waggoner, weather permitting.

Ages zero to 12 are invited to join in on the hunt. A craft table, basket drawing and face painting will also be available to attendees.

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.

Fillmore Community Plans Easter Egg Hunt

Fillmore will hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m. The hunt will be held at Molly McDowell park.

Over 1000 eggs with candy and prizes will be scattered about for the hunt. Popcorn and lemonade will also be provided.

Litchfield Park District To Host Easter Egg Hunt

The Litchfield Park District will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, March 23, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Litchfield Community Center.

The free hunt is open to children ages infant through ten years old. Candy and prizes will be provided and participants should bring their own baskets.

The Easter Bunny will be on site for photos.

The Litchfield Community Center is located at 1100 South State Street in Litchfield.

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

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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
Earn Money
Represent Your Hometown

Queen kick-off to be announced.

Deadline to enter is April 1st

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Meal Includes: 2 pc. chicken, mashed potatoes, chicken and noodles, corn, roll and dessert.

Selling tickets in advance only.
Contact Mary Jean Myers at 217-556-7576, Donna Yeske at 217-556-3284, see David Cearlock by the Witt Post Office or anyone on our Veterans Committee for tickets.

Coffeen Veterans Memorial Committee

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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!



Friends Of The Library Elect Officers For 2024

Members of the Friends of Hillsboro Area Public Library have elected officers for the coming year. Pictured above, from the left are Vice President Greg Springer, Treasurer Gail Ebeling, President Van Naylor and Secretary Donna Youngless. Other board members include Earl Meier, Dawn Eddington and Mary Herschelman.

The organization raises funds throughout the year to help support library programs and building needs. In 2023, they hosted a used book sale, and plan to do so again this fall. The group encourages anyone interested in volunteering with their organization to contact the library at 217-532-3055.

Journal-News Photo

Shoal Creek Firefighters Host Annual Banquet

by Cayden Huber

The Shoal Creek Fire Department held its annual awards banquet on Saturday, March 16, at their station in Sorento.

The evening began with a meal prepared by Fema's Catering of Benld as well as a cake made by April Dowden in Hillsboro.

After the meal, Donald Sturgeon, vice president of the Shoal Creek Fire Department board, thanked everyone in attendance for coming before giving a run-down of the year's statistics in a slideshow prepared by Kim Houchlei, who was not in attendance.

There were a total of seven building fires, four vehicle fires and ten fires classified as "other." The fire department also recieved 20 medical calls, three other rescue calls and five hazard calls. The fire department had received a total of 63 calls throughout 2023.

Sunday, Tuesday and Friday were revealed to be the busiest days of the week for the fire department, with Wednesday being the tamest. October was shown to be the month with the most calls, with November being quite low. Noon and 5 p.m. were the busiest times for the fire department.

Sturgeon then made note of the switch to an automatic mutual aid system that the fire department now uses. The presentation showed 32 calls to Sorento, 21 to Donnellson, nine to Panama, five to Walshville, three to Greenville, two to Pocahontas, one to Farmersville, one to Mulberry Grove, one to Mount Olive and two to Taylor Springs.

Notable calls that the department responded to including a train engine fire, a bell fire in Sorento, several motor vehicle accidents, flood rescues, carbon dioxide alarm calls, corn stalks on fire and the I-55 dust storm on May 1. Shoal Creek was mentioned at a state conference for the work of their rehab units during the emergency.

Dorine Price was thanked for her work as treasurer, along with Amanda Voyles being thanked for putting in National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFRIS) reports. NFRIS reports allow for the fire district to apply for grants. Sabrina Daniken was also thanked for cleaning the station.

Sturgeon also gave praise to the training side of the fire department's work. The department had experienced a 51 percent increase in hours spent training over the course of a few years.

As far as an increase over the previous year, 2022 yielded 889 hours spent training. Meanwhile, the department

had 1,343 hours of training under their belts for 2023.

Many members of the fire department were then awarded for their service with a certificate, along with jackets that were embroidered with the Shoal Creek Fire Department logo.

Those thanked with certificates included Josh Arnold, Junior Firefighter Logan, Damien Callender, Lieutenant Bubba Caulk, Callie Caulk, District Chief David Caulk, Cordell Coats, Kyle Coats, Captain Calab Daniken, Haiven Durbin and Junior Firefighter Cale.

Others who recieved certificates included District Trustee Daniel Fenton, Steve Hasenmyer, Nick Hemann, District Trustee Kim Houchlei, Jesse Jarman, Justine Joiner, District Trustee Gerald Knight, District President Brett Kunkel, Second Assistant Chief Steve Langheim, Shannon Oakley, Kent Priddle, Daniel Revell, Tyler Storm, Donald Sturgeon, Junior Firefighter Skylar, Assistant Chief Kelley Voyles and Junior Firefigher Skylar.

Sturgeon then gave out the first of two rewards for the night, the Special Recognition Award. The award was given to Chief David Caulk. "Dave's been instrumental with ISO," said Sturgeon. "Dave has put in a lot of time and effort."

The Firefighter of the Year award was then presented. Sturgeon said, "This individual has put in countless hours" before congratulation Daniel Revell with the award. Revell was given the award for, as Sturgeon said, "all the little things." That description includes feats such as running reports, picking up radios and bringing them back.

The rewards were based on factors such as trainings, extra curricular engagement, attendance at volunteer meetings and more.

After the awards were given out, a raffle was held for fire department staff, with each winner receiving a wall mountable helmet with "SCFD" written on it.

Litchfield School Board

Continued from page 1A

They also approved the minutes from the previous meeting, bills payable in March and the treasurer's report.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau said the bills are tracking as the district comes to the end of the year, as well as construction costs. Bills for March totalled \$1.7 million, including \$251,328.02 from the education fund, \$78,496.38 from operations and maintenance, \$19,640.08 from transportation, \$473,974.61 from capital projects, \$22,240.75 from tort and \$851,502.10 from health-life-safety.

The treasurer's report notes a total balance in all funds of \$21.1 million at the end of February. That includes \$13 million in operating funds, \$4.7 million in capital projects and \$2.7 million in health-life-safety.

Board members unanimously approved the name of the new pre-kindergarten through first grade school building at 615 E. Tyler Ave. The building will be called the Litchfield Early Childhood Center, and will open this fall.

Peter Ratermann of Poettker Construction gave a construction update. He said on the main campus, the underground utility work is nearly complete. They will be starting exterior concrete work around the building soon. Inside the kindergarten wing, they are nearly finished with interior painting, while light fixtures and cabinets will be installed soon. Ratermann said board members would see some huge changes to the project in the coming month. He added there were no change orders to approve.

Board members unanimously approved the annual membership renewal into the IHSA (Illinois High School Association of Athletics). Dr. Fuerstenau said that school districts are required to approve membership each year in order to participate in state-sanctioned events. Board member Gregg Hires abstained from the vote.

The board unanimously approved an amendment to the 2023-2024 school calendar. Dr. Fuerstenau said the district used three emergency e-learning days due to inclement weather and is required to amend the calendar. He hopes they won't have any more inclement weather days this school year.

Board members unanimously approved the proposed calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, which was presented by the Academic Advisory Committee. The first day of student attendance will be Aug. 15, with the final day of student attendance on May 23.

The board also unanimously approved the schedule of meeting dates for



Litchfield School Board members honored three state wrestling qualifiers at their monthly board meeting. In front, from the left are fifth grader Jayce Ellinger, freshman Rylynn Younker and sophomore Vinny Moore. In back are board Vice President Ron Anglin and Zac Going, one of the wrestling coaches.

Journal-News Photo

the coming year. They will remain on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the unit office, with a limit of 11 p.m. The only change to the schedule will be in September, when the board will meet on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Chris Kuntzman and Abe Loveless gave a 45-minute presentation on the district's technology department. They opened with some of the bigger projects they have worked on the past year, including bringing the Litchfield Elementary School building and the SCI Center online. Currently, the SCI Center is not part of the district's network, but they hope to bring it online with some additional e-Rate funding.

Kuntzman said they moved the data center to the unit office and also set up automated user management for Skyward. New this year, they are offering an IT Fix-It class with three students, who are learning how to rebuild computers.

They talked about the addition of Aptepty to streamline communication for teachers and parents. In addition, they talked about cybersecurity issues and some of the professional development they are offering, as well as network and software changes.

In the coming year, they will look to refresh up to 300 Chromebooks and cases, STEM items and possibly door access controls.

Citizens' Agenda

There was no public comment at this month's meeting. During the citizens' agenda, Litchfield High School wrestling coach Chance Davidson and Litchfield Middle School wrestling coach Cody Younker introduced three state qualifiers.

At the high school level, Davidson introduced Vinny Moore, who qualified at 106 pounds. Freshman Rylynn Younker earned a fourth place medal in the girls wrestling tournament, making

her the first female wrestler to earn a state medal for Litchfield. Davidson said the school has a streak of 22 years with individuals qualifying for state wrestling, and have had state medalists the last six years.

At the middle school level, Younker introduced fifth grader Jayce Ellinger, who qualified for state. It's the first time a fifth grader has qualified for state since Vinny Moore.

Board Vice President Ron Anglin presented each of them with a certificate.

Information Items

Dr. Fuerstenau presented the enrollment report, 1,190 students currently in the district.

In administrator reports, LHS Principal Juletta Ellis said they are in the thick of registration and are preparing for spring PSAT and SAT testing. In SCI Center news, Ellis said they created a two-part application process for students, in case one year they are unable to accept all the students who want to participate. This year, they had 218 applicants and were able to accept all of them. She added that automotive instructor Eric Gray is working on his ASE certification.

LHS Assistant Principal Hillary Wagenblast added they will have a foreign exchange student next year at the high school from Andora, a small country between France and Spain.

At the middle school, Principal Dr. Russ Tepen said they are finishing IAR testing and preparing for career day in April.

Litchfield Elementary School Principal Jeremy Heigert reported they also finished IAR testing. He said seven students attended the EGM music festival in Charleston. And this year, the Student Council hosted a St. Patrick's Day dance, and raised over \$700 for the Ronald McDonald House.

More than 270 students attended the dance.

At Madison Park, Principal Adam Favre said he was proud of staff for how they handled the tornado warning on March 16. He added that they've had a lot of positive response from the spring parent-teacher conferences. Favre said they are getting ready to do pre-k screenings as well, and he expects to have a full roster.

In his report, Dr. Fuerstenau said he was at LES the day of the tornado warning and all students and staff went to the storm shelter. He said it's the safest place in Litchfield as it can withstand winds of up to 250 miles per hour.

He said that roof work at LMS/LHS is scheduled to begin soon, and that Kuntzman and Loveless are hosting a technology fair at the SCI Center in March.

In a final note, Dr. Fuerstenau said the district received a \$110,000 check for the SCI Center as it's an area career center. The funding will help offset the cost of operating expenses.

Personnel

The board did not go into closed session before approving the monthly personnel report.

They accepted several resignations, including special education teacher Wyman Markel, junior varsity boys basketball coach Anthony Robinson, assistant high school and middle school volleyball coach Brooke Furlow, middle school volleyball coach Kari Dragoo, physical education, driver's education teacher ad junior varsity scholastic bowl coach Brittany Eckhoff (as of April 3) and fourth grade teacher Ann Helgen. All items passed unanimously, and Hires abstained from the Robinson vote.

The board hired Lucas Martinez as high school Spanish and physical education teacher, Drew Logan as middle school athletic director, Stacy Carter as LHS National Honor Society sponsor and Daniel Bonnell as high school boys basketball coach. All items passed unanimously and Hires abstained from the votes on Logan and Bonnell.

They also approved several voluntary transfers, including Sarah Malloy from fifth grade to third grade, Jamie Hannah from special education teacher at LMS to life skills teacher and Lindsey Gibbs from elementary life skills teacher to special education teacher at the high school. All items passed unanimously and board member Mark Bloome abstained from the Malloy vote.

The board voted to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. They will meet again on Tuesday evening, April 16, beginning at 6 p.m. at the unit office.

Raymond Village Funds Concrete For Pickleball

Mayor Denny Held called the monthly Raymond Village Board meeting to order at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18.

Those in attendance included Mayor Denny Held, Trustees Ryan Bruntjen, Dan Hough, Kendall Snyder, Bill Krager and Greg Bernhardt, as well as Jason McCallum, Taylor Link, Devin Bedinger, Kathy Johnson, Robin Riggs and Wayne Angle. Trustee Bruce Poggenpohl was absent.

Riggs and Johnson presented to the board about the ongoing pickleball court project. They shared that they have raised money and

filled out paperwork for a grant, and asked about the McDavid Fund, which was left to the village for the purpose of having a doctor's office. The village uses interest accrued from this fund for post-prom and easter egg hunts as well as for Valerie Sheldon's memorial and Ben Pope's memorial. The board discussed providing funding for concrete for the courts, and Hough and Krager motioned to fund \$5,000. All present voted in favor.

In streets and alleys, it was announced the street sweeper will be getting the needed repairs done so that it can work

properly. Louis Marsch also visited and looked at the road on South St. and McGown St. that will be repaired, as well as some sidewalks.

The board discussed that if Springfield Rd. was reclassified as a Class 3 truck route, then it would be eligible for more tax money. They also announced that CTI will be boring the railroad.

In water and sewer, the valve exciser was received, but was not complete and would cost an additional \$800. The board decided to return the exciser, as the village is a member of the IRWA and can borrow one as needed.

Lead and copper reports are to be submitted Monday, April 15.

The golf course will be hosting a tournament on Friday, March 29. Some of the old tin from the roof will be placed above the carts to protect them from bird droppings. "March has started out strong for the golf course and we are fully staffed and ready for a great 2024 season," the board was told.

The board entered executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Following session, the meeting adjourned.

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Hillsboro City Council

Continued from page 1A

However, when she also asked for the same spaces to be reserved for an occasional Wednesday evening market, Police Chief Randy Leetham said that could cause hardship for Main Street businesses because parking has to be prohibited beginning at 6 a.m. for weekday events. Thus, and because it wasn't in the original motion, that request wasn't presented for a vote.

The council appointed Lainey Fenton and Joel Luckett to fill two spots on the Historic Preservation Committee and hired Mike Wells to be a member of the Street Department.

In matters of finance, the council approved Feb. bills presented by Commissioner Patrick Ward. The total was \$391,817.49. Also approved was the purchase of fireworks from A. M. Pyrotechnics, LLC, located in Buffalo, MO; the display, to be used during the Fourth of July celebration, will cost \$12,000.

The carpet in the city hall chambers and two other rooms will be replaced by a Tobacco Brown tile floor covering for a cost of \$6,553.64. Also approved were engineering and design costs for the improvement of the east side of Main Street from Wood Street north to Seward Street. The usual percentage of design and engineering costs is 5% of the project cost; this expenditure is not to exceed \$40,000.

The Waffle Cone shop at the corner of East Wood and South Main submitted receipts for work done on their building's facade. The address is 447 South Main. Total expenditures were \$2,445.52, of which 50% (\$1,222.76) will come from the city's facade grant. Receipts showed that most of the supplies were bought locally.

The council amended their delinquent payment ordinance to discourage those who move from one address to another within the city without paying their last water bill. Until now, they could ignore their former

bill because the billing system goes by address, not by user. The amendment passed directs the collection people at city hall that if one owes money from a past address, any payment goes to the old balance before any money is applied to the new address.

Another ordinance amendment deals with non-highway vehicles on city streets; from this time forward, permitting fees begin on Jan. 1 and the permit is not valid after Dec. 31 — they cover only the calendar year, no matter when they are renewed.

Two change orders for the contract with TEK Construction, the firm working on the Helston Place Sewer Project, were approved after an explanation by City Engineer Jeremy Conner, who represents Hurst/Rosche. Two unsuspected-before-excavation-began problems will add \$9,585.80 to the original cost of \$549,839. Also, the council voted to enter into a contract with Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating, LLC, to line sewer mains on Jefferson and Mechanic Streets. Total cost is \$31,145.00.

Woodard & Curran's Tim Ferguson was present to explain a proposal from Northwater Consulting for help with an impending Nutrient Assessment and Reduction Plan (NARP) for Middle Shoal Creek. Northwater is the firm already at work on the watersheds feeding the two lakes.

NARP, mandated by the EPA, is a plan to reduce phosphorous reaching the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Mississippi River. Phase I of the plan requires an evaluation of the sources; the impact of phosphorous from May through the harvest season; and an evaluation of possibilities for improvement.

At the moment there is no grant money available for the study, but Ferguson feels that NARP dovetails nicely into the watershed study. If the study provides evidence of the problem locally, then grant money would be more likely.

In other utility news, Ferguson explained the need for a carbon feed pump for the

water treatment plant. The older one has been repaired too often; the bid for the new one totalled \$21,550. The council approved both requests.

The commissioners' reports which always begin the business part of the meeting seemed brief. Commissioner Fred Butler said the parking area for the Fireman's Clubhouse and the disc golf course will be rocked; he also said the water to the South Marina parking lot restrooms and the North access area restrooms is now on.

Water was also turned on in the campground restrooms; three electrical pedestals were replaced and another added. CTI is still working on the wifi, and the "Move and Waiting List" procedures take place this Saturday, March 23, at 9 a.m.

The Street Department, also under Butler's jurisdiction, installed two meter pits, repaired a water leak on Mill Street, and removed animals from Oak Street and Seward Street who couldn't cross roads safely.

The Police Department had a total of 414 total contacts; nine involved disorderly conduct, five were to domestic disturbances. Twenty-eight were about suspicious people or circumstances; by far the majority (77) involved traffic stops. The most contacts (75) came on Tuesday; Friday was next with 71.

The primary issues for the Water and Sewer Departments were covered as they appeared on the agenda.

Community Planner/Economic Director Sarah McConnell told the council that Phase I of the application for the NCEO Energy Transition Grant has been submitted. Other items in her report were finalized during the meeting, but not on the agenda were the meetings she, Parks Superintendent Jim May, and Butler have had to outline details for the city's first season of running the marina.

The council next meets in regular session Tuesday evening, April 2, at 7 p.m.



The Raymond Knights of Columbus have served up more than 1,800 fish dinners this lenten season, but the food isn't all that there is to be thankful for. The KCs have collected about \$8,800 in donations to help replace their HVAC unit from the community, including three donations over \$1,000.

