



Bob Reid Unveiled As Veiled Non-Profit In Litchfield

Bob Reid of Litchfield was revealed as the veiled non-profit on Saturday, Oct. 26, after the Litchfield Community Partners Halloween Parade.

He was unveiled by last year's non-profit honoree, Mike Fleming. "I am so thankful to the Litchfield Community Partners, the Veiled

Nonprofit and the Litchfield community for this honor," Reid said after the unveiling. "The Veiled Nonprofit gives so much to the community."

A longtime Litchfield public school teacher and counselor, it is his service to his community that set Reid apart.

"For the church and the knights, his dedicated service he brought, sportmanship and work ethic to young athletes" the non-profit's signature cryptic poem of clues reads, "For this community of Litchfield, he has always played his part, but his wife, children and nine grandchildren hold his heart."

The poem was read at the unveiling ceremony by Fleming, also indicated through clues that Reid was one of sixteen children born in Carlinville, earned his Eagle Scout and graduated from Eastern Illinois University. He has served as a city alderman and on the economic development commission.

Marine Corps Will Have A 249th Birthday Party

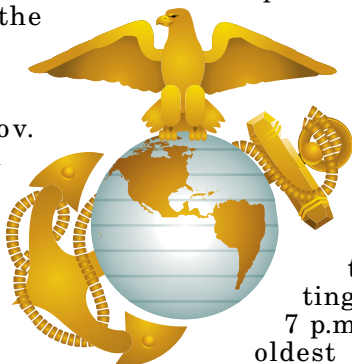
Marine Corps League Prairie Land Leathernecks Detachment 1385 will be hosting the 249th Marine Corps Birthday Party on Sunday, Nov. 10 at Gudge Ranch Saloon, located at 14265 E. 2nd Rd. in Litchfield.

Social hour will start at 5 p.m. until the 6 p.m. meal. Chicken will be provided and guests are asked to bring a dish for the potluck meal.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle and numerous raffle prizes.

The messages from the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps will be viewed and the Marines will have their cake cutting ceremony at 7 p.m., honoring the oldest and youngest Marine in attendance.

Dress is casual and proceeds will be used to help local veterans and for the detachments scholarships.



Youth Deer Harvest Data Released By State Agency

Youth hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 4,057 deer during the youth deer hunting season held from Oct. 12 to 14.

Comparatively, youth hunters took 4,576 deer during the season in 2023. Youth hunters with an unfilled,

valid youth deer permit may still hunt with the permit during the upcoming first firearm deer season held Nov. 22-24.

In Montgomery County, youth hunters harvested 88 deer in 2024, compared to 84 deer in 2023 and 61 deer in 2022.



Costumes Galore At Litchfield Halloween Parade

The Litchfield High School band came out in their best costumes for the Litchfield Community Partners Halloween Parade on Saturday, Oct. 26. The downtown was bustling as costumed locals of all ages packed the street for the spookiest event of the year. See page 2A for more from this year's parade.

Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins



Newkomis Holds Its Annual Trunk Or Treat

Newkomis, formerly the Downtown Nokomis Association, once again held its annual Trunk or Treat event at Fred B. Johnson Park on Saturday, Oct. 26. The event featured vendors, food, treats and a showing of the movie "Hocus Pocus" on Alex Fuselier's GMC Fire Truck trunk. The movie was also shown on a larger screen following the Trunk or Treat. Pictured above, residents peruse some of the trunks from local businesses, organizations and churches at the event. Following the Trunk or Treat, Newkomis also announced house decorating contest winners. Additional categories were added from previous years due to difficulty deciding winners. Gail West won in the best fall decorations category, Joan Laurie won the best pumpkin category, Kaleb Durbin won in the best inflatables category, Carol Brownback won the spookiest category, Teresa Stephens won the judge's choice category, Jim Beasley won the best theme category and Nicole Nurdin won the best overall category.

