

Litchfield Honors Volunteers Who Helped With Flood Relief

by Kyle Herschelmann

The City of Litchfield received a lot of help from a lot of people during the recent flooding event. On Thursday, June 6, they got to thank one of those groups for their efforts. Carlinville residents Glen Carty and Charles Baker of the Illinois Baptist Relief Group were on hand to talk about their volunteer efforts, which included teams from Carlinville, Greenville, Gillespie, Mt. Vernon, Troy and Springfield. Around 31 volunteers spent time in Litchfield during a two week span, helping residents whose homes were damaged by the flood by removing items, including flooring and walls in finished basements.

“It was really a blessing to come over here and help our neighbors and our friends,” Carty said. Carty also told the council that he would provide the city with the chemical the group uses to kill mold, Shockwave. He added that the chemical is safe but does have an odor and he recommended staying out of the area where the chemical was sprayed for an hour. Mayor Steve Dougherty thanked the volunteers for all of their hard work and presented them with a \$500 donation in appreciation of their efforts. Dougherty also thanked the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross and the employees of the City of

Litchfield for their help during the flooding. Moving forward, Dougherty said that the city is working on securing low interest loans from the Small Business Administration and asked home and business owners to keep track of their repairs with receipts. He said that Monday, June 10, city crews will pick up flood damaged items from properties, something the street department has already done this past week. Mayor Dougherty also said that the city had been awarded a \$250,000 Safe Routes to Schools grant for sidewalks from State and Tyler to the Community Center and a \$1.5 million Community Development Block Grant for water main replacement from Rt. 66 and the railroad and from Tyler to Ferdon.

He thanked MG Engineers for their work on the projects, with Lee Beckman of Milano and Grunloh Engineering saying that they couldn’t have done it without the city’s help. Later in the meeting Beckman updated the council on several projects, including the Safe Routes to Schools and water main grants, which are slated to begin in the summer of 2025. Beckman also said that curbing and gutters would be put in on Skyview Drive to help keep trucks in their lanes and reduce shoulder failure, with concrete also added to entrances to make them more stable. He added that the city is eligible for an energy transition grant, which they can apply for to use for a capital improvements project. *Continued on page 2A*



Mothers Versus Sons At Annual Battlefest

Mother and son, Tori and Archer O’Dell, pictured above, duke it out during Imagine Hillsboro’s second annual Mother and Son Battlefest-Palooza on Sunday, June 25, at Central Park in Hillsboro. The O’Dells were one of the many families who enjoyed a day filled with water gun fights and bounce house water slides. The ‘refuel station’ featured fan favorites: soda, popcorn and ice cream. Enthusiastic boys of all ages enjoyed the day with their mothers, spending some quality time together at the annual Battlefest hosted by Imagine Hillsboro. Pictured at left, Lucas Voyles prepares a water-fueled attack on an unsuspecting mother. *Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins*

Local Communities Get \$1.5 Million In Grants

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 Public Infrastructure. A total of \$41 million has been awarded to 32 communities, which will support critical repairs to water, sewer and drainage infrastructure to enhance safety and quality of life for 52,000 Illinois residents.

Waggoner were all recipients of \$1.5 million in funding. “Every community in Illinois deserves access to clean drinking water, regardless of where they live,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “With the support of our federal partners, communities across the state will receive the resources they need to upgrade their water, sewer and drainage infrastructure system. These projects will benefit the health and well-being of their residents for years to come.” *Continued on page 8A*

Cardboard Boat Regatta Sails Back Into Hillsboro

One of the most talked about events in Hillsboro is back for a seventh year this summer. Last year’s successful Cardboard Boat Regatta came off the heels of a four-year hiatus, and it didn’t disappoint. The event had many boats and plenty of spectators. A new rule last year was that boats could be of any size and could also consist of more than two people, if they dared. One team ended up having four rowers in their boat.

“The new rules we implemented last year added more fun to the event,” said event organizer Zach Wygal. “I was a little skeptical when a boat launched with four people in it, thinking it wouldn’t even make it around the buoy. I sure was wrong as that boat ended up making it to the finals.” Those rules will stay in place this year as well. Returning this year as sponsor will also be Hillsboro Health (formerly Hillsboro Area Hospital). *Continued on page 5A*

Marley Honored As MCCA Honorary Chairman

by Isaiah Atkins

“Stay positive, stay active,” the doctors advised Marla Marley of Oconee amidst her longstanding cancer battle. “That’s the best medicine.” Marley has been named this year’s MCCA honorary chairman, after a long battle with cancer and continued service to the organization. Marley will be honored at this year’s 20th annual Montgomery County Cancer Association’s Annual Celebration of Life and Birthday Party. The event will be held at the Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs on June 22. In addition to Marley’s remarks as the honorary chairman, the event will include a dinner, both a live and silent auction, recognition of this year’s fundraising teams and scholarship grant recipients and a special survivorship ceremony. Tickets are still available for this year’s event by calling Shelley

Halleman at 217-412-8598. “It all started in 2009,” Marley begins. “I had an abnormal mammogram on June 16, so I went in for a biopsy, which was positive for atypical cells.” Atypical cells can turn into breast cancer, she explained, so the doctors immediately prescribed her to taking tamoxifen, a breast cancer treatment and prevention medication. Marley remained on tamoxifen for about 4.5 years, before experiencing uterine bleeding and very sharp stomach pains in January of 2013. “I went through all the primary care, had a colonoscopy, and nothing was showing up for these sharp pains,” she says. “So I visited my OBGYN and she scheduled a d&c hysterectomy.” Doctors then found stage one uterine cancer and recommended a complete hysterectomy. “No treatment was needed, as it was small enough that we didn’t have to worry about it,” she

explains. Cancer wasn’t a completely new experience to Marley, who’s father, uncle and aunt, all Montgomery County residents, battled it themselves. But it was new to Marley, and she found it hard to believe sometimes that she actually was sick. “I really couldn’t fathom that I even had this,” she says, “because I was never sick.” So, in February of 2013, Marley and her husband, Paul, consulted with Dr. Laurent Brard at the Simmons Cancer Institute in Springfield. “Dr. Brard was going to do the ‘Da Vinci’ robot surgery for the hysterectomy,” Marley explains, referring to a robotic surgical system that uses a minimally invasive surgical approach. “On March 11, we were preparing for surgery, and with the Da Vinci robot, the table I was laying on is slightly tilted upward,” Marley said. *Continued on page 8A*



Marla Marley, a longtime cancer survivor and board member of the MCCA, has been named this year’s MCCA honorary chairman. *Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins*

Mon 10	74°/50°		Partly Cloudy	4%
Tue 11	78°/59°		Mostly Sunny	2%
Wed 12	87°/66°		Mostly Sunny	3%
Thu 13	92°/72°		Partly Cloudy	8%

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Sports.....	1B-2B



I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
And my health to better living
For my club, my community,
my country and my world

See page 7A for a 4-H Show schedule

Journal-News Staff Wins IPA Awards

Staff members at *The Journal-News* attended the annual Illinois Press Association convention on Thursday, June 6, in Bloomington. In addition to programs on local news coverage and building ad revenue, the annual event also includes presentation of awards in both advertising and editorial items.

This year, *The Journal-News* won second place for general excellence in both the advertising and editorial competitions with newspapers its size throughout the state.

Judges wrote, "Great job in providing solid local news and sports. This paper is a beacon of providing readers with superb hometown news and information. Also, nice work with ads, especially the April Fools Egg on My Face. It's a beauty, no foolin'!"

Advertising Awards

- Automotive Ad, third place (Mike Plunkett, Roger Jennings).
- Health Care Ad, second place (Losin' It with Sonya Jones, Mary (Galer) Herschelman).
- Health Care Ad, fourth place (Montgomery County Health Department Suicide Awareness, Mike Plunkett).
- Political Ad, first place (Elect Brian Patton, Mike Plunkett).
- Political Ad, fourth place (Elect Dylan Goldsmith, Mary (Galer) Herschelman).
- Best Color Ad, third place (Montgomery County Fair, Mike Plunkett).
- Best Color Ad, fourth place (Autism Awareness Month, Mike Plunkett).
- Best Newspaper Promotion, fourth place (Subscription Ad, Mike Plunkett).
- Best Annual Special Section, second place (2023



Accepting nearly two dozen awards from the Illinois Press Association, from the left, were Sports Editor Kyle Herschelman, Publisher Mary (Galer) Herschelman and owners Susie and John Galer.

Gift Guide, staff).

- Best One-Time Special Section, fourth place (Litchfield Elementary School Open House, staff).
- Best Classified Ad, second place (Montgomery County CEO, staff).
- Best Shared Page/Signature Page, first place (Litchfield Pickers Market, staff).
- Best Shared Page/Signature Page, third place (Happy Grandparents' Day, staff).
- Best Online Ad, second place (Litchfield Family Practice, Mike Plunkett).
- Best Online Ad, third place (Animal Medical Center in Litchfield, Mike Plunkett).

Editorial Awards

- Local Editorial, third place (Where Are All the Good People?, John M. Galer).
- Original Column, second place (A Grace-Filled Journey, Mary (Galer) Herschelman).
- Sports Column, third place (Center and Guard, Kyle Herschelman).
- Photo Series, second place (Where There's Smoke,

There's Fair, Kyle Herschelman and Mike Plunkett).

- Portrait Personality, fourth place (Bergman's Garden Continues to Grow, Mary (Galer) Herschelman).
 - Sports Photo/Portrait Personality, third place (Litchfield Boys Golf State, Kyle Herschelman).
 - Sports Section, fourth place non-daily (staff).
 - Maurice Scott Award for Best Coverage of Taxation, fourth place (Retired School Debt Exemplifies Haves and Have Nots, Mike Plunkett).
- "We are always so proud of our staff each and every issue of *The Journal-News*," said Publisher Mary (Galer) Herschelman. "They work hard to cover and promote Montgomery County all the time. Being recognized by our peers is just the icing on the cake."
- Attending the IPA convention in Bloomington were owners John and Susie Galer, Publisher Mary (Galer) Herschelman and Sports Editor Kyle Herschelman.



Accompanied by his father, East Alton Police Chief Scott Golike, Kody Golike was sworn in as a new member of the Litchfield Fire Department by City Clerk Carol Burke and Litchfield Fire Chief Adam Pennock during the city council meeting on June 6.



Accompanied by his wife, Brooke, and daughter, Paisleigh, Cody Durbin was sworn in as a new member of the Litchfield Fire Department by City Clerk Carol Burke and Litchfield Fire Chief Adam Pennock during the city council meeting on June 6.

Litchfield City Council

Continued from page 1A

Dougherty also said that the mayors of the county are still working on an animal control agreement with Montgomery County, adding that they thought they had an agreement but at the last meeting the county bushwhacked the mayors because they wanted more money.

The mayor wrapped up his report by saying that the Litchfield School Board made an agreement with the city to move the playground equipment from Madison Park and Sihler School to the campground area near Lake Lou Yaeger.

Following the mayor's report, the council welcomed two new members of the Litchfield Fire Department as Kody Golike and Cody Durbin were sworn in by City Clerk Carol Burke. Golike currently works as an EMT in Bunker Hill and was joined for the swearing in by his father, East Alton Police Chief Scott Golike. Durbin, a Litchfield resident and military veteran, is currently working as a mechanic and was joined by his wife, Brooke, and daughter, Paisleigh. Both new firefighters will be attending firefighter certification and training school before becoming official firefighters.

