

# The Journal-News

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## Litchfield City Council Approves Business District

by Kyle Herschelmann

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.

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.

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.

Continued on page 8A

## Litchfield Board OKs \$27.7 Million Budget

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

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 2024-2025 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 year.

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 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

of Pocahontas.

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

In the full-size stock category, Justin Mains of Greenville continued the impressive Bond County showing, defeating second place Roger Michaelis of

Hillsboro and third place Scott Michaels of Hillsboro.

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 Mullen 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			
Mon 23	69°/63°	Rain	81%
Tue 24	72°/56°	AM Showers	46%
Wed 25	76°/57°	Partly Cloudy	15%
Thu 26	75°/63°	Showers	53%

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**4-H Week**  
Oct. 7-12  
See Page 7A

I pledge my

head  
to clearer thinking

heart  
to greater loyalty

hands  
to larger service

health  
to better living

for my club, my community, my country, and my world.



## 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 Herschelmann



## 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 of W. Ferdon.

## 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.

## 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 its 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.

## Litchfield School Board

Continued from page 1A

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 Madysen Kapp, fifth grade teacher Mallory Beechler and special education classroom aide Jennifer Ferguson. 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-to-day 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 Poetter 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 re-install 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-

ments on alternative revenue 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 Juleta 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.

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**PEARL M. CRUTHIS ESTATE**  
**September 28<sup>th</sup> • 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 half 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 large 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, Sideboard, 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 Ladders, 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 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.

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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!



## 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.

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# Obituaries

## 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.houghfuneralhome.com](http://www.houghfuneralhome.com)



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.

## Alvin L. Massey, 87 Passionate About Farming



Alvin Lewis Massey, 87, of Hillsboro, died on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Hillsboro.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Hillsboro 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 is assisting the family.

Mr. Massey was born on May 31, 1937, in Highland, to Alvin and Iva (Zeller) Massey. He married Myrtle Marie Kendall on Feb. 14, 1987, in Sorento, and she preceded him in death on Dec. 15, 2019.

When he was 17, he set out to earn his GED so that he 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 nickname Papa Piggy from his grandchildren.

He was a generous, kind man and it was common practice for him to give his last to someone else in need. Although he had a serious side and always expected the best behavior 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, benches and a toy box for his children and grandchildren 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 Assembly of God in Coffeen.

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 Walshville; grandchildren, Mark (Robyn) Massey of Glen Carbon, Erin (Jared) Sutton of Godfrey, Megan (Jacob) West of Gillespie, 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 numerous great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his sister, Clea Morrow; stepdaughter Tammy Cressy and her husband, Marty Cressy.

Memorials may be given at the visitation or funeral or mailed to Sunnyside Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 267, Sorento, IL 62086.

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

## 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.

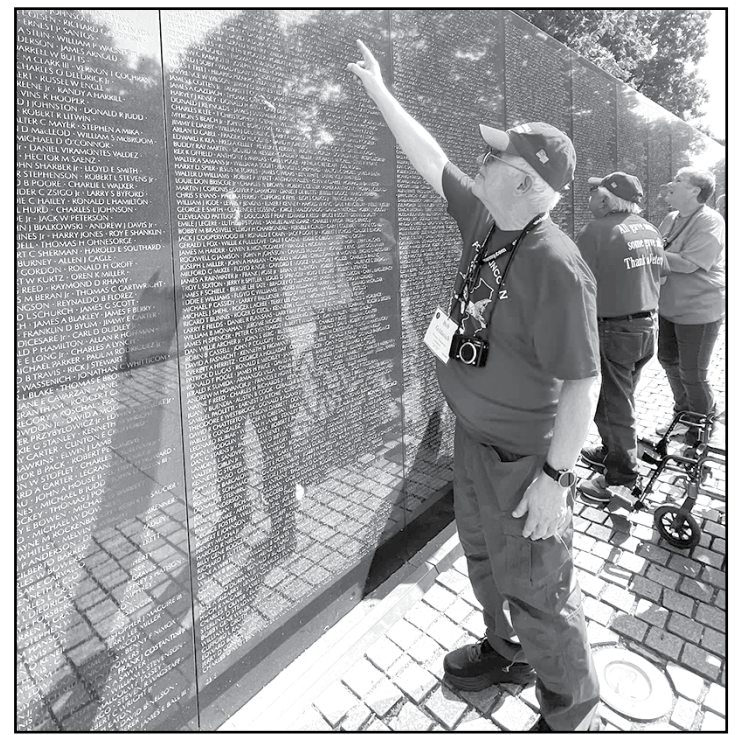
"Oh boy. I enjoyed going out there to D.C.," Wagehoft said of his time on the Honor Flight. "There's so much to see and they kept you going." In regards to having a favorite stop, he said, "I'd say they're all just about equal."

