

**by Kyle Herschelman**

The motions included approval of executive session minutes from the

March 15 and March 21 meetings, a motion to act on alderpersons' request to rescind a severance offer, a motion to act on alderpersons' request to direct the city administrator to recommend termination of an employee with cause and a motion to act on the city administrator's recommendation to terminate an employee without cause and authorize payment of severance

The employee mentioned above is Economic Development Director Tonya Flannery, who said during the March 15 special meeting that the council was considering the termination of her employment contract. She added that she had not been interviewed or apprised of the investigation and that the city was creating false accusations that

A letter from Jim Timpe, president and CEO of HSHS St. Francis Hospital, was read to start the

public comment portion, saying that Flannery was always receptive of any information the hospital shared while providing ideas to improve the community. He added that the hospital valued her expertise on all matters and respectfully requested her dedicated service to the community be respected.

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Residents in need of help clearing leaves, brush and simple outdoor repairs may

contact Doug Johnson at 217-313-1125 or Melissa VanGiesen at 217-532-4160. Please provide name, address, phone number and type of assistance needed by April 15. Volunteers should meet at Central Park at 8:45 a.m. to form groups.

Items that can be recycled for free include answering machines, battery backups and uninterruptable power supplies (UPS), camcorders, cameras, cellular/mobile phones, Christmas tree lights, computer peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc...), desktop computers, DVD/CD players, fax machines, ink cartridges, laptops, mail-room equipment, networking equipment and cables, pagers, point of sale equipment, power and accessory cables, power tools (including batteries), printers (those with large office printers should contact their local store), projectors, radios, receivers, sat-

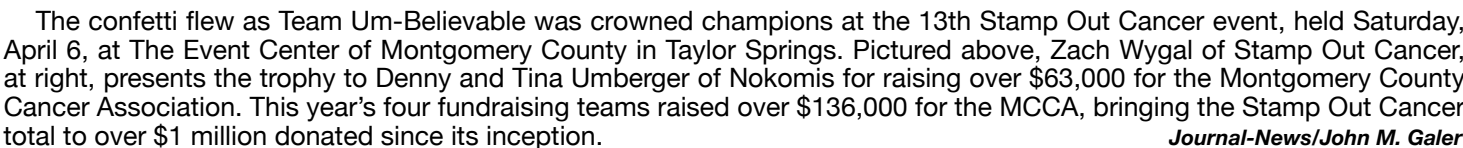
ellite and cable equipment, speakers, smart phones, surge suppressors and power strips, tablets, telephones (including PBX equipment), toner, VCRs, video game consoles and walkie talkies.

Certain items require a fee to be recycled: CRT and LCD monitors (\$10), all televisions (\$20), projection TVs (\$40), and console TVs (\$40). Broken TVs in a bag are double their listed charge.

Businesses and large drop offs are welcome. However those with more than 20 items are asked to wait until after 11 a.m. No receipts will be given.

Information on the destruction of hard drives will be handed out during the drive.

Questions about acceptable items may be directed to BLH Computers at 309-826-5201 or visit the website [blhcomputers.com](http://blhcomputers.com).



**Journal-News/John M. Galer**

**by Mary (Galer)**  
**Herschelman**

“\$1 million. I’m still trying to wrap my head around it,” said Zach Wygal of Stamp Out Cancer. “Going into this Stamp Out Cancer season, we knew it was a possibility. At the same time, I

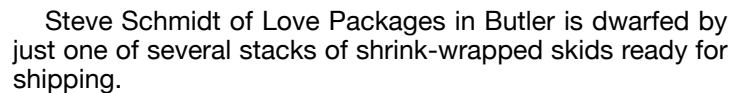
didn't want it to take away from all of the amazing things the teams were doing."

After the 13th sold-out Stamp Out Cancer event on Saturday, April 6, Wygal announced they officially surpassed the \$1 million in donations to the Montgomery County Cancer Association.

"It's hard not to think about that

number,” Wygal said. “Numbers like that are supposed to be reserved for the city. The ‘elites.’ For non-profits that have big corporate salaries. Instead, it’s where it should be. With the MCCA, an organization unlike any other, helping those that need it most.”

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**by Nancy Slepicka**

In March, eleven 20-foot containers loaded to the gills left Love Packages in Butler.

The cargo: boxes of Christian literature in English.

From Butler the containers went to the rail yard in St. Louis, then on to major ports in the U.S. with final destinations in the Philippines, Jamaica, India, Liberia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Malawi.

March was a normal month for Love Packages, a faith ministry founded in 1975 by Steve Schmidt. It started in the basement of his home in Litchfield, moved to the former Redemption Center in Hillsboro, and relocated in 1995 to the former Butler elementary school and an adjacent warehouse building.

terials arrive there by mail and other delivery services, packed in boxes or in shrink-wrapped skids. The contents are sorted by hand and color-coded into six categories: Bibles; reference materials; Sunday school literature; books and paperbacks; magazines and daily devotionals; CDs and DVDs.

The literature comes from churches, publishing companies, religious organizations and individuals nationwide. After sorting, Schmidt determines where the various materials will be sent, based on need and requests.

On average, Love Packages currently sends 20-60 tons of literature per week in 20-foot ocean going containers bound for port cities around the world. Those locations eventually distribute the literature to thousands

of churches and missionaries. The shipping cost for these ocean containers ranges from \$3,800 to \$7,900.

Love Packages is entirely supported by free will offerings from churches and individuals, plus in-kind donations. Schmidt employs three full-time workers, Aaron Dokken, Vern Everett and Jonathan White, and a part-time secretary, Viola West. They're joined by dozens of volunteers who show up regularly to help repack and load boxes. Dormitory beds and a kitchen in the former school building are available for overnight stays by volunteers from throughout Illinois and other states.

### Waste Not

The genesis of Love Packages came from God to Schmidt nearly 50 years ago. "In the summer of 1975,

God showed me the abundance of Christian literature that I had at my disposal and the tremendous lack of literature that so many others in the world had," Schmidt said. "Not realizing that everyone was as wasteful as me, I began sending my excess literature overseas. That first year, my wife and I shipped 60 boxes of literature to missionaries in four countries."

The message, "You are wasting that," reached others, and materials started arriving at Schmidt's doorstep from all over the United States.

Growth was exponential. The second year, the couple shipped 3-½ tons, the third year 7 tons, and so on. In the years 2017-2022, Love Packages shipped 1,900 tons annually.

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McLaughlins, Journal-News Visit St. Peter's Basilica

Pictured above, three generations of the McLaughlin family, Steve, Nick and Maddux, took a moment to catch up with the news back home while visiting St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. The threesome spent spring break visiting ancient sites across Rome, enjoying an audience with Pope Francis and taking a blistering 155 mph ride aboard a bullet train to Florence and back.

Public Meetings

Mental Health 708 Board Meeting

The Montgomery County Mental Health 708 Board will meet on Monday, April 8, at 6 p.m. in the PBC Room of the Montgomery County New Courthouse. Agenda items include discussions of payment for Pan-handle Project Third Day and Ordinance #2024001 Tax abatement.

Nokomis City Council

The Nokomis City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 8, at Nokomis City Hall. Agenda items include the opening of bids received for the sale of unimproved real estate, discussion on eliminating the position of part time administrative consultant and discussion on the source water protection plan.

Hillsboro Planning Commission Meeting

The Hillsbro Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 12:30 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda items include updates on Imagine Hillsboro, the Natural Resources Committee and downtown buildings and vacant properties. Annexation of properties will also be discussed at the meeting.

Montgomery County Board

The Montgomery County Board will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m. in the county board room on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. Agenda items include an update on the animal control facility and policy, an update on the UKA Virden Wind Project, review of the tourism grant application and an update on ambulance agreements.

Hillsboro School Board Meeting

The Hillsboro School Board will meet at 7 p.m. at the District Office, located at 1311 Vandalia Road in Hillsboro on Tuesday, April 9. Agenda items include review of the homeschool student athletic participation policy and discussion of adding an agriculture/science teaching position at HHS.

Community Wellness Committee Meeting

The Community Wellness Committee of the Montgomery County Board will meet on Wednesday, April 10 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at Beacon Church, located at 622 N. Franklin in Litchfield. The public is welcome to attend.



Hutchison Celebrates Retirement From Bank

Bank of Hillsboro Director Harry Hutchison celebrated his retirement on Thursday, April 4, with an open house reception held at The Abbey on Broad in Hillsboro. Hutchison was honored by friends and family from all over the community. Pictured above, in front are grandchildren Mya and Brady McBrain. In the back, from the left are Aaron and Alayna Hutchison, Harry Hutchison and Hope and Kyle McBrain. Not pictured is Hutchison's wife Lynne, who was unable to attend due to teaching responsibilities.

Journal-News Photo

Ruth M. Huber, 86 Ran Housekeeping Business



Ruth M. Huber, 86, of Sorento, died on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, surrounded by a loving family. Visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 21, at Perfetti-Assalley Funeral Home, located at 201 S. Main St. in Sorento. A private family interment will be held at New Douglas Cemetery at a later date. Perfetti-Assalley Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Huber was born on Aug. 30, 1937, in New Douglas, the daughter of the late Henry W.L. and Clara (Hamann) Schweppe. On July 2, 1956, she married the love of her life, Carl E. Huber in Pocatello, ID. The couple enjoyed 61 years of marriage together. Shortly after their marriage, they began their journey together as a military family. Mrs. Huber was a very dedicated Navy wife throughout her husband's career. She attended New Douglas School, then later received her high school diploma. After military life, the couple, along with their four children, moved back to Illinois to be closer to their families. She then started her housekeeping business, cleaning for many well-known people in the area until she was needed to take care of her husband, who preceded her in death in March 2018. She was also a dedicated member of the United Church of Christ in Grantfork since childhood. Mrs. Huber loved to visit with family and friends and treasured each and every one of them. At family gatherings, she was famous for her peach fluff and peach danish. She also helped her sister, Esther, with hand quilting and her sister, Laura, with weaving rag rugs. She was a spitfire, a party starter, and a woman who spoke her mind. She is survived by her four children, Vickie Corley and her husband Douglas of Maryland Heights, MO, Gale Holcmann and her husband David of Sorento, Terry Huber of Pocahontas, and Sheryl Speraneo and her husband Mark of Greenville; six grandchildren, Joel Corley, Daniel Corley, Erica Knebel and her husband Nick, Candace Washburn, and her husband Josh, Andrew Speraneo and his wife Jennifer and Nathan Speraneo and his wife Sarah; ten great-grandchildren, Allison Knebel, Paige Knebel, Noah Denton, Mckenzy Washburn, Jonathan Washburn, Jayden Speraneo, Avery Speraneo, Hunter Speraneo, Sophia Speraneo and Emersyn Speraneo; sister-in-law, Elaine Branscome of Greenville; and numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death, in addition to her parents and husband, were her five sisters, Irene Valentine, Beulah Urban, Fern Lesicko, Norma Turner, Esther Schuster and one brother, Lester "Bud" Schweppe. In lieu of flowers, plants and other gifts, the family asks that all memorials, in memory of Ruth, be given to the New Douglas Cemetery or to the family. Memorials may be gifted at the memorial visitation or mailed to: New Douglas Cemetery, c/o Duane Schellenberg, 12643 Silver Creek Road, New Douglas, IL 62074 and/or The Family, c/o Terry Huber, PO Box 288, Pocahontas, IL 62275. Condolences may be left at [www.assalleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.assalleyfuneralhomes.com).

Mary L. Rimini, 88 Worked For State CMS



Mary Louise (Coker) Rimini, 88 of Litchfield, formerly of Springfield, died on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Litchfield Health and Rehab Center. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. till time of funeral mass at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, in Auburn with the Rev. James Palakudy officiating. Burial will be in Auburn Cemetery. Mrs. Rimini was born Oct. 1, 1935, in Auburn, the daughter of William and Florence Gilmore Coker, Sr. Mrs. Rimini worked for Federated Funeral Directors and State of Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) before retiring in 2002. After retiring, she enjoyed traveling and watching her grandsons play ball. She is survived by one son, Alan (Mary Ann) Rimini; two grandsons, Jason (Ashley) Rimini and Brian (Rachel) Rimini; six great-grandchildren, Mason, Madeline, Avery, Isaiah, Stevie Ann and Rocky; and one brother, William J. Coker, Jr. Memorials may be made to the Farmersville K of C 1152, PO Box 66, Farmersville, IL 62533. Condolences may be left online at [www.bramleyfh.com](http://www.bramleyfh.com).

Omicron Delta Hosts Club Events In March

Omicron Delta met at the Lil Ponderosa in rural Nokomis on Tuesday, March 12, at 6 p.m. There were eight present and four absent. The meeting

was brief as members were there to shop and do a craft. Twila Reynolds helped attendees to make beaded bracelets. The club said it was a great learning experience and fun to try and master this. It could be a bit of a challenge at times for "our fumble fingers, and failing eyes, but we managed and made beautiful bracelets," according to club members. The club thanks Reynolds. The first of the year, the club had their annual After The Season meeting with spouses and friends at The Depot. They were served a delicious meal of chicken and 6 ozs. filets prepared by Jayden Morrison. After the meal there was a gift exchange between the sorority and the men. The weather was iffy but members stuck it out for a great afternoon of fun, food and fellowship. For the spring, service coor-

Leslie C. Mullen, 81 Outdoorsman



Leslie "Les" C. Mullen, 81, of Coffeen, died on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 12:26 p.m., at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. A visitation will be held on Friday, April 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Toberman-Dean Funeral Home in Coffeen, with funeral service to follow at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. The Rev. Kevin Simburger, of Coffeen will officiate. Burial will be in Union Grove Cemetery in Bond County. Military rites will be held at graveside by Department of Defense. Mr. Mullen was born on Nov. 13, 1942, in Greenville, to the late Elvin V. and Dessie R. (Grigg) Mullen. He was a graduate of Hillsboro High School in Hillsboro, and was a veteran of the Army, serving in Vietnam. Mr. Mullen married Mary Kuhl, on Nov. 15, 1969, in Donnellson, and she survives in Coffeen. Mr. Mullen had worked at Olin Brass in Alton, until retirement on Jan. 2, 2004, after 45 years of service. He was a member of the V.F.W. in Panama, the NRA and the Crabtree Horseshoe Club. He loved hunting, fishing and playing horseshoes, which he played in state and world horseshoe tournaments. Mr. Mullen had lived in Greenville and Coffeen during his lifetime. Mr. Mullen is survived by his wife, Mary Mullen of Coffeen; three children, Lisa (Kevin) Wiltshire of Coffeen; Jeff (Tysha) Mullen of Hillsboro and E.J. (Kristen) Mullen of Coffeen; eight grandchildren, Kevin Wiltshire, Zac Wiltshire, Ryan Wiltshire, Tyler Mullen, Tanner (Morgan) Mullen, Alyson Mullen, Drake Mullen and Sophia Mullen; three sisters, Dot Thacker of Greenville, Ruth Ann Mullen of Coffeen and Peg Mullen of Coffeen; along with several brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, John W. Mullen and one sister, Betty Oglesby. Memorials are suggested to Alzheimer Association.

Robert J. DeLuka, 89 Illinois State Trooper



Robert "Bob" Joseph DeLuka, 89, of Nokomis, died on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 10:00 p.m. at Nokomis Health and Rehabilitation Center in Nokomis. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, at Sutton Funeral Home in Nokomis with Dan Easterday and Jimmy Barker officiating. Burial was at Nokomis Cemetery with military graveside honors. Sutton Funeral Home in Nokomis assisted the family. Mr. DeLuka was born on Feb. 28, 1935, in Witt, the son of the late Celio Mario and Ruby Irene (Weller) DeLuka. He married Merylyn June Morgan on Oct. 27, 1954, in Nokomis, and she preceded him in death on Aug. 29, 2010. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Witt, worked as an Illinois State Trooper and sold feed for Moorman's Feed. Mr. DeLuka is survived by his daughters; Terry (Larry) Brinkman of Nokomis, Dawn (Ron) DeWerff of Nokomis, and Dayna (Jerry) Neisler of Pawnee; grandchildren, Brandi (Jim) Barker of Nokomis, Brittany (Wayne) Marshall of Fillmore, Jason (Angel) Brinkman of Taylorville, Jay (Dani) DeWerff of Nokomis, Cody (Jami) DeWerff of Staunton, Gabe DeWerff (Megan Kwiatkowski) of Troy and Noah (Mia Taft) Neisler of Divernon; great-grandchildren, Kaylee, Joey and Micah Barker of Nokomis, Gavin, Madilyn and Alysinn Marshall of Fillmore, Alexis Barker of Taylorville, Gracie, Maddox and Lauren DeWerff, Porter West of Nokomis and Kayden and Logan Weis and Peyton DeWerff, all of Staunton. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; granddaughter, Abby Neisler; and sister, Leona Huber. Memorials may be made to the Montgomery County Cancer Association. Condolences may be left at [www.suttonmemorialhome.com](http://www.suttonmemorialhome.com).

Correction

There was a naming mistake in the Monday, April 4 edition of *The Journal News* and *The Raymond News*. For the Lincolnwood production of *Peter Pan Jr.*, cast member Dorothy Snelson was named as Dorothy Lipscomb. The newspaper apologizes for the error.

and Means. All ads are due no later than Wednesday, May 1. The late member Jan O'Malley was a driving force behind the books and getting all the ads pasted and the information sheets filled out. The club truly misses O'Malley and all the work she did on the book. There was no old business. Under new business, there will be election of officers at the April meeting, scheduled for Tuesday April 9, at city hall.

TASTE OF

Extension

Join us for a Taste of Extension on Friday, April 19, to learn what your local Extension has to offer you!

University of Illinois Extension of Montgomery County will be hosting "Taste of Extension" on April 19 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. This event is the perfect opportunity for the public to explore our program areas and get a "taste" of what Extension offers! There will be pop-up activities youth can participate in and adults can learn more about our programs. Learn more at [go.illinois.edu/tasteofextension](http://go.illinois.edu/tasteofextension).

Local food truck Lipe's Lunchbox will be available on-site to purchase dinner.

Montgomery County Extension is located at 1 Industrial Park Dr. in Hillsboro.

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 217-532-3941.

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences  
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# Obituaries

Monday, April 8, 2024 - **3A**

## Mark A. Rhodes, 61

### Avid Cub Fan



Mark A. Rhodes, 61, of Gillespie, died at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 2:09 a.m.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 3, at Kravanya Funeral Home in Gillespie. Kravanya Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Mr. Rhodes was born Jan. 21, 1963, in Staunton, to his father, Robert J. Rhodes, birth mother, Adell Medley Rhodes and mother, Mary M. Ogilvie Rhodes. He married Marilyn S. Mallory Rhodes on April 22, 2000 in Gillespie, and she survives.

He was a laborer for Aladdin Steel as well as a member of the Litchfield Moose and Gillespie Fire Department and was an avid Cub fan.

Mr. Rhodes loved his grandkids and being outdoors with tractors.

Mr. Rhodes is survived by his spouse, Marilyn Rhodes of Gillespie; children, Zachary (Taylor) Rhodes of Staunton, Deanna (Jeremy) Ellis of Gillespie and Michael (Allison) Rhodes of Palmyra; grandchildren, Maris Rhodes, Ayden Madeline, Traegen Madeline, Lincoln Ellis, Caleb Ellis, Chloe Ellis, Corbin Bates, Blaze Rhodes, Hali Rhodes and Braylon Rhodes; siblings, Janice (John) Snopko of Mt. Olive, Rhonda Chapman of New Port Richey, FL and Kim (Melvin) Thornhill of Gillespie; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Carl and Joyce Mallory of Gillespie.

Mr. Rhodes was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Abigail Rhodes; and brother, Ron Smith.

Memorials are suggested to wishes of the family.

Anyone wishing to send an online condolence may do so at [www.kravanyafuneral.com](http://www.kravanyafuneral.com).