Before the start of the regular agenda, the council heard from Brian Davis, who addressed the council about lake levels at Lake Lou Yaeger in January and asked if the city had made a decision on his request to keep levels higher in the late fall and winter. City Administrator Breann Vazquez said that the city had budgeted to extend Marina One, which would allow boaters to access the lake in winter. She added that the changes would be posted on the city's website and social media and that she would keep the Friends of Lake Lou Yaeger group up to date.

Davis also suggested a creel limit for crappie fishing (ten fish over ten inches and five fish under ten inches) and

that the city should consider some options for improving the fishery at the lake. Lake Superintendent Heather Bell said that she had spoken with IDNR and that they actually suggested a crappie derby to take out as many of the fish as possible since they are currently limiting the size of the bass in the lake. She also spoke with several fishermen about restarting the christmas tree program (where old christmas trees are used sunk and used as fish habitats) and other ways to improve the fisheries and preserve the shoreline.

Davis said he appreciated Bell's efforts and ended his presentation to the council by asking for help in keeping the area off Sassafras Lane clean as it has recently become a dumping ground.

The regular agenda went fairly quickly as the council approved 20 items, including the awarding of two bids to Rooters Asphalt for paving improvements for Chestnut Street (\$179,200) and Columbia Street (\$134,200). A third bid for Jackson Street was rejected, with City Administrator Vazquez saying that there were four bidders, but two were over budget, one didn't have the materials or equipment for the project and the lowest bidder submitted their bid incorrectly.

In other streets business, the council approved an engineering agreement with Milano and Grunloh Engineering for sidewalk installation, part of the Safe Routes to Schools project, for \$34,797 for design engineering and \$26,098 for construction engineering; approved the final pay request from Kamadulski Excavating for \$255,839.91 for the Sargent Street project; and approved emergency repairs on the street department's dump truck from Rush Truck Center for a cost of \$13,379.40.

The council also authorized a lease agreement for Eagle Ridge lots 23 and 24, with Alderman Jake Fleming abstaining from the vote; approved an ordinance amendment to allow tattoo parlors as a special use within the C-2 district, approved a

development for a project in TIF district one with Shil Patel and SSP Entertainment LLC for the property at #4 1406 West Ferdon Street and approved the purchase of a Hach effluent all weather auto-sampler for the wastewater treatment facility from USA Bluebook at a cost not to exceed \$10,676.03.

In lake department business, the council approved an ordinance declaring a 2005 Suncatcher as surplus, a bid for a lake patrol boat to Hank's Sales and Service for an amount not to exceed \$68,298.68 (with \$36,000 coming from ARPA funds) and an amendment to the Beach House Manager's salary to \$17.50 due to a scrivener's error.

In police department business, the council rejected bids for the purchase of nine mobile data computers and waived bids for the purchase of nine Panasonic Toughbook FZ-55 laptops from CDS Office Technologies for an amount not to exceed \$34,000, with funding from the Kilton Fund. The council also approved motions to reject the bid for police department vehicles, to declare four police department vehicles as surplus for trade-in and to waive bids for the purchase of two Dodge pursuit sedans and one Dodge Durango pursuit SUV from Victory Lane for an amount not to exceed \$113,000, with Kilton funds covering \$26,000 of the purchase. To wrap up the police business, the council rejected all bids for upfitting the three police vehicles and approved the waiving of normal and customary bidding procedures for the upfitting.

The final motion approved before the council went into closed session was for repairs to the security and fire alarm systems at the water treatment plant, due to damage caused by a lightning strike. Johnson Controls will be doing the repairs at a cost of \$39,670. Alderwoman Sara Zumwalt abstained from the vote.

The council's next meeting will be June 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Corwin Hall.

Public Meetings

County Board Meeting

The Montgomery County Board will meet on Tuesday, June 11, at 5:30 p.m., at the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

In addition to committee items, the board will reappoint Tonya Flannery to the Montgomery County Housing Authority Board.

Hillsboro School Board

Members of the Hillsboro School Board will meet for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, June 11, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Unit Office, located at 1311 Vandalia Road in Hillsboro. On the agenda, board members will discuss the fiscal year 2024 amended budget, change orders to the HHS building project, policy revisions, discussion of search for new superintendent, commercial insurance renewal, student handbook changes and a cheer team overnight trip.

Prior to the regular board meeting, the Building and Grounds Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 11, at 2 p.m. at the Unit Office. On the agenda will be general updates to the HHS building project and change order consideration, discussion of phase II energy transition grant application and general construction and maintenance project discussion.

Nokomis City Council

Members of the Nokomis City Council will meet tonight, Monday, June 10, at 7 p.m. at Nokomis City Hall, located at 22 S. Cedar

St. in Nokomis.

On the agenda, board members will discuss the creation of a TIF district with Moran Development, a proposed agreement with Montgomery County Animal Control, water operations contract with Benton and Associates, budget preparation, brush pick-up policy and sidewalk policy.

708 Board

The Montgomery County Mental Health 708 Board will hold their next meeting on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Montgomery County new courthouse in the PBC Room. On the agenda will be setting dates for NIU.

Mental Health Board Subcommittee

The next Mental Health Board Subcommittee Community Wellness Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, June 12, at 10 a.m. This meeting will be held at Beacon Church, located at 622 N. Franklin in Litchfield.

Agenda items include an update from Jon Magnuson on NEXT Network offers and the Legislative Summit.

Hillsboro Planning Commission

The Hillsboro Planning Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, at 12:30 p.m. at City Hall in downtown Hillsboro.

Agenda items include city services, such as yard waste and tree limb pick-up and annexation of properties.

Correction

The Hillsboro City Council story in the Thursday, June 6, issue of *The Journal-News* reads, "if passed, that would have meant a property tax increase for residents of the city." This section should have actually read, "if passed, that would have meant a sales tax increase for residents of the city."

Hobson Earns Degree From Iowa State

Benjamin Hobson of Farmersville recently graduated from Iowa State University during graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies held May 9 through May 11.

Hobson graduated with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. He graduated *summa cum laude* and was a member of the honors program.

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Witt Veteran's Memorial Committee Gets Donation

Witt Area Historical Board President Dan Huber presented a \$1000 donation to Donna Yeske of the Witt Veteran's Memorial Committee at the museum's regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20. When accepting the check, Yeske reported on the current fundraising totals for the memorial project and detailed the upcoming construction plans.

MNRC, Meals On Wheels Offer Lunch And Bingo

Montgomery Nursing and Rehab and Meals on Wheels of Hillsboro will be sponsoring lunch and bingo on Thursday, June 20, for seniors that are 60 or older at the Hillsboro Senior Cen-

ter. Lunch will be served at 11:30 and bingo will follow. Reservations are required by Tuesday, June 18, by calling 217-532-3662.

The suggested donation for the lunch is \$4.25



Dozens of unique items, like this one-of-a-kind T-shirt quilt made from the shirts from the MCAA's annual celebration, will be at this year's auction at the 20th Birthday Bash on June 22.

Auction Items Still Needed For MCAA Birthday Bash

Looking for something unique for that special someone? Look no further than the auction at the Montgomery County Cancer Association's 20th Birthday Bash on Saturday, June 22, at the Event Center in Taylor Springs.

One-of-a-kind items, sports tickets and more will be featured at the annual auction, including a T-shirt

quilt made of the shirts from past MCAA celebrations.

Or if you're not looking to add to your bounty, donations are still being accepted for this year's auction.

To donate items, gift certificates or to make a cash donation, call Brenda at 217-725-9156, Linda at 217-259-5914 or Libby at 618-699-9971.

Two Local Veterans Receive Patriotic Quilts Of Valor

"This quilt brings you a three-part message from our hearts: honor, freedom and comfort," Quilts of Valor organization.

Two local veterans received these special quilts from members of the Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild.

Jerry Wayne Swick of Hillsboro received his quilt surrounded by members of his family on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27. Swick served as an SP4 in the United States Army from Aug. 2, 1967 through Aug. 1, 1969 during the Vietnam conflict era.

James Brinkman of Hillsboro received his quilt with his family following the church service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro on Sunday, June 9. He served as an E-4 in the United States Army from January 1963 through January 1965.

The Quilts of Valor program was founded by Catherine Roberts in 2003, and more than 250,000 have been presented since that time. Roberts describes the presentation of a Quilt of Valor as the civilian version of the Purple Heart.

The quilts have three layers held together by stitches. The bright colors of the top layer represent the many individuals and communities the stitchers come from. The middle layer is the batting, as well as comfort and peace. The backing represents the strength to support all the layers, much like the support veterans receive from family, friends, their communities and their nation.

Quilts of Valor is an ongoing mission of the Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild. They have previously presented quilts to Kenny Williams, Robert Fuehne, Chris Gutierrez and Nick Bourdounis, all of Hillsboro and Greta Akers of Witt.



Members of the Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild presented a Quilt of Valor to Army veteran Jerry Swick on May 27. He is pictured above with his family. From the left are Cale Wilson, wife Kathy Swick, Colby Wilson, daughter Mandy Wilson, Conner Wilson, veteran Jerry Swick, son Erron Swick, Silas Swick, Matthew Swick and Ellie Swick.



Members of the Sew and Show Stitchers Quilt Guild presented a Quilt of Valor to Army veteran Jim Brinkman on Sunday, June 9, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro. He is pictured above with his family. From the left are Andrew Brinkman, Savannah Brinkman, Linda Brinkman, Mark Brinkman, Jim Brinkman, Neil Brinkman, Helen Brinkman, Karla Brinkman and Chloe Brinkman.

Old Settlers Volunteers Seek Quilt Show Entries

The 2024 Old Settlers Quilt Show will be held on Thursday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Hillsboro.

The organizers are looking for favorite old or new

quilts. To reserve a spot in the quilt show, contact Becky Gonzalez at 217-622-0682 or Maribeth Rahe at 217-494-7439 by July 10.

They are looking forward to seeing and displaying treasured quilts from the community.

Marriage Licenses

Garret Anthony Young, Olney; Madison Hope Jones, Hillsboro
Christopher Allen Williamson, Nokomis; Qing Wang, Nokomis
Joseph Allen Lane, Litchfield, Jade Eryn Hardt, Litchfield
Geoffrey Ross Hern, Litchfield; Tammy Kay Rogers, Hillsboro
Devin Michael Boden, Litchfield; Deanna Grace Jackson, Butler
Sean Mark Jackson, Auburn; Jodi Michelle Fugate, Auburn
Woodrow Allen Cooper Jr., Pocahontas, AR; Marjorie Irene Caulk, Pocahontas, AR



Local Church Members March For Life In April

On April 17, about 2,000 people, mostly teenagers and young adults, marched the streets of Springfield around the Illinois statehouse, participating in the Illinois March for Life to be a voice for the voiceless- the unborn. Before the march, more than 1,500 Catholics attended a Life Mass at the Sangamon Auditorium.

Some of these marchers include those pictured above. From the left is Pat Lentz, Aleaha Odle, Ella Odle, Larry Meyers and Patty Meyers. Not pictured is Cindy Huber.

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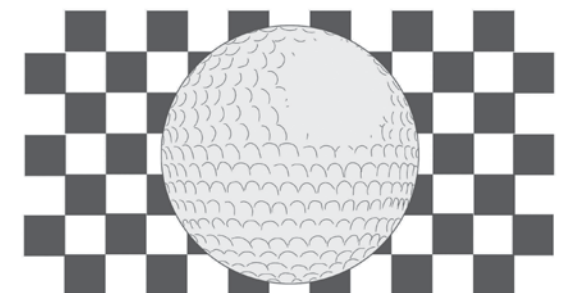
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2ND ANNUAL CROSS OVER MINISTRIES GOLF TOURNAMENT



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Hank's Sales And Service Celebrates Sixty Years

For years, the local community has trusted Hank's Sales and Service to handle all of their boat needs. For owner Hank Schlessner and company, 2024 marks sixty years of phenomenal service to the Raymond community. The milestone was celebrated with an open house event on Saturday, May 18, when friends, family and customers celebrated the impressive achievement.

