# **Litchfield City Council Approves Business District**

<u>by Kyle Herschelman</u>

The Litchfield City Council approved an ordinance establishing a business district for the city during their meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19, which includes an additional one percent sales tax for businesses in the district.

The plan was discussed at length during a public hearing prior to the Sept. 5 council

meeting and drew comments from two individuals during public participation at the start of the meeting.

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Ed Wernsing, owner of Wernsing's Appliance & TV in Litchfield, cautioned the city about using the funds to help people fix up buildings downtown, then sell them for profit. He said that he had spent a lot of money fixing his buildings without this level of assistance.

Wernsing also cautioned that the addition to the sales tax would put Litchfield at 9.25 percent, more than two percent more than Glen Carbon, which houses two of his biggest competitors, Lowes and Home Depot. He suggested that the board consider a half or three-quarter percent increase instead and said that the increase may affect businesses down the road.

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Lonnie Bathurst of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) also addressed the council, speaking in support of the business district on behalf of the EDC. Bathurst said that the EDC sees the business district as the only logical solution to replace the funding that the TIF district provides when it expires.

Monday, September 23, 2024

Continued on page 8A

# **Litchfield Board OKs** \$27.7 Million Budget

<u>by Mary (Galer)</u> <u>Herschelman</u>

Meeting in September. members of the Litchfield School Board approved a \$27.7 million budget on Thursday evening, Sept. 19, at the Unit Office in Litchfield. Board members Jimmy Gorowski and Gregg Hires were absent from the monthly meeting. It was moved from its usual third Tuesday slot, so that the budget could be on display for 30 days as required by state law.

In opening the public hearing, Superintendent Dr. Kelly McClain made a ten minute presentation about this year's budget, which is projected to have a \$2.2 million deficit. She said that while they anticipate \$25.5 million in revenues, they are expecting to spend \$27.7 million over the next year.

"Part of that deficit spending is planned on capital projects," she said. "And we do have healthy account balances.'

 $Nearly\,half\,(44\,percent)\,of$ the district's revenues comes from local property taxes. Dr. McClain noted that 13 percent of the revenues come from federal ESSR funding, and that this is the last year they will receive that. She

added that they moved additional corporate personal property tax dollars into the education fund to reduce the deficit in that fund from \$216,605 to \$47,000.

"We need to discuss ways not to deficit spend in this fund," she added.

Dr. McClain also talked about deficit spending in other district funds. She said they added a position using ESSR funds, and have continued to maintain that.

In concluding her presentation, she presented some positive trends, including healthy fund balances for the district, as well as decreasing the tax rate from 4.91 in 2017 to 4.37 in 2023. Board President Julie Abel thanked her for her presentation, and with no public comment, the hearing ended at 6:12 p.m. The board unanimously approved the fiscal year  $20\overline{24}$ -2025 budget during the regular meeting that followed.

### Other Business

After the public hearing, board members met for their regular monthly meeting. With no public input, the board moved into the citizen's agenda, where they had a chance to meet new district staff members for this school

Continued on page 2A



The annual fall demo derby was held to great success on Saturday evening, Sept. 21, at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Pictured above, local demo derby rookie Briar Kuhl rams #76 in the gut-n-go compact division match. Kuhl placed second behind Irving rookie Will Yeske. Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

# Lots Of Cars Crash At Fall Demo Derby

Drivers from Irving, Greenville and of Pocahontas. Hillsboro were operating the last cars running at the fall demolition derby at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 21.

In the gut-n-go compact division, first time driver Will Yeske of Irving was the last man standing, narrowly defeating fellow first timer Briar Kuhl of Butler and third place Daniel Lattina

David Maples of Greenville took of Hillsboro. home first prize in the mod compacts division, followed by Eli Maples of Greenville and Jeff Boward of Green-

In the full-size stockcategory, Juston Mains of Greenville continued the impressive Bond County showing, defeating second place Roger Michaelis of Hillsboro and third place Scott Michaels

Montgomery County struck back in the full-size limited weld division, which was won by Jeff Mullen of Hillsboro. Kyle Yeske of Irving and Tanner Mul-

len of Hillsboro took second and third. Ryan Quinn of Irving took home first place in the minivan-truck category.



# Logsdon, Fetter Reign **At LHS Homecoming**

Litchfield High School seniors Clayton Logsdon, at left, and Ava Fetter, were crowned 2024 Litchfield Homecoming King and Queen at this year's Homecoming dance, held Saturday evening, Sept. 21, in the school gym. The theme for this year's Homecoming celebration was "Glow-Co." For a complete court photo, see page 8A. Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins



# Knodle, DeWerff Reign **At Nokomis Homecoming**

Nokomis High School seniors Bond Knodle and Gracie DeWerff were crowned 2024 Homecoming King and Queen during this year's "Once Upon a Time" dance, held Saturday evening, Sept. 21, at the school. The dance followed a successful Homecoming football game on Friday evening, where the Redskins defeated Cerro Gordo 55-7. For a photo of this year's Homecoming court, see page 8A.

# **Hillsboro Road Closures** Start Today On Jefferson

The 700 block of Jefferson Street, which goes from Tremont St. to Summer St. and the 400 block of Tremont Street from Oak St. to Jefferson St. will be closed to through traffic during daytime hours until further

notice beginning on Monday, Sept. 23.

The closure is due to curb, gutter and sidewalk construction. Residents will be allowed limited access to their driveways during this time.

## TLC To Host Informational Kickoff Event On October 6

Together Litchfield Can (TLC) will be hosting an immersive experience which highlights the plans to improve specific aspects of Litchfield on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Litchfield Community Center, located at 1100 S. State St. in Litchfield. They hope to teach Litchfield residents of the efforts and accomplishments of the nonprofit, and their goals for the future through brief presentations.

Doors for the event open

at 2:30 p.m. with the event itself starting at 3 p.m. Attendees will have a chance to win door prizes donated by local businesses, which will be announced at 4 p.m. Attendees must be registered by 3 p.m. to be eligible to win a door prize. Individuals must be present to win.

Committees covered at the event include housing, business, youth, community beautification and community events.

# Weather Forecast / 81% / 46% / 15% / 53%

Index			
Court	5B		
Classifieds			
Family	4A		
Opinion	6A		
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Sports	. 1B-4B		







# **Purple Panthers Celebrate Homecoming Week**

After a week-long celebration of school spirit, Litchfield High School hosted its annual Homecoming parade and street fair on Friday afternoon, Sept. 20. At left, members of the LHS Marching Band led the way in this year's parade, playing the school song throughout the parade route. Each class also created a float, joining other athletic teams and clubs along the route. This year's winning classes were sophomores in fourth place, freshmen in third place, juniors in second place and seniors in first place. Following the parade, a street fair was held on the high school grounds with games, food and more for kids of all ages. At right, members of the LHS cheerleading squad added some purple and white bling to hair and faces to show school spirit for the football game. Journal-News/Mary Herschelman



# **Homecoming Parade Rides Through Nokomis**

Students from Nokomis High School paraded through town to ring in their homecoming celebration, with the football team leading the charge, followed by the cheerleaders, the volleyball team and the homecoming court, Journal-News/Cayden Huber

### Police

#### **Litchfield Police**

• Stephanie D. Burdell, 50, of Hillsboro, was cited for battery at 3:49 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, at the 1200 block

# **Nokomis Library Plans** Fall Coffee, Craft Event

The Nokomis Public Library will be holding a crafts and coffee event on Monday, Oct. 14, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. A \$3 supply fee is required and those inter-

ested should be registered by Monday, Sept. 30. In order to R.S.V.P., interested individuals should stop by the library or call them at 217-563-2734.

### **PUBLIC AUCTION** PEARL M. CRUTHIS ESTATE

September 28th • 9 a.m.

LIVE AT: 400 West Cemetery Road, Sorento, IL



REAL ESTATE: Sitting on a large corner lot, across from the park, in Southwest Sorento proper is this 3 bedroom. 1 bath. story and a hali home ready for you to move in. This house has an eat-in kitchen, large family room, living room, large master and one more bedroom located on the first level. The second level is open with bedroom space available. Window air conditioners upstairs, central air downstairs. You will enjoy the large concrete patio and outdoor space along with a 3-car oversized garage with concrete floors and automatic garage doors. Also on the property is a large summer kitchen between the house and garage. The arge back yard, that was once home to an inground pool that has been filled, would make a great courtyard. Real Estate is sold AS IS, WHERE IS with no guarantees or warranties expressed, written or implied. Seller has the right to reject or refuse any and/or all bids.

GOLF CART/TRAILER: 2018 PJ 6x12 Utility Trailer, Club Car Electric Golf Cart (needs batteries).

ANTIQUES/COLLECTIBLES: Paintings by Pearl Cruthis, Milk Can, Vintage Enamel Graniteware, Vintage Speckled Granite Ware, Wooden Doll House, Barbie Boat, Oil Lamps, UHL Pottery Blue Stoneware, Teapots & Pitchers, Paintings by Dowie Adams/Marilyn Prutire/W. Grechen/Pauline/ Others, Vintage Cabinets, Quilts, Home Grown Sweets Bear Metal Food Truck Tin, Vintage Klann Winter Themed Hinged Rectangular Tin, Steel Wheels, Some Farm Toys, Toys, Board Games, MORE.

HOUSEHOLD/FURNITURE/MISC.: Maytag Washer & Dryer, Frigidaire Refrigerator, Variety of Home Décor, Early American Prescut 27 pc. Punch Set, Kitchen Utensils, Emerson Microwave, West Bend Standing Electric Mixer, Dishes, Stemware, Anchor Hocking Ware, Pots & Pans, Tater Bin, Dining Room Hutch, Drop Leaf Table, Recliners, Kitchen Table & Chairs Corner Hutch, Arm Chairs, Wooden Jelly Cabinet, Full Size Bed, Night Stand, Armoire, Bedside Table, End Tables, Matching Love Seat, Chairs & Ottoman, Display Case, Rustic Cabinet, Afghans, Matching Sofa & Arm Chair, Sansui Flat Screen TV, Linens, Matching Arm Chair Sets, Antique Dining Room Hutch, Twin Size Bed, Many Paintings & Wall Hangings, Ice Cream Maker, Bases, Figurines, Stock Pots, Glass Door Showcase, Painted Black Sideboard, Boot Lamp, CD Player, Lodge Chair, Side board, Southwest Décor, Shadow Box, Shark Vacuum Sweeper, King Size Bed, Christmas Décor, Snowman Décor, Pet Taxi, Folding Chairs, Ice Cream Parlor Chairs, Wooden Bench, Flowers & Greenery, Books & Magazines. lots more!

LAWN/GARDEN: John Deere 540 Riding Mower, Wheelbarrow, Craftsman Push Mower, Other Push Mowers, Unique Home Décor & More Trees n Trends Dinnerware Sets - NIB, Lawn Chairs, Loppers, Tiki Torches, Camper Van Bird House, Stationary Porch Swings, Wrought Iron Chairs and Table Sets, Dirt Racer Freestyle 1400 Bicycle, Bicycles, etc. TOOLS/GARAGE: Generac 4000XL Generator, Bench Grinder, Saw Horses, ATV Jack, Cordless Black & Decker & Craftsman, Fiberglass

\_adders, Air Compressor, Extension Cords, Etc. AUCTIONEER'S NOTES: The heirs of Pearl Cruthis are liquidating all of her belongings along with her home. Pearl has been a lifelong active community member who enjoyed painting and horseback riding. Her home and items are in good, nice, clean condition. Come join us September 28th for the live

are in good, nice, clean condition. Come join us September 28th for the live auction. Restroom and lunch stand on property. Thanks! Wayne & Adam. TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Real Estate: SELLER HAS RIGHT TO REJECT OR REFUSE ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS. Real Estate is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS" with no guarantees or warranties expressed, written or implied. Potential buyers may do inspections at their expense. Real Estate requires \$5000 down certified funds (non-refundable) is required day of sale to Seven Oaks Realty located at 989 E. Beaumont Ave Greenville, IL 62246. Buyer will enter into a purchase agreement with Seven Oaks Realty at that time, with balance due and possession given at closing in approx. 45 days. Personal Property: Cash, check, or credit card will be accepted for payment of items purchased. Please settle with cashier for all items immediately and before removing from the premises. All items sold 'as is, where is.' No warranties or guarantees written, expressed or implied. Announcements made the day of sale take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents or theft should any occur.

Mollett Auction Service, LLC • Auctioneers & Realtors Nayne: 618-920-6694 • License #440.000839 — Adam: 618-267-3086 • License #441.002086 Myra Mollett, Managing Broker for Seven Oaks Realty Find full listings & photos at auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925



<u>www.mollettauctions.com</u> -or-find us on Facebook at Mollett Auction Service Scan the QR code with your phone's camera and be taken directly to this auction's info online!

# Paul Perfetti Joins Local **Century 21 Realty Team**

Century 21 Reid Baugher Realty is pleased to announce Paul Perfetti has joined its firm as a broker. He will specialize in property sales in Montgomery County and the surrounding area.

"We are thrilled to have Paul join our team," said Managing Broker/Owner, Jennifer Reid Baugher of Century 21 Reid Baugher Realty. "It's an exciting time to be with the Century 21 System as we increase our market presence in the area."

Perfetti, a native of Coffeen, dedicated many years as a certified public accountant (CPA) with the U.S. Department of Justice. He is excited and honored to be a part of the Century 21 Reid Baugher Realty team and looks forward to establishing himself as a resource to help others in the real estate market.

If looking to buy or sell real estate in Illinois, give Perfetti a call at 217-259-8197.

Century 21 Reid Baugher



**Paul Perfetti** 

Realty will celebrate it's 30th anniversary in 2024 and continues to be the local leader in real estate.

Those interested in becoming a part of the Century 21 Reid Baugher Realty team should call 217-324-5286 and speak to Jennifer Reid Baugher.



# **Zion Students Celebrate** Writing With Class Event

Zion Lutheran School in Litchfield recently had a writing celebration in the second grade classroom. The students shared their stories with the rest of the class and celebrated their hard work together.



# Litchfield School Board

New staff at the Litchfield Early Childhood Center include behavioral technician aide Whitney Miller, first grade special education teacher Deb Taylor and pre-kindergarten teacher Miranda Wagahoff. At Litchfield Elementary School, new staff members are third grade teacher Greg Urbanc. fourth grade teachers Madelyn Legendre and Madyson Kapp, fifth grade teacher Mallory Beechler and special education classroom aide Jennifer Fergurson. New staff members at Litchfield Middle School are seventh grade social studies teacher Nick Catanzaro and sixth grade special education teacher Stefani Panicola. At Litchfield High School, new staff members are social studies teacher Trey Swanson, athletic director and physical education/driver's education teacher James Moore, physical education teacher Payton Krager, Spanish and physical education teacher Lucas Hermo Martinez, special education classroom aide Regina Feeley and art teacher Kerri Buchanan-Stoltz. Also new to the district is Sean Vinson in transportation.

Thank you for being here tonight and welcome to the family," Abel said.

Board members unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included minutes from the previous meeting, payment of bills for the district and the South Central Illinois (SCI) Regional Workforce and Training Center, as well as the treasurer's report. The total balance of all district funds as of Aug. 31, was \$16.8 million, including \$5.1 million in the education fund, from which the district's day-today expenses are paid.

Dr. McClain said the bills are tracking as construction projects continue. She said they will soon begin work on a boiler project at the middle school/high school and are hoping to secure a maintenance grant to help offset the cost.

### **New Business**

Peter Ratermann of Poettker Construction provided an update on the construction project at the Litchfield Early Childhood Center. Only a few minor things remain as the company finishes up its third project for the school district. Abel said she appreciated all the work they had done on LECC, Litchfield Elementary School and the SCI Center.

Board members unanimously approved three change orders on the LECC project. The first was a credit of \$1,257 for removing the site seeding from the scope of work. Second was a credit of \$1.047.50 for removing site seeding from the scope of work at the pre-kindergarten addition. The final change order was \$0, for repairing the damage to drywall soffit in the corridor from a drain leak. It also includes electric cost to take down, clean and reinstall the surface-mounted light fixture that was on the drywall soffit.

The board unanimously approved adding Kriha Boucek, LLC to the list of board-approved law firms for the district. Dr. McClain said she has enjoyed working with the district's current representation and has no plans to drop them. She felt adding an additional firm would give the district more flexibility, noting that many school districts maintain more than one legal firm. She added that having the additional counsel does not mean she will consult with more than one agency on a single issue.

Board members unanimously approved the annual district risk management plan, to make sure the district adequately addresses tort exposure and allowable use of torts. Dr. McClain said some additional salaries were added into the plan this year.

The board unanimously approved the transfer of \$778,900 from the capital projects fund to the debt service fund to make pay-

Continued from page 1A ments on alternative rev-

enue bonds. Board members unanimously approved authorizing the sale of the G.A. Sihler School building at 601 S. State Street. It was listed as surplus property following the August board meeting. Dr. McClain said this is the next step in the process. The district will now begin advertising for bids, which will be open until Oct. 10.

The board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding with the Illinois Laborers' and Contractors' Joint Apprenticeship and Training Trust Fund, which allows for continued programming at the SCI Center for the next two years.

Board members unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding as an extension of the existing intergovernmental agreement among participating schools and the Morrisonville School. They currently have one student from Morrisonville participating in the program.

