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Tarr Murder Trial Begins At Montgomery County Courthouse

by Kyle Herschelmann

Two years, four months and 29 days after the death of Leslie Reeves and near death of Christopher Smith on Thanksgiving Day, 2021, in Farmersville, eight women and six men took their spot in the jury box in courtroom three of the Montgomery County Courthouse to determine the guilt or innocence of the man who the state said was responsible for those acts.

With Judge Christopher Matoush presiding, the trial of Robert "Bobby" Tarr began on April 23, a

little after 2 p.m., after a day and a half of jury selection, for the murder of Reeves and attempted murder of Smith.

After the jury was sworn in and Judge Matoush instructed the jury of its requirements, opening statements began for the trial, starting with Montgomery County State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, who is being assisted by special prosecutor Derek Dion.

Affrunti began by telling the jury that it was the state's responsibility to tell the story of Leslie Reeves and Christopher Smith. That story, he

said comes from the witnesses and the evidence that will be presented during the trial.

Affrunti then spoke about how Reeves and Smith met the night before in Farmersville and how friends became concerned when they did not answer texts or calls and did not show up for Thanksgiving, the same friends that traveled to Smith's house in Farmersville and discovered the scene.

Affrunti spoke about the two shell casings found at the scene and the forensic pathologist the jury would hear from in the com-

ing days. He spoke about Reeves' relationship with Tarr and how they had previously dated.

According to Affrunti, Tarr told police that he did not leave his house on Nov. 24, 2021, but his daughter told the police that he did leave. He spoke about how the police discovered evidence of the events that occurred on Thanksgiving on a phone taken during a search of Tarr's property and how members of Tarr's family found a firearm at his property and how it matches the weapon used.

Affrunti ended by saying at the

end of the state's presentation of all of the evidence, he asked that the jury return with a verdict of guilty against Tarr.

Mark Wykoff, one of two Springfield-based lawyers representing Tarr, along with Daniel Fultz, began his opening statement by thanking the jury for their service and their dedication to providing a fair trial. He continued, saying that no one can be deprived liberty unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Nokomis Council Sets Temporary Housing Limit

by Ben Schwarm

The Nokomis City council met for its regular meeting on Monday, April 22, at City Hall. Commissioners approved an ordinance to limit the amount of time someone may live in temporary housing such as a camper or recreational vehicle parked on personal property within the city limits.

Living in such abodes will be limited to 14 days within any 30 day period. The ordinance was initiated to curtail the practice of people living permanently in temporary homes that may not be connected to the proper utilities such as water and sewer.

The council also voted, after a brief closed session, to terminate the employment of Robert Ellis. Ellis was hired to work at the water treatment plant on Feb. 26.

In other business, the council approved ordinances to amend the methods in which commissioners are notified of special meetings and to authorize the sale

of real property owned by the City. It also approved a permit for the building of a garage at 529 S. Spruce St.

Finally, commissioners approved the payment request by the Illinois Environment Protection Agency in the amount of \$180,000 for the wastewater project and agreed to move forward with a contract with Hawk-Attollo Solar Development Partners, pending approval by the City Attorney Jason Hawksworth was present from the company which will lease city land to set up a solar energy generation site.

Commissioner Lou Stauder was absent from the meeting.

Members of the Nokomis City Council will have a special meeting tonight, Thursday, April 25, beginning at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Among the agenda items will be discussion on an emergency manhole replacement at Walnut and Franklin, as well as discussion about the purchase of body cameras for the police department.



Something Rotten! Opens Tonight At HHS

There's *Something Rotten!* in the Hillsboro High School gym as this year's operetta performance opens tonight, Thursday, April 25, with the Hillsboro Rotary Club dinner theater. Additional performances will be held on Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. Reserved floor tickets are \$15 each and general admission tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Lincolnwood and Litchfield students can purchase bleacher seats for \$3.

Set in 1595, the story follows the Bottom brothers, Nick and Nigel, who struggle to find success in the theatrical world as they compete with the wild popularity of their contemporary, William Shakespeare. The show is rated PG-13, and is suitable for students ninth grade and older. Pictured above, Mitchell Cunningham as Nick Bottom, at left, and Samuel Dilley as Nostradamus, are ready to produce a musical. See page 9A for a complete cast photo.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



Work Begins On Site Of Sinkhole

Excavators can be seen on the site of a large sinkhole on Wednesday afternoon, April 24, on the property of Arlen and Pat Kasten, located on Illinois 185 between Coffeen and Hillsboro. The highway has been shut down since the sinkhole was first discovered on April 11. Work just begun this week on the sinkhole, which is at least 95-feet across. On Tuesday, Hillsboro Energy filed a temporary restraining order against the Kastens for access to the ground. Both parties reached an agreement on April 23, that the mine would be able to have excavators on site for up to seven days to create a berm. An additional three days for work is possible if there is inclement weather. Illinois Route 185 between Hillsboro and Coffeen remains closed indefinitely as work continues near the sinkhole.

Architect Sheds Light On LHS Gym

by Kyle Herschelmann

Jamie Cosgriff of Graham and Hyde Architects was on hand at the Panhandle School Board meeting on Monday, April 22, to discuss the possibility of renovating the current Lincolnwood High School Gym or building a new gym for the students at the school in Raymond.

Superintendent Aaron Hopper said when the county facilities sales tax was approved in 2017, the district spoke about some of the projects they would like to complete, including a new roof for the school (which has been done), and other items like the gym project. Known as "The Woodshed," Lincolnwood's current gym has major floor issues, roof leaks, is not air conditioned, and does not have bleachers with handrails or aisles, among other issues.

Cosgriff said that his presentation was to just get the conversation started on what the district might

want to see and that other input, like from the athletic director and coaches, would be gathered later.

Cosgriff presented five options: a complete renovation of the current gym and four options for new construction of a gym at the Raymond campus. He added that any of the items could be removed from the project down the road, but he wanted to give the board a sense of the cost.

The complete renovation was estimated to cost \$4.6 million, with a new barrel vault roof (\$510,000), new flooring (\$285,000), a new HVAC unit with air conditioning (\$500,000), new scoreboards, sound systems and sports equipment (\$195,000) and renovated locker rooms. The project would also call for new bleachers that would have handrails and aisles, but would reduce the number of seats from about 945 to about 745.

All of the new construction options presented had seating for approximately

1,200 and featured public bathrooms, locker rooms and a concession area, but varied in price and location.

Option A (18,000 square feet) was estimated at \$9.0 million and would be located behind the current high school building on the northwest part of the property. Fans would use the main entrance to enter the school and walk through the main hallway between the library and auditorium to get to the gym.

Option B (19,470 square feet) was estimated at \$9.6 million and would connect to the school at the north end of the current high school. The gym would have its own entrance with a lobby and would be more visible from the main parking lot than Option A.

Option C (16,500 square feet) was estimated at \$8.5 million and would be similar to Option B, but would have a smaller lobby and concession area.

Continued on page 5A

Thu 25	63°/48°	☁️ Mostly Cloudy	📈 5%
Fri 26	69°/62°	🌧️ Rain	📈 95%
Sat 27	75°/66°	☀️ Isolated Thunderstorms	📈 33%
Sun 28	77°/63°	☁️ Scattered Thunderstorms/Wind	📈 39%

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Melvin D. King, 77 Loved Gardening



Melvin Dale King, 77, of Carlinville, died Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Lakeside Rehab in Carlinville.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, April 20, at Gillied Cemetery in Hettick.

Mr. King was born September 20, 1946 in Carlinville, son of the late Melvin Dale and Vivian Pearl Qualls King. He married Doris Lee Smith and later married Judy Lee Armstrong who both preceded him in death. He worked at Monterey Coal Mine for 29 years. He loved to garden and giving away his vegetables to the neighborhood kids. He also loved to fish.

He is survived by a brother, Jeffery Kent King of Hettick; four nephews, Kevin Witt of Pleasant Plains, Bob (Janet) Armstrong and Shane (Misty) Armstrong, all of Hettick and Bryan Armstrong of Litchfield; two nieces, Kim (John) Marsh of Girard and April (Scott) Connolly of Modesto; and several great-nieces and great-nephews as well as his beloved dog Shanna.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wives; a sister, Vera Lawson; a nephew, Greg Lawson; and a niece, Crystal Witt.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Shriners Children's Hospital or Muscular Dystrophy Association and sent to Stults-Neece Chapel, 349 E. Tanner, Waverly, IL. 62692. Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.airsmen-hires.com.

Angela K. Snow, 57 Formerly of Nokomis

Angela K. Snow, 57, of Taylorville, formerly of Nokomis, died at 2:05 a.m. Monday, April 22, 2024, at Springfield Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, April 24, at Sutton Memorial Home in Taylorville. Funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 25 at 10 a.m. at Sutton Memorial Home in Taylorville with the Rev. Brian Johnston officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery in Taylorville.

Mrs. Snow was born on Aug. 9, 1966, in Taylorville, the daughter of Michael Dennis Nation Sr. and Kathy (Eson) Galvin. She was a graduate of the Taylorville High School class of 1984 and she worked at Horace Mann for 31 years and the State Board of Education for six years.

Mrs. Snow is survived by her mother, Kathy Galvin of Taylorville; daughter Amanda (Ricky) Hernandez of Rochester and son Brandon (Haley) Snow of East Alton; grandchildren Eva Elaine Hernandez, Adeline Elise Snow and Ayden Lee Snow; aunts and uncles Julie Eson, Edna Eson, David Eson, Paul Morgan and Shirley Sams, all of Taylorville; sister-in-law Maggie Ormberg; nephew Brady Nation; and several cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, Michael Dennis Nation Sr.; grandmother Carol June Eson; son Tyler Sheridan Snow; brother Michael Dennis Nation Jr.; and uncle Gary Sams.

Sutton Memorial Home in Taylorville is assisting the family with arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at suttonmemorialhome.com



Hillsboro Health Primary Care Hosts Open House

Hillsboro Health officially cut the ribbon on a new primary care clinic located inside the Douglas Telfer Clinic on Tremont Street in Hillsboro. The community was invited to a ribbon cutting and open house to see the new facility on Wednesday afternoon, April 24. The clinic began seeing patients in December and continues to accept new patients. Pictured above, in front, from the left are Ashley Smith, Heather Brown, Shalimar Vittek, Jaime Bormida, Jacquelyn Holloway, Katie Wollerman, Dr. Michael Koeppen, Hillsboro Health CEO Mike Alexander, Hillsboro Mayor Don Downs, Jack Evans, Misty Borrowman, Alex Nazarian, Mary Herschelmann, Jordan Ruppert and Claire Eskew.

Journal-News Photo

May is just around the corner, and that means high school graduation will be here before you know it!

Surprise your favorite graduate with a congratulatory ad in The Journal-News this spring. The ad deadline is Wednesday, May 1.

For more information or to place your ad, call 217-532-3933 or email thejournal-news@consolidated.net.

And speaking of grads, college graduates will be taking center stage soon, and we'd love to hear their accomplishments as well.

To share their success, email information and a photo to thejournal-news@consolidated.net or stop by the office at 431 S. Main Street in Hillsboro.

If you're doing some spring cleaning, you won't want to miss the annual electronics recycling drive this Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at the former recycling center in Litchfield, located on the corner of Illinois and Ryder streets.

BLH Computers will be hosting the clean-up and will accept a wide range of unused electronic items. There is a fee to accept some items. For more information, contact BLH Computers at 309-826-5201 or visit the website blhcomputers.com.

The Irish Days Celebration Committee in Farmersville is still accepting nominations for this year's



Citizen of the Year award, which will be presented on Saturday, June 1, in downtown Farmersville.

Nominations will be accepted until Wednesday, May 1, at the Farmersville Bank and Trust office.

Ground to Grounds Coffee Shop in Hillsboro has teamed up with Beckemeyer Elementary School for an art contest. Students in all grades submitted artwork for a T-shirt contest and the finalists are now up online for voting.

Visit the Ground to Grounds Facebook page for more information or to vote for your favorite artwork. The winning design will be turned into a T-shirt, and proceeds from the shirt sale will benefit activities at the elementary school.

TASC (The Autism Support Connection) is hosting its final event in April for Autism Acceptance Month. There will be a family fun day at Bremer Sanctuary on Saturday, April 27, from noon to 3 p.m.

Join the fun for a guided hike and scavenger hunt, educational displays and crafts in the barn, hot dogs,

s'mores and wagon rides. Contact Tori O'Dell at 618-795-4170 to reserve a spot.

And speaking of Bremer, they will be hosting a spring woodland wildflower walk on Saturday, April 27, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Those attending should wear sturdy shoes or boots, a hat and bug spray. Light snacks will be served.

And while you're there, don't miss the Hillsboro School District Pre-K storybook walk on the West Prairie Trail to see *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. The story will be up until May 1.

If you're looking to do some of your own flower planting this weekend, don't miss the Hillsboro High School FFA plant sale Friday, April 26 from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the HHS Greenhouse. There will be a wide variety of plants to choose from.

The St. Louis Parents Club is hosting a geranium fundraiser this weekend at Nokomis Gift and Garden, located at 123 Morgan Street.

Stop by on Friday, April 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. and

Saturday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be many colors to choose from. Proceeds will directly fund student needs.

The Farmersville community is hosting a city-wide garage/yard sale this weekend on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. A food truck will be available for breakfast and lunch.

The Village of Irving is hosting a spring clean-up Monday, April 29 through Saturday, May 4 at the maintenance shed from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

They will not accept paints/chemicals, petroleum products, electronics, hazardous or special waste, tires/inner tubes, household garbage, lawn waste or batteries.

Save the cooking for someone else! Holy Family Catholic Church in Litchfield is hosting a pulled pork dinner on Friday, April 26, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the parish center. Meals include pulled pork, baked beans, cole slaw and dessert. They will be served for \$12 per meal.

The Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge, located at 903 S. Main Street in Hillsboro, is hosting their annual spaghetti dinner on Sunday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10, and include all-you-can-eat spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, dessert and drink.

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SHHS St. Francis Hospital Auxiliary members fund three \$1,000 scholarships for students who live in either Montgomery or Macoupin County.

The 2024 application deadline is Tuesday, April 30. For more information, please contact 217-324-8200.

Auxiliary of SHHS St. Francis Hospital

City Of Litchfield Settles With Flannery For \$140,000

After several weeks of meetings and negotiations, the City of Litchfield settled with Economic Development Director Tonya Flannery for just over \$140,000.

The matter was first brought up in a special meeting on Friday, March 15, and Flannery made a public statement that she was placed on leave so the city could investigate reports of a hostile work environment that she brought to Litchfield Mayor Steve Dougherty and

City Administrator Breann Vasquez.

During the course of several special meetings, community members attended to speak on the matter and the council met in closed session to discuss personnel issues. On the agenda for two meetings were the termination of an employee with cause and severance and the termination of an employee without cause.

In the end, neither was acted on, and the city reached a settlement with Flannery that was approved by both parties on Thursday, April 18.

The *Journal-News* received the terms of the settlement via a Freedom of Information Act with the city.

Among the settlement items were \$7,079.82 for Flannery's earned, but unused vacation time; \$105,000, representing \$40,000 in wages, \$40,000 for compensation for alleged physical and emotional damages and \$25,000 to Newton and Barth, LLP, for legal expenses; and \$28,534.92 for payment of COBRA health insurance premiums for one year.

As part of the settlement, Flannery agreed to fully and forever release the city from any and all manner of liability, claims and lawsuits. The 23-year veteran of the city's last day of employment was April 18.

"I know in my heart that she was not pursuing a settlement," said Litchfield Mayor Steve Dougherty. "She would much rather continue serving the city of Litchfield."

Obituaries

Paul D. McElroy, 86
Served His Country



Paul Dean McElroy, 86, of Irving, died Thursday, April 18, 2024 at Hillsboro Health. Visitation for Mr. McElroy was held Sunday, April 21, at Stiehl Dawson Funeral Home, located at 200 E. State St. in Nokomis. Cremation rites were accorded and private burial will held at a later date.

Mr. McElroy was born Aug. 30, 1937 in Boody, to Kenneth and Mary (Seagle) McElroy. He attended high school in Nokomis, then joined the Army. He later went on to earn his BS in business and a BA in Industrial Technology. He and Maxine Higginbotham were united in marriage on November 22, 1954 and had four children in the 14 years they were married. They remarried on October 23, 2020 and she survives. He proudly served his country in the US Army for 20 years, achieving the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He served three years in Germany, one year in Korea and three tours of duty in Vietnam and was stationed at several posts in the US. He travelled extensively after the service to Egypt, Trinidad, Spain, Italy, Brazil and Tobago while working as an independent soybean processing consultant. He enjoyed genealogy, fishing with his sons and was a huge Illini fan, a Mason and a member of the VFW.

In addition to his wife, Maxine, Mr. McElroy is survived by his sons, Ronald (Janet) McElroy of Hillsboro and Roger (Kay) McElroy of Litchfield; grandchildren, David (Ashleigh) McElroy, Danielle (Greg) Seago, Kaitlin (Connor) Jachino, Allison McElroy and Tarron McElroy; great-grandchildren, Viola McElroy, Zoey Seago and baby Joy, due soon; and sister, Marilyn Gonet of Nokomis.

Mr. McElroy was preceded in death by his son, Randal McElroy; son Robert McElroy; daughter, Paula (McElroy) Stawicki; and brothers, Michael, Lyle, Darrel and Dallas.

Memorials are suggested to Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation, 1004A O'Reilly Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94129; www.myotonic.org

Rosalie M. Johnson, 98
Loving Grandmother



Rosalie Margaret (Holmes) Johnson, 98, died April 21, 2024, in Springfield.

Funeral services will be Thursday, April 25, at 12 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Nokomis with the Rev. Christen Prumm officiating. Visitation with family begins at 10 a.m. in the church preceding the funeral. Burial will follow services in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Johnson was born Jan. 16, 1926, to the late Ralph R. and Anna Olive (Sanders) Holmes near Nokomis. She married Leslie A. Johnson at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Sept. 9, 1945, following his tour of duty in WWII. They enjoyed 66 years together until his passing on April 7, 2012.

Mrs. Johnson grew up on her family's farm and attended Fair Prairie School, a one-room schoolhouse. She graduated from Nokomis High School as valedictorian, then served as secretary to the principal of the school. Upon her marriage to Leslie, she accompanied him to army posts in Fort Sill, OK and Fort Smith, AR. She worked at the latter post processing soldiers' discharge papers, and her husband's discharge was the last to cross her desk. For more than 50 years the couple made their home in Rountree Township in Montgomery County where they raised their family and worked alongside one another on their farm. In retirement they lived in Nokomis and more recently, Mrs. Johnson resided at Concordia Village Senior Living in Springfield.

Often, Mrs. Johnson invited family and friends to her kitchen table for coffee, conversation, a country dinner or perhaps a game of Dominoes or Yahtzee. Her grandkids and great-grandkids looked forward to time with Grandma. Other folks appreciated her caring visits to the sick and aging, as well as her thoughtful gestures of kindness. Mrs. Johnson was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church where she served on committees and held office of leadership, particularly in Ladies Aid organization. She volunteered at the local food pantry and on election days assisted at the polls in Rountree Township.

Mrs. Johnson is survived by five children, Lamar (Kathy) Johnson of Pensacola, FL, Glenn Johnson of Springfield, Arthur (Ann) Johnson of Evansville, IN, John (Jan) Johnson of St. Louis and Colleen Johnson (David) Winkler of Benton, KY; eleven grandchildren, Rodney (Tammy) Johnson, Teri (Todd) West, Kris Johnson, Linen (Pablo) Irizarry, Lea Johnson, Brent (Cindy) Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Tyler (Amy) Johnson, Rana (Cameron) Brown, Stephanie Winkler (Zach Shinnal) and James Winkler; twelve great-grandchildren; sisters, Dorothy Downs of Taylorville and Jean Herzog of Excelsior Springs, MO; brother-in-law Harold Dixon of Jacksonville; and many nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by granddaughter, Lacy Johnson; great-granddaughter Reagan Johnson; two sisters, Mildred Dixon and Janelda Hill; brothers-in-law, William Downs, Robert Hill and Carroll "Dusty" Herzog; stepfather John Bauman; and step-brothers Earl Bauman and Paul Bauman.

The family request memorials be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery or St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Stiehl Dawson Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Online condolences can be left at stiehl-dawsonfh.com

City Of Litchfield Awarded \$650,000 State Grant

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today announced the recipients for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Housing Rehabilitation. A total of \$8.9 million has been awarded to 14 communities, which will support housing rehabilitation projects.

The City of Litchfield will receive \$650,000 as part of that program. They are one of 14 Illinois communities receiving funding.

"No one should have to worry if their home is structurally safe or if their appliances will turn on," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Thanks to this federal grant, 14 communities across the state will become

stronger and more resilient by rehabilitating their vulnerable residents' homes."

"For half a century, the Community Development Block Grants Program has provided critical assistance to keep communities safe and healthy," said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. "This grant funding will ensure communities and families across Illinois have the resources they need to rehabilitate homes in the areas that need it the most."

April is National Community Development Month, and this year is the 50th Anniversary of the CDBG program. For half a century, CDBG has played a pivotal role in helping the most vulnerable citizens through key investments in in-

Evelyn H. Probst, 101
Loved Well And Well Loved



Evelyn H. Probst, 101, of O'Fallon, formerly of Ramsey, died Thursday, April 18, 2024, after a short stay at Clinton Manor Living Center in New Baden.

Services will be held on Saturday, April 27, at the First Church of God in Vandalia. Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. until the service time at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Zach Schaeffer and Pastor Charles Miller officiating. Burial will follow at Glendale Cemetery in Fillmore.