Pictured above, former employee Dave Brown catches up with Schlessner, celebrating the remarkable achievement.

Raymond News Photo



Great Rivers And Routes Hosts Tourism Summit

Cory Jobe, CEO of Great Rivers and Routes, along with several members of his staff, hosted a Let's Talk Tourism summit on Thursday, May 23, at The Abbey on Broad in Hillsboro. Officials from Hillsboro, Litchfield and Nokomis, including all three mayors, as well as representatives of Montgomery County, business owners and volunteers attended to learn more about drawing tourism to this area. The 90-minute meeting focused on what tourism is, local tourism attractions and how to grow tourism efforts in this area. The meeting was the first of several tourism summits hosted in their six-county coverage area this spring and summer.

Journal-News Photo



Spring Bird Count Records Long List At Bremer Sanctuary

This yellow-breasted chat was among dozens of bird species recorded on May 4 during the Spring Bird Count hosted by the Illinois Natural History Survey and conducted at Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro.

"Unfortunately there was tree trimming in the area, which may have altered our data," said Nancy Redman, education chairperson for the Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society.

One or more of the following birds were counted that day at the wildlife sanctuary: Canada goose, wild turkey, mourning dove, common nighthawk, ruby-throated hummingbird, American bittern, great blue heron, turkey vulture, cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, barred owl, red-headed woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, northern flicker, eastern wood-pewee, acadian flycatcher, least flycatcher, eastern phoebe.

Also, great crested flycatcher, eastern kingbird, white-eyed vireo, yellow-

throated vireo, warbling vireo, red-eyed vireo, blue jay, American crow, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, tree swallow, purple martin, northern rough-winged swallow, barn swallow, white-breasted nuthatch, blue-gray gnatcatcher, house wren, marsh wren, Carolina wren, European starling, gray catbird, brown thrasher, northern mockingbird, eastern bluebird, gray-cheeked thrush, Swainson's thrush, hermit thrush, wood thrush.

Also, American robin, house sparrow, house finch, American goldfinch, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, white-throated sparrow, savannah sparrow, song sparrow, eastern towhee, yellow-breasted chat, eastern meadowlark, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, red-winged blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, common grackle, Tennessee warbler, Nashville warbler, Kentucky warbler, common yellowthroat, northern parula, yellow warbler, summer tanager, northern cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo bunting.

Boat Regatta

Continued from page 1A

"Hillsboro Health was an excellent partner last year, not only helping with the costs of the event, as we have to carry event insurance for it, but they also made some boats to participate. We're glad they are on board again with us this year," said Wygal.

The race will start and finish at an area between 4th of July Point and what was formerly Hillsboro Beach. Participants must be at least 13 years of age.

The regatta is open to all entries from businesses, schools, youth groups, families, groups of friends and non-profit organizations desiring to build an unsinkable cardboard craft.

The spectators can view the boats from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the 4th of July Pavilion. At 11 a.m., entrants will join the parade of boats down to the launching area where some

will most surely meet their demise.

Immediately following the races there will be an awards ceremony with prizes given for the Best Time (overall winner), Most Creative and the popular Titanic Award (most spectacular sinking).

The cost to enter is \$20 by July 10, and will increase to \$25 the day of the event. Pre-registration is recommended and participants can sign up online at imaginehillsboro.com, which is a new addition this year. If you would still like to print and mail your registration, that can be found on the event's Facebook page, imaginehillsboro.com, or by emailing at the address below.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Parks and Recreation Committee of Imagine Hillsboro.

For more information on the regatta, contact Zach Wygal via email at zachwygal@gmail.com.

County Radio Club To Hold Field Day In June

The Montgomery County Amateur Radio Emergency Corporation (AREC) will have their regular meeting on Wednesday, June 12, at the Challacombe House, located at 509 School St. in Hillsboro. The club will be making final plans for their Field Day on Saturday, June 22.

ARRL Field Day will be held at the Challacombe House. It is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. The public is invited to stop by and meet local amateur radio operators and see what amateur radio is all about.

The 13 Colonies special event will take place from Monday, July 1 through Sunday, July 7. The event will operate from 8 a.m. on July 1 until 11 p.m. on July 8. Thirteen special call signs will be on the air, each one representing one of the original 13 British colonies that were established in 1607. Three additional bonus call signs will be on the air

representing Great Britain, France and Philadelphia. All HF bands can be used, including the WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on two meters and six meters is encouraged.

All modes of operation may be used, including SSB, CW, RTTY and digital. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state station. More information about logs, call signs and QSL certifications can be found at <http://13colonies.us/>.

The club would also like to announce that the West Central Illinois Hamfest will be held at the fairgrounds in Carlinville on Sunday, Aug. 3. More information can be found at wcilhamfest.com.

The club will not be having monthly meetings in July or August. The regular schedule will resume on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Challacombe House. The Montgomery County AREC meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to attend. More information can be obtained by contacting Judy Reynolds at 217-259-5650.

Hillsboro Health To Host June Blood Drive

Hillsboro Health (formerly Hillsboro Area Hospital) will be hosting a community blood drive on Tuesday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the hospital located at 1210 E. Tremont St., inside the gym.

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

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

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh

more than 110 pounds. A photo ID is required to donate.

For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401. Donors who last gave on or before April 16 are eligible to give at this drive.

ImpactLife is the exclusive provider of blood and blood components to Hillsboro Health and SHHS St. Francis Hospital.

All donors will receive an ImpactLife incentive voucher for their choice of either an eGift Card (\$20 for whole blood, \$25 for double reds) or use the bonus points in the online rewards store or direct a donation to Best Friends Animal Society.



Young Readers Finish Fire Safety Challenge

Young readers, Ella Nicol, at left, and Westyn Elliott, recently completed the Smokey the Bear Challenge. They received special certificates on Tuesday, June 3, at Doyle Public Library in Raymond. To complete the challenge, each child must read three books and earn four fire safety badges. The prizes include a stamp, a sticker and a fire safety certificate in celebration of Smokey the Bear's 80th birthday.

Mt. Olive Classmates Plan Fifty-Year Reunion This Fall

The Mt. Olive Community High School class of 1974 is planning a fifty year class reunion. The event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14. The venue will be at Tilley's Tavern in Mt. Olive starting at 5 p.m. with a social hour followed by a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Live music by City Heat will begin at 7 p.m. A cash bar will be available.

The cost to attend is \$50 per person to cover the food and live music. Payment in advance is requested by Aug. 1, and can be made via PayPal to hemanns81@gmail.com or by check made payable to Ray Hemann and sent to 15575 Debridge Way, Florissant, MO. 63034.

Additionally, the class needs current contact infor-

mation for all classmates so please provide a current mailing and email addresses as well as a preferred telephone number.

Information should be sent to Ray Hemann via email to hemanns81@gmail.com or via text to 314-450-6277. This will help to assure that the class can provide updates on any additional details regarding the reunion as it draws closer. Please advise if one has special dietary needs.

If one cannot attend, but would like to send a greeting to the fellow classmates, just send a message to Hermann.

The class hopes to make this a meaningful and memorable event, and is eager to see all members at the event.



Pictured above are attendees of the cicada learning event and University of Illinois Extension educator, Andrew Holsinger.

Bremer Sanctuary Hosts Cicada Learning Event

Bremer Sanctuary held a cicada program this May. There were 25 attendees who listened as Andrew Holsinger, a horticulture educator for the University of Illinois extension office, gave a program regarding what is happening across

the country.

Brood XIII and brood XIX cicadas have been emerging across central Illinois. Holsinger's program was able to educate people on the cicadas life cycles, habitat, stages of life and breeding components.

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RAMBLINGS • by Ron Deabenderfer

Walking To The Hill Brings Back Memories



I enjoyed a meaningful, but melancholy-filled, round-trip walk Thursday evening, May 30, when I meandered over to the high school campus to join former and current faculty members in saying goodbye to the old brick building that served as my primary work place from the fall of 1968 to the spring of 2007.

I had decided to not attend the event when I first heard about it. For me, I've always treasured old, even before I personally joined that category. My grandmother lived to be 107, sharp of mind but devoid of sight and hearing for her last decade or so. Though she was always without a formal education, she seemed to be a fountain of common sense. When I was small but first conscious of my surroundings, she was my guiding light (and my best friend). My father was stern; my mother subservient; my sister, two years younger than I, more of a rival than an ally; my younger brother was yet to arrive on earth. Please understand, I am not disrespecting any of my family members. They were typical of families in rural America in the late 1940s, early 1950s.

In many ways that family structure served the era and my early years well; I sometimes think the discipline families like mine provided then was more effective than the lack of discipline and respect that our current culture features. My sister, brother and I survived parental discipline to thrive, at least when one considers the poverty by which our home environment was hobbled.

Our culture has changed drastically from the days when Judy and I came to Montgomery County; I remember with nostalgic fondness the days when KMOX's Jim White would pronounce "It's 10 p.m." and then ask, "Do you know where your children are?" Judy and I felt like failures if we couldn't answer "yes" but daughters Dawn and Jenni resented our desire to know of their comings and goings, especially when they were in high school. Two generations after they graduated from HHS, it's even worse—it seems to my old school mind that parents today sometimes encourage bad behavior rather than preventing it.

Perhaps because of the post-depression poverty I knew but didn't acknowledge as I grew, I can see patterns that have remained a constant. I still have the "Waste not, want not" philosophy that in turn leads

to repair-if possible-rather-than-discard lifestyle. I tend to drive vehicles well past their prime; I've only bought a new vehicle three times in my life.—an '83 Ford Escort station wagon when I drove to Springfield to attend graduate school at then Sangamon State; 2002 Ford 150 standard transmission pick-up; and the 2007 Ford Thunderbird, which was a replica of an older model T-bird.

I bought the Thunderbird after it sat on the lot of Wright Ford for over a year, so it was new only in terms of mileage. I bought it so grandkids Kaylyn and then Kyle would have something sharper to drive while in high school (I knew they could have walked, and in retrospect, perhaps should have). On the few occasions I was allowed to drive to Marion Center Joint High School (1961 graduate), my vehicle was our farm truck, replete with cattle racks and cow dung in the straw in the bed. Had I known then about self-image, I would have been upset, but not enough to have cleaned it up.

I tend to wear older clothes when I do yard work. As I've written often, I resented always those administrator who protested my unwillingness to wear ties to teach. One said, only once, that I didn't look "professional." I told him if he had any sense, he'd judge me by performance, not appearance; and I also told him he obviously didn't know enough about grammar, writing, or literature to judge me. Ties wouldn't recycle well; my clothes, as they did when I went high school, devolved from school-suitable to barn clothes to the rag bag. Now they go from clothes fit for social gatherings to clothes to wear while working on chores inside and out. When I interrupt the chores to venture uptown, most often to *The Journal-News* office, I'm at times mistaken for a homeless person. I consider that a problem for the beholder, not me.

I live in an older house; several craftsmen from around town and my now-deceased father-in-law spent many, I hope happy, hours rehabbing it. After Judy died and the girls had homes of their own, I've stopped that. I think it'll stand as long as I do, and then it'll be someone else's problems.