In a final act, the board unanimously approved a first reading of board policies from Press Plus. Dr. McClain said the new regulations focus on Title IX, as well as uniforms.

#### **Information Items**

Litchfield Early Childhood Center Principal Adam Favre said they will soon have grass and landscaping at the building. He said that high school kids visited the district's youngest students during Homecoming week, and it was a big hit. In a final note, Favre said they are working on some fall field trips.

At Litchfield Elementary School, Principal Jeremy Heigert said they have finished with the first round of iReady testing and the results are encouraging. He gave a shout-out to the Esteem Team for all they do to make a difference with district students. Heigert said their annual trunk-or-treat event will be held on Oct. 29. The school is also planning to launch this year's Future Leaders (student council) this fall as well.

At Litchfield Middle School, Principal Dr. Russ Tepen said their iReady test results look positive as well. He gave a shout-out to high school teacher Josh Hughes for a partnership with high school students mentoring and tutoring middle school students, which has been a rousing success.

Litchfield High School Principal Hilary Wagenblast gave a report on the popular Homecoming week. SCI Center Principal Juletta Ellis said they took students to the Workforce Expo at Lincoln Land Community College with 1,500 students in attendance. They had tours, visits with employers and simulators. Ellis added she presented at an Illinois Basin Funding Review and got some new ideas for funding. In a final note, Ellis said they have added a new Skill Hero curriculum at the SCI Center, and she will soon begin helping with the iDream/ iCreate programs throughout all district grade levels.

Curriculum Director Jennifer Thompson said early iReady test scores look promising. The district will host an iReady trainer soon as well.

Dr. McClain thanked the staff at the Litchfield Early Childhood Center for their welcome to the community at the building's open house earlier this year. She reported that she's going to begin working with the administrative team to address chronic absenteeism.

### Personnel

At the end of the meeting, the board met in closed session for about 30 minutes. The board unanimously approved the hiring of Martika Nance as a health aide at LMS and LHS. They also approved Vincent Fanelli as a volunteer coach to the middle school boys basketball program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. Board members will meet again on Tuesday evening, Oct. 15, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Unit Office in Litchfield.

### David W. Lynch, 41 **Loved His Family**



David Wayne Lynch, 41, of Bentonville, AR, formerly of Irving, died Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, in Bentonville, AR.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Sept. 27, at 12 p.m. at Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro with visitation from 10 a.m. until service time. Burial will be in Irving Cemetery.

Mr. Lynch was born in Hillsboro on June 5, 1983, to Wayne Lynch and Virginia "Ginny" (Eades) Tolliver. He was a 2000 graduate of Hillsboro High School and was

a loving father.

He worked at the rock quarries in Nokomis and most recently at Carlisle Syntec in Greenville.

Mr. Lynch enjoyed fishing and the Green Bay Packers, as well as playing the drums and jamming with his friends. He was close to his family and friends and very special to his nieces and nephews.

Mr. Lynch is survived by his father, Wayne; sons, Gavin Lynch and Landen Lynch; and brothers, Phil (Teresa) Tolliver Jr., Marcus Tolliver, William Tolliver, Donald Tolliver and Larry (Glenna) Tolliver.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ginny and nephew, Travis Tolliver.

Condolences can be left online at www.houghfuneral-

Passionate About Farming

is assisting the family.

in death on Dec. 15, 2019.

Assembly of God in Coffeen.

numerous great-grandchildren.

Sorento, IL 62086.

Cressy and her husband, Marty Cressy.

Mr. Massey was born on May 31, 1937, in Highland, to

When he was 17, he set out to earn his GED so that he

Alvin and Iva (Zeller) Massey. He married Myrtle Marie

Kendall on Feb. 14, 1987, in Sorento, and she preceded him

would be able to enlist in the United States Air Force. After

serving his time, he was discharged honorably from the Air

Force and, in 1961, began his 30-year career as a machinist

with the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, later known as Boeing. Once he retired from the aerospace industry, he was

able to fully pursue a passion he had since childhood, which

was farming and raising pigs. He really enjoyed spending

time outside with his pigs so much that he earned the nick-

for him to give his last to someone else in need. Although

he had a serious side and always expected the best behav-

ior from his children, one would be hard pressed to find a

more giving and selfless man. Woodworking was something

he loved to do, creating many pieces such as bookshelves,

throughout the years. Being a lifelong member of the Sorento

Assembly of God, he was involved with leading the boys'

group, the Royal Rangers, as well as serving as the Sunday

School superintendent. Later in his life, he attended the

Mr. Massey is survived by his children, Mark (Danielle)

Massey of Staunton, Shari (Tim) Adair of Highland and

Ruth (Roger) Reincke of Irving; stepchildren, Ron (Diane)

Seabaugh of Broomfield, CO, and Jeff Seabaugh of Walsh-

ville; grandchildren, Mark (Robyn) Massey of Glen Carbon,

Erin (Jared) Sutton of Godfrey, Megan (Jacob) West of Gil-

lespie, Brandon (Danielle) Adair of Edwardsville, Brittani

(Tyler) Robertson of Pekin, Rachel Crouse of Hillsdale, Dale

(Alyssa) Reincke of Greensburg, IN, and Heather (Dustin)

Greenwood of Hillsboro; siblings, Harold Massey of Bunker

Hill and Stella Kirk of Fairborn, OH; stepgrandchildren and

death by his sister, Cleda Morrow; stepdaughter Tammy

mailed to Sunnyside Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 267,

Condolences may be left at assalley funeral homes.com.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in

Memorials may be given at the visitation or funeral or

benches and a toy box for his children and grandchildren

He was a generous, kind man and it was common practice

name Papa Piggy from his grandchildren.

Alvin Lewis Massey, 87, of Hillsboro,

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Sept.

24, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Hillsbroro Free

Methodist Church. Funeral services will

follow at the church, with the Rev. Randy Sands officiating. Burial will be held at 2

p.m. at Sunnyside Cemetery in Sorento.

Perfetti-Assalley Funeral Home in Sorento

died on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Hillsboro

Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in

Alvin L. Massey, 87 \_\_\_\_



Edward Kaminski, at left, of Sorento was joined on the Honor Flight by his nephew, Jerry Kaminski, at right.



Robert Wagehoft of Morrisonville is pictured above at left, standing with his son, Chris, at the Lincoln statue at Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport in Springfield.

# Local Veterans Go On Honor Flight Trip To D.C.

by Cayden Huber

Three local veterans were recognized on a Land of Lincoln Honor Flight trip on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

They were part of the more than 96 Vietnam and Korean-era veterans flown to Washington D.C. for the day. The free trip is designed to give veterans a chance to visit the memorials that were built in honor of their service. Among those who took the flight were Robert Goldasich of Litchfield, Robert Wagehoft of Morrisonville and Edward Kaminski of Sorento.

Regardless of the branch they were enlisted in, the veterans were color-coded based on the war era they served in, with Vietnam veterans wearing red and Korean veterans wearing yellow shirts, all that read, "Some gave all, all gave some," and "Freedom

isn't free, thank a veteran." The trip included visiting the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, VA, U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, U.S. Air Force Memorial, viewing of the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery to view the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

On the flight back to Springfield, each veteran received a bag of letters from family, friends and community members thanking them for their service. They arrived at Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport in Springfield at 8:55 p.m. It took 30 minutes to deplane the passengers as family, friends and grateful citizens lined the walls of the airport to welcome the passengers home.

Robert Goldasich

Robert Goldasich of Litchfield began his time in the Army on July 6, 1964, after receiving a draft notice and passing the required evaluations. He spent that time in Germany. He would return home for a 38-day leave in February of 1966, before volunteering to go to Vietnam on April 11, 1966.

Throughout his time in the Army, he worked in the field of classified intelligence. During his time in Vietnam, he would travel to Saigon

around once a month with Air America, with his favorite place in the country being Dalat. His time in active duty ended on April 11, 1967.

Goldasich's favorite stop during the honor flight was the WWII memorial and was shocked at the support during the return to Springfield. "I was overwhelmed about the number of people," said Goldasich.

In addition to his time in the Army, Goldasich worked at International Paper Factory in Litchfield, later attending Illinois State University after his time in the military to obtain a degree in psychology, which led him to a career in medical determinations deciding social security eligibility.

He was accompanied by his son, Kevin Goldasich, who served as his guardian. Robert Wagehoft

Robert Wagehoft of Morrisonville joined the Army around fall of 1955, joining the Army reserves in Carlinville. After three months in Carlinville and following a winter break, he was sent to St. Louis to be in a control group, where he stayed for two to two and a half years.

After the time in St. Louis and undergoing basic training, he was then assigned to a unit in Wood River where he worked in the field of transport, repairing helicopters that had sustained damage during the war in Vietnam.

Both before and after his military time, Wagehoft has been farming north of Harvel, an occupation he worked with his father in.

"Oh boy. I enjoyed going out there to D.C.," Wagehoft said of his time on the Honor Flight. "There's so much to see and they kept you going." In regards to having a favorite stop, he said, "I'd say they're all just about equal."

Upon returning to Springfield, Wagehoft noted that he had seen family and neighbors amongst the crowd at the airport. "That was very nice up there," he said. "It was a good crowd."

Wagehoft was accompanied on the honor flight by his son, Chris. "I'd like to go back sometime," said Wagehoft of his time in D.C.

**Edward Kaminski** 

Edward Kaminski of Sorento spent two years in the Army after being drafted on March 12, 1965, with his

Robert Goldasich of Litchfield is pictured above visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington D.C. as part of the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

time in the Army ending Force Memorial and the in February of 1967. After completing basic training, he was sent to Alaska where he performed the duties of a company clerk. He was later moved to a platoon in Hawaii to fill the role of a rifleman.

After his time in the Army, Kaminski became a district manager in the field of telecommunications until his retirement.

Although Kaminski commended everywhere on the trip, he was especially fond getting to visit the Wall of Fallen Soldiers with his nephew, his guardian Jerry Kaminski, whose father was killed in the line of duty. He also appreciated the Tomb of the Unkown Soldier, Air

Aerospace Museum at the Smithsonian. He also had praise for the tour guide, who was also an Army veteran.

"People we didn't know welcomed us home," Kaminski said of the return to Springfield. In addition to many onlookers, he saw his wife, who has trouble seeing in the dark, had driven to Springfield by herself to be able to welcome her husband home.

"It was quite the honor," said Kaminski of the experience on the Honor Flight. "The people who set it up are fantastic. They couldn't have treated us better. I can't thank them enough."

# **Public Meetings**

### Hillsboro Natural Resources Committee

The Hillsboro Natural Resources committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at City Hall.

Agenda items include reports on the progress of the watershed management plan, the sale of city-owned land surrounding Lake Glenn Shoals, lake lot lease revisions, police presence recommendation and on the city council meeting. There will also be a review of hunting regulations on city-owned property.

Have an event coming up and need to print tickets? Or programs? Or invitations? We can help with all of your printing needs. Call Journal Printing at 217-532-3933 or stop by 431 S. Main in Hillsboro.

#### HELLO, MONTGOMERY/MACOUPIN COUNTIES. We would like to introduce ourselves. We are a family owned and operated monument company from Illinois that takes great pride in all of the memorials. We create, install and guarantee our work while assuring you the finest quality. The location we would like to very much introduce you to is Montgomery County Monument Company which is located at 1350 East Union Avenue, Litchfield.

We are proud to say after renovations we are ready to assist you with creating memories for your family, friends or yourself. We have many different options made from nothing but the finest Granite. We will work with you, step by step, to make sure everything is what you envision. We offer monument lettering, custom headstones and repair on stones. Stop in and see Kim for any information we can help with. We look forward to meeting you and being a part of your memories.







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Owners ...... John and Susan Galer Publisher ...... Mary (Galer) Herschelman Editor......Isaiah Atkins Sports Editor...... Kyle Herschelman Reporter/Photographer.......Cayden Huber

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# Famil



# **Nokomis Class Of '52 Celebrates 72 Years**

The 1952 class of Nokomis celebrated their 72nd anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Town Pump in Nokomis with lunch and visiting.

Pictured above, in front are Maxine (Higginbotham) McElroy of rural Irving and Dorothy (Huber) Archibald of rural Nokomis, and in the back are Tom Goodwin of Beloit, WI, Lou (Herpstreith) Clark of Hillsboro and Gene Heldebrandt of rural Nokomis.

# **TASC To Offer Sensory** Friendly Film Saturday

Eisentraut Theatres and TASC (The Autism Support Connection) are partnering to host a sensory-friendly film at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Hillsboro at 1 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 28. The feature film will be the newly released "The Wild Robot."

TASC will cover the cost of admission for this event, which is open to families affected by autism and other related special needs. In order to provide a more accepting, comfortable environment the auditorium lights will be left on during the movie and the sound will be turned down lower.

Audience members are also welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing, and the usual "silence" policy is not enforced unless the safety of the audience is in question.

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

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

Farlin) Wilkinson of Glen

announce the birth of their child, a son, Nolan Dean Wilkinson, at 7:27 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Me-



morial Hospital in Shiloh. He measured 21.5 in. long and weighed 9 lbs., 3 ozs.

He is welcomed to the world by his older sister, Olivia Marie Wilkinson, age three.

His father is a quality control supervisor and his mother is a teacher.

Paternal grandparents are Michael and Janet Wilkinson of Hillsboro. Maternal grandparents are Randy and Darla McFarlin of Hillsboro.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Frank and Marie Lehman. Maternal great-grandparents are the late Junie and Hazel Furness and the late Lloyd and Nelda McFarlin.

Harmony Florek and Ryan Reynolds of Witt announce the birth of their first born daughter, Raelynn Bree Reynolds, born at 1:35 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. She weighed 8 lbs., 1 ozs. and measured 20 in. long.

Paternal grandparents are Andrea Weller of Hillsboro and Kenny Reynolds of Florida. Maternal grandparents are Stacey Osborn of Witt and the late Zack Wineburner

Alexandria Paige Settles and Michael James Beck of Litchfield announce the birth of their child, a daughter. Blakelynn Roxanne Beck, at 10:44 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.

She weighed 6 lbs., 8 ozs. and measured 21.5 in. long.

Maternal grandparents are John and Stanett Settles of Litchfield. Paternal grandparents are Lisa Lawson and Jeff Beck of Litchfield.

Maternal great-grandparents are Stan and Loraine Meyers.

Those seeking more infor-

mation can contact Michelle

Dettwiler at 217-271-7924

or mdettwiler@mcphd.net

or Brittney Card at 217-204-

provided by the Illinois De-

partment of Human Services,

Division of Substance Use

Funding for the event is

8667 or bcard@mcphd.net.

### Births

Philip and Danielle (Mc-Carbon





The Litchfield Senior Citizens club hosted their senior dance on Sunday, Sept. 8, with 62 people in attendance to listen to the old country music of Benny and the Amigos. The next dance will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13, with Midnight Express playing. Door prize winners are pictured above. From the left, are Janet Jones, Karen Saner, Helen Romine, Lil Mitchell, Delilah Beckman, Charlie Carroll and Butch Robinette.

# **Everybody Gets A Turn At The ToyRoom**

by Isaiah Atkins

When asked about his own favorite board game, local entrepreneur Logan Altenberger gave a predictable answer for anyone familiar with his endeavors.

"Monopoly," he said. "That's really what I do. I'm just out here playing Monopoly."

Now, the 2019 Hillsboro graduate has a new property on the board, as he announces the opening of The ToyRoom, a game store located in downtown Hillsboro, featuring endless fun and creativity.

A ribbon-cutting and grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m. at the store, located at 227 S. Main St.

The store will offer a variety of toys, board games, card games, puzzles and more in a fun atmosphere, inspired by some warm feelings from Altenberger's youth. "Growing up in my house we had a toy room, with all sorts of toys and games," he said. "There were so many memories made in there, just playing and having fun with my friends and family."

In addition to games and toys, the store will feature ample table space for board game lovers to stop by and play a game. Altenberger also plans to host trivia nights as well as set up some television-style game show events for people to participate in. "It's a store, but it's really a destination," he said. "The goal is to create a fun place that can contribute to the booming downtown business movement."

Plus, toys and games are a fun business to be in. "I know this is something I would have loved to go to when I was growing up," he said. "So I'm hoping to create that feeling for kids now, that this is a place that you can just be excited to walk into."

Altenberger's ever-growing entrepreneurial knowledge is critical to the venture, as he references the selling experience he's picked up in the last few years online as being a huge help. "I've learned a lot about these product lines and have made connections with people over the years that have helped me get into the toy market," he explained. "Learning how to read the market data to make sure we have the products that people want and can obtain effectively."

Saturday, Oct. 5, in downtown Hillsboro.

For Altenberger, The Toy-Room is just the next move on the chessboard as he continues his entrepreneurial adventures, something he has been passionate about his entire life. "I've always been a bit of an entrepreneur," he said. "I was a kid with lemonade stands. I sold candy out of my backpack in school." His first legitimate venture began in 2018 when the then-high school senior was enrolled in the Montgomery County CEO program. "I started Alpha Candles with some friends through that program," he said. "And now Alpha Candles has a brick-and-mortar shop in downtown Hillsboro. CEO gave me the push to get started and taught me a lot of the baseline knowledge that I have."

The program opened his eyes to different experiences, he said, something critical to being successful in business.