## Charles B. Hanner, 74

### Avid Fisherman



Charles B. Hanner, 74, of Greenville, died on April 2, 2024 at Hillsboro Area Hospital, surrounded by family.

A family hosted celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Mr. Hanner was born on June 15, 1949, in Hillsboro, to the late Joseph Wilson and Dorcas Lorraine (Brockman) Hanner.

He lived a quiet, unassuming and simple life that was full of love and well lived. He graduated from Collinsville High School in 1968 and continued his education at Belleville Barber College. He worked at Olin for a few years, was a self-employed barber for 17 years and finished up his career with Utlaut Memorial Hospital in the maintenance department.

Mr. Hanner was an avid fisherman who enjoyed stock car racing and his cat Cricket, who was his first and only cat he ever had. His greatest loves were his children and his family, with whom he enjoyed spending time.

He is survived by his children, Dusty Marie Hanner of Carlyle and Joseph Banyon Hanner of Caseyville; siblings, Braunda Hopwood of Fillmore, Terri Schieffer of Lebanon, and Steve (Tami) Hanner of Taylor Springs; along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials may be gifted to the Bond County Humane Society. The memorials may be given at the celebration of life or mailed to: Bond County Humane Society, 2510 S. Elm St., Greenville IL 62246. Condolences may be left at [assalleyfuneralhomes.com](http://assalleyfuneralhomes.com).

## Thomas R. Elmore, 63

### 1979 Lincolnwood Graduate



Thomas Richard Elmore, 63, of Chatham, formerly of Farmersville, died Friday, April 5, 2024, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Visitation will be held Thursday, April 11, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Davis-Anderson Funeral Home, 226 N. 3rd Street, Girard. Private Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 12, with Pastor Larry Griffith and Pastor Tony Sale officiating. Burial will take place in the Rovey Cemetery in Farmersville.

Mr. Elmore was born on Dec. 6, 1960, to Robert and Betty (Luce) Elmore in Springfield. He was a 1979 graduate of Raymond Lincolnwood High School, and then graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago with a B.S.E.E.T. degree. He was an honor student and a member of NU Delta Chapter of Pau Alpha Pi.

He started his working career for Honeywell Corporation (Alliant Techsystems, Inc.) in 1984 in Minneapolis, MN, as an electronics engineer and then moved back home in 1994 where he then worked as the director of engineering for DICKEY-john Corporation in Auburn and took over the family farm in Farmersville. After 16 years at DICKEY-john, he retired and farmed full time.

Mr. Elmore was a member of New Life Family Church in Auburn, a board member of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau and served on the Farmersville Township Board for several years. He enjoyed fast cars and owned a 1969 Plymouth GTX. He loved to travel and took his family on many trips, with Cancun being their favorite destination. He also enjoyed shooting and collecting guns, and had a special bond with his German Shepherd dogs.

Mr. Elmore is survived by his wife Donna; two daughters, Alexandra N. Elmore of Farmersville and Amber L. (Walter) Jarvis of Farmersville; sister, Barb Jean (Chuck) Pearson of Wheatfield, IN; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents, Robert and Betty Elmore, and his brother, Bob Elmore.

Memorials are suggested to Sangamon County Animal Control in Springfield.

Davis-Anderson Funeral Home in Girard is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences can be given at [www.davisandersonfuneralhome.com](http://www.davisandersonfuneralhome.com).

## Charles R. Cochran, 79

### Served His Country



Charles R. Cochran, 79, of Nokomis, died on April 5, 2024, at Springfield Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 9, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Sutton Funeral Home in Nokomis. A funeral service with military rites will begin at noon with Pastor Kyle Blackerby officiating. Cremation will follow the service, with interment to occur at a later date.

Mr. Cochran was born on Aug. 10, 1944, in Pana Township, to the late Shirley and Ruth (Stevens) Cochran. In 1967, he married Patricia Kamer and they later divorced. He married Imogene "Jeannie" Nagle in 1976, and she preceded him in death on Oct. 31, 2020. He later married Linda (Barnstable) Bradley on April 16, 2021, and she survives.

Mr. Cochran attended Nokomis High School and obtained his GED while serving in the United States Army. During the Vietnam War, he was a combat engineer and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign and Service Medals with four Campaign Stars, two Overseas Service Bars, Expert Badge (M-16), Sharpshooter Badge (M-14) and more. He worked as a coal miner for twenty-three years and was a truckdriver before, during and after that time. He was a member of Catch the Fire Church in Cowden and loved spending his free time camping and going on motorcycle trips.

Mr. Cochran is survived by his wife, Linda Cochran, of Nokomis; daughter, Barbara Eckart (Jeremy Saunders) of Rosamond; stepchildren, Cindy Fournier of Nokomis, Loretta Blevins of Hillsboro, Sandra (Robin) McBride of Texas, Scott Bradley (Dena Davis) of Indiana, Sonya Maretti of Nokomis and Steve (Donna) Bradley of Indiana; grandchildren, Tyler Engelhart, Sadie Keller, Johnny Keller, Matt (Christy) Bolyard, Brandon Bolyard, Hannah Black, Savannah Stevenson and Mackenzie Blevins; as well as many stepgrandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and cousins; and sister, Shirley Brown of Pana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Shirley and Ruth Cochran; second wife, Imogene Cochran; stepson, Jeff Bolyard; and step-grandson, J.R. Jones.

Memorials to honor Mr. Cochran may be made to Nokomis American Legion or to Paws Care of Montgomery County.

Sutton Memorial Home in Taylorville is assisting the family with arrangements. Please sign our online guestbook at [suttonmemorialhome.com](http://suttonmemorialhome.com).

## Robert 'Bob' Bono, 77

### Served His Country



Robert "Bob" Bono, 77, of Staunton, died on Saturday, March 30, 2024, with his wife by his side following a hard-fought battle against Parkinson's Disease.

Visitation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Staunton. A memorial mass will be held immediately following the visitation with the Rev. Thomas Hagstrom officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery in Staunton. The Staunton Military Honor Guard will conduct graveside military rites.

Mr. Bono was born June 24, 1946 in Litchfield, the son of the late Victor and Ruth (Smith) Bono. He married Laurel Schuette on Nov. 17, 1979 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Staunton, and she survives.

After high school, Mr. Bono worked at International Paper in Litchfield. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1969 on the USS Grand Canyon and was a member of the VFW. He was employed by Freesen, Inc. as a heavy equipment operator for many years. In addition, he owned Bob's Used Machinery and ran the family farm.

Mr. Bono loved working on machinery projects and found enjoyment attending farm auctions where he could talk "odds and ends" with friends and customers. He was especially fond of giving his grandchildren rides in his golf cart and enjoyed camping, gardening and FFA events.

Mr. Bono was a devoted son, husband and father.

He is survived by his wife Laurel; three children, Leslie (Mike) Grabruck of Bloomington, Nathan (Vicki) Bono of Staunton and Jenna Bono of Staunton; five grandchildren, Lily, Anna and Hollie Grabruck and Hazel and Violet Bono; one sister, Nancy (Charley) Thornton of Wildwood, MO; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his in-laws, Otto & Virginia Schuette.

Memorials are suggested to either Zion Lutheran School, St. Michael Catholic Church or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left at [www.williamsonfh.com](http://www.williamsonfh.com).

## Sandra Stauder, 70

### 1972 Nokomis Graduate



Sandra Stauder, 70, of Chatham, died on Sunday, March 31, 2024, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

As per Mrs. Stauder's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Stauder was born on Feb. 4, 1954, in Hillsboro, the daughter of the late Marvin Stauder and Mary Niehaus. She graduated from Nokomis High School with the class of 1972.

Mrs. Stauder worked for the State of Illinois Consumer Fraud Bureau for many years. She loved watching baseball and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. Above all, she loved her family immensely and loved spending time with them.

Mrs. Stauder is survived by her sister, Sally (Doug) Keenan of Pana; brother, Jim (Lynne) Stauder of Donna, TX; caregiver and best friend, Kim Stinson of Chatham; nephews, Jeff (Barb) Stauder of Pana, Paul (Leanne) Stauder of Fairfield, Marc Stauder of Pana and Kent (Corrie) Stauder of Finley; niece, Katie (Nick) Horton of Riverton; great-nephew, Gage Horton and great-niece, Hadley Horton; as well as her beloved pets.

Mrs. Stauder was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Mary Stauder; grandparents, Phillip and Lena Stauder and Cecil and Beulah Niehaus; and her sister, Suzanne Stauder.

Memorials to honor Mrs. Stauder, may be made to Paws Care of Montgomery County by visiting [www.pawscare.org](http://www.pawscare.org). Condolences may be left online at [calvertmemorial.com/obituaries/sandra-stauder](http://calvertmemorial.com/obituaries/sandra-stauder).

## Pamela M. Dyckman, 70

### Office Manager At LFP



Pamela M. Dyckman, 70, of Staunton, died at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at her residence in Staunton, with her family by her side.

A memorial service was held on Friday, April 5, at Williamson Funeral Home in Staunton, with Chaplain Ryan officiating.

Mrs. Dyckman was born on Jan. 11, 1954 in East St. Louis, the daughter of the late Paul and Barbara (Berkley) Moore. She married Robert W. Dyckman on Feb. 2, 1973, in Granite City, and he survives.

Mrs. Dyckman was an office manager at Litchfield Family Practice in Litchfield for many years. She was also a videographer and wedding DJ coordinator with her husband Rob for their business, "The Majic Jukebox". She was a loving mother to her two boys and loving grandmother to her three grandchildren. She loved spending time at the Lake of the Ozarks and found true peace on any beach.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Dyckman, of Staunton; sons, Robert (Rebecca) Dyckman and Doug (Kelsey) Dyckman; grandchildren, Whitney, Evelyn, and Easton; sister, Laurie (Scott) Fischer; nieces, Stephanie (Seth) Yingling and Courtney (Tyler) Phillips; and many great-nieces and great-nephews also survive.

Mrs. Dyckman was preceded in death by her parents.

Condolences may be left at [www.williamsonfh.com](http://www.williamsonfh.com)

## Sandra Lynn Lane, 76

### Worked As A Bookkeeper



Sandra Lynn Lane, 76, of Staunton, died at 7:15 a.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024 at Staunton Health & Rehab Center.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at Williamson Funeral Home in Staunton.

Mrs. Lane was born May 22, 1947 in Chicago, the daughter of the late Dougald and Florence (Labuhn) Thompson. She married Charles H. "Chip" Lane on Oct. 29, 1977 in Palos Park and he preceeded her in death on Oct. 27, 2019.

She was employed as a bookkeeper at First National Bank in Staunton for many years.

Mrs. Lane is survived by three daughters, Sara (John) Knowles of Staunton, Natalie Moore of Coffeen and Charlene Lane of Oak Lawn; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Evelyn (Carl) Rendel of Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Lane was preceded in death by one sister, Susan Ziglar and one brother, Ronald Thompson.

Memorials are suggested to the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

Condolences may be left at [www.williamsonfh.com](http://www.williamsonfh.com)

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**~THANK YOU!**

We want to thank everyone for the flowers, food, donations, kind words and love.

**From The Family Of David Shoraga**

**The Journal-News**  
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## Youth Find Pot Of Gold At Library Story Hour

On Monday, April 1, Hillsboro Public Library held story hour for local youth. Library director Laura Naugle read *The Leprachaun's Gold* to an enthusiastic group of children, who then made a pot of gold craft with plastic gold coins to fill it up. Pictured above with their craft, in front is Laura and Brayden Hertel. In back is Letty Ervin, Charlotte Herschelmann and Grayson Hertel.

Storyhour is held every Monday at 4 p.m. at Hillsboro Public Library. On Monday, April 8, the topic and book will be on ladybugs.

Journal-News Photo

## Hillsboro Health To Host Blood Drive On Tuesday

Hillsboro Health, formerly Hillsboro Area Hospital, will be hosting a community blood drive on Tuesday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the hospital, located at 1210 E. Tremont Street, inside the gym.

Those interested in making a donation should contact ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or visit [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org) and use code 60126 to locate the drive. Appointments are requested.

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

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission

form available through [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org)) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo ID is required to donate.

For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401. Donors who last gave on or before Feb. 13 are eligible to give at this drive.

ImpactLife is the exclusive provider of blood and blood components to Hillsboro Health and Litchfield's HSHS St. Francis Hospital.

All donors will receive an ImpactLife promo voucher for their choice of either an eGift Card (Target, Amazon, Walmart, Olive Garden, etc.) or use the bonus points for a t-shirt or direct a donation to Best Friends Animal Society.



## Evergreen Place Hosts Easter Egg Festivities

Evergreen Place Supportive Living held their Easter Celebration on Friday, March 29, in Litchfield. The home hosted a variety of fun activities for local youth, serving breakfast, building crafts, hunting for eggs and meeting the Easter bunny, pictured above.

## Lewey Joins Local Bank In Ag Loans

Bank of Hillsboro has announced the newest addition to its team, Kord Lewey, who joins as the commercial ag loan officer. With a strong background in agriculture and a deep connection to the local community, Lewey brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to his new role.

Lewey, a Hillsboro native, has been hired as the commercial ag loan officer at Bank of Hillsboro. Born and raised in Hillsboro, Lewey is well-acquainted with the agricultural landscape of Montgomery County.

Lewey pursued his education at Lake Land College in Mattoon for two years before transferring to Western Illinois University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences with a minor in ag tech management.

His journey in the agricultural sector includes working for a local seed company, serving as the resource conservationist for Montgomery County Soil and Water District and holding positions as a program technician for the Farm Service Agency in Bond and Montgomery counties.

Lewey's roots in agriculture run deep, having been raised on a family farm with a variety of livestock, including goats. His diverse experience in various agricultural professions provides him with a unique and broad insight into ag production in Montgomery County.

In addition to his professional experience, Lewey is an active member of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leaders, demonstrating his commitment to community involvement and credibility in the agricultural sector.

"I am excited about joining the team at Bank of Hillsboro and assisting all customers both new and existing," said Lewey. "With my background in various ag professions and community involvement, I am well-prepared to understand and cater to the diverse needs of our agricultural clients."

Lewey's contact information includes email ([Klewey@bankhillsboro.com](mailto:Klewey@bankhillsboro.com)), office phone (217-532-3391-Ext 2255), and cell phone (217-851-2396).

## Marriage Licenses

Travis Paul Hobson, Waggoner; Amanda Marie Seaton, Waggoner

Justin Michael Degler, Vandalia; Amanda Marie Engelbrektson, Vandalia

Owen Patrick West, Witt; Mallorie Autym Perry, Witt  
Joshua Cain Cutright, Donnellson; Ronni Rae Krummel, Vandalia

Mitchell Robert Carter, Collinsville; Abby Leigh Meyer, Collinsville



## Hines Donates To Area Organizations

Bernadine (Tosetti) Hines of Hinsdale, formerly of Nokomis, the daughter of the late Elio and Yolanda Tosetti of Nokomis, recently made donations to local organizations. Her brother, Jack Tosetti presented the checks to the recipients. Pictured above, from the left, are Jack Tosetti, Cheryl Gonet of St. Louis Catholic School, Doris O'Malley of the Nokomis Food Pantry, Jim Miller of the Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Service and Stephanie Kilzer of the Nokomis High School Band.



## Easter 'Bunny' Visits Hillsboro Rehab

Doug and Janice Galer's dog, Peanut, visited the Hillsboro Rehab and Healthcare Center on Thursday, March 28, to spread some Easter cheer to the residents of the facility. Peanut donned Easter bunny ears, which brought a smile to many faces. Pictured above with Peanut are Doug Galer, Barb Ziglar and Billy Gifford.

Janice Galer Photos



Pictured above are winners of the bikes given away at Witt's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. From the left are Kaiden Smith, Drake Downs, Amelia Vallelonga, Brynlee Bell, Griffin Maretti, Otto Slightom, Tessa Schuler, Sullivan Fleming, Pam Smith and Briella Osborn.

## Witt Community Celebrates Easter

With the help of the whole community, including Break-away, Envision Witt, Witt Lions Club, Witt Fire Department, Witt Public Library, Hillsboro FFA, Witt Casey's and the Easter Bunny, Witt held their annual Easter Egg Hunt on a beautiful Saturday, March 30.

Beginning at 11 a.m. and serving hotdogs, chips, candy and drinks, local youth enjoyed petting bunny rabbits brought by Harmony Werner-Long, a Hillsboro FFA member. They also visited with Librarian Sue Van Ostran, who read a book, and got to color a bunny. Face painting was provided by the Tri County Queens and 'color an egg' was available with the help of the Witt Royalty, along with Rylee and Aubree Rogers. Kids got to also climb up on the Witt Fire Truck and see all the equipment, as well as take photos with the Easter Bunny.

Witt Lions Club donated 10 bikes to be given away, and for every egg found, children



received 25 cents. The Witt community thanks everyone who helped make the event possible and attended the enjoyable day.

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204 Smith Road, Hillsboro

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Navien Tankless Water Heater

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(Drawing to be held that day.)



# Thank YOU Tonya Flannery

*for almost 22 years of service to your city and the surrounding communities.*

*We are but a small number of the thousands of area residents who appreciate all the years you have dedicated your service to the citizens of the bi-country area.*

*Your integrity and hard work has resulted in a long list of projects of which you have been involved that has improved the quality of life, the standard of living and the areas' attraction of business that we citizens have all benefited from.*

*From your beginning in tourism, through your leadership on important projects that we benefit from today and to the many millions of dollars in grant money, we continue to benefit from your tenacity to work hard for the City and surrounding area.*

## **Tourism**

Route 66 – Festival of Trees – Boat Races – Sesquicentennial

## **Assisted with Business Attraction & Expansion**

Pittsburgh Pipe – Midwest Power Source – Alply Insulated Products – Dometic – ITW – Midwest Bus Sale – Curaleaf – McKay Napa Auto – Worksaver Inc. – Action Power Sports – Aaron's Rentals – Grand Rental – Starbucks – Paken Partners Development (Urgent Care and Los Rancheros)

## **Housing Projects**

Brown Shoe Redevelopment - Golden Oaks Redevelopment – Freedom Place Development – Housing Rehab Program Grant – Strong Communities Abandoned Properties Program Grant Eagle Ridge Subdivision Development

## **Development of Westside Industrial Park**

Assisted developer of Route 66 Crossing Development – Redevelopment of Madison Park  
Two Phases of Streetscape downtown ITEP Grant  
Sidewalk project to West side Corvette Drive Rt 66 ITEP Grant  
Three phases of 319 Lake Sustainability projects Grant  
OVER \$13 million in past 6 years of grant funding secured

## **Incentives or Assistance Programs**

TIF extension – Creation TIF II and TIF III Districts  
Façade Grant Program – Redevelopment Agreements  
Establishment of Long Term Economic Development Fund  
Revolving Loan Funds – Enterprise Zone  
Small Business Assistance

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*From several of us who have recently worked with you we sincerely thank you for all you do!*

Lonnie Bathurst, Chairman EDC; Russ Beason, Montgomery County Board; Tim Burenga, EDC; Doug Donaldson, Montgomery County Board Chairman; Don Downs, Mayor of Hillsboro; Ken Elmore, EDC; Earl Flack, EDC; Dan Fleming, EDC; Mike Fleming, President Litchfield National Bank; Tom Franzen, EDC; Greg Fuerstenau, Superintendent of Schools, LCUSD # 12; John Hicks, Mayor of Gillespie; Dennis Held, Mayor of Raymond; Lindsey Garner, EDC; former State Senator Andy Manar; Ron Norris, EDC; Paul Osborne; Vice Chair, EDC; Kent Redfern, EDC; Andy Ritchie, former Administrator, City of Litchfield, and member of Montgomery Board; Representative Wayne Rosenthal; John Skertich, Mayor of Mt. Olive; Mark Stieren, EDC; Jim Timpe, President – CEO, HSHS St. Francis Hospital; Mike Treece, EDC.