I don't walk as much as I did 20 years ago; but Friday around 5 p.m., I decided I'd walk over to the campus. I seldom walked while I taught there because of time constraints. I was always busy. One memorable morning when I did walk, I fell crossing Rountree. A young Dick Elam had

stopped (because of the stop sign, not to let me cross) and burst into laughter as the trip-gremlin struck. At least he waited until I arose before cackling. Because he was a former student, he enjoyed my plight. I'm sure it would have been funny to any onlooker. Every time I see him uptown, we share a chuckle about the incident.

I walked this time because it was a beautiful evening and I wanted time to think about the past rather than where I might park. One reason that I had changed my mind about attending was a reminder I found stuffed in my mailbox; I discovered that evening that it was courtesy of Greg Matthews, a long-time friend, history teacher, and j.v. basketball coach when I became freshman coach. His daughter, Rachel, hatched the idea for the picture sessions, his wife Kim and Judy were good friends, and he and I shared rides to Sangamon for a while.

The event wasn't as maudlin as I feared. I didn't talk to everyone (I didn't know everyone) because so many appeared, but I talked to many before and after the picture was taken. I enjoy reminiscing and I seldom have the chance to talk to even those who live locally—my fault, not theirs. The photographers were professional, not at all pushy, and I like that.

I took the other route (over the bridge to the junior high and then right to Tremont) on the way home; it's an easier walk, as anyone who has walked up East Tremont can attest. When I arrived, my grandson Kyle was mowing our yards (that job is part of his rental agreement with me; he and Cassie live next door—one of Dawn's sneaky ways to keep eyes (and a security camera of sorts) on me without obtrusiveness.

I'd worried about the height of the grass because rain was forecast for Saturday, so it was a fitting end to the thoughts I'd had all evening.

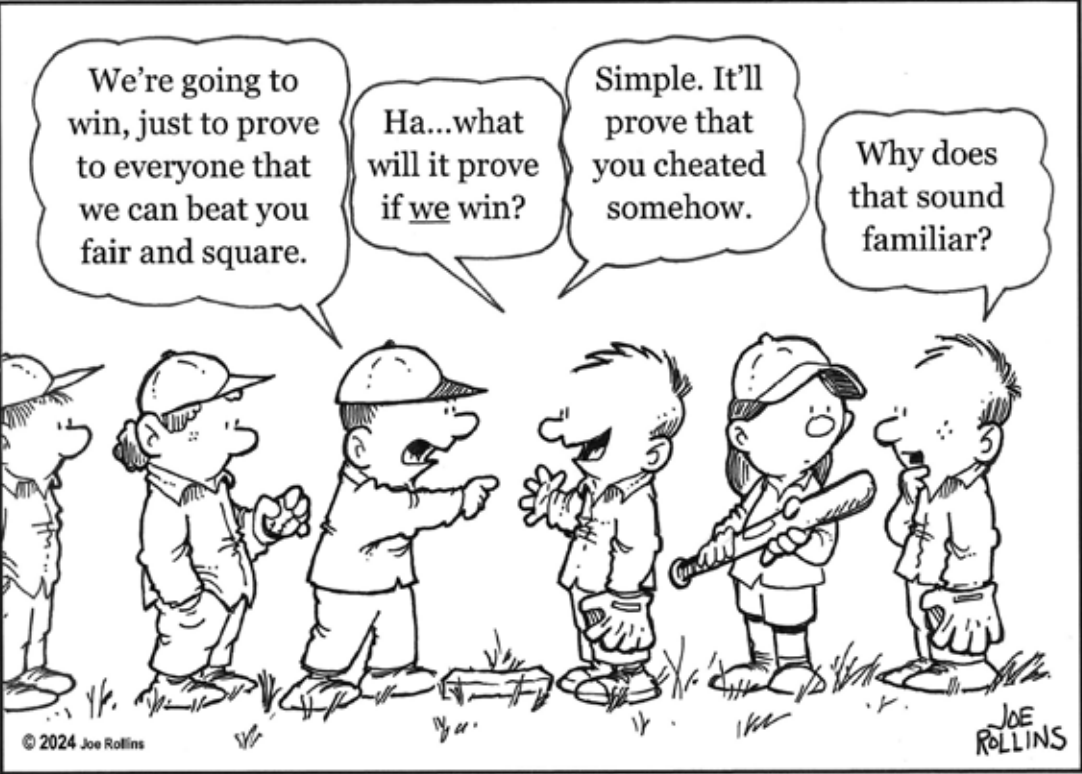
I realized I hadn't said goodbye to the building in which I met untold numbers of students during 39 years of employment. I had become reacquainted with many teachers who had shaped my career as we struggled against ignorance together over those years, and I saw some who, believe it or not, will be there when my great-granddaughter Emma storms the place in ten years.

The building won't be the same but the site will be. So will the type of people who made it a special part of my life.

I needed that reassurance; I'm glad I walked over.

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



A FEW GOOD WORDS • by Isaiah Atkins

'Hitman' Kicks Off The Summer Of Powell



There's been some fun films released recently to theaters. I've caught a few, beginning with "The Fall Guy" back in May. Ryan Gosling has rapidly ascended into a new tier of stardom, and his character in "The Fall Guy" gives him the freedom to flex his comedic chops once again. It's a great watch and would make a great double feature with last year's "Barbie." "Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes" was also good, setting the stage for a new trilogy of apes movies that I look forward to. I haven't yet watched "Furiosa," the prequel to 2014's "Mad Max: Fury Road" in theaters now, but I hope to soon.

But it feels that this isn't going to be the summer of the apes or Ryan Gosling. Maybe it'll be the summer of Garfield. My best bet for this year's summer blockbuster is not one movie, but a pair, united by their leading man. "Hitman," which released Friday on Netflix, and "Twisters," in theaters July 19, both starring Glen Powell.

I never thought I would be writing about Glen Powell. I, like the rest of the world, was first introduced to him on the silver screen in 2021. Powell was a supporting character in "Top Gun: Maverick," the biggest movie of the year. But Powell was the fourth or fifth most important character in the film, the new generation's Iceman was limited to being a mild annoyance to Tom Cruise's Maverick, and Miles Teller, starring as Rooster, seemed to garner the most fame from the film. He seemed destined to star in a flurry of different films and ascend the pantheon of current Hollywood stars. Instead, Teller's been relatively quiet, leaving plenty of room for the other *other* guy flying the plane to take off.

I had no idea who Glen Powell was when "Top Gun: Maverick" came out; I imagine there's plenty readers who don't know who he is

now. I first saw Glen Powell in a film when eight year old me watched "Spy Kids 3." Powell, age 15, is a small role in the film.

I also, like so many people, would have watched him play a heroic unnamed bank clerk in 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises." Yes, that's Glen Powell.

Ironically enough, seeing Powell played these characters in movies I had seen before is a lot like the promotional poster for 2024's "Hitman": different characters all in a row, except they are all Powell in different costumes. He's been right there this whole time.

Powell has been working for his big break for years now, auditioning for leading roles like Captain America back in 2010 and Han Solo in 2015. Even his big break as Hangman came after missing out on Teller's role of Rooster in "Top Gun: Maverick," and that film wasn't released until 2021 after being expected to be in theaters in 2019. Two years isn't forever, but when you've been waiting for a big role for years, I'm sure it felt like it to Powell.

I most recently watched him in 2023's "Anybody But You," a romance-comedy he stars in alongside Sydney Sweeney. A fun movie that made some money at the box office, I wrote it was the 'return of the 6 out of 10 rom-com,' a genre of low stakes movies that people love to see, but unfortunately aren't made all too often in 2024. Powell is key to the film's success, showcasing charisma and chemistry with his co-star while flashing his comedic timing and leading man charm.

His career may have taken off more recently, but he's been in the industry for years now, waiting for his chance. Powell, an Austin, TX, native, first had a chance to play a significant part in 2016, when Texan filmmaker Richard Linklater cast him in his teen comedy film "Ev-

erybody Wants Some!!" the spiritual sequel to Linklater's 1993 cult classic "Dazed and Confused." While the 2016 film didn't take off to a big box office, it began his relationship with the praised director.

After working together on a few other projects, Linklater and Powell co-wrote the "Hitman" script, adapting the famous journalist Skip Holandsworth reporting of a community college professor who doubled as pretending to be a hitman, and working with local authorities to catch those seeking his services.

The film should serve as Powell's leap to superstardom. The talent and range glimpsed in "Maverick" and showcased in "Anybody But You" is on full display across the film. Powell plays a range of characters in a short time frame in "Hitman" with believability and conviction, shapeshifting from one persona to the next. The film itself blends genres, starting lighthearted before turning into a true thriller. Powell plays each tone perfectly, while portraying a character that is deeply examining what it means to be you, and how much a person can change that.

It's a shame the movie is released directly to Netflix, as I think it's just about the ideal movie to watch with other people. Funny, thrilling and engaging. Linklater deserves his credit for directing, but Powell is the engine, a newly minted movie star.

I don't know if there will ever be a new generation of movie stars. Movies don't hold the same weight in pop culture that they did a decade ago. Reels, Tik-Tok, Youtube and streaming have all weakened the magic of cinema and the people on screen, it seems.

But for the people at the movies, and the people who still enjoy good and fun films, it feels as if Powell is inevitably going to be a household name. If you see his name on the marquee, I'd advise to step inside.



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HJHS Student Council Gets Treats

The Hillsboro Junior High student council visited the Sweet Spot and the Waffle Cone for an end of the year treat to thank them for all of the hard work they put in throughout the year. Pictured above, in front, from the left, are sponsors, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Furness. In the second row, from the left, are Layla Spinner, Tucker Payne, Matthew Hemken, Rylee Rogers, Sofia Watkins, Claire Trader, Kate Cunningham, Ali Morford and CJ Thorton. In the third row, from the left, are Audrey Billington, Brielle Harbert, Aubree Rogers, Piper Walk, Kalin Cress, Baley Chappellear, Nataleigh Jackson, Katie Beckett, Harper Helton, Avery Maddaleno, Marissa Shipman and Casen Wilkinson.



Montgomery County 4-H Shows



Monday, June 17 - Tuesday, July 25

2024 Show Schedule

Monday, June 17

Extension Office
3:30 pm Cat Show
Butler 4-H Park
6 pm Dog Show

Friday, June 21

Butler 4-H Park
12 pm Sheep Show
Immediately following Goat Show

Saturday, June 22

Extension Office
9 am 4-H General Show

Tuesday, June 18

Butler 4-H Park
8:30 am 4-H Poultry Show
Immediately following .. 4-H Rabbit Show
12 pm Dairy & Beef Shows

Tuesday, July 25

Extension Office
4 pm 4-H Food & Clothing Show



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Hiltopper Faculty Gather For Commemorative Photo This Spring

Current and former faculty of Hillsboro High School gathered for a commemorative photo in front of the school building on Thursday evening, May 30. Faculty members who taught from the 1960s to present enjoyed a chance to catch up and reminisce. Superintendent David Powell invited them on a tour of the new high school construction project the following morning. Following a group photo, photos of faculty who worked in each decade were taken by Amber Connor Photography. The event was organized by Hiltopper alumnus Rachel (Matthews) Olson. Pictured above, in front, from the left, are Frank Kenny (school resource officer 2024 to present), Kelly Kenny (secretary 2012 to present), Brittney Edwards (social studies teacher 2002 to present), Dan Drake (band teacher 2020 to present), Angela Kaculi (business teacher 2023 to present), Jen Weiss (counseling secretary 2024 to present), Beth Gonzalez (English teacher 2017 to present), Kristy Andrews (English/Spanish teacher 2007 to present), Amanda Cunningham (school psychologist 2011 to present), Beth Barberra (chemistry/science teacher 2006 to 2009), Jen Anderson (school counselor 2010 to 2018) and Amber Connor (current science teacher).