In 2023, Altenberger returned to the CEO program as county facilitator, leading local students each day down their entrepreneurial paths. "I'm very lucky to be teaching the program," he said, "It utilizes my skill set for something that's not just about me, but helping them to enjoy the wonders of starting a business on their own." "It's exciting."

"I'm building a business right alongside them," he said, "So I'm better equipped to help them with their ventures.

And while Altenberger certainly is keeping himself busy these days, he's having a lot of fun doing it all. "I like the start of something new," he explained. "I like building new things and growing them and trying new ideas and seeing it all become reality, especially if it's something I'm passionate about."

Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

Local entrepreneur Logan Altenberger of Hillsboro is ex-

cited to announce his newest venture: The ToyRoom, opening

He credited the 'awesome' Hillsboro community for its consistent support. "The community has always  $showed\,up\,and\,supported\,me$ from a young age," he said. "There's been so many incredible programs here that have had an impact on my life and people have always supported my ventures. The people always come together and I want to be a part of that and make it even better.'

While it may be a tad early to forecast the future of The ToyRoom with opening day still on the horizon, Altenberger has plenty of big ideas in tow.

"I already have set up a line of local landmark puzzles," he said. "We'll have a lot of custom products about Hillsboro and some custom board games. I'm planning some unique events that can bring people here to show people what Hillsboro has to offer.

Opening day is set for Saturday, Oct. 5. Initial hours are set for Thursday and Friday each week from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information on The ToyRoom, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.

# **ROSC To Celebrate Recovery Month**

gomery County recovery oriented system of care (ROSC) are celebrating Recovery Month on Monday, Sept. 23 at 2 p.m, at 622 N. Franklin in Litchfield. The meeting will discuss the ROSC's goal to break down the stigma

around mental health and substance use by celebrating recovery month and the different pathways to recovery.

The meeting will be hybrid, also being held on Zoom. The meeting ID is 837 2227 3109 and the passcode is 440646.

### CITY OF WITT ANNUAL FALL CITY-WIDE CLEAN UP Monday, Oct. 7 thru Monday, Oct. 14

(Absolute final day for pick up is Monday, Oct. 14)



All items must be placed curbside for pick up, however the following items will not be accepted: chemicals of any kind, tires, electronics, yard waste and/or household trash.

If you have any questions, please contact Witt City Hall at (217) 594-2814.

### Prevention and Recovery. **Cross Over To Host Potluck**

Cross Over Ministries will be holding a "Recover With Me" potluck on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Haven Home of Hope, located at 205 Pleasant St. in Hillsboro. Attendees are asked to bring a dish.

# OPEN HOUSE September 29th 12-2PM

1430 IL Rt. 127, Greenville-IL This beautiful Mission Style Craftsman home has over 5000 sq ft and is situated on 5 acres. Custom built in 2009, this 5 bedroom/5 bath home has many gorgeous features - wood burning fireplace, wood floors, huge windows w/views, custom cabinets w/the chef in mind, great sunroom overlooking side yard & pool and more! Buyer has first option to purchase 52 wooded acres around the home. \$690,000



Myra Mollett, Managing Broker Wayne Mollett, Heather Mollett, Adam Mollett and Marcos Gilmore, Brokers 989 Beaumont Ave Greenville, Illinois 618.664.4259



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

### Open Mon., Tues., & Wed.

-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23-Fried Chicken, Pork Cutlet, Lasagna -TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24-Fried Fish, Meatloaf, Baked Chicken -WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25-Chicken & Noodles, **Chicken Livers & Gizzards** 

### **Taylor Springs Fire To Host Music Bingo**

The Taylor Springs Fire Department will be holding a music bingo event to raise funds on Saturday, Nov. 2, at The Outpost, the former VFW on Rt. 127, from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for admission is \$20 per person and prospective competitors are encouraged to reserve a table

Reservations can be made by contacting Brian Redman at 217-556-4668 or Linda Klotz at 217-259-5914.



A group of Marines gathered at The Hillsboro Garden restaurant as John Williams donated a blackjack to Montgomery County Sheriff Rick Robbins. Pictured above, from the left, are Dave Strowmatt, John Williams, Sheriff Rick Robbins and Bob Buda.

# **Williams Makes Donation** Of Blackjack To Robbins

Retired Lieutenant Colonel John Williams of Fairfax Station, VA, formerly of Nokomis, recently met up with a group of other former Marines at The Hillsboro Garden restaurant to catch up and present a blackjack once belonging to Charles "Ed" Schaefer of Nokomis. Williams served in the Marines for 34 months with two tours in Vietnam.

Schaefer served as a motorcycle officer with the Illinois State Police in the mid-to-late 1930s before being elected as sheriff of Montgomery County from 1942 to 1946, with an interruption brought about by a stint in the Navy during WWII. He returned to the sheriff position after an honorable discharge from the Navy at the end of WWII.

Schaefer was elected to the Illinois General Assembly as a state representative in 1946. He was reelected in 1948, 1950, 1954, 1960, 1962, 1964 and 1966. He served as the Clerk of the House during the 68th General Assembly in 1952 and 1953.



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Schaefer lived with his mother and his brother's family, which included his brother, Leland "Starchy" Schaefer, his wife Josephine and their son, Roger. Roger is how the blackjack came into Williams' possession. The two were horsetrading in the basement of the Schaefer house. Williams kept the blackjack for more than 70 years before passing it on to Robbins, who served a combat tour of duty with the Marines in Operation

Desert Storm. Joining Williams and Robbins at the restaurant were former Marines Bob Buda of Litchfield and Dave Strowmatt of Hillsboro.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE** 

Public Notice is hereby given that on September 5, 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: M&M HEAVY HAUL located at 1039 RAIN-MAKER TRL. in the city of BUTLER and state of IL.

Dated September 5, 2024 Sandy Leitheiser. County Clerk 35-3tM\*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Clifford Eugene Gualandi, formerly a resident of Lake County, Indiana, on October 11, 2023. Letters of Office were issued out of the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois, on the 17th day of September 2024 under Case No. 2024-PR-33 unto Regina M. Kirincic whose address is: Regina M. Kirincic, 7933 Duluth Street, Highland, Indiana 46322, and whose attorney of record is Stephen R. Cullison, 220 South Main Street, P. O. Box 188, Hillsboro, IIlinois 62049.

Claims may be filed within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within

that period is barred.

If you need further information regarding the electronic filing of claims with the Court, you should contact the Montgomery County Circuit Clerk at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Regina M. Kirincic Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate By: Stephen R. Cullison

Attorney for Independent Executor Cullison & Vandever Law Office 220 S. Main St., P. O. Box 188

Hillsboro, IL 62049 Tele: (217) 532-5432 Registration No. 00555592 Email:

cullisonlaw@consolidated.net 39-3tM



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# TCCU Reminds Seniors Of Scholarship Program

TCCU is reminding area education. high school seniors who plan to continue their education after high school that the deadline for registering in this year's scholarship program is Friday, Oct. 11.

All senior students graduating in 2025 from Taylorville, Hillsboro, Litchfield or Pana high schools and who plan to continue their education at a trade school, two-year community college or four year university are eligible to enter.

Eight students -- two from each of the four high schools - each will receive \$1000 awards toward their

"Registering for the program is easy," says TCCU President, Will Perkins. "We simply need the student's name, a good quality photo, such as their senior photo, and a completed parental permission form."

Registration and parental permission forms are available at all four TCCU locations, as well as on the credit union's website at www.TCCU.org.

Award recipients are determined by votes cast by community residents at local businesses. Residents can cast votes for their preferred

shop at participating retailers in Taylorville, Hillsboro, Litchfield and Pana.

"For every \$10 they spend at a participating business, shoppers can cast one vote for a student. Spend \$100, you can cast 10 votes," Perkins explains.

Voting will begin in mid-November and run through Feb. 28, 2025.

Participating businesses in their respective communities will display a poster of registered students' photos. There is a limit of 100 votes (\$1000 purchase) per any individual purchase. There

student(s) whenever they is no limit to how many businesses people can patronize, or how many times.

Students have until endof-day Friday, Oct. 11, to register. Scholarships will be awarded at the end of the school year in May 2025.

regarding the TCCU Scholarship, or how to join the credit union, please call or stop in any of the local TCCU locations: Taylorville - 217-824-9658: Hillsboro - 217-532-5300; Litchfield

For more information

217-324-7496; Pana -217-562-2516, or visit www. TCCU.org.





# **LECC Students Receive Principal Recognition Awards**

Litchfield Early Childhood Center principal Adam Favre is pleased to announce the Principal Recognition Award winners for the week of Sept. 6. Award winners are recognized in front of the entire student body during their awards ceremony each week and every winner receives a certificate. In the photo on the left, pictured from the left are kindergarten award recipients Brooklyn Pryor, Emma Greenwood, Berkley Smith, Dexter Sellers and Rilynn Vaske. In the photo on the right, pictured, from the left, are first grade award recipients Donavin Wade, Ryland England and Kinsley Coulter.

### ONLINE ALL THE TIME

www.thejournal-news.net

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PRE-FILING NOTICE** 

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the office of Lori Jolliff, Clerk of Irving, will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, November 12, 2024 through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024 for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the upcoming Consolidated Election to be held on April 1, 2025 for the following offices.

Village Trustee (3 positions to be filled)

If you are interested in this paid elected position, please contact Lori Jolliff at 217-533-4601. Office hours: Tuesday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to pick up petitions. Other arrangements can be made if necessary due to limited hours.

Lori Jolliff, Clerk Village of Irving

31-6t-EOM

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PRE-FILING NOTICE** 

Notice is hereby given that the office of Christine Daniels, Village Clerk of Taylor Springs, will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, November 12 through Friday, November 15th and scheduled hours for Monday, November 18, 2024 will be from 3 p.m.. to 5 p.m. for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the upcoming Consolidated Election that will be held on April 1, 2025 for the following offices:

Village Trustee (3 positions at 4 year

(1 position for a 2 year unexpired term)

If you are interested in these paid elected positions, please contact Chris Daniels at 217-259-6100. Please call if need be to make other arrangements due to the limited office hours.

Chris Daniels, Clerk Village of Taylor Springs 37-2tM

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF FINDING** OF NO SIGNIFICANT IM-**PACT AND NOTICE** OF INTENT TO REQUEST **RELEASE OF FUNDS** 

September 23, 2024 Village of Irving 110 East State Street Irving, IL 62051 (217) 533-4601

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Village of Irving.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE** OF FUNDS On or about October 9,

2024 the Village of Irving will submit a request to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the release of Community Development Block (CDBG) #23-242005 funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known Village of Irving Water System Renovations for the purpose of replacing approximately 21,854 lineal feet of watermain, hydrants, meters, service lines, all appurtenances and related costs for the Village of Irving. The project area is an irregularly bound area that includes (North) Barry Street (Witt, IL), (East) IL 16, (South) Pine Street (Irving, IL), (West) IL 16. The construction is planned to begin Summer 2025 and conclude Winter 2025. The total estimated construction costs of \$1,500,000 will be funded as follows: \$1,500,000 - State CDBG Public Infrastructure Grant #23-242005.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFI-**CANT IMPACT** 

The Village of Irving has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National **Environmental Policy Act** of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Milano & Grunloh Engineers, c/o Lee Beckman, 114 W Washington Ave, Effingham, IL 62401; or by calling 217-347-7262; or at the Village of Irving, 110 East State Street, Irving, IL 62051, c/o Kenda Caulk. Interested persons may also contact Kenda Caulk at 217-533-4601 for additional information about this project and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Village of Irving, c/o Kenda Caulk, 110 East State

Street, Irving, IL 62051. All comments received by October 8, 2024, will be considered by the Village of Irving prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** CERTIFICATION

The Village of Irving certifies to Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) that Kenda Caulk in her capacity as Village President consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. DCEO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Village of Irving to use Program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS** 

DCEO will accept objections to its release of funds and the Village of Irving's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Village of Irving; (b) the Village of Irving has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DCEO; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. jections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, CDBG Unit at 1011 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62704. Potential objectors should contact DCEO at (217) 524-1399 to verify the actual

> Kenda Caulk, Village President 39-1t

last day of the objection

period.

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF SALE** 

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Litchfield CUSD No. 12, Litchfield, Illinois, shall sell at public sale at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 15th day of October, 2024, at the School District office, 1100 N. Old Route 66, Litchfield, Illinois, following described property, to-wit:

Litchfield CUSD No. "G.A. Sihler School Building", commonly known as 601 South State Street, Litchfield, Illinois (herinafter "said real estate; which sale shall be on the following terms,

1. Sale shall be by bids in writing to be submitted to the Superintendent, Litchfield CUSD No. 12, 1100 N. Old Rt 66, Litchfield, Illinois, no later than 4 o'clock P.M. on October 10th, 2024;

2. The minimum bid shall be zero dollars (\$\_0.00\_);

3. Those persons submitting the three (3) highest bids shall have the privilege of competitively raising their bids at the time of the opening of the bids; 4. Terms of payment by

the successful bidder for said real estate shall be ten percent (10%) earnest money deposit, payable upon the execution of a Contract for Sale of Real Estate, and the balance in cash at the time of closing. A copy of the Contract for Sale that the Buyer shall be required to sign on

the date of the public sale shall be available for inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours.

5. Possession will be delivered at closing, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price;

6. Conveyance will be made by Warranty Deed, subject to the lien of current taxes, if any, easements apparent or of record and building and zoning ordinances;

7. Evidence of title shall be by title insurance commitment and policy, subject to the permissible exceptions to the title described in the Contract for Sale;

8. Said real estate and structures located theron are being sold in "AS IS CON-DITION". Said real estate may contain asbestos or asbestos containing mate-

9. The Board of Education of Litchfield CUSD No. 12, reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities which do not taint the legality of the sale; and

10. Announcements at time of sale supersede prior or conflicting announcements.

11. Upon request, the property may be seen by private appointment.

> **BOARD OF EDUCATION** Litchfield CUSD No. 12 By: Julie Abel, President

**IMAGINE HILLSBORO CHECKS IN •** by Lucas Altenberger

# **Imagine Hosts Slew Of Near Events**



Welcome back to Imagine Hillsboro Checks In! This column features a bimonthly update regard-

ing all things Imagine Hillsboro. September and October are gearing up to be very busy months for Imagine Hillsboro, which means many great events for our community to enjoy! Let's see what we have in store.

Although the Farmer's Market season has now concluded, patrons can look forward to the annual Harvest market on Saturday, Oct. 5. Fans of our Farmer's Markets will see many of the same types of goods, with a broader selection and variety to shop from. In addition to shopping, you will be able to find a variety of food vendors for the appetite you'll be working up. Stick around for pumpkin painting and other fun surprises. Later on, don't forget about the annual bed races and Chalk of the Town events. It's going to be a day you won't want to miss. We are accepting vendor applications at *imaginehillsboro*. com/events-registration.

The following Saturday, Oct. 12, will see the third return of the Shake the Lakes Fun Run. We are again offering two races, a 5K at 9 a.m., followed by a one-mile run at 10 a.m. New this year is registration through RunSignUp. Avid runners may already be familiar with this platform. Register today at runsignup. com/Race/IL/Hillsboro/ ShakeTheLakes. Shirts are only guranteed if registered by Oct. 1, so act soon. Special rates are available if running in both races or racing as a family of four. Participants are encouraged to wear a Halloween costume, but please use your best judgement regarding running safety. Stick around after your race for a bag of candy and photo opportunities.

Keeping along with the athletic theme, the Education Committee's Spooktacular Golf Scramble returns on Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. Golfer or not, we'd love to see you on the green! If golfing is not your forte, but you would like

to sponsor the event, please browse available sponsorship options at *imaginehillsboro*. com/events-registration. All funds raised directly benefit Hillsboro students through supporting educational field trips, supply purchases or other Imagine events like the Back to School Store.

The Snow Pageant has concluded the application process and is gearing up for the annual pageant on Nov. 24. We are so excited to welcome this year's talent and see what they have in store for our community! Join the Imagine Hillsboro Snow Royalty Facebook group for the most up-to-date information and happenings. If you're in for some more winter fun, keep an eye out for our 2024 Small Town Christmas event to be held later this year.

Make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and our Spaces app. As always, feel free to sign up for committee or whole-group email correspondence at imaginehillsboro.com/subscribe. Enjoy the plethora of events coming up, and you'll hear from us again in November.



# **Finding Balance When School Starts**



Goingback school brings A LOT of emotions for everyonekids either dreading waking up early or ex-

cited to be with their friends again.

Parents stressed with busier schedules, finding rides for their kids, balancing work, school and home life– or relieved that they can be rid of their children for a little while (summer does bring out the crazy in us kids, huh?).

Then there are the teachers. They guide and teach young minds all the while trying not to lose their own. with new students, new guidelines and new ways to make lessons feel fresh every year, it can feel like a lot to do. Along with this, knowing what to say to students in times of need and how to breathe when they cause a scene in the hallway can be trying just the same.

The craziness begins right away. From new classes, new faces and new homework that dad can't solve anymore because math has changed (sorry dad). Then sports and clubs come into the mix, creating after school activities that parents must try to plan around.

Then there is the unplanned– the "Mom, I forgot my homework can you bring it?" text message. The "Dad I dropped my phone and it cracked, sorry conversation. Kids getting sick or getting hurt, parents trying to help them while also trying to help themselves.