Fish Fry Fundraisers Get KCs Closer To HVAC Goal

There are just two Fridays left in fish fry season for the Raymond Knights of Columbus, but the community has already helped the group catch a couple of big ones in their fundraiser to replace the HVAC system at the Raymond KC Hall.

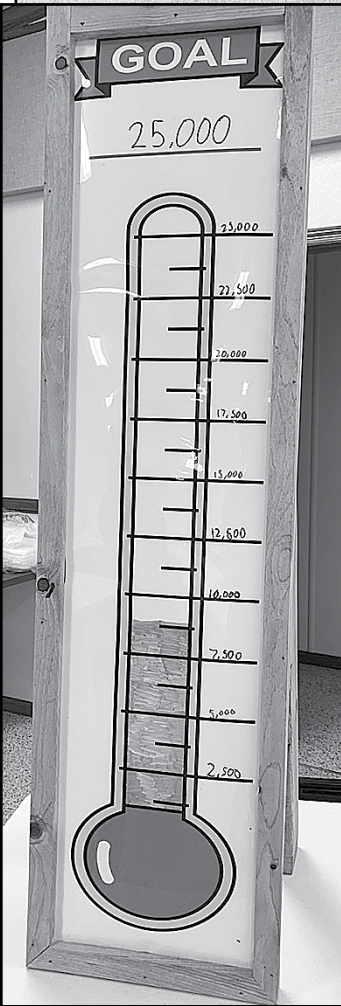
"We have raised about \$8,800 so far for our HVAC fundraiser and are really grateful for everyone's support," Raymond KC Grand Master Tim Marten said. "We've been very fortunate to receive two checks for \$1,000, as well as a pledge for 10 percent of the total cost of the project."

The large donations are only a piece of the puzzle, though. The KCs have served around 1,800 meals so far

this year, with many customers rounding up on their totals to donate to the project after making their order.

"We are so thankful for everyone who has come out to support us not only by patronizing the fish fries but by making an additional donation to our new system," Marten said.

Marten said that the Knights of Columbus council will be meeting this week to select a specific bid for the project, which should ensure that the new HVAC system will be installed before warm weather arrives. Donations will continue to be accepted at the final two fish fries at the Raymond KC Hall on March 15 and March 22.



Primary Election

Continued from page 1A

107th State Representative (R)	
Brad Halbrook	267
108th State Representative (R)	
Marsha Webb	75
110th State Representative (R)	
Wayne Rosenthal	1,821
110th State Representative (R)	
Blaine T. Wilhour	87
Circuit Clerk (R)	
Matthew T. Hall	20
State's Attorney (R)	
Daniel T. Robbins	2,229
County Coroner (R)	
Andrew Affrunti	2,131
County Board District 1 (R)	
Randy Leetham	1,815
County Board District 2 (R)	
Talon R. Burton	485
County Board District 3 (R)	
Connie Taylor Beck	329
County Board District 4 (R)	
Kenneth Folkerts	126
County Board District 5 (R)	
Keith E. Hancock	209
County Board District 6 (R)	
Chad Ruppert	319
County Board District 7 (R)	
Evan Young	314
County Board District 8 (R)	
Christine Daniels	257
County Board District 9 (R)	
Russell E. Beason	247
County Board District 10 (R)	
Ethan Murzynski	269
County Board District 11 (R)	
Robert Corso	432
Fourth Circuit Court Judge (McHaney) (R)	
Dennis R. Atteberry	1,255
Fourth Circuit Court Judge (Roberts) (R)	
Douglas C. Gruenke	854
Butler Grove Precinct Rep. (R)	
Christopher B. Hantla	2,164
East Fork 2 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Thomas F. Justison	69
Fillmore Consolidated Precinct Rep. (R)	
Robert Meyer	13
Hillsboro 2 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Rick Robbins	91
Hillsboro 3 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Mark Hughes	57
Hillsboro 6 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Lyle R. 'Dick' James	90
Irving Precinct Rep. (R)	
Patti Whitworth	72

Precinct Rep. (R)	
James E. Jones	85
N. Litchfield 1 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Connie Taylor Beck	136
N. Litchfield 3 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Trena White	83
N. Litchfield 4 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Cody Gudel	43
Pitman Precinct Rep. (R)	
Jeremy Jones	51
Raymond Precinct Rep. (R)	
Timothy Mizera	89
Raymond Precinct Rep. (R)	
Timothy Mizera	89
Rountree Precinct Rep. (R)	
David Tester	40
S. Litchfield 1 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Bill Bergen	43
S. Litchfield 3 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Adam Ortega	32
Walshville Precinct Rep. (R)	
Shawn Bizallion	27
Witt 1 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Evan Young	59
Witt 2 Precinct Rep. (R)	
Jay Martin	22
President (D)	
Joseph R. Biden	732
Marianne Williamson	48
Dean Phillips	38
Frank "Frankie" Lozada	17
Delegates (D)	
Liz Brown-Reeves	669
Julie Curry	649
Jay Briney	617
Jimmy Naville	592
County Board District 5 (D)	
Richard Wendel	111
Fourth Circuit Court Judge (Roberts) (D)	
Bryant 'Butch' Hitchings	810
Bois D'Arc Precinct Rep. (D)	
Sherri Cook	33
Butler Grove Precinct Rep. (D)	
Gregory J. Springer	28
Fillmore Consolidated	

Precinct Rep. (D)	
Chase Wilhelm	32
Grisham 2 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Charles McDowell	10
Hillsboro 2 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Paul Sellers	22
Hillsboro 3 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Michael Collins	41
Hillsboro 5 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Jim Moore	48
Hillsboro 6 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Melanie Sherer	32
Irving Precinct Rep. (D)	
Randel Singler	24
Nokomis 3 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Trevor Loafman	12
Nokomis 4 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Michael Glenn	22
N. Litchfield 2 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Kathy V. Rogers	34
N. Litchfield 3 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Timothy Fogle	23
N. Litchfield 4 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Judy Keith Dolhaus	17
N. Litchfield 6 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Chuck Napier	41
Raymond Precinct Rep. (D)	
Kathy Painter	27
S. Litchfield 1 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Evelyn Lanter	20
S. Litchfield 2 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Perry Jackson	36
S. Litchfield 4 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Richard Wendel	32
Witt 1 Precinct Rep. (D)	
Michael Myers	9
City of Litchfield proposition to allow non-highway vehicles to be operated	
Yes	409
No	532



Construction Continues At Moto Mart

Construction crews continue making progress at the Moto Mart gas station in Hillsboro this spring. Exterior work is being done to add bathrooms inside the service station, as well as expanded room for gaming. Outside, the gas pumps will be moved to the other side of the building to make room for additional parking.

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Starr Shooter 4-H members held their international night on Sunday, March 17, with a "Bienvenido a Mexico!" or "Welcome to Mexico!" theme. Various demonstrations and talks were presented that evening, with a potluck meal of Mexican dishes concluding the evening. Pictured above are the Starr Shooters that attended.

Starr Shooters Host International Night

Starr Shooters 4-H participants held an international night on Sunday, March 17. The theme of the evening was "Bienvenido a Mexico!", which means "Welcome to Mexico!"

Talks and demonstrations were held throughout the

evening. Presentations included "Geography of Mexico" by Drew Schweizer, "Monsters of Mexico" by Logan Hilgendorf, "Beef Fajita" by Bond Knodle, "The Mexican Flag" by Kaylee Hilgendorf, "Goats of Mexico" by Nathan Brown and a Mexican

inspired dance performed by Fallon Knodle, Kinley Stolte and Grace King.

The painting committee was recognized and the club voted to support trophies at the county 4-H fair this summer. A potluck of Mexican dishes concluded the event.

TOPPER TALK • by Annabelle Wright at Hillsboro High

Topper Students Ready For Spring Break



HelloToppers! Spring break is quickly approaching! Get ready to turn your alarms off and have a well-earned break, because there is no school the entire week of March 25! This gives students a nine-day break, if you count the weekends. Remember to make the most of it and spend that time with your friends and family! The National Honor Society of 2024-2025 has been confirmed. Many deserving juniors and seniors have been awarded this honor and will be officially inducted on Wednesday, April 17. While there is no official list, if you know of anyone who got in, congratulate them!

At HHS, all of the sports are getting in their groove! Lady Topper soccer has a lot of travel this week, only having away games. On Thursday, March 21, the team will travel to East Alton-Wood River. This Saturday, March 23, they have a 10 a.m. game at Pleasant Plains High School. Monday, March 25, marks the start of the Litchfield Tournament. Hillsboro will play their first game against North Mac High School. The boys tennis team is off to a busy start. On Friday, March 22, they have an away meet at Mt. Zion High School. This Saturday, March 23, is the start of the Flora Tournament, where they will be playing against Flora High School. Unfortunately, the game that was scheduled for March 26 against Roxana High School has been postponed and is currently being rescheduled.

Topper baseball and soft-

ball have a busy week. This Thursday, March 21, both teams have home games, against Vandallia and Mulberry Grave respectively. At these games, BTOP has planned a White Out, so wear any white shirts you have! Softball falls next in line with an away game on Friday, March 22, at Greenville High School.

Back to baseball, there is an away game on Saturday, March 23, at Staunton High School. Next, both teams have games on Monday, March 25, but baseball has snatched up the home field for their game against Staunton High School. Softball will be traveling to Auburn High School.

Finally, baseball's last game of the week is Monday, March 25 at home against Staunton, and softball's is on Tuesday, March 26, at Taylorville High School. This sounds like an exhausting week, so stay strong to any players!

Girls and boys track and field share a schedule this week. This Tuesday, March 26, is a co-ed home meet. They will be competing against Piasaw, Staunton and Greenville. Good luck!

As you complete this week, remember to make the best of every day! On March 22, celebrate National Goof Off Day by adding an extra bit of fun into your schedule. Spend some extra time giving attention to your pets on March 23, National Puppy Day. Keep anyone who struggles with epilepsy in your thoughts on March 26, National Epilepsy Awareness Day. And finally, draw anything you want without a care for neatness on March 27, National Scribble Day. No matter what, have a great week, and I'll talk to you next time!



Nokomis Students Earn Honor Society Induction

Nokomis High School inducted students into the Nokomis High School chapter of the National Honor Society on Thursday, March 7. The National Honor Society is one of the oldest, largest and most widely recognized co-curricular student organizations in American high schools. National Honor Society admission is decided by a faculty council and showcases students that represent traits of scholarship, character, leadership and service. In the front row, from the left, are Maddux Himes, Reagan Jonas, Shelby Johnson, Irene VandenBergh, Cydney Bertolino, Reece Lohman, Gracelynn DeWerff, Presley Mehochko, Mason Stauder, Brody Steele, Coree Keagy and Kohen Stolte. In the middle row, from the left, are Riley Steele, Jesse Osterhous, Garrett Engelman, Jack Johnson, Bond Knodle, Noah Blaum, Ian Keller, Drake Taylor, Allie Sneddon, Elizabeth Hill, Natalie Brownback, Jayden Gonet, Abygail O'Malley, Rebecca Hill and Marcie Carroll. In the back row, from the left, are Advisor Ms. Darci Harrison, Addelyn Pearse, Maddison DeWerff, Camryn Engelman, Addison Glenn, Levi German, Jeffrey Bernardini, Nolan Herpstreith, Kadyann Petty, Bryce Gillock, Blain Goodwin, Glavin Himes, Kinley Stolte, Ella Huelson, Grace King, Faith Morrison, Kennley Kirk, Riley Waterman and Arianna Hocq.



Litchfield Inducts Students Into Honor Society

The Litchfield Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 24 new members and celebrated 21 senior members on Thursday, March 7, at the Unit Office. The National Honor Society is one of the oldest, largest and most widely recognized co-curricular student organizations in American high schools. National Honor Society admission is decided by a faculty council and showcases students that represent traits of scholarship, character, leadership and service. In the front row, from the left, are Madison Mix, Rylie Mix, Addison Monke, Caitlyn Schneck, Carly Favre, Alex Gasperson, Bella Reyes, Jaydah Caldwell, Amy Frerichs, Claudia Deren, Selina Cochran, Caitlyn Travis and Keaton Morgan. In the middle row, from the left, are Angel Trader, Riley Heyen, Emma Dively, Annika Rhodes, Olivia Reid, Maggie Reynolds, Noah Polus, Emma Bone, Georgia Glover, Elise Walch, Ava Fetter, Jessie Zhang, Cassandra Loveless, Amanda Niemann, Lukus Middleton and Bella Steiner. In the back row, from the left, are Nolan Dougherty, Johnathan Conlee, Cy Cress, AJ Odle, Camden Quarten, Tug Schwab, Anthony Bader, Kayden Bergman, Dominic Ellinger, Will Cress, Clayton Logsdon, Garrett Hale, Zach Leitschuh, Gina Painter and Kendall Stewart.

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Carlinville All-Star Basketball Roster Set

The top 51 boys and girls basketball seniors from South Central Illinois will be playing in the 20th annual Carlinville Rotary Club All-Star Basketball Classic, presented by Prairie Farms Dairy and CNB Bank and Trust on Sunday, March 24, at Carlinville High School.

A total of 17 high schools will be represented in the event that includes 18 girls and 33 boys.

Players on the girls West squad are Lauren Bertagnolli, Becca Crays and Erika Gill of Gillespie; Karleigh Prose and Abby Hendricks of North Mac; Claire Woods, Jenna Dickerman and Naomi Lansaw of Greenfield/Northwestern; and Marissa Heironimus of South County. Kevin Gray of Gillespie will coach the West All-Star team. Gray recently announced his retirement after 16 years at the helm of the Lady Miners.

Players on the girls East team are Katie Eckhardt of

Vandalia; Jessica Vaughn of Pana; Aubrey Evans of Hillsboro; Shayna Henderson, Mylee Kessinger, Katie Campbell and Natalie McCullough of Greenville; Taryn Millburg of Lincolnwood; and Jayden Neal of South Fork. Greenville coach Quin Hammann will coach the East All-Stars.

The West boys squad includes Caleb Howard, Konnor Campbell and Braylon Rhoades of Carrollton; Matt Dunn and Camden Naugle of Carlinville; Trevor Colwell and Noah Lyons of South County; Dane Vance, Keagan Greff and J.T. Alexander of North Mac; Kohen Vetter and Dylan Pembroke of Greenfield/Northwestern; Rocky Darr of Southwestern; Jacob Hinsey of North Greene and Bryce Hohnsbehn of Gillespie. Carrollton's Tony Rhoades will coach the West All-Stars.

Representing the boys East team are Keenan Powell, A.J. Odle, Victor McGill and

Tate Dobrinich of Litchfield; Sawyer Smith and Grant Dobson of Auburn; Brady Schmedeke and Gabe Armentrout of Lincolnwood; Jacob Butler and Tyler Surber of Pawnee; Kennedy DeWerff, Reece Lohman and Mason Stauder of Nokomis; Ethan Hicks and Clayton Worker of Pana; Kaleb Gardner of Greenville; Jace Stewart of Hillsboro and Tanner Robins of Vandalia. Schmedeke, Armentrout and Lohman will not be able to participate in the game. Daniel Bonnell of Litchfield will coach the East All-Star team.

Each game will be played in four 10-minute quarters. The CNB Bank and Trust 3-Point Shootout for the girls will begin at 3 p.m., followed by the girls' All-Star game at 3:30 p.m. The CNB Bank and Trust 3-Point Shootout for the boys will be held between games, starting at 5:15 p.m., with the boys' All-Star game to follow at 5:45 p.m.

FREE INFORMATIONAL CLASS

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Monday, March 25, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Hillsboro Health, 1200 E. Tremont St.
The Cloud Room
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This class is designed to help individuals with diabetes improve their health and well-being.

Refreshments will be served.
Open to the public at no cost.

HILLSBORO health



Mrs. Cottontail Stops At The Briar Rose Shop

Mrs. Cottontail is getting all ready for Easter this spring. She hopped right down to The Briar Rose in downtown Litchfield for a special Easter-themed event on Saturday, March 16. Above, she is pictured with McKenzie Fogle-Cameron, during all the spring festivities.

This weekend, The Briar Rose will host a pop-up vendor event on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with several unique vendors on site. In addition, they are hosting an Easter event on Thursday evening, March 28, with a visit from Mrs. Cottontail and a craft from the Litchfield Public Library. They will also celebrate their tenth anniversary on April 13.

Litchfield Health And Rehab Hosting Egg Hunt

To celebrate Easter, Litchfield Health and Rehab Center, the 92-bed skilled nursing facility in Litchfield, has a fun-filled celebration planned for Litchfield School District preschool kids, their families and facility residents.

This free Litchfield School District preschool class event will take place at the facility's campus, located at 628 South Illinois Ave. in Litchfield, on Friday, March 22, at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Festivities will include a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny. Kids can also enjoy an old-fashioned Easter egg hunt with prizes hidden in the eggs.

Gatherings with the lo-

cal community are part of Litchfield Health and Rehab Center's commitment to be a good neighbor, and numerous events are held throughout the year to engage with local residents. Activities have included summer picnics, coat and school supply drives, Halloween trunk-or-treats and holiday light displays with visits from Santa.

"We enjoy hosting these festivities for the Litchfield area, and we look forward to welcoming all the preschool students on the day of the event," said Jamie Evans, CEO and administrator of Litchfield Health and Rehab Center. "It's a great way for the community to get together, relax and have fun."

Longhair, Johnson And Lafikes Bring The Magic

By Cayden Huber

"I feel connected to this community very strongly," said local magician Professor Longhair, also known as Randy Thompson. Professor Longhair is well known for his many magic shows around town, including Old Settler's, local care facilities and libraries, along with many others. "What a great place to show what we're gonna do now," he added.

"Now" refers to Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7 where Longhair will be joined by longtime friends John Johnson, Master Magician and Louie Lafikes the Entertainer in bringing a new breed of magic show to Montgomery County residents at the Grand Theatre in Hillsboro. "We can present things people haven't seen before," said Johnson.

The show will consist of two sets, which each feature three 15 minute presentations, one from each performer. Each performer brings a different style of magic to create a unique, variety-filled show that both kids and adults will be able to take something special away from.