Journal-News/Cayden Huber

Redskins To Go West For Football Playoffs

On Saturday night, Oct. 26, 256 high school football teams, stretching from the great white north of Northern Illinois to the fertile plains of Little Egypt in the southern part of the state, had their eyes glued to this year's IHSA playoff pairings show as they awaited the announcement of their postseason destinations.

In Nokomis, the 14th-seeded Redskins found out that they will head west to take on Camp Point Central, the third seed in Class 1A, on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 2 p.m.

With 2,937 yards rushing, compared to 311 yards passing, the third-seeded Panthers have run their way to an 8-1 record so far this season, with their only loss coming to Calhoun, the second seed in Class 1A. Belleville Althoff is the number one seed and will play Dupu.

While Nokomis is making their 18th trip to the playoffs, Camp Point Central is making their 17th playoff appearance in a row and are the defending Class 1A state champions, after finishing second in 2018 and 2022. That streak started in 2008

under Coach Bill Reed, who is now an assistant coach at Hillsboro with his sons, Head Coach Joe Reed and Assistant Coach Zach Reed.

While the Redskins are the only Montgomery County team in this year's playoffs, there are plenty of options for football fans. The South Central Conference and Lincoln Prairie Conference both have five teams in this year's playoffs if you're looking for a familiar face to follow.

Cumberland joins Nokomis in the Class 1A bracket as the sixth-seeded Pirates host 11th-seeded Tuscola on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m.

In Class 2A, fourth-seeded Pana will host 13th-seeded Shelbyville at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1, while the other two match-ups both feature Lincoln Prairie teams playing South Central Conference teams. Sangamon Valley, the 12th seed, will also play on Friday at 7 p.m., at fifth-seeded Vandalia, while 11th-seeded North Mac goes to sixth-seeded Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond on Saturday, Nov. 2, for a 1 p.m. tilt.

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Pictured above is the "Arcade" themed trunk from the First National Bank of Nokomis.

Weather Forecast

Mon 28	74°/63°	Partly Cloudy	2%
Tue 29	82°/64°	Partly Cloudy/Wind	3%
Wed 30	80°/57°	Partly Cloudy/Wind	3%
Thu 31	62°/35°	AM Showers	51%

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HHS Coach Celebrates 200 Wins! See Sports!



2024 Miss Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Caitlyn Travis wore her heart on her sleeve during the annual community Halloween parade..
Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins



Mr. Potato Head was one of the many costumed cartoon crusaders at the Litchfield Halloween Parade.
Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins



Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang made a celebrity appearance in the Litchfield Community Partners Halloween Parade on Saturday, Oct. 26.
Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins

Litchfield Hosts Halloween Parade

From the spooky to the silly, prizes were awarded in nine jam-packed classes following the Litchfield Community Partners Halloween Parade on Saturday, Oct. 26, through downtown Litchfield.

A large, enthusiastic crowd lined the streets to watch the parade before prizes were awarded and Bob Reid was revealed as this year's veiled non-profit.

Winners were announced in a host of parade categories and cash prizes were awarded.

In the floats category, Diane Evans and Jenny Pezold took first place, Chad Con-

nor took second and Colleen Helgen took third.

In the Babies/Toddlers class, first place went to Sharon Michaels, second to Olive Tevis and third went to Casey Govaia.

Tobias Young earned first place in the Pre-K and Kindergarten category, followed by Zachary Kean in second and Brinlee Johnson in third.

In the First and Second Grade class, it was Layla Law first, Hunter Plasters second and Sawyer Joyce third.

First place went to Grayson Holiday in the Third through Fifth Grade class, followed by Phoenix Dwor-

sack in third.

In the Middle and High School class, first place went to Tinley Birkenkamp, second went to Mahina Holliday, and third to Matt Neyen and Alex Canter.

In Groups, it was Caitlin M. and friends who won first, the Litchfield Middle School Student Council in second, and Lauren, Payton, Elle, Avery and Kylie in third.

R&D Sanitation won first place in the Wheels class, followed by Jen Pierce in second and Iron Peds in third.