Then finally, the grand scheme of life with bills to pay, houses breaking and in need of being fixed or hating going to work on Monday but needing the money to pay for said house fixes. The never ending chores to get done with too short amount of time to do it.

And if this isn't enough, then how about elections and the fate of our country, because that is something that keeps many people up

at night too. For me, my crazy comes from my college classes, homework, my sorority, sports events, work and so much more. It comes from being homesick, missing my parents and grandparents, but also so excited to be where I am today.

"It's all about finding balance" they say. But how can we possibly do that, or know at all times what balance should look and feel like when life feels impossible?

To help myself out with this, I have the Rule of Three. In order to have a day that feels successful or "balanced" I have three categories that need to be checked. This does not mean I get this done everyday, or even most days. But, I know that if I can get through these categories, I feel better about life.

The first category requires you to do something out of your normal environment. When I stay on campus for too long, doing the same routine of going to classes, eating in the dining hall, doing homework, then going to sleep, I do *not* feel great. I have to get out of my environment. So, I go to the store, attend a volleyball game or football game, sit outside and read a book-anything to shake things up helps.

For here in the community, find ways to get out of the house by going to the store, attending a sporting event in your town, go on a walk or try a new restaurant.

The next category is to do something for yourself. Now, this may sound a little similar, but its more of a self improvement thing. Maybe this means going to the gym, taking a late night stroll and watching the sunset, going on a drive, reading a book, writing in a journal, or even just touching grass for the people who stay inside all day. Do anything that helps yourself grow as a person. Even if it is only for 15 minutes. It can make a difference.

I think that is the most important mind set for this category. How can I grow today? This could be in your values and faith, relationships with others, finding new hobbies, or new direction in life if you are not happy with your current one.

The final category is to do something social. Now, I know that with these busy schedules this can be difficult. Not so much for kids, but definitely for adults who are busy. So, if you can't find the time to hang with friends every day, (and I'm pretty sure no one can sustain this) then call friends, call your parents, cousins, kids

or other extended family you haven't seen in a while. Go out to dinner with friends, start a book club or watch a TV series with your family. Anything new that gets you talking with other people.

Most of the time it is very possible to combine these categories- the social and getting out of your normal environment is so easy. Like I said previously, go out to dinner. It could be you going on a walk with a friend which covers something for yourself growth and social category. Or even going the movies with friends or family- this combines all three categories with something social, growing in knowledge (in some form) and getting out of your environment.

wnen life gets busy, it can be so easy to lose oneself in the madness. Finding ways to "stay yourself" is important.

Doing at least two (but hopefully three) of these things a day makes me feel complete. And sure, some times all I can handle is working, eating some food, and watching a show- I mean, life is about relaxing too. It's only when we get too comfortable that our lives can become incomplete, or on the flip-side, when times become too stressful it's easy to get lost in the chaos.

To circle back around, I just want to say that it is okay to feel anxious about the future or even about your life right now. It's okay not to know the right path for yourself or your family or to worry about all the "things" that need to get done once school starts. But, if you are looking for a change and don't know how, maybe this could be a way to start?

Begin with one categorygo on a walk, find a day to call someone who you haven't called in a while or bake a new food. It gives you new "life material" to discuss with others, adding to the social category.

And if this is too much, especially for when school starts, then try to remember that it won't always be this busy. Life is constantly shifting- umm hello, remember the pandemic when we sat at home for four months?

Be patient with yourself and others and remember to breathe! Remember life is good, and you are good, too.

### Joe's Corner by Joe Rollins Don't you mean Geez...We'd better be careful 'absolute when voting this year, and hope our candidate has some sort of immunity'? Same thing. moral integrity, because the Supreme Court granted the president full absolute power. Talk about scary.

PANTHER PRESS • by Claudia Deren at Litchfield

# **Litchfield Athletes Visit Young Students**



thers!

It's been a busy and spirited week at LHS!

Last

Thursday, many high school fall athletes took a trip to visit LES students during the day. The young students loved their surprise visitors and

see Pounce! Friday night we had a great Homecoming game, and the stands were full of spirit! Following the Friday game was the Homecoming

were especially excited to

dance on Saturday, where our 2024 Homecoming King and Queen were named; congratulations to Avarey Fetter and Clayton Logsdon!

Litchfield Sports Boosters and Athletic Department are continuing to sell 50/50 raffle tickets! They are available at Sports Booster events, concession stands at LMS and LHS sporting events and even your favorite fall athletes. Support Litchfield sports, and you might be the lucky winner at the end of the year!

This week, we will have sporting events every day! There will be a home boys soccer game on Tuesday, Sept.

24, at 5 p.m., a home girls volleyball game also on Tuesday beginning at 5 p.m. and another home boys soccer game on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10 a.m. The other sports teams will travel for their games or matches throughout the week, so, as always, let's go watch and support them all!

JOE ROLLING

If you ever feel like you are missing out on these events, take a look at each sports schedule for the season or check out some of the social media pages that update frequently, such as the LHS Panther PIT page on Facebook and Instagram!

Have a great week, Pan-

**REDSKIN REVIEW** • by Grace DeWerff at Nokomis

# **Grace Cup Game Kicks Off Tonight**



Monday, Redskin fans! I hope all students had a fun-filled Homecoming and a great time at the dance!

Last week, students celebrated and showed their school spirit all week long.

Volleyball played South County for their very first conference game last week and took a big win, 25-10, 25-5. On Wednesday, they hosted a black-out the gym Homecoming week game against Vandalia. In between the junior varsity and varsity games, the senior class hosted a fundraiser where attendants could pay \$1 to try to serve and hit one of the senior football boys holding prizes on the other side of the court. The Lady Redskins claimed the win, 25-18, 25-9, improving their record to 15-3.

On Thursday, the junior

and senior classes competed in a dodgeball tournament. Congratulations to the seniors, who won the overall championship game. Afterward, the whole school celebrated at the annual bonfire, where team captains spoke about their ongoing seasons. A huge thank you to Student Council, administrators and parents who helped set the night up and made it memorable for students.

Our soccer team faced Springfield Lutheran on Friday, and took an unfortunate loss, 2-1. However, looking forward to this week, they will play Hillsboro for the annual Ğrace Cup game. The Grace Cup is held in memory of Grace Herschelman, and is a way to raise awareness about INAD. Last year, the game ended in a tie, so this year both teams are fighting to take the win in the county rivalry. If you're free, come and support the soccer team! Later in the week, on Thursday, they will play Maryville Christian on Thursday and Riverton on Friday. Good luck to players!

The Nokomis Redskins football team hosted Cerro Gordo for our annual Homecoming game and took the win, 55-7. At halftime, the class banners were showcased. Congratulations to the seniors, who won the bannermaking competition.

On Saturday, the Homecoming dance was hosted at 7 p.m. Everyone looked amazing all dressed up!

This week, the volleyball team has a game on Tuesday against Lutheran at home, and later in the week on Thursday against Tri-City for another conference matchup. Good luck to the Lady Redskins!

On Friday night, the football team will head to Oakland, hoping to keep the undefeated streak alive. On Saturday, they have a game starting at 1 p.m. Good luck!

Have a great week, see you next Monday!



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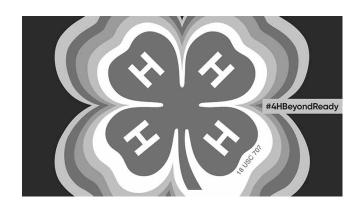
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# Montgomery County Youth to Celebrate National 4-H Week: October 7-12

### Montgomery County youth program offers a place where kids can belong, lead, learn

4-H members in Illinois will join the six million youth across the country in celebrating National 4-H Week October 1-7. Clubs around Illinois celebrate this week by highlighting the remarkable 4-H youth in their communities and showcasing the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people.

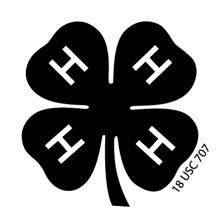
Illinois 4-H is the flagship youth program for the University of Illinois Extension and the largest out-of-school youth organization in Illinois. 4-H youth development programs in Montgomery County challenge youth to "learn by doing" with fun, hands-on activities. Kids can learn, practice, and demonstrate new skills while exploring the interests that are important to them.

In 4-H, youth are brought together in clubs, led by caring adults, who welcome them as a part of the larger 4-H family.

"4-H is building the future. The experiences that our members have now - through their 4-H project work, community service, and leadership opportunities - are helping them become better communicators, teachers, leaders, community servants, and future members of the workplace. 4-H is a place where all youth can explore and learn about things that interest them with others just like them, too," stated Sara Marten, Extension 4-H youth development educator.

In 4-H, members learn about topics that interest them through projects. That could be anything from learning how to cook, build a robot, or care for the environment. Members can explore these topics through 4-H experiences such as community clubs, special interest clubs, workshops, and more.

Illinois 4-H members range in age from 8 to 18. Youth who are 5 to 7 years of age may join 4-H as a Cloverbud member. New members can get more information by emailing Alexis at amcdo6@illinois.edu or calling Montgomery County Extension at 217-532-3941.



Learn more about 4-H at 4h.extension.illinois.edu, visit Montgomery County 4-H at go.illinois.edu/montgomeryco4h, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/4-HMontgomery





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### **Litchfield Council**

Continued from page 1A

During the council's discussion, Alderwoman Kassidy Paine asked if the fact food is exempt for the sales tax was taken into account when it was determined that shoppers in Litchfield are split almost 50/50 from those in town and those out of town. Paine said since Litchfield has one of the few Walmarts and Aldis in the area, she wondered if individuals from Litchfield made more of the non-exempt purchases than those from out of town.

City Administrator Breann Vazquez, who was at the Illinois Municipal League conference in Chicago with Alderman Jake Fleming and City Attorney Michael McGinley, phoned into the meeting and said that she believes that was factored into the information, but she wasn't certain.

Alderman Ray Kellenberger said that he initially  $believed\,that\,now\,was\,not\,the$ right time for the business district, but after reading over the information and reconsidering, he believed that the city was going to have to establish the district at some point and now was the time to do so.

Mayor Steve Dougherty also said that he thought the timing was bad, but the business district was the only program available to help the city replace the TIF funds.

Dougherty also said that the city needs to be careful to use the funds only for infrastructure and to make sure that buildings are in good shape, not for business development. Vazquez said over \$400,000 has been budgeted for infrastructure improvements and the business district funds would be used for some of those projects. In a letter to the council, Vazquez mentioned some of those projects, such as water main and sewer line replacement, sidewalk replacement and road repaying.

The vote to approve the district passed by a 5-2, with Alderman Josh Hughes and Alderwoman Paine voting against the motion. While not able to be at the meeting, Alderman Jake Fleming expressed support of the business district on social media.

In other business, the council heard from Lee Beckman of Milano and Grunloh Engineers regarding the status of the city's grants for projects including Skyview Drive, expansion of the campground and sidewalks through the Safe Routes to Schools grant. Beckman said the city did not receive the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant, but is working on answers for the next submission.

Earlier in the meeting, the council approved the appointment of Stacie Peecher as interim treasurer and motions to accept the minutes from the Sept. 5 meeting and to transfer funds and pay bills. The bid opening for the property at 619 North Madison was tabled until the next meeting.

Also approved was the final plat for the I-55 Commerce Center, which Mayor Dougherty said was necessary to develop the lots in the project, and two motions declaring property from the lake department and fire department as surplus. Fire Chief Adam Pennock said that the items would be disposed of in an auction conducted by Aumann Auctions of Nokomis. The council also approved a cooperative positions agreement with the Litchfield School District pertaining to the EMT class the fire department and school district collaborates

In lake department business, the council approved an ordinance to allow for controlled adult and youth hunting seasons within specific portions of the Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation Area. The youth hunting season is a new addition, with ten spots available for hunters under the age of 18 who have a permit, have gone through a hunter safety course and are accompanied by an adult with a hunting license.

In street department busi-

ness, the council approved a change order increasing the scope of the contract to include curb and driveway aprons for the road work on Jackson Street for an amount not to exceed \$179,000. The council also approved the placement of stop signage on State Street at Sargent street for north and southbound traffic to assist in traffic control at a designated crosswalk near Litchfield Elementary School.

Alderman Ray Kellenberger asked about having a red flashing light installed with the new stop sign to make it more noticeable for drivers. Police Chief Kenny Ryker said that was possible and would just be an added expense if the council wanted to pursue that option. Alderwoman Marilyn Sisson and Alderwoman Robbin Huffman both said they felt like crossing guards at the intersection would be helpful. Chief Ryker said that was an option, but the question was who would staff them as his department is currently down two officers.

Alderwoman Sara Zumwalt asked why the stop sign wasn't placed at East St. John instead. Chief Ryker said that engineers studied the traffic flow and this intersection was deemed most efficient. He said adding a stop sign at East St. John would be more expensive as the intersection would have to be redone to be ADA compliant.

In buildings and grounds business, bids were awarded for renovations to the Carnegie building with mechanical systems going to Neuhaus Heating and AC (\$277,660), material and labor going to Hancock Construction (\$79,655) and plumbing, wiring, electrical, equipment and material and masonry going to Bruce Utterbrink Construction (total amount of \$128, 692). The project is being funded with \$398,500 in DCEO funds and \$87,507 in TIF funds.

When the project initially was bid out, it was done with a general contractor and came in over-budget. Mayor Dougherty said when the project was bid out in six different sections, with Building Inspector Gary Baker handling general contractor



# Gracie DeWerff, Bond Knodle Reign In Nokomis

Nokomis High School seniors Gracie DeWerff and Bond Knodle were crowned this year's 2024 NHS Homecoming Queen and King on Saturday, Sept. 21, during the "Once Upon a Time" dance at the school. They are pictured above with members of their court. From the left are Carter Wexstten, Addison Kirkpatrick, Bryce Gillock, Camryn Engelman, Caleb Bauer, Libby Watson, Atticus Bertolino, Becca Hill, crown bearer Sophia Alsbury, retiring 2023 NHS Homecoming Queen Irene Vanden-Bergh, 2024 NHS Homecoming Queen Gracie DeWerff, retiring 2023 NHS Homecoming King Brenton Lyons, 2024 NHS Homecoming King Bond Knodle, crown bearer Kru Bertolino, Jensen Masten, Jayde Gonet, Jack Johnson, Marcie Carroll, Walker Stewart, Remi Tester, Hunter Arkebauer, Mackenzie Mehochko, Luke Eisenbarth and Hannah Tarter.

Journal-News Photo



# Clayton Logsdon, Ava Fetter Reign At LHS

Litchfield High School seniors Clayton Logsdon and Ava Fetter, were crowned 2024 Litchfield Homecoming King and Queen at this year's Homecoming dance, held Saturday evening, Sept. 21, in the school gym. The theme for this year's Homecoming celebration was "Glow-Co." Pictured above, from the left in the back row are Emma Bone, Claudia Deren, Addi Monke, Georgia Glover, Prestyn Buzick, Kayden Bergman, Keaton Morgan and Will Cress, In the front are crown bearer Noelle Robinson, King Clayton Logsdon, Queen Ava Fetter and crown bearer Westley Glover. Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

\$200,000 on the project.

Before adjourning at 7:12 p.m., the council discussed amending the city clerk's pay from \$18,500 annually to \$7,800. Mayor Dougherty pointed out that if this ordiduties, the city saved over nance was passed and the

city clerk worked ten hours a week, then the clerk's salary would be minimum wage. He added that he was not sure of the caliber of candidates the city would get to do the job if that was the case.

Alderwoman Sara Zumwalt said that the reduction in salary was done as some of the job duties have changed and are done day-to-day by office staff. Current City Clerk Carol Burke, who

treasurer earlier this month but remained in her clerk's position, said that her duties as clerk have not changed. Burke added that the office staff has always handled licenses and permits and other duties as assigned and are not doing tasks they were not already doing.

Alderwoman Huffman asked how many hours Burke worked in the capac-

resigned as collector and ity of city clerk. Burke said as an elected official, the council is not allowed to ask that and she believed that she had done a good job and had gone above and beyond during her ten years in the position.

> The vote to change the salary failed 6-1, with Alderwoman Huffman voting for the motion.



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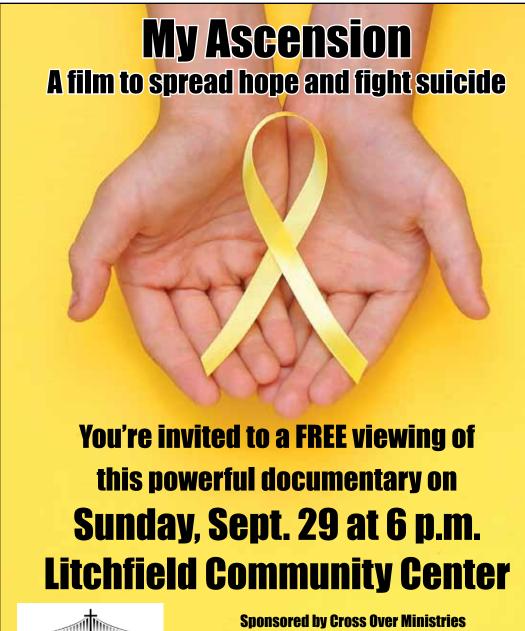
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Monday, September 23, 2024



The Hillsboro JFL cheerleaders lent support to one of their own on Saturday, Sept. 21, by raising money for Isabel McLaughlin's fight against cancer. In front, from the left, are Stella Lawson, Ana Singleterry, Isabel McLaughlin, Cora Jarman, Sadie Lawson and Tahlia Newingham. In the second row are Rayna Segrest, Karsyn Jones, Aaliyah Haynie, Mila Reed, Charlotte Reams, Myrah Noyes, Brylee Morris and Lettie Emerson. In the back are Sophia Brown, Josie Whittenmeyer, Aubrey Newingham and Riley Meyers. Journal-News Photo

# JFL All For Izzy On Saturday

Any time someone from Hillsboro sports purple, you know the cause must be a special one and that was the case on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Junior Topper JFL

The JFL cheerleaders were decked out in purple shirts, bows and face paint, while the Junior Toppers wore purple arm sleeves in honor of one of their own, sixth grader Isabel "Izzy' McLaughlin, the daughter of Phil and Lindsey McLaughlin who has been battling

The wardrobe change was just the start of the drive to help McLaughlin, who rang the bell in celebration of her last chemotherapy treatment on Sept. 17.