Litchfield City Council

Continued from page 1A

Paula Endress, director of philanthropy at St. Francis Hospital, said she was distressed to read of the multiple attempts to discredit and diminish Flannery’s reputation and that it is sheer ignorance that she is being considered for dismissal because “someone is intimidated by the fact that she has two master’s degrees and countless other credentials as a city administrator and economic development director.”

Endress added that the “backroom gossip” that Flannery did not provide enough information for the council to make an informed decision on the soccer complex was equally ignorant.

“While you seek to avenge some of your guilt for voting this project down by trying to oust Tonya, such a course of action will only continue the ignorance and dysfunction,” Endress said in closing.

Carl Kasten, a retired lawyer from Carlinville and Flannery’s uncle, said that Litchfield has experienced significant growth over the last two decades, and while Flannery’s work is not the sole reason for that growth, her efforts were not insignificant toward that growth.

“My open urging in this matter is merely Tonya be treated honorably and compassionately and fairly in a manner commensurate with her own tireless efforts and her long time and devoted public service to this city,” Kasten said.

Litchfield School Board President Julie Abel and Litchfield Superintendent Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau both spoke about the school district’s relationship with city.

Abel said that relationship has been strong and positive, with Flannery having a lot to do with that from the economic development perspective.

“We’ve had a shared vision of being progressive and forward thinking, which has benefited our kids greatly. Economic development is vital to the health and growth of our district,” said Abel, who also questioned the city’s plans for economic development if Flannery is terminated. Abel also encouraged the city to live stream its meetings to keep the citizens informed and improve transparency.

Fuerstenau said that he doesn’t think that people realize how great Litchfield is and part of the reason for that is that the city has a proactive economic development director. He also spoke about Flannery’s support of the South Central Illinois Regional Training and Innovation Center, which has drawn interest from superintendents from all over the state.

Like Abel, he also ques-

tioned who was going to take over Flannery’s duties if she was terminated.

“It’s economic development that drives the communities,” Fuerstenau said. “Who’s going to do that work? If you don’t do that work, it’s not gonna happen. I’m speaking on behalf of every child in Litchfield.”

Ed Wernsing, who had previously spoken to the council, encouraged the council to think about its constituency, which he said was in support of the soccer park project, and the children in the community.

The four agenda items were tabled until the next meeting, which will be on April 18.

**Other Business**  
In addition to the support of Flannery, the city also heard from Amanda Majors, who grew up in Kansas, but moved to Litchfield recently. Majors said she began her career as a tattoo artist in 2019 and was hoping to open a business in Litchfield.

With the closest tattoo shops 45 minutes away, Majors said that she believed the business would be a boost for economic development and detailed that information in a business plan for the council. She added that she spoke with the city administrator and knew that there was an ordinance against tattoo shops, but she was willing to apply for a special use permit.

Majors added her business would be by appointment only, not an open door street shop, and would have regulated hours. City Administrator Breann Vazquez said they would continue to work with Majors and if the council had any questions, they could contact either herself or Mayor Steve Dougherty.

After the public participation, the council approved the minutes from the March 15 and March 21 meetings and the motion to transfer funds and pay bills, while also opening a bid for the property at 1524 North Madison, where the now demolished sleeping rooms were located.

Mayor Dougherty said the bid was for \$8,000 from Lindell and Vernetta Hardt, who own the adjacent property and run Almost Home Child Care. The letter from the Hardt’s said that they would like to turn the property into a place for a small garden for the children that attend the child care center, plus room for other activities and parking.

Mayor Dougherty said that the bid will be voted on at the next meeting and that he felt like this is what the city hoped would happen with the property.

In new business, the council approved an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year running from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025, approved an ordinance renewing Jereme Zook

of KEB as the city’s budget officer and approved a motion amending the budget for 2023-2024 fiscal year. A public hearing for the budget was held before the regular council meeting with no comments from the public.

The council also approved the renewal of health insurance for city employees through Dimond Brothers Insurance. Shannon Hall of Dimond Brothers spoke about the renewal, saying that there was a significant increase from Blue Cross, Blue Shield due to the company paying out more in claims than it received in premiums from the city.

Hall said that claims from four employees cost Blue Cross, Blue Shield more than the total amount that the city was putting in.

She added that she had some employees question whether the health insurance should go out for bid, but other providers came in higher or declined to bid. Hall also said that she has seen providers match a bid, then increase premiums by 40 to 60 percent the following year.

Alderman Jake Fleming asked about the Wellness Committee the city is establishing and its benefits. Hall said that it’s hard to quantify cost savings for the project, but if a group of employees spearheads the community and works to make changes, it could have positive effects for the environment and the culture for city employees.

Hall said that another program, Healthiest You, did have more quantifiable savings. The program allows employees and their families telehealth opportunities, which could reduce the amount of claims for the city.

The motion to renew was approved 6-0, with Alderman Sara Zumwalt abstaining.

In other business, motions were approved to authorize re-cabling of city facilities for a phone system upgrade with Third Wave/Sangamon Connect, for a sub-recipient agreement for a DCEO Energy Transition Community grant and for a grant agreement between the state, the Department of Natural Resources and the city for the Bicentennial Campground expansion project.

Alderman Ray Kellenberger asked about the grant, which Vazquez said is a 50/50 matching grant, with the city providing \$300,000 and the state providing the other \$300,000. With the additional revenue from the expansion, the project is expected to pay for itself in less than ten years.

The council also awarded a bid to Metro Ag to remove sludge from the Lake Lou Yaeger wastewater lagoon and approved a contract with First Due Consulting Services for work on a 2023 SAFER Grant for the fire department that would allow them to fund the salaries of two more firefighters.

Fire Chief Adam Pennock said that the additions would help eliminate overtime and would allow the department to do more transfers.

In building and zoning business, the council approved two motions regarding a special use permit for a short-term rental at 1116 North State Street, plus an ordinance installing stop signs at the intersection of Edwards Street and Chestnut Street during police business.

The council went into closed session at 7:15 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:37 p.m. to table the four items listed on the agenda. They will meet again two weeks from Thursday’s meeting, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Corwin Hall.



Pictured above, in front, from the left are this year’s fundraising teams, including Amber Kalaher and Paula Bartz (Team Rock, Paper, Sisters), Jennifer and Cody Gudge (Team Gudge Ranch Saloon), Denny and Tina Umberger (Team Um-Believable) and Samantha and Butch Hitchings (Team Hitch Up). In back are Stamp Out Cancer committee members, Theresa Priddle, Cory Evans, Chris Wygal, Shelly Hill, Zach Wygal, Kelsey Flack, Dana Holshouser and Renee Laughlin.

Journal-News/John M. Galer

Stamp Out Cancer

Continued from page 1A

Four fundraising teams kicked off their efforts six weeks ago, hosting a variety of fundraising events throughout Montgomery County. This year, teams included Team Rock, Paper, Sisters (Amber Kalaher and Paula Bartz of Hillsboro), Team Um-Believable (Denny and Tina Umberger of Nokomis), Team Hitch-Up (Bryant “Butch” and Samantha Hitchings of Hillsboro) and Team Gudge Ranch Saloon (Cody and Jennifer Gudge of Litchfield).

And the team that raised the most money for the MCCA was crowned the winner.

Although, this year’s event had a special twist. Instead of the Dancing with the Stars and celebrity lip sync challenge from year’s past, this year’s event featured a game show style format, where the teams had a chance to earn additional funds toward their total.

Led by emcee Will Smith, the evening included a va-

riety of “minute to win it” games like “Sticky Situation,” “Tilt-a-Cup,” “Stack Attack” and more.

Each team also had a chance to talk about what inspired them to participate in Stamp Out Cancer this year.

From the game show, Team Gudge Ranch Saloon came in first place, earning their team an additional \$2,500 to their total. In second place was Team Um-Believable, followed by Team Hitch-Up in third place and Team Rock, Paper, Sisters in fourth place.

Live entertainment for the event was provided by the St. Louis-based band, No Diggity.

But after the final totals were tallied, it was Team Um-Believable that took home the crown, raising an astonishing \$63,145.80 for the MCCA.

This year, the four fundraising teams raised over \$136,000, bringing the total Stamp Out Cancer has raised to over \$1 million since its inception.

In making his remarks, Wygal thanked all the teams

and said they are all “great ambassadors” for the MCCA. He also thanked the Stamp Out Cancer alumni in attendance, as well as The Event Center, corporate sponsor Country Financial, his committee and everyone who helps make it a success each year.

Hillsboro Mayor and Stamp Out Cancer alum Don Downs raised a glass and a toast to Wygal’s dad, Ron “Stamps” Wygal, who passed away from brain cancer.

They also asked for a moment of silence for Pat Cailey, longtime treasurer of the MCCA, who lost her battle to cancer last year.

“But Montgomery County is the real winner,” Wygal said. “I say this all the time, but we truly live in a special community. We help each other. We cheer for each other. We make it the best around. All of your generosity and words of encouragement is what keeps us going every year. Thank you all a million times over.”



Workers place their hands in prayer for safe passage of this truck’s cargo to Malawi in southeastern Africa.

Love Packages Feature

Continued from page 1A

“Our goal this year is 2,220 tons of usable Christian literature to missionaries and Christian workers. This will reach 60 million first-time readers,” Schmidt said.

A world map in Schmidt’s office is marked with pins showing that to date, Love Packages have been sent to 154 nations with an estimated 1,000 million recipients.

What I Learned

On March 28, I worked at Love Packages alongside my friend, Linda Zimmer, who volunteers there on Thursday mornings. For more than three hours, we moved, filled, taped and loaded heavy boxes containing new paperback New Testament Bibles.

The warehouse was a buzz of activity as incoming materials were sorted and moved for repacking, and pallets of outgoing boxes were moved by forklift.

It’s a joyful work environment. Against a background of Christian music, the paid staff and volunteers obviously enjoy working together and being part of this unique ministry. The Love Packages operation – from receiving to warehousing to shipping – is complicated, but the mission is not.

“Our vision is simple,” Schmidt said. “We want to see all of our excess, the materials that are being wasted, placed on the mission fields of the world. Won’t you help?”

For more information or to donate, contact Schmidt: email [enmsjs@hotmail.com](mailto:enmsjs@hotmail.com) phone 217-532-6701; or visit Love Packages, 220 Union St., Butler, IL 62015.



Sally Nation, the recently retired manager of Aldi’s in Litchfield, volunteers every Thursday morning at Love Packages. She was joined on March 28 by her 11-year-old granddaughter, Mackenzi Buckley, who was on spring break from 5th grade at Beckemeyer School. That morning, Mackenzie repacked 70 boxes of New Testament paperback Bibles.



Steve Schmidt said that these blue tags on the Love Packages bulletin board show port city destinations for 27 ocean container shipments completed since late November 2023.

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## Redskin Trio Tosses One-Hitter In Win Over Bunker Hill

Three Nokomis pitchers combined for a one-hitter against Bunker Hill on Friday, April 5, as the Lady Redskins improved to 5-5 on the season with a 7-1 win over the Minutemaids.

Reaghan Jonas pitched the first three innings, striking out two and allowing a one-out first inning walk. Only two batters reached base against Jonas, with an error in the third resulting in the other baserunner.

Jonas left the mound after the third inning, with a 2-0 lead behind her. Both Nokomis runs came in the first inning, with Grace DeWerff and Presley Mehochko reaching base on a single and a walk. The Redskins' 1-2 punch tried successfully for a double steal, with an error by the Bunker Hill catcher allowing DeWerff to score the game's first run. Mehochko was right behind her, scoring on a single by Jonas for a 2-0 lead.

Cloey Dirks pitched the next three innings for Nokomis, giving up a two-out walk in the bottom of the fourth, with an error in the fifth Bunker Hill's only other base runner.

Before Dirks could take the mound, Nokomis added four insurance runs to the board. The first three batters reached base as Ella Huelson doubled, Grace DeWerff singled and Presley Mehochko reached on an infield hit. Reaghan Jonas popped up for an out via the infield fly rule, but an error by the Bunker Hill second baseman allowed both Huelson and DeWerff to score.

Dirks helped her own cause with a single and a steal of second, which put her in scoring position with Jayde Gonet at the plate. Gonet latched on to the third pitch she saw from Bunker Hill starter Grace Burris and drove in both Dirks and Mehochko with a single to center field. Bunker Hill got the final two outs of the inning after Gonet's hit, but Nokomis now led 6-0.

After a scoreless fifth, Nokomis added another run on a two-out homer by Gonet, then got a 1-2-3 inning from Dirks, who struck out three batters in her three innings on the mound.

Continued on 3B



Hillsboro goalkeeper Delaney Adams dives to prevent a scoring chance for Pana during the Lady Hiltoppers' South Central Conference game on Thursday, April 4. Hillsboro picked up their second SCC win in a row, with Adams and her defense Addison Compagni (#32), Brynn Connor, Zoey Spinner and Milla Anderson securing a 3-0 shutout, the Toppers' fourth of the season.

Brandi Lentz Photo

## Hillsboro Girls Get 2nd SCC Win

After back-to-back losses to conference foes in non-conference games, the Hillsboro girls soccer team rebounded to start South Central Conference play with a 2-0 record.

After beating Southwestern on Wednesday at home by a 4-0 final score, the Lady Hiltoppers downed Pana 3-0 on the Panthers' home field.

The three goals came from three different sources for Hillsboro, who led 1-0 at the half. Senior Kinley Richardson accounted for one of the goals and assisted on another, while junior Tatum Christian and sophomore Lola Hughes scored the other two tallies. Christian scored late in the

first half to give Hillsboro the lead, while Richardson and Hughes added insurance in the second half.

Richardson's goal was her 11th of the season, while Christian and Hughes both have four on the year. Neither Christian, nor Hughes scored last year as Christian ran track and Hughes played mostly a JV role as a freshman.

The shutout was Hillsboro's fourth of the season as goalkeeper Delaney Adams continues to get a handle on the pace of play in high school in her freshman campaign. Fortunately that task is a little easier with the return

of Milla Anderson, Brynn Connor, Zoey Spinner and Addison Compagni in the back.

The two wins are just the beginning of a long stretch of conference games for the Toppers as they play five straight against South Central Conference competition. Next up for Hillsboro is North Mac, who comes to town on Tuesday, April 9.

### April 4 at Pana

Hillsboro	1	2	-	3
Pana	0	0	-	0

### Hillsboro Statistics

**Goals:** Kinley Richardson 1, Tatum Christian 1, Lola Hughes 1.  
**Assists:** Kinley Richardson 1.  
**Goalkeeper:** Delaney Adams (4th shutout).

**Records:** Hillsboro (6-3, 2-0); Pana (2-5, 0-1).

## Trojans Hand Lancers Second Loss

Two of the top teams in the area squared off in Raymond on Friday, April 5, as 6-1 Lincolnwood-Morrisonville played host to 6-2 Auburn. The game was the first of April for both teams as the rain stayed away long enough for the two teams to get seven innings in the books at a chilly Stieren Field.

The Trojans managed to withstand a pair of comeback bids by the Lancers to hold on for a 6-4 win.

The first of the two Lincolnwood rallies came in the bottom of the third, after Auburn picked up one run in the first and two more in the second. The Trojans' runs forced Lincolnwood to go to their bullpen early as Brodey VanHooser came on for starter Jonah Elvidge, who allowed three runs, two earned) on four hits and a walk in two and a third innings, with four strikeouts along the way.

After VanHooser came on and got a double play to end the top of the third, Lincolnwood went to work in the bottom half of the inning as Lance Weitekamp started the rally with a one-out single. If there was any frustration from Elvidge with the early exit on the mound, he was able to get rid of it on the first pitch he saw from Auburn starter Cooper Carter in the inning with a two-run home run over the center field fence. Carter managed to get the next two batters out to end the inning, but the Trojans' lead had shrunk to just one run.

The two teams traded a pair of runs in the fourth and fifth, with Carter helping his own cause with an RBI



Lincolnwood junior Jonah Elvidge (#2) celebrates at home plate with teammates Lance Weitekamp (#20) and Mason Tryon (#22) after his two-run home run against Auburn on Friday, April 5, in Raymond. The homer cut the Trojans' lead to 3-2 at the time, but Auburn survived that rally and a later one to escape with a 6-4 win over the Lancers.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

double in the fourth, followed by a single by Zach Newbold that drove in Carter. Lincolnwood got those two runs back in the bottom of fifth, with back-to-back doubles by Tucker Armentrout and Lance Weitekamp, a single by Elvidge and a sacrifice fly by VanHooser.

Mason Tryon came on in relief of VanHooser in the sixth and didn't allow a hit in his first inning of work.

Some bad luck still gave the Trojans an insurance run as Auburn scored on a hit batsman, two walks and an error.

Evan Kessler came on in relief for the Trojans in the sixth and struck out the side to keep it a 6-4 game. Tryon gave the Lancers another scoreless inning as Lincolnwood headed to the bottom of the seventh with one last chance to erase the deficit.

Lincolnwood got two run-

ners on with a pair of walks to Weitekamp and Tryon, but Kessler separated those walks with strikeouts and ended the game for Auburn's seventh win.

The loss spoiled a solid day at the plate for Weitekamp and Elvidge, who combined to go 5-for-7 with three runs scored and three driven in. Unfortunately, the Trojans held the rest of the team to just one hit, Tucker Armentrout's fifth inning double.

The Lancers will try to get back to their winning ways today, when they host Vandalia, followed by another home game on Tuesday, April 9, against Pawnee. The second game of the home-and-home MSM Conference series will be on the Indians' home field on Thursday, April 11.

### April 5 at Raymond

Auburn	102	201	0	-	6	8	0
Lincolnwood	002	020	0	-	4	6	3

### Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Carter	5.0	6	4	4	2	6
Kessler	2.0	0	0	0	2	6
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Elvidge	2.1	4	3	2	1	4
VanHooser	2.2	4	2	2	1	3
Tryon	2.0	0	1	0	3	3

\*Tryon 1 HBP

### Lincolnwood Batting Statistics

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Weitekamp	3	2	3	1	10
Elvidge	4	1	2	2	01
Tryon	3	0	0	0	11
VanHooser	3	0	0	1	02
Gilpin	3	0	0	0	01
Daugherty	2	0	0	0	12
Matli	2	0	0	0	12
Walker	3	0	0	0	02
Armentrout	3	1	1	0	01

2B: Lance Weitekamp 1, Tucker Armentrout 1. **HR:** Jonah Elvidge 1.

### Auburn Batting Statistics

**Multiple Hits:** Jed Furguson 2-3, Clayton Dinardo 2-4. **2B:** Jed Furguson 2, Cooper Carter 1. **Runs:** Cooper Carter 2, Zach Newbold 1, Jed Furguson 1, Brady Boylen 1, Ledger Munds 1. **RBI:** Jed Furguson 2, Cooper Carter 1, Zach Newbold 1, Clayton Dinardo 1.

**Records:** Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (6-2); Auburn (7-2).



Lincolnwood's Jenna Matli hustles to first during the Lancers' home game with Auburn on Friday, April 5. While the Lancers lost that game 13-3, with all 13 runs coming from the fourth inning on, Matli was a bright spot with two hits and a run scored. She continued her hot streak the following day with two more hits in the Lancers' 11-1 win over Greenfield-Northwestern.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

## Lincolnwood Bounces Back After Auburn Loss

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville softball team finally got back on the field on Friday, April 5, as they welcomed Lincolnwood grad and Auburn Coach Ryan Patterson to town after a week-long layoff. With a 7-2-1 record coming into the game, the Lady Trojans have been a tough customer this season and that continued on Friday as they defeated the Lady Lancers 13-3.

Despite the ten-run final deficit, the Lancers hung with the Trojans early on as neither team scored in the first three innings. Lincolnwood starter Taryn Clarke allowed a leadoff single to start the fourth, but got a quick double play to nearly end the threat. Auburn managed to keep things going, though, as Piper Taylor singled and Mailee

Schoen hit a two-run home run for the game's first runs.