The trio have several hundred tricks up their sleeves and audiences will get to see a handful of them at The Magical Mayhem Show, including magic set to music, magic where audience members are called up on stage and even some tricks that feature an element of danger, all while ensuring the audience remains safe and entertained.

Local youth may be excited to hear that Professor Longhair will attempt to make his beloved friend, Magic Mouse, real during the show. "I like the connection I make with my audience and being able to get to the audience to feel like they're part of the magic," said Longhair. Johnson added, "It's about the smiles on everyone's faces. They come in to your world of magic. They forget about their trials and their troubles."



Alongside the magic, the show will feature a drawing for a prize and special guest emcee, John Michael Marty, who is the afternoon radio host for WSMI.

Tickets can be bought at the Grand Theatre box office or on Facebook at <https://bestmoviedeal.com/home/grand-live>.

"We want people to walk out saying they saw something, they felt emotion, excitement, surprise," said Johnson.

The trio have been friends since meeting at Blackburn College and each have more than 50 years of magic experience under their belts, combining for a total of more than 150 years experience. Despite that history, this will be the first time all three have worked together.

Longhair remembers performing magic shows in his garage at 11 years old, while

Johnson started at the age of nine at his grandmother's senior citizen meeting and Lafikes beginning at the age of 12 after studying under the tutelage of magician and magic shop owner John Fabjance.

Longhair, originally from White City, was first drawn to magic by his grandfather, Guy Thompson, who was a magician that performed shows for the entire neighborhood. He is the only grandchild of ten to take up magic.

Johnson, originally from Dorsey but who now spends most of his time on the road performing, began loving magic after seeing it on tv. "It's the impossibility of it all," he said. He studied under Jeff McBride alongside other magicians before earning his master magician certification.

Lafikes, from Alton, stud-

ied under Fabjance before eventually taking over the shop before becoming a special education teacher, as well as a union actor. He has performed "hundreds if not thousands of magic shows," according to Johnson.

Professor Longhair has performed in Mexico, at the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, where he performs an old time medicine show and at the Birch Mirror in Maryland, which has seen many influential magicians perform.

Johnson's career has allowed him to be featured in circuses and cruise ships, alongside street magic. He has performed in every state except Hawaii. He currently has a residency at Frank's Magic and Comedy Bar in Key West, FL.

Lafikes has stayed fairly close to his roots. He mostly performs in and around the St. Louis area.

The trio plan on showing Magical Mayhem throughout the region, alongside performing individual shows. Their goal is to give bigger audiences the opportunity to see the evolution of magic. "There's a continuing evolution of magic. There's reliance on the classics as well as technology," said Johnson.

More information about Magical Mayhem may be found on the "The Magical Mayhem Show" Facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/modernmagicalmayhemshow>.

Anyone who is interested in diving further into the realm of magic or booking a performer for their event can find Longhair and Johnson in a variety of places online.

Longhair may be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ProfessorLonghairmagic>. There, a business email and phone number are provided for inquiries.

Johnson may be found at johnjohnsonmagician.com or on his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/johnjohnsonmagician>.

Hillsboro Senior Club To Hold March Meeting

The Hillsboro Community Senior Club will meet on Tuesday, March 26. They will have a meal with chicken as the meat choice. All attendees are asked to bring a dessert, salad or vegetable. The

group will eat at noon. Dues will also be collected. Those wanting to attend are asked to call Lyn at 217-532-3662 by Friday, March 22, to make a reservation.

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WIND AND Solar MEETING

THE APRIL 2 | 10 AM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE

MUST RSVP BY APRIL 1

217-532-6171 or kwilson@montcofb.com

Meeting is open to Farm Bureau members ONLY

BILL BODINE
Director of Business & Regulatory Affairs
Illinois Farm Bureau

LAURA HARMON
Associate Counsel
Illinois Farm Bureau

SPEAKERS

The Journal-News Section B

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Thursday, March 21, 2024



With a conference title in boys soccer and basketball, a playoff appearance in football, a third place finish at the boys state golf tournament and a state medalist in cross country among the list of accomplishments already this year, the 2023-24 school year has been a banner one for the class of 2024. On Monday, March 18, the families and friends of 13 of those individuals who made this year special were recognized during Litchfield High School's signing day at Simmons Gym as they prepare to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. From the left are Victor McGill, Tug Schwab, Annika Rhodes, Tisha Jarden, Alyssa Lohman, Keenan Powell, Mannix Hancock, Easton Grammer, Tate Dobrinich, A.J. Odle, Amy Frerichs, A.J. Sypherd and Carson Saathoff.

Journal-News Photo

Journal-News On The Line:

Litchfield Class of 2024

Before introducing the 13 students from Litchfield High School who have chosen to extend their athletic years into college, Athletic Director Mark Elvers listed some of the Class of 2024's accomplishments: conference championships in boys soccer, boys golf, girls cross country and boys basketball, the return to the playoffs in football, three straight seasons with double digit wins for volleyball, and a third place finish in the IHSA Boys Golf State Finals.

All 13 of the students participating in the signing day at Simmons Gym on March 18, played a part in this season's successes. Another of their classmates, Camden Quarton, could have been right there with them after finishing 15th at state in cross country (not to mention the upcoming track season), but the son of Dr. Brian and Lori Quarton will be trading his Litchfield uniform for a naval one as he attends the United States Naval Academy.

While it's anchors away for Quarton, his classmates are continuing their athletic careers at Illinois College, North Central, McKendree, Greenville, Millikin, Beloit, Westminster and Illinois Wesleyan. Below are where Litchfield's college-bound baker's dozen are going, their parents and some information on their journey.

Keenan Powell

Shamera Robinson, Anthony Robinson
North Central College

Why did you choose North Central College? They have a really great program educationally and also athletic-wise. So me being an athlete, I'd say it was a really great fit for me.

What are you planning to study? I'm going to go into sports management, so I'll be able to try scouting and coaching.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? I'd like to thank my family, all my coaches and my past coaches. Not even just my track coaches, but also my football coaches and my basketball coach. Throughout my high school career, they have shaped me into the man that I am right now.

Tate Dobrinich

Shannon Dobrinich, Tobias Dobrinich
Beloit College

Why did you choose Beloit College? Trevor Geggie (a former Litchfield High School football and track standout) recruited me, actually. He's a coach for Beloit. So I think it'd be nice to have a connection there already. Beloit's a great school from what I've heard. The internships there are fantastic. They have so many popular names there that can help you with schooling and your future.

What are you planning to study? I think I'm going to major in business and economics. I'm into carpentry, so I'm hoping I could possibly get to do something more with that and a business degree. But even if I don't like carpentry later, then it can help me with something bigger.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? Everyone for supporting me, especially Shane Grammer. It all started in fifth grade when I started playing football. He talked to my mom about getting me on the team because me and Easton went to school together. He kind of started this. He started the interest. My brother played football, but his favorite sport was baseball, though, so we were more of a baseball family. But once he got me into football, it just started from there. My family has always supported me. My mom never missed a game whether she was sick or anything. She always supported me in my decision.

Tisha Jarden

Michael and Jeanny Jarden
McKendree University

Why did you choose McKendree University? They have a great program and a lot of different teams, so you can learn different skills and techniques. They go to nationals every year, which I love about them. They have a big team, so you can try to do different things and be with different people. It's like a big family. And they have their own sport. It's not pushed off to the side or not taken seriously. There's an actual focus on the team.

What are you planning to study? I'm going to be majoring in clinical psychology and then minoring in business. I want to be a therapist in general, and eventually, I'd like to own my own practice like my aunt does. I just think it'd be cool to learn the business aspect as well as be able to talk to people.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? Definitely my coaches, Britney Murphy and Shamera Powell, and my family because they pushed me to do cheer more and more. I didn't do it my freshman year because I was too scared, but they pushed me to try out for it my sophomore year and I got my love back for the sport. It hurt me so much my freshman year seeing them cheer, and I wasn't there. It showed me how much I love the sport and I wanted to continue to do it.

Easton Grammer

Dana and Shane Grammer
North Central College

Why did you choose North Central College? It just felt like home. I walked on the campus, and I was like, this is where I want to be for the next four years, or more.

What are you planning to study? I'm going to go into engineering. I don't know yet whether civil or mechanical, but I'm interested in engineering, just the creativity of it. I grew up playing around with video games and Legos. So it's just being creative and building stuff and doing what I love every day.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? Definitely my parents and my coaches. My parents have been my biggest supporters, and I can't thank them enough.

Annika Rhodes

Shanel Rhodes, Kris Rhodes
Westminster College

Why did you choose Westminster College? So I went on a visit there because the club I play for, Springfield Shock, the coach at Westminster College actually used to coach for Shock. And I loved the campus. I went and watched a game, and it was just very competitive, and I really liked it.

What are you planning to study? I'm going to study exercise science, hopefully to become a physical therapist. I've been participating in some sort of sport since I was little and have had numerous injuries of varying degrees. I've participated in physical therapy several times over the years. I've seen first hand how PT gets athletes back sooner to playing so I have always been intrigued with the field. I recently started working for a local physical therapy group and have grown to love the field even more.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? My club coaches up in Springfield with the Shock; all of them have been great. And then all of my high school coaches that I've had, Kari Drago and Abby Carlson.

Carson Saathoff

Tiffany Ostermann, Aaron Saathoff
Millikin University

Why did you choose Millikin University? They offered me decent money off tuition, so I like not having to pay as much a year. And I like the sports program and what they're offering me in that aspect. Just the environment around the college campus, I really enjoyed it. They're kind of like Litchfield, because they're rebuilding and they have a lot of new coaches coming in who have experience from Vanderbilt and Iowa and Ohio. I think they are going to do some damage. And I kind of like rebuilding programs.

What are you planning to study? Business management. They have their own business school and I really liked the program.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? Definitely my family and coaches, from every sport. I've had travel coaches, basketball, baseball, whatever coaches they may be. And then just those that do behind the scene work, like my family, my friends, obviously, and just people that I work out with, like Cody Yonker. He's kind of the one who got me where I am today. He just wants everybody to succeed. You never run across those people.

A.J. Sypherd

Rose and the late Mark Sypherd
Greenville University

Why did you choose Greenville University? I have a scholarship there so it's cheaper and closer to home, closer to my family and my mom.

What are you planning to study? Agribusiness. I want to do something agriculture related. I know they have equine too, so I might major in something and minor in that.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? Oh, definitely, my mom and my family and my coaches. They've been there for me, supporting me ever since the passing of my dad. The community has been there for me ever since I was little and helping us with anything that we need. So I'm definitely grateful for this community.

A.J. Odle

Amber Odle, Jim Odle
Illinois College

Why did you choose Illinois College? They reached out to me over this past summer during my summer golf season. After that, I visited, and I really liked the college. I decided that was the best fit for me, so I committed there in December.

What are you planning to study? I plan on majoring in nursing once I get there and pursuing a career in the medical field.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? I'd like to thank my family and my coaches in general. They all were very into where I was going to when I was deciding. So they really helped me decide where I should go and what was the best fit for me.

Mannix Hancock

Alicia Hancock

North Central College

Why did you choose North Central College? I'm really into music and they're music program really worked for me. I'm in choir and the musical, so I'm planning on doing some operetta stuff there.

What are you planning to study? Since I'm doing track, I'm going to minor in music and major in business. It just works out better for my schedule.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? I'd like to thank my mom. She's a single mom. She's been through a lot of struggle and she's worked through it.

Amy Frerichs

Andy and Jessica Frerichs
Illinois College

Why did you choose Illinois College? I went there for an elite camp and the coach showed some interest in me playing there. Also, the campus just felt more like home. It was a good environment there. And they have a bunch of different clubs for my major as well.

What are you planning to study? Nursing. I became interested in nursing as many people in my life are in the medical field. I have always found interest in helping others as well.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? My family and my coach from Zion Lutheran School, Mrs. (Nancy) Brakenhoff. Also, Coach (Abby) Carlson and Coach (Kari) Drago from here at Litchfield.

Alyssa Lohman

Tashia and Cody Lohman
McKendree University

Why did you choose McKendree University? I've always wanted to go to McKendree since I was younger because I wanted to go into occupational therapy and they have one of the best occupational therapy programs.

What are you planning to study? Occupational therapy. My little cousin, James, he's seven and he has cerebral palsy. I've actually been to a few of his sessions. I just loved it and I wanted to be a part of it.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? All of my coaches, especially, the ones I used to compete with for Royals. Being on a competitive team really showed me a lot of responsibility and teamwork and a bunch of other life lessons that I've learned from them. I'd also like to thank my parents because, obviously, they're my parents. And they do everything for me.

Victor McGill

Rob and Heather McGill

Undecided

What are you looking for in a school? I'm just looking for a school that has interest in me, that is willing to give me a good scholarship.

What are you planning to study? I'm interested in going into kinesiology, and physical therapy. (McGill missed most of his junior season due to injuries) That's why I'm interested, honestly, because I've been through it already.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? I would like to thank Coach Elvers. I would like to thank my coaches from Granite City my freshman year, and my parents, of course.

Tug Schwab

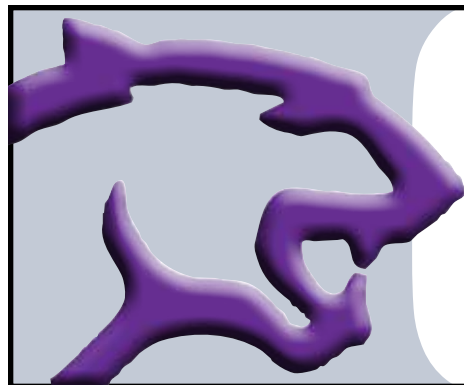
Ben and Jenny Schwab

Illinois Wesleyan University

Why did you choose Illinois Wesleyan University? For the past 20 years, they've had an amazing golf program. I love the location up in Bloomington. I'm right next to ISU and Heartland College. And Coach Ott is an amazing person. He reminds me a lot of Coach (Dan) Newkirk, and I feel like that he's been a big help in my career. So I'm looking to that in the future.

What are you planning to study? I want to major in finance and then go into agriculture and see where I can go from there.

Is there anyone you would like to thank? I want to thank all of my family members, my dad, my mom, my siblings. Coach (Justin) Ripley and Coach Newkirk, especially, have been big helps, and all of the golf team too. I mean, everyone, they've all been super encouraging and thoughtful and helped me out throughout the way.



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Toppers Score Back-To-Back Wins

If the first five games of the season have told us anything about the Hillsboro softball team, its that the Toppers have the ability to score a lot of runs.

Hillsboro has scored nine or more runs in four of their five games, including 18 and 15 in their last two games, wins against Shelbyville and Ramsey.

After games were cancelled due to cold weather on Monday all across the area, things were better, but only slightly as the Lady Hiltoppers took the field on Tuesday, March 19, in Shelbyville.

The first two innings didn't give much clue of the 28 runs that would come later on in the game as Hillsboro led just 1-0 going into third, thanks to an RBI single by Kenzie Jarman that scored Anika Camp.

But in the third, the wheels fell off for the Lady Rams as they gave up 10 runs on seven hits, three walks and three errors.

After pitching a 1-2-3 bottom of the second, Anika Camp led off the third inning with a single, with an error allowing her to move all the way around the bases to third. Sophia Blankenship walked to put runners at the corners and Kenzie Jarman singled to drive in Camp and make it 2-0.

Two more Toppers would reach base before the first out of the inning as Peyton Chappellear reached on an error and Aubrey Evans singled to drive in Blankenship and make it 3-0.

The Rams got two of the next three batters out on a strike out and a double, but in between, Audrey Shultz doubled to right field as the bases cleared and the Toppers went up 6-0.

Down to their last out in the inning, Hillsboro showed no signs of letting up. Briley Kirby walked, stole second and scored on a single by Anika Camp, with Shultz also coming in on the play.

Sophia Blankenship drew her second walk of the inning to move Camp to second, while Kenzie Jarman picked up another RBI to make it 9-0. The final blow of the inning came from Peyton Chappellear, who doubled to drive in Blankenship and Jarman as Hillsboro now led 11-0.

The Rams threatened in the bottom of the third inning with three singles in their first four at-bats, but Camp managed to get out of the jam and keep the shutout.

From there, though, the two teams took turns scoring runs each of the last four innings. Sophia Blankenship made it 12-0 on a single that plated Audrey Shultz, but

Shelbyville got their first two runs in the bottom of the fourth as the score stood at 12-2.

Shultz was involved in the scoring again in the fifth inning as she doubled to drive in Aubrey Evans, but again Shelbyville found some offense in the bottom half of the inning as they scored four times to make it 13-6.

An error contributed to two runs for Hillsboro in the sixth as a bunt by Sophia Blankenship ended up allowing Briley Kirby and Anika Camp to score. Shelbyville continued to try to chip away at the lead, though, scoring three more runs to make it 15-9 going into the seventh.

Shultz finished off a spectacular day at the plate with her fourth hit, a triple to lead off the seventh. She'd score her third run of the game soon after, with Camp and Ella Greenwood also scoring in the inning. Greenwood reached on the error that scored Shultz and moved around to third in the next two at-bats before taking home on a double steal.

Shelbyville got two more runs in the seventh, but the early deficit was too much to overcome as they fell to the Toppers 18-11.

Shultz finished the day 4-for-5 with three doubles, a triple and four RBIs, in addition to her three runs scored. Anika Camp had five runs scored and went 3-for-5 at the plate with two runs driven in.

Kenzie Jarman and Briley Kirby also had three hits apiece, with Jarman driving in four runs and Kirby scoring three and driving in two.

Ramsey

After pounding out 15 hits on Tuesday, the Hiltoppers notched 15 more on Wednesday, March 20, in Ramsey as they defeated the Rams 15-2.

Hillsboro started the game off with five runs in the first as Ella Greenwood reached on an error, then scored on a single by Briley Kirby.

Anika Camp, Sophia Blankenship and Kenzie Jarman took back-to-back-to-back walks, but Camp was called out on the base paths for the first out of the inning. Peyton Chappellear kept the inning going with a single that scored Blankenship, while Jarman scored in the next at-bat on a passed ball.

Chappellear went to third on the passed ball and scored on a ground out by Audrey Shultz as Hillboro led 5-0 after their half of the first.