Zoey Schmitz won first in Pets, while Megan and Elsa came in second.

Football Playoff Preview

Continued from page 1A

In Class 3A, Carlinville kicks off their postseason run in Williamsville as the 14th-seeded Cavaliers play the third-seeded Bullets at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. On Saturday, 12th-seeded Fairfield comes to fifth-seeded Green-

ville, while 15th-seeded Mt. Carmel goes to second-seeded Sullivan-Okaw Valley. Both of those games begin at 2 p.m.

A complete list of games can be found at [IHSA.org](https://www.ihsa.org).

Class 1A Football Friday, November 1
7 p.m. - #11 Tuscola (5-4) at #6 Cumberland (7-2)

Saturday, November 2
2 p.m. - #14 Nokomis (5-4) at #3 Camp Point Central (8-1)

Class 2A Football Friday, November 1
7 p.m. - #13 Shelbyville (6-3) at #4 Pana (8-1)

7 p.m. - #12 Sangamon Valley (6-3) at #5 Vandalia (8-1)

Saturday, November 2
1 p.m. - #11 North Mac (6-3) at #6 Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-

Hammond (8-1)
Class 3A Football Friday, November 1
7 p.m. - #14 Carlinville (5-4) at #3 Williamsville (8-1)

Saturday, November 2
2 p.m. - #12 Fairfield (6-3) at #5 Greenville (8-1)
2 p.m. - #15 Mt. Carmel (5-4) at #2 Sullivan-Okaw Valley (9-0)



Winners in the youth division of the Huddle House pancake eating contest are Easton McDaniel, at left, and Damien Riley, at right. They each won \$20 in cash.
Journal-News Photo



Winners in the adults division of the Huddle House pancake eating contest are Michael Corfee, at left, in first place, and Jon Magnuson, at right, in second place. They each won \$20 in cash.
Journal-News Photo

Litchfield Block Party Is Spooktacular Success

It was a beautiful day for the Litchfield Community Partners Halloween Block Party on Saturday, Oct. 26, in downtown Litchfield. Various businesses and groups set up games and prizes for youngsters of all ages to enjoy. In addition to the games, there were food trucks, a photo opportunity with a unicorn (courtesy of Massa Stables), a fire truck on display, two bounce houses, face painting with the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce and more.

Pictured at right, Litchfield City Council alderman Jake Fleming, at right, has a laser tag duel with four-year-old Liam Degler.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman



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Print Date THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Obituaries

JoEllen 'Jo' Danenberger, 73

Dedicated Wife, Mother



JoEllen "Jo" Danenberger, 73, of Virginia, IL, died on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at Springfield Memorial Hospital.

In accordance with Mrs. Danenberger's wishes, no services will be held at this time. Buchanan and Cody Funeral Home in Virginia is assisting with arrangements.

Mrs. Danenberger was born on July 31, 1951, in Pasadena, TX, to the late Joseph and Maxine Anderson. On June 17, 1973, she married Raymond "Bud" Danenberger, and they celebrated 51 years of marriage

this year. He survives. She was raised with a love for family and a strong work ethic.

She graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1969. Soon after she began a long and meaningful career with the Illinois State Board of Education, where she worked diligently from 1970 until her retirement in 2013.

Mrs. Danenberger was a dedicated and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Her kindness, warmth and dedication to those she loved will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children, Stuart (Jen Scherr) Danenberger of Peoria and Stacy Danenberger of Virginia; grandchildren, Michael and Mya Breckenridge; sister, Rachel Howard of Coffeen; sister-in-law, Bobbie Yates of Ellicott City, MD; and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Danenberger is preceded in death by her father, Joseph Anderson, and mother and stepfather, Maxine and Sy LeMay; sister, Elizabeth Anderson; brother, William Anderson; brother-in-law, Jim Howard; and infant granddaughter, Madysen Breckenridge.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be left at [buchanancody.com](https://www.buchanancody.com).