Another blow came in the fifth when Auburn loaded the bases on an error and back-to-back singles, as Coach Matt Myers changed pitchers, with center fielder Taylor Millburg swapping places with Clarke. The senior pitcher got out of the inning with minimal damage, but Auburn still managed to score three more runs to increase their lead to 5-0.

With momentum behind them, the Trojans kept adding runs. They scored three times in the sixth on an error, a double, two singles and a walk, then tacked on five more in the seventh on five hits and a walk, highlighted by a two-run home run by Meena Taylor.

Continued on 3B



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## Hiltoppers Fall To SCC Foe Southwestern

A pitching duel seemed looming when Piasa Southwestern came to Hillsboro on a windy Friday afternoon, April 5, to open the South Central Conference season; the Birds came to town with a 7-2 record and sent right-handed Adam Hale to the mound, while the Toppers (3-10) countered with leftie Nathan Matoush.

Though Matoush gave-up three runs in the four innings he worked, the three were unearned after a third-inning error opened the gate; those runs were all Hale would need as his offerings seemed more of a mystery to the Topper batters as the game moved on. Matoush struck out eight of the 20 batters he faced, but his only 1-2-3 inning was the first when he overpowered the first three batters sent to the plate.

Though he only walked one and hit no one (a problem that has plagued Topper hurlers this season), Matoush's pitch count had reached 87, after four innings, so senior Ketch Mills took his place on the mound.

Hale, meanwhile, used only 98 pitches in his complete game effort. He walked two, gave up four hits (singles to Mills, Elliot Lentz, Drake McSperritt, and Jackson Tuetken) and had no errors committed behind him ( the Toppers were charged with four).

The Toppers best chance to score came in the bottom of the second when Lentz and McSperritt singled leading off. The next batter fouled out to the catcher trying to sacrifice, though, and the next fanned for the second out before Clayton Rufus walked to load the bases. Hale fanned the next Topper, though, leaving three men on base and the score 0-0. Only two other Toppers would be stranded (Eli Zaidi, who walked in the fourth with two out in front of Tuetken's hit) as Hale settled in to retire the last ten Toppers he faced, four by strikeout, including the last two. Four of the seven innings he threw were 1-2-3 affairs; statistically, at least, Hale was the most effective pitcher the Toppers have faced.

Offensively, Piasa was most effective when the ninth slot hitter, Logan Crane, batted in front of leadoff man Rocky Darr. Crane had the first hit off Matoush when he singled with one out in the bottom of the third and Darr followed with the second hit. After a strikeout for the second out, Colen Lemarr drew a walk. Ryan Lewis then reached on an error, making all three runs that scored in the inning unearned; that miscue gave Hunter Newell a chance to hit, and he responded with a two RBI single.

Crane scored the first (and winning) run of the game; Darr scored the second. The other four runs came off Mills, who's still in the process of conditioning his arm. Lemarr walked and scored in the fourth; Crane reached on an error with one out in the fifth and scored on a Darr single; Darr scored on a scratch hit by Marcus Payne in the sixth; and Lewis scored run seven after singling to lead off the top of the seventh as Hale singled.

The coming week will be a busy one. Tomorrow, April 9, the Toppers will have a conference game at North Mac ( in Virden); Wednesday the challenge will be in Breesee against Mater Dei; Friday Carlinville will be here; and next Saturday, April 13, the County Tournament will bring fans and teams from Lincolnwood, Litchfield, and Nokomis to Hillsboro.

### April 5 at Hillsboro

Southwestern 003 012 1--7 8 0  
Hillsboro 000 000 0--0 4 4

#### Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hale	7.0	4	0	0	2	10
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Matoush	4.0	5	3	0	1	11
Mills	3.0	3	4	2	2	4

#### Hillsboro Batting Statistics

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Stewart	3	0	0	0	0
Summers	3	0	0	0	0
Mills	3	0	1	0	0
Matoush	3	0	0	0	0
Lentz	3	0	1	0	0
McSperritt	3	0	1	0	0
Zaidi	2	0	0	0	1
Tuetken	3	0	1	0	0
Rufus	2	0	0	0	1

#### Southwestern Batting Statistics

**Multiple Hits:** Rocky Darr 3-4, Logan Crane 2-3. **Runs:** Rocky Darr 2, Colin LeMarr 2, Logan Crane 2, Ryan Lewis 1. **RBI:** Hunter Newell 2, Adam Hale 1, Rocky Darr 1. **Records:** Hillsboro (3-11, 0-1); Southwestern (8-2, 1-0).



Gillespie's Collin Johnson kicks up some dust around one of the corners at the Belleville Enduro Team grounds on Feb. 25, during round one of the So. IL Off-Road Racing Series. Johnson went on to run eight laps in 2:10:24 to win the AA class and the overall top spot for the Big Bikes division.

Tree Dodger Racing Photo

## So. IL Series Kicks Off In Belleville

Weather in February can be questionable at best in Illinois, but that wasn't the case for the first round of the So. IL Off-Road Racing Series in Belleville on Sunday, Feb. 25. With a quick track at the Belleville Enduro Team grounds and temperatures in the low 70s, nearly 160 racers from across south-central Illinois and the midwest competed in the opening event of the seven-round racing series.

About a third of those racers were from Montgomery and Macoupin County or connected to White City's Cahokia Creek Dirt Riders, who will host round three and six of the series. That includes four of the top five riders in the the overall standings. Gillespie's Collin Johnson took the top spot in a time of 2:10:24 for eight laps, 24 seconds ahead of Columbia's Chad Phelps. Litchfield's Drake Lineback (2:11:47), Morrisonville's Jhadyn Walker (2:15:28) and Carlinville's Rylan Frankford (2:15:46) rounded out the top five, both overall and in the AA class.

Donnellson's Cooper Duff placed ninth overall and was first in the Open B Class, while Taylorville's Blake Copeland was 10th and first in the 30+ A class. Duff ran six laps in 2:02:51, with Copland coming in a half minute later at the 2:03:23 mark. Carlinville's Riley Brueggeman also competed in 30+ A, finishing third in the class and 21st overall, while Litchfield's Ryan Komor was 17th overall and third in the Open A class.

In the other A classes, Derek Birkenkamp of Litchfield was second in the 40+ A class and 26th overall, while Blake Young of Pawnee and Derek Toberman of Waterloo, formerly of Hillsboro, were third and sixth in the class and 32nd and 86th overall. In the 50+ A class, Darold Johnson, father of the overall winner, was fifth and 31st overall, while Kevan Zini of Brighton was eighth in the class and 94th overall.

In addition to Cooper Duff, the Open B class had eight over riders from the J-N Motorsports area. Carlinville's Reece Frankford and Thad Roberts were fourth and eighth in

the class respectively, while Cooper's older brother Zach was seventh in the class. All three riders also finished in the top 25 overall, with Frankford finishing 16th and Duff and Roberts coming in 24th and 25th.

In ninth through 12th Open B were Josh Thomas of Edinburg (29th overall), Noah Younker of Mulberry Grove (30th overall), Alex Komor of Litchfield (40th overall) and Brayden Pickerill of Harvel (51st overall), and Benjamin Ferrill of Morrisonville (82nd overall) finishing 15th in the class.

In the 30+ B class, Tyler Spangler of Carlinville was third in the class and 49th overall, while Broc Marfell of Divernon was sixth in the class and 104th overall. Three more area races competed in the 40+ B class, with Mt. Olive's Brandon Frizzo (41st overall) taking second in the class, Carlinville's Mike Robinson (45th overall) finishing third and Litchfield's Brad Saxby (54th overall) finishing fifth. Steve Pickerill of Harvel raced in the 50+ B class, placing fifth, with a 69th place finish overall.

In the Open C class, Hank Burge of Glen Carbon took the top spot and was 33rd overall, while Mt. Olive's Jake Frizzo (70th overall) was eighth in the class. Andrew Reeves of Pocahtontas (92nd overall) and Ethan Hammann of Carlinville (106th overall) also raced in Open C and placed 15th and 17th.

In the 40+ C class, Auburn's Michael Ushman (85th overall) was first, followed by Gillespie's Ryan Heeren (91st overall) in second, Benld's Jim Force (93rd overall) in third and Benld's Jeran Hammann (107th) in fifth.

Two more Macoupin County riders competed in the 60+ class as Ken Mattway of Gillespie was first in the class and 66th overall, while Jim Denby was third in the class and 105th overall.

### 65/85/Supermini/Women

Ethan Whitten of Walshville was first in the Supermini class, running three laps in 56:13. Whitten also placed eighth overall in the 65/85/Supermini/Women's grouping, just under eight minutes behind

(16) - 2:06:36; 7. Zachary Duff, Donnellson (24) - 2:12:16; 8. Thad Roberts, Carlinville (25) - 2:12:21; 9. Josh Thomas, Edinburg (29) - 2:15:49; 10. Noah Younker, Mulberry Grove (30) - 2:16:30; 11. Alex Komor, Litchfield (40) - 1:58:26; 12. Brayden Pickerill, Harvel (51) - 2:01:20; 15. Benjamin Ferrill, Morrisonville (82) - 1:54:31

**30+ B:** 3. Tyler Spangler, Carlinville (49) - 2:01:03; 6. Broc Marfell, Divernon (104) - 0:45:28

**40+ B:** 2. Brandon Frizzo, Mt. Olive (41) - 1:58:29; 3. Mike Robinson, Carlinville (45) - 1:58:54; 5. Brad Saxby, Litchfield (54) - 2:03:29

**50+ B:** 5. Steve Pickerill, Harvel (69) - 2:12:22

**Open C:** 1. Hank Burge, Glen Carbon (33) - 1:56:13; 8. Jake Frizzo, Mt. Olive (70) - 2:13:08; 15. Andrew Reeves, Pocahtontas (92) - 2:12:47; 17. Ethan Hammann, Carlinville (106) - 0:53:33

**60+:** 1. Ken Mattway, Gillespie (66) - 2:09:08; 3. Jim Denby, Carlinville (105) - 0:47:10

**40+ C:** 1. Michael Ushman, Auburn (85) - 1:58:34; 2. Ryan Heeren, Gillespie (91) - 2:10:06; 3. Jim Force, Benld (93) - 2:18:27; 5. Jeran Hammann, Benld (107) - 1:00:25

Evansville, IN's Jayce Evans, who was the top finisher in the group and in the 85cc class. Carlinville's Colt Rosentreter and Rylan Wise were second and third behind Evans, running times of 49:06 and 52:45, while Dawson Wise of Carlinville and Jhenner Walker of Morrisonville finished fourth and sixth in the 85cc class and fifth and seventh overall. Dawson Wise ran a time of 55:12, while Walker finished 22 seconds behind him. Mt. Pulaski's Jack Mize won free entry from Journal-News Motorsports and placed second in the 65cc class and ninth overall in the group.

### 65cc Beginner

In the 65cc Beginner class, Easton Reaka of Belleville took first on his home track with a time of 32:52 for 12 laps as he finished just three seconds ahead of Andrew Burge of Edwardsville and four seconds in front of Lane Barclay of Lynnville. Morrisonville's Jhorjie Walker finished eighth with a time of 35:26 for 11 laps, a minute and 22 seconds ahead of ninth place finisher Easten Daniels of Springfield.

### 50cc Junior/Senior

Daniels fared better in the 50cc Junior/Senior division as he finished first overall and in the 50cc Senior class. Daniels ran a 30:34 for 11 laps to beat Jhacek Walker of Morrisonville by 46 seconds for the top spot. Hillsboro's Abram Wessell was third overall and in the 50cc Senior class, running a 31:35, while Carlinville's Ty Rosentreter was fifth with a time of 31:50. Elliot Tuey of Jerseyville and Mitchell Marfell of Rochester were fourth and sixth overall, respectively, while Brysen Laurent of Gillespie was 13th overall and sixth in the 50cc Junior class.

Round two of the So. IL Off-Road Racing Series will be on May 19, at Denby Farms in Carlinville. A preview video of the course, which has never been raced before, was recently posted on the series Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/soilracing](http://www.facebook.com/soilracing). So. IL organizers also announced that round four of the series will be at Splinter Creek Dirt Riders in Fosterburg on Aug. 4.

### 50cc Junior/Senior

**50cc Senior (7-8):** 1. Easten Daniels, Springfield (1) - 30:34; 2. Jhacek Walker, Morrisonville (2) - 31:20; 3. Abram Wessell, Hillsboro (3) - 31:35; 4. Elliot Tuey, Jerseyville (4) - 31:37; 5. Ty Rosentreter, Carlinville (5) - 31:50; 6. Mitchell Marfell, Rochester (6) - 30:03

**50cc Junior (4-6):** 6. Brysen Laurent, Gillespie (13th) - Gillespie

### 65 Beginner

**65cc Beginner:** 1. Easton Reaka, Belleville (1) - 32:52; 2. Andrew Burge, Edwardsville (2) - 32:55; 7. Madoc Marfell, Rochester (7) 33:09; 8. Jhorjie Walker, Morrisonville (8) 35:26; 9. Easten Daniels, Springfield (9) 31:47

### 65/85/Supermini/Women

**65cc:** 2. Jack Mize, Mt. Pulaski (9) - 1:01:00  
**85cc:** 1. Jayce Evans, Evansville, IN (1) - 48:26; 2. Colt Rosentreter, Carlinville (2) - 49:06; 3. Rylan Wise, Carlinville (3) - 52:45; 4. Dawson Wise, Carlinville (5) - 55:12; 6. Jhenner Walker, Morrisonville (7) 55:34

**Supermini:** 1. Ethan Whitten, Walshville (8th) - 56:13

## Miners No-Hit Litchfield In SCC Clash

To be the best you have to beat the best, and on Friday afternoon, April 5, the Litchfield-Mt. Olive baseball team needed be ready to meet that challenge. The challenge? The two-time South Central Conference champion Gillespie Miners, who was Litchfield's opponent in the first conference game of the season.

The Miners controlled this contest from the start as they would put five runs on the board in the opening inning en route to a 7-0 conference victory. The loss was the second of the year for the Purple Panthers as they fell to 11-2 overall and 0-1 in the South Central Conference, while the Miners improved to 8-3 overall and 1-0 in conference action.

On paper, the game on the campus of Litchfield High School looked like a good ticket to have as both teams are having a successful season. It also appeared to be a pitching showcase as Litchfield sent sophomore Ethan Saathoff, while Gillespie called on senior Bryce Buhs.

Saathoff entered the contest with a 3-0 record and not giving up a run in his five appearances this season. Buhs, a Lincoln Land Community College signee, carried a fast ball that clocked in at more than 90 miles per hour.

Buhs won the battle on the mound as he pitched a seven-inning gem, not allowing a run or a hit and only throwing 86 pitches.

The Miners put pressure on the Purple Panthers' starter as they got on base early and often in the opening inning. Gillespie put together four hits and two walks to produce five runs in their first trip to the plate.

Even though Saathoff struggled in the opening inning, he'd stay on the mound and go four more innings. The last four innings were a lot more productive for the sophomore as he only allowed two more runs off of three hits.

Even Saathoff settled down on the bump, the Purple Panthers struggled to get much going at the dish. Litchfield would only get five runners on base throughout the seven innings, only one of which was able to reach second base.

That came in the fifth inning after Titan Hires reached on a dropped third strike with one out, then moved to second after a strikeout and a six-pitch walk to Tate Dobrinich.

A ground out quickly shut down the Purple Panthers' threat, closing out the inning with two runners on the base paths.

After avoiding the scoring threat in the previous inning, the Miners would get two more runs in the sixth off two fielding miscue by the Purple Panthers to up their lead to 7-0.

Those two runs added a little insurance for the Miners after the big first inning as they went on to win by the same 7-0 final score.

Ethan Saathoff was be handed the loss in the contest, his first of the year while, Miner hurler Bryce Buhs picked up his first win of the year.

### April 5 at Litchfield

Gillespie 500 002 0--7 8 1  
Litchfield 000 000 0--0 0 2

#### Pitching Statistics

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Buhs	7.0	0	0	0	3	9
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
E. Saathoff	5.0	7	5	4	2	4
Gasperson	2.0	1	2	0	3	1

#### Litchfield Batting Statistics

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Bywater	3	0	0	0	0
C. Saathoff	2	0	0	0	1
Leitschuh	3	0	0	0	0
Gasperson	3	0	0	0	0
E. Saathoff	2	0	0	0	1
Hires	3	0	0	0	0
Otto	2	0	0	0	0
Dobrinich	1	0	0	0	1
Jones	2	0	0	0	0

#### Batting Statistics

**Multiple Hits:** Colin Griffith 3-4, Jesse Berry 2-4. **2B:** Jesse Berry 1, Tristen Wargo 1. **Runs:** Tristen Wargo 2, Luke Schucklenbrock 1, Jesse Berry 1, Bryce Buhs 1, Jack Kaylor 1. **RBI:** Bryce Hohnsbehn 1, Jesse Berry 1, Colin Griffith 1, Sean Haywood 1. **Records:** Litchfield (11-2, 0-1); Gillespie (8-3, 1-0).

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## Lady Panthers Snap Skid With 3-1 Win

After falling to two talented teams in Highland and Greenville in their previous two games, the Litchfield girls soccer team snapped their two-game skid with a 3-1 win over Wesclin in Trenton on Thursay, April 4.

Chloe Law picked up her first hat trick of the season for Litchfield, who scored two second half goals to break a 1-1 tie at halftime.

Law's first goal came on an assist by Ava Ballard, with Alli Frerichs assisting on goal number two. The Litchfield sophomore finished off the trifecta with an unassisted tally as she closes in on double digit goals for the season just seven games in.

The Panthers edged closer to .500 with the win, as they improved to 3-4 on the season. They'll have a chance to even their record on

Monday, April 8, at home, when they play the Knights of Metro-East Lutheran. After that, the Panthers head to Williamsville for a road match with the 10-2 Lady Bullets.

### April 4 at Trenton

Litchfield 1 2 - 3  
Wesclin 1 0 - 1

#### Litchfield Statistics

**Goals:** Chloe Law 3. **Assists:** Alli Frerichs 1, Ava Ballard 1. **Records:** Litchfield (3-4); Wesclin (3-3-1).

## Sports Calendar

### Hillsboro Hiltoppers

#### Monday, April 8

4:30 p.m. - Boys Tennis at Alton Marquette

#### Tuesday, April 9

4:30 p.m. - Baseball at North Mac

4:30 p.m. - Softball at North Mac

4:30 p.m. - Boys Tennis at Greenville

4:30 p.m. - Track hosts Carlinville, Pana

5 p.m. - Girls Soccer hosts North Mac

#### Wednesday, April 10

4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Effingham

### Litchfield Purple Panthers

#### Monday, April 8

4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Lincolnwood

5 p.m. - Girls Soccer hosts Metro-East Lutheran

#### Tuesday, April 9

4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Southwestern

4:30 p.m. - Softball at Southwestern

4:30 p.m. - Track at Vandalia

#### Wednesday, April 10

5 p.m. - Girls Soccer at Williamsville

### Nokomis Redskins

#### Monday, April 8

4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Shelbyville

#### Tuesday, April 9

4 p.m. - Track at MSM Conference Meet at Pawnee

#### Wednesday, April 10

4:15 p.m. - Track at North Mac

4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Taylorville

### Lincolnwood Lancers

#### Monday, April 8

4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Vandalia

4:30 p.m. - Softball at Litchfield

#### Tuesday, April 9

4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Pawnee

4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Pawnee

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# Bond Shakes Things Up At EAWR Invite

Nokomis’ Bond Knodle picked up points in two different events on Saturday, April 6, as the Redskins participated in the East Alton-Wood River Invitational.

Knodle secured two of Nokomis’ five finishes in the top eight, with a team-best fourth place finish in the triple jump. Knodle jumped 10.77 meters at the meet, just six centimeters or two inches short of his personal best, which was set at the same meet last year.