Two walks and an error led to two Ramsey runs, but that was the only thing that kept starting pitcher Kenzie Jarman from a shutout. Jarman set down the Rams in order in the second, gave up an error

and a walk in the third and a walk in the fourth, then got the home team 1-2-3 to close out the game in the fifth.

By that time, Hillsboro had increased their lead to 11-2 after the fourth and 15-2 going into the bottom of the fifth.

Ella Greenwood led Hillsboro at the plate as she reached base five times, going 4-for-5 with an error. The junior shortstop also scored two runs and had an RBI in the win.

Brooklyn Fisher added three hits, while adding a run scored and another driven in, while Sophia Blankenship and Briley Kirby had two hits apiece. Blankenship scored three runs and drove one in, with Kirby scoring twice.

All nine players scored runs in the win, with Aubrey Evans adding a run and two RBIs, Peyton Chappellear and Kenzie Jarman scoring twice and Audrey Shultz and Anika Camp scoring once apiece.

Jarman also struck out nine, walked four and didn't give up a run in the unique five-inning no-hitter as Hillsboro improved to 4-1 on the season.

Weather permitting, the Toppers will host Mulberry Grove on March 21, followed by a road trip to Greenville on Friday, March 22.

March 19 at Shelbyville	
Hillsboro	10(10) 112 3 18 15 4
Shelbyville	000 243 2 -11 18 6
Pitching Statistics	
Away	IP H R ER BB SO
Camp	7.0 18 11 7 0 6
Home	IP H R ER BB SO
Boehm	7.0 15 18 5 7 9

Hillsboro Batting Statistics	
Multiple Hits: Audrey Shultz 4-5, Briley Kirby 3-6, Kenzie Jarman 3-5, Anika Camp 3-5.	
2B: Audrey Shultz 3, Kenzie Jarman 2, Peyton Chappellear 1.	
3B: Audrey Shultz 1.	
Runs: Anika Camp 5, Audrey Shultz 3, Briley Kirby 3, Sophia Blankenship 2, Aubrey Evans 2, Kenzie Jarman 1, Peyton Chappellear 1, Ella Greenwood 1.	
RBI: Kenzie Jarman 4, Audrey Shultz 4, Anika Camp 2, Briley Kirby 2, Peyton Chappellear 2, Aubrey Evans 1, Ella Greenwood 1, Sophia Blankenship 1.	
Records: Hillsboro (3-1); Shelbyville (0-1).	
March 20 at Ramsey	
Hillsboro	500 64 --15 15 2
Ramsey	200 00 ---2 0 3
Pitching Statistics	
Away	IP H R ER BB SO
Jarman	5 0 2 0 4 9
Home	IP H R ER BB SO
Wright	4.0 11 11 7 6 0
Carroll	1.0 5 4 4 1 0

*Wright 1 HBP	
Hillsboro Batting Statistics	
Multiple Hits: Ella Greenwood 4-5, Brooklyn Fisher 3-4, Sophia Blankenship 2-3, Briley Kirby 2-4.	
Runs: Sophia Blankenship 3, Briley Kirby 2, Ella Greenwood 2, Peyton Chappellear 2, Kenzie Jarman 2, Audrey Shultz 1, Aubrey Evans 1, Anika Camp 1, Brooklyn Fisher 1.	
RBI: Aubrey Evans 2, Peyton Chappellear 1, Ella Greenwood 1, Audrey Shultz 1, Sophia Blankenship 1, Brooklyn Fisher 1.	
Records: Hillsboro (4-1); Ramsey (0-4).	

on nine pitches as Athens improved to 2-1 on the year.

The Lancers were scheduled to play at Vandalia Monday, but that game was called off due to the bitterly cold temperatures. If the weather cooperates for the second half of the week, Lincolnwood will be at home each of the next three days as they host New Berlin on March 21, Riverton on March 22 and North Mac on March 23.

March 19 at Raymond	
Athens	20(11) 13 ---17 18 0
Lincolnwood	000 00 ---0 1 2
Pitching Statistics	
Away	IP H R ER BB SO
Buch	5.0 1 0 0 0 6
*Buch 2 HBP	
Home	IP H R ER BB SO
Millburg	2.2 9 9 9 1 3
Elvidge	0.1 3 4 4 2 1
Osterholt	2.0 6 4 4 1 1

Batting Statistics	
Multiple Hits: Athens - Kenzie Szoke 3-4, Sydney Nance 3-4, Preslie Buckmaster 2-3, Aubrey Crispin 2-4, Isabel Ingram 2-4, Jaci Derringer 2-4.	
2B: Athens - Kenzie Szoke 2, MacKenzie Ratliff 1, Isabel Ingram 1, Layken Buch 1, Aubrey Crispin 1.	
HR: Athens - Preslie Buckmaster 1.	
Runs: Athens - Preslie Buckmaster 3, Carly Szoke 3, Aubrey Crispin 2, Kenzie Szoke 2, Isabel Ingram 2, Jaci Derringer 2, Layken Buch 1, Sydney Nance 1, MacKenzie Ratliff 1.	
RBI: Athens - Layken Buch 4, Sydney Nance 4, Kenzie Szoke 3, Isabel Ingram 2, Aubrey Crispin 1, Preslie Buckmaster 1, Jaci Derringer 1, MacKenzie Ratliff 1.	
Records: Lincolnwood (2-3); Athens (2-1).	

Panthers Improve To 4-0 With Win

After Tuesday night, Litchfield-Mt. Olive baseball's four opponents this season were a combined 1-10, with the Panthers' foe on March 19, Taylorville, 0-2 on the season going into the game.

While those four teams have had their struggles, Litchfield has been in cruise control so far this season as they've outscored those opponents 40-4, including a 16-1 win over the Tornadoes on Tuesday, which moved the Panthers to 4-0 on the season. During spring training, Litchfield skipper Rocky Giannuzzi knew he had a good thing coming with a strong, deep pitching staff, and so far this season his pitchers have proved that prediction as three different pitchers started the first three games.

On Tuesday, Drake Gasperson became the fourth to get the call to start things off, and just like the others, he did not disappoint. Gasperson pitched a complete four-inning contest, giving up one run off of two hits and fanning ten Tornadoes throughout the contest.

While Gasperson was strong on the mound, the Purple Panthers' offense continued to click on all cylinders. Litchfield piled on 16 runs off of nine hits, scoring in all four innings of action.

Mathew Bywater got things going for the Purple Panthers in the bottom half of the opening inning as he homered on the second pitch

he saw, giving Litchfield an early 1-0 lead.

The second inning would be the big inning for the Purple Panthers as the scoreboard got a lot of work with seven runs crossing home plate. After Titan Hires struck out to start the inning, the Purple Panthers put the next five batters on the base paths with three walks and two singles during that stretch to build a 3-0 lead. The two runs to start the second were from Ian Otto, who scored on a single by Josh Boerckel, and Tate Dobrinich, who scored on a passed ball.

After the second out was recorded, the Purple Panthers added five more runs to the board as they increased their lead to 8-0 by the end of the second. Drake Gasperson had the biggest hit of the inning as he helped himself out with a bases-clearing three-run triple.

In the top of the third inning, Taylorville put together two straight doubles as they plated their first run of the contest. That lone run would not dampen the Panthers' spirits as their offense continued to roll in the bottom of the third inning.

After putting on seven runs in their second trip to the plate, Litchfield nearly did it again with five more runs. All five of those runs came with two outs on the board as they collected six walks and two doubles in the

inning. Ethan Saathoff and Ian Otto had the two doubles as the Purple Panthers held a 13-1 lead after three innings.

In the home half of the fourth inning, the Purple Panthers closed out the contest as they added three runs to the board, needing only one out to accomplish the task.

Mathew Bywater and Max Leitschuh got the first two runs of the inning off of wild pitches, and a base hit by Ian Otto drove in Ethan Saathoff and closed out the game with Litchfield's 16th run.

Otto's single was his second hit of the contest as he was the only Purple Panther with multiple hits.

After battling Lanphier on Wednesday night, the Purple Panthers will continue on their road trip on Thursday, March 21, at New Berlin, before welcoming the Auburn Trojans on Friday, March 21.

March 19 at Litchfield	
Taylorville	001 0 ---1 2 0
Litchfield	175 3 ---16 9 0
Pitching Statistics	
Away	IP H R ER BB SO
Odum	1.2
Home	IP H R ER BB SO
Gasperson	4.0 2 1 1 2 10
Litchfield Batting Statistics	
Multiple Hits: Ian Otto 2-3.	
2B: Ethan Saathoff 1, Ian Otto 1.	
3B: Drake Gasperson 1.	
HR: Matthew Bywater 1.	
Runs: Mathew Bywater 4, Ethan Saathoff 3, Carson Saathoff 2, Max Leitschuh 2, Drake Gasperson 2, Ian Otto 1, Tate Dobrinich 1, Josh Boerckel 1.	
RBI: Ethan Saathoff 4, Drake Gasperson 3, Ian Otto 3, Mathew Bywater 1, Max Leitschuh 1, Titan Hires 1, Josh Boerckel 1.	
Records: Litchfield (4-0); Taylorville (0-2).	

Tornadoes Spoil Readenour's Gem

After weather forced the cancellation of their first two games, the Litchfield-Mt. Olive softball team finally got out on the field on Tuesday, March 19.

The wait was nearly worth it for the Lady Panthers as fans were treated to a pitcher's duel between the Panthers' Lili Readenour and Taylorville's Peyton DeMichael. For six innings the two hurlers had dueling shutouts, before the Tornadoes scored an unearned run in the top of the seventh and held on for a 1-0 win on the Panthers' home turf.

Readenour started things off in the seventh with her 12th strikeout of the game, and got a ground out for out number two. That's when luck turned in Taylorville's favor as DeMichael made it all the way to second on an error, then scored on the Panthers' second straight miscue, this one off the bat of Grace Rogers.

Despite a walk that put runners on first and second, Litchfield managed to stop the bleeding there as Readenour got Liv Havera out on a line drive to first to end the inning.

The run in the seventh was one of the few blemishes on Readenour's stat-line as she had faced just three over the minimum going into the seventh. The only hit the Tornadoes had came from Reece Brockelsby, who led off the game with a bunt single. Prior to the two errors and walk in the seventh, the only other base runners for Taylorville had been Brockelsby in the third after she was hit by a pitch and Sophie Rogers in the fourth after she earned a seven-pitch walk.

But DeMichael was equally as stingy as she retired the side in order in five of the seven innings.

The only exceptions were the first, where Charlie Bono singled to lead off the inning, but was stranded on second three batters later, and the fifth, when Litchfield saw the first three batters reach base.

That was the Panthers' best chance in the game but there was still some bad luck for the home team in the frame. After Chloe Green singled, Alexis Mielke reached on an error by Brockelsby in center. Despite the miscue, the Taylorville junior recovered in time to throw

Green out at second for the force out.

Riley Heyen kept the inning alive with a single as Mielke moved to second, but a fielder's choice got the freshman out at third and a strikeout by DeMichael ended the inning and the threat.

Any hopes for a comeback win were dashed in the bottom of the seventh as DeMichael needed just 10 pitches to end the game. Taylorville, who lost their first game of the year to Lincolnwood, 9-8, evened their record to 1-1 with the win.

The Panthers will try to bounce back in similar fashion tonight, March 21, as they host Alton Marquette. On Friday, March 22, they will hit the road as they take on Pawnee on the Indians' home field.

March 19 at Litchfield	
Taylorville	000 000 1--1 1 1
Litchfield	000 000 0--0 3 2
Pitching Statistics	
Away	IP H R ER BB SO
Readenour	7.0 1 1 0 2 12
*Readenour 1 HBP	
Home	IP H R ER BB SO
DeMichael	7.0 3 0 0 0 6
Batting Statistics	
Multiple Hits: None.	
Runs: Peyton DeMichael 1.	
Records: Litchfield (0-1); Taylorville (1-1).	

Vandals Slip Past Toppers Tuesday

by Ron Deabenderfer

When the Hillsboro High baseball team invaded Vandalia Tuesday afternoon, March 19, a four run rally in the top of the seventh meant a 5-5 tie entering the bottom of the seventh. The Vandals, now 2-1 for the season, sank the Toppers' hope for their first win of the season, though, in the bottom of the inning when the three players at the top of their batting order said, in effect, "No extra innings here today," by scoring the winning run.

Kale Konrad singled leading off; a ground ball to second by speedy Kohner Depew forced Konrad at second, but Andrew Kelly drove Depew home from first with a double to deep left center to decide the issue.

The Toppers had effective pitching from Jace Stewart (four innings, 59 pitches, two runs, three hits) and freshman Eli Zaidi, who was touched for one run in the fifth and gave up another unearned run in the bottom of the sixth before the Vandals received a center-field-fence clearing solo home run by designated hitter Ayden Jones with one out in the sixth.

Zaidi struck out Quentyn Stombaugh, but he reached first when the pitch eluded the Topper catcher. A passed

ball moved him to second; he and Andrew Casey (who reached on an error) pulled off a double steal, so Stombaugh was able to score on a one-out ground ball to second; that run seemed harmless at the time as the Vandals were up 5-1 with two innings to play.

However, Vandal starting pitcher Brady Elder was closing in on his IHSA pitch number limitation of 105. His slow curve had the Hillsboro batters befuddled; Zaidi drew a walk with two out in the second, and Jackson Tuetken's single moved him to third. He scored on a passed ball. (Tuetken's hit was Hillsboro's first of the game, and the Zaidi's run was the only one off Elder until the sixth when he reached the pitch limit with Stewart at the plate.

He was replaced by Carson Lotz, who finished walking Stewart, hit Landon Summers with a pitch, and gave up a single to Nathan Matoush. Lotz, who had two doubles offensively, returned to play defense and was replaced on the bump by second baseman Jack Lewis.

Elliot Lentz drove Stewart home with a fence challenging sacrifice fly; Drake McSperritt reached on an error; and Zaidi's RBI single tied the game.

Then came the Vandals'

seventh.

The Toppers' next chance for a win comes this evening when Taylorville comes to town for a 4:30 contest; Saturday the team ventures to Freeburg to play two games - one against Nashville and the second against Freeburg. Freeburg and Nashville start the action, so the Toppers first pitch time will be determined by how long their game lasts.

The game at Bunker Hill which was colded out this past Monday has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 27. The conference game rematch with Vandalia here is set for Monday, April 29.

March 19 at Vandalia	
Hillsboro	010 000 4--5 7 3
Vandalia	000 212 1--6 8 3
Pitching Statistics	
Away	IP H R ER BB SO
Stewart	4.0 4 2 2 1 3
Zaidi	2.1 4 4 3 1 3
Home	IP H R ER BB SO
Elder	6.1 5 2 1 3 8
Lotz	0.0 1 2 2 1 0
Lewis	0.2 1 1 0 0 1

*Lotz 1 HBP	
Batting Statistics	
Multiple Hits: Hillsboro - Eli Zaidi 2-3; Vandalia - Kale Konrad 2-4, Carson Lotz 2-4, Ayden Jones 2-3.	
2B: Hillsboro - Drake McSperritt 1; Vandalia - Carson Lotz 2, Andrew Kelly 1.	
3B: Vandalia - Kale Konrad 1.	
HR: Vandalia - Ayden Jones 1.	
Runs: Hillsboro - Jace Stewart 1, Landon Summers 1, Nathan Matoush 1, Drake McSperritt 1, Eli Zaidi 1.	
RBI: Hillsboro - Eli Zaidi 2, Elliot Lentz 1.	
Records: Hillsboro (0-4); Vandalia (2-1).	

Records Fall As Litchfield Goes Outside

With nine wins, 27 personal records and one new school record, it's not hard to say that the outdoor debut was a big success for the Litchfield boys track team, even without some key components.

The Panthers scored a 43-point win in the team standings, over conference foe Hillsboro and were 72 points better than North Mac, who hosted the meet on Tuesday, March 19. Of the 16 events in which Litchfield had an entry, they also had a best finish of second five times and a best finish of third two times.

The new school record came in the triple jump, where Keenan Powell broke his own school record with a best jump of 13.60 meters (44'7.5"). That smashed his old record of 13.43 meters (44'0.75"), which Powell set at the IHSA Class 1A State Track Finals when he finished third.

Martavious Jones won in the jumps, going 6.29 meters for a personal best in the long jump. Jones' previous best was 6.11 meters, set at the sectional in Gillespie last year. Zach Leitschuh also competed in the long jump and finished fourth.

In the pole vault, Jackson Painter finished first after clearing 3.5 meters, while his teammates Kale Dexheimer and Hudson Walker were second and third after clearing 3.35 and 2.89 meters respectively.

Alec Roach rounded out the Litchfield contingent in the jumps with a second place

finish in the high jump (1.62 meters), while John Scurlock (1.57 meters) was fifth and Devon Chew (1.52 meters) was seventh.

Litchfield picked up two more wins in the throws, with Mannix Hancock throwing 36.93 meters in the discus to take the top spot. Nathan Schaaake (29.02 meters), Grason Thimsen (27.64 meters), Harrison Thomas (27.01 meters) and Jacob Cota (26.07 meters) finished ninth through 12th for the Panthers.

Thomas, in his first year of high school track, threw 13.99 meters to finish first in the shot put. The throw, which won the event by .33 meters, would have been Litchfield's farthest of the season last year.

Hancock (10.94 meters) and Schaaake (10.86 meters) finished seventh and eight, while Trais Dobrinich (9.52 meters) and Jayden Ellinger (9.20 meters) were 13th and 14th.

On the track, Kale Dexheimer and Johnathon Bowles both ran personal bests in the 300 meter hurdles as they finished first and third respectively. Dexheimer ran a 47.2, while Bowles, who also finished second in the 110 meter hurdles, ran a 48.7.

Alec Roach picked up a win for the Panthers in the 200, running 24.3, which would have been Litchfield's second fastest time last season. Easton Grammer, who owned that time last year, a 24.14, was fourth with a 24.7, while Tucker Maguire (25.9), Zach Leitschuh (26.2) and

Victor McGill (26.5) finished seventh through ninth.

Grammer and McGill also ran the 100, finishing in third and sixth with times of 11.8 and 12.3, respectively. Martavious Jones finished in between them, in fourth with an 11.9, while Cory Allen was seventh in a time of 12.50.