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 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 Unknown Soldier, Air

Force Memorial and the 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.

~ ~ ~

# TICKETS!

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## The Journal-News

The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County

Published Monday & Thursday

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## 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

Eisenbraut 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](mailto:tascillinois@gmail.com) or contact Lynn Sellers at 217-556-9535 or Kim Draper at 217-710-3598. Check out "Sensory Friendly" at [www.bestmovieideal.com](http://www.bestmovieideal.com).

## ROSC To Celebrate Recovery Month

The Macoupin and Montgomery 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.

## 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

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## Births

Philip and Danielle (McFarlin) Wilkinson of Glen Carbon announce the birth of their child, a son, Nolan Dean Wilkinson, at 7:27 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Memorial 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 of Witt.

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 information can contact Michelle Dettwiler at 217-271-7924 or [mdettwiler@mcphd.net](mailto:mdettwiler@mcphd.net) or Brittney Card at 217-204-8667 or [bcard@mcphd.net](mailto:bcard@mcphd.net). Funding for the event is provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use 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.



## Litchfield Senior Club Holds Dance

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



Local entrepreneur Logan Altenberger of Hillsboro is excited to announce his newest venture: The ToyRoom, opening Saturday, Oct. 5, in downtown Hillsboro.

Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

to make sure we have the products that people want and can obtain effectively."

For Altenberger, The ToyRoom 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."

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.

## 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 early.

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

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Chicken & Noodles,  
Chicken Livers & Gizzards



# Opinion

6A - Monday, September 23, 2024

IMAGINE HILLSBORO CHECKS IN • by Lucas Altenberger

## Imagine Hosts Slew Of Near Events



Welcome back to Imagine Hillsboro Checks In! This column features a bi-monthly update regarding 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](https://www.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](https://www.runsignup.com/Race/IL/Hillsboro/ShakeTheLakes). Shirts are only guaranteed 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 judgment 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](https://www.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](https://www.imaginehillsboro.com/subscribe). Enjoy the plethora of events coming up, and you'll hear from us again in November.

MAYBE YOU CAN RELATE • by Laura Boston

## Finding Balance When School Starts



Going back to school brings A LOT of emotions for everyone—kids either dreading waking up early or excited 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.

When 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?

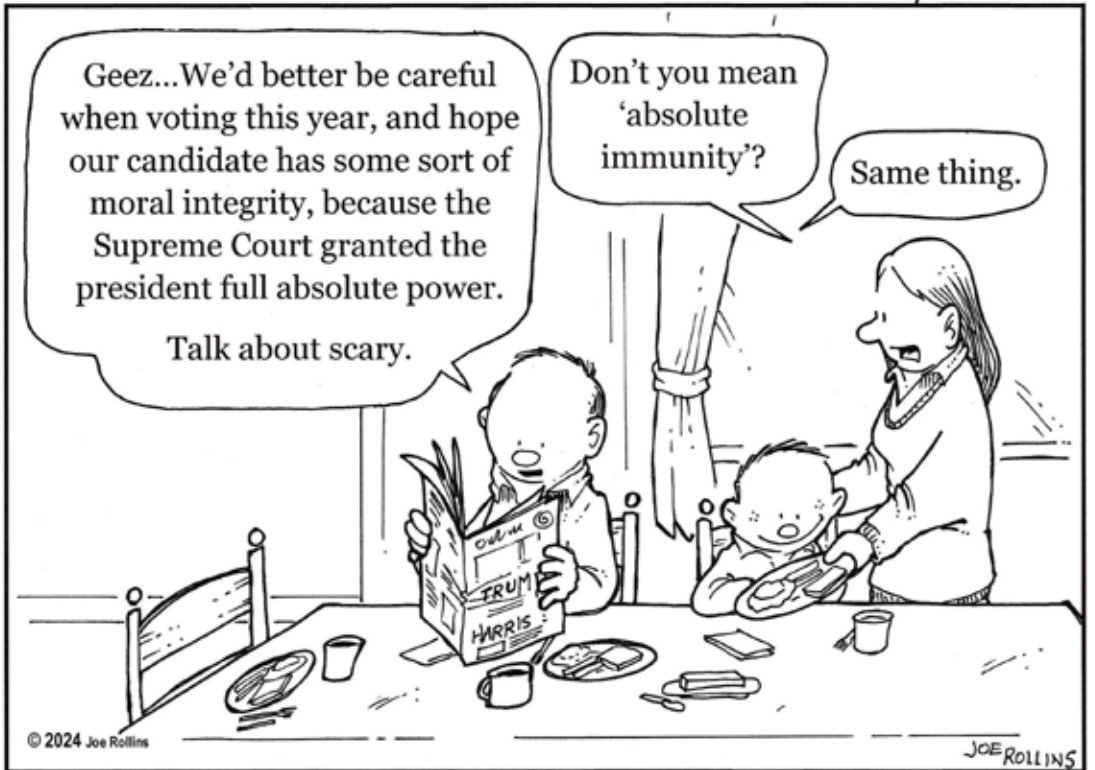
Begin with one category— go on a walk, find a day to call someone who you haven't called in a while or bake a new food. It gives you new “life material” to discuss with others, adding to the social category.