Knodle’s other podium finish came in the high jump, where he cleared 1.60 meters. That was just short of his personal best of 1.66 meters, set on March 27, but it did earn Knodle a sixth place finish.

Knodle had company on the podium in both events as teammates Kadynn Petty and Ari Vanden Bergh also scored points in the two events. Petty took eighth in the high jump, clearing 1.55 meters, while Vanden Bergh was seventh in the triple jump with a mark of 9.47 meters.

The other Nokomis point came in the shot put, where Caleb Bauer finished eighth with a personal best throw of 10.46 meters. Riley Reynolds also did well in the throws, setting a new personal best in the discus with a 29 meter throw that gave him a 10th place finish. Jack Johnson also had a personal best in the field events, going 4.59 meters in the long jump to finish 14th.

On the track, Kadynn Petty narrowly missed a po-

dium finish in the 400 with a time of 55.05, which was good for a ninth place finish and a new personal best. Both Nokomis runners in the 800 also ran their best times as Ari Vanden Bergh ran a 2:45.49 to finish 18th, while William Tucker ran a 3:01.90 to finish 21st.

Next up for Nokomis is the MSM Conference Meet on Tuesday, April 9, in Pawnee, followed by the Bulldogs Vs. Cancer Invitational in Staunton on Friday, April 12.

**April 6 at Wood River**  
*East Alton-Wood River Invite*  
**Boys Team Scores:** 1. Alton Marquette 66, 2. Maryville Christian 44, 3. Staunton 61, 4. Wesclin 55, 5. Breesee Mater Dei 54.5, 6. SIUE Charter 49, 7. East Alton-Wood River 48, 8. Father McGivney 45, 9. Freeburg 44, 10. Christ Our Rock Lutheran 43, 11. Madison 42, 12. Edwardsville Metro-East Lutheran 30, 13. New Athens 22, 14. Waterloo Gibault 18, 15. Nokomis 11.5, 16. Carrollton 7, 17. O’Fallon First Baptist Academy 4.

**Nokomis Boys Results**  
**100:** 11. Bond Knodle 12.07; 21. Kadynn Petty 12.41  
**200:** 13. Bond Knodle 24.76  
**400:** 9. Kadynn Petty 55.05  
**800:** 18. Ari Vanden Bergh 2:45.49; 21. William Tucker 3:01.90  
**3200:** 14. Ari Vanden Bergh 12:35.49  
**4x100:** 12. Jack Johnson/Harry Lynch/Noah Blaum/Devin Robertson 52.09  
**4x200:** 10. Noah Blaum/Jack Johnson/Harry Lynch/Devin Robertson 1:50.24  
**4x400:** 10. Jack Johnson/Noah Blaum/Devin Robertson/Ari Vanden Bergh 4:17.47  
**Shot Put:** 8. Caleb Bauer 10.46m  
**Discus:** 10. Riley Reynolds 29.00m  
**High Jump:** 6. Bond Knodle 1.60; 8. Kadynn Petty 1.55m  
**Long Jump:** 12. Kadynn Petty 4.75; 14. Jack Johnson 4.59m  
**Triple Jump:** 4. Bond Knodle 10.77m; 7. Ari Vanden Bergh 9.47m

## Litchfield Track

Continued from 1B

In the throws, Madison Jenkins joined Stewart and Fenton with multiple podium finishes individually. Jenkins threw 23.49 meters in the discus to finish seventh and was eighth in the shot put with a best throw of 8.79 meters. Ebony Claybrook also threw for Litchfield, setting a new personal best with a tenth place finish in the discus with a throw of 22.28 meters. Gracie Boden added in a fifth place finish in the triple jump for the Panthers.

Weather permitting, Litchfield will be in Vandalia on Tuesday, April 9, with the host Vandals, Greenville and Shelbyville.

**April 5 at Carlinville**  
*Carlinville Girls Invite*  
**Girls Team Scores:** 1. North Mac 145; 2. Rushville-Industry 110; 3.

## Nokomis Softball

Continued from 1B

Leigha Smith picked up a hit for the Redskins in the seventh, but was left on base as Nokomis headed to the bottom of the seventh with a 7-0 lead.

To get the final three outs, Coach Karson Gragert went to Gonet, who struck out 164 batters in 128 innings last year, but hadn’t pitched this season due to shoulder surgery in December.

Kiersten Carlson welcomed Gonet with the Minutemaid’s first hit, a single to center, and junior first baseman later scored after three balls that got past catcher Lizzy Hill as she and Gonet worked out some of the kinks as a battery. The run was a blip, though, as Gonet struck out two batters and after a two-out error, retired the third out of the inning on a groundout to first.

All told, the trio of Redskin pitchers struck out seven and walked two, with one unearned run on one hit. Gonet’s return, which is

## Reid Detmers

**April 6 at Los Angeles**  
Boston 001 000 000-1 3 1  
Los Angeles 000 002 00x-2 6 0  
**WP:** Reid Detmers (2-0); **LP:** Greg Weissert (0-1); **S:** Carlos Estevez (3)  
**Pitching Statistics**  
**Angels** IP H R ER BB SO  
Detmers 6.0 3 1 1 1 12  
**Records:** Los Angeles Angels (5-3); Boston Red Sox (6-3).  
**Season Pitching Statistics**  
**Angels** IP H R ER BB SO  
Detmers 11.0 5 2 1.64 4 19

# Lady Toppers Score Win In SCC Opener

The Hillsboro High School softball team picked up their eighth win of the season as they opened up South Central Conference play with a 6-3 victory over Southwestern on Friday, April 5.

The Toppers took an early lead in the second inning as they singled the Piasa Birds to death with three one-baggers in the inning. Ella Greenwood and Kenzie Jarman had the first two singles to lead off the second, before Southwestern starter Grace Strohbeck got the next two batters on strikes. Hillsboro kept the inning going with a single by Audrey Shultz as Greenwood and Jarman both came around to score before Strohbeck picked up her third strikeout of the inning.

The next two innings passed quietly as Hillsboro starter Anika Camp set Southwestern down in order in both innings. Through four innings, Southwestern’s only hit had been a one-out double by Josie Hagen in the first,

but the Piasa Birds made up for lost production in the top of the fifth.

Strohbeck helped her own cause as she singled and scored (or her courtesy runner did) on a double by Vivian Zurheide. After a single by Mia Greenwell, Maci Timpe tied the game with a single that drove in Zurheide from third. Timpe didn’t last long on the base paths as she was caught stealing, but a walk and a ground out by Maddy Fenstermaker gave Southwestern their first lead at 3-2 before Camp got another ground out to end the inning.

Hillsboro wasted little time in regaining the lead as they scored four times in the bottom half of the fifth. Mikenna McSperritt led off with a triple and scored on an RBI base hit by Briley Kirby. Sophia Blankenship also singled to put two runners on before Southwestern got their first out on a pop up to right field.

The Toppers got the go-ahead runs in the next at-bat

as Ella Greenwood singled to left, allowing both Kirby and Blankenship to score. After a single by Kenzie Jarman moved Greenwood to third, Peyton Chappellear drove in the junior shortstop with a sacrifice fly, making the score 6-3.

The Piasa Birds tried to get those runs right back in the sixth as the first two batters reached on singles, but Camp settled down and retired the next three batters on just five pitches. Hillsboro went 1-2-3 in the bottom of the sixth, but Camp kept the momentum from the final three batters and retired the side in order to collect the win.

Camp finished the game with two strikeouts and a walk, giving up seven hits in the game. Strohbeck had six strikeouts, but Hillsboro outhit the Piasa Birds 10-7 in the game.

The Lady Hiltoppers will take on North Mac on Tuesday, April 9, in another South Central Conference game,

# Panthers Have A Field Day At Plains

Aiden Williams and Colfax Ridgeview’s Kaleb Elliott, who both jumped 5.76 meters to finish second and third. As has been the case all season, Powell dominated in the triple jump, going 13.08 meters to beat Dominic Martin of Colfax Ridgeview, who jumped 12.48 meters and finished second. Litchfield’s Zach Leitschuh also competed in the long jump, finishing 13th with a mark of 5.26 meters.

The Panthers also placed in the high jump with Alec Roach taking fourth, and nearly added another as Kenny Traylor finished ninth. Both set new personal bests, with Roach clearing 1.67 meters and Traylor going over at 1.57 meters.

Some of those same athletes played a part in Litchfield’s success in the relays, where they finished fourth in both the 4x200 and 4x400 and sixth in the 4x100. Powell, Jones and Roach all ran the 4x200, with senior Easton Grammer finishing out the team, which ran a 1:35.55. Powell and Roach also ran the 4x400, joining Tucker Maguire and Camden Quarton to run a 3:40.99. In the 4x100, it was Jones, Powell and Grammer, with senior Zach Leitschuh running a leg as well for a 45.13 second time.

Individually, Quarton and Mitchell Floyd both medaled in the 800 meters. Quarton took third with a time of 2:05.93, while Floyd ran a personal best of 2:13.92 to finish eighth. Draven Jones ran a personal best in the 800 as well, finishing 21st in 2:40.25. Jonathan Bowles also

scored points for Litchfield in the 110 meter hurdles, running a personal best 18.81 to finish seventh. Bowles and teammate Kale Dexheimer both ran PRs in the 300 meter hurdles, with Dexheimer finishing 11th with a 47.08 and Bowles finished 13th with a 48.06. Kenny Traylor (12th) and Chris McGee (13th) ran personal records in the 3200 meters with times of 12:06.79 and 12:23.16, while James Vaughn ran a 7:14.12 for his personal best in the 1600.

Litchfield also had three personal records in the 400 with Victor McGill (9th at 57.61), Garrett Hale (16th at 1:02.30) and Garrison Cleaver (17th at 1:04.81). McGill also set a personal best in the 200 meters (19th at 25.64), as did Braxton Kieffer (26th at 26.52) and Devon Chew (27th at 26.84). The final two PRs came in the 100 with John Scurlock (48th at 14.12) and Hudson Walker (52nd at 14.52) setting their season bests.

Weather permitting, Litchfield will be in Vandalia on Tuesday, April 9, with Greenville and Shelbyville also in attendance. On Saturday, April 13, the team will be in Pana for the other South Central Conference Panthers’ invite.

**April 6 at Pleasant Plains**  
*Plains Invite*  
**Boys Team Results:** 1. Rock Island 128; 2. Pleasant Plains 99; 3. St. Joseph-Ogden 94; 4. Colfax Ridgeview 91; 5. Litchfield 73; 6. Maroa-Forsyth 69; 7. Rochester 52.  
**Litchfield Boys Results**  
**100:** 25. Victor McGill 12.73; 29. John Stanley 12.91; 48. John Scurlock 14.12; 52. Hudson Walker 14.52;

followed by a home game on Wednesday against Effingham. Hillsboro will also play at home Friday, April 12, against Carlinville, and will host the Montgomery County Softball Tournament on Saturday, April 13, with games starting at noon.

**April 5 at Hillsboro**  
Southwestern 000 030 0--3 7 0  
Hillsboro 020 040 x--6 10 10  
**Pitching Statistics**  
**Away** IP H R ER BB SO  
Strohbeck 6.0 10 6 6 0 6  
**Home** IP H R ER BB SO  
Camp 7.0 7 3 3 1 2  
**Hillsboro Batting Statistics**  
**Player** AB R H RBI BB  
Kirby 4 1 1 1 1 0  
Blankenship 3 1 2 0 0 0  
Camp 3 0 0 0 0 0  
Greenwood 3 2 2 2 0 0  
Jarman 3 1 2 0 0 0  
Chappellear 3 0 1 1 0 0  
Evans 3 0 0 0 0 0  
Shultz 3 0 1 2 0 0  
McSperritt 3 1 1 0 0 0  
**2B:** Peyton Chappellear 1. 3B: Mikenna McSperritt 1.  
**Southwestern Batting Statistics**  
**Runs:** Josie Hagen 1, Vivian Zurheide 1. **Runs:** Madison Seymour 1, Vivian Zurheide 1, Mia Greenwood 1. **RBI:** Maddie Fenstermaker 1, Vivian Zurheide 1, Maci Timpe 1.  
**Records:** Hillsboro (8-5, 1-0); Southwestern (5-5, 0-1).

54. Cam Stewart 16.11  
**200:** 14. Zach Leitschuh 25.29; 19. Victor McGill 25.64; 26. Braxton Kieffer 26.52; 27. Devon Chew 26.84  
**400:** 9. Victor McGill 57.61; 16. Garrett Hale 1:02.30; 17. Garrison Cleaver 1:04.81  
**800:** 3. Camden Quarton 2:05.93; 8. Mitchell Floyd 2:13.92; 21. Draven Jones 2:40.25  
**1600:** 22. James Vaughn 7:14.12  
**3200:** 12. Kenny Traylor 12:06.79; 13. Chris McGee 12:23.16  
**110 Hurdles:** 7. Jonathan Bowles 18.81  
**300 Hurdles:** 11. Kale Dexheimer 47.08; 13. Jonathan Bowles 48.06  
**4x100:** 6. Martavious Jones/Keenan Powell/Zach Leitschuh/Easton Grammer 45.13  
**4x200:** 4. Keenan Powell/Martavious Jones/Alec Roach/Easton Grammer 1:35.55  
**4x400:** 4. Keenan Powell/Alec Roach/Tucker Maguire/Camden Quarton 3:40.99  
**Shot Put:** 1. Harrison Thomas 13.51m; 3. Mannix Hancock 13.39m; 12. Zach Hansel 11.70m; 26. Nathan Schaaake 10.34m; 27. Jacob Cota 10.27m; 30. Jayden Ellinger 9.69m; 31. Trais Dobrinich 9.65m; 32. Landon Pryor 9.59m; 33. Grasen Thimson 9.52m; 37. Riley Ayres 9.24m; 46. Nicholas Chochran 6.95m; 47. Cale Winstead 5.93m  
**Discus:** 6. Mannix Hancock 36.19m; 7. Harrison Thomas 35.66m; 15. Nathan Schaaake 31.37m; 20. Grasen Thimson 28.55m; 28. Jacob Cota 23.60m; 33. Riley Ayres 22.80m; 36. Jayden Ellinger 20.80m; 39. Trais Dobrinich 18.49m; 40. Zach Hansel 18.27m; 41. Landon Pryor 18.08m; 42. Cale Winstead 17.81m; 43. Nicholas Chochran 17.60m  
**High Jump:** 4. Alec Roach 1.67m; 9. Kenny Traylor 1.57m; 13. John Scurlock 1.52m; 15. Devon Chew 1.42m  
**Pole Vault:** 1. Jackson Painter 3.81m; 5. Kale Hudson Dexheimer 3.50m  
**Long Jump:** 1. Martavious Jones 5.93m; 13. Zach Leitschuh 5.26m  
**Triple Jump:** 1. Keenan Powell 13.08m

## Lincolnwood Softball

Continued from 1B

Taylor’s home run gave Auburn a 13-0 lead as they went into the final half inning.

While a comeback may have been wishful thinking, the Lancers did get a mental boost in the final frame. Kaci Bethard and Jenna Matli reached on a pair of singles, followed by a home run by Morgan Cowdrey to deep left field that made it 13-3. Rabideau got out of trouble after that as they picked up their eighth win of the season. **Greenfield-Northwestern**

After Friday’s struggles, the Lady Lancers scored 11 runs in the first two innings en route to an 11-1 win over Greenfield-Northwestern in five innings on Saturday, April 6, in Raymond. The win snapped a three-game losing streak by the Lady Lancers, who moved to 4-6 on the season.

After starting pitcher Tori Elvidge got the Lancers off to a good start with a 1-2-3 inning, Lincolnwood plated five runs in the bottom of the first, despite picking up just one hit in the inning.

After the Tigers got the first out on a fly ball to left, Elvidge and Kaci Bethard both reached on errors. Jenna Matli singled to load the bases, with Elvidge coming around to score on a walk by Morgan Cowdrey.

Out number two came on

an infield fly, but Kirsten Osterholt walked, Audrey Germann was hit by a pitch and Ella Jenkins walked to force in three more runs. Osterholt eventually came around to score on a passed ball as the Lancers batted around and led 5-0 after one.

Elvidge walked two, but struck out three in the top of the second as the Lancers went back to work on the offensive end. Greenfield-Northwestern made a pitching change, bringing on Evie White for starter Kalynn Weller, but the junior pitcher didn’t have any better luck than her freshman teammate.

The first five batters reached base as Tori Elvidge, Jenna Matli, Morgan Cowdrey and Taryn Millburg all picked up singles, with an attempted fielder’s choice off the bat of Kaci Bethard mixed in. The hit parade upped Lincolnwood’s lead to 7-0 before Greenfield recorded the first out of the inning on a strikeout, six batters into the inning. Another strikeout by White gave Greenfield-Northwestern hope of getting out of the inning without further damage but a single by Ella Jenkins drove in two and another single by Taryn Clarke scored two more.

Clarke was thrown out trying to stretch the hit into a double, but Lincolnwood now led 11-0 after two.

The Lancers went 1-2-3 in both the third and fourth, but still held their 11-run lead as the Tigers managed just two walks, one in each inning, against Elvidge.

They’d finally break through with one run in the fifth after doubles by Jaylynn Pitchford and Annabeth Thornton, but Elvidge kept Thornton from scoring and extending the game as she got the final two batters with a strikeout and a fly ball to center.

The strikeout in the fifth was Elvidge’s 10th of the game as she struck out one in the first, three in the second, and two each in the third, fourth and fifth. Jenna Matli led the offense for Lincolnwood with two hits and a pair of runs scored, while Ella Jenkins drove in three runs for the Lancers.

Lincolnwood starts next week on the road as they play Litchfield on Monday, April 8. On Tuesday, April 9, they’re back at home, hosting the Carrollton Lady Hawks.

**April 5 at Raymond**  
Auburn 000 233 5-13 15 0  
Lincolnwood 000 000 3--3 9 5  
**Pitching Statistics**  
**Away** IP H R ER BB SO  
Rabideau 7.0 9 3 3 0 5  
**Home** IP H R ER BB SO  
Clarke 4.0 6 4 4 2 2  
Millburg 3.0 9 9 4 3 2  
**Batting Statistics**  
**Player** AB R H RBI BB  
Clarke 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Elvidge 3 0 0 0 0 0  
Millburg 3 0 0 0 0 0

Bethard 3 1 2 0 0 0  
Matli 3 1 2 0 0 0  
Cowdrey 3 1 1 3 0 0  
Osterholt 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Jenkins 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Germann 3 0 1 0 0 0  
**HR:** Morgan Cowdrey 1.  
**Batting Statistics**  
**Multiple Hits:** Meena Taylor 3-5, Addison Wheatley 3-5, Sydney Rabideau 2-4, Piper Taylor 2-5, Taylor Patterson 2-5. **2B:** Meena Taylor 1, Sydney Rabideau 1. **HR:** Meena Taylor 1, Mailee Schoen 1.  
**Runs:** Taylor Patterson 3, Meena Taylor 3, Addison Jones 2, Addison Wheatley 1, Piper Taylor 1, Mailee Schoen 1. **RBI:** Meena Taylor 3, Taylor Patterson 2, Addison Wheatley 2, Mailee Schoen 2, Addison Jones 1, Piper Taylor 1, Fayth Milwee 1.  
**Records:** Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (3-6); Auburn (8-2-1).  
**April 6 at Raymond**  
Greenfield-NW 000 01- 1 2  
Lincolnwood 560 0x --11 7 0  
**Pitching Statistics**  
**Away** IP H R ER BB SO  
Weller 1.0 1 5 0 3 0  
White 3.0 6 6 6 6 0 3  
*\*Weller 1 HBP*  
**Home** IP H R ER BB SO  
Elvidge 5.0 2 2 1 1 4 10  
**Batting Statistics**  
**Player** AB R H RBI BB  
Clarke 3 0 1 2 0 0  
Elvidge 3 2 1 0 0 0  
Bethard 3 2 0 0 0 0  
Matli 3 2 2 0 0 0  
Cowdrey 2 2 1 2 1 1  
Millburg 3 1 1 1 0 0  
Osterholt 2 1 0 1 1 1  
Germann 1 0 0 1 0 0  
Jenkins 1 1 1 3 1 1  
**HBP:** Audrey Germann 1.  
**Batting Statistics**  
**2B:** Jaylynn Pitchford 1, Annabeth Thornton 1. **Runs:** Jaylynn Pitchford 1. **RBI:** Annabeth Thornton 1.  
**Records:** Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (4-6); Greenfield-Northwestern (1-6).