Allen was Litchfield's top finisher in the 400, taking second in a time of 59.7, while John Stanley was ninth with a 1:20.1. Litchfield was also second in the 800, with Mitchell Floyd running a 2:16.8, and the 1600, with Chris McGee running a 5:36.6. Draven Jones (seventh in the 800), Kenny Traylor (third in the 1600) and Damian Vega (sixth in the 1600) also ran for the Panthers.

Wrapping up the results, Litchfield won two of the three relays in which they were entered, including a 1-2 finish in the 4x200. Martavious Jones, Victor McGill, Zach Leitschuh and Easton Grammer ran a 1:39.1 in the 200 to beat teammates Devon Chew, Tucker Maguire, John Stanley and Braxton Kieffer by just over six seconds.

Jones, Keenan Powell, Leitschuh and Grammer won the 4x100 in 46 seconds, while Johnathon Bowles, Alec Roach, A.J. Sypherd and Victor McGill were fourth in a time of 51.5. Litchfield's 4x400 team rounded out the day with a third place finish from Mitchell Floyd, Kenny Traylor, Chris McGee and Damian Vega as they ran a 4:12.1.

Litchfield will be at home

for their next meet as they host Carlinville and Gillespie at Lloyd Hill Field on Tuesday, March 26.

March 19 at Virden Boys Team Results: 1. Litchfield 178; 2. Hillsboro 135; 3. North Mac 106; 4. Pawnee 35; 5. Bunker Hill 2.

Litchfield Boys Results
100: 3. Easton Grammer 11.8; 4. Martavious Jones 11.9; 6. Victor McGill 12.3; 7. Cory Allen 12.5

200: 1. Alec Roach 24.3; 4. Easton Grammer 24.7; 7. Tucker Maguire 25.9; 8. Zach Leitschuh 26.2; 9. Victor McGill 26.5

400: 2. Cory Allen 59.7; 9. John Stanley 1:20.1

800: 2. Mitchell Floyd 2:16.8; 7. Draven Jones 2:45.0

1600: 2. Chris McGee 5:36.6; 3. Kenny Traylor 5:52.4; 6. Damian Vega 7:36.8

110 Hurdles: 2. Johnathon Bowles 20.0

300 Hurdles: 1. Kale Dexheimer 47.2; 3. Johnathon Bowles 48.7
4x100: 1. Martavious Jones/Keenan Powell/Zach Leitschuh/Easton Grammer 46.0; 4. Johnathon Bowles/Alec Roach/A.J. Sypherd/Victor McGill 51.5

4x200: 1. Martavious Jones/Victor McGill/Zach Leitschuh/Easton Grammer 1:39.1; 2. Devon Chew/Tucker Maguire/John Stanley/Braxton Kieffer 1:45.4

4x400: 3. Mitchell Floyd/Kenny Traylor/Chris McGee/Damian Vega 4:12.1

Shot Put: 1. Harrison Thoms 13.99m; 7. Mannix Hancock 10.94m; 8. Nathan Schaaake 10.86m; 13. Trais Dobrinich 9.52m; 14. Jayden Ellinger 9.20m

Discus: 1. Mannix Hancock 36.93m; 9. Nathan Schaaake 29.02m; 10. Grason Thimsen 27.64m; 11. Harrison Thomas 27.01m; 12. Jacob Cota 26.07m

High Jump: 2. Alec Roach 1.62m; 5. John Scurlock 1.57m; 7. Devon Chew 1.52m

Pole Vault: 1. Jackson Painter 3.50m; 2. Kale Dexheimer 3.35m; 3. Hudson Walker 2.89m

Long Jump: 1. Martavious Jones 6.29m; 4. Zach Leitschuh 5.10m
Triple Jump: 1. Keenan Powell 13.60m

home for their next meet as they host Southwestern, Staunton and Greenville on Tuesday, March 26.

March 19 at Virden Boys Team Results: 1. Litchfield 178; 2. Hillsboro 135; 3. North Mac 106; 4. Pawnee 35; 5. Bunker Hill 2.

Hillsboro Boys Results
100: 2. Amory Anderson 11.60; 5. Jermaine DeClue 12.00; 9. Ryan Page 12.80; 16. Aaron Page 14.40; 17. Derek Hartman 14.60

200: 3. Amory Anderson 24.6; 5. Jermaine DeClue 24.9; 11. Ryan Page 27.3; 15. Aaron Page 30.0; 17. Derek Hartman 30.2

400: 3. Jaden Loskot 1:02.3; 5. Ethan Hamby 1:03.80; 6. Devin Hartman 1:05.20

800: 1. Elijah Patton 2:15.0; 3. Antonio Valentin 2:26.7; 4. William Yeske 2:36.0; 5. Brodie Clinard 2:38.0

1600: 1. Antonio Valentin 5:36.1; 4. William Yeske 6:12.2; 5. Brodie Clinard 6:23.5

110 Hurdles: 1. Kaeden Smith 17.9

300 Hurdles: 2. Kaeden Smith 48.6

4x100: 3. Carter White/Jermaine DeClue/Ethan Hamby/Amory Anderson 49.8

4x200: 3. Ryan Page/Aiden Myers/Brady Stritzel/Cody Boerckel 1:46.3

4x400: 2. Ethan Hamby/Jaden Loskot/Cody Boerckel/Elijah Patton 4:06.7

4x800: 1. Brodie Clinard/Elijah Patton/Antonio Valentin/William Yeske 10:09.9

Shot Put: 4. Austin Newingham 12.31m; 5. Cole Lenczycki 12.17m; 16. Ethan Neese 8.25m; 18. Mason Currie 7.24m; 21. Trey Leetham 6.73m

Discus: 4. Austin Newingham 34.11m; 7. Tytin Wells 29.70m; 8. Jesse Ringhausen 29.36m; 16. Ethan Neese 22.27m; 17. Cole Lenczycki 21.74m

High Jump: 3. Kaeden Smith 1.62m

Long Jump: 2. Amory Anderson 5.90m; 6. Brady Stritzel 5.04m; 7. Jermaine DeClue 4.88m

Triple Jump: 2. Jaden Loskot 11.97m; 3. Elijah Patton 11.51m

mark of 5.74 meters.

Kadynn Petty, who was 10th in the 60 meter dash, .09 seconds behind Newman, took the other second place finish as he ran a 56.21 in the 400 meters to take the runner-up spot to Zac Laird of Athens, who ran a 55.86.

In the other individual events on the track, Harry Lynch was 16th in the 200 with a time of 28.12 and Noah Blaum was 20th in the 400 with a time of 1:09.60. Jack Johnson and William Tucker finished 18th and 19th in the 800 meters, clocking in at 2:37.76 and 3:05.76, while Blain Goodwin and Ari Vandenberg were 13th and 16th in the 1600 meters with times of 5:41.95 and 6:01.24.

Vandenberg, the freshman brother of Irene, also ran the 3200, running a 12:19.42 to finish fifth.

In the relays, Lynch, Caleb Bauer, Riley Reynolds and Hunter Arkebauer finished 12th in a time of 1:56.41 for the 4x200. Jack Johnson, Devin Robertson, Kadynn

Harston Tops Shot At North Mac Meet

The Hillsboro girls track team picked up a pair of wins and nine top three finishes on Tuesday, March 19, as they ventured outside for the first time in their 2024 season with a meet in Virden.

Cheyenne Harston had one of the wins as the junior thrower took the top spot in the shot put by more than half a meter, just short of two feet. Harston's throw of 9.94 meters (32'7.25") was also a personal best for the junior, whose previous best was at last year's Gillespie meet with a throw of 9.70 meters.

Harston also took eighth in the discus, with a throw of 17.45 meters (.35 meters or 14 inches behind her personal best), while Jossalyn Kimbro was 12th in the discus (10.86 meters) and 14th in the shot put (5.71 meters).

The other win came in the high jump, where Hillsboro took three of the top four spots. Freshmen Jaida Linn and Amya Greenwood finished 1-2 in the standings, with Linn clearing 1.52 meters and Greenwood clearing 1.42 meters. Maryn Tarver finished in a tie for third for the Toppers, matching Litchfield's Brooke Braasch with a mark of 1.37 meters.

Hillsboro also took second and third in the triple jump and fourth in the long jump. Greenwood leapt 9.69 meters to finish second in the triple jump, with Hanna Hughes finishing third with a best jump of 9.06 meters. North Mac took the top spot with aptly named freshman Cadyn Bounds, who went 9.86 meters in the triple.

Bounds also won the long jump, going 4.86 meters. Kamdyn Putnam was fourth in the event, with a best jump of 4.31 meters.

In addition to their success

in the sand, Putnam, Greenwood and Hughes joined Linn in finishing second in the 4x100 relay. The foursome finished in a time of 56.30 seconds, 1.1 seconds ahead of North Mac and 3.3 seconds behind Litchfield.

Hughes also finished second in the 100 meter hurdles and third in the 300 meter hurdles, running times of 19.1 and 56.7 seconds. Hughes' time was a half second behind the winner, Litchfield's Paityn Buzick, in the 100 and 5.7 seconds behind the winner, Litchfield's Kendall Stewart, in the 300.

In the races with fewer obstacles, Amya Greenwood was fifth in the 100 with a time of 14.4 seconds, while Jaida Linn was seventh and Maryn Tarver was 12th, with times of 14.5 and 15.4 seconds. Tarver also ran the 200, finishing in a time of 34.1 seconds.

Hillsboro will be at home for their next meet as they host Southwestern, Staunton and Greenville on Tuesday, March 26.

March 19 at Virden Girls Team Results: 1. Litchfield 136; 2. North Mac 122; 3. Hillsboro 65; 4. Bunker Hill 31; 5. Pawnee 8.

Hillsboro Girls Results
100: 5. Amya Greenwood 14.4; 7. Jaida Linn 14.5; 12. Maryn Tarver 15.4

200: 7. Maryn Tarver 34.1

100 Hurdles: 2. Hanna Hughes 19.1

300 Hurdles: 3. Hanna Hughes 56.7

4x100: 2. Amya Greenwood/Kamdyn Putnam/Hanna Hughes/Jaida Linn 56.30

Shot Put: 1. Cheyenne Harston 9.94m; 14. Jossalyn Kimbro 5.71m

Discus: 8. Cheyenne Harston 17.45m; 12. Jossalyn Kimbro 10.86m

High Jump: 1. Jaida Linn 1.52m; 2. Amya Greenwood 1.42m; 3. Maryn Tarver 1.37m

Long Jump: 4. Kamdyn Putnam 4.31m

Triple Jump: 2. Amya Greenwood 9.69m; 3. Hanna Hughes 9.06m

Lady Panthers Win Eight In Outdoor Track Opener

The Litchfield girls track team picked up eight wins and nine personal records as they scored a 14-point win at their outdoor meet debut on Tuesday, March 19.

The Lady Panthers finished the meet with 136 points, to beat the host North Mac Panthers by 14 and Hillsboro by 71. Bunker Hill (31) and Pawnee (8) rounded out the team standings.

Coach Shane Cress' team entered three of the four relays and took wins in all three. The 4x100 foursome of Sofia Ray, Kendall Stewart, Brooke Braasch and Izabella Fenton won by 3.3 seconds over Hillsboro with a time of 53 seconds flat. That would have been the Panthers' second fastest time of the year in 2023.

Braasch actually ran in all three relays, joining Ray, Paityn Buzick and Shyan Haycraft to run a 1:59.6 in the 4x200, and teaming up with Fenton, Stewart and Gracie Boden to run a 4:28.5 in the 4x400.

That group also made up the majority of the individual race roster, with the exception being 1600 meter winner Caitlyn Travis, who ran a 6:37.4. Buzick won the 100 meter hurdles in a time of 18.6 seconds, while also finishing fourth in the 300 hurdles in a time of 1:03.4. Stewart won the 300 hurdles, running a 51.0.

In the dashes, Sofia Ray was second in the 100 with a time of 13.30, while Izabella Fenton was third (13.50) and Shyan Haycraft was sixth (14.70). Haycraft also ran the 200, finishing second with a time of 31.1 seconds.

In the jumps, Kendall Stewart was first in the pole vault after clearing 2.74 meters, Izabella Fenton was second in the long jump (4.70 meters), Brooke Braasch was third in the high jump (1.37 meters) and Gracie Boden

was fourth in the triple jump (9.03 meters).

In the throws, Litchfield had five entries in both the shot put and discus and had eight personal records. Aundreyah White and Madison Jenkins finished 1-2 in the discus with throws of 27.35 and 25.73 meters, respectively. Ebony Claybrook added in a fourth place finish with a throw of 21.36, while Gina Painter was ninth (15.63 meters) and Josie Coatney was 11th (11.77 meters).

Jenkins also finished second in the shot with a throw of 9.36 meters, while White and Claybrook were third and fifth with throws of 9.17 and 7.90. Painter took eighth at 6.98 meters, while Coatney was 11th at 6.46 meters.

Litchfield will be at home for their next meet as they host Carlinville and Gillespie at Lloyd Hill Field on Tuesday, March 26.

March 19 at Virden Girls Team Results: 1. Litchfield 136; 2. North Mac 122; 3. Hillsboro 65; 4. Bunker Hill 31; 5. Pawnee 8.

Litchfield Girls Track
100: 2. Sofia Ray 13.30; 3. Izabella Fenton 13.50; 6. Shyan Haycraft 14.70

200: 2. Shyan Haycraft 31.1

1600: 1. Caitlyn Travis 6:37.4

100 Hurdles: 1. Paityn Buzick 18.6

300 Hurdles: 1. Kendall Stewart 51.0; 4. Paityn Buzick 1:03.4

4x100: 1. Sofia Ray/Kendall Stewart/Brooke Braasch/Izabella Fenton 53.00

4x200: 1. Sofia Ray/Paityn Buzick/Brooke Braasch/Shyan Haycraft 1:59.6

4x400: 1. Gracie Boden/Izabella Fenton/Brooke Braasch/Kendall Stewart 4:28.5

Shot Put: 2. Madison Jenkins 9.36m; 3. Aundreyah White 9.17m; 5. Ebony Claybrook 7.90m; 8. Gina Painter 6.98m; 11. Josie Coatney 6.46m

Discus: 1. Aundreyah White 27.35m; 2. Madison Jenkins 25.73m; 4. Ebony Claybrook 21.36m; 9. Gina Painter 15.63m; 11. Josie Coatney 11.77m

High Jump: 3. Brooke Braasch 1.37m

Pole Vault: 1. Kendall Stewart 2.74m

Long Jump: 2. Izabella Fenton 4.70m

Triple Jump: 4. Gracie Boden 9.03m

Topper Track Takes The Long Way To Success

Hillsboro may have been the runner-up in Tuesday's outdoor season opener in Virden, but the Toppers were more of a distance second than a distant one.

The Toppers finished with 135 points on March 19, getting big wins in the 800, 1600 and 4x800. Senior-laden Litchfield took first at the meet with nine wins and 178 points, while North Mac (106), Pawnee (35) and Bunker Hill (2) held down the other three spots in the five-team meet.

Freshman Elijah Patton won the 800 meters as Coach Zach Reed continues to build up the Topper track program. Patton ran a 2:15.0 to beat out Litchfield's Mitchell Floyd by 1.8 seconds for the top spot.

Not only did Hillsboro win the 800, though, but they also took four of the top five spots. Antonio Valentin (2:26.7), William Yeske (2:36.0) and Brodie Clinard (2:38.0) joined Patton in the top five as they finished in the three spots behind Floyd.

Valentin gave Hillsboro their other distance win as he finished first in the 1600. The Hillsboro junior ran a 5:36.1 to beat Litchfield freshman Chris McGee by half a second, with Yeske (6:12.2) and Clinard (6:23.5) finishing fourth and fifth.

Some of the same group that did so well in the individual events combined to win the 4x800 by more than a minute and a half. Clinard, Patton, Valentin and Yeske

ran a 10:09.9 to beat North Mac, who ran an 11:47.4. Tuesday's winning time was quicker than all but two of Hillsboro's 4x800 times last season.

Kaeden Smith was another big points getter for the Toppers on Tuesday as he won the 110 meter hurdles in a time of 17.9 seconds and finished second in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 48.6. Smith's time was 1.4 seconds behind Litchfield's Kale Dexheimer in the 300.

Amory Anderson led the sprinters, finishing second in the 100 with a time of 11.60 and third in the 200 with a time of 24.6. Jermaine DeClue was fifth in both races, running times of 12.0 and 24.9, while Ryan Page was ninth in the 100 and 11th in the 200, with times of 12.80 and 27.30 seconds. Aaron Page, 16th in the 100 and 15th in the 200, and Derek Hartman, 17th in the 100 and 200, also competed for the Toppers.

Jaden Loskot was the quickest of three Hillsboro runners in the 400, running a 1:02.3 to finish third. Ethan Hamby was close behind him in fifth with a time of 1:03.80, while Devin Hartman was sixth at 1:05.20.

In addition to their win in the 4x800, Hillsboro also finished second in the 4x400 by a second and a half to North Mac, with Ethan Hamby, Jaden Loskot, Cody Boerckel and Elijah Patton running a 4:06.7.

The runner-up finish was one of three top five finishes for Vandenberg, who also ran the 60 and 200 individually. In the 60, the Greek-born sprinter clocked in at 8.68 seconds to take fifth, while running a 29.57 to finish fourth in the 200.

Vandenberg also joined up with Marcie Carroll, Libby Watson and Abigail O'Malley for the 4x400 relay. The foursome finished seventh overall with a time of 5:13.88.

Carroll and Watson also ran in the 4x200 with Kenley Kirk and Chloe Smoot. That group also finished seventh, running a time of 2:12.03.

Individually, Watson finished 11th in the 60 with a time of 9.05; Smoot was 22nd in the 200 with a time of 34.63 and Carroll and Kirk finished 12th and 15th in the 40s with times of 1:17.53 and 1:22.77, respectively.

O'Malley also competed as an individual, finishing 11th in both the 800 and 1600

Carter White, Jermaine DeClue, Ethan Hamby and Amory Anderson were third in the 4x100 with a time of 49.8, while Ryan Page, Aiden Myers, Brady Stritzel and Cody Boerckel were third in the 4x200 with a time of 1:46.3.