More than 900 youngsters of all ages visited Walton Park in Litchfield for the annual Litchfield Park District Trunk or Treat event, sponsored by Victory Lane Ford, on Friday evening, Oct. 25. Nearly a dozen brightly decorated trunks lined the park as kids had a chance to visit each for a treat. At right, the crew from Steve Schmitt in Litchfield won the award for best decorated trunk for their Toy Story entry. Pictured are Zak Steinbach, at left, and Jaylynn Taylor.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman

Walton Park Trunk Or Treat Event Draws Over 900 Youth



Pictured above, at left, Karen Webb of HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield hands out candy to siblings Olive and Archer Tevis. Assisting Webb was Ian Polus, not pictured. In addition to the trunks, participants enjoyed a variety of Halloween-themed games and prizes, and food.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman

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Arlene J. Gerwolls, 91

Worked As Housekeeper

Arlene Joyce Gerwolls, 91, formerly of Vandalia, died at Freelandville Community Home in Freelandville, IN, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024.

There are no services planned at this time. Goodwin-Sievers Funeral Home in Vincennes, IN, is assisting with arrangements.

Ms. Gerwolls was born in Vandalia, to the late Roy and Merena (Jay) Koonce, on Feb. 12, 1933. She worked for many years as a housekeeper at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. She was a member of the Apostolic Lighthouse Church in Monroe City, IN, for many years. In her free time, she enjoyed reading, sitting on her front porch, spending time with her family and cooking.

She is survived by her sons, Galen and Kevin Davis; three grandchildren; and sister, Linda Townsend.

Mrs. Gerwolls was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Merena Koonce; siblings, Dorothy Gerhart, Harold Koonce, Bob Koonce, Don Koonce, Bill Koonce and Aline Trulock.

Condolences may be left at goodwinsieversfh.com.

Eugene Ruppe, 83

Truck Driver



Eugene "Gene" Ruppe, 83, of Litchfield, died 3:03 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, at Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Health Care in Hillsboro.

A celebration of life will be held at Litchfield Moose Lodge from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3. Burial will in Elm Lawn Cemetery in Litchfield on Monday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m. Litchfield Family Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ruppe was born May 12, 1941, in Highland, a son of Clarence Clifford and Susie Elizabeth (Reddick) Ruppe. He graduated from Greenville High School with the class of 1959. He married Lucy (Bird) Hughes, in 1961 in Greenville, and they moved to Litchfield in 1964. They had two children, Terry and Sherry, then later divorced.

Mr. Ruppe was a truck driver for Yellow Freight over 30 years before he retired on Nov. 30, 2001. He was a lifetime member (50 year plus) of the Litchfield Moose Lodge and a member of the Litchfield Jaycees.

He enjoyed going to auctions and yard sales, tracing family history through genealogy and relaxing, as well as boating on Lake Lou Yaeger when he had a lake lot. Mr. Ruppe loved to travel and visit other states and historical places. He loved visits and spending time with his special buddy Aiden Westbrook.

Mr. Ruppe is survived by his special friend, Agnes Cheli of Litchfield; son, Terry (Denise) Ruppe of Fulshear, TX; one granddaughter, Melissa (Phil) Moreland of O'Fallon; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Judy (Dale) Higgins of Centralia.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Sherry Lewey; two grandsons, Jeff and Ryan Clement; and brother, Dexter Ruppe.

Memorials may be made to Litchfield Christmas Basket Association. Please visit www.litchfieldffs.com to leave condolences or light a candle in his memory.

Stevie A. Schey, 64

Born In Litchfield



Stevie Anthony "Luba" Schey, 64, of Wilsonville, died at 10:19 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, at his residence.

Funeral services were held Oct. 24 at Kravanya Funeral Home in Gillespie, with burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Gillespie.

Mr. Schey was born Dec. 22, 1959, in Litchfield, to Robert Schey and Theresa Lubrant Schey. He worked in the transportation industry.

Mr. Schey collected baseball cards. He enjoyed sports including sports on television.