# Rockets Knock Off Purple Panthers

After a tough loss on Friday to Gillespie, the Litchfield-Mt. Olive baseball team would look to bound back on the diamond with a newly scheduled non-conference match-up with the Rochester Rockets on Saturday, April 6.

The six-win Rockets piled on nine runs as they walked away with a 9-1 road victory. The loss marked the first time this season that the Purple Panthers would drop back to back contests as they fell to 11-3 overall.

After being held hitless Friday, Litchfield continued to struggle on the offensive end. In the second inning the Purple Panthers' offense finally broke through in the hit column when Ian Otto singled into right field.

The hit would be the only production the Purple Panthers could find in the inning as the Rockets claimed the final two outs of the inning.

Cracking into the hit column would be the first step for the Purple Panthers as they tried to end another tough streak: a scoreless drought. Carrying over from the night before, Litchfield had been held scoreless for ten straight innings.

That drought came to a close in the bottom half of the fourth inning, when Carson Saathoff started the inning off with a double gave the Purple Panthers a runner in scoring position with no outs.

Drake Gasperson scored Saathoff as he singled him in with one out on the board. The run broke up the Rochester shutout, but the Rockets still led 4-1.

Prior to the Purple Panthers first run of the contest Rochester put three runs on the board in the second and one more in the fourth.

Litchfield would not be able to add any more runs in their last three innings of action as the Rockets held the home team to the solo run.

Not only would Litchfield fail to collect any more runs in the contest, they would only be able to put one more hit in the books. That hit came in the fifth inning when Matthew Bywater singled with two outs on the board, but was stranded on the base paths after a strikeout.

While the Purple Panthers were not able to collect any

other runs or hits, the Rockets added five more hits, including a home run in the top half of the fifth. That production helped produce five more runs as the Rockets built up a 9-1 final margin.

Tate Dobrinich, Max Leitschuh and Matthew Bywater all got a chance on the bump, with Dobrinich getting the nod as the starter in the contest. Dobrinich would last four and a third innings, striking out five and allowing six runs to cross the plate off of seven hits as Rochester built a commanding lead. Leitschuh and Bywater came on in relief as the two finished out the contest, giving up three runs off of four hits.

The win moved Rochester to 7-4 overall, ending a four-game losing streak. The Purple Panthers dropped to 11-3 overall and will look toward next week in hopes of getting things back in motion.

The Purple Panthers will be on the road to start the week as they travel to Piasa to battle the Piasa Birds on Tuesday, April 9, followed by a home game against North Mac on Friday, April 12. Litchfield will end the week on Saturday, April 13, in the annual Montgomery County Tournament, with Hillsboro, Nokomis and Lincolnwood.

**April 6 at Litchfield**

Rochester	030	122	1-9	11	1
Litchfield	000	100	0-1	4	3

**Pitching Statistics**

Away	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Runkel	5.0	4	1	1	1	6
Nieves	2.0	0	0	0	0	3
Home	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Dobrinich	4.1	7	6	4	4	5
Leitschuh	1.2	3	2	2	1	1
Bywater	1.0	1	1	1	0	1

*\*Dobrinich 1 HBP*

**Litchfield Batting Statistics**

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Bywater	2	0	1	0	1
C. Saathoff	3	1	1	0	0
Leitschuh	3	0	0	0	0
Gasperson	3	0	1	1	0
E. Saathoff	3	0	0	0	0
Otto	3	0	1	0	0
Dobrinich	3	0	0	0	0
Hires	3	0	0	0	0
Jones	2	0	0	0	0

**2B:** Carson Saathoff 1.

**Rochester Batting Statistics**

**Multiple Hits:** Tyson Binion 3-5, Jack Swaney 2-4, Jorey Myren 2-4. **2B:** Tyson Binion 2, Eli Carlson 1. **HR:** Jorey Myren 1. **Runs:** Tyson Binion 2, Eli Carlson 2, Bryan Zulauf 1, Jorey Myren 1, Adan Nieves 1. **RBI:** Jack Swaney 3, Tyson Binion 2, Jorey Myren 1, Parker Lyons 1. **Records:** Litchfield (11-3); Rochester (7-4).



The crafts pictured above are just a taste of what will be available at the St. Louis CCW Spring Garden Plant and Craft Show at the St. Louis Parish Center on Saturday, April 13.

# St. Louis CCW Crafters To Hold Spring Show

The St. Louis CCW crafters are hosting their annual Spring Garden Plant and Craft Show on Saturday April 13, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the St. Louis Parish Center, located at 523 E. Union in Nokomis.

There will be perennials, annuals, tomatoes and peppers available. Plus many unique handmade crafts that can make great Mother's Day gifts. Freshly baked cinnamon rolls will also be available while they last.

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- Henry Ford

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# Nokomis Girls Compete At Carlinville, EAWR

The Nokomis girls track team collected points in six different events at the Carlinville Girls Invitational on Friday, April 5, as the Lady Redskins placed ninth in the 14 team event.

Senior Irene Vanden Bergh snagged points in four different events, including the triple jump, the event she finished eighth in last year at the IHSA Class 1A State Finals. Vanden Bergh went 9.23 meters to finish third in the event, one of just three athletes to jump over nine meters on Friday. North Mac's Emma Crawford (9.55 meters) and Cadyn Bounds (9.46 meters) were the only competitors ahead of Vanden Bergh.

On the track, Vanden Bergh was fifth in the 200 meters with a time of 29.98 and fourth in the 100 meters with a time of 13.73. She also placed third in the 400 meters running a time of 1:07.81, as she collected 21 points for her team on the day.

Fallon Knodle also medalled in the 400, taking eighth with a personal-best time of 1:17.72, but the rest of Nokomis' points came in the throws and jumps.

Sophomore Remi Tester matched Vanden Bergh for the team's best finish on the day as she took third in the discus with a personal-best throw of 27.65 meters. That smashed Tester's previous best of 24.29 meters, set at last year's sectional in Carlinville.

Nokomis' other podium finish came in the high jump, with Marcie Carroll clearing 1.32 meters to finish seventh at the event. Knodle also competed in the high jump, finishing 11th, but setting a new personal best with a clearance of 1.22 meters. Abigail O'Malley also set a new personal record in Carlinville and narrowly missed the podium in the 1600, finishing ninth with a time of 7:50.16.

**East Alton-Wood River Invite**

The Lady Redskins followed that performance up with a tenth place finish at the East Alton-Wood River Invitational. The Nokomis girls scored 20 points at the 18-team meet, three points ahead of New Athens in 11th and four behind Christ Our Rock Lutheran in ninth..

A familiar face made her 2024 debut at the meet and came up big for Nokomis. With the Nokomis softball team's cancellation, Camryn Engelman was available to compete in the triple jump and the multi-sport standout jumped 9.29 meters to finish first in the event. Her mark was just under half a meter short of her personal best of 9.76 meters.

Marcie Carroll and Fallon Knodle claimed points in the high jump as they finished seventh and eighth respectively, both clearing 1.22 meters. Carroll was also part of the Redskins' 4x100 and 4x200 meter relay teams, which finished seventh and eighth. In the 4x100, Carroll, Kennley Kirk, Libby Watson and Irene Vanden Bergh ran a 57.90 to finish seventh, while Carroll, Kirk, Chloe Smoot and Abigail O'Malley finished eighth in the 4x200 with a time of 2:10.86.

O'Malley also picked up a point individually as she ran a 16:40.95 in the 3200, a personal-best time that was good enough for eighth overall. She also set a personal best in the 1600 meters, running a 7:48.48 to finish 18th.

Freshman Leigha Smith, another softball player available for double duty on Saturday, ran a 1:30.65 to set a personal record in the 400 as she finished 12th. Chloe Smoot also set a personal best on the track, running a 35.58 in the 200 to finish 20th. Remi Tester and Rilee Waterman set personal records in the shot put, throwing 8.06 and 7.57 meters to finish 12th and 14th, respectively.

Nokomis' best finish in the relays came in the last race of the day as the team of Kennley Kirk, Libby Watson, Fallon Knodle and Irene Vanden Bergh ran a 4:59.92 to finish sixth in the 4x400. That was enough to give the Redskins three more points and boost them ahead of New Athens for sole possession of tenth place.

Next up for Nokomis is the MSM Conference Meet on Tuesday, April 9, in Pawnee, followed by the Bulldogs Vs. Cancer Invitational in Staunton on Friday, April 12.

**April 5 at Carlinville**  
*Carlinville Girls Invite*

**Girls Team Scores:** 1. North Mac 145; 2. Rushville-Industry 110; 3. West Central 81.5; 4. Litchfield 79; 5. Carlinville 67; 6. Southwestern 42; 7. Gillespie 38; 8. Mt. Olive 31; 9. Nokomis 30; 10. Greenfield-Northwestern 24.5; 11.unker Hill 19; 12. Waverly 18; 13. Greenville 8.

**Nokomis Girls Results**

**100:** 4. Irene Vanden Bergh 13.73; 11. Libby Watson 14.62

**200:** 5. Irene Vanden Bergh 29.98; 15. Marcie Carroll 32.11

**400:** 3. Irene Vanden Bergh 1:07.81; 8. Fallon Knodle 1:17.72

**800:** 9. Fallon Knodle 3:09.31; 12. Abigail O'Malley 3:27.78

**1600:** 9. Abigail O'Malley 7:50.16

**4x100:** 10. Marcie Carroll/Kennley Kirk/Libby Watson/Chloe Smoot 1:01.04

**4x200:** 10. Marcie Carroll/Kennley Kirk/Libby Watson/Chloe Smoot 2:12.73

**Shot Put:** 14. Remi Tester 7.54m; 18. Rilee Waterman 7.04m

**Discus:** 3. Remi Tester 27.65; 16. Rilee Waterman 17.24m

**High Jump:** 7. Marcie Carroll 1.32m; 11. Fallon Knodle 1.22

**Long Jump:** 14. Abigail O'Malley 3.62m; 17. Libby Watson 3.51m

**Triple Jump:** 3. Irene Vanden Bergh 9.23m

**April 6 at Wood River**  
*East Alton-Wood River Invite*

**Girls Team Results:** 1. Father McGivney 130, 2. Freeburg 100.5, 3. Alton Marquette 55, 4. Waterloo Gibault 52, 4. Breese Mater Dei 52, 6. Carrollton 46, 7. Staunton 42, 8. East Alton-Wood River 41, 9. Christ Our Rock Lutheran 24, 10. Nokomis 20, 11. New Athens 17, 12. SIUE Charter 14, 12. Metro-East Lutheran 14, 14. Madison 13, 15. Mt. Olive 9, 15. O'Fallon First Baptist Academy 9, 17. Wesclin 7.5., 18. Lebanon 1.

**Nokomis Girls Results**

**100:** 23. Libby Watson 14.88

**200:** 20. Chloe Smoot 35.58

**400:** 12. Leigha Smith 1:30.65

**800:** 15. Fallon Knodle 3:02.80

**1600:** 18. Abigail O'Malley 7:48.48

**3200:** 8. Abigail O'Malley 16:40.95

**4x100:** 7. Marcie Carroll/Kennley Kirk/Libby Watson/Irene Vanden Bergh 57.90

**4x200:** 8. Marcie Carroll/Kennley Kirk/Chloe Smoot/Abigail O'Malley 2:10.86

**4x400:** 6. Kenley Kirk/Libby Watson/Fallon Knodle/Irene Vanden Bergh 4:59.92

**Shot Put:** 12. Remi Tester 8.06m; 14. Rilee Waterman 7.57m

**Discus:** 13. Rilee Wterman 18.75m; 14. Remi Tester 17.77m

**High Jump:** 7. Marcie Carroll 1.22m; 8. Fallon Knodle 1.22m

**Long Jump:** 10. Libby Watson 3.80m; 14. Abigail O'Malley 3.47m

**Triple Jump:** 1. Camryn Engelman 9.29m

# Redskins Beat Raiders, Fall To South Central Foes

The Nokomis baseball team won't have to see a South Central Conference team again until this Saturday, April 13, when they play Hillsboro in the Montgomery County Tournament, but even that may be too soon for the Redskins.

In their final three games of the first week of April, Nokomis went 1-2 to even their record to 6-6 on the season. The win? A 12-0 victory over Central A&M in Vandalia. The losses? A 16-2 defeat at Greenville and a 6-3 loss to Vandalia, both of whom play in the South Central Conference.

The win over Central A&M was an odd one, literally, as the Redskins scored all of their runs in odd numbered innings in the first game of a doubleheader with the Raiders and Vandals in Vandalia on Saturday, April 13.

Nokomis plated two runs in the first, six runs in the second and four runs in the fifth to short-game the Raiders in five innings. While the offense produced 12 runs on 10 hits, the pitching was even better.

Conner Wilson got the start and allowed just one hit, a one-out single in the bottom of the fourth, while striking out four and walking one. Bryce Gillock came in to get the last out of the fourth inning for Wilson and threw a scoreless fifth, striking out one batter in the process.

At the plate, Kannon Jonas went 3-for-3 with a double, two runs scored and three RBIs, while Brenton

Lyons was 2-for-3 with three runs scored and one RBI. The game was Lyons' first back since he and Jonas collided during the Taylorville game, but the senior made up for lost time with a solid performance against the Raiders.

While Jonas and Lyons were the only two players with multiple hits, Drake Taylor also had a big day at the plate as he went 1-for-3 with a walk, two runs scored and four runs driven in.

The victory temporarily gave Nokomis a record over .500, but Vandalia spoiled that in the second game of the doubleheader, when they held on for the three-run win.

Nokomis took the first lead of the game with a run in the second, when Kannon Jonas walked with the bases loaded and one out. Vandalia starter Kale Konrad worked his way out of the jam, though, getting the next two batters to fly out to end the inning.

Nokomis starter Drake Taylor cruised through the first two innings, but ran into trouble in the third. Vandalia scored four runs on three hits and three walks before Nokomis could stop the bleeding.

It looked as if the Redskins might get those runs back in the top of the fourth as Garrett Engelman and Ian Keller started the inning with a pair of singles, but Konrad stopped the rally in its tracks and Vandalia kept its 4-1 lead.

Izaak Doyen came on to pitch in the fourth for Nokomis and had a 1-2-3 fourth inning for the Redskins. A

single, a double and a two-out error gave the Vandals another run in the fifth, with another two-out error in the sixth leading to Vandalia's sixth run of the game when coupled with a pair of singles.

With a 6-1 lead, Qwentyn Stombaugh came on to finish out the game for Vandalia. Nokomis needed runners and after a fly ball for out number one, they got their wish as Nolan Herpstreith walked and Drake Taylor doubled. Izaak Doyen then doubled to drive in both Herpstreith and Taylor as Nokomis suddenly had new life.

But as soon as hope appeared, Stombaugh was there to snuff it out. He got the next batter on a fielder's choice, then coaxed a ground-er to second that ended the game with the Vandals still ahead 6-3.

Both Drake Taylor and Ian Keller had two hits for the Redskins, while Izaak Doyen and Garrett Engelman also reached base twice each with a hit and a walk.

**Greenville**

The doubleheader split came two days after a tough loss to Greenville on Thursday, April 4. The Comets had snapped a four-game losing streak two days before and were looking to keep up their winning ways as they scored four runs in each of the first four innings for the 16-2 win.

Of the 16 runs, only three were earned as Nokomis committed nine errors on the day. The Redskins were also held to just four hits, with Drake striking out eight and

walking four in the win.

Three of those four walks came in the first inning and resulted in Nokomis' first run. With the bases loaded and one out, Drake Taylor grounded to short, allowing Saint Newman to come home and make it 1-0.

Nokomis wouldn't score again until the top of the fourth, when Greenville had already increased their lead to 12-1. Taylor played a part in that run as well as he singled, moved to second on an error on a ball hit by Levi German and scored after a wild pitch and an error by the Greenville third baseman.

The additional run may have been a case of "don't shoot him, you'll only make him angry," as the Comets scored four more in the bottom of the fourth, then faced just three batters in the top of the fifth after a single, a double play and a strikeout to end the game.

Saint Newman had two of Nokomis' four hits and also walked once. Izaak Doyen and Drake Taylor had the other two hits for the Redskins.

Nokomis' next opponent has had the opposite result against SCC competition. Shelbyville is 6-5 on the season, but is riding a two-game win streak with victories over Hillsboro and Greenville. After the home game against the Rams, Nokomis will play Windsor-Stew-Stras on the Hatchets' home field.

Box scores online at [www.thejournal-news.net](http://www.thejournal-news.net).



Nokomis senior Kaeden Loafman competed in the Champaign Centennial Sectional on Feb. 17, swimming in the 50-yard freestyle, finishing ninth with a time of 24.28, and the 100-yard freestyle, finishing 11th with a time of 55.78.

**Mason LaChance Photography**

the 50-yard freestyle, with a time of 27.90 in the latter.

Loafman's older brother, Dawsen, now a swimmer

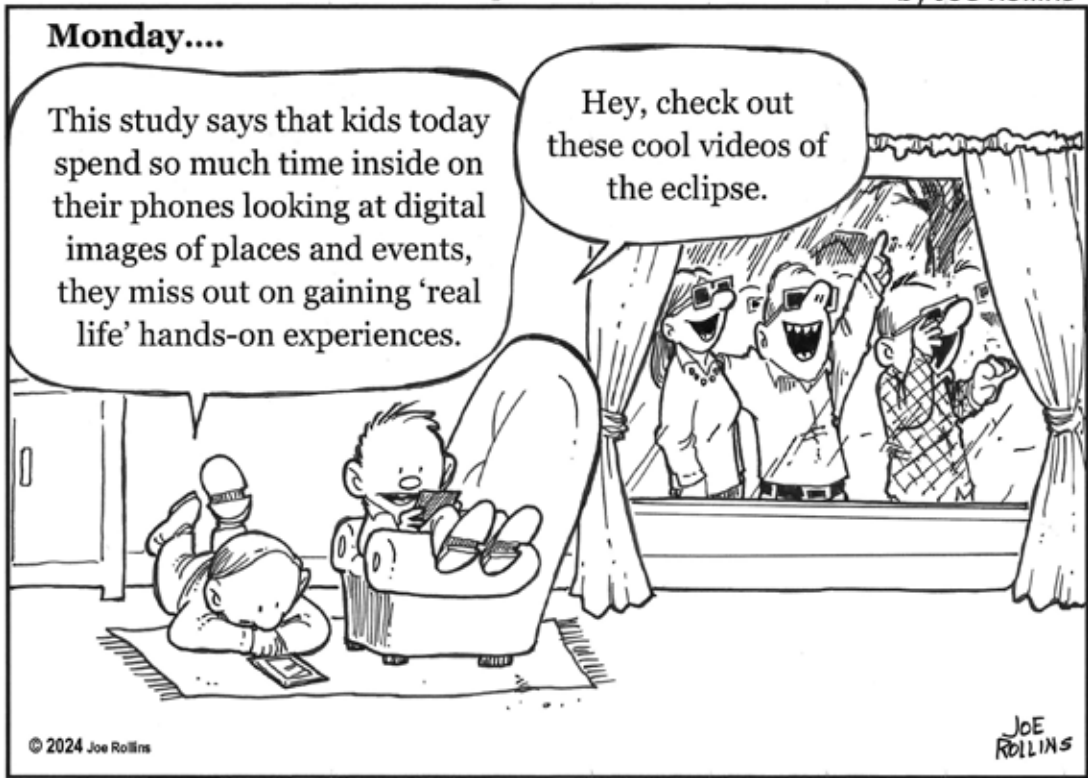
at Millikin University, also competed at sectionals while at Nokomis, finishing ninth in the 50-yard freestyle and

11th in the 100-yard freestyle, with times of 24.28 and 55.78.



Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



A FEW GOOD WORDS • by Isaiah Atkins

## Another Lap Around The Sun



I completed another lap around on the sun this past Saturday, April 6, celebrating turning 23 years old.

I like my birthday. I'd go as far as to say I love my birthday. My grandpa loved his birthday. My mom loves birthdays. It always meant more to him, it always means more to her, and it always means more to me. So that said, I'm a big proponent of celebrating your birthday. After all, you only have one.

In college, I made a habit of skipping all my classes on my birthday. Not because I had big plans, but because I didn't want any plans. This year, and likely for the considerable future, it was out of my control. My birthday fell on a Saturday in April, which means that for the second time in my life, it was spent at a track meet.

I have run track since I was in sixth grade, continuing through Hillsboro High School and now with nearly five seasons at Greenville University, where I am currently using my COVID-19 eligibility as a fifth-year grad athlete. The sport's been an important (sometimes reluctant) piece of my life through the years and a staple of springtime, culminating in one ongoing final season this year.

As I ran my warm-up for the day, memories from past birthdays flashed through my mind. As I write this I am discouraged that I don't remember more.

It's 2006. My parents took my brother and I to Chicago to celebrate our fifth birthday. I'm amazed at how much bigger Michael Jordan's hands are than mine.

I still am.

It's 2011. My brother and I race home from an unbearably long day of school to play the new Lego Star Wars video game on our Wii. My parents have to drag me away from the TV to take me to CLC.

The hardships of being ten

years old.

It's 2013. The beginning of my track career. I'm running the 4 x 200 relay at the Gillespie Invitational on a blustery and chilly birthday morning. It was cold and rainy, with strong winds. At the wise age of 12, I'm not the biggest fan of the sport, which requires a hard effort that I'm not very interested in giving. I can't stop thinking about my new bike, sitting at home in the garage. Home is much more appealing to me as I sit in the bleachers waiting for my race. Anywhere might be more appealing.

It's 2014. I'm on a church retreat with the youth group at Durley Camp. I see the clock inch towards 12:20, the minute I was born. I think to myself, "This is it, you're officially a teenager. You'll never be 12 again."

Thank goodness.

It's 2020. I've just turned 19 years old, and my family is celebrating with Casey's Pizza on the deck. I celebrated the big day with a five-mile run, something that I wouldn't have even considered doing just a few months earlier. But coronavirus has shut down the world, and now the only excuse to get out of the house is to go for a run. So that is what I started doing, just ten months after I committed to run cross country and track at Greenville University. A turning point in my life, just ten months later than scheduled. I never looked back.

It's 2022. I'm living in a cabin on the edge of the woods with three of my best friends, all teammates on the distance team. After cross-country practice, we celebrate the big day by eating Joe's Pizza and playing the new Lego Star Wars on the big TV in our living room.

Maybe I am still 12.

It's 2023. I'm watching the premiere of "Air," a movie directed by Ben Affleck and starring Matt Damon, telling the story of how Nike signed Michael Jordan to a shoe deal and continuing the narrative of Shoe Dog, Phil Knight's memoir, my favorite book. Knight ran track at the

University of Oregon, an experience that deeply shaped his life. I notice an odd and unintentional tie has been made between my birthday and Michael Jordan. The swooshes on my track spikes almost seems to glow.

It's 2024. The end of my track career. I'm running the 800-meter run at the Illinois College Invite. It's my 23rd birthday. The beginning of my 'Jordan Year.'

I haven't run a 4 x 200 since junior high, being guided to the distance side by accident as a freshman in high school. My brother was a distance runner, and Coach Haston assumed I was too. He was right. I just didn't know it yet. Maybe I did, but didn't want it to be true.

It's still windy, but the weather is much better. There's nowhere else I would rather be, I realize. There will be more birthdays, but not many more meets. My track career is nearly perfectly bookended by my twelfth and 23rd birthdays. How odd it is, that a sport I once dreaded is such an important piece of my life now? At age 23, track and running are my favorite things in the world. At age 12, they were nearly the opposite.

There's a thrill with it now that I wasn't aware of in sixth grade. The cathartic moment after a good race when all is well in the world. And after the bad races too, because it's finally over. Though I enjoy the former much more than the latter.

It's 2024. My legs are finally feeling loose as I wrap up my final strides before the gun. I'm nervous to race, somehow afraid that the same two-lap race I have run 31 times in the past few years has changed, that maybe it's 805 meters instead of 800 or there will be hurdles this time.

It hasn't.

The 800 is still two laps. Michael Jordan still has his hoop earring in. I'm still Isaiah. I still love April 6.

I just love the days spent at the track now, too. I didn't when I was 12.

I wonder if I will at 34. I like to think so.

## Letter to the Editor

Four Litchfield City Council alderman (Jacob Fleming, Dwayne Gerl, Josh Hughes and Sara Zumwalt) attended a Litchfield Park District meeting on April 3. The following are the remarks presented by Ward 4 Alderman Jacob Fleming.

If you are unfamiliar, my name is Jacob Fleming. I am a longtime citizen and first-term alderperson for Ward 4 here in Litchfield. I am here speaking for myself, but as you can see other alderpersons are here in support of our park district and all you have to offer today.

First, thank you for all that you do! I know these local government positions are time-consuming and receive little fanfare and lots of criticism.

With that said, I am sure you are all aware a very large city-led soccer park project that was recently turned down for planning and fiscal reasons.

However, in my own humble opinion this project should not have been a city-led project but rather a park

district led project. After all, this is what the park district does. It's in your name.

We have many beautiful parks and recreational facilities because of what all of you do. You are the specialists, not the city.

One major theme that I noticed when talking to numerous Litchfield citizens about the recently rejected soccer park project was why was it just a soccer? Many citizens of Litchfield crave a true multiuse Litchfield "Sports Complex" area. In my mind, we already have several spaces in town that would be perfect for just such a site.

One great option is right here outside the community center. A project in this area would be much more economical because we would be improving existing infrastructure already owned by the park district.

This area has parking, existing soccer fields, the community center, playgrounds, the pool, tennis courts, the library, room for expansion, and Walton Park just down the road. Plus, there are sev-

eral options for much cheaper land acquisition and expansion to potentially look at.

Having facilities here also drives most traffic right through the heart of historic downtown Litchfield.

Let's make this area a true community and sports center that all youth can enjoy not just "well off" club soccer team families.

The park district has access to numerous grant programs. I will do all that is in my power to aid the park district in all grant and improvement endeavors they deem to be in the best interest of the citizens of Litchfield.

Additionally, I want to apologize for not being more involved with the park district until now. I should have come to one of your meetings a long time ago. However, I do plan to come to many more meetings in the future and look forward to learning and collaborating with all of you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jacob Fleming,  
Litchfield Alderperson  
Ward 4

REDSKIN REVIEW • by Reagan Jonas at Nokomis

## Redskins Collect For Animal Shelter



Happy Monday, Redskins fans! I hope everyone enjoyed their weekend!

Congratulations to the March Students of the Month, including senior Brody Steele, junior Bond Knodle, sophomore Levi German and freshman Alivia Sabol.

Congratulations to the horticulture team for placing first in the section contest! Mason LaChance placed first individually, Shelby Johnson placed second, Jack Johnson placed fifth and Libby Watson placed ninth! The team is going to the state horticulture competition later this month!

Boys basketball players will have a meeting on Tuesday, April 9, in Coach DeWerrf's room during study hall. If any boys have questions they can contact Coach DeWerrf.

Student Council junior members will meet on Monday, April 8, during study hall.

April Student Council

committee will meet on Wednesday, April 10, during study hall.

Bill Steele will be in the cafeteria on Tuesday, April 9, after school to deliver suits to the individuals who ordered them.

Nokomis JH/HS will be collecting items to help the Montgomery County Animal Shelter as part of their Capturing Kids Hearts community service project. The collection will take place April 8-12. Any donations are welcome and they can be dropped off in the old gym lobby before school.

All ninth, tenth and 11th graders will be taking the PSAT/SAT on Friday, April 12.

Yearbook pre-sales will end on April 26.

Congratulations to Camryn Engelman for winning the triple jump on Saturday at the East Alton-Wood River Invitational!

Congratulations to Irene Vandenbergh for finishing fourth in the women's varsity 100 meters, fifth in the women's varsity 200 meters, third in the women's varsity 400 meters and third in the women's varsity triple jump

at the Carlinville girls meet! Congratulations to Remi Tester for finishing third in the women's varsity discus!

Track will have a varsity conference meet at Pawnee on Tuesday. There will be a varsity meet at North Mac on Wednesday and a varsity invitational at Staunton on Friday.

The Redskins baseball team lost to Greenville 2-16 last Thursday. On Saturday they defeated Central A&M 12-0 at the Vandalia Round-Robin, and lost to Vandalia 3-6. They will travel to Shelbyville on Monday, Stew-Straus on Tuesday and Luthern on Thursday. They will host Luthern on Friday. They will play in the County Tournament on Saturday in Hillsboro.

The Lady Redskins softball team lost to Pawnee 5-6 last Monday and defeated Bunker Hill 7-1 on Friday. This week, they will host Taylorville on Wednesday, and play in the County Softball Tournament on Saturday in Hillsboro.

Good luck to all athletes this week!

I hope everyone has a great week!

PANTHER PRESS • by Amy Frerichs at Litchfield

## Panther Athletes Keep Busy This Spring



Welcome back, Panther fans! This week will be exciting!

Please sign up to donate blood on April 12 outside Mrs. Brummet's door. You must be at least 16 years old. If you are not yet 17, you need a signed permission slip each blood drive.

Juniors and Seniors: if you would like to vote for Prom court, please do so in the email from Mrs. Brummet.

Are you excited for Prom? The out-of-town guest forms and Post Prom forms are now in the main office.

Milnot Beach is looking for summer workers! If you were interested in the lake positions, we now have more applications in the main office.

NHS Seniors: if you want to purchase your NHS stole, please bring \$20 to the main office.

Continue the fun in planning! There is a Post Prom meeting April 10 at 6p.m.

April 8 is the big solar eclipse, but that won't keep us from playing the games we love! Soccer will compete at home against Metro East Luthern. Along with that softball will also play at home versus Lincolnwood.

On April 9, baseball and softball teams will travel

to Southwestern to play at 4:30 p.m. Track will travel to Vandalia.

On April 10, soccer will compete against Williamsville.

April 11, softball and soccer will be at home once again. Softball is playing North Mac and soccer teams up against Carlinville.

On April 12, baseball will play against North Mac at home.

Go support your baseball and softball teams, as they will compete in the Montgomery County Tournament on Saturday at the Hillsboro Sports Complex!

That's all for this week! Have a great week, Panthers!



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# Amateur Radio Club Meeting Wednesday

The Montgomery County Amateur Radio Emergency Corp. will have their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 10, at the Challacombe House, located at 509 School Street, two blocks east of the junction of Rt. 127 and Rt. 16 in Hillsboro.

Upcoming events include World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is celebrated each year on April 18. The theme for 2024 is, "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy."

The global event covers all of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) regions and spans two days: Thursday, April 18 0000 UTC to Friday, April 19, 0000 UTC.

On April 18, 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris and will celebrate its centenary in 2025. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim was the organization's first president.

All radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to enjoy the global friendship with other amateurs and to show their skills and capabilities to the public. WARD is not a contest but rather an opportunity to talk about the value of amateur radio to the public and fellow amateur colleagues. It is also a great opportunity to talk about lo-

cal radio clubs and amateur radio in local media as a lead-up to ARRL Field Day, which is held each year during the fourth full weekend in June.

On Saturday, April 27, Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub Hamfest will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Sullivan American Legion in Sullivan. It is sponsored by Moultrie Amateur Radio Klub. For more information go to <http://qsl.net/mark/>.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio and Hamvention have announced that Hamvention will host the 2024 ARRL National Convention on May 17, 18 and 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. ARRL has an exciting lineup of forums and presentations for the ARRL National Convention. For information about the 2024 ARRL National Convention, go to [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo). For tickets to Hamvention and further information, head to [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org).

The club's next regular meeting will be May 8, at 7 p.m., at the Challacombe House. The Montgomery County AREC meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Everyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend.

For more information contact Judy Reynolds at 217-259-5650.

# Hillsboro Junior High Reveals Quarter Honor Roll

Hillsboro Junior High School has announced its honor roll for the third quarter.

**Eighth Grade:** Xander W. Baney, Raelyn M. Brown, Lorelai M. Carlock, Gracie A. Chambers, Jayden A. Christ, Kaya R. Connor, Jackson D. Cunningham, Bentleigh M. Dearmond, Ryleigh J. Dilks, Ava L. Dossett and Cooper R. Duff.

Also being placed on the honor roll are Hunter L. Elwood, Kohl H. Fuller, Owen W. Fuller, Grayson G. Gile, Bentley H. Giller-Childress, Kinley O. Greenwood, Callen J. Hanger, Liberty J. Helton, Matthew L. Hemken, David W. Hubbard, Katelyn M. Hughes and Emily R. Irvine.

Additional honor roll students include Aubrey E. Jeffers, Kiera B. Jones, Taegan L. Kieffer, Joseph T. Lanter, Travis R. Lentz, Landen G. Lipe, Autumn E. Long, Avery L. Maddaleno, Joel W. Malloy, Calie M. Martincic, Randal A. Matthews, Maddux C. McLaughlin and Kylie M. Meyer.

Other eighth graders who made the honor roll include Aubrey E. Milanos, Lux L. Reynolds, Aiden J. Robinson,

Rylee A. Rogers, Austin A. Rolland, Noah T. Satterlee, Ella M. Schaaake, Tenleigh S. Schulte, Addison G. Smith, Lilly M. Taylor, Kiera A. Thomet, Claire A. Trader, Harrison D. Tuetken, Samantha D. Vollintine, Sophia M. Watkins, Kailey J. Weiss, Colby A. Wilkinson, Brooklyn B. Wright, Alexander L. Yeske and Raya M. Yount.

**Seventh Grade:** Karsyn O. Adams, Nolan J. Adams, Michael A. Aguilar, Emma G. Andrews, Josiah K. Atkins, Alice M. Beckett, Lily E. Bell, Kaelyn M. Benning, Audrey H. Billington, McKenzie L. Boyer, Grant A. Bryant and Jaxon G. Chambers.

Other seventh grade honor roll representatives include Bailey L. Chappelle, Lydia K. Collins, Brylee J. Connor, Gracelynn M. Crayne, Kaelin M. Cress, Greyson W. Cyrus, Lucas R. DeMartini, Zachary G. Eaves, Kaidynce R. Ellis, Raelynn L. Eskra, Jackson J. Frame and Marley D. Frayer.

Additional seventh grade honor roll students include Kylee M. Furness, Addyson M. Goewey, Amirah S. Gorman, Brielle L. Harbert, Maddellynne J. Hope, Aubrey R. Huber, Nataleigh M.

Jackson, Khloe N. Jarman, Elaina S. Kenny, Nolan W. Klump, Tysen T. Lash, Sophia N. Law, Jacob P. Lenczycki and Clara L. Lentz.

Grayson P. Lowe, Isabella R. Maretti, Elijah J. Mastrolia, Kendael M. McSperritt, Castle P. O'Donnell, Tucker D. Payne, Savannah N. Petra, Memphis R. Putnam, Jade E. Reynolds, Aubree L. Rogers, Kahl M. Rufus, Skylar M. Scroggins, Cruz M. Smith and Layla K. Spinner.

Other honored students are Daianeal E. Sullivan, Donavin M. Thompson, Charles J. Thornton, Zoey J. Tincher, Nova L. Tolliver, Davis A. Tomei, Piper G. Walk, Gabriel M. Wells and Autumn D. Wildhaber.

**Sixth Grade:** Edward M. Applegate, Alexander J. Baxin, Jr., Kaytie J. Beckett, Stephanie D. Brent, Riley T. Callahan, Rylan J. Chambers, Paxton J. Chesney, Alexa J. Compton, Krystelynn A. Cooper, Case A. Cruthis, Kate E. Cunningham, Blaire E. Dilks and Lucas W. Duff.

Other sixth grade honorees are Avery M. Duncan, Logan B. Echols, Meleah L.

Edwards, Lyndsay P. Faingnaert, Emberlee R. Gilbert, Berkely N. Gill, Kyla B. Greenwood, Emma M. Gutierrez, Layla L. Hanners, Mila A. Harrell, Harper A. Helton and Harrison G. Helton.

Sixth grade honor roll representation continues with Matthew R. Hoehn, Noah E. Kernebeck, Easton E. Kershaw, Braxton J. Kimbro, Madison S. Kirk, Brayden M. Laughlin, Hailey M. Laurent, Ari D. Lipe, Sawyer L. Lipe, Izaiah J. Lohman, Wyatt J. Luckett, Dahlia C. Maass, Kendall A. Markezich, Adilyn G. Milanos, Mason L. Milanos and Aliannah E. Morford.

More of sixth grade's honorees are Bryson S. Motley, Cody J. Payne, Alex J. Reinacher, Avery L. Robinson, Mary J. Roller, Lillian M. Rumsey, Brooklinn K. Scribner, Henry S. Shultz, Gunner J. Spratt, Maci L. Summers, Bryson K. Tarran, Isabella F. Taylor, Annabelle G. Vanderpoel, Frankie E. VanGiesen, Kenna A. Weiss, Mia N. Wells, Casen A. Wilkinson, Liam P. Wolf, Hudson R. Wright and Isabelle J. Zbinden.

# ROE Students Named To Third Quarter Honor Roll

The Regional Office of Education #3 Youth Education Services announces the students who have been recognized on the honor roll list for the third quarter. Honor roll indicates a "B" average or better for the term.

**FOCUS Safe School Vandalia**

Sebastian Boone, Arianna Brasfield, Taylor Crum, Drake Engelbrekton, Logan Hair, Kyra Hobler, Karson Holman,

Dylan Rapien, John Swafford and Gianna Walker

**New Approach Alternative High School Vandalia**

Joanna Cox, Lilith Fox, Deriauna Hawkins, Molly Martin, Lela Matthews, Lindsey Matthews, Tatum McCoy, Faith Moore, Edward Newsome, Alvin Radford, Bethany Schoenhoff, Sidnie Sinnett, Mariska Styer and Gage Whisler

# C.E.F.S. Announces College Scholarship Opportunity

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity is now accepting applications for its CSBG College Scholarship. Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 31. Applications are available at any C.E.F.S. Outreach Office and on our agency website at [www.cefseoc.org](http://www.cefseoc.org).

Minimum scholarships will be \$1,100.00.

To be eligible, applicants must meet income guidelines (based on gross income) listed on the application form and provide all documents identi-

fied on the application form.

The scholarship is only available for those who will be attending an Illinois post-secondary institution and enrolled full-time.

Funding is made possible by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, as part of the Community Services Block Grant. For further information contact Cindy Mayer, Outreach Director at (217) 342-2193 ext. 121 or [cmayer@cefseoc.org](mailto:cmayer@cefseoc.org).

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**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](http://mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com). Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507.

**THURS., APR. 11 - 6 p.m.** soft close. Spring consignment online auction at 400 N. Old Rt. 66, Hamel. Bidding: [ahrensauktion.hibid.com](http://ahrensauktion.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., 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.sullivanauctioneers.com](http://www.sullivanauctioneers.com), 844-847-2161.