In the triple jump, Jaden Loskot and Elijah Patton finished second and third, with Loskot going 11.97 meters and Patton going 11.51 meters. Amory Anderson also scored a second, jumping 5.90 meters in the long jump, while Brady Stritzel (5.04 meters) and Jermaine DeClue (4.88 meters) also competed. Kaeden Smith finished out the jumps with a third place finish in the high jump, clearing 1.62 meters.

In the throws, Austin Newingham was fourth in both the shot (12.31 meters) and the discus (34.11 meters). Both marks were personal bests for Newingham, who beat his discus record by 13 and a half inches, while smashing his shot put record from last year by 4'8.75".

Senior Cole Lenczycki finished fifth in the shot (12.17 meters) and 17th in the discus (21.74 meters), while Tytin Wells and Jesse Ringhausen were seventh and eighth in the discus, with throws of 29.70 and 29.36 meters. Ethan Neese (16th in the shot and the discus), Mason Currie (18th in the shot) and Trey Leetham (21st in the shot) also threw for Hillsboro.

The Toppers will be at

meter runs, posting times of 3:31.42 and 7:56.69.

In the throws, Coree Keagy was 11th in the shot, while Alivia Sabol finished 18th. Keagy threw 7.69 meters for the Redskins in her season debut, while Sabol threw 5.95 meters.

In addition to Vandenberg in the jumps, Libby Watson and Abigail O'Malley both competed in the long jump. Watson finished sixth, jumping 3.70 meters, while O'Malley was 13th with a best jump of 3.44 meters.

Nokomis Boys

The Nokomis boys also had a solid start to their season as they picked up two runner-up finishes and six finishes of sixth or better.

Senior Saint Newman had one of the second place finishes as he clocked in at 24.80 in the 200 to finish just a tenth of a second behind Drew Cushman of Athens.

Newman also placed fifth in the 60 meter dash with a time of 7.66 seconds and was sixth in the long jump with a


Vandenberg, Newman Lead Nokomis In Jacksonville

Nokomis senior Irene Vandenberg helped the Redskins get off to a solid start to the track season on Thursday, March 14, as the second-year team competed in the Spoon River Indoor Invitational at King Fieldhouse on the campus of Illinois College in Jacksonville.

After finishing eighth in the long jump at last year's IHSA Class 1A State Meet, Vandenberg showed that she is ready to pick up where she left off as she finished second in the event in Jacksonville. Vandenberg jumped 9.9 meters on Thursday, which was .6 meters short of her medal winning jump at state, but well ahead of the 9.63 meter leap at the start of last season.

The only athlete to beat Vandenberg in the triple jump was fellow state qualifier Faith Alford of Camp Point Central. Alford jumped 10.08 meters, .07 meters further than she jumped at state last year, when she finished 22nd as a freshman.

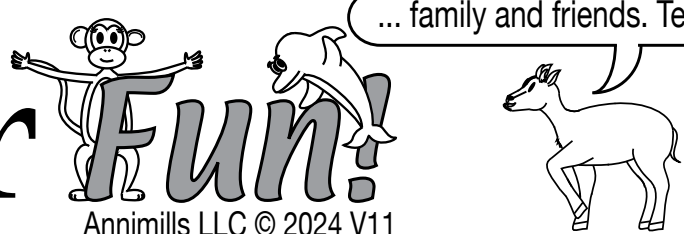
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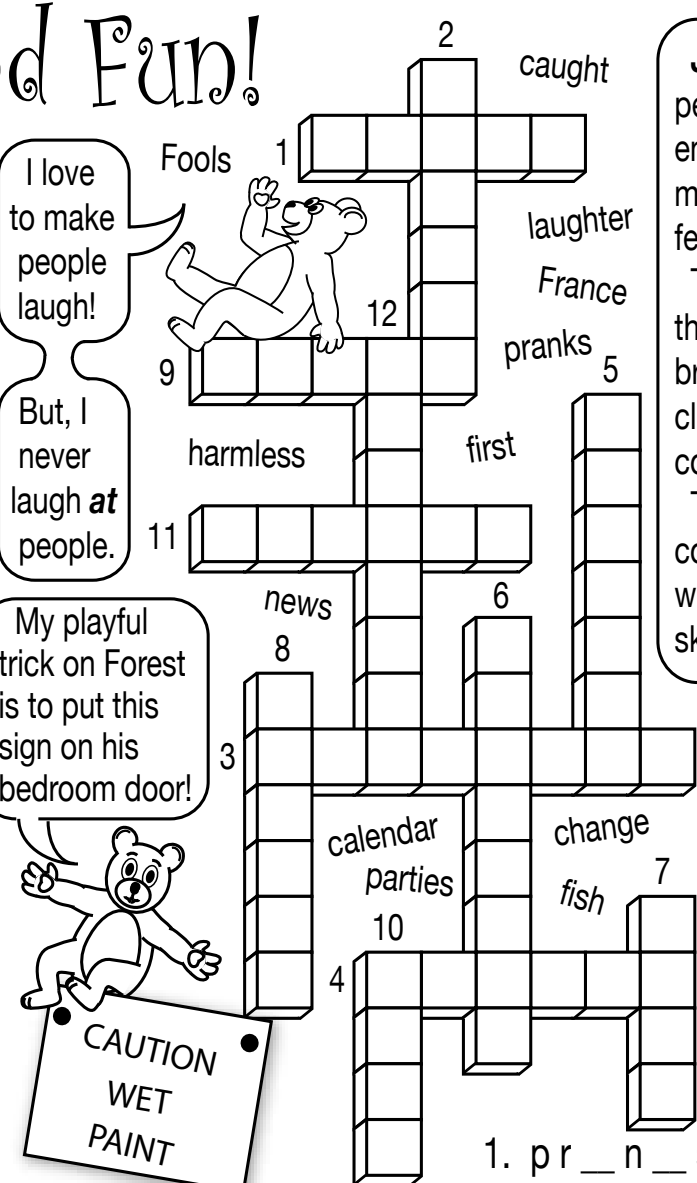


April Fools' Day and Fun!

April is a month of surprises. People play pranks while enjoying its first day – April Fools' Day! Clouds pop up and rain down on us. Breezes tug and break kite strings. Kites float quickly away or spiral down and crash! Fish pull on fishing lines and then swim away. Hey...are they laughing? Well, so shall we!

Ask someone with a good sense of humor to work with you to finish my puzzles!

- The ____ day of April is known as April Fools' Day.
- It is a day of fun. People like to play jokes and ____.
- Make sure that any pranks you might pull are ____.
- This fun day used to be called "All Fool's Day" and is thought to have started in ____ a long time ago.
- In those times, the date of the New Year was March 21st. People had ____ and fun for about a week, right through the last day of the celebration, April 1st. On that day people would visit and exchange gifts.
- In the 16th century (1500s) a new ____ was adopted and March 21st was no longer the beginning of the New Year. This meant that April 1st was no longer the day to visit others and exchange gifts.
- ____ traveled slowly and some people still celebrated on April 1st.
- Some people didn't like ____ and they refused to follow the new calendar.
- People who clung to the old ways were called "April ____" by others.
- In some areas, on April 1st, you might hear people call "Poisson d'Avril"! They have fooled someone and are calling that person an "April ____."
- This means that the person who was fooled "took the bait" and was easily ____, like a fish.
- April Fools' Day is for fun and small tricks that hurt no one. It is a time to share ____.



Jesters were people who would entertain crowds at marketplaces or festivals. They wore pointed, three-colored caps, brightly colored clothing, floppy collars and bells. Today, we have costumed clowns who learn many skills to entertain us!

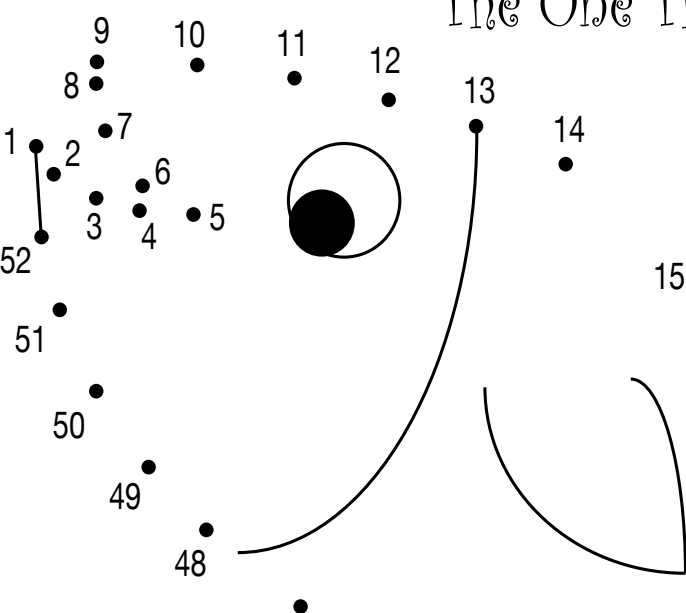
Pssst...a harmless prank – put googly eyes on the fruit!

Only 2 letters are needed to finish spelling these fun words. Can you figure out which 2?

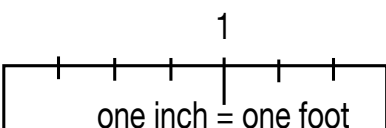
- pr _ n _ s
- tr ic _
- g _ g
- jo _ e
- _ nt ic


The One That Got Away!

Have you ever noticed how the "big ones" always seem to get away? **Follow the dots to see the one that didn't get caught.**

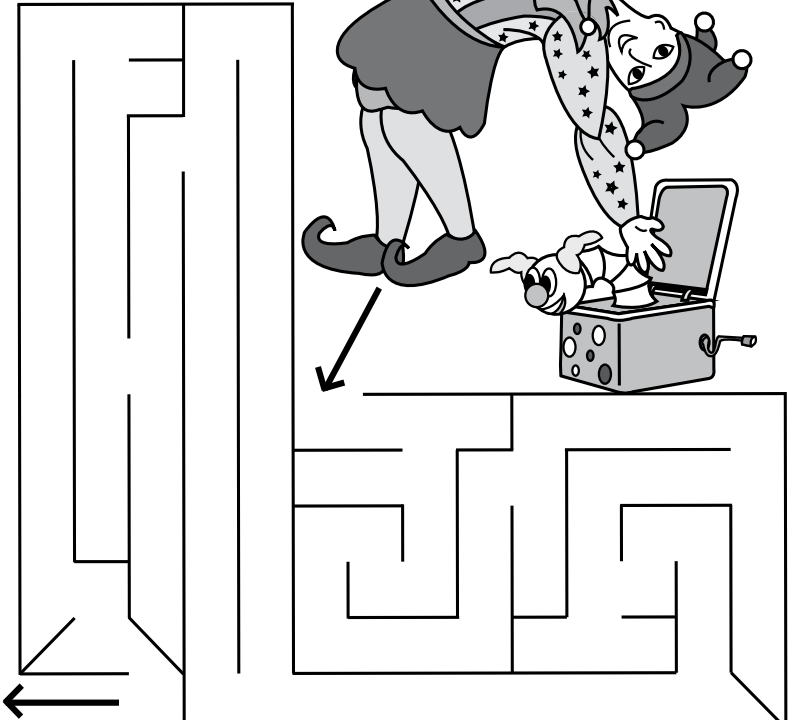


Use the measure below to estimate how big it was!

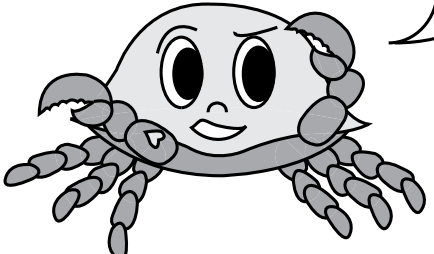




I may be a jester, but I am no April Fool. I'm going to entertain the King and Queen. I need to put on the best show that I can. **Help me find my set of juggling balls.**

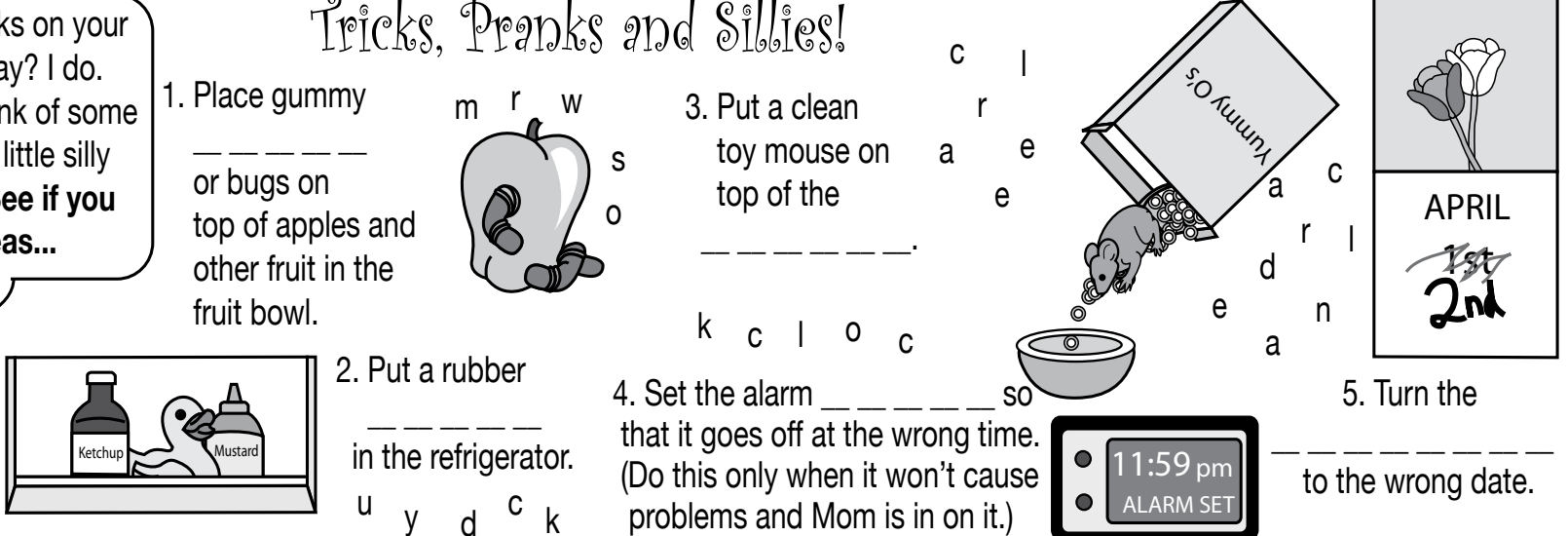



Do you like to play harmless tricks on your family and friends on April Fools' Day? I do. So, I scratch my head and try to think of some fun things to do that will let us be a little silly without hurting anyone's feelings. **See if you can figure out my five favorite ideas...**



Tricks, Pranks and Sillyies!

- Place gummy ____ or bugs on top of apples and other fruit in the fruit bowl.
- Put a rubber ____ in the refrigerator.
- Put a clean toy mouse on top of the ____.
- Set the alarm ____ so that it goes off at the wrong time. (Do this only when it won't cause problems and Mom is in on it.)
- Turn the ____ to the wrong date.






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Police

• Shallen J. Conlee, 29, of Gillespie, was cited for retail theft at 8:24 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Walmart.

• A Litchfield juvenile, 16, was released to their parents after being arrested for retail theft at 2:19 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Walmart.

• A Ramsey juvenile, 15, was released to their parents after being arrested for retail theft at 2:19 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Walmart.

• Sean A. Moss, 20, of Litchfield, was jailed for driving on a revoked license at 9:10 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the intersection of Litchfield Plaza and Ferdon.

• Kevin M. Craig, 32, of Columbia, MO, was jailed on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 17, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and I-55.

• Sean M. Bagwell, 26, of Greenville, was jailed on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant at 9:50 p.m. Monday, March 18, at the 400 block of Ohren Dr.

• Dalton R. Smiddy, 25, of Litchfield, was jailed for domestic battery at 11:01 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, at Kirk Terrace.

• Carshema A. Hall, 34, of Gillespie, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and driving without a license at 7:56 p.m. Monday, March 18, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Corvette.

• Thomas G. Willoughby, 60, of Granite City, was cited for driving on a revoked license at 10:59 p.m. Sunday, March 17, on W. Columbian Blvd.

• Ryan T. Brown, 42, of Gillespie, was cited disregarding an officer traffic control device at 8:10 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the intersection of Corvette and Union.

• David E. Schmidt, 46, of Staunton, was cited for

operating an uninsured motor vehicle and transporting/carrying alcohol as a driver at 12:47 a.m. Friday, March 15, at the intersection of Corvette and Thunderbird.

• Nicholas A. Gartner, 26, of Edwardsville, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 9:51 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the intersection of State and Ryder.

• Cheyenne A. Baxter, 35, of Tamaroa, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 6:59 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Tyler.

• Duran D. Rojas, 43, of Kenosha, WI, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 2:31 a.m. Thursday, March 14, at the intersection of Corvette and Rt. 16.

• Alyssa M. Settles, 24, of Litchfield, was cited for expired registration at 10:39 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at the intersection of Tyler and McKinley.

• Vamshi K. Jaja, 23, of Springfield, was cited for speeding at 2:11 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 at I-55 mile marker 51.

• Jordan S. Turner, 26, of Panama, was cited for disregarding a stop sign at 1:18 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, at the intersection of Illinois and Martin.

• James L. Mix, 42, of Mount Olive, was cited for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 3:43 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the intersection of Union and Ohren.

• Carshema A. Hall, 34, of Gillespie, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and without a license at 7:31 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at the intersection of Corvette and Palmer.

Fire Calls

Carbon Monoxide
Hillsboro Fire Department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at 1231 Vandalia St. on Tuesday, March 19, at 2:04 p.m. Three firefighters were on the scene for about 35 minutes, and it was determined to be a bad detector.

Brush Fire
Shoal Creek Fire Department responded to a brush fire on Wednesday, March 20, at 5:22 p.m. at the Eller Trl. and Curtis Ln. intersection. Eight firefighters responded and were on the scene for 45 minutes.

USDA To Gather Data About 2024 Farm Labor

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its bi-annual Agricultural Labor Survey in April.