Mrs. Probst was born June 5, 1922, in Shafter Township, the daughter of Albert and Minnie Henrietta (Kresin) Hoffman. She married John Earl Probst on Jan. 22, 1942, in Troy, MO. He preceded her in death on June 27, 2000. Mrs. Probst was a homemaker as well as fulfilling the many tasks required of a farmer's wife. They lived and raised their family in rural Bingham until they moved to Ramsey in 1996. She had resided with her daughter Gail in O'Fallon for the last six years.

Mrs. Probst loved spending time with her family and many dear friends. She enjoyed Home Extension (now HCE Home and Community Education) for over 80 years and was honored to give a speech at Fayette County HEA anniversary celebration last summer.

Mrs. Probst enjoyed cooking and was known for her noodles, sharing helpful hints, gardening and sewing. It was said that people of Ramsey would drive by her house just to see her flowers. She was known for her sharp mind and quick wit that continued until the very end of her journey here on earth. When someone commented on how nice she looked she would reply with her sweet smile "a little powder and a little paint, makes a girl, what she ain't." She was a long-time active member of the Canaan Chapel Church of God, rural Bingham, then First Church of God, Vandalia. Her deep faith sustained her, and her sweet spirit was a constant witness to others. She loved well and was well loved.

Mrs. Probst is survived by her son, Gary (Connie) Probst of Vandalia and daughters Connie Weller of Cottage Hills and Gail Greer of O'Fallon; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren and two on the way; and sister-in-law Arlene Hoffman of Vandalia. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother Wendell Hoffman; sister May Della Probst; and brother-in-law Paul Probst.

Memorials may be made to First Church of God in Vandalia and/or Ramsey High School Home Economics Department (a part of the FACS Family and Consumer Science Department) or the charity of donor's choice. Miller Funeral Home in Ramsey, is in charge of arrangements. Online memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.millerfh.net.

George E. McCullah, 69
State Revenue Specialist



George Edward "Ed" McCullah, 69, of Hillsboro, formerly of Litchfield, died at 10:20 p.m. Monday, April 22, 2024, at Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Taylor Springs.

Graveside memorial services will be held Wednesday, May 1, at 10 a.m. in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Greenville. The Rev. Gary Schwab of First Presbyterian Church will officiate.

Mr. McCullah was born July 24, 1954 in Highland, the son and only child of George James and Bettie Mae McCullah. He attended Greenville Elementary School from 1963 to 1966. After his family moved to Litchfield in the summer of 1966, he attended Litchfield Jr. High, playing basketball and running track. While in high school, Mr. McCullah played basketball and ran track in the one and two mile. After graduating with the class of 1972 of Litchfield High School, he attended Greenville College for a brief time. He played rugby for the Litchfield Raiders college college, and worked at Consolidation Coal for three years.

Mr. McCullah moved with family to Springfield, building a new home. He married Lynda Suzanne Ebeling on June 22, 1984, and they later divorced. He was employed with the Illinois Dept. of Revenue for 13 years as a revenue specialist. He was later recruited by CCB Credit Services as a debt collector for major credit card companies. In his leisure time, he enjoyed motorcycles, NHRA drag car racing, gardening with the Troy Bilt tiller he loved. Mr. McCullah also tilled gardens for customers, having a client base of 200-plus. He was considered the "Johnny Appleseed" for his meticulous tilling.

Mr. McCullah was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Litchfield, Litchfield Moose Lodge #1364 and the VFW, all in Litchfield. He was a friend of the Charlie Daniels Band.

Mr. McCullah is survived by cherished dear friends, Mike and Stacy Payne of Taylor Springs, Harland and Penny Scheibel of Maryville, Jeff Bates of Litchfield and John Shanklin.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and special pets Dutchess, Tracie, Duke and Rascal.

Memorials may be directed to the Montgomery County Animal Shelter. Plummer Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of the arrangements. To sign the online register book or light a virtual candle, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

William H. Clinard, 87
U.S. Army Veteran



William Harrel Clinard, 87, of Hillsboro, died on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 9:45 p.m. at Montgomery Nursing & Rehab in Taylor Springs.

Visitation will be Wednesday, May 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bass Patton Dean Funeral Home in Hillsboro. A memorial service will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Mark Noyes and the Rev. Ralph Ward will officiate. There will be a private family inurnment in Ware's Grove Cemetery in Butler, with Military Rites accorded by the

Department of Defense. Mr. Clinard was born June 30, 1936, in Palmer, to the late Ward and Dorothy (Kurfiss) Clinard. Graduating in 1954 from Raymond High School in Raymond, he went on to join the U.S. Army. He married Katherine Caroline Hoffman on Aug. 21, 1959, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, and she preceded him in death on Sept. 14, 2020.

He was employed as a manager at Allis Chalmers in Springfield, then a production manager at Echlin Brake Parts in Litchfield. Along with his wife, he owned and operated Henry's Greenhouse in Hillsboro, which is now Robin's Nest Florist. He attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church and cleaned the church for many years and was a member of the Masonic Temple in Springfield and the Hillsboro Illinois Auxiliary Police. He coached girls softball for his daughters and granddaughters and he loved to run.

Mr. Clinard is survived by his children, Michelle (husband, Junior) Whitlow of Hillsboro, Duane (wife, Deanna) Clinard of Irving and Stacey (husband, Randy) Ward of Hillsboro; nine grandchildren, Brandi Reynolds, Daniel Whitlow, Brooke Mullink, Stephanie Tyson, Shaun Clinard, Blake Clinard, Tressie Clinard, Brodie Clinard and Kayli Christer; twelve great-grandchildren; and sister, Susan Carter of Morrisonville.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife; brother, Charles Darrel "Shorty" Clinard; and brother-in-law, Art Carter. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Paws Care. Condolences may be left at www.basspattondeanfh.com

Betty J. Darda, 100
1941 Hillsboro Graduate



Betty Jean Darda, 100, of Hillsboro, died away at 10:37 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at Montgomery Nursing and Rehab in Taylor Springs.

Graveside funeral services will be held Saturday, April 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Oak Grove Cemetery in Hillsboro. The Rev. Stefan Munker, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, will officiate. For anyone unable to attend the graveside service, there will be a gathering at St. Paul's Lutheran Church basement for coffee and desserts, following

the service. Mrs. Darda was born June 12, 1923, in Hillsboro, to Jerry and Ethel (Settle) Darda. A 1941 graduate of Hillsboro High School and a 1942 graduate of St. Louis Business College, she worked for N.O. Nelson Co. and McQuay-Norris Mfg. Co. in St. Louis, MO. After returning to Hillsboro in 1946 she took a job at Illinois Power where she worked for 39 years until retirement in 1985. During her employment, she served as recording secretary for IBEW Local #1306 for six years.

Mrs. Darda was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro, where she taught Sunday School class for 20 years, served as chairman of Church Circle I, served on Alter Guild, served on Church Council for six years, helped with Bible School and helped deliver Meals on Wheels.

Mrs. Darda was a member of American Legion Auxiliary where she served as Hillsboro Unit President, Montgomery County Council President and Twenty First District President, which included Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian and Sangamon Counties with 2,500 members at that time.

Mrs. Darda was a member of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, serving as treasurer for several years. She was also a volunteer tutor at Hillsboro Junior High School for several years.

Mrs. Darda is survived by a nephew, David (Patty) Darda of Ellensburg, WA; and three great-nephews, Joe Darda, Zack Darda and Sam Darda.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Darda in 2009; sister-in-law, Ruth Darda in 2015; and a niece, Nancy Darda in 2022.

Memorials may be given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or to the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

Meetings

Nokomis City Council Special Meeting

The Nokomis City Council will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, April 25, at 5 p.m. Agenda items include discussion on an emergency manhole replacement at Walnut and Franklin and discussion on the purchase of body cameras for the police department.



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CNB Bank And Trust Collects Pet Donations

During the month of April, CNB Bank and Trust in downtown Hillsboro is collecting donations for the local animal shelter or rescue center. From now through Tuesday, April 30, they are collecting old towels or blankets, kitty litter, cleaning wipes, toys, dry/wet cat and dog food and paper towels. Pictured above, Jodi Lane, shows some of the items that have been collected so far. CNB Bank and Trust is located at 549 S. Main Street in Hillsboro. *Journal-News Photo*

TOPPER TALK • by Annabelle Wright at Hillsboro High

Something Rotten! Opens Tonight At HHS



Hello, Toppers! The HHS operetta is finally here! After months of busy rehearsal weeks, countless hours spent preparing, and a mountain of dedication from everyone involved, the show is ready! While *Something Rotten* may not be the most well known show, it is still a great show that is worth going to watch. Tickets are for sale both at the door and online, and there are shows this Friday, Saturday and Sunday! Hope to see you there!

National College Decision Day is on May 1, and Mrs. Rench is taking advantage of this opportunity to show off some of the accomplishments of HHS seniors! Any students who send in a picture of them wearing a T-shirt or holding a sign from the college they are attending this fall will be featured on a school post. Don't miss this chance to tell your peers about your plans!

Senior Superlatives are here! Senior Superlatives are a unique way to honor the distinctive personalities

of the graduating class, and they create a fun memory to look back on. From "most contagious smile" to "worst case of senioritis," they provide a great opportunity to acknowledge the unique peers you've spent the last four years with.

The end of the year is almost here, and a multitude of important events are coming up! Prom is on May 4, so don't forget to buy your ticket in the office! The last day of class for seniors is May 17, while the rest of the school's is on May 22. Finally, graduation will take place on May 24 in the HHS gym at 8 p.m. Mark your calendars!

As always, remember to make the most of your week! On April 25, show your kids a day in your life for National Take Your Kid to Work Day. Remember how important nature is on April 26, Arbor Day. Entertain the people around you and let them know something fun about you on April 27, National Tell a Story Day. Be sure to be as truthful as possible on April 30, National Honesty Day. And finally, plan some fun spring activities on May 1, May Day! I'll talk to you next week!



Harvest Of Hope Food Pantry Collects Donations

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry held a Spring Into Action food drive on Saturday, April 20, collecting donations to feed Montgomery County.

The drive was an immense success, as the drive collected over \$1,160 in donations and filled every table and cart available with items.

The pantry thanks all of the volunteers and businesses that contributed to making the event possible as well as all who donated. Pictured above is food pantry director Shawn Huber and high school volunteer Matt Segrest.



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DRAGON BEAT • by Ella Schaake at HJHS

Dragon Students Enjoy Career Day Event



Welcome back to another week of the Dragon Beat! Hey Dragons! Over the weekend, our Science Olympiad team traveled to Champaign to take part in the state competition. They ended up getting 18th out of 24 teams. It was a very challenging, yet fun experience for all of the HJHS students who took part in this!

Congratulations to Lorelai Carlock and Audrey Bilington, who took third place in one of the events called Disease Detective. Members of the Science Olympiad varsity team are Lorelai Carlock, Claire Trader, Colby Wilkinson, Audrey Bilington, Greyson Cyrus, Charles Thornton, Daniel Sullivan, Ari Lipe, Madison Kirk and Aiden Robinson. Thank you to all the rest of the Science Olympiad members who didn't join in state, but still took part in regionals!

On Monday this week, our track team had a meet in Pana, and lots of our Dragons did very well! Unfortunately,

our meet on Tuesday, also 8th grade night, got canceled. So sorry for the inconvenience due to the weather.

Yesterday was a half day for schools in our district and our seventh and eighth grade students used their time to gain some knowledge on careers. 35 professionals from our community and surrounding towns came to talk about their careers, training, education and overall outlook in the job market for their jobs.

Students had an opportunity to listen to a variety of careers in three of the six career clusters. A huge thank you to all of the speakers for taking time out of their busy day to talk to us and explain their jobs as well as how we can prepare for them in the future.

That's a wrap for this week's Dragon Beat! Come back next week to hear about the exciting stuff happening at HJHS.

Remember to spread positivity, always try your hardest and be yourself. Have yourselves a great rest of the week Dragons, see you next week!

Coffeen Alumni Banquet Dinner To Be Held In May

The Coffeen Alumni Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 25, at the East Fork Community Building at 500 South Prospect St. in Coffeen.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. The cost of dinner will be \$15 and \$4 dues will be col-

lected. Reservations should be mailed to Fern Burke, 807 Smith Lane Hillsboro, IL 62049. All interested in attending should RSVP by Monday, May 13. Payments for dinner must be made in advance.

Lincolnwood Student Spotlight
 Bryce, a senior at Lincolnwood, was selected for the student spotlight for his efforts in this year's production of Peter Pan by the Lincolnwood Drama Club.
 Bryce Wolf
 Brought To You By Pleasant Hill Christian Church
 www.pleasanthill.cc

Fletcher Retires From Bank & Trust This May

Patty Fletcher, assistant vice president and branch manager at Bank & Trust Company's Raymond Branch, has announced her retirement after 29 years of dedicated service.

Fletcher began her journey with Bank & Trust Company in 1995 as a customer service representative, quickly ascending to assistant branch manager and ultimately branch manager and assistant vice president. Throughout her time at Bank & Trust Company, she played a key role in driving lending initiatives, particularly in real estate loans during the fixed-rate real estate loan boom of the late 1990s.

Expressing deep gratitude for her team and customers, Fletcher remarked, "What I will miss most about retiring from the bank is the incredible team and the amazing customers who are now family and friends."

Fletcher's official last days are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4. To honor her remarkable career, Bank & Trust Company will be holding an open house at the Raymond Branch located at 404 S O'Bannon Street. All are welcome to stop by and



Patty Fletcher

wish her well. Looking forward, Fletcher and her husband, John, plan to travel and spend time with their children and eight grandchildren.

Reflecting on her time at the Raymond branch, Fletcher shared which accomplishment made her most proud. "My job afforded me the opportunity to help clients reach their financial goals," she said.

Bank & Trust Company extends its heartfelt appreciation to Fletcher for her invaluable contributions and wishes her a fulfilling retirement.

CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS
The Ariston Cafe
 Since 1924
The Ariston Cafe will be closing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 28 through Tuesday, April 30 for renovations.
 413 Old Route 66 N. in Litchfield

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Panhandle School Board

Continued from page 1A

Option D (15,770 square feet), was estimated at \$8 million and would be located behind the existing gym. The gym would be harder to get to and would reuse the current locker rooms, which would be renovated. The gym would also be virtually hidden from the front of the building.

Cosgriff said that none of the options had a lot of additional site costs and all had contingency built into the price. He said that the district could go less expensive with a pole style building but it would be less attractive.

Board member Dana Pitchford asked if the old gym would still need to be fixed if the district chose to build new. Cosgriff said it would, but the district wouldn't have to renovate it to the same extent. The roof and flooring would need to be replaced, but other items would be more than sufficient for a secondary gym that was used for tournaments, practices, PE and other school functions.

Board President Terri Payne asked if the bleachers had to be replaced if the floor was replaced. Cosgriff said technically the district could push in the bleachers, cut the existing floor out and replace it and keep the current bleachers, but he advised against it.

Pitchford asked if the current locker rooms could be moved or constructed outside the current gym to allow for more seating. Cosgriff said that area is limited due to a lower roof level and ceiling and that there are also mechanical areas (a boiler room) that would have to be moved that made that option tough.

Discussion on the project and which option to pursue, if any, will continue at future board meetings.

Members of the board also heard from Maggie Poteau, a community relations specialist with UKA, the company planning to build the Grand Prairie Energy Park in northern Montgomery County and parts of Sangamon County. Poteau spoke about the German company, which has its U.S. base in Stuart, FL, and went in depth regarding the proposed energy park. The project will be done in three phases: the Virden phase, an 18-turbine, 100-megawatt

wind project located north and east of Farmersville that will connect to the Virden substation; the Grand Prairie phase, a 23-to-26-turbine, 150-megawatt wind project located north of Farmersville in Montgomery and Sangamon counties; and the Pawnee phase, a 15-to-18-turbine, 150-megawatt wind project located mainly in Sangamon County.

Poteau said that the estimated economic impact of the Virden phase is \$136 million over the lifetime of the 30-year lifespan of the wind farm, with an estimated \$30.2 million in property tax revenue over those 30 years. The Panhandle School District would receive an estimated total of \$16.4 million over the 30 year lifespan.

In addition to the property tax revenue, Poteau also said that the Virden phase would provide 60 short term jobs in Montgomery County during construction and nine full-time jobs. She said that the project is still a ways from construction, with a planned start date of the second quarter of 2025, but UKA wanted the district to know that they will work with the school on bus routes and agree to arrangements with the district before the project begins.

Poteau also spoke about developing pathways for students to work in the renewable energy industry. She said that currently Heartland Community College is the only nearby community college that offers a renewable energy certification, but she hoped Lincoln Land Community College would be interested in that option as well.

After the presentation, Board President Terri Payne expressed concern to Poteau about the possibility that farmers who currently farm land owned by out-of-state owners would lose the opportunity to farm that land. Poteau said that the wind turbines take up less farmland than a solar project, using three acres during construction and one acre upon completion.

Board member Gavin Pope asked if drainage districts had been consulted with the project. Poteau said they had been in contact with them and had hired Pinion Global out of Moweaqua as consultants for the project.

Poteau also said that the Farmersville UKA office will host two open houses, on April 25 and April 30, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A public hearing for the project was originally scheduled for April 29, but was pushed back to June. Poteau finished up by saying that if the board was in favor of the project, UKA would appreciate a letter of support, but if not, that was ok.

Afterward Hopper said that the increase in property tax the school district receives could affect their state funding, but there were a lot of unknowns in that regard. He also said that UKA has been in touch with the SCI Center in Litchfield in addition to Lincoln Land.

In other business, the board (minus board member Darrin Daugherty, who was absent) approved an additional summer maintenance item, epoxy floors in the to-be-renovated science lab. Hopper said that the epoxy floors would be cheaper than originally thought and would be more durable and fiscally responsible. He added that the floors aren't in the grant being used to fund the renovation, but almost everything else is.

Also approved were the consent agenda, the resolution for the sale of two used school busses (with the minimum bid reduced to \$3,000), approval of 2024-25 job descriptions and approval of changes to the district handbook. Raymond Grade School Principal Joe Webb said two of the changes were to move the start time for breakfast to 7:30 a.m. from 7:45 to coincide with bus schedules and to remove the section prohibiting students pushing each other on the swings. Hopper said that they also made sure documents in the handbook and Athletic Director Josh Stone's extra-curricular code were the same and that the district continues to look at cell phone usage during school hours.

In administrative reports, Hopper noted that the board won't meet again until after the final day of school on May 17. In his written update, he also mentioned the elemen-

tary school spring concert at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, in the auditorium and the Illinois Association of School Administrators/Illinois State Board of Education advisory board meeting on May 6, in Springfield, which Hopper will be attending.

In Principal Webb's update, he noted that state testing was completed in April and that Raymond Grade School would be hosting a spring family/math game night on Tuesday, April 23. In May, grade school classrooms are creating themed baskets to raffle off at the Spring Sing on May 2, with help from the PTO. On Friday, April 26, the school will hold its IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) celebration from 9 to 11 a.m., with designated parents working on organizing a field day.

In his report, Lincolnwood Principal Ken Schuster detailed upcoming events in May, including the National Honor Society induction on May 5, teacher appreciation week on May 6-10 and high school awards night on May 8. Finals for seniors will be on May 13-14 and May 15-16 for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Prom is on May 4, while the senior trip is April 26.

The board entered into closed session at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:08 p.m. After closed session, they accepted the resignation of Sara Jenkins as Farmersville Grade School nurse and Baylee Bormida as paraprofessional, effective at the end of the year, and approved Bill Krager as boys basketball assistant coach and Ty Irwin as volunteer golf coach for the 2024-25 school year. Also approved were contracts for Joe Webb as elementary school principal and Dana Schott as Pre-K through 12th grade assistant principal for the 2024-25 school year. Before the start of the regular meeting, the board met in closed session in a special meeting and voted to expel Student A for the remainder of this year and next year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The board is scheduled to meet next on May 20, at 7 p.m.



Pictured above, staff at Hillsboro Health are pictured with Montgomery County Sheriff's Office employees Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser and Chief Deputy Jeff Roach.

Local Law Enforcement Visits Hillsboro Health

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Tyson Holshouser and Chief Deputy Jeff Roach visited Hillsboro Health Fitness and Aquatics and Hillsboro Health Specialty Clinics. They toured both facilities and provided invaluable information to the staff on what to do in the event of a workplace violence event.

Different scenarios were discussed and the team brainstormed ways that facilities can be made safer. Hillsboro Health staff appreciates the time they took to look at their specific areas and the information they provided on what the staff can implement to improve their safety.

SPEED PUZZLING FUNDRAISER!

Sunday, May 5 • 4 p.m.

Teams up to 6 people — \$50/table
Individuals — \$10

Hillsboro Methodist Church (behind Hardee's)
Grab up to 6 friends and join us for a
Speed Puzzling Fundraiser!

Tables are limited so reserve your table now!
We will have round one, a short snack break
(please no outside food or drinks), and then a
redemption round to determine the winner!
Call or text 217-246-1148 to
register or with any questions!

Litchfield Fire Protection Payments Due By May 1

The City of Litchfield would like to remind residents outside of the city limits that fire protection payments are due by Wednesday, May 1. Service will be terminated for residents whose payments have not been received by Wednesday, May 15.

Payments can be made at Litchfield City Hall, located at 120 E. Ryder St. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, or by mail-in or over the phone.

For questions, call 217-324-2022.

Hi! My name is Monte Govaia. I am asking to be a choice as a possible candidate to replace Ward 2 Alderman Dan Newkirk who resigned from his post last month. I grew up in Hillsboro, Illinois and for the last 42 years I have resided in Litchfield.