Continued on 3B



Hillsboro sixth grader Isabel McLaughlin was front and center during the Hillsboro JFL cheerleaders dance during halftime of Saturday's game at the sports complex. The group performed to Rachel Platten's Fight Song in honor of McLaughlin's fight against cancer. Journal-News Photo

# Gillespie Gets First Win **Against Hiltoppers**

by Ron Deabenderfer

"If only..." aren't happy words for sports teams, coaches or fans to hear or think, but they certainly applied to Hillsboro's fate in the football game played in Gillespie Friday night, Sept. 20. The Miners won, 21-7, but several game circumstances that didn't go the Toppers' way fueled the defeat.

Ĭfonly the Toppers weren't headed north on the field, away from the scoreboard (and it's timer/clock) as the first half ended, Elijah Patton's first ever varsity field goal would have sent the team to the locker room ahead 10-7. The kick was good, but it came seconds after the half ended.

If only junior running back Amony Anderson, the fastest Topper to see action as a running back this year, hadn't re-injured a leg/foot late in the first half, the Toppers probably would have scored more than the one touchdown he scored by racing 33 yards with 39.2 seconds remaining in the first quarter. He had 83 yards on five carries, an impressive 16.6 yards per carry, before spending the last 90 seconds of the first  $half and \, all \, of \, the \, second \, half \,$ on the bench. (Patton added the PAT after Anderson's first quarter score).

If only the game situation hadn't dictated the Toppers pass deep in their own ter-

ritory late in the game after a goal line stand kept the score at 14-7, Miners. With 2:19 left, the ball was on the Topper 4 when Miner back Dawson Morgan was stonewalled for a two yard loss during a fourth down and goal rush from the two. Morgan was the fullback type for the hosts; unofficially he had 81 yards on 22 attempts. Scatback Collin Griffith had with 105 yards on 10 carries to lead both teams.

Sadly for Hillsboro, the defensive stop was the last good event that happened. On their first play from scrimmage, a penalty cost them half the distance (two yards). Facing a seven point deficit and 98 yards away from a possible tie, they had to pass, but the Miners anticipated that; the throw into the flat was picked off by Hunter Hegel on the 10, and he had an unimpeded path to the end zone. After Traegen Madeline's third successful PAT (of three attempts), the final score was set, 21-7.

The Toppers' mishaps weren't over though. The ensuing 58 yard kickoff was fumbled and recovered by Gillespie on the Topper 12. Mercifully, the Miners ran out the clock from there, allowing themselves to take a delay of game penalty and a kneel-down loss of yards as the game ended.

Continued on 3B



Nokomis' Jensen Masten (#59) hangs on to Cerro Gordo running back Azul Mendez until reinforcements, in the form of teammate Riley Steele (#71), can arrive during the Redskins' homecoming game against the Broncos on Friday, Sept. 20. The Nokomis defense held Cerro Gordo to just seven points and three first downs in a 55-7 victory, Nokomis' fourth in as

# **Redskins Buck Broncos To Go To 4-0**

by Kyle Herschelman

The Nokomis Redskins dominated both sides of the ball once again on Friday, Sept. 20, as they improved to 4-0 with a 55-7 victory over Cerro Gordo-Bement for homecoming.

Both teams ran roughly the same number of plays on offense, 43 for Nokomis and 42 for Cerro Gordo. Both

the Redskins' favor as their defense held the Broncos to just three first downs and to four or fewer plays on nine of their 11 offensive drives, while the offense racked up

It wasn't just that the Redskins scored, though. It was how quickly they did so, especially in the first quarter. After receiving the kickoff

of those numbers were in and taking it to the 20, Nokomis handed the ball off to Nolan Herpstreith on the first two plays of the game. The junior running back gained 30 yards on his first carry then 50 yards on his second 393 yards with 21 first downs. for his eighth touchdown of tentional grounding penalty the season.

> That set the tone for the game as Herpstreith ran for 150 yards on just 15 carries, with two more touchdown

runs coming later in the game.

Nokomis got the ball back almost as quickly as the Redskins pressured quarterback Eli Corpus, leading to two incomplete passes and an inthat pushed the Broncos back to their own five yard line and made it fourth-and-35.

Continued on 3B

# **Second Half Pushes Comets Past Panthers**

In 1910, the University of Illinois began a tradition of inviting alumni back to the campus, to visit and connect with current students. That tradition, called homecoming, now occurs not only in universities, but high schools also as alumni and former community members come back to visit.

Litchfield High School took in this timeless tradition this week, capping off the week of festivities by welcoming the Greenville Comets. The Comets would spoil the party as they rambled off 34 unanswered points and cruised to a 54-17 South Central Conference victory on Sept. 20.

Friday's night outcome was not unfamiliar when the Comets and the Purple Panthers square off on the gridiron. In the past 28 years, the Purple Panthers have one victory over Greenville, a 24-20 week eight in 2003. That year the Purple Panthers advanced to the playoffs falling in the opening round to Tolono Unity.

Continued on 3B



Litchfield's Harrison Thomas wraps up Greenville quarterback Ben Hutchinson just as he gets rid of the ball during the Panthers' homecoming game in Litchfield on Sept. 20. Litchfield trailed by just ten, 27-17, going into halftime, but 27 unanswered points by the Comets in the third quarter allowed Greenville to improve to 4-0 on the season with a 54-17 win.



Thanks to a hole opened by Jesse Ringhausen (#76) and the Hillsboro offensive line, junior running back Amony Anderson found some running room early in the Toppers' match-up with Gillespie on Sept. 20. Anderson scored a 33-yard touchdown to give Hillsboro a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, but 21 unanswered points by the Miners gave them their first win of the season. Journal-News/John Galer



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Monday, September 23 10 a.m. - Boys Golf at South Central Conference Tournament at

10 a.m. - Girls Golf at South Central Conference Tournament at Indian Springs

4:30 p.m. - Girls Tennis at Marquette 6 p.m. - Boys Soccer Grace Cup vs. Lincolnwood at Terry Todt Field in Raymond

6 p.m. - JV Football hosts Gillespie Tuesday, September 24 4 p.m. - Boys Golf vs. Carlinville, Litchfield, Gillespie at Hillsboro

Country Club
4 p.m. - Girls Golf vs. Carlinville,
Litchfield, Gillespie at Hillsboro

Country Ćlub 4:30 p.m. - Girls Tennis hosts Taylorville

5 p.m. - Boys Soccer at Litchfield

Wednesday, September 25 4 p.m. - Girls Golf vs. Pana, Litchfield, Shelbyville, North Mac at Oak Terrace Golf Course 4:15 p.m. - JV Boys Soccer at Civic

Nokomis Redskins Monday, September 23 6 p.m. - JV Football hosts Cerro

Memorial

Tuesday, September 24 4 p.m. - Ramsey Golf vs. Sandoval, Vandalia at Vandalia Country

6 p.m. - Volleyball hosts Springfield Lutheran

Wednesday, September 25 4 p.m. - Ramsey Girls Golf hosts

### Litchfield Purple Panthers

Monday, September 23 10 a.m. - Boys Golf at South Central Conference Tournament at Indian Springs 10 a.m. - Girls Golf at South Central

Conference Tournament at Indian Springs 5 p.m. - Volleyball at Metro-East

Lutheran 6 p.m. - JV Football at Greenville

Tuesday, September 24 4 p.m. - Boys Golf vs. Carlinville, Hillsboro, Gillespie at Hillsboro Country Club

p.m. - Girls Golf vs. Carlinville, Hillsboro, Gillespie at Hillsboro Country Club 5 p.m. - Boys Soccer hosts Hillsboro

p.m. - Volleyball hosts Staunton Wednesday, September 25 4 p.m. - Girls Golf vs. Pana, Hillsboro, Shelbyville, North Mac at Oak Terrace Golf Course

#### <u>Lincolnwood Lancers</u>

Monday, September 23 p.m. - Girls Golf vs. Mt. Olive. Rochester at Shoal Creek 4 p.m. - Boys Golf vs. Mt. Olive, Rochester at Shoal Creek

6 p.m. - Volleyball at Gillespie p.m. - Soccer Grace Cup vs. Hillsboro at Terry Todt Field in Raymond

Tuesday, September 24 4 p.m. - Girls Golf vs. Carlinville, Gillespie at Hillsboro Country

- Boys Golf vs. Havana, Mt. Pulaski, Northwestern, Greenview at Country Hills 6 p.m. - Pawnee JV Football hosts

# **Panthers Shake Off Road Woes With Greenville Win**

After falling in their first three road games of the season, the Litchfield volleyball team bounced back to pickup a South Central Conference victory in Greenville on Thursday, Sept. 19.

The Lady Panthers have made it a habit of battling back this year, but in Thursday's game, they jumped out in front in both sets and never trailed the entire night.

A pair of aces from Elise Walch and a kill by Megan Lee helped get Litchfield out to a 5-0 lead in the start of the first set, but Greenville rallied back to tie the game at 6-6 following three straight hits out of bounds by the Panthers. Litchfield got the advantage back on a hit into the net by the Comets and went back to building up their lead.

Throughout the first set, the Panthers limited Greenville's points to just one or two per rotation, while Litchfield stretched out their advantage. Point streaks of three and four helped grow the Panthers' lead to double digits as a kill and two blocks from Lee made it 21-9 in Litchfield's favor. The two teams traded points the rest of the way out, with Litchfield getting the game winner on Lee's third kill of the set.

The second set started much like the first, with Elise Walch going on an 8-0 run at the serving line. Brooke Braasch and Chloe Law both had kills in the streak, with Megan Lee putting down a block for the first point of the game.

The Panthers held onto

that advantage for most of the set, with the lead growing to 12 at one point. Litchfield was still up double digits 20-10, when a serve into the net gave the Comets the ball back with a nine-point deficit.

Greenville managed to chip away at that margin, picking up a pair of aces and reducing the margin to 20-16. The Comets got as close as two, 22-20, before Litchfield Coach Alivia Reed called a timeout to reset her squad.

The break worked wonders as Walch set up Lee for a kill down the middle, with Gina Painter upping Litchfield's advantage to 24-20 before a Greenville timeout slowed their momentum.

The Comets picked up a kill to keep the game alive, but Painter and Chloe Law combined for a block on the next attack attempt, with Greenville's return falling out of bounds for the game

Litchfield will be back on the road on Monday, Sept. 23, as they play Metro-East Lutheran in Edwardsville. They'll return home on Tuesday, Sept. 24, to face defending South Central Conference champion Staunton.

Sept. 19 at Greenville

Greenville 14 21 **Litchfield Statistics** 

Service Points: Elise Walch 12, Avery Stewart 5, Brooke Braasch 5, Gina Painter 4, Kyndal Law , Alli Frerichs 2. Aces: Elise Walch 2, Avery Stewart 1, Kyndal Law 1. **Kills:** Megan Lee 7, Gina Painter 4, Elise Walch 2, Brooke Braasch 2, Chloe Law 1. **Blocks:** Megan Lee 3, Gina Painter 1,

Chloe Law 1. Records: Litchfield (7-5, 2-1), Greenville (5-11, 0-2).

### More Volleyball Results Thursday

For the second straight weekend the Hillsboro and Lincolnwood volleyball teams played six games in three days as they participated in the Vandalia and New Berlin Tournaments respectively.

The Toppers, who lost a close conference match to Staunton at home on Thursday, placed second at Vandalia, winning their three pool play games before falling to Carlyle in the title game.

The Lancers, who beat South County on Thursday, nearly did the reverse as they went 1-2 in New Berlin, but won their final to games to finish on a high note. More info will be in Thursday's Journal-News

### **Crusaders Hold Off Lancers**

After beating the Crusaders 4-3 in the fifth place game of the Kickoff Classic on Sept. 4, the Lincolnwood soccer team came to Springfield to face Lutheran for the second time this season on Friday, Sept. 20.

The game saw significantly less scoring than the first meeting, when Lincolnwood pulled out a 4-3 victory over the Crusaders. This time, the hosts came out on top, scoring a 2-1 victory over the Lancers for Lincolnwood's third consecutive loss.

The Crusaders held a 1-0 first half lead, then added an insurance goal in the first five minutes of the second half to double their lead. Donny Daugherty pulled the Lancers within one on a shot from distance, but that would be Lincolnwood's lone goal of the game as they moved to

5-4 on the season.

The Lancers will be at home on Monday, Sept. 23, for this year's Grace Cup against Hillsboro. In the last 25 meetings between the two teams, Hillsboro has won ten, Lincolnwood has won ten and they've tied five times, including last year's inaugural Grace Cup, named after the late Grace Herschelman, who received endless support from the two soccer programs before her death at age nine in 2021. The winner of the game will receive the Grace Cup traveling trophy, which remained with the Herschelman family in Hillsboro after last year's tie.

Sept. 20 at Springfield Lincolnwood Lutheran

Lincolnwood Scoring: Donny Daugherty 1. Lincolnwood Goalkeeper: Halen Barnes (4 saves). Records: Lincolnwood (5-4).

# Toppers Collect Wins During A Busy Week

It was a busy six-day span for the Hillsboro High School girls tennis team as the Lady Hiltoppers played in a doubles tournament and three regular season matches between Sept. 14 and Sept. 19.

The stretch started with the Highland Doubles Tournament, where the Lady Toppers finished third in the five-team field. Highland and Centralia took the top spots at the tourney, while Vandalia and Greenville finished behind Hillsboro.

The number two team of Aly Leisure and Alexis Carlyle had the most success of the four duos who competed for Hillsboro as they finished second in their group with three wins and one loss. The duo beat Greenville 8-2, Centralia 8-4 and Vandalia 9-8 before losing to the eventual champions 8-0.

Avery Reynolds and Rylee Rogers were third in the number three doubles with wins over Greenville and Vandalia, while the number four team of Reagan Voyles and Autumn Long also finished third, posting an 8-1 win over the Comets. The number one doubles team of Zoey Spinner and Claire Matthews put up a fight in their draw, but finished 0-4 on the day.

Bunker Hill/Staunton Hillsboro's first match after the tournament was against the Bunker Hill-Staunton co-op team, who

they defeated 7-2 at the Hillsboro Sports Complex on Sept. 16.

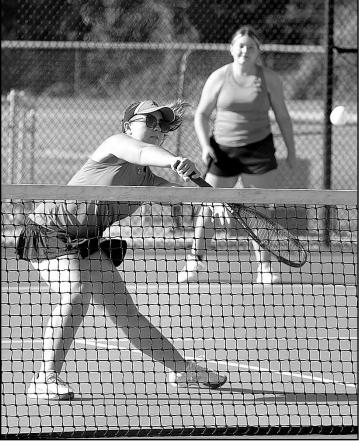
Hillsboro won five of the six singles matches, with Aly Leisure, Claire Matthews and Rylie Jones winning 6-0, 6-0, while Alexis Carlyle won 6-1, 6-0. Lexi Downey picked up the other win as the sophomore made her varsity debut with a 6-2, 6-1 victory.

In doubles play, team captain Zoey Spinner partnered with freshman Rylee Rogers for one of two doubles wins as they defeated Maya Henfling and Abbi Jarden 6-2, 6-1.

The other win was a nailbiter as sophomores Claire Matthews and Rylie Jones won a 10-8 third set after the splitting the first two sets against Ella Pirok and Olivia Albl 6-1, 4-6.

**East Alton-Wood River** 

The Tennis Toppers picked up another big win the next day as they defeated East Alton-Wood River 8-1 at the Hillsboro Sports Complex.



Hillsboro's Claire Matthews returns a shot at the net during her match with partner Zoey Spinner during the Highland Doubles Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 14. The tournament was part of a busy six days for the Toppers, who beat Bunker Hill/Staunton, East Alton-Wood River and Roxana in the days after the trip to Highland. Chris Reynolds Photo

Hillsboro senior Sara Milanos picked up her first doubles win of the season as she partnered with Reagan Voyles to beat KayleeJoy Schum and Jersey Kadavi 8-4. That victory completed a sweep of doubles for the Toppers, with Zoey Spinner and Aly Leisure winning 8-4 and Claire Matthews and Rylee Rogers winning 8-1.

In singles, Hillsboro went 5-1, with Zoey Spinner, Claire Matthews, Rylie Jones, Rylee Rogers and Isabella Collins all collecting wins. The Oilers' lone win came in the number one match as Kaylynn Buttry edged Aly Leisure 8-2.