More than 550 Illinois farmers and ranchers will be asked to participate in the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail. The survey is an opportunity for producers to provide accurate information about hired farm labor, including total number of hired farm workers, total hours worked and total wages paid for the weeks of Jan. 7 to 13 and April 7 to 13, 2024.

"We ask about two separate time periods each time we collect these data in order to publish biannual data and capture seasonal variation," said Mark Schleusener, Illinois State Statistician.

USDA and the U.S. Department of Labor use the survey data to estimate the demand for and availability of seasonal agricultural workers, establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers and administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs.

Survey recipients who do not respond by Wednesday, April 17, may be contacted by NASS to arrange an interview or sent a reminder email. NASS will publish the data on Wednesday, May 22, in the Farm Labor report available at nass.usda.gov/publications.

For assistance with the survey, or for more information, contact the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014 or nassrfohlr@usda.gov.

Litchfield's Niemann Wins State FFA Contest

Litchfield High School senior Amanda Niemann, a member of Litchfield FFA, placed first in the Illinois FFA State Agricultural Education Career Development Event held Saturday, March 2, at the University of Illinois.

This event provides students with the opportunity to develop skills essential to a career in agricultural education. Key components include being able to develop lessons using a variety of hands-on teaching strategies to reach a multitude of different learners.

For this event, Niemann took a general knowledge exam on agricultural edu-



Amanda Niemann

cation and taught an agricultural lesson to a panel of judges.

Estate of Robert & Karen Mitchelar Online Auction

Preview Date: Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Location: 809 Veterans Memorial Dr., Livingston

Bidding Soft Close:
Thursday, March 28, 6 p.m.

All Sales Final
Pick Up Date: Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.-Noon
Register/bid at ahrensauction.hibid.com

Many items from the Mitchelar Garage and Hardware store in Livingston. Cast iron dinner bell, miscellaneous shop tools, original coal miner helmets, old signage, Ford 960 tractor, John Deere riding lawn mower, three bottom plow, brush mower, fishing lures, household furniture, lawn/garden supplies, antique cash register stand, washer/dryer, refrigerator, galvanized tubs, tool chest, canning jars, American flag with 48 stars.

Ahrens Auction LLC is in charge of this auction

Dennis W. Ahrens, Auctioneer
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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.

WED., APR. 3 - Bidding ends for online only Marley Pork Farms Closeout. Preview Mar. 30, 2-4 p.m. Tractors, Int. tandem grain truck, Balzer honey wagon, hog support equip., more. James Micenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com, 217-820-9324, 217-710-5642.

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., APR. 4 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction of real estate, 906 E. Old National Trail, Pocahontas. Open house Mar. 11, 4-6 p.m. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. 3BR/2BA country home on 4 acres located on the edge of Pocahontas, living room, kitchen dining room combo, laundry room, att. gar., 35'x45' pole barn and lean-to. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

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., APR. 11 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends (soft close) for online only auction of land and real estate for Karla M. Smith, seller. Viewing: March 24, Noon to 2 p.m. and April 7, Noon to 2 p.m. or by appointment, contact 217-473-2507, 365 Hartke Ln., Litchfield. Northeast Quarter of Section 6 South Litchfield Township, Montgomery County, IL. Selling 30 acres +/- (subject to survey), approximately 15 acres tillable, 5-acre pond and the balance in wooded area and yard. The property has an approximate 2400 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bath, kitchen, living room, office/den, full basement with fireplace and 1-car attached garage. Register & bid at mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

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 ahrensauction.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.

THURS., APR. 11 - 6 p.m. soft close. Spring consignment online auction at 400 N. Old Rt. 66, Hamel. Bidding: ahrensauction.hibid.com. Tractors, farm equip., const. equip., livestock equip., lawn/garden, ATV/UTVs, trucks, cars, trailers, more. Accepting consignments March 16-30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ahrens Auction LLC, Dennis Ahrens, 618-779-1883.

THURS., MAR. 28 & FRI., MARCH 29 - Bidding ends for online auction for farm equipment, lawn & garden, shop tools, more. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at Exit 41 - 939 US Rt. 40 Frontage Rd., Greenville. Preview Mar. 25, Noon-6 p.m. Pickup Mar. 30, 8 a.m.-4 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., APR. 11 - 10 a.m. Virtual online auction of Montgomery & Bond Co. 342.24 taxable acres in 6 tracts approx. 11 mi. SE of Hillsboro for Noel Rex Hill estate. Sullivan/Big Iron auctioneers, www.sullivanvauctioneers.com, 844-847-2161.

TUES., APR. 2 & WED., APR. 3 - 6 p.m. soft close for Antiques & Collectibles Online Auctions #1 & #2 at 1172 New Trenton Rd., Highland. Preview: Mar. 22, 1-4 p.m. & Mar. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Pick up: Apr. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. & Apr. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Register/bid at ahrensauction.hibid.com. 2 separate auctions. Railroad, farm, household, tools, petroleum, filling station/garage, misc. 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.

TUES., APR. 2 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction of Georgia Halasay Estate. Preview: April 1, 4-6 p.m. Checkout: April 5 4-6 p.m. Preview and checkout at 608 Ridge Avenue, Greenville. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SUN., APR. 14 - 9 a.m. Live onsite consignment auction at Mulberry Grove. Ad deadline: Mar. 20. Tractors, farm equip., misc., etc. McDowell Auction Service, www.mcdowellauctions.com or www.auctionzip.com, Alva R. McDowell, auctioneer, 618-267-3410.

TUES., APR. 2 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends (soft close) for online only auction for the late Jeff Brown and Others. Viewing: March 31, Noon to 3 p.m., 1127 Mine Ave., Farmerville. Pickup/Checkout: April 6, 9 a.m.-Noon. Trucks, trailers, farm machinery, 13' bin sweep with new motor, 15' bin sweep with motor, impact sockets, Craftsman wrenches, hand tools, shop carts, Waterloo 3 section rolling tool chest. Register & bid at mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

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, 630-247-0667 & John Borrowman, 217-430-0645. Sullivan/Big Iron auctioneers, www.sullivanvauctioneers.com, 844-847-2161.

TUES., APR. 2 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Rt. 66, Litchfield Commercial Property. Open house Mar. 28, 2-5 p.m. 105 N. Old Rt. 66, Litchfield. 4 unit apt. bldg. 2 units share HVAC while 2 units have ind. mini-splits. No load-bearing walls for easy reno. Bidding open at aumannauction.com, 217-563-2523.

SAT., APR. 20 - 9 a.m. Annual Spring Consignment Auction located at Ohlman, north of Rt. 16 on N. Walnut. Free advertising if consigned early. Accepting consignments of vehicles, tractors, mowers, lawn & garden items, farm related items, plus misc. items. Will take consignments Monday, April 15 till 7 p.m. and Friday night, April 19. To consign item call Dennis Aumann, 217-825-6384 or 217-563-2143. www.dennisaumann.com, www.auctionzip.com #19610.

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Route 66, Litchfield Commercial Property
Online Auction Only • Bidding Ends April 2 at 6 p.m.
Open House March 28 from 2-5 p.m.

105 North Old Route 66, Litchfield, IL 62056

This building is divided into 4 units: 2 units facing east on Old Route 66 and the other 2 units face west on E. Columbian Blvd. North. There are common bathrooms for the units with Unit 105B having a private bathroom of its own. The two west units share HVAC while the two east units have individual mini-splits. 105A is approximately 400 square feet and 105B is approximately 561 square feet. 106 is approximately 676 square feet, with 108 being approximately 711 square feet. There are no load-bearing walls on the interior for easy renovations.



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✓ Hay Equipment

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✓ Livestock Equipment

✓ Hay/Straw

✓ Lawn/Garden

✓ Tools

✓ ATV/UTVs

✓ Trucks

✓ Cars

✓ Trailers

Location:
400 N Old Rt 66
Hamel, IL

Auction Soft Close:
April 11th @ 6pm
Bidding:
ahrensauction.hibid.com

Accepting Consignments March 16th - 30th 9am-5pm
By appointment calling Dennis (618)779-1883



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Auctioneer Dennis W. Ahrens
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Antiques & Collectibles Online Auctions #1 & #2

Preview Dates: Friday, March 22, 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: 1172 New Trenton Rd., Highland

Bidding Soft Close:

Tuesday, April 2 &

Wednesday, April 3, 6 p.m.

All Sales Final

Pick Up Dates: Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday, April 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Register/bid at ahrensauction.hibid.com

Unique selection of items between the two auctions.

NOTE: These are two separate auctions with separate close dates.
Railroad: Bells, horns, lights, seats, controls, signs, markers, control boxes, speedometers, crossing buck, track switch.

Farm: Hay carriers, trolley track, pulleys, planter lids, hog oilers, lightning rods/globes/stands, seats, signs, corn items, cotton scale, cream separators, well pumps, animal traps, John Deere, IHC, Ford, Case and more.

Household: Cast iron cookware, utensils, meat slicer, lighting, wire baskets, tinware, sewing machine legs, cast table legs.

Tools: Hand tools, wrenches, power tools, jacks, soldering, scale weights, anvils, tinnners, broad axes, froes.

Petroleum: Oil cans, gas cans, oil jars in carriers, signs, measuring supplies, funnels.

Filling Station/Garage: Grease dispensers, oil pumps, alignment, fire extinguishers, display rack.

Miscellaneous: Royal Crown upright soda machine, hand drier, paper baler, printing press, industrial lighting, cast manhole meter cover assortment.

Ahrens Auction LLC is in charge of this auction
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Announcements

Notices

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

Employment

General Help

HELP WANTED: Part-time ad compositor, 3 days a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9-4. Experience very helpful. Send resume to The Journal-News, P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro or stop in to fill out application.

For Rent

Houses

Merchandise

Firewood

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

Transportation

Motorcycles, Scooters

FOR SALE: 2002 Harley Davidson Deuce, show bike, runs well, has new tires. 32K miles. Asking \$7000. OBO.217-533-4524

on-line all the time
www.thejournal-news.net



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 March 1. 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, Olie Lowe, Cash Costello, Conner Adamovich and Andersin Travis. In the photo at right are first grade winners, from the left, Parker Ripley, Amara Lewey, Silas Hogue and Jaxsyn Stanley.

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

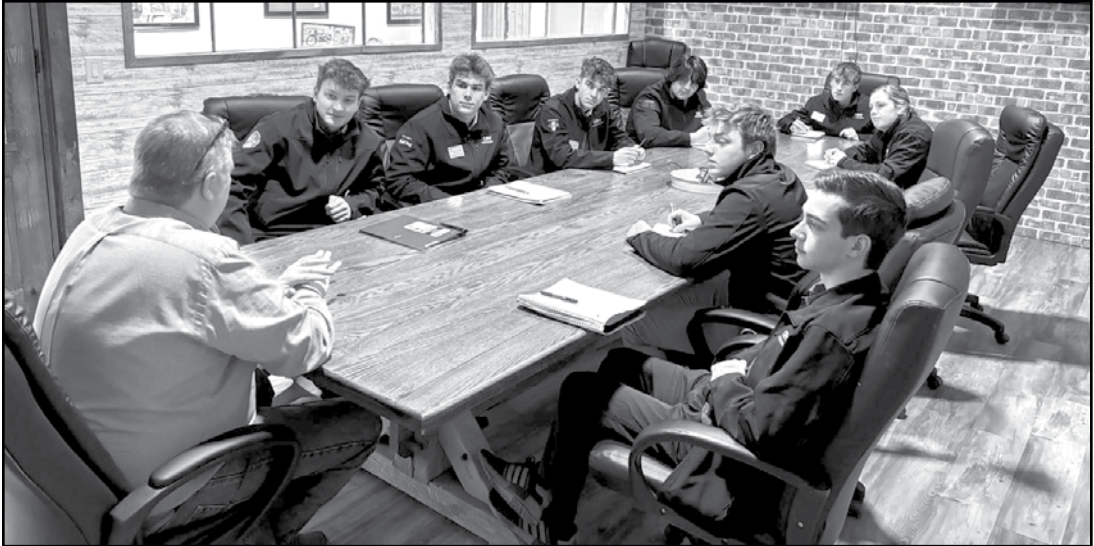
Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: 409 S. Welch, Hillsboro. Moving, everything to go. Clothing, tools, hunting accessories, kitchen accessories. Friday 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday 8 to noon.

YARD SALE: Sat. 9 to ?, 612 City Lake Road, Hillsboro. Little of everything, downsizing.

YARD SALE: Friday 3/22 and Sat. 3/23, 701 Maple St., Hillsboro. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tools, movies, CDs, knives, garage cabinet, fishing stuff, electrical and plumbing stuff, tons of misc.

e-mail your ad to advertisejn@consolidated.net



Kurt Aumann Hosts CEO Students

On Tuesday, March 12, the Montgomery CEO team toured Aumann Auctions in Nokomis. Owner Kurt Aumann told students the history of his business and explained how he manages such a large and multi-faceted operation. The Creating Entrepreneurship Opportunities program exposes high school students to a variety of successful businesses in Montgomery County.



Nokomis Musicians Earn Honors At Competition

Four Nokomis High School students each earned first place recognition in the IHSA Music Solo and Ensemble competition at Central A&M High School on Saturday, March 2. Top ranked musicians, from the left are Morgan Smoot, Corey Keagy, Marcie Carroll and Jahna Guinn.

Vogel Plumbing Inc.

Septic Pumping
Portable Toilet Rental
Handwash Stations
Fully Insured
License No. 900-000128

217-532-6639

NEUHAUS

Heating & AC, Inc.

Hiring Full-Time HVAC Installer

Benefits include Insurance, 401(k), Vacation,
On The Job Training

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

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Quality Work
Satisfaction Guaranteed
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TapConstruction2021@outlook.com

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.hillsboroillinois.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 Basketball & Football Cheerleading/Pom Coach

Qualifications: Knowledge of and previous participation in cheerleading, cheer coaching, or pom squad. Ability to collaborate with band director, athletic director, coaches, and administration.

Job Description: Instruct cheer squad in standard techniques, including knowledge of and appropriate use of cheers, dance, stunts, and poms. Develop and teach quarter-time cheer/stunt routine for football; develop and teach starting five stunt routine for basketball. Manage finances, uniforms, and fundraising activities. Identify effective camps and guest coaches and chaperone team members in these events.

Salary: Per HUEA contract schedule B

Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax: 217-532-5142; E-mail pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841

Due By: March 29, 2024

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

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 résumé to:
Regional Office of Education #3
Attn: Paula White
203 S. Main Street, Hillsboro, IL. 62049

Midway Trailer Sales

18292 E. Frontage Rd.

Litchfield, IL 62056

(217) 324-4740

NOW HIRING:

BUILDING MAINTENANCE/JANITOR

Please mail résumé to:

18292 E. Frontage Rd., Litchfield, IL 62056

or stop by and fill out an application.

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), résumé, 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.

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.

Midway Trailer Sales

18292 E. Frontage Rd.

Litchfield, IL 62056

(217) 324-4740

HIRING: FULL SERVICE TECHNICIAN

- Must be a team player.
- Must have knowledge on repairing all types of trailers/campers.
- Ability to diagnose problems, including electrical.
- Ability to perform axle service, including changing out tires.
- Some knowledge of welding and carpentry skills.

Please mail résumé to:
18292 E. Frontage Rd., Litchfield, IL 62056
Or stop by to fill out an application

FOR RENT:

1-3 BR homes

See Facebook-Cornerstone TL
or call 217-839-9919

Phone 532-3933

To Place Your
Classified Ad

HILLSBORO

health

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

NOW HIRING:

- Health Information Management (HIM) Manager
- PRN Physical, Occupational, or Speech Therapists
- 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, visit our Careers page at
HillsboroHealth.org.

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



Nokomis FFA Wins Poultry Contest

On Thursday, March 14, the Nokomis FFA poultry team placed first in Section 19 for the third year in a row at the annual CDE event. Becca Hill placed first, Bond Knodle placed third, Fausto Centeno finished fourth, Lizzy Hill took sixth and Griffin Engelman took ninth. Every student performed well, and the team did an outstanding job representing their school.

Pictured above, from the left are Mason LaChance, Griffin Engelman, Becca Hill, Lizzy Hill, Fallon Knodle, Fausto Centeno, Kinley Stolte, Rilee Waterman, AJ Spallinger and Bond Knodle.



Pictured above, in front, is Kord Lewey. In back, from the left, are Branden McCallum, Ethan and Tyler Brown, Kreed Lewey, Kurt Dixon and Neil Tester.

Young Leaders Host Tire Collection

The Young Leaders Committee of the Montgomery

County Farm Bureau hosted a successful tire drive on Saturday, March 9.

They partnered with M&M Service Company in Litchfield and Earth Services of Benton, to host the event. Farm Bureau members were invited to recycle used tires for a fee, and Earth Services collected the tires.

Earth Services offers tire

recycling services throughout the Greater Southern Illinois Region and surrounding tri-state area, including Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri. A majority of the tires they recycle are used as TDF, which is an alternative energy source to coal, oil and natural gas. Over 1,300 tires were collected on the day of the drive.

Farm Bureau To Host Wind And Solar Meeting

A wind and solar meeting will be held at the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Office in Hillsboro on Tuesday, April 2, starting at 10 a.m.

The meeting is open to Farm Bureau members only.

Bill Bodine, director of business and regulatory affairs for the Illinois Farm

Bureau will be speaking, along with Laura Harmon, associate counsel for the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Those interested in attending must RSVP by Monday, April 1. To RSVP one should call 217-532-6171 or email kwilson@montcofb.com.