My reason for wanting to fill the vacated spot is that I would like to see the City of Litchfield and Community continue to grow. I do know there are many great things in the works. If appointed I will give my FULL support to our City and Community.

Please contact the Mayor of Litchfield at City Hall and the Aldermen if you would kindly agree to support me.

Thank you for your time.
Monte Govaia, 111 E. Tyler Ave.

HHS Class Of 2009 Plans 15th Reunion

The Hillsboro High School Class of 2009 will have their 15 year class reunion on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Half Time Bar and Grill in Hillsboro, with a class photo at 7:30 p.m. at Lincoln Plaza.

NO news is BAD news

Share your news at
thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge

903 S. Main St., Hillsboro



Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, April 28

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

All-U-Can-Eat Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert and Drink

Tickets at the door • \$10



Hillsboro High School FFA ANNUAL GREENHOUSE PLANT SALE

HHS Greenhouse

Friday, April 26 • 3-6 p.m.

Saturday, April 27 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

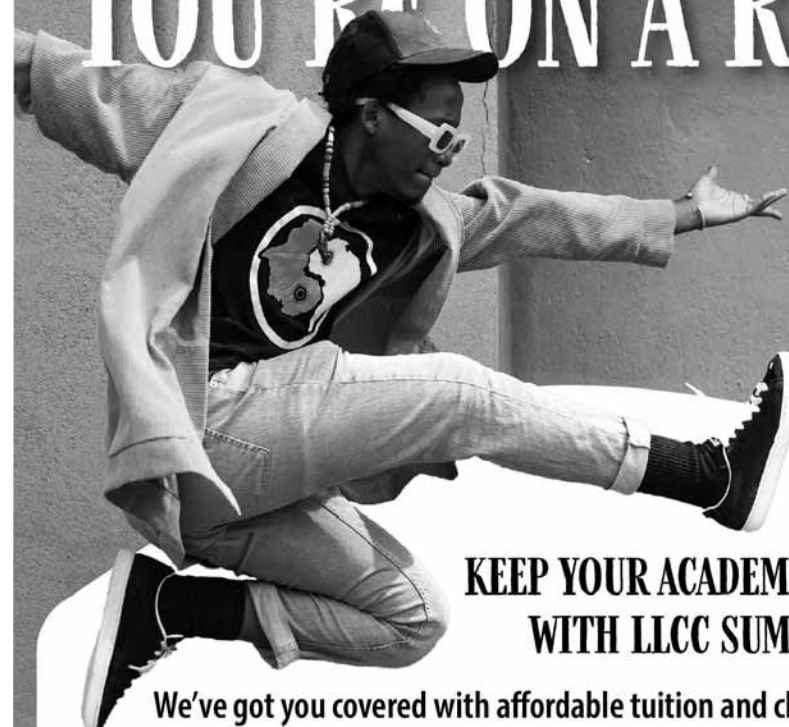
Sunday, April 28 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

(Or until sold old.)

Wide variety of plants to choose from.



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Lincoln Land Community College
Litchfield

Out & About

6A - Thursday, April 25, 2024

Bremer Wildflower Walk To Be Saturday, April 27

H & B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary in Hillsboro will be hosting a Spring Woodland Wildflower Walk on Saturday, April 27, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The guided tour through the woodland trails will leave the barn parking area at 10 a.m. and will last approximately 90 minutes. The leisurely hike may feature native flowers such as bluebells, dutchman's breeches, mayapples, spring beauties, trillium and several varieties of violets.

Walkers are asked to dress prepared for the weather forecast that day. Sturdy shoes or boots, a hat and bug repellent are all recommended. A bottle of water and a Native Illinois Wildflower Field Guide may be helpful, but not required. The education barn and meeting hall will be open for tours afterwards.

Light snacks will be served and the event is open to the public. Donations will be accepted.



Hillsboro FFA Flower Sale Begins Friday

Hillsboro FFA is hosting their annual plant sale this weekend, beginning on Friday, April 26, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Hillsboro High School greenhouse, located on the corner of campus near the Hiltop Dr. entrance. The sale will continue at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, or as supplies last. There is a wide variety of plants offered this year. Pictured above is just one of the many plants available, hanging petunia baskets.

Princess Story Time Will Return To Carnegie Park

Britain's Princess Parties will again offer a free Story Time in the Park in Litchfield on Saturday, June 22, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Everyone is invited to hear the Sleeping Princess tell a story about her fairy friends and dream prince, followed by a meet and greet, and photos. Story time will take

place outdoors on the lawn of Carnegie Park, 400 N. State St., Litchfield. Bring your own blanket or lawn chairs.

Kismet Coffee Co., located nearby at 400 N. Monroe St., will offer a Sleeping Beauty themed drink on June 22 only. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved inside the coffee shop.

'Give Grant a Lift' Fund Drive Kicks Off In May

by Steve McLaughlin

In just a few days, the smell of grilled hot dogs and pork patties will be wafting through the streets of Hillsboro as the work of nearly one hundred volunteers comes together in a fundraiser for a young man and his father.

Grant Bryant, a 13-year-old seventh grader, has a rare form of muscular dystrophy and requires a motorized wheelchair to get from place to place. Up to now, his father and sole caregiver, Michael, has been lifting and carrying him to and from his compact car and then to and from his wheelchair wherever they go.

However, as Grant is now up to 115 pounds, that process is getting more and more difficult as time goes on. In addition, the family has limited resources and are financially unable to obtain a wheelchair accessible vehicle on their own.

The fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the CNB Bank and Trust parking lot on Route 127 and Route 16 in Hillsboro. The meals will consist of your choice of a pork patty or a Costco Jumbo hot dog sandwich, chips, homemade cookies and bottled water. Donations will be accepted. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Pre-orders may be made by calling Steve at 217-494-0535 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Be prepared to provide your name, phone number, and the specific meal(s) you wish to order.

One hundred percent of all funds generated will be used to purchase a pre-owned, wheelchair accessible vehicle

for Grant and Michael.

Thus far, the fundraising response has been overwhelming as donations have been pouring in, and interested individuals and groups are responding to the call.

One example of this robust response is the fact that members from all of the Hillsboro area churches have volunteered in one way or another. Many are contributing to the drive by preparing homemade cookies to include in each meal that is served. Others have volunteered to prepare, serve, or distribute meals to fulfill the large volume of orders received thus far.

For those who pre-order a pick-up meal, it is suggested that you turn onto Rountree Street by the Methodist Church and then turn left on Mill Street. As you approach the CNB parking lot, you will be greeted by a volunteer who will get your order and deliver it to you while you remain in your vehicle.

Overflow parking, if necessary, is available across the street in the parking lot behind the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church.

Those wishing to make a contribution to this worthwhile cause may do so by mailing their donations to the Roy L. Hertel Foundation for Better Communities, C/O James Hertel, 915 Edgewood Drive, Hillsboro, IL 62049. When sending a personal check, please note in the memo section that it is for the "Give Grant a Lift" Fund. This is a 501(c)(3) fund and donations are considered tax deductible.

YARD SALE

Friday, April 26 • 3-6 p.m.
Saturday, April 27 • 8 a.m.-noon
110 Independence Dr., Hillsboro

Women's clothes 0-3x
Baby clothes newborn-18 months
Books, BBW products,
lots of household,
miscellaneous toys & baby stuff



+Master Gardener+
Mother's Day
Hanging
Basket Sale
Friday, May 3
9 a.m. until Sold Out
ALL BASKETS \$20
10" assorted colors
and varieties



MT. MORIAH LODGE 51

903 S. Main Street, Hillsboro (Rt. 127)

Proceeds to benefit the Montgomery County Farmer's Institute.

VILLAGE OF TAYLOR SPRINGS SPRING CLEAN UP DAYS

For Village Residents Only - ID Required
Fri., May 3 - from 5 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat. & Sun., May 4 & 5 from 6 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dumpsters will be located at:

THE OUTPOST (Former VFW) Parking Lot on Rt. 127

If you need assistance unloading, please come on Fri. or Sat. between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and please call 217-259-6100 one hour before drop off.

Residents can bring items only during the times listed above.

Items NOT Accepted are: Electronics, Household Garbage, Lawn Waste, Paint & Tires. Batteries and Appliances are OK.

Fallen Riders Cookout To Be April 27

Shoal Creek A.B.A.T.E. will host their "Fallen Riders Cookout" on Saturday, April 27, at Vandalia Lake Club. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with dinner served from 5 to 8 p.m. No one under the age of 18 will be permitted. The adult night out will include an auction at 6:30 p.m. (winners will be announced at 9 p.m.) and live entertainment from

Van Waylon. Tickets are set at \$50 per couple, which includes food and non-alcoholic drinks. A cash bar will be open. No carry-in drinks are allowed. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$25 a person. The event will feature a raffle, with a chance to win the grand prize of \$5,000. A total of fourteen prizes will be handed out. Second place

will receive \$500, third place will receive \$200, fourth place will receive \$100 and the fifth to tenth place will receive \$50 each. Only 300 raffle tickets will be sold. For more information about the Fallen Riders Cookout or to purchase a raffle ticket contact Christy at 618-292-5505 or Jim at 618-292-5290.

Raymond Plans Farmers Market

Vendors are being sought for the monthly Raymond Farmers Market, which will be held on the second Tuesday, 4 to 7 p.m., on the grounds of Doyle Public Library, 109 S. O'Bannon St., Raymond.

Market dates are May 14,

June 11, July 9, Aug. 13 and Sept. 10 (weather permitting).

There is no vendor fee, but all vendors must sign up. Registration packets are available at the library and can be returned to the library in person, through

the book drop box, or mailed to PO Box 544, Raymond, IL 62560. Signing up does not guarantee a vendor space.

For more information, contact Darcy at Doyle Public Library, 217-229-4471.

Now Showing
April 26-27
Kung Fu Panda 4
Abigail

Gates Open at 6
Movie Begins at Dusk

1500 N. Old Route 66
litchfieldskyview.com

Ethan's Angels For A Cure

10" Hanging
Flower Basket Sale

Friday, May 3 • 4-6 p.m.
Saturday, May 4 • 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nokomis Gift and Garden Shop
123 Morgan Street, Nokomis

Just in time for Mother's Day!
Come select your favorite colors
for a \$20 donation per basket.

All proceeds benefit Montgomery County Cancer Association. Pre-orders can be made by calling the Garden Shop 217-563-2736 or any Ethan's Angels for a Cure team member.

IRVING SPRING CLEAN-UP

May 6-7 • 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
at the Irving Township Building

The VILLAGE OF IRVING and IRVING TOWNSHIP will have dumpsters available for residents who wish to dispose of household items. Residents must check in at the building and provide proof of residency.

ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED ARE:
Paints/Chemicals, Petroleum Products, Electronics (TVs, Monitors), Hazardous or Special Waste, Tires/Inner Tubes, Yard Waste.

--VILLAGE OF SCHRAM CITY--

--SPRING CLEAN UP--

Monday, April 29 thru Saturday, May 4
at the maintenance shed
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

NOT ACCEPTING: Paints/Chemicals, Petroleum Products, Electronics (TVs, Monitors), Hazardous or Special Waste, Tires/Inner Tubes, Household Garbage, Lawn Waste, Batteries

Holy Family Parish Drive-thru Dinner

Made from scratch slow cooked and smoked pulled pork, baked beans, KC's cole slaw and homemade dessert
\$12 per meal

•Friday, April 26•

4:30-6:30 p.m. in the church parking lot.

Holy Family Parish Center
211 E. Columbia, Litchfield

St. Louis School Parents' Club Geranium Fundraiser

Nokomis Gift and Garden
123 Morgan Street • 217-563-2736



4" pot: \$5
10" pot: \$25

Friday, April 26
4-6 pm

Saturday, April 27
8:30 am-1 pm

Many colors to choose from

Preorders welcome by calling the shop at 217-563-2736. All proceeds directly fund student needs.

Bags Tournament
1:00 pm
\$20/team
Reserve Your Team Today
(217)324-3971 or
ocullison@mckayauto.net

Raffles Live Music
Food Trucks
Swag Bags 1st 100 Vehicles

May 4 2024	12:00PM	\$20 per Vehicle
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Concordia Hall
709 S Union St, Staunton, IL 62088

Tarr Murder Trial Begins

Continued from page 1A

Wykoff spoke about the sixth amendment and how the defendant has a right to confront witnesses during trial and how cross examination is the greatest legal engine for discovering the truth.

Wykoff also spoke about the four principles of criminal law: that Tarr is presumed innocent until proven guilty, that it's the prosecutors responsibility to supply enough evidence to prove guilt, that Tarr is not required to present evidence on his own behalf and that if he does not testify, it can not be held against him.

Wykoff concluded by saying he looked forward to explaining why the state did not prove Tarr's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and quoted Thomas Jefferson regarding jury trials:

"I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

Day One Witnesses

After opening statements, the state called its first witness, Nanette Stuipe, of Collinsville, a friend of Leslie Reeves who became concerned when Reeves did not respond to her calls and texts on Thanksgiving 2021.

Stuipe testified that she called the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department to request a wellness check and traveled to Farmersville to meet the police at Christopher Smith's residence. Once she arrived at the residence, she saw a blue van belonging to Reeves outside, but remained in her vehicle until police arrived.

Stuipe said while she was waiting, another vehicle pulled up and after a while, a young female asked if she was waiting for Smith. After Stuipe told her she was concerned for Reeves and had contacted the police, the young woman went around the side of the house and came back looking very startled and made a phone call.

Stuipe said a person in a yellow vest, possibly from the fire department then arrived and looked around the side of the house and went inside the home. She said that law enforcement and an ambulance arrived within the next ten minutes and taped off the area. She said she remained in her vehicle and cooperated with law enforcement when they spoke to her later.

After the defense had no questions for Stuipe, Erijon Smith was called as a witness. Smith was friends with Chris Smith through a mutual friend, Linda, and went to check on him when he did not show up for Thanksgiving dinner. The witness told the jury that she arrived at the house, looked through a window around the side and saw blood and a man's leg. She then called 911.

With no questions for Smith from the defense, the state called Farmersville EMT Dennis Hobson, the person in the yellow vest Stuipe saw, to the stand. Hobson said he had received a call from Chris Smith's ex-wife that something was wrong and went to the house. As he went to the door on the side of the house, he saw broken glass and looked into the kitchen and saw Smith laying on the floor.

When Hobson yelled to Smith, he moved slightly, and when Hobson entered, Smith told him he was cold. While looking for a pathway to get a stretcher from the front door to Smith in the kitchen, Hobson put Smith's dog in its cage and entered the dining room area, where he saw the body of a female, who turned out to be Leslie Reeves.

When asked if he went over to Reeves to see her condition, Hobson said that he knew she was already gone. He then called 911, indicating that there were two victims of gunshot wounds, one alive, one deceased.

Hobson said that he also noticed two silver shell casings at the scene, one in the dining room near Reeves' body and one by the refrigerator in the kitchen.

Once Smith was loaded onto the ambulance gurney and taken to the hospital, Hobson said he remained at the scene and provided a statement to police.

Attorney Fultz asked Hobson about arriving at the scene and if Smith said anything besides that he was cold. Hobson said he mumbled some, but was incoherent. Fultz also asked if police collected or photographed his shoes or the shoes of the other two EMTs who came to the scene, Tabitha Dean and Jeremy Welsh. Hobson said they did not.

Next to testify was retired Montgomery County Deputy Kurt Eller, who was on active duty at the time of the incident and responded to the call, arriving on the scene at 1:48 p.m. Eller said EMTs were already on the scene and Hobson informed him of the deceased female in the dining room area.

Eller located Reeves laying on her right side with what appeared to be a gun shot wound to the head, with a silver shell casing near the body and another in the kitchen. Eller then taped off the residence and front area of the home.

Fultz asked Eller about his arrival at the scene, with Eller saying he came in through the front door, which Hobson had testified that he unlocked earlier. He also asked Eller about the condition of the kitchen, with chairs tipped over, the refrigerator moved away from the wall and blood everywhere and if that was evidence of a fight. Affrunti objected for speculation, which was sustained, as Fultz changed his wording to confirm that those things were present in the kitchen.

Fultz asked if Eller canvassed nearby houses or collected or photographed the shoes of the EMTs on the scene. Eller said he did not.

The final witness of the day was Dr. Nathaniel Patterson, forensic pathologist for Sangamon County and the doctor who performed the autopsy on Reeves. Dr. Patterson explained the autopsy process and said that his results showed that the gun shot entered the top of Reeves' skull, with stippling found around the wound.

Attorney Dion asked if Dr. Patterson was able to determine the trajectory of the gunshot. Dr. Patterson said that the muzzle of the gun would have been directly above the head, saying that could mean that the shooter was standing above the victim or the victim could be bent forward. Dion also asked about range, which Dr. Patterson estimated at six to 18 inches, with a margin of error due to the thickness of the victim's scalp.

Dr. Patterson was also asked about the ammunition used in the shooting. He said that it was a frangible bullet, which is made to break apart on impact and that he had only seen three other instances and had written about it in a peer review journal.

Dr. Patterson also did a toxicology report, finding a blood alcohol content of .11, and did extra DNA swabs and fingernail clippings to provide to the Illinois State Police.

Dion asked what the final finding of the autopsy was, with Dr. Patterson explaining that the victim died of a gunshot wound.

In the cross-examination, Attorney Wykoff asked about the article Dr. Patterson wrote in 2014, saying that Patterson was an expert in forensic medicine, not ballistics. Dr. Patterson said that was true, but that there was a lot of overlap in the two areas. Wykoff also asked if Dr. Patterson went to the ammunition factory or spoke with writers of the text book he used for sources in the article. Dr. Patterson said he did not.

Wykoff asked how he could be sure that the bullet entered the top of the head and went straight down.

Dr. Patterson said that the bullet hit the base of the skull and broke apart. When asked if he could tell the position of the victim, Dr. Patterson said he could not.

Wykoff's final question was if Dr. Patterson could tell who pulled the trigger, with the doctor saying he could not.

Dion asked Dr. Patterson one question on redirect, if Reeves' wound was consistent with a person on their knees on the floor. Dr. Patterson that was correct.

Day Two Witnesses

Wednesday, April 24, the second day of witness testimony, began with Illinois State Police Sgt. Josh Easton with the crime scene investigations department.

Easton told the jury about processing the scene, including gathering evidence, taking swabs of RBLs (red blood like substances/stains) and photographing evidence.

Affrunti went over photos of the crime scene with Easton, including ones of the 9mm bullet casing with the letters T and M stamped on it. Easton also spoke about a defect, consistent with a bullet hole in the side door to the kitchen, which was 2'5" from the base of the door. Easton said that he took photographs of the shoe prints in the blood in the kitchen, but was unable to remove the tile without it breaking.

In cross-examination, Fultz asked about the swabs that were taken, including two additional swabs that were on Reeves' pants and near the drawstring. He also asked Easton why he collected the knife off the counter. Easton said he had not been informed of the cause of injuries at the time and processed the knife to be thorough.

Fultz asked about the broken window in the door, with Easton saying that the glass outside of the door instead of in the kitchen indicated that it was either forced in from the inside or swept outside. Fultz asked how the casing in the kitchen could end up there if the gun was fired from the outside. Easton said if the defect (the bullet hole in the door) was caused by the same bullet as the casing, it wasn't able to be explained.

As he did with Eller the day before, Fultz asked about the amount of blood in the kitchen and whether the appearance of the chairs and refrigerator showed that a struggle had occurred. Easton said that appeared to be the case.

On redirect, Affrunti asked if Smith moving around the kitchen, trying to get help, could result in the blood spatter and items moved in the kitchen. Easton said that was possible.

Fultz asked Easton if he had been told that gunshot wounds were not the only injury, if that would change their processing of the scene. Easton said that was possible if specific to a type of injury. Fultz asked if Easton was informed of anything other than a gunshot wound, with Easton replying that he had not.

After a brief rest following Easton's testimony, Affrunti stated that the prosecution and defense agreed to the stipulation that Chris Smith had resided in the house in Farmersville on Nov. 24 and 25 and had suffered a gunshot wound to the head that caused great bodily harm and that he has no memory of the event.

The next two witnesses were Cory and Jessica Krager, who lived in Farmersville at the time and had security cameras outside their home. Affrunti asked them about downloading the footage from a number of hours asked for by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, which Krager said he did.

Krager said a detective also came to his house and determined the correct time stamp for the security footage, which was an hour off. He added that his wife brought the downloaded footage to the sheriff's department, with Jessica Krager confirming that in her testimony.

Illinois State Police Special Agent Aaron Riemann was the next witness and testified that he collected information from security cameras at Webb Insurance in Farmersville and verified that there was a discrepancy

in the time stamp before transferring the information to Montgomery County Sheriff's Investigator Jeff Roach.

Fultz asked Riemann if he could only confirm the time discrepancy (46 minutes) from when he downloaded the information, not necessarily from Nov. 24 or 25. Riemann said that was correct.

Illinois State Police Crime Scene Investigator Justin Gonzalez testified next, telling the jury that he assisted in processing the scene in Farmersville and also attended the autopsy. Gonzalez confirmed that he had taken custody of bullet fragments that were removed during Reeves' autopsy, as well as DNA. Gonzalez also testified that he collected flannel pants and a sock belonging to Christopher Smith from St. John's Hospital, and collected a Springfield Armory Hellcat and several items with the gun from Investigator Roach and took them to the Illinois State Police office in Belleville, where he conducted testing for fingerprints and took swabs and photos of the weapon.

In cross-examination, Fultz asked about items that are collected at a crime scene but are not analyzed asking if those have no value. Gonzalez said it is up to the investigators to what gets analyzed.