In the second row are Patricia Brink (English teacher 1976 to 2003), Greg Matthews (teacher/coach 1977 to 2010), Roger Reeves (math/science teacher 1974 to 2014), Mark Mathews (teacher/coach 1974 to 2010), Ron Deabenderfer (English teacher/coach 1968 to 2007), David Ball (teacher/coach 1968 to 1988), Geneva Blankenship (English teacher 1972 to 1996), Sandra Allen Moody (teacher 1967 to 1994), Terry Page (industrial arts teacher 1969 to 1994), Ralph Ward (teacher/coach started in 1972), Harland Schiebal (coach/teacher, 1974-1975 and 1986 to 1987) and Larry Ackerman (principal 1980 to 2002).

In back are Diane Singler (art teacher 1980 to 2011), Jason Burke (English teacher 2006 to present), Paula Schwartzkopf (special education teacher 2017 to present), Kathy Baker (special education teacher 2001 to present), Andrea Kumlin (art teacher 2011 to present), Amy Lemons (choir/music teacher 2011 to present), Autumn Graves (teacher's assistant 2022 to present), David Powell (teacher, current superintendent 1994 to present), Gina Currie (teacher's assistant 2019 to present), Bret Tuetken (teacher/coach 1995 to 2024), Thersa Coleman (English, FACS teacher, retired in 2021), Patsy Beasley (librarian 2003 to 2021), Aaron Duff (teacher/coach 2007 to present), Julie Pachesa (English teacher 2004 to 2021), Larry Hindle (math/science teacher 1979 to 2009), Laura Rench (business teacher 1992 to present), Gary Zerrusen (principal 2003 to 2007), Kelly Powell (teacher 1994 to present), Pat Powers (teacher/coach 1997 to 2009), Betsy Homa (secretary 2007 to 2024), Mark DalPozzo (director of band 1986 to 2010), Dee Shankland (PE teacher 1992 to 2021), Pat Brumleve (teacher 1972 to 1975), Lisa Lomprez (special education teacher 1994 to 2023), Nathan Howard (science teacher 2003 to 2019), Jenny Baker (business teacher 1973 to 2007), Sandy Martincic (internal suspension 2016 to present), Mark Garmon (science teacher 1999 to present), Linda McCoy (teacher 1980 to 2014), Ken Schaal (biology teacher 1970 to 2003), Barb Hewitt (English teacher 1971 to 2003), Lynn Washburn (secretary 1977 to 2007), Mary Ann Howard (teacher 1986 to 2004), Chris Harms (chemistry teacher 2023 to present), Kim Matthews (school nurse 2000 to 2018), Andy Stritzel (assistant principal 1999 to present), Marci Gutierrez (teacher 2021 to present), Leslie Boston (math teacher 1987 to 2021) and John Snopko (ag teacher/FFA advisor 1978 to 1988).

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann

DCEO Grant Funding

Continued from page 1A

“Every Illinois family should be able to rely on our water and sewer systems without a second thought,” said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. “These grants will bring vital upgrades to communities across our state, especially areas without reliable access to basic infrastructure. By investing in modern utilities, we are fostering equity and enhancing quality of life for all Illinois residents.”

“The CDBG Grant Program plays an essential role

in ensuring families across Illinois have access to high-quality sewer and water infrastructure that improves their quality of life,” said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. “This funding will support the critical repairs provided through the CDBG grant program and have a long-lasting impact on our communities that need it most.”

Public infrastructure grants are designed to provide communities with funding to improve public infrastructure and public health and quality of life. These projects include construction of storm sewer

pipes, waterline replacements and water storage tank construction and other critical projects that help mitigate flooding and support sewage management, water delivery and other public water necessities.

Local governments are receiving grants of up to \$1.5 million with an average grant size of \$1.2 million. Preference was given to projects located in underserved areas, opportunity zones and those which proposed a non-state matching component to drive the maximum investment to the area.

MCCA Chairman

Continued from page 1A

“My appendix fell out from being tucked up in all my intestines, and it was covered in cancer.”

The Da Vinci system was then not suitable, so the doctors pivoted to complete surgery. "They told my husband in the waiting room that they found more than anticipated," she says, "and then they opened me up completely."

Nine hours later, the doctors had performed a complete hysterectomy and removed Marley's appendix, half of her large intestines and ten inches from her small intestines. "They removed all of the cancer, but two of the 14 lymph nodes still tested positive," Marley says. "So they told me I'm on a lifetime chemo treatment."

Immediately following the surgery, the doctor advised that the Marleys do anything that 'they really want to do now, because once chemo starts you don't know what it's going to do.' So the couple took trips down to St. Augustine, FL, Chattanooga, TN, as well as Georgia to visit Marley's sister for Easter. "That was a great time," she recalls. "It was kind of relaxing. I mean, I was thinking about it. You always have that in the back of my mind, like, oh my gosh, what's going to happen?"

The following month, Marley returned for a chemo port to be inserted. A chemo port is a small, implantable device that attaches to a vein to draw blood and give treatments without a needle.

"I started chemo infusions then, with 12 regimens from April to September," she explains. "I'd go to the clinic and receive all these different infusions and after that, I'd receive a fanny pack, which was a 48-hour continuous chemo treatment."

She'd return to the hospital at the end of each 48 hours to have the pack removed and then return in the next week or two to undergo the same process.

Her husband learned to remove and flush the port, removing it on Thursdays after the treatment given on Tuesdays. "He was my rock when it all first started," Marley says.

She was told not to lie down and take naps, so the couple worked hard together to stay busy. "I'd wash dishes, and she'd dry dishes," Paul explains. "I'd have her fold the clothes, and when we

had nothing to do, I'd just say we're going to take a ride."

Marley's white blood cell count, critical for fighting infections, then suddenly dropped in September, and she was prescribed to begin receiving neupogen shots, administered at home three times a week by her husband.

In October, Marley was finished with chemo infusions and was put on capecitabine, a chemo pill, commonly known as Xilota. "I was to take three in the morning and three at night for 14 days straight, and then take seven days off," she explains. "On the off week, I would go on Wednesdays to get blood work done and visit the doctor, and then we would start the pills again."

Despite the busy schedule of appointments, treatments and medications, Marley did her best to keep her head up. "I tell everyone, it's like, what can I do about it?" Marley says. "I just give it to God. I'll take my meds and stay active and stay positive."

A couple of years after Marley's diagnosis, Shelley Halleman of the MCCA reached out. "We kept telling them, it's okay, we have insurance, we're fine" Marley explains. "I was thinking this was for people without good insurance and soon. But they just help whoever."

After a few years of asking, the MCCA began to help pay mileage for the Marleys' constant trips to Springfield, a generous act given the amount of miles driven each week.

Marley continues this cycle of pills and appointments to the present day.

In 2018, Dr. Brard, Marley's surgeon, released her from follow-up appointments, and it all appeared to be in the rearview mirror. "There was the worry that there could be one tiny cell that would start the process all over again," Marley says. "I

Her oncologist, Dr. Aziz Khan, agreed, but since she was doing fine, not losing hair or feeling sick, they decided together she would stay on the medication.

The doctors had also been monitoring a spot on Marley's left lung for cancerous activity. "The spot hadn't changed for years but in January of 2022 it grew, and then again in February," she recalls. "So they removed a quarter-sized piece of the top left lobe." It was deduced to be a primary cancer growth, unrelated to any other cancers, and no additional treatments were

necessary.

"I don't know how to explain it, other than I don't feel like I have anything wrong, which is a blessing," Marley says. "I see so many people in the cancer center, and you just feel so sorry for them. It's like, why can't people feel the same way I do?"

In September of 2022, blood counts were low, and doctors reduced Marley to three morning pills and two night pills, and again in March of 2023, down to two and two pills.

"So far so good. Everything's been running smooth," Marley says. "It's like I've got my vitamins in one hand, chemo pills in the other, and I'm on the road, doing whatever I want, going camping and being around all the kids."

As time moved on, Marley found herself drawing closer and closer to the organization, eventually being invited to serve on the board and help with the fundraisers and events. "You don't really know exactly how much they are doing until you're involved with it," she says. "They do so much for cancer patients."

One of the misconceptions about the MCCA in its early years was that it was only for breast cancer patients and survivors, Marley says. "Everything was pink. I had people tell me, oh I wish you guys did things for the other cancers. But we do, it's truly wanting to help with any and all cancers." While on the board, she helped the association pivot its public image, adjusting color schemes and spreading the word that resources were available to all those battling cancer.

"It's a great organization. It really is," she says. "The whole community is pitching in. The Nokomis High School students have raised over \$25,000 for the MCCA over the past few years with their shoot down cancer fundraiser. It's all generations and all ages getting involved and helping out."

Now, Marley is doing well, keeping up on her medications and continuing to live life, excited for the annual party coming up to celebrate the MCCA and the community.

"You just have to stay positive," Marley says. "Live your life. Don't think that this is the end because you don't know what your body is going to do."
"And don't be afraid to ask for help."



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Nokomis, Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Land Eight On All-MSM Team

Fifteen of the 21 players on the 2023-24 MSM Conference all-conference softball team were also on last year's list of honorees, including six of the eight players from Montgomery County teams. The Nokomis Lady Redskins put five players on this year's team, while Lincolnwood-Morrisonville added three more honorees, with both teams putting two players each on the first team. Recent grads Reaghan Jonas (Nokomis) and Taryn Millburg (Lincolnwood), who will be teammates next year at Lincoln Land Community College, both earned first team spots. Jonas, the career

leader in home runs for Nokomis with 20, hit six out of the park her senior year and batted .365 for the season with 23 hits, 30 RBIs and 22 runs scored. She also had six wins on the mound for the Lady Redskins, with 85 strikeouts in 85 and two-thirds innings. Millburg, a solid defensive infielder, also got it done at the plate and on the mound as she was tied for second on the team in hits with 13 runs scored and a team-best 16 RBIs. On the mound, Millburg had a pair of wins, with 30 strikeouts in 37 innings pitched. Millburg was a second team all-conference pick last year, while Jonas earned first team

honors for the second straight year. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville sophomore Taryn Clarke and Nokomis junior Jayde Gonet were also first teamers and repeat selections, with Clarke making the first team for the second year in a row, while Gonet was a second team pick. Clarke batted .403 to lead the Lancers in hitting, with a team-best 31 hits, 11 walks and 20 runs scored. Clarke also had one win on the mound for her team, with 24 strikeouts. Like Clarke, Gonet led her team in hitting with a .444 batting average, with five doubles, four home runs, 11 runs scored and 23 runs

batted in. Gonet also had a win on the mound for Nokomis, with ten strikeouts in 13 innings pitched despite still recuperating from surgery before the season. In addition to the four players from Montgomery County, Tri-City's Kamryn Sturdy, Lily Woodworth and Lexie Patton, plus Pawnee's Ava Rodriguez, were all first team picks the last two years, with Sturdy earning all-conference honors for the fourth year with three first team nods and a second team honor in 2021. Pawnee's Amber Bradbury rounded out the first team, earning all-conference for the first time. On the second team, Lincol-

nwood-Morrisonville's Morgan Cowdrey and Nokomis' Presley Mehochko were all-conference picks for the second year in a row, while Grace DeWerff and Cloey Dirks joined Mehochko from Nokomis on the second team. Cowdrey batted .281 in her junior year with 16 runs scored, 11 RBIs and 18 hits, including seven extra-base hits (three doubles, three triples and a home run). Mehochko batted .284 with 19 hits, including one home run, six RBIs and 21 runs scored, one behind fellow senior Jonas for the team lead.