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



PANTHER PRESS • by Claudia Deren at Litchfield

## Litchfield Athletes Visit Young Students



Hey Panthers! 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 were especially excited to see Pounce!

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

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!

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, Panthers!

REDSKIN REVIEW • by Grace DeWerff at Nokomis

## Grace Cup Game Kicks Off Tonight



Happy Monday, Redskin fans! I hope all students had a fun-filled Homecoming week 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 attendees 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 Grace Cup game. The Grace Cup is held in memory of Grace Herschelmann, 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 banner-making 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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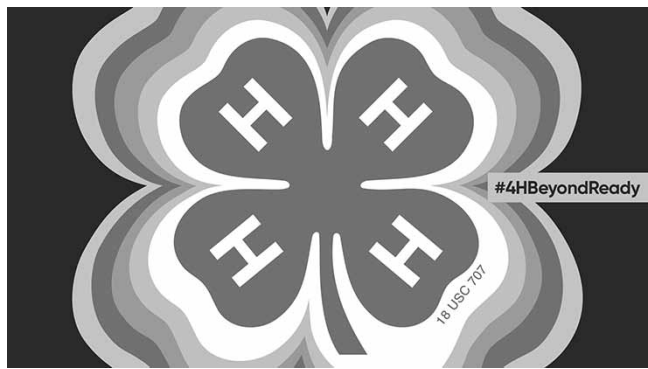
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# Montgomery County Youth to Celebrate National 4-H Week: October 7-12

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.

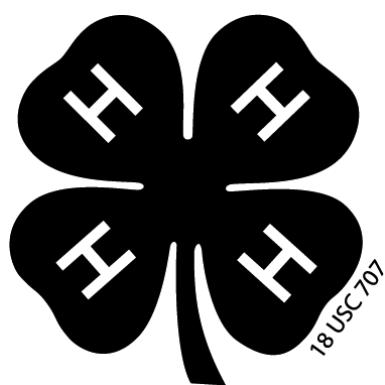
Illinois 4-H is the flagship youth program for the University of Illinois Extension and the largest out-of-school youth organization in Illinois. 4-H youth development programs in Montgomery County challenge youth to “learn by doing” with fun, hands-on activities. Kids can learn, practice, and demonstrate 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 amcd06@illinois.edu or calling Montgomery County Extension at 217-532-3941.



Learn more about 4-H at [4h.extension.illinois.edu](http://4h.extension.illinois.edu), visit Montgomery County 4-H at [go.illinois.edu/montgomeryco4h](http://go.illinois.edu/montgomeryco4h), find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/4-HMontgomery](https://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 repaving.

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 on.

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 duties, the city saved over



## 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 Vandenberg, 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 ordinance 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

resigned as collector and 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-

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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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 Singletery, 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 games.

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 cancer.

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.



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*

*Continued on 3B*

## 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.

If only 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 many games this season. *James Ryan/NokoPhoto*

## Redskins Buck Broncos To Go To 4-0

by **Kyle Herschelmann**

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

of those numbers were in 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 393 yards with 21 first downs.

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

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 for his eighth touchdown of 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 intentional grounding penalty that 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. *Tabitha Ostermann Photo*



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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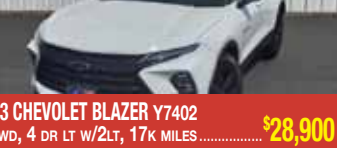




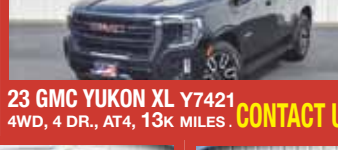








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