Roxana

The Toppers ended their week with their fourth consecutive victory, a 5-4 road win against the Roxana Shells. Hillsboro was missing three players due to illness, but received contributions from the subs to secure their sixth win of the season.

The two schools split singles down the middle, with Claire Matthews (8-5), Rylie Jones (8-1) and Rylee Rogers (8-0) coming away with victories. For Matthews, the win was her team-leading sixth, with just one loss on

her record at this point in the season.

Of Hillsboro's five wins, Jones and Rogers accounted for three of them. In addition to their singles wins, the homonymous doubles team beat Calynn Young and Rilyn Chester 8-1 in the number two doubles match.

The Toppers split the other two doubles matches, with Madison John and Ashlynn Doyle of Roxana narrowly defeating Aly Leisure and Matthews in the number one match, while Reagan Voyles and Isabella Collins clinched the victory with a win over Chester and Alexis Dopuch in the number three match.

Voyles and Collins' victory broke a 4-4 tie in the team standings at the time and gave Hillsboro its sixth win in eight matches.

The Toppers will be put to the test this week as they play at Alton Marquette on Monday, Sept. 23, followed by a home match with Taylorville on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Sept. 14 at Highland

**Team Results:** 1. Highland 15, 2. Centralia 10, 3. Hillsboro 6, 4. Vandalia 3, 5. Greenville 2. Hillsboro Results

**Zoey Spinner/Claire Matthews** (**0-4.5th in #1 Doubles:**) - lost to Eden Kapp/Ava Lagermann

son Francois/Olivia Neudecker (Centralia) 8-3; lost to Sophia Fleming/Josie Wojcikiewicz (Highland) 8-0; lost to Dalaney Patterson/Kaylee Tompkins

(Vandalia) 8-2. Aly Leisure/Alexis Carlyle (3-1, 2nd in #2 Doubles) - def. Ella Jurgena/Anna Chute (Greenville) 8-2; def. Bailey Maas/ Mackenzie Perez (Centralia) 8-4; def. Carlie Graumenz/Ciara Feezel (Vandalia) 9-8; lost to Nora Kampwerth/Peyton Beard (Highland) 8-0.

Avery Reynolds/Rylee Rogers (2-2, 3rd in #3 Doubles) - lost to Ruthie Manor/Kylee Sowers (Highland) 8-1; def. Erin Drannan/Taylor Ferris (Greenville) 8-3: def. Daria Murray/London Bowles (Vandalia) 8-0; lost to Loren Niederhoffer/Remi Mc-Donald (Centralia) 8-3.

Reagan Voyles/Autumn Long (1-2, 3rd in #4 Doubles) - lost to McKenna VanDeveer/Elynn Hixenbaugh Centralia 9-7, def. Cassidy Beavor/Alyvia Davis (Greenville) 8-1; lost to Emma Baudino/Jolie Mott (Highland)

Sept. 16 at Hillsboro

Hillsboro 7, Bunker Hill-Staunton 2  $\textbf{Singles:}\,1.\,Samantha\,Anderson\,(B)$ def. Zoey Spinner (H) 6-2, 6-2; 2. Aly Leisure (H) def. Addy Sloan (B) 6-0, 6-0; 3. Claire Matthews (H) def. Annabelle Dugan (B) 6-0, 6-0; 4. Alexis Carlyle (H) def. Sydney Black (B) 6-1, 6-0; 5. RylieJones (H) def. Cora Timmermeier (B) 6-0, 6-0; 6. Lexi Downey (H) def. Payton Moore (B) 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: 1. Korryn Keehner/Faith Taylor (B) def. Aly Leisure/Alexis Carlyle(H) 6-2, 6-3; 2. Zoey Spinner/Rylee Rogers (H) def. Maya Henfling/Abbi Jarden (B) 6-2. 6-1; 3. Claire Matthews/Rylie Jones (H) def. Ella Pirok/Olivia Albl (B) 6-1, 4-6, 10-8.

Sept. 17 at Hillsboro Hillsboro 8, EAWR 1

Singles: 1. Kaylynn Buttry (E) def. Aly Leisure (H) 8-2; 2. Zoey Spinner (H) def. Hailey Handler (É) 8-5; 3. Claire Matthews (H) def. Maya Mugge (E) 8-2; 4. Rylie Jones (H) def. Jaden Downs (E) 8-1; 5. Rylee Rogers (H) def. Saaphyri Deselle (E) 8-0; 6. Isabella Collins (H) def. Khloe Whitfield (E) 8-1. **JV:** Kylie Meyer (H) def. Saaphyri Deselle (E) 8-4.

Doubles: 1. Zoey Spinner/Aly Leisure (H) def. Kaylynn Buttry/ Hailey Handler (E) 8-4; 2. Claire Matthews/Rylee Rogers (H) def. Joleigh Cline/Jocelyn Michael (E) 8-1; 3. Reagan Voyles/Sara Milanos (H) def. KayleeJoy Schum/Jersey Kadavi (E) 8-4.

Sept. 19 at Roxana Hillsboro 5, Roxana 4

Singles: 1. Madison John (R) def. Aly Leisure (H) 8-6; 2. Claire Matthews (H) def. Ashlynn Doyle (R) 8-5; 3. Alexis Dopuch (R) def. Reagan Voyles (H) 8-3; 4. Rylie Jones (H) def. Calynn Young (R) 8-1; 5. Rylee Rogers (H) def. Rilyn Chester (R) 8-0; 6. Alexis Dopuch(R) def. AutumnLong (H) 8-5. **Doubles:** 1. Madison John/Ashlynn

Doyle (R) def. Aly Leisure/Claire Matthews (H) 8-5; 2. Rylie Jones/ Rylee Rogers (H) def. Calynn Young/Rilyn Chester (R) 8-1; 3. Reagan Voyles/Isabella Collins (H) def. Rilyn Chester/Alexis Dopuch (R) 8-4.

Records: Hillsboro (6-2).

# Soccer Toppers Win Seventh Straight

The Hillsboro High School boys soccer team won their seventh straight game Thursday, Sept. 19, as they traveled to Greenville to face off against the Comets in a South Central match-up both sides needed to win to keep their chances alive for an SCC crown.

While that alone would be reason enough to make the tilt super meaningful, with IHSA regional assignments coming out earlier in the week, and most signs pointing to Hillsboro and Greenville being in the same bracket, Thursday's game had a ton riding on it.

Luckily for the Toppers, a goal just two minutes into the first and a 2-0 lead at halftime proved to be enough as the orange and black came away with a big 3-1 victory.

As stated above, Hillsboro didn't waste any time bringing the offense to the Comets as junior Mark Mattson played a cross ball to senior Clayton Rufus and the senior headed the ball ahead on the play. The ball would bounce

in front to freshman Alec Pollard and Pollard buried the offering to make it 1-0 before most fans had even gotten to their seats.

At the other end, the Toppers were just as steady as sophomore keeper Beto Quiroz and junior defender Will Yeske paired up on a Hillsboro misplay to keep Greenville from an easy goal opportunity.

With 15 minutes left in the half, the Comets were whistled for a handball just outside their own 18-yard box, resulting in a free kick for the Toppers. Mattson would send the freebie over the crossbar and out of play. Just 55 seconds later, another handball on the part of Greenville, this time in the box, would award Hillsboro a penalty kick and Mattson made good on the effort this time to make it 2-0.

The Toppers would dodge two bullets late in the first as a Comet free kick knocked off the post and senior midfielder Mitchell Cunningham cleared the rebound. In the

second instance, Hillsboro would be called for a handball of their own but it was so late in the half that Greenville didn't have enough time to get a decent shot on before the half came to an end.

When play resumed in the second, both teams would have chances early as Pollard got a quick shot off forcing a save and Quiroz made a diving save, with sophomore Lennon Guinn clearing the loose ball to keep it 2-0. Minutes later, however, Greenville would get a gift as a ball that hit off the inside of the crossbar would be whistled down and in to cut the lead to 2-1, even though the ball didn't appear to have crossed the line.

The tally did not seem to deter the Toppers, though, as Guinn put two shots on in the next two possessions before finally finding the back of the net to make it 3-1. From there the visitors would cruise, improving to 3-0 in SCC play and 8-3 overall after starting the season 1-3.

Their second conference win came two days earlier, a 9-0 home victory over Vandalia. Alec Pollard, Nico Clark and Mitchell Cunningham all had two goals apiece against the Vandals, with Mark Mattson, Clayton Rufus and Brodie Clinard splitting the remaing three goals.

The Toppers travel to Raymond this evening for the second annual Grace Cup with the varsity only contest starting at 6 p.m. It doesn't get any easier for Hillsboro the next day as the Toppers travel to Litchfield Sept. 24, with varsity starting at 4:30. Sept. 17 at Hillsboro

Vandalīa Hillsboro Hillsboro Scoring: Alec Pollard 2, Nico Clark 2, Mitchell Cunningham 2, Mark Mattson 1, Clayton Rufus 1, Brodie Clinard 1. Sept. 19 at Greenville

Hillsboro 0 1 Greenville Hillsboro Scoring: Alec Pollard (Clayton Rufus), Mark Mattson (penalty kick), Lennon Guinn (unassisted).

Records: Hillsboro (8-3, 3-0); Green-

# Cavies Beat Panthers In Key South Central Clash

The Litchfield boys soccer team was handed their first conference loss on Thursday, Sept. 19, as they fell to Carl-

inville by a 4-1 score. Keagan Brown got Carlinville on the board first, seven and a half minutes into the game. Taking a pass from Nolan Meyer, Brown found the top left corner of the goal to make it 1-0 in the home team's favor.

Litchfield junior Brayden Ronco pulled the Panthers back even with 23 minutes to go in the first half as he received a pass from Landon Wernsing and snuck a shot inside the far post to make it 1-1. The deadlock would last

until the midway point of the second half as neither team found the back of the net. Around the 20 minute mark of the second half, Brown picked up the go-ahead goal, scoring from close range on another assist by Meyer.

The pair hooked up again with nine minutes left in the game as Brown picked up the hat trick, with all three goals assisted by Meyer. The Carlinville freshman added

a goal of his own just four minutes later on an assist by Caleb Kolsta as Litchfield found themselves down three with less than five minutes to play in the game. Despite their best efforts, the game would end that way as Litchfield fell to 3-1 in the South Central Conference.

The loss doesn't mean that the Panthers are out of the conference championship picture, but it does put some pressure on them. Currently only two SCC teams are undefeated in conference play, Carlinville and Hillsboro. A

victory over the Toppers on Tuesday, Sept. 24, in Litchfield, would put Litchfield right back in the title hunt.

Sept. 19 at Carlinville Litchfield

**Scoring Summary** t - 7:36 - Carlinville - Keagan Brown (Nolan Meyer) 1st - 16:59 - Litchfield - Brayden Ronco (Landon Wernsing)

2nd - 20:47 - Carlinville - Keagan Brown (Nolan Meyer) 2nd - 31:01 - Carlinville - Keagan Brown (Nolan Meyer)

2nd - 35:18 - Carlinville - Nolan Meyer (Caleb Kolsto)

Records: Litchfield (5-6, 3-1); Carlinville (7-2, 3-0).

### **Nokomis Football**

Continued from 1B

Another penalty gave Nokomis the ball on the Cerro Gordo 15 when Konnor Reynolds called for a fair catch, but was hit after catching the punt. Determined not to be outdone by Herpstreith's two-play, one-score drive, Kannon Jonas threw to Kadynn Petty on the right side of the endzone, with Petty going up the ladder to haul in his first of three touchdowns on the night. Just 109 seconds into the game, the Redskins were up 16-0.

As good as the Nokomis offense was, it wasn't perfect. Cerro Gordo's John Helm picked off Jonas on the Bronco's 39 in Nokomis' next drive, then after a three-yard touchdown run by Daryl Evans, the Redskins lost the ball on a fumble by Drake Taylor after a 16-yard reception when the tight end tried stretching for an extra couple of yards.

The turnovers were just minor hiccups, though. The Broncos' first six offensive drives ended in two fumbles, two turnovers on downs and with two punts.

Cerro Gordo did put together an eight-play, 64-yard touchdown drive late in the second quarter, with Azul Mendez picking up the Broncos' first two first downs on a 42-yard gain and a four-yard touchdown run.

The problem for Cerro Gordo was that Nokomis had already racked up two more scores on a three-yard run by Herpstreith and a one-yard run by Petty to make it 35-0 before the Broncos' lone score of the game.

We preach every day that it doesn't matter what the score is," said Coach Paul

ahead of them as they would

The Purple Panthers

broke that average in the

opening quarter, as they

found a way to put two

touchdowns on the score-

board in the first eight and

a half minutes. The Comets

lit up the board first, though,

as they scored on their first

possession, just over three

minutes into the contest.

Litchfield's offense would

not have an answer on their

opening drive, allowing the

Comets to regain possession

fense, who has been a bright

spot this season, came up big

several times in the opening

the Comets' offense has been

clicking on all cylinders this

season, averaging 42 points

a game. While forcing the

Comets to punt on their second possession was an

achievement of its own, the

result of the punt was even

bigger. Martavious Jones col-

lected the punt on the Purple

Panthers' 34 yard line and

began a 66-yard sprint to pay

dirt before any Comet could

bring him down. The extra

point following the touch-

down would cross through

the uprights as the Purple

Panthers and Comets were

tied at 7-7 with 6:27 to play

kept the Comets off the board

on the ensuing possession

and the Panthers regained

The Litchfield defense

in the first quarter.

The D-squad had to as

The Purple Panthers de-

of the football.

Litchfield Football

Watson. "It's 0-0 and we play one way. That mentality is embedded in them, but they still, a couple times, took some breaks and we talked to them and got that straightened out."

Nokomis added another score less than a minute and a half after Mendez's touchdown, with Daryl Evans scoring his second touchdown on an 18-yard run that made it 41-7 just before halftime.

Evans' second score was set up by a 42-yard run by Petty, who nearly reached paydirt before being tripped up at the 18. Petty, who started at quarterback to begin his junior season, thrived in his new role as a wing back, running for 75 yards on just five carries, with two touchdowns on the ground to go with his early touchdown reception.

The Broncos started the second half with the ball, but Nokomis picked up where they left off and got the ball back at the Cerro Gordo 47 after three plays and a punt.

Herpstreith added his third touchdown on a sixyard run at the 3:58 mark, ending a ten-play drive, Nokomis' longest to that point, to make it 48-7.

The Redskins pinned the Broncos back in their own end and Cerro Gordo turned it over on downs four plays later at the 24 yard line. For the second time on the night, Petty scored on the first play of the drive, scampering in from 24-yards to make it 55-7 after Atticus Bertolino's third successful extra-point of the night, with 11:25 to play in the game.

Nokomis had one final offensive drive after Caleb Bauer snapped up a fumble recovery. Coach Watson was able to use his depth at running back to give Herpstreith and Evans a break as Bauer, Petty, Levi German, Trenten Clarke and Kannon Jonas ran out the clock to secure the win.

'We're sitting at 30 on the roster, but, you know, it's a good 30. We're able to give people breaks and not lose anything when we do that," Coach Watson said. "It's the same thing on the defensive side. We've got people we can put in there and we don't lose much at all on that side."

For the game, Nokomis held the Broncos to 131 yards, with sacks from Trenten Clark and Konnor Reynolds and fumble recoveries from Bauer and Hunter Arkebauer.

On offense, the Redskins ran the ball 38 times for 344 yards, with Daryl Evans rushing seven times for 65 yards to go along with Petty's 75 and Herpstreith's 150. Through the air, Kannon Jonas was 2-for-4 for 32 yards, while Petty was 1-for-1 for 17 yards.

Throwing the ball is something that Watson wants to work on for when the Redskins face tougher competition, like Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond on Oct. 4 and Sullivan-Okaw Valley on Oct. 11, who are also undefeated so far this season.

"My goal is to throw the ball 15 times. I don't know when the last time we threw 15 times, you know?" Watson added with a laugh. "I don't even know what we threw or what we completed, but it looked good at times, and at times, it didn't. It's just something we have to keep working on going into next week.'

Next week is at Oakland High School, 86 miles to the east, a little north of Charleston, as the Redskins play the Tri-County Titans. The Oakland/Kansas/Shiloh co-op program is 1-3 on the season after losses to Sangamon Valley, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond and Arcola, with their win coming in week two against Cerro Gordo-Bement 39-30. Sept. 20 at Nokomis

**Scoring Summary** 

1st - 11:19 - Nokomis - Nolan Herp-streith 50-yard TD run (Nolan Herpstreith run) 1st-10:11-Nokomis-Kannon Jonas

15-yard TD pass to Kadynn Petty (Nolan Herpstreith run) 1st - 5:21 - Nokomis - Daryl Evans 3-yard TD run (kick failed)

2nd - 9:17 - Nokomis - Nolan Herp streith 3-yard TD run (run failed) 2nd - 7:36 - Nokomis - Kadynn Petty 1-yard TD run (Atticus

Bertolino kick) 2nd - 2:31 - Cerro Gordo-Bement Azul Mendez 4-yard TD run (Cole Giberson kick)

2nd - 1:06 - Nokomis - Daryl Evans 18-yard TD run (kick failed) 3rd - 3:58 - Nokomis - Nolan Herpstreith 6-yard TD run (Atticus Bertolino kick)

4th - 11:25 - Nokomis - Kadynn Petty 24-yard TD run (Atticus Bertolino kick) Nokomis Statistics

Passing: Kannon Jonas 2-4-32, 1 TD, 1 INT; Kadynn Petty 1-1-17. Rushing: Nolan Herpstreith 15-150; Kadynn Petty 5-75; Daryl Evans 7-65; Garrett Engelman 2-17; Caleb Bauer 1-15; Trenten Clark 4-13; Levi German 3-11; Kannon Jonas 1-(-2).