He is survived by his brother, Robert (companion, Shirley Pomatto) Schey of Wilsonville and sister, Christy (Glenn) Wilson of Gillespie; nieces, Jo Ann Bruhn, Diana (Schey) Grothaus and Jennifer Wilson and nephew, Jeff (April) Wilson; and several great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

Mr. Schey was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials are suggested to wishes of the family. Condolences may be left online at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

Shirley A. Hebenstreit, 93

Worked As Bookkeeper



Shirley A. Hebenstreit, 93, of Staunton, died at 10:08 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, at Litchfield Health and Rehab Center.

Visitation will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 28, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Staunton. Funeral service will follow at 11:30 a.m. at the church, with the Rev. Thomas Hagstrom officiating. Interment will be held at Memorial Park Cemetery in Staunton. Williamson Funeral Home in Staunton is in charge of

arrangements.

Mrs. Hebenstreit was born on June 28, 1931, in Livingston, to the late George Slifka and Ann Kerin. She married Adolf A. "Fud" Hebenstreit on June 11, 1955, in Livingston, and he preceded her in death on May 29, 2019. She worked as a bookkeeper for several local and area businesses for many years and was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church in Staunton. She enjoyed shopping, going to the casino and working at The Thrift Store.

She is survived by her daughter, Kelda (David) DeBarr of Litchfield; son, David (Debbie) Hebenstreit of St. Louis, MO; grandchildren, Derek (Megan) DeBarr, Anne (Preston) Hisle, Tyler Hebenstreit and Trevor Hebenstreit; and great-grandchildren, Ethan, Liam and Harrison Hisle, and Issac and Samuel DeBarr.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Hebenstreit was preceded in death by her brother, George Slifka; and sisters, Jane Meyer and Mary McNair.

Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association. Condolences may be left at www.williamsonfh.com.

Alice A. Lindsay, 91

Loving Mother



Alice Alvina Lindsay, 91, of Litchfield, died Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at Hallmark Healthcare of Carlinville.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Witt Cemetery. Stiehl-Dawson Funeral Home in Nokomis is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Lindsay was born Nov. 28, 1932, in Witt to Delbert and Cleo (Oller) Garwood, and both preceded her in death. She and Thomas Leroy Lindsay were married Sept.

8, 1956, in Witt, and he preceded her in death in 1971.

Mrs. Lindsay was a homemaker and stay at home mom, raising her eleven children. She was a strong, outspoken lady that stuck to what she put her mind to do and a firm believer in the Lord. Her pastimes included putting together puzzles and working crossword puzzles, even when her eye sight was failing, watching westerns on TV and being outside in the summer. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her greatest joy in life.

Mrs. Lindsay is survived by her children, Kenneth Lindsay of Rushville, Barbara Thompson of Irving, Steve Lindsay of Vandalia, Lisa (Terry) Hancock of Litchfield, Lou (Tim) Plovman of Concord, David (Lisa) Lindsay of Litchfield and Thomas (Lori) Lindsay of Hillsboro; stepchildren, Les (Sherry) Lindsay of Tower Hill and Linda Jackson of Tower Hill; sister, Carol Owens of Witt; twenty-two grandchildren, thirty-three great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Lindsay was preceded in death by her sons, Darrell Lindsay and James Mehlberg; grandsons, Brian Mehlberg, James Brown, Norm Lindsay and granddaughter, Robin Brown; and siblings, Torman Garwood, Grace Meier, Nancy Gruen, Jerry Garwood and Lamar Garwood.

Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Association. Online condolences can be left at stiehldawsonfh.com

obituaries posted daily
www.thejournal-news.net

In Memory of

William (Bill) Blackburn

Thank you for the donations in Bill's honor. We are so appreciative of your generosity for food and donations. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated by the entire family. Special thank you to Toberman-Dean Funeral Home and Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Thank You -

William (Bill) Blackburn's Family

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Kayleigh Flitz-Thompson

Forever Beloved By Parents



Kayleigh Jade Rebecca Flitz-Thompson, of Litchfield, was born sleeping at 9:07 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 10 to 10:45 a.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service, located at 700 S. State St.

in Litchfield. Graveside Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30, at Elmwood Cemetery, with the Rev. Rudy Elam presiding. Burial will follow.