Fultz also asked about blood evidence found at the scene, gunshot residue testing and whether some of the blood found in the kitchen could be from castoff. Gonzalez said that was possible and that castoff transfer can come from anything in motion that projects blood.

Dion asked Gonzalez if evidence is ever collected but not tested. Gonzalez said absolutely and crime scene investigators almost always collect more than necessary to test in an effort to be thorough.

Gonzalez was the final witness before lunch, with Shelby Schiel, formerly Shelby Tarr, the first to testify in the afternoon.

Schiel, Robert Tarr's daughter, was staying with her father during Thanksgiving 2021, part of a two-week visit from her home in Texas. She told the jury that she had been with her father on the evening of Nov. 24 and had heard him say on the phone that he was a smart man and no one would find out.

Schiel told the jury that her father left twice during that evening, once for 30 minutes to lock up a shop belonging to a Billy Adams and again to let a co-worker into that shop. During the second time he left, Schiel became concerned and went to her grandparents' house nearby. Her grandmother texted her father, who said he was driving around Fairview Heights and thinking.

Dion asked Schiel about the phone call her father made and what it was regarding. Schiel said that her father said he was upset about what happened with Leslie Reeves.

Schiel said she went to bed at 9:45 p.m. on Nov. 24 and woke up to noise from the washing machine at 2 a.m., with her father cleaning in the living room. She said she went back to bed and woke up at 7 a.m., with her father standing over the top of her, staring at her. Schiel said her father told her that he was concerned about her. She then went back to sleep and was woken up at noon by her father to go to Thanksgiving dinner.

Dion asked Schiel if her father owned any firearms and if she had seen one similar to the photo submitted into evidence that police had recovered. She said he did and had seen a similar gun a few days before Thanksgiving with her father, family friend Chris White and her brother Tyler.

Dion asked if she saw the gun after that day. Schiel said she did, in her father's sock drawer, the day before Thanksgiving. Dion asked if she looked inside the sock drawer after that. Schiel said she looked on Thanksgiving and the gun was not there.

Fultz questioned Schiel about the time line she testified to that day and the discrepancies (some varied between 15 to 30 minutes) between it and the one she provided to police in 2021. Schiel said she could not recall the exact time some of the events occurred.

Fultz also asked how Tarr was dressed when she saw him at 2:45 a.m. cleaning. Schiel said he was in pajamas. He also asked if she saw what was in the laundry. Schiel said she did not.

Fultz asked whether Schiel recalled telling police that her father said "I'm smart, trust me I know," instead of "I'm a smart man, no one would find out." Schiel said she did not recall.

Schiel's brother, Tyler Tarr, Robert Tarr's son, testified next, saying that the photo of the gun in the evidence was similar to the one he saw a few nights before Thanksgiving while with his sister, father and Chris White.

Wykoff asked about details of that day and if police showed him the gun when Tarr met with them on Dec. 10, 2021. The younger Tarr said he did not recall.

Wykoff also asked if he told police on Dec. 10, that his father seemed fine at Thanksgiving and if he went back to his father's after Thanksgiving. Tarr said that was correct.

After Tarr's testimony, Robert Power of Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services testified about the search warrant served on Robert Tarr's residence on Nov. 26. Power said that a 9mm Glock handgun was processed, along with a black iPhone. A white Volkswagen sedan was also towed from the scene by Elam's Towing to Taylor Springs, then taken to a secure location, where it was searched by Power.

Dion asked if any firearm evidence or blood evidence was detected in the vehicle, Power said none was detected.

Fultz questioned Power about the search and if DNA swabs were taken in the car. Power said swabs would not have been taken to confirm that Tarr was in the vehicle since it was his vehicle and the testing for blood evidence would have shown any blood present. Fultz asked if any of

the evidence Power collected tied the car to the scene of the crime. Power said it did not.

In redirect, Dion asked if Power reviewed any surveillance footage. Power said he did not.

William Adams was the next witness, Tarr's former employee, and a co-worker and friend. Affrunti asked Adams if he had ever been given or sold firearms by Tarr. Adams said he had been sold several guns, including the black pistol that was found in Tarr's house during the police search. Adams said he traded the gun back to Tarr Thanksgiving morning for a shotgun.

Affrunti asked if he had been in contact with Tarr on Nov. 24, with Adams saying he was sure he had been since they spoke often. Adams said that he also received a text referring to Farmersville and a specific address, but he could not recall a name. He said later on he showed those text messages to police.

In cross-examination, Fultz asked if Tarr had ever asked Adams to hide a gun for him or if Adams had encouraged Tarr to physically harm someone. Adams said no to both questions.

The final witness of the day was Ernest Tarr, Robert Tarr's father. The father testified that he was cleaning up at the property after Tarr was arrested and found a bag containing a weapon while cleaning up leaves. He said he took the weapon home and told his wife and son Adam, who came over and called police. Police came within two hours and removed the gun from Tarr's vehicle.

Fultz asked if he was present when police searched his son's yard near the area where the gun was found. Tarr said he was. He also asked if it looked like the bag had been there a long time. The father said he knew it hadn't because there was no sweat inside the bag, indicating it had been outside.

Fultz closed by asking if he had ever seen the gun before (No) and if he would hide a gun for his son (No).

With Ernest Tarr's testimony complete, the trial stopped for the day and is scheduled to resume April 25 at 9 a.m.



Interested onlookers took part in a presentation on frogs and toads at Bremer Sanctuary on Friday, April 5.

Bremer Sanctuary Hosts Toad And Frog Hike Night



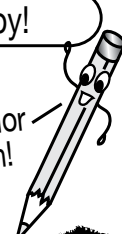
Bremer Sanctuary in Hillshoro held its frog and toad hike night on Friday, April 5. The program was designed to provide a hiking experience with wildlife and sounds one may encounter after dark.

Approximately 80 attendees were presented with a short PowerPoint program on night hiking, points of safety to consider and discussion on nocturnal adaptations. The program led into the classification of frogs and toads, some of the common species that may be encountered in central Illinois and the identifying calls associated with them.


For the second part of the

evening, the participants were led along designated paths to experience life after dark. The serenade of calls was immediate with several species chiming in. Amphibians that made their presence known include chorus frogs, cricket frogs, spring peepers and an occasional American toad.

The evening was rounded up with an activity to show how colors are perceived in the dark and some aquarium time with the kids. A simulated aquatic environment was on display with various invertebrates, different stages of tadpoles and an adult leopard frog.

We are going to the fisherman's...  ...breakfast and the fishing derby!  Kids: color stuff in! 

Newspaper Fun!

www.readingclubfun.com  Annimills LLC © 2024 V16



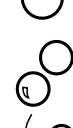
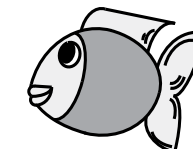

Fishing & Fish Fun!

The last one I caught was at least this long... really!



A Fishy Quiz!

Think **fishing!** Now match each word to its "fishy" description.

- 1. tackle  A. hooks, lures and other things used to fish
B. rush; knock someone down
- 2. catch  A. game in which the ball is thrown and caught
B. a bucket of fresh fish going home with you
- 3. cast  A. what the doctor puts on a broken bone
B. throwing your fishing line and bait into the water
- 4. waders  A. people who wet their feet at the edge of the water
B. waterproof boots that cover waaaay up
- 5. test  A. the amount of strength in your fishing line
B. what the math teacher gives you

Do **you** want to get in on the fishing fun? Ask a grownup to be your fishing buddy. Dig some worms. Grab your poles. Pack a lunch, dash to a lake or river and start fishing! Some people stand on the bank of a river to fish. Some will row their boat out to the middle of a lake. Fishing from a pier into the ocean is cool too. Some people only wish to "catch" fish from the supermarket for a favorite dish. Have fun and...*shhh*...the fish are biting!

One fun fishing event is a **fishing derby**. It's a competition with fun and prizes. A pole, some fishing line, a hook and some bait - that's all you need to fish!

Read the clues to fill in this puzzle about going fishing:

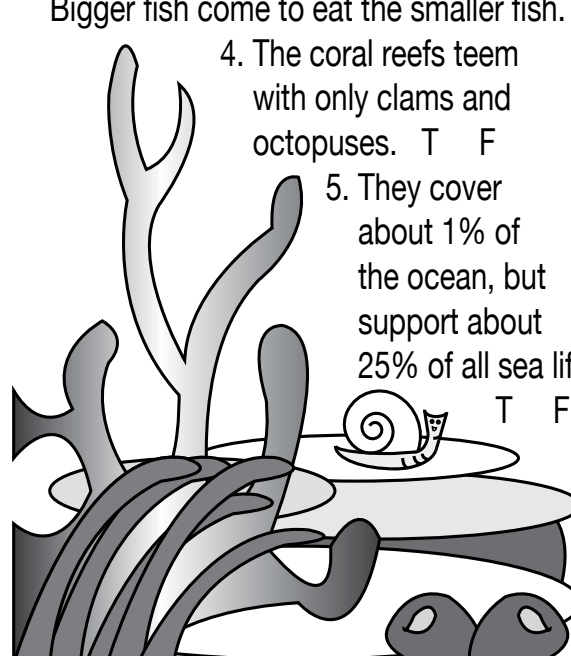
- 1. weights you attach to your line
- 2. used to wind the fishing line
- 3. holds all the small equipment needed
- 4. person who fishes for fun, food or a living
- 5. things to attract fish; sometimes flashy or feathery
- 6. has fins; swims and lives in fresh or salt water
- 7. curved piece of metal used to catch a fish
- 8. these keep bait near water's surface, signal "bite"
- 9. round, open container with a handle used to carry fish
- 10. long, narrow pole with hoops that hold your line
- 11. piece of food or a worm; used to attract a fish
- 12. people sit in this and row to their "fishing holes"

Can you find and circle 4 words that end in 'sh' as in the word 'fish'?

Coral Reef Pop Quiz!

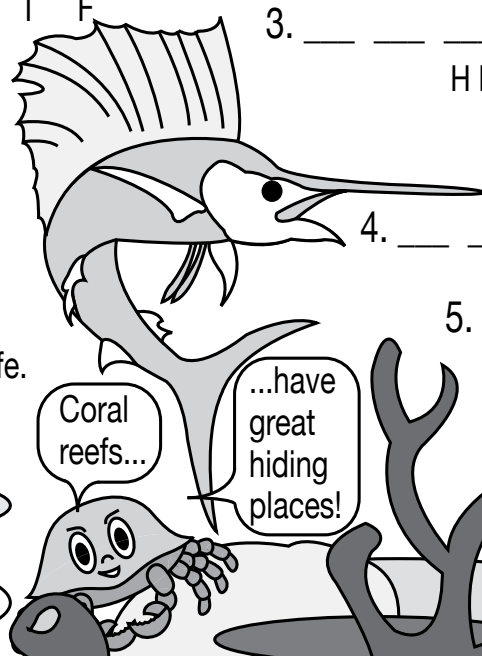
Circle "T" for true, "F" for false.

- 1. Coral reefs are always in deep areas of the ocean. T F
- 2. They are alive - made up of millions of tiny animals. T F
- 3. They produce food that algae eat. Little fish eat the algae. Bigger fish come to eat the smaller fish. T F
- 4. The coral reefs teem with only clams and octopuses. T F
- 5. They cover about 1% of the ocean, but support about 25% of all sea life. T F

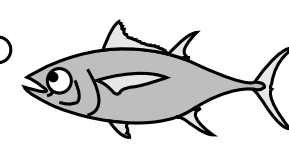
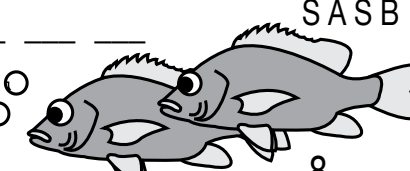
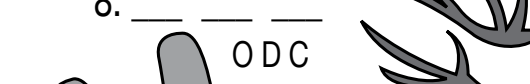



Who Am I?

- 1. _____ NOMLAS
- 2. _____ HCTAISF
- 3. _____ HISFDWSRO
- 4. _____ LSAIHFSI
- 5. _____ ENSARDI



Unscramble the letters to find some favorite "catches" from our lakes, rivers and seas:

- 6. _____ OTUTR 
- 7. _____ SASB 
- 8. _____ ODC 
- 9. _____ NATU 

Find a piece of paper. Draw a coral bed full of colorful fish.

Find the Fishing Hole! Can you help Chitter find his favorite fishing hole?

Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2024



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Agricultural Loan	Real Estate Loans

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LANCER LINES • by Kaylee Gerlach at Lincolnwood

Lancer Seniors Ready For Graduation



Welcome to another week of Lancer Lines!

Grab your party hats, everyone! It's almost graduation time!

Graduation is quickly approaching and is such an exciting moment. Our seniors cannot wait to wear their graduation caps and gowns as they cross the stage to accept their diplomas. Regardless of if you're a student, a family member, a teacher or just someone cheering from the sidelines, this is an exciting time.

Our seniors have put in hours of hard work, faced challenges head-on and made some lifelong friends along the way. For them, graduation is like crossing the finish line after running a marathon. Now it's time to throw those hats in the air and think about what exciting adventures are in front of us.

Our students are not the only ones in the gym who will be filled with excitement on May 17. Our families will also be filled with pride. They've been the cheerleaders on the sidelines, offering support and encouragement every step of the way. Our parents are watching us embark on a

new journey which fills their hearts with joy, as they shed a few happy tears.

Let's not forget our amazing teachers and mentors who've been there guiding us through thick and thin. They've watched our young minds grow and learn, and now they're seeing us spread our wings to take flight.

Through all the years of teaching the class of 2024, our teachers have watched us flourish into the people we are meant to be.

Graduation is truly a community celebration! It's a chance for everyone to come together. Our friends, neighbors and even our local businesses will be cheering on our graduates as we take our next big steps into the world.

As we get closer to the end of the school year, it is important to remember to embrace every moment we have left. It is also important to thank everyone who has helped us along the way!

This week's quote is by Lady Gaga who said, "Don't allow people to dim your shine because they are blinded. Tell them to put on sunglasses."

Thank you for reading another week of Lancer Lines! I hope you have an amazing rest of the week!



Something Rotten! Cast Takes Center Stage In April

The Hillsboro High School production of *Something Rotten!* opens tonight, Thursday, April 25, with the Hillsboro Rotary Club dinner theater. Performances continue on Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. All reserved seating is \$15 per ticket. General admission bleacher seating is \$8 for adults and \$5 for all students. Lincolnwood and Litchfield students are invited to attend for \$3 bleacher seating.

Members of this year's cast, pictured above, include Mitchell Cunningham as Nick Bottom, Dominic Clark as Nigel Bottom, Leah Hemken as Bea, Milla Anderson as Portia, Gerhard Netemeyer as Shakespeare, Samuel Dilley as Nostradamus, Peyton Brewer as Brother Jeremiah, Mark Mattson as Shylock and Lauren Storm as Lady Clapham. Members of The Troupe are Ryleigh Van Doren as Tom Snout, Jaxon Wittenmyer as Robin, Lily Churchwell as Peter Quince, Owen Earnest as Snug/Horatio and Garrett Kalaher as Minstrel/Francis Flute. Core dancers are Clara Armbruster, Jesse Balla, Leah Hemken, Lauren Storm, Amber Carroll, Anika Cunningham, Mark Mattson, Lauryn Miller, Kamdyn Putnam and Zoey Spinner. Chorus members are Melody Barton, Mya Bolton, Isabella Collins, Kyleigh Currie, Bailey Davis, Skylar Durbin, Cheyenne Harston, Rylie Jones, Joss Kimbro, Sophie Krummel, Natalee Kuhns, Emily Lanter, Aly Leisure, Mel Robinson, Luci VanGiesen, Reagan Voyles and Alivia Willman.

The directing team includes Amy Lemons, Daniel Drake, Megan Cady, Amanda Cunningham and Macey Campbell. The orchestra pit includes Director Daniel Drake, Mark York, Amy Newkirk, Nancy Shellhammer, Mike Bryant, Duston Suits, Melissa Bell, Dominic Granito, Lane Harmon, Ben Hoehn, Mark Lipinski, Ashley Oiler, Charlie Shepherd, Owen Trader, Annabelle Wright and Jaiden Zook. Megan Cady serves as choreographer, assisted by Macey Campbell. Sound managers are Macey Eddington and Maggie Huber-Murray. Other personnel include Miranda Fair and Adam DeWitt on set design and construction, Emma Dixon as prop manager, Jaylaan Milanos on hair and make-up, Mya Bolton of Fionna's Photography with photography and marketing, Eli Howard and Andrea Huber as student directors, Blake Cullison and Owen Lentz as stage managers, Aly Leisure and Zoey Spinner as chorus section leaders and Jesse Balla as dance captain. High school stage crew members include Isaiah Hopley, Hannah Laurent, Sara Milanos, Cayden Stanbery, Chelse Taylor and Shey Young. Eighth grade stage crew members include Gracie Chambers, Jackson Cunningham, Ryleigh Dilks, Emily Irvine, Kiera Jones, Madi Krummel, Joe Lanter, Avery Maddaleno, Rylee Rogers and Sammy Vollintine.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Christ Photography

MCCA To Benefit From Hanging Basket Sale

Ethan's Angels for a Cure will be hosting their annual hanging basket sale on Friday, May 3, from 4 to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, May 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event will be held at Nokomis Gift and Garden Shop in Nokomis. Beautiful 10 ins. baskets are full of blooms and colors, and available for

purchase via a \$20 donation to the Montgomery County Cancer Association (MCCA).

All are welcome to come out and beautify their yard while supporting the MCCA. Pre orders may be made by calling Nokomis Gift and Garden at 217-563-2736 or any Ethan's Angels for a Cure team member.

Litchfield Offering Free Prom Hair And Makeup

On Saturday, April 27, local experienced volunteers will be providing free prom makeup and hair sessions as high school students prepare for that evening's dance.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Litchfield Amvets

Banquet Room, located at 105 N. State St. in Litchfield, near the library park. Snacks and drinks will be provided. All are welcome.

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 - For more information about Hillsboro Farmers Markets, contact Caitlyn Voyles at 217-710-2495
 - Vendor Registration Forms and market information online at "Hillsboro Farmers Market."
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ORPHEUM & GRAND THEATRES OF HILLSBORO



Litchfield's Georgia Glover (#3) awaits the delivery to the plate from Carlinville pitcher Hallie Gibson during the Lady Panthers' non-conference meeting with the Cavaliers on Monday, April 22. Gibson struck out 16 batters as the Cavaliers defeated Litchfield 7-3.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Litchfield Closer, But Cavies Still Win

It wasn't a win, but it wasn't 8-1 either as the Litchfield-Mt. Olive softball team fell to Carlinville for the second time this year, this time by a 7-3 final score.

The non-conference bout on Monday, April 22, in Litchfield was 3-3 going into the fifth inning, when the

Cavaliers scored four times to account for the win.

After having just two hits in their first meeting, Litchfield had five on Monday, with Charlie Bono going 2-for-4 and Chloe Green, Alyssa Aurbuschon and Bella Lueken all picking up hits in the game.

There were a few misses

too, though, as Carlinville starter Hallie Gibson struck out 16 batters in the win. Lili Readenour took the loss, with seven runs (four earned) on nine hits and three walks. Readenour also struck out six Cavaliers.

Continued on 3B

Lincolnwood Baseball Gets 12th Win

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville baseball team picked up their 12th win of the season on Monday, April 22, with a 6-2 victory over Staunton.

The visiting Bulldogs got a single run in the first and another in the sixth, but Lincolnwood starter Drew Gilpin held the visitors scoreless in between. Gilpin allowed just two hits and one earned run while walking three and striking out one.

Even with the junior right-hander holding Staunton in check, the Bulldogs still led 1-0 going into the bottom of the third, when

Lincolnwood finally provided Gilpin with some run support.

Mason Tryon walked and Jonah Elvidge singled to start the inning, with Lance Weitekamp driving in Tryon with the second single of the inning. After two infield flies, Brody Lush plated two more runs with a line drive to center field that made it 3-1.

The Lancers added another run in the fourth on an RBI single by Jhude Walker after Izeck Matli started the inning with a double.

Continued on 3B

Purple Panthers Drop Cavies 8-1

An old coach once said, your baseball team is as good as your last three batters. On Monday the Litchfield/Mt. Olive baseball club proved this theory as there last three batters would combine 4-7 at the dish leading the Purple Panthers to an 8-1 non-conference victory over the Carlinville Cavaliers in Litchfield. The win would be the seventh in a row for the ball team as the Purple Panthers would improve to 18-4 on the season.

The Purple Panthers last three hitters in this contest would be the talk of the ball game as they would put together a productive line. Laiyden Jones, batting in the ninth slot would be the most productive as he collected three hits on three at bats and batted one run in. That RBI would come in the bottom of the second and would be recorded as the winning RBI.

With the score squared at one run a piece, Jones would single on the first pitch he saw, resulting in Ian Otto crossing home plate. The single would allow the go ahead run to score giving the Purple Panthers a 2-1 lead.

The Purple Panthers would get one more run on the board in the inning as Litchfield/Mt. Olive would hold a 3-1 lead after two innings of action. That two run lead would remain in effect until the bottom of the fifth inning, when the Purple Panthers added four more runs to their total.

Two walks would start the bottom half of the fifth innings, setting up a Purple Panther in scoring position with Max Leitschuh at the plate. Leitschuh would not



Litchfield's Drake Gasperson struck out ten batters in relief to help the Panthers to an 8-1 win over Carlinville on Monday, April 22.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

only score the runner in scoring position but would also clear the basepaths as Leitschuh would chug over to third base and increasing the Purple Panthers lead to 5-1 with no outs on the board.