Receiving: Kannon Jonas 1-17; Drake Taylor 1-17; Kadynn Petty

Tackles (Solo/Assist): Caleb Bauer 2/9; Hunter Arkebauer 1/7; Drake Taylor 1/4; Atticus Bertolino 0/5; Daryl Evans 0/5; Kadynn Petty 3/1; Conner Wilson 1/3 ; Jensen Masten 1/2; Nolan Herpstreith 0/3; Kyle Reynolds 0/2; Riley Steele 1/1; Konnor Reynolds 0/2; Noah Simonton 0/1; Griffin Engelman 0/1; Garrett Engelman 1/0; Trenten Clark 0/1

Record: Nokomis (4-0); Cerro Gordo-Bement (0-4).



Sporting purple arm sleeves in honor of their classmate and friend Isabel McLaughlin and her fight against cancer, the Hillsboro sixth grade JFL team formed a tunnel for the cheerleaders to walk through to get to the field for their halftime dance on Saturday, Sept. 20. Journal-News Photo

# Isabel McLaughlin

Continued from 1B

The cheerleaders also hosted a lemonade stand, with purple tea cookies courtesy of Jubelt's Bakery and bracelets donated by Dani Burke also on hand in addition to the ice cold lemonade on the warm September day.

McLaughlin, who has had to miss some of this year's season due to her treatments, was also center stage for the cheerleaders' halftime dance, with her and her teammates entering the field courtesy of a tunnel formed by the JFl players. Appropriately performed to Rachel Platten's Fight Song, the dance started and ended with McLaughlin surrounded by her teammates.

"Thanks to the wonderful community we're fortunate enough to be a part of that always shows up to support their own," JFL Cheer Director ReBecca Morris, who coached McLaughlin's team this year with Moriah Thacker said on the cheerleaders' Facebook page.

### Hillsboro Football

Continued from 1B

Their tying score, a 17 yard pass from quarterback Brody Shaw to wide out Owen Schweppe a third of the way through the second quarter, was one of the only three passes Shaw threw. The game stayed tied until the second play of the fourth quarter when Morgan wedged his 160 pounds into the Topper end zone from the 1. That culminated a five play, 67 yard drive, keyed by the first two plays: a 23 yard gallop by Griffith preceded a 36 yard pass from Shaw to Morgan.

One last "if only" - If only Toppers Tytin Wells, Drake McSperritt, and Seth Hubbart hadn't been injured earlier in the season. Both Wells and McSperritt returned to action Friday, but their perhaps nagging problems limited both their playing time and thus effectiveness.

The Gillespie victory was well-deserved. Linebacker and offensive lineman Jack Kaylor is an impressive athlete who also plays basketball and catches for the baseball team. Their line play simply wore down the Toppers; defensive stats were unavailable at press time but will be available Thursday.

The offensive stats, tell

the story, regardless of if onlys. The Miners recorded 14 first downs, the Toppers 8. Gillespie outgained Hillsboro 220 yards to 162, and Hillsboro had two turnovers, the Miners 0. The Toppers had fewer penalty yards (22) than their hosts (50), but the Toppers' seemed more untimely. The Miners have potential for next season, too, as their skilled positions are loaded with juniors.

The Toppers face the Litchfield Purple Panthers as their Homecoming opponent at Sawyer Field this Friday; kick off time is set for 7 p.m.

Sept. 20 at Gillespie Hillsboro 7 0 0 0 0----7 0 7 0 14---21

**Scoring Summary** 1st - 0:34 - Hillsboro - Amony Anderson 30-yard TD run (Elijah Patton kick)

2nd - 8:40 - Gillespie - Brody Shaw 17-yard TD pass to Owen Schweppe (Tragen Madeline

4th - 11:12 - Gillespie - Dawson Morgan 1-yard TD run (Tragen Madeline kick)  $4 {\rm th}$  -  $1{:}24$  - Gillespie - Hunter Hegel

10-yard TD interception return (Tragen Madeline kick) Hillsboro Statistics

Passing: Cody Boerckel 3-8-12, Ethan Hamby 1-2-20.

Rushing: Amony Anderson 5-83, Ethan Hamby 6-39, Tytin Wells 9-24, Drake McSperritt 5-13, Elias Bandy 5-(-2), Cody Boerckel

Receiving: Jackson Tuetken 4-32. Records: Hillsboro (0-4), Gillespie

# Adkins Fifth At Quad Cities Classic Pickleball Tourney

Hillsboro's Kayla Adkins (left) was one of 389 players competing in the Quad Cities Classic Pickleball Tournament on Sept. 12-15, in Moline, as she teamed up with Connie Inselmann of Long Grove, IA, to play in the women's doubles event on Saturday. Adkins/Inselmann played in a 14-team bracket that was split into two pools of seven. The pair went 4-2 with winning scores of 11-4, 11-3, 11-3 and 11-0. Their two losses were both 11-9. That record secured them a fifth place finish overall.

Continued from 1B possession on their own 40 yard line. After a four-yard This year's Purple Pangain on the first two plays thers squad had a tall test of the drive, Litchfield was

in jeopardy of not putting look to begin a new streak points on the board. against the Comets. The Li-On third and six, Kayden tchfield offense would have Bergman came up big for the Purple Panthers as he to conquer a talented Greencollected a pass from Ethan ville defense, who entered the contest only giving up three Saathoff and jetted down the middle of the field to the touchdowns, one per week, this season.

Comets five yard line. capitalize two plays later when Keaton Morgan ran it in from six yards out. The touchdown and extra point put the Purple Panthers on top 14-7 with 3:29 left to play

in the opening quarter. The action packed first quarter saw one more touchdown before going into the history books. The Comets had the honor as they scored with 64 ticks left on the clock in the first quarter. Litchfield would remain in the lead, though, as the extra point missed to make it 14-13 at the end of the quarter.

After an exciting first frame, the second equaled that excitement as 17 more points would be put on the board.

Just like the opening quarter, the Comets scored first, allowing them to take over the lead. The early touchdown came with just over nine minutes to play in quarter as Greenville now held a 20-14 lead.

The Purple Panthers scored their first points of the quarter with 3:48 on the clock as Cooper Martin connected on a 27-yard field goal, inching Litchfield closer to regaining their lead.

The field goal would decrease the Comets' lead to 20-17, but once again Greenville found a way into the end zone. With 90 seconds left in the quarter, the Comets crashed into the end zone from one yard out, moving their lead to 27-17.

The Purple Panthers would try for three more points before the end of the half as Martin attempted a 37-yard field goal with six seconds left, but the pigskin sailed to the left of the uprights to keep the score at 27-17 at halftime.

Trailing by ten, the Purple The big play made it first Panthers were in a good spot, and goal and Litchfield would still within striking distance as they entered the second half. Litchfield's offense would need to find a way to get things rolling, sustaining drives and keeping the Comets' offense off the field.

Litchfield had the first possession of the second half, but would not keep the Comets from scoring. Greenville's Austin Wall scooped up a fumble off the turf and carried it 15 yards into the end zone, just 54 seconds into the second half. That was the first of 27 unanswered points for the Comets in the third quarter.

The Comets defense grabbed the second touchdown of the quarter as Litchfield's quarterback threw into double coverage, resulting in a pick six by Declan Graber as Greenville now held a 41-17 lead with just under nine minutes to play in the third.

After the Comets' defense grabbed all the glory in the third frame, the Greenville offense got involved in the fun, Ben Hutchinson found Graber for a 30-yard touchdown pass that made it 48-17 with 5:04 to play in the third.

In just seven minutes, the Comets quickly made a statement, taking the wind out of the Purple Panthers' sail. Greenville got one more touchdown before the third quarter came to a close on a two-yard run by Dayton Oliver as they led 54-17 after

Neither team reached the end zone in the final frame as the Comets' 37-point victory allowed them to remain undefeated on the season. The loss dropped the Purple Panthers to 1-3 overall.

The contest would be a tale of two halves as the Purple Panthers looked competitive in the opening half but failed to get things going in the second. Litchfield's offense had 229 yards of production throughout the game, 165 coming through the air as

Ethan Saathoff completed 13 of his 29 passes. Martavious Jones targeted by Saathoff 14 times throughout the game would pull down eight of those attempts collecting 82 yards. Keaton Morgan led the Purple Panthers on the ground as he collected 31 rushing yards on 14 carries.

On the defense side of the field Matthew Bywater, Max Leithschuh and Jones would each be involved in nine tackles.

Litchfield will begin a stretch of three games where their opponents carry a current combined record of 2-10. That stretch begins next week as they travel east down Route 16 to battle Montgomery County rivals Hillsboro.

After the road trip Litchfield will welcome Gillespie and Staunton. Wins in three games could put the Purple Panthers back into the playoff conversation.

Sept. 20 at Litchfield 13 14 27 0---54 Greenville 14 3 0 0---17 Litchfield

Scoring Summary
1st-9:54-Greenville-Ben Hutchinson 30-yard TD pass to Eli Shadowens (Gavin File kick) 1st - 6:27 - Litchfield - Martavious

Jones 66-yard TD punt return (Cooper Martin kick) 1st - 3:29 - Litchfield - Keaton Morgan 6-yard TD run (Cooper Martin kick)

1st-1:04-Greenville-Ben Hutchinson 27-yard TD pass to Gus Olson (Gavin File kick)  $2nd\hbox{-}9:08\hbox{-}Greenville\hbox{-}Ben\,Hutchin-$ 

son 9-yard TD pass to Declan Graber (Gavin File kick) 2nd - 3:41 - Litchfield - Cooper Martin 27-yard field goal

2nd - 1:30 - Greenville - Dayton Oliver 1-yard TD run (Gavin File kick) 3rd - 11:06 - Greenville - Austin

Wall 15-yard TD fumble return (Gavin File kick) 3rd - 8:53 - Greenville - Declan Graber 55-yard TD interception

return (Gavin File kick)

3rd-5:04-Greenville-Ben Hutchinson 30-yard TD pass to Declan Graber (Gavin File kick) 3rd - 3:28 - Greenville - Dayton Oliver 2-yard TD run (kick failed)

Litchfield Statistics Passing: Saathoff 13-29-165. Rushing: Keaton Morgan 14-31, 1 TD; Ethan Saathoff 10-11;

Martavious Jones 4-11. Receiving: Martavious Jones 8-82; Kayden Bergman 3-78; Max Leitschuh 1-5.

Tackles (Solo/Assist): Matthew Bywater 9/0, Martavious Jones 8/1, Max Leitschuh 6/3, JB Bowles 5/3, Harrison Thomas 5/3, Jayden Ellinger 3/5, Kayden Bergman 2/4. Keaton Morgan 2/4, Briley Viviano 3/2, Devon Chew 3/1, Caiden Lamb 2/2, David Schoen 2/0, Devin Hansel 0/2, Hunter Law 0/2, Ethan Saathoff 1/0, Riley Ayres 1/0, Dylan O'Keefe 0/1, Carter Brunnworth 0/1.

Records: Litchfield (1-3); Greenville (4-0).

### Prep Football Lincoln Prairie Week Four Results

- Nokomis 55, Cerro Gordo 7 • Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 38, Sangamon Valley 7 • Sullivan-Okaw Valley 44, Argenta-
- Arcola 44, Tri-County 20 • Cumberland 20, Villa Grove 0
- Greenville 54, Litchfield 17 • Gillespie 21, Hillsboro 7
- Carlinville 20, Staunton 13 • Vandalia 51, Southwestern 6
- South Central **Week Four Results**

• Pana 51, North Mac 24

Lincoln Prairie Conference Standings: 1. Nokomis 4-0; 1 Sullivan-Okaw Valley 4-0; 1. Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 4-0; 4. Cumberland 3-1; 5. Sangamon Valley 2-2; 5. Arcola 2-2; 7. Tri-County 1-3; 8. Villa Grove 0-4; 8. Argenta-Oreana 0-4; 8. Cerro Gordo-Bement 0-4.

South Central Conference Standings: 1. Pana 4-0; 1. Greenville 4-0; 3. Vandalia 3-1; 3 North Mac 3-1: 5. Carlinville 2-2; 6. Litchfield-Mt. Olive 1-3; 6. Staunton-Bunker Hill 1-3; 6. Gillespie 1-3; 6. Southwestern 1-3; 10. Hillsboro 0-4.

# **Lincolnwood Girls Add To Victory Total**

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville girls golf team continues to hone their skills as the season winds down, with the Lady Lancers playing some of their best golf as

In their two matches to end the week, the Lancers shot a 177 at the Pana Country Club on Sept. 19, coming in second to the always tough St. Anthony Bulldogs at a quad meet, then shot a 178 at Oak Hill's Country Club in Girard to beat the host North Mac Panthers.

In the Pana match, the Lancers were 12 strokes behind St. Anthony for the top spot, but were 32 ahead of third place Taylor ville and 36 ahead of fourth place Pana.

Rian Deardorff was the best of a balanced lineup for the Lancers, shooting a 42 to finish tied for third with St. Anthony's Adria Moberly. Brooklyn Phillips took medalist honors, shooting a 39 to lead the Bulldogs, with

teammate Addie Krouse just Norris finished with a 62. two strokes back.

Kennady Klinger was just a stroke behind Deardorff, with Carly Armentrout and Abby Norris adding a pair of 46s to account for the final score. Anna Jones shot a solid 48 in the fifth slot, with Emmy Norris rounding out the lineup with a 56.

In Girard on Friday, the Lady Lancers put four players at 45 or under to beat North Mac by four strokes on their home course. The Panthers, possibly the favorites in this Monday's South Central Conference Tournament, were led by Taylor Keirs, who shot a 39, but Lincolnwood held the next

four best individual scores. Kennady Klinger was the first of that group with a 43, followed by Carly Armentrout with a 44 and Rian Deardorff and Anna Jones with a pair of 45s. Abby Norris wasn't far off that pace and shot a 47, while Ally

Lincolnwood will host Mt. Olive on Monday, Sept. 23, at Shoal Creek Golf Course in Raymond, followed by a trip to the Hillsboro Country Club on Tuesday to face the host Lady Hiltoppers, Litchfield and Carlinville.

#### Hillsboro Girls

The Hillsboro girls golf team was also in Girard on Friday, with three players making the trip. Lorelai Carlock led the way with a 55, while Raya Yount and Rilynne Segrest both shot 60 for their rounds.

Hillsboro will see North Mac again on Monday, Sept. 23, at the South Central Conference Tournament at **Indian Springs Golf Course** near Coffeen.

Sept. 19 at Pana

Pana Country Club - Par 35 Girls Team Results: 1. St. Anthony 165, 2. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville 177, 3. Taylorville 209, 4.

Medalist: Brooklyn Phillips (St. Anthony) 39. St. Anthony (165) - Brooklyn Phil-

lips 39, Addie Krouse 41, Adria Moberly 42, Mia Schwing 43, Gianna Frisbie 47, Tesa Ludwig 48. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (177) - Rian Deardorff 42, Kennady Klinger 43, Carly Armentrout 46, Abby Norris 46, Anna Jones 48, Emmy Norris 56.

Taylorville (209) - Laura Wempen 46, Ryleigh Mizeur 49, Jordyn Dieterich 55, Camille 59, Madison

Krachum 65. **Pana (213)** - Kaylee Kuhn 49, Lilly Jostes 53, Brianna Mathis 55, Avery Flory 56, Jaycie Funneman 57.

Sept. 20 at Girard

Oak Hills Country Club - Par 32 Girls Team Results: 1. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville 178, 2. North

Medalist: Taylor Keirs (North Mac) 39.

Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (178) - Kennady Klinger 43, Carly Armentrout 44, Rian Deardorff 45, Anna Jones 45, Abby Norris 47, Ally Norris 62.

North Mac (182) - Taylor Keirs 39, Addelyn Held 46, Michaeh Barnhouse 46, Jacqueline Enrietta 51, Reese Perrine 52, Trinity Swick 60. Hillsboro - Lorelai Carlock 55, Raya

Yount 60, Rilynne Segrest 60. **Auburn** - Carly Edwards 65, Annie Bartolazzi 65.

Record: Lincolnwood-Morrison-

lin 52 Bode Woodall 66

ord 50, Will Kalhoun 55.

Vandalia (178) - Colton Justice 41.

Pana (178) - Dallas Hubbart 41,

Kroski 54, Noah Gorenz 60.

Sept. 20 at Raymond

Shoal Creek - Par 36
Boys Team Results: 1. Lincoln-

Medalist: Bryce Cowdrey (Lincol-

2. Auburn 188.

Ganther 57.

wood-Morrisonville-Pawnee 170;

35, Noah Deardorff 44, Jared

Klein 45, Beckem Schmedeke

46, Jonah Elvidge 48, Cody

Austin Komnick 47, Asher Root

Auburn (188) - Ayden Copelin 42,

Jack Lewis 43, Gabe Weischedel

46, Brady Elder 48, Owen Half-

Madyx Angel 42, Kezdyn Russell 45, Brylan Miller 50, Dagen

the Montgomery County Cancer Association after raising the funds in collaboration with local businesses. Pictured above, from the left, are Linda Klotz of the MCCA, Katrina Millburg, Vicki Bradley with the MCCA and Heather Millburg.