Continued on 2B



Brenton Lyons



Saint Newman



Izaak Doyen



Ian Keller



Drake Taylor



Levi German



Kannon Jonas

Co-Champion Redskins Put Seven On All-MSM, Lancers Add Five

Three recent graduates from Montgomery County high school baseball teams earned all-conference honors in the MSM Conference this season, with nine others from county teams also earning selections from the coaches of the MSM. Nokomis seniors Brenton Lyons and Saint Newman and Morrisonville senior Lance Weitekamp made this year's first team all-conference honors this season, with junior Jonah Elvidge from Lincolnwood-Morrisonville

and sophomore Izaak Doyen from Nokomis also making the first team squad. Lyons led the Redskins in hitting with a .371 batting average, with 33 hits, nine doubles and a triple. The infielder also had 25 runs scored and 25 RBIs in his senior season after being an honorable mention last year as a junior. Newman made his first appearance on the all-conference team, hitting .346 with 28 hits, four doubles and two triples. The team's leadoff

hitter for much of the season, Newman led the team in runs scored with 34 and had 19 runs batted in on the year. Weitekamp batted over .400 for the second year in a row, batting .430 after batting .427 last year as a junior, when he also earned first team honors. The Danville Community College-bound first baseman had 40 hits, 27 runs scored and 31 RBIs on the year with two homers, nine doubles and a triple. Doyen was second on the team in batting average at

.350 with 36 hits, including three home runs, with 12 runs scored and a team-high 27 RBIs. He also carried a 2.80 ERA on the mound, striking out 22 batters in 25 innings. Elvidge led the team in batting average at .519, with 54 hits, including six doubles and a home run. The junior shortstop and pitcher also had 29 runs scored and 38 RBIs. On the mound, Elvidge had a 2.92 ERA with two wins. The three-time all-conference pick (second team in 2022, first team in 2023) struck out

77 batters in 50 and a third innings, with 25 walks and seven hit batsmen. Three other three-time honorees rounded out the first team in Pawnee's Tyler Surber, Jacob Butler and Carson Wort. Nokomis junior Ian Keller and Lincolnwood-Morrisonville sophomores Mason Tryon and Brodey VanHooser were both second team picks this year. Keller had five of Nokomis' 20 wins on the mound and carried a 3.28 ERA against some of the Redskins' toughest competition. After missing the end of soccer season and

all of basketball season with a broken hand, Keller was back in form in baseball as he struck out 55 batters in 42 and two-thirds innings with 29 walks. At the plate, he was second in runs scored with 29, while also driving in 11 runs. Tryon was a dual threat for the Lancers as he earned second team honors for the second season in a row. The Morrisonville sophomore batted .404 with 38 hits, 34 runs scored and 17 RBIs, while also posting a 1.59 ERA in 22 innings pitched, with 38 strikeouts and 12 walks.

Continued on 2B



Lance Weitekamp



Jonah Elvidge



Mason Tryon



Brodey VanHooser



Brody Lush

Auburn Names Chris, Kate Malveaux Co-Head Coaches

Chris and Kate (Singler) Malveaux have been named Auburn softball co-head coaches, Athletics Director John Cohen announced Wednesday, June 5. Both come to Auburn after serving as assistant coaches at the University of Tennessee, where they helped the Lady Volunteer program to back-to-back Southeastern Conference regular season titles in 2023 and 2024 and

a Women's College World Series appearance last year. Additionally, the two helped Tennessee to 136 wins over the last three seasons, which is tied for the 10th most wins nationally and second most by an SEC team. This past season, Tennessee not only won the SEC regular season title, but posted a 44-12 overall record and made an NCAA Super Regional appearance.

"In meeting with Chris and Kate, it was obvious that their synergy was an indomitable force," Cohen said. "Their contributions to Tennessee's success over the past three seasons are undeniable. We're so excited to welcome Chris, Kate and their family to Auburn." Recognized as one of the top offensive minds in collegiate softball, Chris Malveaux guided six Lady

Vols to All-SEC accolades in 2024, including a third straight All-SEC First Team selection for McKenna Gibson, and helped All-American KiKi Milloy rewrite Tennessee's record book to become the program leader in home runs, runs scored and total bases. Three of Tennessee's top five single-season home run totals came under Malveaux.

Continued on 2B



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Bryant Snags 10K Title At Midstate

Phil Bryant of Litchfield won Sunday's main event at the Twin 10K races on June 1 and 2, at the Midstate Dragway in Havana. From the left are Corey Wood, Dustin Bryant, Phil Bryant, Chris Eichelberger, Randy Weller and Kevin Eichelberger. Bryant was also second in the Quick 16 race at the track on May 25 and won the gamblers race on May 3. The successful run put him on DragChamp's Top 10 list for June 5.



Wood Wins All-Litchfield Final At Havana

With a large number of family and friends in attendance, Litchfield's Corey Wood defeated fellow Litchfield racer Dustin Bryant in the final of the \$2,500 box/no box combo race at the Midstate Dragway Spring Nostalgia Drags on Saturday, May 18, in Havana. Bryant's father, Phil, also made it to three cars before losing to his son, while Litchfield's Roger Burdell made it down to five cars. The final was one of two Bryant made on the weekend as he defeated Jimmie Barrett in the footbrake final. Wood's win came two weeks after he finished second in the Twin 10K race at Midstate.

MSM All-Conference Baseball

Continued from 1B

VanHooser fit a similar mold, with a 2.46 ERA in 48 and a third innings pitched, with 20 hits, 22 runs scored and 12 RBIs at the plate. Like Elvidge and Tryon, VanHooser also averaged well over a strikeout per inning, K'ing 63 batters, while walking 17. Springfield Lutheran senior Tad Andrews was a second team pick for the second straight year, while Landen Patton of Tri-City earned all-conference honors for the fourth time. The Heartland Community College commit battled injuries in his senior season, but added a second team nod to two first team selections and a second team selections to his resume. First-time honorees on the second team were Tri-City senior Chase Webster, Pawnee senior Trenton Hull and Springfield Lutheran

sophomore Matt Hemenway. Ten players were honorable mentions to the all-conference list, half of which came from Montgomery County teams. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville junior Drew Gilpin and sophomore Brody Lush were joined by Nokomis junior Drake Taylor, sophomore Levi German and freshman Kannon Jonas on the honorable mention list. Gilpin was second on the team in ERA with a 1.81 in 27 innings, with 29 strikeouts and seven walks. He also had 19 hits, 15 runs scored and 22 RBIs at the plate. Lush batted .320 in his first full year on varsity with 24 hits, 31 runs scored and 19 RBIs. Taylor was second in innings pitched for the Redskins, posting a 2.92 ERA in 38 and a third innings, with 29 strikeouts. He also had 24 hits, 24 RBIs, nine doubles and 19 runs scored

at the plate. German had 16 runs and 15 runs batted in, and made a big impact on the mound as he allowed just five earned runs in 31 innings (1.13 ERA), with 26 strikeouts. One of two freshmen on this year's all-conference list (along with Bunker Hill honorable mention Brennan Fulton), Jonas had 14 hits and 17 runs scored and had eight strikeouts in eight innings on the mound. Finishing out the honorable mentions were Tri-City sophomore Cash O'Connel, Springfield Lutheran sophomores Max Yenchko and Caleb Cox and Pawnee sophomore Carter Morell. Nokomis and Pawnee split their home-and-home series and tied for the conference championship at 9-1. The Redskins were 20-14 overall, while Pawnee was 19-14. Lincolnwood finished just behind the top two with a 19-10 record and a 5-5 MSM mark. Bunker Hill was fourth at 4-6, 5-15 overall, followed by Tri-City (2-8, 5-15) and Springfield Lutheran (0-10, 4-18).

2023-24 MSM Conference Final Standings		
	Overall	MSM
Pawnee	19-14	9-1
Nokomis	20-14	9-1
Lincolnwood	19-10	5-5
Bunker Hill	5-15	4-6
Tri-City	5-15	2-8
Lutheran	4-18	0-10
2023-24 MSM Conference All-Conference Baseball		
First Team: Lance Weitekamp, Sr. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Brenton Lyons, Sr. - Nokomis; Saint Newman, Sr. - Nokomis; Izaak Doyen, So. - Nokomis; Jonah Elvidge, Jr. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Tyler Surber, Sr. - Pawnee; Jacob Butler, Sr. - Pawnee; Carson Wort, Jr. - Pawnee.		
Second Team: Ian Keller, Jr. - Nokomis; Mason Tryon, So. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Brodey VanHooser, So. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Landen Patton, Sr. - Tri-City; Chase Webster, Sr. - Tri-City; Trenton Hull, Sr. - Pawnee; Tad Andrews, Sr. - Springfield Lutheran; Matt Hemenway, So. - Springfield Lutheran.		
Honorable Mention: Drew Gilpin, Jr. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Drake Taylor, Jr. - Nokomis; Brody Lush, So. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Levi German, So. - Nokomis; Kannon Jonas, Fr. - Nokomis; Cash O'Connel, So. - Tri-City; Max Yenchko, So. - Springfield Lutheran; Caleb Cox, So. - Springfield Lutheran; Carter Morell, So. - Pawnee; Brennan Fulton, Fr. - Bunker Hill.		

MSM Softball

Continued from 1B

DeWerff, a junior, led off for the Redskins for much of the year and batted .348 with 20 runs scored and 12 RBIs. Dirks was second on the team in batting average at .394 with 20 runs scored, eight doubles and three home runs. Dirks, who also struck out 23 batters in 37 innings on the mound for Nokomis, was one of three freshmen selected for all-conference this year, joining second team pick Audrey Cooper of Tri-City on the second team and Makenna Corrie, who was an honorable mention. Also on the second team were three-time honoree Scout Tschantz and two-time pick Kenzie Chandler of Tri-City and three-time honoree Kalee Hinds and two-time honoree Addie Boblitt of Pawnee. Tri-City's Tiffany Farley was also an honorable mention after being a second team pick last year, while Haley Marette was an honorable mention pick for Pawnee.

2023-24 MSM Conference Final Standings		
	Overall	MSM
Tri-City	26-6	8-0
Pawnee	13-6	6-2
Nokomis	10-6	3-5
Lincolnwood	10-19	3-5
Bunker Hill	0-13	0-8
2023-24 MSM Conference All-Conference Softball		
First Team: Taryn Millburg, Sr. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Reagan Jonas, Sr. - Nokomis; Jayde Gonet, Jr. - Nokomis; Taryn Clarke, So. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Kamryn Sturdy, Sr. - Tri-City; Lily Woodworth, So. - Tri-City; Lexie Patton, So. - Tri-City; Ava Rodriguez, So. - Pawnee; Amber Bradbury, Sr. - Pawnee.		
Second Team: Presley Mehochko, Sr. - Nokomis; Grace DeWerff, Jr. - Nokomis; Morgan Cowdrey, Jr. - Lincolnwood-Morrisonville; Cloey Dirks, Fr. - Nokomis; Audrey Cooper, Fr. - Tri-City; Scout Tschantz, Sr. - Tri-City; Kenzie Chandler, Sr. - Tri-City; Addie Boblitt, So. - Pawnee; Kalee Hinds, Jr. - Pawnee.		
Honorable Mention: Tiffany Farley, So., Tri-City; Makenna Corrie, Fr. - Pawnee; Haley Marette, So. - Pawnee.		