Tate Dobrinich would follow Leitschuh and would produce one base more than his teammate, as Dobrinich homered. The home run would allow Leitschuh to score as the Purple Panthers would remain in the drivers seat with a 7-1 lead and still not outs on the board. Litchfield/Mt. Olive would get one more base runner on the base paths in the inning when Jones singled, but a strike out from the Purple Panthers lead off batter would close out the inning.

The productive bottom

half of the fifth inning would allow the Purple Panthers to hold a 7-1 lead after five innings. The Purple Panthers would collect yet another triple in the contest when Drake Gasperson connected on a shot to left field. The hit would allow Gasperson to reach third base on the hit.

A fly ball out to the center fielder would allow Gasperson to tag an run, increasing the Purple Panthers lead to 8-1. A ground out would close the inning out but the Purple Panthers had increased their two run lead to seven run lead.

Neither team would be able to produce another run in the contest as the Purple Panthers would claim the victory.

Continued on 3B



Midnight Havoc, from the Midwest Royals in Litchfield, took first at the Allstar World Championships in the U17 Level 1 Small division, defending the world championship that the Royals won last year with team Girl Fight. In front, from the left are Sophia Toigo, Lana Davidson, Juanita Melchert, Kinleigh Moore and Sutton Emelander. In the middle are Kinze Haulk, Charlie Hurst, Chole Newman, Paige Swank and Kaelyn DeClerk. In the back are Tilly Ferguson, Caitlyn Schneck, Hayden Thompson, Addy Ferguson, Colton Gerl, Tara Fryman, Lyla Drewl and Maddison Durston.

Royals' Midnight Havoc Return As World Champs

It started with a "Fight" turned into "Havoc" and ended up with the Midwest Royals collecting their second straight world championship from the Allstar World Championships in Orlando, FL, on April 18-19.

The Midwest Royals' Midnight Havoc team dominated the international division, beating the runner-up by more than a point, and were crowned World Champions at the event, which featured hundreds of cheer teams from all over the United States and the world.

Midnight Havoc's title came in the U17 Level 1 Small division, the same division that Girl Fight won last season.

Midnight Havoc wasn't alone in Florida as Nightmare,

Midwest Royals' Senior Level 2 team, also went to the world championships.

Both teams advanced to the big meet on paid bids, which means that the teams' registration fees were paid by the organizers.

Like Midnight Havoc, Nightmare advanced through the preliminary round and were in first place in their division going into the finals. In commemoration of their achievement, they received high point bracelets.

Nightmare's dream trip continued in the finals as they finished in the top ten, taking sixth overall at the world championships.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity for our small program to represent Litchfield and the

surrounding communities at such a competitive and elite level," Midwest Royals Coach Jenny Ferguson said. "Our athletes have been working hard in the gym since last June in preparation for this event. We are extremely proud of our placements, knowing we went up against the best of the best."

And just because one season is in the books, don't expect the Royals just sit around.

"We will be gearing up for another season and taking on new athletes for another successful year," Ferguson said.

For more information on the program, go to www.facebook.com/midwestroyalsallstarcheer.



Nightmare, from the Midwest Royals in Litchfield, took sixth at the Allstar World Championships in the Senior Extra Small Level 2 division. In front, from the left, are Hayden Thompson, Charlie Harding, Charlie Hurst and Chole Newman. In the back row are Tilly Ferguson, Bella Steiner, Caitlyn Schneck, Colton Gerl, Addy Ferguson, Lyla Drewl and Madison Durston.

Congratulations Midnight Havoc!!!

Congratulations to the Midwest Royals Allstar Cheer Team, Midnight Havoc, on becoming the 2024 Allstar World Champions in Orlando, Florida On April 19th. We are proud of you!



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Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers
Thursday, April 25
 4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Nokomis
Friday, April 26
 4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Litchfield
 4:30 p.m. - Softball at Gillespie
Saturday, April 27
 9 a.m. - Track at Jokisch/Grandone
 Invite in Carlinville

Nokomis Redskins
Thursday, April 25
 4:20 p.m. - Track at Gillespie
 4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Hillsboro
 4:30 p.m. - Softball at Mulberry Grove
Saturday, April 27
 9 a.m. - Track at Jokisch/Grandone
 Invite in Carlinville
 11 a.m. - JV Baseball at Lincolnwood

Litchfield Purple Panthers
Thursday, April 25
 4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Gillespie
 5 p.m. - Girls Soccer hosts North Mac
Friday, April 26
 4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Hillsboro
 4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Hillsboro
 5 p.m. - Girls Soccer at Gillespie
Saturday, April 27
 9 a.m. - Track at Jokisch/Grandone
 Invite in Carlinville
 10 a.m. - Softball hosts New Berlin
 10 a.m. - JV Baseball hosts Staunton
 (Doubleheader)

Lincolnwood Lancers
Thursday, April 25
 4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Ramsey
 4:30 p.m. - Softball at Bunker Hill
Friday, April 26
 4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Okaw
 Valley
 5 p.m. - Softball at Pleasant Plains
Saturday, April 27
 11 a.m. - JV Baseball hosts Nokomis

Get the scores when we do
twitter.com/JNSports

Sponsor Sypherd In Shrine All Star Game

Litchfield senior football player AJ Sypherd has received an invitation to participate in the Illinois High School Shrine All Star Football Game this upcoming summer. Sypherd is excited for the opportunity to represent the Litchfield School District and community at the annual fundraising event.

ronment, regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

Sypherd is asking for local community businesses to help support the cause by sponsoring his play in the game. Sponsorships of any size are welcome and suggested amounts are \$20, \$50, \$75 or \$100. All proceeds will go to the Illinois High School Shrine Game benefiting Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Forms may be requested by emailing ashmossman@gmail.com. The event will be June 15, 2024. Checks can be made payable to ICA/Shrine Football.

The game will be played at Illinois Wesleyan University's Tucci Stadium in Bloomington on Saturday, June 15. More information on this charity event can be found on their Facebook page [Illinois High School Shrine Game](https://www.facebook.com/illinoisshrinegame.com) or their Twitter account [@illshrinegame.com](https://twitter.com/illshrinegame.com).

Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Camp To Be Held May 20-23

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville basketball program will hold their annual summer camp on May 20 through May 23 at the Lincolnwood High School gym and Raymond Grade School multipurpose gym, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

and drills that will include dribbling, ball handling, passing, shooting, defensive positioning and more.

Each camper will receive a T-shirt and several different activities, games and challenges will be held during the camp. Campers are encouraged to wear athletic clothing and shoes and to bring a water bottle to camp.

For more information or to receive a registration form, contact Coach Matt Millburg at mmillburg@panhandle-schools.com or at 217-229-4215, ext. 1043. Registration forms and payment are due by Friday, May 10.



Camryn Weller didn't make it to the finals at I-57 Dragstrip in Benton on April 6, but her grandpa Phil Bryant and uncle Dustin Bryant did, advancing to the final two in the super pro and pro classes.

Bryants Back In Finals To Start 2024 Race Season

Bracket racing was back in Benton on Saturday, April 6, at I-57 Dragstrip, which meant that the Bryant family was back in the finals. In the footbrake class, Dustin Bryant picked up the first win of the season for the Litchfield Gang as he knocked off Chad Brock in the finals.

father-son race team, David and Derek Pearson of West Frankfort.

Derek Pearson took the top spot in the super pro class after Phil Bryant went red by four thousandths of a second in the final. Dustin Bryant suffered a similar fate as his dad as he went red by seven thousandths of a second in the pro class final against the elder Pearson.

Litchfield's Chloe Law scored 7 goals in the Panthers 9-0 win over Pana on April 23. We'll have more from the game in the April 29 Journal-News!

Lady Lancers Take Two At Home Field

After their game was rained out on Thursday, the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville softball team got back on the diamond on Saturday, April 20.

The Lancers played host to two South Central Conference squads heading in different directions as Pana was 13-5 going into the game, while Vandalia was 0-16. As it turned out, the difference in records didn't matter much to the Lancers, who came away with a pair of victories on their home field to up their record to 7-10 on the season.

The opening game of the doubleheader was against the Panthers and offense was at a premium as Lincolnwood starter Tori Elvidge and her Pana counterpart Joey Laker held hitters to just seven hits in the game. The last of those seven hits proved to be the most important as Lincolnwood scored twice in the seventh inning to pull out a 4-3 victory.

The Lancers entered the seventh down 3-2, with Pana scoring the go-ahead goal in the top of the fifth inning. Lincolnwood wasted little time in the seventh increasing that lead as Morgan Cowdrey singled, then scored to tie the game on a double by Kirsten Osterholt, who would go to third on the throw trying to get Cowdrey at the plate.

As big as Osterholt's hit was, an out was even bigger. On an 0-2 pitch from Laker, Emma Horath hit a ground ball to third that gave Osterholt enough time to sprint home and score the game winner.

Horath's RBI capped a back-and-forth game between the Panthers and Lancers, which was tied on three different occasions.

Pana got the scoring started when Kennedy Bowker led off the game by reaching on an error and moving around the bases on three passed

balls. Despite the miscue to start the game, Elvidge made short work of the Panthers after the error, retiring the next three batters to avoid further damage.

Pana threatened in the second inning after Norah Kingery was hit by a pitch and Lilly Jostes walked with two outs, but the Lancers managed to get out of the jam with an inning ending double play on a fly ball to Kirsten Osterholt in right, with Osterholt doubling off Jostes on the throw to second.

Osterholt played a role in the Lancers' first run in the bottom half of the inning as well. After Jenna Matli walked and Morgan Cowdrey doubled, the Morrisonville senior grounded out to first, allowing Matli to come home and tie the game at 1-1.

An error and a double by Shelby Ashcraft in the third gave Pana the lead back, but Lincolnwood answered with a double of their own as Taryn Millburg's two-out two-bagger plated Taryn Clarke, who had singled and stole second earlier in the inning.

After a scoreless fourth, Pana took the lead in the fifth, on another unearned run. Bailey Evrley walked, then scored after a sacrifice bunt by Kennedy Bowker and a two-base error by the Lancers.

Tori Elvidge kept it a one-run game by getting the next two batters out, then setting the Panthers down in order in the sixth. Pana threatened in the seventh with a pair of one-out walks, but the Lancers got their second double play of the game when Taryn Millburg snagged a pop up at short and threw to first to catch Pana off the base.

The defensive effort allowed the Lancers to keep it a one-run game going into the seventh, setting up Osterholt and Horath's heroics.

Vandalia

Game two was a more decisive victory as the Lancers won 9-2 over Vandalia.

Kirsten Osterholt and Taryn Millburg handled pitching duties for Lincolnwood, with Osterholt allowing an unearned run in the first and Millburg allowing an unearned run in the seventh. The pair combined for 12 strikeouts, each recording six on the day.

The Lancers' runs didn't come in one fell swoop, but rather a couple at a time in between the Vandals' two scores.

Millburg tied the game on an RBI single in the bottom of the first, scoring Taryn Clarke. Both Clarke and Tori Elvidge walked to start the inning.

Lincolnwood took their first lead in the second, with Clarke driving in Kaci Bethard with a base hit after Bethard picked up a one-out walk two batters earlier. Kirsten Pope singled in between Bethard and Clarke and later scored on a passed ball to make it 3-1.

Morgan Cowdrey made it 4-1 in the third, when she tripled and scored on a passed ball, then drove in Ella Jenkins in the fifth with a double and later scored on another passed ball. Kirsten Osterholt also scored on an error in the inning, making it 7-1. Lincolnwood, after five.

The Lancers got their final two runs in the bottom of the sixth, which started with a double by Taryn Clarke. Clarke forced an error on a steal attempt of third, an error that allowed her to score the eighth run of the game. Tori Elvidge reached base on another error, Vandalia's fifth of the game, then scored on a sacrifice fly by Taryn Millburg to make it 9-1.

A walk and an error made it 9-2 and another walk gave Vandalia two batters on with

two outs, but Millburg got the final batter on three straight strikes to end the game.

Lincolnwood faces another South Central Conference foe on Monday, April 22, as they play at Gillespie, who is 17-4 on the season. After that, the Lancers have an MSM Conference series with Bunker Hill, playing at home on April 23, and at Bunker Hill on April 25.

April 20 at Raymond

Pana 101 010 0--3 2 1
 Lincolnwood 011 000 2--4 5 3

Pitching Statistics

Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Laker	6.1	5	4	4	1	7
Home	IP	H	R	ER <td>BB</td> <td>SO</td>	BB	SO
Elvidge	7.0	2	3	0	4	4

Batting Statistics

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	BB
Clarke	3	1	1	0	0	0
Elvidge	3	0	0	0	0	0
Millburg	3	0	1	1	0	0
Jenkins	3	0	0	0	0	0
Matli	2	1	0	0	1	0
Cowdrey	2	1	2	0	0	0
Osterholt	3	1	1	2	0	0
Snow	2	0	0	0	0	0
E. Horath	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pope	2	0	0	0	0	0

2B: Morgan Cowdrey 1, Kirsten Osterholt 1, Taryn Millburg 1.
 HBP: Morgan Cowdrey 1.

Batting Statistics
 2B: Shelby Ashcraft 1. HBP: Norah Kingery 1. Runs: Kennedy Bowker 2, Bailey Evrley 1. RBI: Shelby Ashcraft 1.

April 20 at Raymond

Vandalia 100 000 1--2 6 5
 Lincolnwood 121 032 x--9 9 2

Pitching Statistics

Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McCall	6.0	9	9	3	5	6
Home	IP <th>H</th> <th>R</th> <th>ER</th> <th>BB</th> <th>SO</th>	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Osterholt	3.2	5	1	0	3	6
Millburg	3.1	1	1	0	3	6

Batting Statistics

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB
Clarke	2	2	2	1	2
Elvidge	3	1	0	0	1
Millburg	3	0	1	2	0
Jenkins	4	1	1	0	0
Matli	4	0	1	0	0
Cowdrey	4	2	3	1	0
Osterholt	3	1	0	0	1
Bethard	2	1	0	1	1
Pope	2	1	1	0	0
E. Horath	1	0	0	0	0

Vandalia Batting Statistics
 Multiple Hits: Madelyn McCall 2-4.
 HBP: Jordan Walk 1. Runs: Olive Whitehead 1, Jordan Walk 1.
 Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (7-10), Vandalia (0-17).

Lentz, Walker At Top Of GNCC Standings

Five rounds into the Grand National Cross Country series and two Journal-News Motorsports racers are already poised to make a run at the title.

Walshville's Travis Lentz and Morrisonville's Jhak Walker are both first in their respective classes five rounds into the 13-round series.

Lentz, who won the national championship for his class in 2022 and 2023 after finishing third in 2021 in his first full year, is well on his way to a third straight GNCC championship. In five races in four different states, Lentz has five wins in the YXC2 Super Mini Jr. (12-13) class and hasn't finished lower than sixth in the overall youth bikes division.

Lentz finished fifth at Big Buck in Union, SC, on Feb. 17-18; third at Wild Boar in Palatka, FL, on March 2-3; and sixth at The General in Washington, GA, on March 8-10 and at the Camp Coker Bullet in Society Hill, SC, on March 23-24. His most recent run, the Old Gray in Monterey, TN, on April 13-14, yielded his second best overall finish of the season as he took fourth at the race in addition to his class win.

Walker, who also won a national championship in 2022 and was second last year and fifth in 2021, has been almost as good in the FMF XC3 125 Pro-Am class. After finishing second at Big Buck (41st overall in the PM bikes division), Walker rattled off three straight wins at Wild Boar, The General and Camp Coker. Overall he did just as well, finishing 25th, 29th and 33rd in the three races. Walker slipped a little at The Old Gray, but not enough to miss the podium as he finished third in his class and 33rd overall.

On the ATV side, Butler's Briar Kuhl is also making a run at a national championship. Since missing the first race of the 2024 GNCC season, Kuhl has two podium finishes and is third overall in the 250cc (13-15) class. The two top finishes came at the Wild Boar, where he won his class and 11th overall, and at the General, where he finished third and 86th overall.

After a blip at Camp Coker, where he finished sixth in his class and 112th overall, Kuhl rebounded with a solid fourth place finish in his class and a 42nd place finish overall in youth ATV.

While Kuhl, Walker and Lentz are making a run at the title, several others from the J-N Motorsports family are competing at select races. Two of Jhak Walker's siblings, Jhorjie and Jhacek Walker, both ran at Wild Boar in Florida. Jhorjie finished ninth in the MXC1 (8-9) class and 16th overall in micro bikes, while Jhacek Walker was tenth in the 50cc Sr. 1 (7) class and 39th overall in micros.

Donnellson's Cooper Duff and Carlinville's Reece Frankford, Ty Rosentreter and Colt Rosentreter all made the trip to Tennessee for the Old Gray on April 13-14, round five of the series. Duff ran seventh overall in the highly competitive YXC2 Super Mini Jr. series, finishing 24th overall in youth bikes. Frankford picked up a top five in the AM bikes division, placing fifth in the 250cc C Schoolboy (14-17) class.

The Rosentreter brothers finished just outside of the top ten in their respective races, with Colt taking 11th in the 65cc (10-11) class and Ty finishing 12th in the MXC2 (6-8) class.

The sixth round of the Grand National Cross Country series will be closer to home for the area riders as they descend on Crawfordsville, IN on April 27-28, for the Hoosier at Ironman Raceway.

- 2024 GNCC Standings**
Grand National Cross Country Series: Big Buck - Union, SC - Feb. 17-18; Wild Boar - Palatka, FL - Mar. 2-3; The General - Washington, GA - Mar. 8-10; Camp Coker Bullet - Society Hill, SC - Mar. 23-24; The Old Gray - Monterey, TN - April 13-14
Travis Lentz - 1st in YXC2 Super Mini Jr. (12-13); Big Buck - 1st/5th OA; Wild Boar - 1st/3rd OA; The General - 1st/6th OA; Camp Coker - 1st/6th OA; The Old Gray - 1st/4th OA
Jhak Walker - 1st FMF XC3 125 Pro-Am; Big Buck - 2nd/41st OA; Wild Boar - 1st/25th OA; The General - 1st/29th OA; Camp Coker - 1st/33rd OA; The Old Gray - 3rd/33rd OA
Briar Kuhl - 3rd in 250 (13-15); Wild Boar - 1st/11th OA; The



Travis Lentz, shown here after his win at the Camp Coker Bullet on March 24, in Society Hill, SC, is currently in first in the YXC2 Super Mini Jr. Class for the Grand National Cross Country Series.



Jhak Walker, shown here after his third place finish at the Old Gray, in Monterey, TN, is currently in first in the FMF XC3 125 Pro-Am class for the Grand National Cross Country Series.

- General - 3rd/86th OA; Camp Coker - 6th/112th OA; The Old Gray - 4th/42nd OA
Jhorjie Walker - 22nd in MXC1 (8-9); Wild Boar - 9th/16th OA
Jhacek Walker - 24th in 50 Sr. 1 (7); Wild Boar - 10th/39th OA
Cooper Duff - 16th in YXC2 Super Mini Jr. (12-13) - The Old Gray - 7th/24th OA
Reece Frankford - 13th 250 C Schoolboy (14-17) - The Old Gray - 5th/164th OA
Ty Rosentreter - 24th in MXC2 (6-8) - The Old Gray - 12th/45th OA
Colt Rosentreter - 28th in 65 (10-11) - The Old Gray - 11th/140th OA

Lincolnwood Breaks Up Gipson's Bid At Perfection

Lincolnwood wasn't able to defeat Gillespie on Monday, April 22, in Raymond, but the Lady Lancers did manage to spoil Emma Gipson's perfect game in the final inning of the 9-0 loss to the Miners.

Gipson struck out the first five batters of the game en route to an 11 strikeout performance and had retired 18 straight going into the seventh inning.

The SIU-Carbondale recruit got the first batter of the inning on a ground ball to second, but Tori Elvidge blooped a single over shortstop Ava Parish to break up the perfect game with the Lancers' first hit.

Elvidge ended up being Lincolnwood's only hit as Gipson picked up her 11th strikeout and a ground ball back to the circle to end the game.

Offensively, the Miners picked up one run in the first and four runs in both the third and sixth innings to put the game away. Gillespie had six hits off Lancer starter Taryn Millburg, but also capitalized on seven Lincolnwood errors.

Lauren Bertagnolli drove

in three runs with a bases loaded triple in the sixth, while Sadie Sholtis had two RBIs for the Miners as well. The win improved Gillespie's record to 18-4, while Lincolnwood moved to 7-11 going into their home-and-home series with Bunker Hill on April 23 and 25.

April 22 at Gillespie
Lincolnwood 000 000 0-0 1 7
Gillespie 104 004 x-9 6 0

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Millburg 6.0 6 9 7 4 5
HBP: Taryn Millburg 2.

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Gipson 7.0 1 0 0 0 11

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
Clarke 3 0 0 0 0
Elvidge 3 0 1 0 0
Millburg 3 0 0 0 0
Jenkins 3 0 0 0 0
Crowdrey 2 0 0 0 0
Matli 2 0 0 0 0
Osterholt 2 0 0 0 0
Bethard 2 0 0 0 0
Pope 1 0 0 0 0
Snow 1 0 0 0 0

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Ava Parish 2-2, Laci Schuckenbrock 2-3. 3B: Lauren Bertagnolli 1. HBP: Macie Wright 1, Ava Parish 1. Runs: Ava Parish 3, Lauren Bertagnolli 1, Sadie Sholtis 1, Macie Wright 1, Ava Rakers 1, D Taylor 1. RBI: Lauren Bertagnolli 3, Sadie Sholtis 2, Emma Gipson 1, Laci Schuckenbrock 1.

Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (7-11); Gillespie (18-4).

Lady Panthers To Host Youth Clinic June 4-6

The Litchfield-Mt. Olive high school softball team will be hosting a youth clinic on June 4-6 for players age 5 to 14 years old. The clinic for players between ages 5 and 10 will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with players age 10 to 14 going from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The cost is \$30 per player and includes a T-shirt. Forms were sent home with Litchfield Elementary School students earlier this year. For more information, contact Litchfield Head Coach Stephanie Reynolds at sreynolds@litchfieldpanthers.org.

Litchfield Softball

Continued from 1B

Litchfield's game with Greenville was rained out, meaning their next game will be Thursday, April 25, against Gillespie. After that, they host Hillsboro and New Berlin on Friday and Saturday.

April 22 at Litchfield
Carlinville 030 040 0--7 9 3
Litchfield 002 100 0--3 5 3

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Gibson 7.0 5 3 1 2 16

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Readenour 7.0 9 7 4 3 6

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
Bono 4 0 2 0 0
Mielke 4 0 0 0 0
Readenour 4 0 0 0 0
Wyatt 2 1 0 0 1
Green 3 0 1 0 0
Roach 3 0 0 1 0
Heyen 1 0 0 0 0
Lueken 1 1 1 0 0
Abuschon 2 1 1 0 1
Glover 2 0 0 0 0
Rimar 1 0 0 0 0

Records: Litchfield (6-3); Carlinville (16-3).

Lincolnwood Baseball

Continued from 1B

In the fifth, Matli scored again as he reached on a two-out single after Brodey VanHooser was hit by a pitch, with both runners scoring on error by the Staunton shortstop on a hard hit ground ball by Walker.

The Bulldogs cut the lead to 6-2 in the sixth, despite not getting a hit as two errors and a grounder to short resulted in an unearned run. Reliever Kennady Cook came on for the final three outs for the Lancers, who moved to 12-6 going into their scheduled series with Nokomis on Tuesday and Wednesday.

April 22 at Raymond
Staunton 100 001 0--2 3 2
Lincolnwood 003 120 x--6 11 3

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Billings 6.0 11 6 5 1 4

HBP: Drake Billings 1.

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Gilpin 6.0 2 2 1 3 1
Cook 1.0 0 1 0 0 1

HBP: Drew Gilpin 1.

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
Tryon 3 1 1 0 1
Elvidge 4 1 2 0 0
Weitekamp 4 1 2 1 0
Gilpin 4 0 2 0 0
Daugherty 4 0 0 0 0
Lush 3 0 1 2 0
VanHooser 2 1 0 0 0
Matli 3 2 2 0 0
Walker 3 0 1 1 0

2B: Drew Gilpin 1, Izeck Matli 1.
HBP: Brodey VanHooser 1.

Batting Statistics
Runs: Dillon Pritchett 1, Logan Tuetken. RBI: Drake Billings 1, Carter Legendre 1.

Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (12-6); Staunton (7-17).

Litchfield Baseball

Continued from 1B

The win would be their 18th of the year and would complete the Carlinville sweep in the baseball season this year, the Purple Panthers had claimed a 10-1 victory over the Cavaliers a week ago.

Layden Jones would lead all Purple Panthers hitters as he would be the only Litchfield/Mt. Olive batters would collect multiple hits.

The Purple Panthers would send two pitchers to the mound in this contest, Matthew Bywater would go an inning and a third while his relief pitcher Drake Gasperson would complete the final five and two-thirds innings.

Gasperson would grab the victory on the mound as he struck out ten Cavaliers and

would only allow two hits throughout the contest.

April 22 at Litchfield
Carlinville 010 000 0--1 3 2
Litchfield 120 041 x--8 8 2

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Alepra 1.2 3 3 2 2 3
Byots 2.1 1 2 2 3 4
Convery 2.0 4 3 3 0 3

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Bywater 1.1 1 1 1 3 2
Gasperson 5.2 2 0 0 0 10

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
Bywater 4 1 1 0 0
C. Saathoff 4 0 0 0 0
Gasperson 3 2 1 1 1
E. Saathoff 1 1 0 1 2
Leitschuh 4 1 1 2 0
Dobrinich 3 1 1 2 0
Otto 1 1 0 0 2
Hires 3 1 1 0 0
Jones 3 0 3 1 0

2B: Matthew Bywater 1, Titan Hires. 3B: Drake Gasperson 1, Max Leitschuh 1. HR: Tate Dobrinich 1.

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Widner 2-3. Runs: Widner 1.
Records: Litchfield (18-4); Carlinville (2-15).

Piasa Birds Slip Past Purple Panthers

In a game where hits were a plenty, runs were at a minimum as Southwestern and Litchfield/Mt. Olive would square off in a non-conference affair Wednesday on the campus of Litchfield High School. The Piasa Birds and the Purple Panthers would combine for 11 hits in the contest while the Piasa Birds would earn the only runs of the contest as they took the road win 2-0.

The loss would snap a seven game winning streak for the Purple Panthers as they would fall to 18-5 on the season, while the Piasa Birds, winners of seven of their last eight, improved to 18-5 overall.

While the Purple Panthers were looking for their first base runner of the contest the Piasa Birds would sneak in the first run of the game. That run would come in the top half of the second inning when a lead off error would come back to haunt the Purple Panthers.

That fielding miscue by the Purple Panthers would lead to the first run of the game when the Piasa Birds singled in that run with two outs on the board.

Trailing by one run in the second inning the Purple Panthers would continue to struggle at the dish as Southwestern's starting pitcher Marcus Payne would strike out four of the first six

Purple Panthers he would face. The senior would let his first Purple Panther on the base paths in the bottom of the third when Titan Hires singled with one out on the board.

Layden Jones would follow Hires but would only replace him on the base paths as Southwestern would get Hires out advancing to second on a ground ball to the second baseman.

Matthew Bywater would earn a trip to the base paths as he would be hit by a pitch. Bywater's efforts would allow him to join Jones on the base paths and Litchfield/Mt. Olive would threaten for the first time in the contest. Another ground out though for the Purple Panthers would retire the inning with the Purple Panthers still searching for their first run of the contest.

In the top half of the second inning the Piasa Birds would gain an insurance run, moving the score to 2-0. Again the Purple Panthers would respond to the Piasa Birds run with a push on the offense side of the diamond. Ian Otto would give the Purple Panthers a base runner in the bottom of the fifth inning as he would single with one out on the board.

After the Piasa Birds claimed the second out of the inning, Layden Jones would join Otto on the base paths

as he picked up an eight pitch walk. Again the Purple Panthers would threaten the Piasa Birds lead with runners in scoring position and two outs on the board. This time a fly out would expire the inning with Purple Panthers in scoring position. Litchfield/Mt. Olive's biggest threat would come in the bottom of the sixth inning. Still trailing by two runs, Drake Gasperson would lead off the inning reaching base safely on a fielding miscue by the Piasa Birds.

After two outs were recorded the lead off success would look to be a wash as Piasa Birds would once again look to keep the Purple Panthers off the scoreboard. A single by Max Leitschuh would allow the inning to continue for the Purple Panthers and putting two runners on the bases for the third time in the contest.

Another fielding error by the Piasa Birds would load the bases with Purple Panthers and two outs. Again a fly out by the Purple Panthers would close out the inning.

The Purple Panthers would get another base runner in the final at bat but would fail once again on their attempt to put a run on the board. Leaving multiple base runners on the bases would hurt the Purple Panthers in this contest as

the Piasa Birds would only need two runs to claim the non-conference victory.

The Purple Panthers offense would collect four hits in the contest, but no batter would record multiple hits. Tate Dobrinich would be credited with the loss but his performance did not earn the loss. Dobrinich would allow seven hits in his six innings on the mound, striking out seven Piasa Birds and only allowing two runs to score, none of those runs would be earned as three fielding miscues by the Purple Panthers allowed Southwestern to score their two runs.

April 24 at Litchfield
Southwestern 010 010 0--2 7 2
Litchfield 000 000 0--0 4 3

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Payne 7.0 4 0 0 1 5

HBP: Marcus Payne
Home IP H R ER BB SO
Dobrinich 6.0 7 2 0 1 7
Leitschuh 1.0 0 0 0 0 0

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
Bywater 3 0 1 0 0
Gasperson 4 0 0 0 0
C. Saathoff 3 0 0 0 0
E. Saathoff 3 0 0 0 0
Leitschuh 3 0 1 0 0
Dobrinich 3 0 0 0 0
Otto 3 0 1 0 0
Hires 3 0 1 0 0
Jones 2 0 0 0 0

HBP: Matthew Bywater 1.

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Rocky Darr 3-4, Logan Keith 2-3. Runs: Rocky Darr 1, Hunter Newell 1. RBI: Ryan Lewis 1, Logan Keith 1.
Records: Litchfield (18-5, 3-2); Southwestern (18-5, 5-0).

Late Charge Pushes Altamont Past Nokomis

The Nokomis Redskins came within a strike of handing Altamont their seventh loss of the season on Monday, April 22, but the Indians proved there is a reason they've won 16 games this year.

The host Indians trailed by two going into the bottom of the seventh, but scored three times in the final frame to escape with a 3-2 win. The loss was Nokomis' ninth of the year, compared to 12 wins.

As improbable as the comeback may have been, how Nokomis took the lead in the first place was even more improbable. The Redskins got their first run on two errors and a single, as Saint Newman crossed home on a ball hit by Conner Wilson. Nokomis only had two other hits in the game: a single in the third by Izaak Doyen (who also provided the single in the first) and a one out single in the sixth by Nolan Herpstreith. None of the Redskins three hits directly resulted in a run scored.

Nokomis' second run came in the top of the fifth, when

Saint Newman scored on a wild pitch. Newman was hit by a pitch with one out, then stole second during the next at-bat. Izaak Doyen wasn't able to pick up his third hit of the game, but did move Newman over to third with a grounder to short for out number two. After a walk to Conner Wilson, Newman made the dash home on a wild pitch before the Indians got out of the inning.

While the Redskins made the most of their limited opportunities, the Indians weren't able to get anything across the plate in the first six innings as they stranded eight runners on base. Their best chance to score came in the fifth, when two singles and a hit batsman loaded the bases with two outs, but Nokomis starter Conner Wilson got a grounder to third, which Drake Taylor fielded and tagged the base for the inning-ending fielder's choice. Wilson gave up six hits, a walk and hit three batters in the first six innings, but always figured out a way to get out of a jam, with the help of his defense behind him.

In the seventh, Nokomis' luck ran out. Nathan Stuemke singled with one out, then moved to second on a ground out by Kaden Davis. After a walk to Keegan Schultz, Stuemke scored on a single by Dillan Elam that cut the Redskins' lead to one.

The hit ended Wilson's night on the mound as Coach Donovan Riley went to junior Ian Keller to get the last out. Keller and Altamont senior Ethan Robbins duked it out in the last at-bat, which went to a full count on a wild pitch that allowed Stuemke and Elam to move up a base. Finally, on the seventh pitch of the at-bat, Robbins singled to left field as both Stuemke and Elam came around to score for the walk-off winner.

The hit was Robbins' second of the game, matching Stuemke for the team lead. Kaden Davis got the win on the mound for Altamont as he got the final five outs of the game after coming in for Robbins, Altamont's starter, with one out in the sixth.

Nokomis was hoping to get the opportunity to bounce back quickly, but Mother Na-

ture had other ideas as their game on April 23, against Lincolnwood, was rained out. Weather permitting, the Redskins will host Hillsboro on Thursday, April 25.

April 22 at Altamont
Nokomis 100 010 0--2 3 1
Altamont 000 000 3--3 9 2

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Wilson 6.2 8 3 2 2 3
Keller 0.0 1 0 0 0 0

HBP: Conner Wilson 3.

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Robbins 5.1 3 2 1 3 6
Davis 1.2 0 0 0 0 0

HBP: Ethan Robbins 1, Kaden Davis 1.

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
Lyons 3 0 0 0 0
Newman 2 2 0 0 1
Doyen 4 0 2 0 0
Wilson 2 0 0 0 1
Taylor 3 0 0 0 0
German 3 0 0 0 0
Herpstreith 3 0 1 0 0
Engelman 2 0 0 0 1
Keller 2 0 0 0 0

HBP: Brenton Lyons 1, Saint Newman 1.

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Nathan Stuemke 2-3, Ethan Robbins 2-4. 2B: Clayton Arnold 1. Runs: Dillan Elam 1, Nathan Stuemke 1, Keegan Schultz 1. RBI: Ethan Robbins 2, Dillan Elam 1.
Records: Nokomis (12-9); Altamont (16-6).

Trojan Ten-Spot Results In Road Loss For Nokomis

On Monday, April 22, the Nokomis Lady Redskins fell to Auburn 16-1 on the Trojans' home field. The game was closer early on, but a ten-run fourth inning gave Auburn the mercy rule win.

Nokomis picked up their lone run and three of their four hits in the top of the first. Grace DeWerff, Presley Mehochko and Jayde Gonet all singled off Auburn starter Sydney Rabideau to start the game, with DeWerff coming around to score on Gonet's base hit.

But a double play followed Gonet's single and a foul pop to first got Rabideau out of the inning with no further damage.

Unfortunately for the Redskins, Auburn started their half of the first in the same fashion, picking up three straight singles to score

their first run. Even more unfortunate was that the Trojans kept going, as they got a two-run double from Piper Taylor, who went on to score on a wild pitch two batters later.

Auburn added two more runs in the second inning on a walk, a triple and a ground out as they led 6-1 going into the third inning. The next inning and a half went quickly, with each team stranding a runner in the third before Nokomis went down 1-2-3 in the top of the fourth.

Then the Trojans unloaded 10 runs on six hits and five walks, plus a fielder's choice by Meena Taylor that plated Auburn's 16th run and ended the game by the 15-run mercy rule.

Taylor went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBIs for Auburn, while Taylor Pat-

erson was 3-for-4 with four RBIs and two runs scored. Addison Jones (3 runs, 2 RBIs) and Sydney Rabideau (1 run, 2 RBIs) were also key to the Trojans' offensive progress in the game.

On the mound, Rabideau only gave up one hit after the first inning, a leadoff single by Grace DeWerff in the third. DeWerff was the only Nokomis player to have multiple hits in the game.

Reaghan Jonas took the loss on the mound for Nokomis as the Trojans had 11 hits and seven walks in the game.

Nokomis will be at Mulberry Grove on Thursday, April 25, before a break for the weekend due to prom.

April 22 at Auburn
Nokomis 100 0 --- 1 4 0
Auburn 420 (10) --- 16 11 1

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Jonas 3.2 11 16 16 7 2

HBP: Reaghan Jonas 1.
Home IP H R ER BB SO
Rabideau 4 4 1 1 0 2

Batting Statistics
Player AB R H RBI BB
G. DeWerff 2 1 2 0 0
Mehochko 2 0 1 0 0
Gonet 2 0 1 1 0
Dirks 2 0 0 0 0
Jonas 2 0 0 0 0
Engelman 2 0 0 0 0
Huelson 2 0 0 0 0
M. DeWerff 1 0 0 0 0
Hill 1 0 0 0 0

Batting Statistics
Multiple Hits: Taylor Patterson 3-4, Meena Taylor 2-3. 2B: Piper Taylor 1. 3B: Skylar Meats 1.

HBP: Mailee Schoen 1. Runs: Addison Jones 3, Taylor Patterson 2, Meena Taylor 2, Skylar Meats 2, Piper Taylor 1, Mailee Schoen 1, Addison Wheatley 1, Izzy Carlisle 1, Sydney Rabideau 1. RBI: Taylor Patterson 4, Sydney Rabideau 2, Addison Jones 2, Meena Taylor 2, Piper Taylor 1, Addison Wheatley 1, Skylar Meats 1.

Records: Nokomis (6-10); Auburn (15-4-1).





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Announcements

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Notices

PRAIRIE FIRE WOOD HEAT, INC.: Providing sales, service and installation for Central Boiler outdoor wood burning furnaces. 217-710-1799

COPIES OF THE JOURNAL-NEWS available in Hillsboro at the Journal office, Casey's, IGA, Sullivan Drug, Moto Mart, Shell, CVS, The Korner Store; Litchfield: inside Jumpin' Jimmy's, UJ's, Sierra, Casey's, Tobacco for Less, Walgreens, Clark; Donnellson: JR's Mini Mart; Butler Post Office; Nokomis: UJ's, Casey's, Sav-Mor; Coffeen: Casey's; Raymond: Shell, Post Office, West End; Farmersville: Post Office, Shell; Fillmore: M&M Service; Irving Grocery.

Employment

Clerical, Office

HELP WANTED: Part-time proofreader needed for local newspaper. Sundays 4-10 p.m. and Wednesdays 1-10 p.m.. Send resume to jmary@consolidated.net or stop at The Journal-News, 431 S. Main, Hillsboro to fill out an application.

Merchandise

Garage Sales

LARGE FAMILY yard sale: Household misc., tools, fishing poles, outdoor misc., women's, men's, baby (newborn to 2T) clothes, baby gear. So much more. Friday, 4/26, 8 to 2, Saturday, 4/27, 8 to noon. 303 N. Richmond St., Fillmore.

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Merchandise

Garage Sales

RUMMAGE SALE: Gillespie Methodist women rummage sale, Thursday, May 2nd, 3-6 p.m., early-bird admission \$3. Friday, May 3, 9-1 p.m., Saturday 9 to noon fill a paper sack \$2, fill a big black bag \$5. Sloppy Joes, chicken salad, desserts available for purchase. 900 Broadway.

YARD SALE: 10292 Old Litchfield Trail, Fri. & Sat. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Lots of furniture, outdoor power tools, log splitter, lawn mower, leaf vacuum, misc. Mostly indoors. Rain or shine.

GARAGE SALE KITS available at The Journal-News. 217-532-3933

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Police

Litchfield Police

• Timothy D. Bruhn, 31, of Staunton, was jailed for violation of pretrial release at 7:13 p.m. Friday, April 19, at the 400 block of W. Edwards.

• Genny R. Morrison, 51, of Staunton, was cited for retail theft at 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 19, at Walmart.

• Alicia J. Freytag, 44, of Litchfield, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and driving on a suspended license at 11:33 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at the intersection of Jackson and Corwin.

• Darrell W. Jackson, 33, of Carlinville, was cited for failure to cede right of way at an intersection at 11:43 a.m. Sunday, April 21, at the intersection of Franklin and Clark.

• Demitiri A. Anderson, 23, of East St. Louis, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 2:40 a.m. Sunday, April 21, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Jefferson.

• Bradley A. DeWitt, 46, of Litchfield, was cited for expired registration at 1:31 a.m. Thursday, April 11, at the intersection of Rt. 66 and Columbia.

• Douglas J. Britt, 28, of Granite City, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 11:46 p.m. Saturday,

April 20, at four lane Rt. 66 and Tyler.

• Donald P. Edwards, 83, of Hillsboro, was cited for expired registration at 8:24 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Chestnut.

• Marlon Rodil, 40, of Litchfield, was cited for failure to reduce speed at 2:43 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Douglas.

• Sean M. Brackett, 33, of Litchfield, was cited for driving on a revoked license at 3:07 p.m. Friday, April 19, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Chestnut.

• Amy L. Page, 51, of Litchfield, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 2:14 p.m. Friday, April 19, at the intersection of Ferdon and four lane Rt. 66.

• Jaime L. Wellman, 44, of Litchfield, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 10:05 a.m. Thursday, April 18, on S. Chestnut.

• Austin J. Neely, 20, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 at 6:05 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Casey's General Store.

• Lasya Sistla, 21, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 at 6:28 p.m. Mon-

day, April 22, at BP Amoco.

• Melinda S. Fletcher, 44, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 at 7:20 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Jumpin' Jimmy's.

• Christopher R. Papin, 48, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 at 8:06 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Nancy's Pizza.

• Jean M. Bollman, 68, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcoholic liquor to a person under 21 at 8:34 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Maverick Steak House.

• Hope M. Ripple, 21, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcohol to a person under 21 at 8:55 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Daisy's Lucky Slots.

• Raymond I. Remaker, 51, of Litchfield, was cited for sale of alcohol to a person under 21 at 9:15 p.m. Monday, April 22, at Lucky Clover.

• Jeremy R. Simon, 25, of Walshville, was jailed for criminal damage to property at 1:03 p.m. Monday, April 22, at the 600 row Kirk Terrace.

• Chris H. Bruntjen, 46, of Litchfield, was jailed on outstanding Troy Police Department and Montgomery County warrants at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at the Jackson and Ferdon intersection.

Court

• Jacob S. Bergman, 33, of Litchfield, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance on Thursday, April 11.

• Anna M. Hilton, 29, of Nokomis, was charged with felony illegal possession of weapon/firearm by a felon on Saturday, April 6.

• Jennifer M. Jett, 23, of Litchfield, was charged with felony trafficking of a controlled substance on Thursday, April 11.

• Jordan T. Primo, 23, of Litchfield, was charged with felony trafficking of a controlled substance on Thursday, April 11.

• Justin M. Trueblood, 25, of Litchfield, was charged with felony possession of meth less than five grams and felony theft/control of less than \$500 on Friday, March 29.

• Matthew C. Word, 40, of Coffeen, was charged with felony possession of meth less than five grams and driving on revoked license on Monday, April 8.

Fire Calls

Controlled Burn

The Shoal Creek Fire Department was dispatched to the intersection of Rt. 127 and E. 13th Rd. near Donnellson around 6:30 p.m. Upon arrival, it was discovered that the fire was a farmer performing a controlled burn in a ditch. Four firefighters responded and were back in service before 7 p.m.