Members of the Hillsboro High School FFA chapter, front row from the left, are Elby Jones (Sentinel), Aubrey Reincke (Historian), Sophia Mullen (Chaplain), Ian Anderson (Treasurer), Lassie Cline (Chaplain), Milla Anderson (Reporter), Jackson Tuetken (Vice-President), Tycen Thacker (Treasurer) and Cody Boerckel (President). Second row: Melody Barton, Amya Greenwood, Kenley Hefley, Olivia Keiser, Mikenna McSperritt, Lola Hughes, Sloan Bertolino, Karsyn Greenwood, Delaney Adams, Leah Satterlee, Nathan Brown, Hunter Wilson, Blake Cullison, Brianna Taylor and Madelyn Payne. Third row: Kaden Gilbert, Hermoine Jeffers, Jaida Linn, Kyla Blevins, Violet Lentz, Resi Hollo, Susy Anderson, Adrian Harston, Colton Weiss, Payton Brown, Kaden Brown, Will Meyer, Meghan Lehnen and Harmony Werner-Long. Fourth row: Peyton Chesney, Jayse Stockwell, Emily Castillo, Ethan Strehl, Kaleb Knodle, Kaleb Eller, Daniel Kenny, Briar Kuhl, Westin Fenton and Brandon Hasquin. Fifth row: Caiden Lienlokken, Landon Zbinden, Caleb Fassero, Tucker Wilson, Owen Earnest, Liam Blackburn, Brodie Clinard, Carson Huber, Abraham Putnam, Gavin Shomaker and Brenden Kershaw. Back row: Brody Kieffer, Sami Page, Trent Kimbro, Quinten Christian, Aaron Page and Aiden Law.

Submitted by Hillsboro FFA Reporter Milla Anderson

Hillsboro Students Celebrate National FFA Week

by Milla Anderson
Hillsboro FFA Reporter

FFA chapters across the country celebrated National FFA week from Feb. 18 to 23. Here in Hillsboro, student officers planned an eventful week of fun activities for all students at Hillsboro High School.

Each day of the week, there were several activities a student could participate in to be entered into a drawing. At the end of the week, names were drawn and awards were selected. Prizes included

Airpods, a Stanley cup, or a parking spot at the Ag Shop. Zach Duff and Elby Jones were named winners.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, students were encouraged to wear the colors of their favorite tractor companies. That morning, students held a teacher appreciation breakfast for staff at the high school. Teachers were encouraged to pick up their free breakfast in the teacher's lounge after arriving on campus. Hillsboro FFA officers and members provided the food.

On Tuesday evening, all

students were invited to Galaxy Family Entertainment for a night of bowling and games. Over forty students were in attendance.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, students were encouraged to wear camouflage. Over 80 students spent their lunch at the ag shop, to eat pizza and play with puppies. Later that day, an officer crockpot cookoff was held, with Milla Anderson winning first place. The annual Ag Olympics followed, and Colton Weiss was named the winner.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, students came to school wearing red, white and blue for U.S.A. Day. That evening, there was a public pack-the-place event held at Lomas Del Sol

restaurant from 5 to 9 p.m. to support the Hillsboro FFA.

To conclude the week, on Friday, Feb. 23, students wore their FFA colors of national blue and corn gold. This year's activity was a Polar Plunge with a slight twist. Students signed up to leave their seventh hour class early to plunge into a pool of ice water. Over 100 students participated in the event.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
CIRCUIT COURT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PUBLICATION NOTICE
OF COURT DATE
FOR REQUEST FOR
NAME CHANGE (ADULT)
Your Current Legal Name:

Asia Amerie Somoano
Case Number: 2024MR6

My current name is:
Asia Amerie Somoano
I wish my name to be
changed to:

Keeli Amerie Somoano
COURT DATE
INFORMATION

A. The court date for the Request I filed is scheduled on:

May 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
in Courtroom #2
B. Attend court any of the ways checked:

In person at: 120 North Main St., Courtroom #2
/s/ Asia Somoano
Asia Somoano
90-3t*

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 Leithaiser,
County Clerk
86-3t*

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
86-3tT

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 ISAAH 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
86-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
RUTH MARIE
HAMILTON GIPSON,
Deceased.

No. 2024-PR-2
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of RUTH MARIE HAMILTON GIPSON of Montgomery County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on January 25, 2024, to DAVID HOLLO, whose attorney is RICK VERTICCHIO, of VERTICCHIO & VERTICCHIO Law Office, 238 East Side Square, P.O. Box 474, Carl-

inville, Illinois 62626.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL 62049, or with attorney RICK VERTICCHIO or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to attorney RICK VERTICCHIO within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DATED this 19th day of March, 2024.

DAVID HOLLO,
Administrator of the Estate
BY: /s/Rick Verticchio
Attorney for the Estate
90-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
ILLINOIS

THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION OF THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS, FOR
AND ON BEHALF OF THE
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
ILLINOIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

TARA BROWN; LAND OF
LINCOLN CREDIT UNION
AS SUCCESSOR IN INTER-
EST TO NOKOMIS SAVINGS
BANK; METRO LIENS, INC.
an Illinois corporation; NIKKI
LOHMAN not Individually
but as Montgomery County
Treasurer; AND UNKNOWN
OWNERS AND NON-RE-
CORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants.

Case No. 2024-ED-01
Parcel No. 6031119
JURY DEMAND
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: All unknown owners and non-record claimants
YOU AND EACH OF YOU
ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Complaint for condemnation has been filed in the captioned cause, and the Complaint for condemnation seeks to take and condemn for public highway purposes the real estate described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

EXHIBIT A

Part of Lot 12 in Block 12 of the Original Town of Nokomis located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 10 North, Range 2 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Montgomery County, State of Illinois being a part of property described in a Warranty Deed as recorded in Book 1703, Page 595, located in the Montgomery County Recorder's Office, described as follows:

Commencing at a 5/8" pin with cap marking the

Northerly corner of Lot 12 in Block 12 of the Original Town of Nokomis, said point being at the intersection of the Southeast-erly Right of Way line of Warren Street and the Southwesterly Right of Way line of an existing twenty (20) feet wide alley; thence South 49 degrees 14 minutes 35 seconds West along the South-easterly Right of Way line of Warren Street 135.88 feet to the Point of Beginning.

From the Point of Beginning; thence South 20 degrees 12 minutes 41 seconds East, 15.16 feet to the Northeast-erly Right of Way line of FAS 723 (Spruce Street); thence North 40 degrees 43 minutes 45 seconds West along said North-easterly line 14.20 feet to the Southeasterly Right of Way line of Warren Street; thence North 49 degrees 14 minutes 35 seconds East along said South-easterly line, 5.31 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said Parcel 6031 119 contains 38 square feet or 0.001 Acres more or less.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that unless you file a responsive pleading in the captioned matter on or before the 21st day of April, 2024 A JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE COMPLAINT FOR CONDEMNATION AND THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WILL BECOME THE OWNER IN FEE SIMPLE OF THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PARCEL OF REAL ESTATE.

DATED this 15th day of March, 2024.

AMY SIPES
/s/ Daniel T. Robbins
Circuit Clerk
of Montgomery County
90-3tT

2024 Chevy Silverado 1500

\$2,750 CASH ALLOWANCE^{MSRP}

\$2,250 TRADE ASSISTANCE^{MSRP}

on all 2024 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab LTZ & High Country models when you trade in an eligible vehicle

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Now during Truck Season well-qualified buyers get as low as

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TRUCK SEASON

CHEVROLET

24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST

B10492

MSRP \$59,935

NOW ONLY \$53,290

24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST

B10558

MSRP \$61,605

NOW ONLY \$56,105

24 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT

Trail Boss, B10531

MSRP \$63,685

NOW ONLY \$60,435

24 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD

Custom, B10506

MSRP \$67,215

NOW ONLY \$66,215

24 Chevy Silverado 2500 LTZ

HD, B10560

MSRP \$82,915

NOW ONLY \$81,915

24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4

B10523

MSRP \$70,535

NOW ONLY \$65,535

24 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali

B10526

MSRP \$79,195

NOW ONLY \$75,800

24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4X

B10597

MSRP \$83,585

CALL

24 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali

Ultimate

MSRP \$95,935

CALL

24 GMC Sierra 3500 HD Denali

DRW

MSRP \$92,150

CALL

24 Chevrolet Tahoe LT

B10588

MSRP \$74,030

CALL

24 Chevy Tahoe High Country

B10557

MSRP \$87,850

NOW ONLY \$85,212

24 GMC Yukon XL Denali Ult.

B10552

MSRP \$104,295

NOW ONLY \$102,183

24 Chevy Blazer 2LT

B10555

MSRP \$40,385

NOW ONLY \$37,885

24 Chevrolet Blazer EV RS

B10512

MSRP \$54,595

NOW ONLY \$47,095

24 Chevrolet Blazer EV RS

B10505

MSRP \$55,090

NOW ONLY \$47,590

24 Chevy Equinox RS

B10511

MSRP \$34,040

NOW ONLY \$31,990

24 Chevy Equinox RS

B10500

MSRP \$33,545

NOW ONLY \$31,490

24 Chevy Equinox RS

B10581

MSRP \$33,545

NOW ONLY \$32,990

24 Chevy Equinox RS

B10601

MSRP \$33,545

CALL

24 Chevrolet Malibu RS

B10617

MSRP \$28,135

CALL

24 Chevrolet Trailblazer RS

B10589

MSRP \$33,080

CALL

24 Chevy Traverse Limited

High Country B10586

MSRP \$56,590

NOW ONLY \$55,990

23 GMC Acadia SLE

B10474

MSRP \$40,195

NOW ONLY \$36,990

23 GMC Acadia SLT

B10439

MSRP \$46,035

NOW ONLY \$42,490

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Jim Barr
Product Specialist

Chris Hailstone
Product Specialist



Metro-East Lutheran goalkeeper Emily Kober can do nothing but watch as Hillsboro's Reagan Lentz taps in her fourth goal of the game after taking a pass from Kinley Richardson. The goal was Lentz's seventh in two games and Hillsboro's seventh of the game as they went on to beat the Knights 9-0 on Monday, March 18, in Hillsboro
Brandi Lentz Photo

Soccer Toppers Shut Out Knights

Hillsboro scored nine goals against Metro-East Lutheran on Monday, March 18, as the Toppers shutout the Knights at the Hillsboro Sports Complex.

Scoring started early for the Lady Hiltoppers as Ava Pollard opened things up with a goal in the first minute to make it 1-0.

Hillsboro picked up more goals before the midway point of the first half as Kearstynn Davis's pass through the defense allowed Kinley Richardson to break free and make it 2-0 with 27 minutes to play in the first. Just three minutes later, Brynn Connor intercepted an attempt to clear the ball and fed Reagan Lentz in the middle of the field for goal number three.

Lentz wasn't done. She and Richardson both gave chase to another through-ball, with Richardson corraling it and drawing the keeper to the right side. With the goalie out of position, the Hillsboro senior slid a ball toward the net, with Lentz there to tap it in just four minutes before halftime.

Lentz picked up her second straight hat trick in as many games before a minute ticked off the clock in the second half. Hillsboro had the ball deep in the Knights' half when a defender tried to clear things out, kicking the ball straight to Lentz, who hammered it home for Hillsboro's fifth goal.

Richardson made it 6-0 two minutes later as she took a pass from Pollard, went toward the goal, then cut back and blasted a hard shot over the keeper's outstretched hands.

Lentz added one more goal, her seventh of the season, at the 27-minute mark as she took a pass back from Kamryn Langston and drilled a 30-yard wonder strike to make it 7-0.

The goal also cut the time in half, but didn't stop the scoring as Richardson added her third goal of the game, and fourth of the season, on a pass from Peyton Christian.

Brooklyn Kirby finished off the rout with a goal in the final 10 minutes as she worked the ball in and scored to make it 9-0.

Delaney Adams got the win in net for Hillsboro, with the Topper defense holding the Knights to four shots.

Hillsboro will play East Alton-Wood River on March 21, on the Oilers' home field, followed by a sectional rematch in Pleasant Plains on March 23 at 10 a.m.

March 18 at Hillsboro
MEL 0 0 - 0
Hillsboro 4 5 - 9
Scoring: Hillsboro - Ava Pollard (unassisted), Kinley Richardson (Kearstynn Davis), Reagan Lentz (Brynn Connor), Reagan Lentz (Kinley Richardson), Reagan Lentz (unassisted), Kinley Richardson (Ava Pollard), Reagan Lentz (Kamryn Langston), Kinley Richardson (Peyton Christian), Brooklyn Kirby (unassisted). **Goalkeeper:** Hillsboro - Delaney Adams; Metro-East Lutheran - Emily Kober.
Records: Hillsboro (2-0); Metro-East Lutheran (1-4).

Tryon Strikes Out 15 In Shutout

Mason Tryon struck out 15 and allowed just one hit in Lincolnwood's 9-0 victory on Tuesday, March 19, as the Lancers improved to 3-0 on the season.

Tryon struck out three batters in the second and the seventh, with two strikeouts in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Not only did the sophomore from Morrisonville have 15 strikeouts, but he also didn't walk anyone, with 73 strikes in 107 pitches.

Carlenville's only hit came in the bottom of the third, with one out as Blake Killam singled to center field. Killam moved to second when Kolton Costello reached on an error, but Tryon struck out the next batter and got a ground ball to short to end the inning with a force out.

By that point, the Lancers were already up 4-0, with their first run coming in the top of the second. Lincolnwood loaded the bases to start the inning as Izeck Matli, Drew Gilpin and Jhude Walker were all hit by pitches from Carlenville starter Dom Alepra. Donny Daugherty grounded into a fielder's choice in the next at-bat, but Matli scored to make it 1-0.

Lincolnwood picked up another run in the third as Jonah Elvidge led off the inning with a single, took second on a base hit by Tryon, moved to third after Matli was hit by another Alepra pitch and scored on a passed ball with two outs.

Carlenville made a pitching change to start the fourth, with Bryce Widner coming on in relief. Lincolnwood greeted the senior with three straight singles from Daugherty, Brody Lush and Lance Weitekamp, with Lush and Weitekamp picking up RBIs to make it 4-0.

Daugherty picked up an RBI single of his own in the next inning as he drove in Drew Gilpin, who started the fifth with a base hit, but the Lancers really put the game away in the sixth with four more runs.

After striking out the first batter, Widner ran into trouble as Brodey Van Hooser doubled and Izeck Matli and Drew Gilpin were both hit by pitches, the third time in the game that Matli had been plunked. A passed ball in Gilpin's at-bat allowed VanHooser to score from third, while Matli's pinch runner, Brayden Morris, moved to second.

Cash Enrietta came on in relief for Carlenville, but an error put the reliever behind the eight ball right off the bat as Jhude Walker took first and loaded the bases. Donny Daugherty drove in both Gilpin and Morris with a single for his third and fourth RBIs of the day, while a ground ball from Brody Lush resulted in the second out, but another run as Walker scored to make it 9-0 before Carlenville got out of the inning.

Lincolnwood left two runners on base in the seventh, upping their total to 12 for the game, but no one was touching Tryon on Tuesday as he struck out five of the final seven batters he faced.

Donny Daugherty went 3-for-4 on the day and reached base four times with three singles and a fielder's choice. The Lancers' left fielder also drove in four runs and scored once in the win.

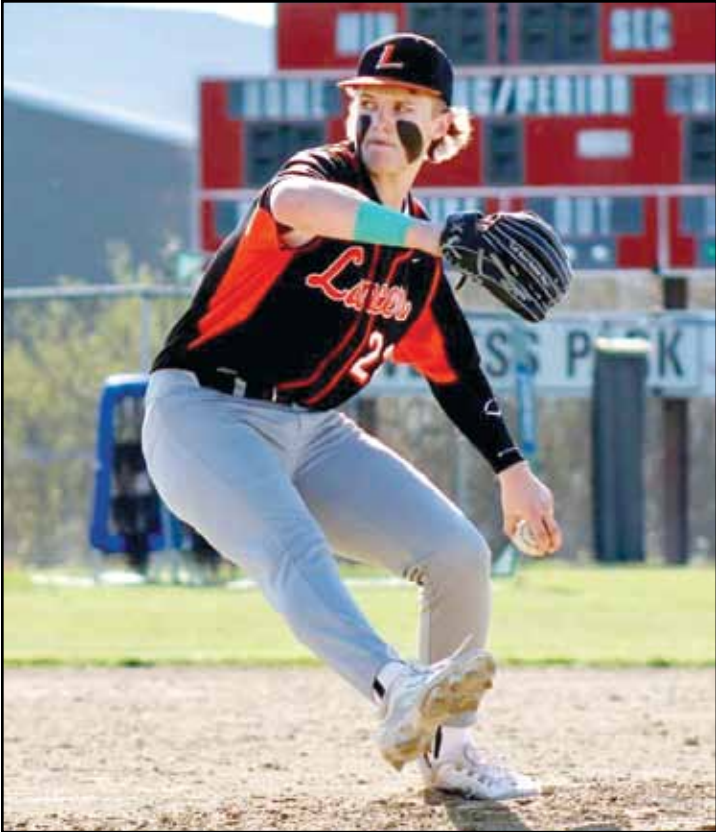
In addition to Daugherty, Jonah Elvidge, Brodey VanHooser and Tryon also had two hits apiece in the win, while Brody Lush had a pair of RBIs hitting out of the number nine slot.

Lincolnwood will be busy to end the week as they play at Shelbyville today, March 21, at home against Pana on March 22, and in Litchfield on Saturday, March 23, with first pitch set for 10 a.m. After the game with the JV Panthers, Lincolnwood will make the two and a half hour trip to Mt. Dew Park in Marion, where they will take on Vernon Hills. First pitch in Marion is 6:30 p.m.

March 19 at Carlenville
Lincolnwood 011 214 0--9 12 2
Carlenville 000 000 0--0 1 1
Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tryon	7.0	1	0	0	0	15
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Alepra	3.0	3	2	1	0	6
Widner	2.1	8	6	6	2	3
Enrietta	1.2	1	1	0	2	3

*Alepra 4 HBP, Widner 2 HBP
Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Lincolnwood - Donny Daugherty 3-4, Mason Tryon 2-3, Jonah Elvidge 2-4, Brodey VanHooser 2-4. **2B:** Lincolnwood - Brodey VanHooser 1. **Runs:** Lincolnwood - Drew Gilpin 2, Jonah Elvidge 1, Brodey VanHooser 1, Izeck Matli 1, Brayden Morris 1, Jhude Walker 1, Donny Daugherty 1, Brody Lush 1. **RBI:** Lincolnwood - Donny Daugherty 4, Brody Lush 2, Lance Weitekamp 1. **Records:** Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (3-0); Carlenville (0-1).



Lincolnwood-Morrisonville starter Mason Tryon held Carlenville to one hit and struck out 15 batters in seven innings as the Lancers beat the Cavies 9-0 on Tuesday, March 19.
Kinley Morris Photo