Malveaux

Continued from 1B

"We are incredibly humbled and excited to be a part of the Auburn Family! Kate and I are overly thankful to Karen Weekly and the entire Tennessee family for their sacrifices, opportunities, and guidance these past three years," Chris Malveaux said. "It is an honor to have the opportunity to lead this storied Auburn program into its next stage and are forever grateful for the trust of John Cohen and his incredible staff for believing in us. We can't wait to get to work! WAR EAGLE!!!" A graduate of Nokomis High School, Kate (Singler) Malveaux was on staff at Tennessee for three seasons and was elevated to an assistant coach ahead of the 2024 season where she worked with the Lady Vols' catchers and baserunners. Last season, she helped lead first-year Lady Vol catcher Sophia Nugent to All-SEC honors. Tennessee catchers committed just a pair of errors in 2024. The Lady Vols stole 50 bases in each of the past three seasons under Malveaux. Since her arrival in 2022, Tennessee has ranked among the top five in the SEC in stolen bases per game. "Chris and I are both honored and humbled to lead this new era of Auburn Softball. Thank you to John Cohen and all of Auburn Athletics for their faith in us to take on this role and support the program in such an impactful way," Kate Malveaux said. "Also, thank you to Karen Weekly, the Lady Vol Softball staff, and student-athletes for the opportunity and support of not only us, but also our family. Auburn has proved that it can compete on the national stage, and we are excited to build, develop, and grow this program into a national powerhouse."

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Five students from Faith Bible Christian Academy in Rosamond recently graduated with the class of 2024. Pictured above, from the left, are Mr. Matt Kessler, Mrs. Megan Warner, Ezekiel Hardt of Litchfield, Addyson Loskot of Nokomis, Katie Christer of Pana, Lyla Hoffert of Nokomis, Aidan Jeffrey of Taylorville, Mr. Jeremy Christer and Mr. Matt Houser.

Five Faith Bible Students Graduate In Class Of 2024

Five students at Faith Bible Christian Academy in Rosamond graduated on Saturday, May 18 during the senior graduation ceremony. The students include Ezekiel Hardt of Litchfield, Addyson Loskot of Nokomis, Katie Christer of Pana, Lyla Hoffert of Nokomis and Aidan Jeffrey of Taylorville.

Following a senior processional, an invocation was given by principal and administrator of the school, Mr. Matt Houser. Everyone in attendance then sang "Great Are You Lord," together. Addyson Loskot then gave her salutatorian addresses followed by Katie Christer with her valedictorian address.

Mr. Jeremy Christer, employee of Burdick Plumbing and Heating in Decatur and owner of Honey-Do Farms Apiary in Pana then gave the commencement address.

Mr. Matt Houser, then began presenting diplomas with school board president Mr. Matt Kessler and academic advisor Megan

Warner. The seniors then presented their parents with roses following the presentation of diplomas. The audience then sang, "The Goodness of God." A benediction was given by Mr. Matt Kessler.

Hannah Harwood of Taylorville was a junior honor attendant.



Donald Buske



Shelby Kaliyan



Mark Mattson



Owen Earnest

HHS Honor Topper Pride Award Students

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

Donald Buske

Donald Buske is the senior Topper Pride Award recipient and is recognized for his outstanding character and contributions. Donald is the son of Michael Patch and Tiffany Patch. He enjoys singing and spending time with his friends and family.

His favorite part of high school is finding new friendships. In Donald's spare time, he likes to sit back and listen to music as he reads a book or plays a game. In addition, he is an active member in the concert choir.

Donald's advice to other students is "it doesn't matter how popular you are or who you hang out with, it matters what you think of yourself and who you see in yourself."

Donald plans to be an EMT and help save lives. Donald would also like to give a shout out to Tyler Gene Rufus for being a true friend and for always being by his side.

Shelby Kaliyan

Shelby Kaliyan is the Junior Topper Pride Award recipient and is being recognized for her kindness towards others. Shelby is the daughter of Cathy Kaliyan. She enjoys swimming, going on walks, traveling and so much more. Her favorite part of HHS is the opportunities the school offers their students. One of her favorite memories this year was attending the OKAW in Vandalia.

Next year she plans to complete the CEO program through HHS. Her advice to

her fellow classmates is to "always be nice to others."

When Shelby leaves school, she plans to continue her education in college studying business.

Mark Mattson

Mark Mattson is the Sophomore Topper Pride Award recipient. Mark is the son of Dave and Erin Mattson. Mark has two older sisters, one brother and two dogs. He really enjoys hanging out with friends and competing in sports. Mark is on the soccer team, basketball team and tennis team.

Mark is also a member of the HHS band, chamber choir and Sources of Strength program. Mark enjoys reading books that make you think about real world problems. Mark's advice to other students is to "start groovin'."

After high school, Mark sees himself studying engineering and having a great time in college. Mark would like to give a shout out to Owen Earnest because Owen

is a great guy who is always fun to be around.

Owen Earnest

Owen Earnest is the freshman Topper Pride Award recipient. Owen is the son of Scott and Megan Earnest. His favorite part about HHS is socializing with everyone and making new friends.

In his spare time, he likes to spend time with friends and family, listen to music, practice his instrument, and play video games. During his freshman year, he was part of the HHS band, choir, and Sources of Strength. Owen's advice to others is to "be nice to everybody including people in your activities- you never know when you will make a new friend."

After high school, Owen sees himself living in a nice house or apartment with a job he enjoys. Owen would also like to give a shout out to Mark Mattson and congratulate him on getting the Topper pride Award!

USDA Releases April Prices Of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture released the Illinois Agricultural prices on May 31.

The April Prices Received Index 2011 Base (Agricultural Production) at 122.5, increased 0.2 percent from March but decreased 6.3 percent from April 2023. At 101.4, the Crop Production Index was up at 1.6 percent from last month but down 20 percent from the previous year.

The Livestock Production Index at 142.6, decreased 1.3 percent from March, but

increased 5.6 percent from April last year.

Producers received higher prices during April for hogs, broilers, strawberries and broccoli, but lower prices for market eggs, lettuce, oranges and milk.

In addition to prices, the volume change of commodities marketed also influences the indexes.

In April, there was increased monthly movement for strawberries, milk, broilers and lettuce and decreased marketing of corn, soybeans, cattle and hay.



Kaylee Gerlach of Lincolnwood High School in Raymond was recognized as a Farm Credit agriculture scholar during a scholarship luncheon on Thursday, May 23. Pictured above, from the left, are Joe Leonard, vice president of lending at the Taylorville Branch of Farm Credit Illinois, Kaylee Gerlach and Aaron Johnson, president and CEO of Farm Credit Illinois.

Gerlach Named Ag Scholar By Farm Credit

The class of 2024 Farm Credit Illinois (FCI) agriculture scholars was recognized during a scholarship luncheon at Carriage House Event Center in Altamont on Thursday, May 23.

A total of \$75,000 worth of scholarships was awarded to 30 high school seniors. Each scholar receives \$2,500 from FCI to pursue a degree within the field of agriculture. Twenty-six of the students attended the recognition program.

Locally, Kaylee Gerlach of Waggoner was recognized. Gerlach graduated from Lincolnwood High School in Raymond and will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign to study agricultural communications. She is the daughter of Eric and Angie Gerlach.

This year marks the 20th

year of the Farm Credit agriculture scholarship program, which has awarded nearly \$800,000 to 506 students in central and southern Illinois since 2004. Scholarship selections are based on participation and leadership contributions within school and community organizations, a genuine passion for farming and/or agriculture and a commitment to pursuing an agriculture-related career.

"Farm Credit Illinois is proud to invest in tomorrow's agricultural leaders," says Rod Stoll, vice president of marketplace management for FCI. "These scholars will support our mission of helping farm families succeed" by applying their passion for agriculture in careers that shape the future of the industry and rural America.

Crop Progress

There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork the week ending June 2. Statewide, the average temperature was 65.9 degrees, 1.4 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 1.24 inches, 0.28 inches above normal.

Topsoil moisture supply was rated 7 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated 2 percent short, 74 percent adequate and 24 percent surplus.

Corn planted reached 89 percent, compared to the five year average of 84 percent. Corn emerged reached 78 percent, compared to the five year average of 75 percent. Corn condition was rated 1

percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 46 percent good and 26 percent excellent.

Soybeans planted reached 81 percent, compared to the five year average of 73 percent. Soybeans emerged reached 58 percent, compared to the five year average of 59 percent. Soybeans condition was rated 3 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 43 percent good and 22 percent excellent.

Winter wheat headed reached 96 percent, compared to the five year average of 92 percent. Winter wheat condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 56 percent good and 17 percent excellent.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

TUES., JUNE 11 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Multiple Family Auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview: June 10, 4-6 p.m. Checkout: June 14, 4-6 p.m. Both at 608 Ridge Avenue, Greenville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., JUNE 13 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of Absolute Farm Equipment Auction located at 20114 IL Rt. 16, Nokomis. Selling: tractors, implements, combines, grain trucks, cultivators, etc. Viewing at their main office location in Nokomis from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit our website for other details and to start bidding. Aumann Auctions, 217-563-2523, aumannauctions.com.

SAT., JUNE 15 - 8:30 a.m. (Doors open at 6:30 a.m.) Huge Three Family Estate Coin Auction located at VFW Post 1377, 2043 South 4th St., Greenville (4th St. Spur) Selling: 425 lots of gold, paper money, Silver Eagles, Morgan Silver Dollars, graded silver, wheat cents, silver dimes, quarters, halves, plus more. Tom Roniger, Auctioneer, 618-664-1665.

SUN., JUNE 16 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Sandra Daum Estate auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Open House at 411 Alice Avenue, Greenville. Two story brick home built in the early 1900s and sits on corner lot with 1-car detached garage, 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com, Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., JUNE 20 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Land Auction. 52 acres mol recreational & timber. Section 35 LaGrange Township, Bond County, Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, James Micenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, 217-820-9324, 217-710-5642, micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com, micenheimerauctionservices.com.

TUES., JUNE 25 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of real estate consisting of 2 bedroom, one bath and 1-car garage of Alice Velten located at 428 N. Young Ave., Witt. 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction of personal property of Alice Velten consisting of glassware, furniture, appliances, TV, tons of fabric, large craft collection and more. Open house June 20 from 2-5 p.m. Visit our website for other details and to start bidding. Aumann Auctions, 217-563-2523, aumannauctions.com.

SUN., JUNE 30 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Tri-Level Home on Lake auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Open House at 19 Denzel Dr., Greenville. Tri-level home built in the 1970s and sits on Governor Bond Lake with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, deck with hot tub included. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com, Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

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Employment

General Help

HELP WANTED: Part-time ad compositor. Experience very helpful. Send resume to The Journal-News, P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro or stop in to fill out application.

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Accidents

Hydroplaning Accident

Jesse K. Graves, 31, of Carlinville, was traveling north on E. 2nd Road in N. Litchfield Township on Friday, May 24, at 4:06 p.m. when they encountered a flooded roadway, causing the vehicle to hydroplane into a nearby ditch. The vehicle was towed from the scene by Curt's Towing.