Katrina Millburg of Waggoner recently donated \$2,125 for

# Millburg Donates \$2,125 To Cancer Association

12-year-old daughter of Chad and Heather Millburg of Waggoner was inspired to help raise money for the Montgomery County Cancer Association (MCCA) after being a contestant in the Irish Days Junior Miss Pageant and helping with the breast cancer walk. The cause is near and dear to Millburg, since she has had many family members battle cancer.

Millburg wanted to help out others and let them know they are not alone in fighting their battle with cancer, so with the help of nine sponsors, she was able to buy four all-inclusive St. Louis Cardinals Party Suite tickets with a parking pass and then raffle them off. Sponsors included Bank and Trust Company, Bormida Heating and Cooling, Brian's Tire and Auto, Bryant "Butch" Hitchings, Caddy Shack Sports Bar and Grill, Home Oil, Inc., Millburg Farms,

Katrina Millburg, the MurphyFarms and WestEnd Food Mart.

Over the course of one and a half months, Millburg sold the tickets at four events including The Raymond Celebration, The Small Town Dreamer's Market in Farmersville in August and September and a Scoop for a Cure event at The Waffle Cone in Hillsboro.

Millburg drew the winner, Brendan Friesland on Saturday, Sept. 14. She raised a total of \$2,125 for the MCCA. Millburg would like to thank all of her sponsors, The Waffle Cone for donating all of their tips to her cause during Scoop for a Cure, the Raymond Celebration for letting her sell her tickets at the event and the Small Town Dreamer's Market for allowing her to sell her tickets. She would also like to thank everyone who supported the fundraiser by buying tickets or donating money

# ancers Take First At Pana, Shoal Creek

sonville-Pawnee boys golf team added four more wins to their record to end the week as they took first in a quad meet at the Pana Country Club on Thursday, Sept. 19, then knocked off Auburn at Shoal Creek Golf Course on Friday, Sept. 20.

Bryce Cowdrey hasn't just been consistent for the Lancers, but he's been consistently one of the best players in every match he's played this season. The Lancer sophomore took medalist honors in both meets, shooting a 1-over-par 36 at Pana and a one-under-par 35 at his home course.

In the Pana match, Cowdrey had birdies on the first, third and sixth holes, with pars on three other holes for his 36. Beckem Schmedeke added in a 43 for the Lancers, while Luke Pope and Noah Deardorff were close behind with a pair of 45s. Jared Klein and Jonah Elvidge finished just a stroke behind their

teammates, shooting a pair of 46s for the Lancers' fifth and sixth rounds.

In the team results, Lincolnwood shot a 169, eight strokes better than Taylorville, who was second. The Tornadoes narrowly edged both Pana and Vandalia for the runner-up spot as both South Central Conference squads shot 178 for the day, with Vandalia taking third on the fifth score tie-breaker. The Vandals got a 50 from Owen Halford, while Pana had a 54 from Dagen Kroski.

The Lancers put a little more distance between themselves and second place as they defeated Auburn by 18 strokes, 170 to 188. Cowdrey's 35 took medalist honors by seven strokes over Auburn's Ayden Copelin, as he posted birdies on the first and four holes, with just one bogev in his eight holes.

Lincolnwoods number two through number five players were separated by just four strokes, starting with Noah

Deardorff with a 44. Jared Klein added a 45, followed by Beckem Schmedeke with a 46 and Jonah Elvidge with a 48 in the number five spot. Cody Ganther added a 57 in his varsity opportunity.

Lincolnwood will start next week on their home course as they host Rochester and Mt. Olive at Shoal Creek Golf Course in Raymond on Sept. 23. On Tuesday, Sept. 24, they head to Country Hills Golf Course in Greenview to face the host Bulldogs, Havana, Mt. Pulaski and Northwestern.

Sept. 19 at Pana Pana Country Club - Par 35 Boys Team Results: 1. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville-Pawnee 169, 2. Taylorville 177, 3. Vandalia 178\*; 4. Pana 178\*. \*Vandalia 3rd on fifth scorer tiebreaker Medalist: Bryce Cowdrey (Lincolnwood) 36.

Lincolnwood-Morrisonville-Pawnee (169) - Bryce Cowdrey 36, Beckem Schmedeke 43, Luke Pope 45, Noah Deardorff 45, Jared Klein 46, Jonah Elvidge 46.  $\textbf{Taylorville}\, \textbf{(177)} \cdot \text{Maxx}\, \text{Grieme}\, \textbf{40},$ Brock Brown 41, Evan Parks 48, Nollen Polley 48, Carter Cappel-

nwood) 35. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville-Pawnee (170) - Bryce Cowdrey

> 48, Colton Patterson 51, Grant Anderson 60, Ty Yancey 60. Lincolnwood-Morrisonville-Pawnee JV (209) - Karson Hayes 47, Zane Whalen 51, Cooper Poggenpohl 54, Owen

> Aumann 57, Drew Riemann 57, Mason Penrod 58, Isaac Wagahoff 60. **Auburn JV** - Nolan Neighbors 51, Jacksen Behl 68.

Record: Lincolnwood-Morrison-

ville-Pawnee (26-3)





More than 50 local youth received a free bike at the annual Party in the Park in Benld on Saturday, Sept. 14. The event was made possible through donations from the Benld United

# **BenId Gives 50 Bikes Away To Local Kids**

Hundreds of families came out to 'Party in the Park' in Benld on Saturday, Sept. 14. Attendees enjoyed live music, face painting, inflatable obstacle courses and free hot dogs and ice cream.

The star of the show was the event's free bike giveaway. More than 50 local kids walked away with a bike after being chosen from a drawing. Others won bike helmets and gift cards from local businesses.

Benld resident and event volunteer Cheryl Force said she witnessed a heartwarming moment during the giveaway when a little girl's name was called and she decided to give the bike to her friend who didn't have one.

That was just an amazing thing to see between kids so young," Force said.

The event was made possible from donations raised by Benld United Methodist Church. Pastor Sharon Treptow said the church wanted to create a fun event for families to gather and spread the gospel.

"It doesn't get any better than this, the kids and adults are so happy at the end of the party, and we are tired, but happy," Treptow said.

Families partied while getting to listen to live music from the Rivers of Life Clergy band.

Volunteer Dave Balkenbush had the exciting task of reading the names of the bike giveaway winners on a loudspeaker. It was a special moment for him as well, as he was one of the people who has spent the last few months repairing the bikes, including fixing brakes, tires and seats.

"I loved watching the kids' faces light up when they heard their name called," Balkenbush said. "It brings us a lot of joy to help put something like this on, and we can't wait to do it again next year."

Balkenbush has already started getting the word out in the community to start collecting bikes for next year's event.

The next annual 'Party in the Park' will take place on Sept. 13, 2025.

THE COLLEGE REPORT • by Daniel Chamness

# Atkins Finishes Career With All-Conference Honors



kins, a Hillsboro graduate, the longer distance, the

better. Of course that depends on the type of running, which there are

many. As a college athlete, he competed in indoor track, outdoor track and cross country. Then there is also road racing. For Atkins, unlike his twin brother Isaiah Atkins, who can be considered more of middle distance runner, Elijah Atkins is pure dis-

"My favorite event in track was the 5,000-meter run," said Atkins, who prefers cross country over the oval, whether it be indoor or outdoor. "I prefer it because it is long enough that you need good pacing to run well, but it is a short race compared the 8,000-meter races in cross country or the 10,000-meter run on the track. With good pacing, you can really feel good for the first two miles and then you can leave it all on the track for the last mile."

While Atkins liked the 5,000-meter run on the track better, his greatest individual success on the track occurred in the 10,000-meter run. As a junior, he earned the runner-up spot in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC).

"I will never forget that race for a number of reasons," said Atkins. "It was pouring rain and was windy and I am running 25 laps around the track. But I ran faster than I had run the year before by over three minutes." Atkins' performance also qualified him for the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association National Championship meet.

As a senior, he was a member of the distance medley relay team that earned the SLIAC championship medal

For Eli At- in that event.

"I only ran in a relay one time after my freshman season,"reported the former Hiltopper. "Iran the 1,200-meter leg of the relay and enjoyed it that day. It has been great to run with some of the same athletes over eight seasons. There is only one week during the school year you are not in practice. I grew close with those athletes, you become great friends and help each other become better runners.

During his career, Atkins would usually do the mile event to start the indoor season. He would also run the 3,000-meter run and the 5,000-meter run indoors. He  $would \ post \ respective \ career$ best times of 4:48, 9:49 and

Outdoors, in addition to his career best time of 35:52, he ran a 16:49 in the 5,000. In the 1,500-meter run, he finished with a career best of 4:21 and in the 3,000-meter run, he ran a 9:36.

With Atkins on the squad, the Panthers won all nine possible team conference titles in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Of course in 2020, there was no outdoor conference championship due to the pandemic. The orange-andblack clad Panthers also won five SLIAC Titles in cross country with Atkins as part of the team.

"One of the coolest things about track and field is you have a chance to watch your track brethren compete in their events and encourage them," said Atkins. "Since you race so often, you really get to see how people improve and witness their hard work pay off."

The son of Brian and Debbie Atkins of Hillsboro earned a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics. He completed his degree with a 3.94 grade point average and graduated magna cum



Eli Atkins wrapped up his collegiate career this past May competing for the Greenville Panthers, capping off his running endeavors with another SLIAC Championship

Dave Bell Photo

mates in cross country. Cross

country races can also be

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you would in track."

laude. He earned GU Dean's List Honors every semester. Other academic honors included being on the SLIAC All-Academic Team nine times, four times in outdoor track and five times in indoor

"I loved the team aspect of cross country and that made me like it more," said Atkins. 'Because you are all running the same distance, there is a bond with the other runners. You have an opportunity to compete with your team-

please put "The Journal-News" in the subject line of the email. The College Report Is Sponsored By: • Hillsboro Sports Association - Hillsboro

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Monday, September 23, 2024 - **5B** 

#### Announcements

Notices

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# **Local AFSCME Holds September Meeting**

by Joyce Shelton

On Monday, Sept. 9, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Sub-Chapter #87 Retiree members and retired seniors met at the Taylorville United Methodist Church. There were 15 in attendance.

David Spinner opened the meeting by asking everyone to stand and repeat the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Spinner then introduced Diana Voiles, Director of Nursing at the Christian County Health Department (CCHD).

Voiles started out by saying that everyone ages six months and older should get a 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine. She said that the vaccine helps protect you from severe disease, hospitalization and death. It is especially important if one is age 65 and older, is at high risk for severe COVID-19, or has never received a CO-VID-19 vaccine.

Voiles stated that vaccine protection decreases over time, so it is important to stay up to date with the COVID-19 vaccine.

Voiles recommended if one tests positive for COVID-19, one should stay home, wear a mask for five days and put distance between yourself and others to help lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission. People with mild or asymptomatic illness are usually no longer contagious after ten days.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggests returning to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was



Pictured above, AFSCME subchapter president David Spinner with guest speaker Diana Voiles, director of nursing at the Christian County Health Department.

present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication.

Voiles suggests that once people resume normal activities, they are encouraged to take additional prevention strategies and wear a mask for another five days to curb disease spread. She said one should drink lots of water to stav hydrated. Free tests are available from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Christian County Health Department (CCHD) located at 730 N. Pawnee Street in Taylorville. The phone number is 217-824-4113.

Voiles said the Taylorville office will be receiving the new flu vaccine; 200 high and 400 low dosages by the end of September. There is a drive through for flu shots available on Monday, Sept. 23,at the Christian County Fair Grounds from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Voiles presentation and the updated information regarding the new COVID-19 vaccine.

Spinner mentioned his concern with the upcoming 2024 elections. "The importance of the election for state retirees will be the Supreme Court race. This will determine how our insurance, pensions and social security are handled," Spinner said. He told the group that as of now, the sub-chapters will not be involved with the post cards related to the elections. This is being done by the International.

Spinner told the group there are still problems with the CMS information being sent to American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

He mentioned that regarding the Silver Sneakers program, it is not mandatory to attend the fitness center 8 times a month to get paid.

Spinner reminded everyone not to forget the get together for the "Fellowship Fall Cookout." Debbie Daniels has graciously agreed to host the event at the Bear Creek Farm and Ranch in Palmer. Attendees should bring a lawn chair and a covered dish to share. Hot dogs, brats, hamburgers and buns will be provided.

The next Taylorville meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 14, at the Taylorville United Methodist Church at 1 p.m. with featured guest speaker, Dominic Watson with AFSCME.

The next Hillsboro Meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 1 p.m. at the Hillsboro Farm Bureau. This will be a Zoom meeting. The speaker has yet to be determined.

The sub-chapter welcomes new members or any retired senior who wants to stay informed on state and federal

Members should remember to update THEIR information with SERS, IMRF or SURS if one moves or haS informational changes. This allows them to receive important information for taxes, etc. AFSCME and sub-chapter president also needs this updated material to keep members updated with relevant information. This includes changes in email addresses.

To contact the AFSCME Council 31, David Spinner, Subchapter #87 president, call 217-324-2018 or email him at Bspinner@consolidated.net to register and participate in the AFSCME Retiree Sub-chapter Zoom meeting.

# Illinois EPA Announces New Green Project Funding

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Interim Director James Jennings recently announced a grant opportunity with \$5 million in funding for projects that will improve water quality in Illinois. The Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO) Program has been made possible by Governor Pritzker's bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is posted at https://il.amplifund.com/ Public / Opportunities / Details/45aeb4c5-055a-4441-aeb8-d49eae66772b.

"The green infrastructure projects funded through the GIGO program will protect Illinois rivers, streams and lakes by reducing stormwater runoff," said Interim Director Jennings. "The dedicated funding for this program will reduce the frequency and duration of localized and riverine flooding which improves water quality in Illinois waterways."

The GIGO program seeks proposals for projects containing green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate or reduce

ing localized or riverine flooding in Illinois' rivers, streams and lakes. Projects that implement treatment trains with multiple BMPs in a series and/or multiple BMPs within the same watershed are encouraged as they may be more effective and efficient than a single large green infrastructure BMP. BMPs may be located on public or private land.

For the GIGO program, green infrastructure is defined as any stormwater management technique or practice employed with the primary goal to preserve, restore, mimic or enhance

stormwater runoff, reduc- natural hydrology. Green infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, methods of using soil and vegetation to promote soil percolation, evapotranspiration and filtering or the harvesting and reuse of precipitation. Examples of project types/ BMPs that may be funded through GIGO are provided in the NOFO. Illinois EPA anticipates project awards between \$75,000 and \$2.5

> Applications for the GIGO program are due by noon on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Additional information is available at *https://epa*. illinois.gov/topics/grantsloans/water-financial-assistance/gigo.html.

> Applicants must apply for GIGO through the GATA Grantee Portal.

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Taylorville Community Credit Union has an opening for a full-time teller. Duties include clerical skills, customer service, savings and checking transactions, loan and visa payments, daily balancing of cash drawer. The candidate must be a high school graduate, have experience with computers and adding machines, related job experience in cash handling and preferred customer service.

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# VACANCY NOTICE Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 September 18, 2024

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Position: High School Softball Head Coach Qualifications: ISBE certification or IHSA approved coaching certification. Previous participation in softball or coaching softball is preferred but not required. Description: Organize and manage practices and competitions; establish and present

schedules, rosters, and records in a timely fashion; conduct and supervise fund-raising

activities and training camps; promote athleticism and sportsmanship; promote and grow the program; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines. Salary: Per Teacher's Contract Schedule B Submit Application/Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patti Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Email to: pheyén@hillsbchools.net; Phone: (217) 532-2841

Due Date: October 9, 2024 We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE
Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 Position: Full Time Special Education Support Personnel (Aide) at Hillsboro High School. Certificate: Illinois ParaPro Professional License\* (Requires one of the following): Associ

ates degree; 60 semester hours of college coursework; High School Diploma & amp; ETS ParaPro test score of 460 or High School Diploma & amp; ACT Work keys test score of 4 (The District will assist eligible candidates in obtaining this licensure.) Job Description: Support students identified with special needs in grades 9-12, providing academic and/or physical assistance as required. Position may include accompanying and supervising students during off-site work study.

Starting Date: Upon hire. Salary: Per district contract with the Hillsboro Federation of Teaching Assistants
Submit Application/Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patti Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Email to: pheyen@hillsboros chools.net; Phone: (217) 532-2841

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

# VACANCY NOTICE Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

The following position in Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 is available for the 2024-2025 school year in the Hillsboro Early Childhood programs:

Position: Full Time Pre-K Teacher's Aide Certification: Current Paraprofessional Certification or willingness to obtain he certification

Job Description: Working with Pre-kindergarten Students

Starting Date: Immediately Salary: Per Teacher's Aide Contract Salary Schedule Send employee application (available at the District's website), résumé, copies of transcripts and certificates, and letters to: Marci Gutiérrez, Pre-K Director, Coffeen Elemantary School, 200 School St., Coffeen, IL 62017 or mail to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-7822

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