Kayleigh was born sleeping on Oct. 15, 2024, in St. Louis, MO, a daughter of Daniel Wayne Thompson and Jewel Aaryn Leigh Hardt. She weighed 211.2 grams and was 25.5 centimeters long.

Kayleigh is survived by her father, Daniel Wayne Thompson and mother, Jewel Aaryn Leigh Hardt; brother, Dean Flitz Hardt and sister, Jayleigh Flitz-Thompson; grandmother, Katie Flitz, grandfather, Jason Flitz, grandfather, Blaze Hardt, grandmother, Tamara Thompson and grandfather, Kevin Thompson, Sr.; aunts, Jade Hardt and Olivia Flitz and uncles, Joseph Lane, Garrett Flitz, Kevin Thompson, Troy Thompson and John Thompson.

Kayleigh was preceded in death by her great-grandparents, James and Martha Atkins; brother, Luka Flitz-Thompson; aunt, Jordan Flitz; and cousin, Finley Lane.

Please visit www.litchfieldffs.com to leave condolences or light a candle in memory. Litchfield Family Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Rose M. Meier, 91

Loving Mother



Rose M. Meier, 91, formerly of Hillsboro and Litchfield, died on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at the Stanton Health Care Center in Stanton, NE.

Funeral services will be held at the Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Cassie Sexton-Riggs will officiate. A brief visitation period for family and friends will take place at Union Avenue Christian Church immediately prior to the service, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Burial will follow in Elm Lawn

Cemetery in Litchfield, joining her husband, H. Dean Meier.

Farewell services were held at the Stanton Health Care Center in Stanton, NE, on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 10 a.m., with hospice Chaplain John Steadman officiating.

Rose Marie Stivers was born on Sept. 12, 1933, in Hillsboro, to Bernie F. and Velma L. (Gerhard) Stivers. As a small child she was given the nickname "Bootie" by her grandfather, presumably because she wore baby booties everywhere. She was known affectionately by that nickname throughout her childhood. She graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1951, marrying Harry Dean Meier on Oct. 23, 1954, in Hillsboro, sharing nearly 50 years together before his death in February 2004. She maintained relationships with class members for almost 70 years, before moving to Nebraska to be near family as health issues dictated.

Mrs. Meier was a faithful member of Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield for many years, serving on the board of elders and as the church's financial secretary. She was also active in the community, serving as a volunteer for Hearts United and Meals on Wheels. She was a member of the International Order of the Eastern Star, Beta Sigma Phi sorority and the PEO Chapter of the HKA sorority.

Mrs. Meier assisted her husband in the running of their family business, Meier Decorating Center, for almost 50 years. She continued to be an important part of that business after their daughter, Denise, bought the business in 1997. In addition to those duties, she considered herself a stay-at-home mother, raising the children and providing for their daily care. Once they were grown, she worked for a time at the Ethan Allen showroom in Springfield, Illinois, and taught interior design at Lincoln Land Community College in Litchfield.

Mrs. Meier made it very clear that her first priorities were her family members, while enjoying an active social life playing golf, cards and vacationing. She ensured there was always fun and laughter in the Meier home and will be missed by all who knew her.

Mrs. Meier is survived by her son, Michael D. Meier and wife Julie (Zimmerman) of Columbus, TX, daughter, Cynthia Meier of Stanton, NE, formerly of Litchfield, and daughter, Denise (Meier) Wilkinson and husband BJ of Norfolk, NE; six grandchildren, Andrew, (wife Nora), Megan, Zachary (wife Shayna), and Michael Meier (wife Christina), Alexander Lueker (wife Cari) and Victoria (Lueker) Bannon (husband Stephen); and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts should be given to the Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield, as suggested by the family. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.