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Full-Time

Maintenance Mechanic

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

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

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

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

Montgomery County Housing Authority
Amanda Bone, PHM
Chief Executive Officer

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Junior High Science Teacher
Certificate: Illinois Professional Educators License with appropriate subject matter endorsements
Job Description: Teaching Science to Junior High students
Starting Date: August 2024
Salary: Teachers Salary Schedule/Labor Contract with HUEA
Submit: Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Donald VanGiesen, Principal; Hillsboro Junior High School; 909 Roundtree Street; Hillsboro, IL 62049; email to: dvangiesen@hillsboroschools.net
Due By: May 8, 2024
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

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VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: (2) Full Time Classroom Teacher's Aides-Beckemeyer
License: Current Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain certification with district assistance
Job Description: Working with elementary age children in the classroom
Salary: Per Teacher's Aide Contract Salary Schedule
Submit Application/Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax to: 217-532-5142; E-mail to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-6994
Application Due Date: May 3, 2024
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Full Time Agriculture/Science Teacher. Instructional schedule will involve a combination of Ag Department and Science Department courses which may include Intro to Agriculture, Agricultural Science, Horticulture and/or Physical Science and Biology
License/Qualifications: Secondary Illinois Professional Educator's License with appropriate endorsement
Salary/Benefits: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract. Benefits include health insurance, tuition reimbursement, and district-paid TRS contribution
Additional Notes: This position will include shared FFA responsibilities
Application Due Date: April 30, 2024
Start Date: August 2024
How to Apply: Please email a letter of interest, district application (see website), résumé, 3 letters of reference, and transcripts to pheyen@hillsboroschools.net or mail to Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; 217-532-2841
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: High School Math Teacher. Primarily Algebra 1 with possibility of Geometry and/or Algebra 2 depending upon candidate qualifications.
License/Qualifications: Secondary Illinois Professional Educator's License with appropriate endorsement or willingness to attain.
Salary/Benefits: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract. Benefits include health insurance, tuition reimbursement and district-paid TRS contribution.
Additional Notes: Various extra-curricular sports and club sponsorships may be available.
Application Due Date: May 10, 2024
Start Date: August 2024
How to Apply: Please email a letter of interest, district application (see website), résumé, letters of reference and transcripts to pheyen@hillsboroschools.net or mail to Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; 217-532-2841.
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

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Hillsboro Health is hiring clinical, clerical and management positions!

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

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USDA Now Accepting CRP Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting applications for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (Continuous CRP) signup. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) encourages agricultural producers and landowners in Illinois who are interested in conservation opportunities for their land in exchange for yearly rental payments to consider the enrollment options available through Continuous CRP, which also includes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offered by FSA partners. Additionally, producers participating in CRP can now apply to re-enroll, if their contracts will expire this year.

"We are pleased to announce we are now accepting Continuous CRP offers," said Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Scott Halpin. "Continuous CRP is one of the best conservation tools we can provide producers and landowners. Whether a producer wants to focus on water quality benefits or work with one of our partners to address a natural resource concern in their area, the program offers many options to help you meet your resource conservation goals."

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the 'Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act of 2024,' which extended the 'Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018,' more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through Sept. 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including CRP, to continue operating.

To submit an offer, producers should contact the FSA at their local USDA Service Center by July 31 in order to have an offer effective by Oct. 1. To ensure enrollment acreages do not exceed the statutory cap, FSA will accept offers from producers on a first-come, first-served basis and will return offers for approval in batches throughout the year.

Additionally, producers

with acres enrolled in Continuous CRP set to expire Sept. 30, can now offer acres for re-enrollment. A producer can both enroll new acres into Continuous CRP and re-enroll any acres expiring Sept. 30.

FSA water quality practices, such as riparian buffers, prairie strips, grassed waterways and wetlands, will receive an additional 20 percent incentive. Buffer practices have a positive impact on water quality. Additionally, the Climate-Smart Practice Incentive launched in 2021 is also available in the Continuous CRP.

There are several enrollment options within Continuous CRP, including:

CREP: Working with conservation partners, CREP leverages federal and non-federal funds to target specific state, regional, tribal, or nationally significant conservation concerns

State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE): The initiative restores vital habitat in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.

Highly Erodible Lands Initiative (HEL): Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index (EI) greater than or equal to 20.

Farmable Wetlands Program: Producers and landowners can enroll land in CRP to restore previously farmed wetlands and wetland buffers, improving both vegetation and water flow.

Clean Lake Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative and CLEAR30: This initiative prioritizes and offers additional incentives for water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings and harmful algal blooms. Through CLEAR30, a component of this initiative, these additional incentives for adoption of water quality practices can be accessed in 30-year contracts.



Nokomis FFA Volunteer At Aumann Auctions

Nokomis FFA members volunteered their time at the recent Aumann Auctions "Tractor School." The volunteers assisted with parking and trash duties and had the chance to check out many antique tractors and vehicles. Pictured above, from the left are Walker Stewart, Ryan Quinn, Kyle Reynolds, Atticus Bertolino and Cody Norine.



Litchfield FFA Takes Fifth In Ag Mech Contest

On Wednesday, April 17, the Litchfield FFA participated in the Section 15 Agricultural Mechanics CDE. This event was held at Gillespie High School. The FFA Agricultural Mechanical CDE is a competitive event that allows students to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations. Activities included in the event are a written exam, demonstration of problem-solving skills and hands-on performance activities.

Areas of emphasis include agriculture power, carpentry, electricity, surveying and welding. Amanda Niemann placed second in surveying, Payton Noyes placed second in welding, Megan Lee placed fifth in electricity and Laityn Gray placed fifth in ag power. The Litchfield team placed fifth overall in the event.

Pictured above, from the left are Amanda Niemann, Megan Lee, Laityn Gray and Payton Noyes.

County 4-H Recognizes National Volunteer Week

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting 4-H youth clubs and programming. University of Illinois Extension's 4-H youth development program in Montgomery County honors its volunteers during National Volunteer Week, from April 21 to 27.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the continued impact that volunteers have. "Volunteers are the lifeblood of our clubs," says Patricia McLaughlin, 4-H youth development specialist for volunteer development. "On average, 4-H volunteers give more than eight hours per month to their program. Annually, that time is worth almost \$3,000 per volunteer. But the gift of their time, skills, and passion is really invaluable to the youth they support."

4-H clubs and programs benefit from volunteers, but volunteers also benefit from the volunteering experience; gaining skills in teaching,

leadership, and communication that are useful in their work and lives.

"Most of our volunteers report that they gained useful skills, increased their confidence, and made connections in the community," says McLaughlin. "Volunteering is a two-way street in 4-H. Volunteers give to the clubs, but the clubs give right back."

There's no one path to volunteering with 4-H. Ways to volunteer could include leading or beginning a local or special interest club, teaching a skill through workshops, judging projects at fairs and competitions, planning or helping at events, or serving on club advisory boards.

4-H clubs are always looking for new volunteers to share a passion, skill, talent, or time to help impact today's youth. For more information on 4-H and becoming a 4-H volunteer, contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at 217-532-3941.

Crop Condition

There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork in the week ending Sunday, April 21.

Statewide, the average temperature was 56.9 degrees, 2.4 degrees above normal. Precipitation averaged 0.95 inches, equal to normal precipitation.

Topsoil moisture supply was rated 5 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated 4 percent very short, 17 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus.

Corn planted reached 11 percent, compared to the five-year average of 10 percent. Corn emerged reached 1 percent.

Soybeans planted reached 11 percent, compared to the five-year average of 6 percent. Soybeans emerged reached 1 percent.

Winter wheat headed reached 11 percent, compared to the five-year average of 5 percent. Winter wheat condition was 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 67 percent good and 16 percent excellent.



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PUBLIC AUCTION



THURS., APR. 25 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only sale for the Corky Hutchinson estate. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Apr. 22, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Apr. 26, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SUN., APR. 28 - 2 p.m. Small animal consignment sale of goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, etc. Taking consignments sale day from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Bond County Fairgrounds, 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SUN., APR. 28 & MON., APR. 29 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only 2 sales for the Noel (Rex) Hill Estate-Collectible Glassware w/1200 items. LE Smith Moon & Stars, Vaseline glass, Depression, crystal, Majolica pottery, Hull pottery, Viking glass, Waterford, MORE. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Preview & pickup at 1950 U.S. Rt. 40, Mulberry Grove. Preview Apr. 21, Noon-5 p.m. Checkout Apr. 30, Noon-7 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

TUES., MAY 7 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of 80 acres of Christian County farmland located at 1650 N. 1900 E. Rd., Taylorville for the D. L. Smith Trust. 80 acres in Sect. 10, May Twp., Christian Co. Aumann Auctions, 217-563-2523, aumannauctions.com.

WED., MAY 8 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of 360 acres of Montgomery County farmland located at 18278 Nokomis Rd., Nokomis for the D. L. Smith Trust. 360 acres located along the Nokomis-Fillmore blacktop to be sold in 8 tracts. Aumann Auctions, 217-563-2523, aumannauctions.com.

TUES., MAY 21 - 10 a.m. Bidding ends for online Fayette County land auction of 320 acres in 4 tracts for Redtop Enterprises, LLC. 5 mi. N. of Farina, 18 mi. S. of Altamont, 20 mi. SW of Effingham. Land is in Sect. 5 & 6, T4N-R4E, LaClede Twp., Fayette Co. Auction mgrs., Rodney Borrowman 630-247-0067 & John Borrowman, 217-430-0645.

Montgomery County 4-H Plants Oak Tree Savanna

Montgomery County is now home to an oak tree savanna thanks to local youth and community members. The group of 25 oak trees, called a savanna, will bring new life to oak-hickory forests currently under threat in Illinois.

Five 4-H youth took part in the planting in Montgomery County. Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District staff involved in the project planning and plant day include Melissa Cauble, administrative coordinator, Lora Scott, resource conservationist and Jason Anderson, board chairman. James May, superintendent of Parks, Lakes, and Public Properties for Hillsboro was also involved in the success of the tree planting.

"Oak savannas are being overtaken by invasive species, as well as more shade-tolerant trees, such as maples," says Curt Sinclair, University of



Local members of the Montgomery County 4-H recently planted 25 new oak trees. From left to right, Thomas Marley, Ethan Marley, Katelyn Marley, Fallon Knodle and Bond Knodle.

Illinois Extension 4-H specialist. "Illinois 4-H is primed to take action to increase the number of oak trees in the

state. The natural world is talking to us, and Illinois 4-H is primed to listen, learn, and act."


D.L Smith Trust - 360 Acres Montgomery County Farmland

Online Only Bidding Ending on May 8 at 6pm!
Open house/ Farm viewing is May 1, 3-6PM

18278, Nokomis Rd, Nokomis IL

Don't miss this opportunity to bid on a total of 360 acres of land in Witt Township, Montgomery County, IL. The property is located along the Nokomis-Fillmore Blacktop. There are 320+ acres of quality tillable land with the non-tillable consisting of waterways, timber and home site. The home is located at 15015 Nokomis Road, Nokomis. The farmland has an overall average PI rating of 106+/- . The total acreage is split up into 8 tracts.

Tract 1: 19,904 +/- acres, 18.51 Tillable or 92.5% Tillable.
Tract 2: 73,472 +/- acres, 64.26 Tillable or 85.7% Tillable.
Tract 3: 10,828 +/- acres with home and buildings, 5+/- Acres Tillable.
Tract 4: 76,448 +/- acres, 65.5 Tillable or 86% Tillable.
Tract 5: 80,995 +/- acres, 72 Tillable or 90% Tillable.
Tract 6: 25,881 +/- acres, 24.73 Tillable or 99% Tillable.
Tract 7: 14,465 +/- acres, 13.82 Tillable or 99% Tillable.
Tract 8: 61,039 +/- acres, 59.48 Tillable or 97.5% Tillable.


 **Aumann Auctions**
217-563-2523
aumannauctions.com

D L Smith Trust - 80 Acres Christian County Farmland

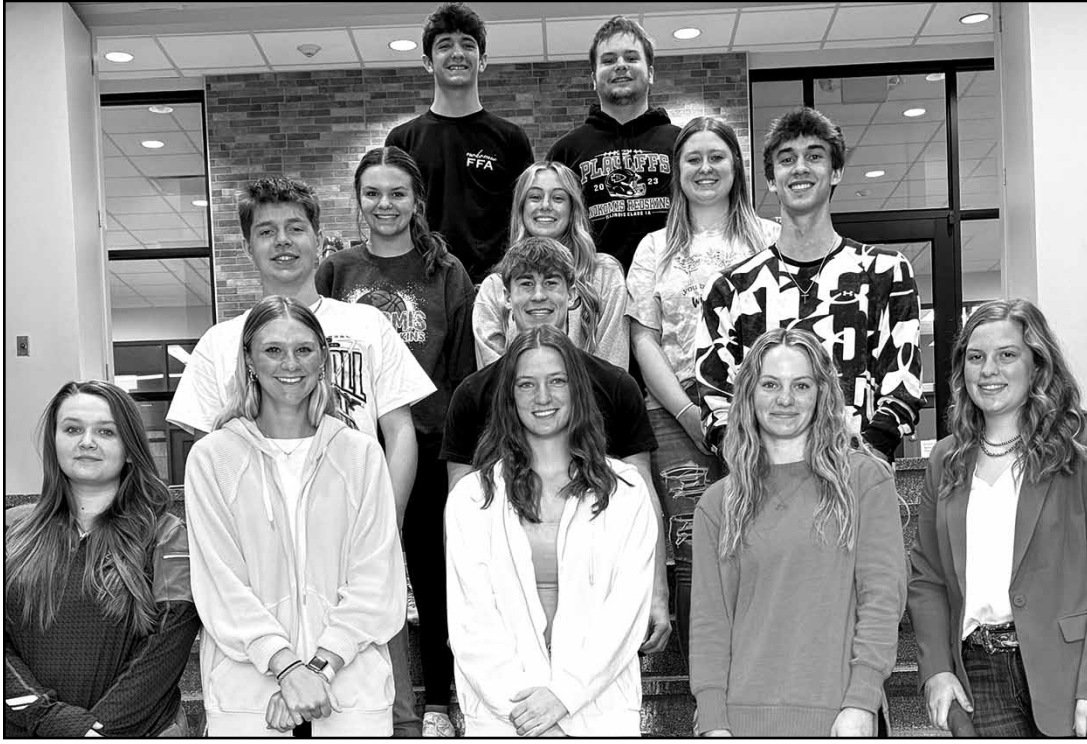
Online only Bidding Ending on May 7 at 6pm!
1650 N 1900 E Rd, Taylorville IL

Don't miss this opportunity to bid on 80 acres of farmland in Section 10, May Township, Christian County, IL. Just 3 Miles west of Rt. 48 and 6 Miles North-West of Bertinetti Lake. Great income producing, Recreation property with multiple building sites!

39.36 acres are enrolled in 2 different CRP programs.
15.76 +/- acres are in CP42 (pollinator) contracted through 09/30/2026 with a payment of \$279.84 per acre or \$4,410 yearly
23.60 +/- acres are in CP22 (trees) with a contract through 09/30/2030 with a payment of \$377.60 per acre or \$8,911 yearly

 **Aumann Auctions**
217-563-2523
aumannauctions.com

Clip & Save This Directory.



Nokomis Announces Prom Court

Nokomis High School students will be celebrating Prom this weekend, Saturday, April 27, from 8 to 11 p.m. at the St. Louis Parish Center in Nokomis. This year's theme is "An Evening In The Garden." Members of the Prom court, in front, from the left are seniors Shelby Johnson, Reagan Jonas, Chloe Flowers, Presley Mehochko and Cydney Bertolino. In row two are seniors Kennedy DeWerrf, Mason Stauder and Reece Lohman. In row three are juniors Rebecca Hill, Gracelynn DeWerrf and Jahna Guinn, and in row four are juniors Bond Knodle and Bruno Fox. Not pictured are seniors Lucas Stinson and Jaxson Batty and juniors Jayden Gonet, Kyle Reynolds and Garrett Engelman. The coronation of a new Prom king and queen will be held at 8:15 p.m.



Petal Pushers in Litchfield made a \$100 donation to the Litchfield High School Drama Club on Wednesday, April 17. From the left are Emily Frerichs, Cassie McKorkel, Paige Sprankle, Petal Pushers owner Jessica Vickery, Kristen Gudausky, Aury Hartman and Dede Irvin.

Journal-News Photo

Petal Pushers Helps Drama Club Flourish

Petal Pushers and the Litchfield High School Drama Club teamed up in March to help make the school's production of *Mean Girls* a little more magical.

The Litchfield flower shop had single carnations and mixed bouquets available at

this year's production at the WD Kilton Fine Arts Center for the shows on March 21, 22 and 23. Twenty percent of the proceeds went back to the drama club to help fund future shows.

On Wednesday, April 17, Jessica Vickery, owner of Petal Pushers, presented a \$100 donation to the Litchfield Drama Club, but that was only part of how the business helped the group.

After Saturday's show, the extra bouquets remained at

the Kilton Fine Arts Center and were available for the Sunday matinee's final performance for donation only. The bouquets fetched an additional \$354 in donations, bringing the total to \$454.

The team that made this year's production happen said they have some ideas for next year's show, but are keeping it under wraps for now. But with nearly 1,500 people taking in this year's show, *Mean Girls* will be a tough act to follow.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX14
FILED: 4/18/2024
TAKE NOTICE

County of MONTGOMERY
Date Premises Sold:
October 25, 2021

Certificate No.: 2020-00174
Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number - N/A

Warrant Number - N/A
Installment Number - N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at 405 Griffin Street, Nokomis, Illinois
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 08-22-477-001

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on August 26, 2024.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a Tax Deed which will transfer title and the right to

possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before August 26, 2024.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in Hillsboro, Illinois on **September 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with Judge Frisch in Courtroom 2.**

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before August 26, 2024, by applying to the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Hillsboro, IL.

For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: #1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049. TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530.

P&N PROPERTIES, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 4/22/2024

CASE NUMBER: 2024TX14

Driton Musliu; Ashley N. Beaman; City of Nokomis; Occupants; Montgomery County Clerk; Claimants, Judgment Creditors and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "unknown owners" "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots."

100-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX15
FILED: 4/18/2024
TAKE NOTICE

County of MONTGOMERY
Date Premises Sold:
October 25, 2021

Certificate No.: 2020-00148
Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number - N/A

Warrant Number - N/A
Installment Number - N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at 55 Lewis Lane, Hillsboro, Illinois
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 12-20-200-007

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on August 26, 2024.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a Tax Deed which will transfer title and the right to

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For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: #1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049. TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530.

P&N PROPERTIES, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 4/22/2024

CASE NUMBER: 2024TX15

Jason Pieper; Alicia Pieper; State of Illinois Department of Revenue; Occupants; Montgomery County Clerk; Claimants, Judgment Creditors and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "unknown owners" "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots."

100-3tT

Lincolnwood Students Present Spring Concert

The Raymond community will be treated to an afternoon of beautiful music when the bands and choirs of Lincolnwood Junior/Senior High School present their spring concert.

This year's event will take place on Sunday, April 28, beginning at 2 p.m. in the school auditorium at the school, located at 113 N. School St. in Raymond.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CANCELLATION

Concerning a Proposed Solar Farm Project in Unincorporated MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a public hearing **HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.** The purpose of the hearing was for discussion on the proposed solar project application for North Sun LLC submitted by 22c Development, LLC, in Unincorporated Montgomery County, Illinois.

The Public Hearing will be **RE-SCHEDULED FOR: Monday, June 3rd, 2024** at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL and a revised Public Hearing Notice will be posted at a later date.

The project application is to install an up-to-10 MWac commercial solar energy facility on parcel 06-14-400-003 bound to the east by North Road and bound to the south by N. 21st Avenue. The application will be available for review in room 202 of the Historic Courthouse located at #1 Courthouse Square Hillsboro, Illinois. In said public hearing, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to present both written and oral comments and testimony regarding the Solar Farm Application.

100-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX16
FILED: 4/18/2024
TAKE NOTICE

County of MONTGOMERY
Date Premises Sold:
October 25, 2021

Certificate No.: 2020-00279
Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number - N/A

Warrant Number - N/A
Installment Number - N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at 1101 South Chestnut Street, Litchfield, Illinois

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 15-04-410-006

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on August 26, 2024.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a Tax Deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if

redemption is not made on or before August 26, 2024.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in Hillsboro, Illinois on **September 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with Judge Frisch in Courtroom 2.**

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before August 26, 2024, by applying to the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Hillsboro, IL.

For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: #1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049. TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530.

P&N PROPERTIES, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 4/22/2024

CASE NUMBER: 2024TX16

Nicole S. Thompson; Unknown Spouse of Nicole S. Thompson; City of Litchfield; Occupants; Montgomery County Clerk; Claimants, Judgment Creditors and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "unknown owners" "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots."

100-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX17
FILED: 4/18/2024
TAKE NOTICE

County of MONTGOMERY
Date Premises Sold:
October 25, 2021

Certificate No.: 2020-00262
Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number - N/A

Warrant Number - N/A
Installment Number - N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at 717 S. Van Buren Street, Litchfield, Illinois

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 15-04-181-010

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on August 26, 2024.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a Tax Deed which will transfer title and the right to

possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before August 26, 2024.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in Hillsboro, Illinois on **September 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with Judge Frisch in Courtroom 2.**

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before August 26, 2024, by applying to the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Hillsboro, IL.