**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](http://auctionzip.com) Auctioneer #23925, [mollettauctions.com](http://mollettauctions.com), FB Mollett Auction Service.

**SUN., APR. 14 - 9 a.m.** Live onsite consignment auction at Mulberry Grove. Bobcat 753, Case 580B w/loader, Trailerman 18' bumper trailer, '08 Ford Escape, '05 Chevy 1/2 ton crew cab, Coleman gas scooter, lots of tools, rods & reels, 27 rifles, pistols, shotguns, ammo, tractors, farm equip., misc., etc. McDowell Auction Service, [www.mcdowellauctions.com](http://www.mcdowellauctions.com) or [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com), Alva R. McDowell, auctioneer, 618-267-3410.

**TUES., APR. 16 & THURS., APR. 18 - 7 p.m.** Bidding ends for online only 2 sales for the Wasko-Alexander estate w/100+ int. & ext. doors, windows & Lora Wasko Alexander estate 4. Register/bid at [mollettauctions.hibid.com](http://mollettauctions.hibid.com). Preview & pickup at 9 Lake Christine Ct., Belleville. Preview April 15, 4-6 p.m. Checkout April 19, 2-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com) Auctioneer #23925, [mollettauctions.com](http://mollettauctions.com), FB Mollett Auction Service.

**WED., APR. 17 - 10 a.m.** Virtual online auction of Fayette Co. land for SDDC Farms, LLC. 774 +/- acres subject to survey in 6 tracts. Auction mgrs.: Rodney Borrowman, 630-247-0667 & John Borrowman, 217-430-0645. Sullivan/Big Iron auctioneers, [www.sullivanauctioneers.com](http://www.sullivanauctioneers.com), 844-847-2161.

**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](http://www.dennisaumann.com), [www.auctionzip.com](http://www.auctionzip.com) #19610.

**SAT., MAY 4 - 9 a.m.** Noel (Rex) Hill Estate live at 1950 US Rt. 40, Mulberry Grove. RE of 4,600 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 13 room home w/attached 3-car garage sits on 26 acres including pond, large in-lane, shed for equipment, screened livestock barn and small storage building. Personal property includes tractors/equipment/farm, guns, antiques/collectibles, furniture/household, lawn & garden/outside, tools. **Open House:** April 21, Noon-2 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, [auctionzip.com](http://auctionzip.com) Auctioneer #23925, [mollettauctions.com](http://mollettauctions.com), FB Mollett Auction Service.

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**Robert Hensley Estate**  
**Saturday, April 13 • 9 a.m.**   
**LIVE AT: 1890 1st Avenue, Keyesport**

**REAL ESTATE:** The heirs of Robert Hensley will be offering 21.23 surveyed acres with home and outbuildings for sale to the highest bidder on April 13, 2024 on location at 1890 1st Ave., Keyesport IL. The real estate will be offered in 3 separate tracts with tract #1 being offered as a lump sum first. Tracts #2 and #3 will be offered by the acre with the high bidder being able to take both. Seller reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Terms are no buyer premium paid by the buyer. Property will be sold As Is, Where Is, with no warranties or guarantees, expressed, written or implied by the seller or Mollett Auction Service LLC. Tract #1 includes 1 bed 1 bath home with attached 1 car garage, old barn, chicken house, and some tillable ground, taxes for 2022 were \$857.12 with exemptions. Tract #2 includes a 1 car garage, small shop, well, possible home site, and tillable ground, taxes for 2022 were \$261.04. Tract #3 is all tillable with 2022 taxes of \$169.16. Soil types for these three tracts are Hoyalton and Blueford. All of this property borders of the east side of Corps of Engineers with the state of Illinois hunting property.

**VEHICLES:** 2019 Ford EcoSport, 9,670 miles (very clean car, little surface damage on left front panel VIN: MAJ3S2GE2LC330008), 1952 MG convertible barn find, trailer (no title).

**ELECTRONICS/MUSIC:** 76" Flat Screen TV, 56" Flat Screen TV, Johnson Electric Guitar, Polaris Electric Guitar, Ion Explorer Outback 2 Amp, JBL Speakers, Sony Speakers, Various Speakers, Pioneer Audio/Video Stereo Receiver VSX-D903S, Bushnell Telescope, Many Electronic & Stereo System Receivers and More, Dell Laptop, Sony DVD Player, Panasonic Subwoofer, Car Radios, CBs, Stereo Boosters, Stereo Equalizer, Cassette Player, LP Records, TV Mount, Home Theater System NIB, Wireless Surveillance System NIB, Triple Shield Monitoring System NIB, Heathkit Visual Aural Signal Tracer, Emerson DVD VHS Player, Sanus Adjustable Speaker Stands, Heathkit R.F. Signal Generator, Heathkit Condenser Checker, Super Nintendo, CDs, DVDs, Memorex Karaoke System, Printers, Polaroid 15" LCD Television, MORE!!!

**ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES:** Advertising Yardsticks, Gas Cans, Delphos Gas Can, Marlboro Country Store Cabinet Dart Board, Wall Cabinet, Trunk, Brass Spittoons, Brass Candle Holders, Muhammed Ali Picture, 6ft Pool Table 5/8" Slate, Pool Sticks, Bottle Pepsi Machine with Key (cools), MORE.

**HOUSEHOLD:** Steamer, Roaster, Dishes, Bed, Pots & Pans, Some Furniture, Outdoor Post Lamps NIB, Food Processor, Flashlights, Toaster, Waffle Iron, Potato Bin, Paper Shredder, Microwave, Meat Slicer, Granite-wear, Thermos Set, Whirlpool Portable Dishwasher, Dressing Mirror, Ironing Board, Kitchen Island, Oster Toaster Oven, Bread Maker, Various Vacuums, Filing Cart, Sentry Safe with Key, Cases of Rockstop Recovery Energy Drink, Wall Mirror, China Cabinet, MORE.

**TOOLS/OUTDOOR & MISC.:** Craftsman Snow Blower (like new), Pow-ersmart Snow Blower (like new), Roto Tiller Push Mower, Coleman Lanterns, Ammo Boxes, Jump Packs, TG1200 Generator, Jack Stands, Electrical Wire, Portable Lighting, Organizers, AC Charging Gauges, Auto X-ray Analyzer, Retractable Cord Reels, Blast Horns, Maintena Tool Box on Wheels, Wrenches, Sockets, MegaBoost Cooler, 400 watt Converter, Grinding Wheels, Hammers, Four Way, Heat Gun, Tabletop Table Saw, 8 Burner Bakers & Chefs Grill (lightly used), Homelite Chainsaw, Stihl FS56C Trimmer, Stihl FS45 Trimmer, Singer Blower/Vacuum, 2ton Floor Jack, Long Handled Tools, Fiberglass Extension Ladder, Mongoose Bicycle, Limb Saw, Hose Reel, Multiple Floor Jacks, Filters, 3pt Draw Bar, Sewer Tape, Top Link, Hobart Tool Pouch, Pulley Pullers, Vice Grips, Extension Cords, Small Iron Horse Air Compressor, Nitro Kit and Tank, Battery Pack Hunters Light, Drill Press Vise, Hunting Knife, C-Clamp Vise Grips, Easy Outs, Various Sets of Battery Powered Tools, Wheeled Portable Air Compressor, Nuts, Bolts, Screws, Cabinets, Power Mac Golf Cart Charger, Battery Charger, Other Golf Cart Charger, Golf Cart Electric Parts (Switches, Relays, Fuses), #2 Bench Vise, Victor Torch Head, Nit Drivers, Air Mattress NIB, Tankless Water Heater NIB, Full Router Bit Set, Bostitch Coil Nailer, Inline Air Shears, Dewalt Electric Sazall, 3/4" Drive Socket Set, Air Impacts, Porta Cable Router, Dremel Set NIB, Bar Clamps, Parts Washer, Keys and Key Grinder, Reddy Heater 55, Craftsman Wire Feed Welder, Pony Vise, 9pc Dent Puller NIB, Freon, No 112 Bench Vise, Machine Press, 2 1/4 ton Craftsman Floor Jack, Peg Board, Various Tool Sets in Cases, Worx Jaw Saw NIB, Port a Power, 1/2in Dewalt Cordless Impact, Electric SunJoe Power Washer, Torch Set, 225 Amp Lincoln Welder, Little Giant Ladder, Little Giant Walk Plank, Yard Cart, Yard Roller, Scrap, 5ft Blade, Motor Stand, Stoker Blower, Root Rake NIB, Drain Pipe, 100lb LP Cylinder, Tire Balancer, MORE!!!

**AUCTIONEER'S NOTES:** Robert Hensley passed away and his family will be offering for sale his real estate and personal property. Bob liked playing music, electronics and working with tools - which there is plenty of these nice items at this auction for everyone. 2-Ring Auction. Bring a Friend. Lunch Stand and Restroom on grounds. Real Estate will sell at 12noon. Thanks! Adam and Wayne

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Real Estate: SELLER HAS RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REFUSE ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS. Real Estate is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS" with no warranties or warranties expressed, written or implied. Potential buyers may do inspections at their expense. Real Estate requires 10% down certified funds (non-refundable) is required day of sale to Seven Oaks Realty located at 989 E. Beaumont Ave Greenville, IL 62246. Buyer will enter into a purchase agreement with Seven Oaks Realty at that time, with balance due and possession given at closing in approx. 45 days. **Personal Property:** Cash, check, or credit card will be accepted for payment of items purchased. Please settle with cashier for all items immediately and before removing from the premises. All items sold as is, where is. No warranties or guarantees written, expressed or implied. Announcements made the day of sale take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents or theft should any occur.

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Announcements

Notices

LOOKING for land to hunt, will lease in Montgomery or Macoupin Counties. 217-313-4201

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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: Jessica Mare Bell Case Number: 2024MR9 My current name is: Jessica Mare Bell I wish my name to be changed to: Jessica Marie Bell COURT DATE INFORMATION

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

May 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom #2

B. Attend court any of the ways checked:

In person at: 120 North Main St., Room 125, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049. Courtroom #2

/s/ Jessica Mare Bell Jessica Mare Ball 93-3tM\*

Services

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal residents of the Town(ship) of Grisham in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town(ship) will take place on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6:30 o'clock P.M. at NuWay Deli, Panama, IL 62077.

for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

No Agenda

Dated March 11, 2024.

95-1t

Title Transfers

March 25

Nancy E. Jones to Nancy Jones Tr., QCD, Pt. NW Sec. 30, Zanesville Twp.

Anthony A. Niebrugge Trust, Barbara M. Niebrugge Tr. to Niebrugge Family Trust, Trustee's Deed, SE/NW, NH NE/SW, NW/NW Sec. 3, Fillmore Twp., NE/SE, WH SE, SE/SE, NE/SW Sec. 33, Witt Twp. Parcels 1-6.

Michael Harold Hiller, Pamela Dawn Hiller to Chelsey Leanne Green Tr., Michael Harold Hiller Tr., Pamela Dawn Hiller Tr., Shelby Brianne Martincic Tr., Whitney Diane Reynolds Tr., Trustee's Deed, 2 Pts. NW/NE Sec. 11, Hillsboro Twp.

Charlton H. McNew to Natalie J. White, QCD, Lots 7 & 8, Blk. 7, Coffeen GF 2nd Addn., Coffeen.

Christine J. Ernst, Paul Ernst to Jobra, WD, 2 Pts. NE/SW Sec. 13, Hillsboro Twp.

Jobra, Byron Witt to Gazmend Rushiti, WD, Pt. NE/SW Sec. 13, Hillsboro Twp.

Catherine Slightom, Catherine Vicari, to Alexis Davis, WD, Lot 9, Blk. 24, Raymond Original Town.

March 26

Ryan M. Danner to Jamie Eisenbarth, Steve Eisenbarth, WD, Lot 4, Pt. Lot 5, Blk. 49, Nokomis Original Town.

Pauline Thorsen to Lawrence W. Thorsen Tr., QCD, Pt. NE Sec. 13, Butler Grove Twp.

March 28

Tina M. Molohon to Matthew Martin, WD, Pt. Lot 1, Pt. Lot 4, Blk. 1, Sedentops 5th Addn.

Melissa Ann Eskew, Richard Allen Eskew to Daniel P. Jezeski, Kathern L. Jezeski, WD, Pt. NE/SW Sec. 18, Irving Twp.

Paul Furrell, Amanda Pease to Allen D. Lynch, WD, Pt. Lot 1, Blk. 9, Tylers 3rd Addn., Litchfield.

Kevin J. Hemken POA, Nora M. Tolby to Sherry Haas, WD, Lots 12 & 13, Blk. 15, Arco Park Addn., Litchfield.

Mark Lyons to Lindsay Miller, WD, Lot 27, Park Subn.

Cathy S. Hemken, Terry W. Hemken to Arminda Mae Farmer, Cory James Farmer, WD, Lot 11, North Acres, Litchfield.

Chad W. Bohnenstiehl, Chastity M. Bohnenstiehl, to CCB Land, WD, Pt. NE, Pt. SE Sec. 24, Pt. Sec. 12, Pt. Sec. 13, South Litchfield Twp. Pt. Sec. 18, Hillsboro Twp. Parcels 1-3.

Free online Search of Montgomery County, IL Land Records at www.montgomeryco.com /countyclerk/ recording/recordsearch.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., a meeting conducted by Bond County CUSD #2, Brownstown CUSD #201, Carlinville CUSD #1, Edinburg CUSD #4, Hillsboro CUSD #3, Litchfield CUSD #12, Morrisville CUSD #1, Mulberry Grove CUSD #1, Panhandle CUSD #2, Ramsey CUSD #204, South Fork CUSD #14, St. Elmo CUSD #202, Vandalia CUSD #203, will take place at Mid-State Special Education, 202 Prairie, Morrisonville, IL 62546. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are a parent of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability, and you reside within the boundaries of any of these school districts, you are urged to attend the meeting. If you plan to participate, please contact Ingrid Watkins at the Mid-State Special Education office (217) 526-8121 ext. 233. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Bobbi Fisher, Director at (217) 526-8121.

95-1t

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.

The Village of Irving is now taking applications for City Worker/Grounds Keeper. Applications are available at Irving Village Hall, 110 E. State St., Irving, IL. 217-533-4601

LABORERS WANTED

Three County Public Water District is looking for laborers at least 18 years of age with a valid driver's license, GED or high school equivalent, work outdoors, shoveling experience, able to lift minimum 50 lbs. waist high and drug test before hiring.

After one year of work experience will go to training school to get a Class C license. Equal opportunity employer. Please submit résumé to P.O. Box 27, 406 N. 4th Street, New Douglas, IL 62074 or call 217-456-8231 for an application.

Grain Stocks

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 1.48 billion bushels, up 11 percent from March 1. On-farm stocks totaled 780 million bushels, while off-farm stocks totaled 704 million bushels. The December 2023 to February 2024 indicated disappearance is 494 million bushels.

Soybean stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 333 million bushels, up 23 percent from March 1, 2023. On-farm stocks totaled 170 million bushels, while off-

farm stocks totaled 163 million bushels. The December 2023 to February 2024 indicated disappearance is 217 million bushels.

All wheat stocks in all positions on March 1 totaled 30.8 million bushels, up 59 percent from March 1, 2023. On-farm stocks totaled 2.50 million bushels, while off-farm stocks totaled 28.3 million bushels. The December 2023 to February 2024 indicated disappearance is 9.43 million bushels.

Court

- John W. Beach, 64, of Nokomis, was charged with a felony of driving on revoked/suspended license on Feb. 20.
- Roger C. Conlee, 52, of Annapolis, MO, was charged with felony burglary on March 21, 2023.
- Wyatt B. Dooley, 20, of Nokomis, was charged with felony criminal damage to property between \$500 and \$10k on Oct. 1, 2023.
- Jason A. Keffer, 46, of Gillespie, was charged on March 21 with felony burglary.
- Jason L. Rekart, 50, of Benld, was charged with felony burglary on March 21.
- Nolan N. Taylor, 19, of Nokomis was charged with felony criminal damage to property between \$500 and \$10k on Oct. 1, 2023.
- Cole Y. Waugh, 40, of Gillespie, was charged on March 21 with felony burglary.
- Jacob D. Olson, 32, of Litchfield was charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass to building on March 20.
- Dalton R. Smiddy, 25, of

Litchfield, was charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct on March 19.

• Anthony M. Wilkinson, 46, of Hillsboro, was charged on March 20, 2021 with misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

• Patreece D. Winfrey, 31, of Decatur, was charged on March 17 with misdemeanors of resisting peace officer/firefighter/corrections employee, fleeing/attempt to elude officer and driving 21-25 mph above speed limit.

• Alyssa B. Denton, 20, of Litchfield, was charged with domestic battery causing bodily harm on March 21.

Fire Calls

Structure Fire

Hillsboro Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Friday, April 5, at a home located 203 Railroad St. in Butler. Twenty-eight firefighters were dispatched to the scene at 6:59 a.m. and remained there until 11 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN RE: THE SEIZURE OF \$57,508 USC No. 2024MX49 NOTICE OF PENDING FORFEITURE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THE UNKNOWN OWNERS

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS ARE NOW PENDING AGAINST THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY:

One \$57,508 dollars and no Cents United States Currency seized by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office on the 3rd day of April, 2024. This property has an estimated total value of \$57,508.

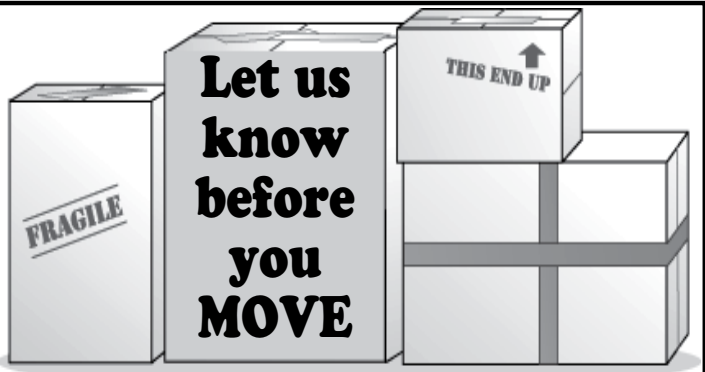
This property was seized by law enforcement authorities on or about April 3rd, 2024, in Montgomery Coun-

ty, Illinois. The Court has determined that there is probable cause to believe the property is subject to forfeiture as a result of violations of the Cannabis Control Act.

As an owner or interest holder in the above property, your interest in this property may be forfeited unless you file a verified claim for the return of the property with the Montgomery County State's Attorney whose address is 120 N. Main St., Rm. 212, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, in compliance with the provisions of 725 ILCS 150/6 (C), 725 ILCS 150/9 (D) and 725 ILCS 150/9 (E). You have forty-five days from receipt of this notice to file the verified claim with the State's Attorney.

If you fail to file the claim within 45 days of receipt of this notice, your interest in the property will be forfeited to the State of Illinois.

95-3tM



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 <p>24 BUICK ENCORE GX N124, AWD, MOONSTONE GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$30,685</b></p>	 <p>24 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER N134, FWD, ACTIV, NITRO YELLOW METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$32,795</b></p>	 <p>24 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 N161, 4WD, SLATE GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$53,920</b></p>	 <p>24 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LIMITED 1LS N139, AWD, STERLING GRAY METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$37,235</b></p>	 <p>24 BUICK ENCORE GX N169, Preferred, SUNRISE RED METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$28,790</b></p>
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 <p>24 BUICK ENVISTA PREFERRED N145, FWD, 4 DR., WHITE FROST TRICOAT RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$26,230</b></p>				
 <p>24 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT N158, FWD, MOSAIC BLACK METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$27,940</b></p>				
 <p>24 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71 N164, 4WD, GLACIER BLUE METALLIC RJI SALE PRICE* ... <b>\$49,495</b></p>				
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