Strikes Ditch

Andrew M. McDonald, 29, of Pana, was traveling northbound on Ohlman Road, approximately five eights of a mile south of N. 21st Ave. in Audubon Township at 10:57 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22. McDonald struck a nearby ditch as the vehicle came to a rest. He was taken to St. John's Hospital in Springfield by the Nokomis/Witt Ambulance service, while the vehicle was towed from the scene by Andy's Towing.

Skid On Wet Pavement

Lyrus E. Altevogt, 17, of Hillsboro, was traveling east on Old Litchfield Trail at 10:48 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, when he skid on wet pavement, causing him to leave the roadway to the left, striking a tree. Litchfield Ambulance Service responded to the scene.

Ejected Off ATV

Matthew J. Jett, 19, of Nokomis, was traveling north on Raccoon Trail at 7:40 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, when he lost control of his atv while negotiating a turn and crashing into a ditch, which caused him to be ejected off the atv. He was taken to St. Johns Hospital in Springfield by Nokomis/Witt Ambulance Service.

Disregarded Stop Sign

Wyatt A. Beeler, 29, of Carlinville, was traveling east on Butler Avenue at 9:08 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, when he disregarded a stop sign, causing him to strike a vehicle driven by Ronald E. Menghini, 69, of Hillsboro, who was traveling north on North Road.

Beeler struck Menghini's vehicle on the driver's side, causing the latter to leave the roadway to the right, striking a utility pole head on. Beeler's vehicle hit a ditch embankment, overturning an unknown number of times before coming to a rest on its side. Beeler fled the scene, while Menghini was extricated from his vehicle by a fire team and Hillsboro Ambulance Service. Menghini was taken to Hillsboro Health.

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ROE Students Named To
Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

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

FOCUS Safe School
Vandalia

Arianna Brasfield, Collin Dagen, Drake Engelbrekston, Logan Hair, Kyra Hobler, Karson Holman, Makyla Merrill, Dylan Rapien and Gianna Walker.

New Approach
Alternative High School
Vandalia

Quinby Beck, Riley Brown, Joanna Cox, Bella Davis, Lilith Fox, Erica Gillett, Deriauna Hawkins, Navaeh Maroon, Molly Martin, Lindsey Matthews, Tatum McCoy, Drew Moore, Faith Moore, Edward Newsome, Makayla Pope, Jacob Porter, Alvin Radford, Bethany Schoenhoff, Sidnie Sinnett, Mariska Styer and Abree Younker.

Fire Calls

The Hillsboro Fire Department was dispatched to a power line that was downed by a falling tree at 11106 Walshville Trail. The team of 18 responders was dispatched at 1:51 p.m., arrived at 1:58 p.m. and was back in service at 2:16 p.m.

Police

Litchfield Police

• Anjani M. Patel, 53, of Litchfield, was cited for retail theft at 3:36 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, at Walmart.
• Jason R. Lemons, 43, of Litchfield, was cited for criminal trespassing at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, June 6, at Litchfield Plaza.

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SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

The Litchfield School District is looking to hire a **licensed Illinois school bus driver** to take over a student bus route beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. We will also accept applications for new bus drivers. Duties will also include taking students on field trips and to extracurricular activities. Starting route salary is \$28.74 an hour, with ten sick days and two personal days to start. The district will pay a percentage of your health insurance. Applicants will need to submit to a background check and drug testing. **Interested drivers can pick up an application at our District Office, at 1100 N. Old Rt. 66 in Litchfield.** You can call **217-324-2157** and be directed to the Transportation Director for more information.

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Adjunct Instructors, Fall 2024

Lincoln Land Community College is looking for qualified part-time instructors to teach the below listed disciplines for the upcoming fall 2024 semester for day and evening classes at our Litchfield location. A master's degree with at least 18 graduate hours in coursework directly related to the discipline is required. For full position requirements, further information on all adjunct opportunities and to apply online, please visit our website at <https://llcc.peopleadmin.com> or scan the QR code below.

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Top bulldogs in the kindergarten classrooms, from the left, are Leo Battuello, Noah Ivy, Tori Schmollinger and Lainey Holderread. Not present for the photo was Avree Meyer.



Top bulldogs in the first grade classrooms, from the left, are Roy Vogel, Morgan Sands, Ryker Loskot, Tanner Forbis and Landry Holtschulte.



Top bulldogs in the second grade classrooms, from the left, are Kamryn Lanthrip, Zoey Seago, Cora Jarman and Carter Gutierrez.

Beckemeyer Students Recognized As Top Bulldogs This May



Top bulldogs in the third grade classrooms, from the left, are Nora Utry, Abbie Sturgeon, Afton Lemons, Maddox Parnell and Isaac Kenny.



Top bulldogs in the fourth grade classrooms, from the left, are Vivien Koschak, Graysie Stone, Alayna Gilbert, Connor Billington and Jase Lipe.



Top bulldogs in the fifth grade classrooms, from the left, are Liam Wilson, Brecken Trader, Zian Ellis and Ella Reynolds.



Second grade students in Lauren Tuetken's class enjoyed swimming lessons at Hillsboro Health Fitness and Aquatics this spring.

Second Graders Enjoy Swim Lessons

A total of 96 second grade students in Hillsboro Unit School District, consisting of four classes from Beckemeyer Elementary School received a week of swim lessons at Hillsboro Health Fitness and Aquatics, during the weeks of April 29 and May 6.

The program is jointly sponsored by Hillsboro Area Health Services and the school district. Since its inception over 14 years ago, over 1,700 children have received the swim lessons.

The pupils, accompanied by their teachers and aides,

were taken by school bus to Hillsboro Health Fitness and Aquatics for one hour during their school day. During that hour, the children received individual and group instructions on how to float, tread water and perform basic swimming strokes, along with basic water safety skills.

On the final day of each week, the children enjoyed free swim time in the pool, including splashing and playing in the vortex and current river. Some students practiced their new diving skills.

Certified lifeguards who worked with the second graders were Aquatics Manager Greg Holdreith, Kerri Miller

and Robin Andrews. They were assisted by volunteers, Jan Sherer, Pam DeLong, Linda Belanger, Anne Huber, Dr. Doug Byers, Heidi Heinz, Matt Zimmerman, Allie Wagahoff, Dan Clotfelter and Pam Denby. The willingness and helpfulness of the volunteers was greatly appreciated.

The children were given certificates of completion and a free swim pass to Hillsboro Health Fitness and Aquatics. Parents are encouraged to advance their child's swimming skills by enrolling them in group or private lessons offered year round at Hillsboro Health Fitness and Aquatics.



Blackburn Earns Associates From Lincoln Land

Ethan Blackburn recently earned an associate of applied science in fire science and EMT certification from Lincoln Land Community College.

He began at LLCC in high school taking dual credit courses, then continued on as a full time student after high school graduation in 2022. He also competed courses and trainings through local fire departments and the Illinois Fire Science Institutes at the University of Illinois.

He currently works for Hillsboro Area Ambulance and his future plans include completing his training through the fire academy to become a full time firefighter.

He is the son of Taylor and Jessie Blackburn and the grandson of Scott and Jean Snow, Bob and Kim Blackburn and Jane Baugher.

Toriana Jeffers Graduates From SIUC

Toriana Jeffers recently graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale on Saturday, May 11.

The 2020 HHS graduate received her bachelor of science in zoology. She is the daughter of Adam and Amy Jeffers and the granddaughter of Chuck and Sue Goodin and Charles and Sandy Jeffers.

The academic achievements of nearly 1,850 SIUC students was celebrated during the spring 2024 commencement exercises.



Toriana Jeffers

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Governing Board of Mid-State Special Education in the county of Christian, and State of Illinois, that the FY25 proposed budget for said special education cooperative, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the Mid-State Special Education Office, 202 Prairie, Morrisonville, Illinois.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held on the 28th day of August, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-State Special Education, 202 Prairie, Morrisonville, Illinois.

Dated this 6th day of June, 2024.

Mid-State Special Education Joint Agreement

By: Bobbi Fisher, Director
9-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to collocate antennas at 257 ft. on a 250 ft. lattice tower, 21000 IL Rt. 16, Witt, Montgomery County, Illinois 62094.

Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: **Project 015289-PR - SA, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, saddleman@ebiconsulting.com or at 757.354.7566.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY - IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

CLOYDE O. SNIDER, DECEASED.

NO. 24-PR-19

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION - WILLS AND CLAIMS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES AND NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WILL ADMITTED

Notice is given of the death of Cloyde O. Snider of Donnellson, IL 62019. Letters of office were issued on May 20, 2024 to James K. Clinard, whose attorney is Alan Pretnar, 510 Hillsboro St., Taylor Springs, Illinois 62089.

Notice is given to unknown heirs, legatees and devisees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose name or address is not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the court on May 17, 2024 admitting the will to probate.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses

to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 6/8-1) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court with 6 months after admission of the will to probate.

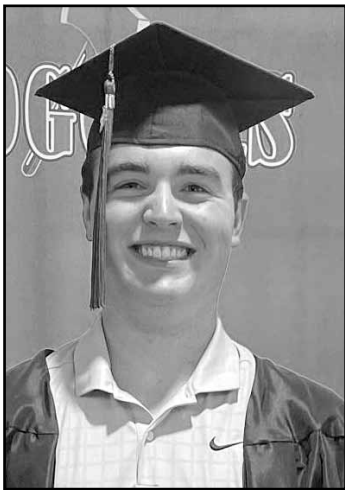
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first date of publication and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

For further information regarding the electronic filing of claims, contact the Montgomery County Circuit Clerk at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL.

/s/Alan Pretnar
Alan Pretnar #6182987
Attorney at Law
510 Hillsboro St.
P.O. Box 310
Taylor Springs, IL 62089
217-532-9298
apretnar@tslawoffice.com
5-3tM



Jordan Jacobs



Jayden Jacobs

Jacobs Siblings Graduate From LLCC This Spring

Jordan and Jayden Jacobs both recently graduated from Lincoln Land Community College in May.

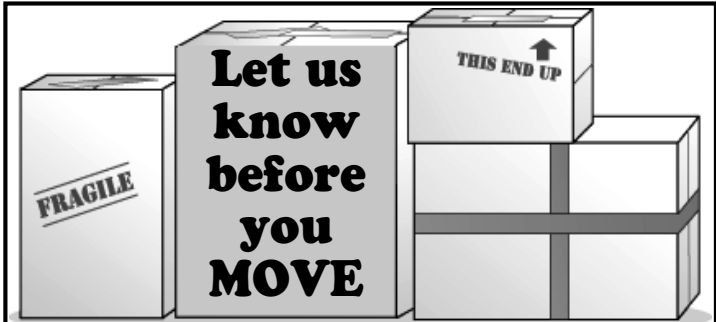
Both siblings started LLCC in high school due to the college now and dual credit classes offered through HHS and LLCC. After high school, they switched over to LLCC full-time at the main campus in Springfield.

Jordan earned an associate degree in applied science for the nursing field. She has accepted a position in

the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital in St. Louis, MO. She plans to continue her education to earn her BSN

Jayden earned an associate in applied science in the commercial electrical maintenance field. He is currently in the application process with IBEW Local 309.

The siblings are the children of Jeremy and Tara Walk and the grandchildren of Dan Walk, Sandy Walk and Bonny Lane.



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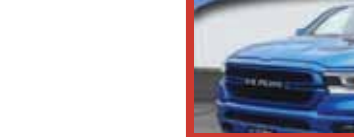
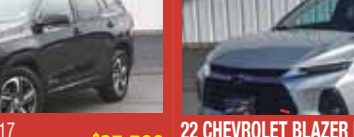
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