For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: #1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049. TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530

P&N PROPERTIES, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 4/22/2024

CASE NUMBER: 2024TX17

Unknown Heirs and Devises of Willard L. Miller, Deceased; Bradly C. Fricke; Judy Hemken; City of Litchfield; Occupants; Montgomery County Clerk; Claimants, Judgment Creditors and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "unknown owners" "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots."

100-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2024TX13
FILED: 4/18/2024
TAKE NOTICE

County of MONTGOMERY
Date Premises Sold:
October 25, 2021

Certificate No.: 2020-00009
Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020

Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number - N/A

Warrant Number - N/A
Installment Number - N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Property Located at 320 Depot Lane, Farmersville, Illinois

Legal Description or Property Index No.: 01-33-330-003

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on August 26, 2024.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a Tax Deed which will transfer title and

the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before August 26, 2024.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County in Hillsboro, Illinois on **September 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with Judge Frisch in Courtroom 2.**

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before August 26, 2024, by applying to the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Hillsboro, IL.

For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: #1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049. TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530.

P&N PROPERTIES, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 4/22/2024

CASE NUMBER: 2024TX13

Brian Beal; Unknown Spouse of Brian Beal; Village of Farmersville; Occupants; Montgomery County Clerk; Claimants, Judgment Creditors and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "unknown owners" "Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots."

100-3tT

LEA Holds Annual Recognition Dinner In April

Members of the Litchfield Education Association held their annual recognition dinner on Friday evening, April 19, at the Litchfield Community Center.

This year's Creativity Grant winners were announced at the dinner. The awards are funded annually by the Litchfield Student Education Foundation. Winners were Cassie McKorkle at LHS, who received \$1,100 for the marching band show; Amy Jones at LHS, who received \$515 for STEM pathway competition fees; Tracy Favre at LES, who received \$248.16 for owl pellets; Heather Jackson and Kayla Pennock in second grade, who received \$759.96 for books; Whitney McSperritt in first grade, who received \$613.06 for hands-on reading materials; Nikki Warchol in first grade, who received \$219 for book bags; and kindergarten teachers at Madison Park, who received \$654.30 for indoor gross motor activities.

The LEA also honored several members for their years of service to the school district. Those receiving five-year pins included Adam Taylor, Karen Cress, Brittany Winans, Margaret Wayman, Kyle Mathenia, Lenora Ambrose, Julie Foss, Amy Pickerill and Dawn Theivagt.

Receiving their ten-year pins were Brittany Eckhoff, Kaylie Ripley, Heather Jackson, Jessica Ball, Dawn Walch, Jenna Stewart, Angee Bloome and Ann Helgen.

Those receiving 15-year pins were Megan Becker, Mary Verries and Whitney McSperritt. Amanda Lamore, Kristina Jones and Corey Waltz earned 20-year pins, and Chris Baugher earned a 25-year pin.

In addition, the district recognized five members of the Litchfield School District who are retiring this spring. They are Brenda Elvers, Mark Elvers, Lori Heise, Bill Jones and Lisa Schaffer.

Brenda Elvers
Elvers has been with the Litchfield School District since August 1995, where she started at Litchfield High School as a social studies teacher from



Litchfield Education Association members honored for years of service, from the left are Whitney McSperritt, Angee Bloome, Adam Taylor, Maragaret Wayman, Jenna Stewart, Ann Helgen, Kaylie Ripley, Amanda Lamore, Brittany Winans, Lenora Ambrose, Dawn Walch and Kyle Mathenia.

Photo courtesy of Jo Brummet

1995 to 2001. She worked as guidance counselor at LHS from 2001 to 2018 and has spent the last several years as an elementary counselor.

Elvers earned her bachelor's degree at Ball State University and her master's degree from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

She and her husband, Mark Elvers, reside in Springfield. They have three sons, Ryne Elvers of Charlotte, NC, Cal Elvers of Springfield and Will Elvers of Chatham. They attend Christ the King Church in Springfield.

During her retirement, she plans to hike, travel and spend time with her family. She will also work full-time for Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy as a school counselor.

Mark Elvers
Mark Elvers has been with the Litchfield School District since 1998 as a physical education teacher. He has also served as football coach and athletic director.

Mark and his wife, Brenda, reside in Springfield. They have three sons, Ryne Elvers of Charlotte, NC, Cal Elvers of Springfield and Will Elvers of Chatham. They attend Christ the King Church in Springfield.

During his retirement, he plans to travel, run, work and spend time with family and

friends.

Lori Heise
Lori Heise has been a part of the Litchfield School District for 33 years. After graduating from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, she was hired that same year to work for the district.

Heise has been a kindergarten aide, a fourth grade teacher, a sixth grade teacher and a middle school physical education teacher. She also spent time during her career as a cheerleading, track and volleyball coach at both the middle school and high school. She was also a Student Council sponsor at the middle school.

She and her husband, Dan Heise, Jr., have two children, McKenzie (husband Devin) Brakenhoff and Connor Heise, and two grandchildren, Sadie and Addison Brakenhoff. They are members of Holy Family Catholic Church in Litchfield.

Her retirement plans include spending time with her grandchildren, spouse and friends. She also hopes to travel as much as she can and become more involved with her church and the Litchfield community.

Bill Jones
Bill Jones is retiring this spring after working 33 years for the Litchfield School District.

A graduate of Litchfield High School and Millikin University, he has been a math teacher at Litchfield High School. Jones also served as head football coach, head girls basketball coach and head softball coach during his career at LHS.

Jones and his wife, Kathleen, reside in Litchfield. They have one son, Andrew.

During retirement, Jones plans to travel.

Lisa Schaffer
Lisa Schaffer started her career with the Litchfield

School District in 1991, and has spent 33 years with the district.

During her time in Litchfield, Schaffer was a business and driver's education teacher. She also coached high school volleyball and was the assistant track coach. She coached middle school volleyball and track and served as middle school athletic director. Schaffer also served as advisors for yearbook and Student Council.

Outside of the Litchfield district, Schaffer coached volleyball at Hillsboro High School and was an adjunct teacher at Lincoln Land Community College.

She earned her bachelor's degree at Culver-Stockton College and her master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Her retirement plans include travelling, camping, kayaking and watching more St. Louis Cardinals games.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF NOKOMIS
NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT OR PASS
AN ORDINANCE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 13th day of May 2024 at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting at Nokomis City Hall the City Council members will consider and intends to adopt an ordinance approving the lease of approximately 4 acres of City owned property located at 1 Gibson Rd. to Hawk-Attollo LLC with the intent to develop, construct, own, operate and maintain solar panels.

DATED this 24th day of April 2024.

Rachel Cassidy
City Clerk
100-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
ILLINOIS**

SECURITY NATIONAL BANK,
Plaintiff,

vs.
SARAH M. SULLIVAN,
UNKNOWN OWNERS and
NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

Defendants.

**2024 - FC - 11
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for foreclosure of a certain mortgage and other relief, as follows:

1. Names of All Plaintiffs and the Case Number: SECURITY NATIONAL BANK, Case No. 24-FC-11

2. The Court in Which the Action was Brought: A Circuit Court for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Montgomery County, Illinois

3. Names of Titleholder of Record: SARAH M. SULLIVAN

4. Legal Description of the Real Estate Sufficient to Identify It with Reasonable Certainty: Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Kettlekamp's Addition to Nokomis, Situated In the city of Nokomis, Montgomery County, Illinois

5. Common Address or Descriptions of the Loca-

tion of the Real Estate: 323 Lincoln St., Nokomis, IL 62075

6. The Parcel Number is: 08-14-352-005

7. Identification of the Mortgage(s) Sought to be Foreclosed:

(a) Names of Mortgagee: Sarah M. Sullivan

(b) Name of Mortgagee: Security National Bank

(c) Date of Mortgage: June 23, 2017

(d) Date of Recording: June 23, 2017

(e) County where recorded: Montgomery County

(f) Recording Document Identification: Inst. #201700002247 or Book 1648 at Page 452

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Clerk of this Court, Montgomery County Court-house, 120 N. Main St., Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, on or before May 13, 2024, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

Daniel Robbins
Clerk of the Court

**Erik D. Hyam
IL Bar No. 6311090
silver lake group, ltd.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
314 N. Monroe St.
P.O. Box 98
Litchfield, IL 62056
Telephone 217-324-6147
erik@silverlakelaw.com**

Rebecca Hill Recognized By Phi Beta As Young Scholar

Rebecca Hill of Nokomis High School was recognized as a 2024 Phi Beta Kappa Young Scholar from the Phi Beta Kappa Association of East Central Illinois on Saturday, April 20.

Her essay, "Exploring Religion in Early American Literature" placed fourth, earning her a scholarship, opportunity to speak in front of and meet with numerous professors and faculty at Eastern Illinois University.

Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the most prestigious undergraduate honor society in the United States, with the goal of recognizing academic excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. Members of PBK are committed to furthering intellectual inquiry as a form of invaluable public service.



Rebecca Hill

ted to furthering intellectual inquiry as a form of invaluable public service.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO. 2024-TX-6
FILED: 04/04/2024

TAKE NOTICE

TO: JAN RICHARDSON, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Montgomery County:

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 13-05-108-005

On September 20, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on October 25, 2021 for general taxes of the year 2020. The period of redemption will expire on September 13, 2024.

AS-IS PROPERTIES, LTD
Purchaser or Assignee
96-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO. 2024-TX-5
FILED: 04/04/2024

TAKE NOTICE

TO: DANIEL ANGEL ONATE, JOSEFINA JACINTO R., SAUL QUIROZ, UNKNOWN OWNERS, OR PARTIES INTERESTED AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property in Montgomery County:

PERMANENT PARCEL

NUMBER: 16-02-476-020
On September 20, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. the petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on October 25, 2021 for general taxes of the year 2020. The period of redemption will expire on September 13, 2024.

METRO LIENS, INC.
Purchaser or Assignee
96-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
MARGARET ANN BALESTRI,
Deceased
**2024PR12
CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Margaret Ann Balestri. Letters of Office - Decedent's Estate were issued on April 16, 2024 to Rita M. Skipton, Administrator, c/o Beavers, Calvert & Brotherton, 221 West Main Cross, P.O. Box 320, Taylorville, Illinois 62568.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Montgomery County, Court-house, 120 N. Main St., Hillsboro, IL 62049 or with the representatives, or both, on or before October 22, 2024, which date is not less than six months from the date of the first publication of this notice

and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2024.

Rita M. Skipton,
Administrator of the Estate of Margaret Ann Balestri, Deceased, by her attorneys, Beavers, Calvert & Brotherton.
By: /s/ Beth E. Brotherton
BETH E. BROTHERTON
Daniel T. Robbins, Circuit Clerk of Montgomery County
By: /s/ Daniel T. Robins
DEPUTY CLERK

**BETH E. BROTHERTON,
Reg. 6239045
BEAVERS, CALVERT
& BROTHERTON
221 West Main Cross
P.O. Box 320
Taylorville, IL 62568
TEL: 217/824-3341
FAX: 217/824-3842**

98-3tT

PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
JUVENILE DIVISION
IN THE INTEREST OF
A. G.**

**Case No. 23-JA-3
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO ROBERT GREENWOOD, and to all whom it may concern, that a petition for TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the State's Attorney's Office in this court and that in the courtroom of presiding Judge Nathan A. Frisch in Montgomery County Court-house, Hillsboro, Illinois, on **JULY 3, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing on the petition for TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND

TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

April 17, 2024
Daniel T. Robbins,
Clerk of the Court
Amy Taylor,
Deputy Clerk
100-1t



Litchfield Education Association members honored for their retirement this spring, from the left, are Mark Elvers, Brenda Elvers, Lisa Schaffer and Lori Heise. Not present for the photo was Bill Jones.

Photo courtesy of Jo Brummet

PANHANDLE C.U.S.D. NO. 2 RAYMOND, ILLINOIS NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Panhandle C.U.S.D. No. 2, Raymond, Illinois, shall sell at public sale at 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the 14th day of May, 2024, at the School District office, 509 N. Prairie Street, Raymond, Illinois, the following described district property, to-wit:

2007 Thomas C-2 Safety Liner School Bus: VIN: 4USABRCT37CW16448

2007 Thomas C-2 Safety Liner School Bus: VIN: 4UZABRCT17CW16447

1. Sale shall be by sealed bids in writing to be submitted to Mr. Aaron Hopper, Superintendent, Panhandle C.U.S.D. No. 2, 509 North Prairie Street, Raymond, Illinois, 62560, no later than 1:45 o'clock P.M. on May 14, 2024;

2. The minimum acceptable bid shall be Three Thousand Dollars per bus (\$3,000.00 per bus);

3. School buses will be available for viewing upon request. Please call the Panhandle Transportation Office to schedule an appointment to view the buses.

4. Those persons submitting the three (3) highest bids shall have the privilege of competitively raising their bids in person at the time of the opening of the bids;

5. Terms of payment by the successful bidder(s) for said buses will be payment in full five business days after Board of Education approval;

6. Possession will be delivered at finalization of sale, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price and completion of vehicle title transfer;

7. School buses described above are being sold in "AS IS CONDITION."

8. The Board of Education of Panhandle C.U.S.D. No. 2 reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities which do not taint the legality of the sale; and

9. Announcements at time of sale supersede all prior or conflicting announcements.

**Aaron Hopper, Superintendent of Schools
Panhandle Community Unit School District 2**

LHS Grad Publishes Article On COVID

Beverly Matthews of Springfield, formerly of Waggoner, has published an article in BMJ Case Reports on the effects of long-COVID this year.

The article, "Long-term cognitive effects of COVID-19 studied with repeated neuropsychological testing" was written by Matthews, Ashima Datey Chakrabarty and Arindam Chakrabarty, both from SIU Medicine in Springfield.

A 1971 graduate of Lincolnwood High School in Raymond, Matthews is in private practice at A&E Behavioral Healthcare in Decatur, where she practices clinical neuropsychology. She is currently focusing on long-COVID, adult ADHD and dementia evaluations.

dissertation," Matthews said. "I actually was hesitant to



Beverly Matthews

participate, but our daughter encouraged me to do so for the benefit of a student. Now, we know that the literature will hopefully benefit the greater community about how the inflammatory process can change the functioning of the brain when one has COVID-19."

Most years, Matthews attends the Door County Summer Institute in Egg Harbor, WI, sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin as part of her continuing education. In August, 2022, she participated in Dr. Art Walaszek's class on geropsychiatry, anxiety, depression and dementia. They were discussing the cognitive effects of COVID-19, and Matthews mentioned a case of a woman whose profile changed after repeated testing. Dr. Walaszek suggested she publish it. He facilitated the partnership with the Chakrabartys, and they had

been working on the article since the fall of 2022.

"Although I have not met the Chakrabartys in person, I am grateful for their knowledge and cooperation in working together to attain this publication," Matthews said.

For the content of the publication, Matthews worked with a patient who was referred to her four months after she tested positive for COVID for forgetfulness, brain fog and trouble with attention and concentration. Neuropsychological testing was performed once and then a year later, when decreases were noted in all four subtests of design fluency. She did show an improvement in four subtests of verbal fluency, which may be reflective of her career that requires good verbal skills.

Matthews said the patient was able to compensate for short-term memory loss by using a notebook to make a list of tasks to do and noting when things were finished. The patient was also given ADHD medication to help focus, and she only uses it on the days when she feels she needs the assistance.

For the publication, Matthews wrote about the testing and test properties, while the Chakrabartys contributed the medical aspects. They attempted to submit to two other journals, and Dr. Walaszek suggested BMJ Case Reports, where the research is now published.

For more information about the research, visit www.casereports.bmj.com. It is also listed on PubMed, which is a literature search engine for health care.



Starr Shooters Visit Bremer Sanctuary

It was a perfect day to host the 4-H Starr Shooters club, who recently visit Bremer Sanctuary. The students began their visit by doing service projects around the sanctuary. They scrubbed and cleaned the trail signage and spread mulch. A group of students also raked leaves, pictured above. After work, the group grilled hotdogs and had snacks for lunch. They enjoyed a presentation in the barn given by Nancy Redman regarding bird migration, and the students actively participated in a migration game. Each student picked a bird they would like to be and then rotated through stations, where some of the birds survived and some didn't, demonstrating the good and the bad aspects of migration. The club and sanctuary thank Bruce Redman, Dane Murphy and Ray Luebbert for assisting with the service work and clean up.

HSHS To Hold Women's Conference

HSHS St. Francis Hospital presents the "Women's Health Survival Guide" event, an informational conference to discuss women's health concerns and safety resources with local agencies. This conference is also presented by Eden's Glory, Prairie State Women's Health Program, Macoupin County St. Francis Way Clinic, Lighthouse Pregnancy Center and Crossover Ministries.

The conference will be Tuesday, May 7, at 1 p.m. in St. Francis Hospital's conference room. There is no charge for participants, but a donation of a new baby item is encouraged and will benefit Lighthouse Pregnancy Center. T-shirts are available for order at

misticallymade.com/whsg to benefit Eden's Glory. Register for Women's Health Survival Guide by emailing Ronita Rufus at ronita.rufus@hshs.org

"Women's Health Survival Guide was created to discuss current health concerns and how they impact women," said Ronita Rufus, Emergency Department RN at St. Francis Hospital. "It is important that our community knows of the programs and resources available to women in our area. We hope that this event will help to shine a light on women's health and safety concerns."

The topics that will be discussed at the conference include human trafficking and the resources Eden's

Glory offers for victims, the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program available at Prairie State Women's Health Program, addiction in women and the resources available at St. Francis Way Clinic, the mission of Lighthouse Pregnancy Center and its resources, women and mental health and substance abuse, recovery and wellness programs at Crossover Ministries and education regarding safe sleep environments and safe infant care presented by St. Francis maternity department.

For more information about HSHS St. Francis Hospital, visit stfrancis-litchfield.org.



Students, Farm Bureau Visit Syngenta

Students from Hillsboro, Lincolnwood, and Nokomis High Schools joined Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leaders on a tour of the Syngenta Research Farm located in Highland, Illinois on Thursday, April 18.

The tour featured presentations about plant breeding, field trials, sales, research and opportunities available in agriculture. Young Leaders organized the event to introduce FFA members to Farm Bureau and build their knowledge of local agriculture.

2024 Chevy Silverado 1500

\$2,750 CASH ALLOWANCE* PLUS

\$2,250 TRADE ASSISTANCE*

OR

0.9% APR*

TRUCK SEASON

CHEVROLET

24 Chevy Blazer 2LT B10555 MSRP \$40,385 NOW ONLY \$36,902	24 Chevrolet Blazer EV LT B10627 MSRP \$51,190 NOW ONLY CALL	24 Chevrolet Blazer EV RS B10512 MSRP \$54,595 NOW ONLY \$47,095
24 Chevrolet Blazer EV RS B10505 MSRP \$55,090 NOW ONLY \$47,590	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10581 MSRP \$33,545 NOW ONLY \$32,890	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10601 MSRP \$33,545 NOW ONLY \$32,990
24 Chevy Equinox RS B10511 MSRP \$34,040 NOW ONLY \$31,990	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 Custom B10559 MSRP \$52,490 NOW ONLY \$48,951	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10558 MSRP \$61,605 NOW ONLY \$55,346
24 Chevy Silverado 1500 LT Trail Boss B10531 MSRP \$63,685 NOW ONLY \$59,714	24 Chevy Silverado 2500 LTZ HD B10560 MSRP \$82,915 NOW ONLY \$79,754	24 Chevy Tahoe High Country B10557 MSRP \$87,850 NOW ONLY \$84,783
24 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT B10619 MSRP \$26,655 NOW ONLY CALL	24 Chevy Traverse Limited High Country B10586 MSRP \$56,590 NOW ONLY \$55,990	24 GMC Canyon AT4 B10637 MSRP \$46,655 NOW ONLY CALL
24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4X B10597 MSRP \$83,585 NOW ONLY \$79,985	24 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate B10620 MSRP \$95,935 NOW ONLY \$93,935	24 GMC Sierra 3500 HD Denali DRW B10621 MSRP \$92,150 NOW ONLY \$89,990
24 GMC Yukon XL Denali ULT B10552 MSRP \$104,295 NOW ONLY \$99,998	24 Chevrolet Colorado Z71 MSRP \$45,435 NOW ONLY CALL	24 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS MSRP \$25,680 NOW ONLY CALL
24 Chevrolet Trailblazer Activ MSRP \$29,185 NOW ONLY CALL	24 Chevrolet Trax 1RS MSRP \$23,985 NOW ONLY CALL	24 GMC Canyon AT4 MSRP \$50,570 NOW ONLY CALL
24 GMC Canyon Elevation B10610 MSRP \$40,665 NOW ONLY CALL	24 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4 B10523 MSRP \$70,535 NOW ONLY \$64,196	24 GMC Yukon SLT B10628 MSRP \$73,905 NOW ONLY CALL

21 Chevrolet Blazer 2LT BP10603 NOW ONLY \$26,990	05 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD, LT B10568B NOW ONLY \$20,990	23 GMC Acadia SLT BP10582 NOW ONLY \$34,990
16 Chevrolet Cruze Limited LT B10517B NOW ONLY \$12,046	23 GMC Acadia SLT BP10596 NOW ONLY \$32,990	21 GMC Sierra 1500 Elevation B10609A NOW ONLY \$42,380
21 Chevrolet Equinox LT BP10592 NOW ONLY \$24,990	<p>Together let's drive™</p>	

Steve Schmitt

AUTO GROUP

217-324-3932 • www.steveschmittoflitchfield.com

Kelly Ondrey General Manager	Rhonda Jurgena Receptionist	Ben Ellis Finance Manager/Sales	Trevor Young Sales Manager	Jim Barr Product Specialist	Brady Sweetland Product Specialist