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County Republicans Donate \$500 To MCCA

The Montgomery County Republican Central Committee recently held a successful trivia night and wanted to give back to the community by donating a portion of the proceeds from that event, a total of \$500, to the Montgomery County Cancer Association. Pictured above, from the left, are MCRCC Vice-Chairman Jeremy Jones, MCRCC Treasurer and candidate for Montgomery County Board District seven, Rob Corso, MCCA President Linda Klotz, MCRCC Secretary Roberta Meyer and MCRCC Chairman Mark Hughes.

Journal-News/Cayden Huber

Hillsboro Methodist To Host Halloween Drive Thru Treat

The Hillsboro Methodist Church will be hosting a trick or treat drive thru on Thursday, Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hot dogs, chips and water are available along with treat bags. Those interested are asked to enter the parking lot from Rountree street and follow the signs. The church is located at 537 Rountree St. in Hillsboro.

Births

Cassie and Matthew Hawk of Edinburg announce the birth of their daughter, Madelyn Annette Hawk, born at 4:32 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, at Springfield Memorial Hospital. She weighed 8 lbs., 5 ozs. and measured 20.75 ins. long.



She was welcomed home by big sister Ada, age three. Her father is teacher and her mother works in Quality Improvement.

Paternal grandparents are Tim and Jill Hawk of Decatur and Lois Hawk of Beloit, KS. Maternal grandparents are David and Kim Jaeger of Waggoner. Paternal great-grandfather is Lester Jaeger of Litchfield.

~ ~ ~

Shelby and Trenton Willman of Hillsboro announce the birth of their daughter, Eloise Alexandra Willman, born at 3:53 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. She weighed 7 lbs., 2 ozs. and measured 20.5 ins. long.

She is welcomed to the world by her brothers, Pierce and Dain and sister, Estelle.

Maternal grandparents are Lisa and Brian Sullivan. Paternal grandparents are Nathen and Kim Barto.

Maternal great-grandparents are Margy Curtis and the late John Curtis, Della and Scotty Sullivan and Maurice (significant other Jan) Sullivan.

Paternal great-grandparents are Cindy and the late Joseph Barto and Beverly and Kenneth Willman.

~ ~ ~



Villainous Turnout At Litchfield Library

More than 220 turned out for the Disney Villains Halloween party at the Litchfield Public Library on Friday evening, Oct. 25. Participants had a chance to search for Disney villains hidden in the library for a chance to take home a special Disney villains book. In addition, there were about ten craft and game stations throughout the library for children to enjoy throughout the evening. Pictured above, youngsters of all ages decorate a Jafar snake staff with gems with volunteer Muffin Bates, at right.

Journal-News Photo



Litchfield Church Honors First Responders

Members of Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield honored first responders during the worship service on Sunday morning, Oct. 27. They recognized members of the Litchfield Police Department, Litchfield Fire Department and Montgomery County EMA (emergency management), and each spoke about the duties of their departments. After the service, church members presented each department with a gift basket to thank them for their service. From the left are Raneey Ray, Litchfield Police Chief Kenny Ryker, Pat Weiss, Louann Scobbie, Litchfield firefighters Mike Chappell, Kody Golike, Jake Law and Curt Glover, Montgomery County EMA directors Kevin Schott (retired) and Danny Hough and Cindy Niehaus.

Journal-News Photo

AVON

RETIREMENT SALE

Janean Stretch

635 W. Kinkead Rd., Hillsboro

Friday & Saturday

November 1 & 2

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TRUNK OF TREAT

Union Avenue Christian Church

422 E. Union Ave., Litchfield, IL

October 31, 2024 • 6 to 8 p.m.

Come Join Us to Enoy Halloween Night!

ALL AGES WELCOME!

CHICK-FIL-A

One More Time !!

Tuesday, October 29

10:45 - 1:00

(or while they last)

CNB Parking Lot

(across from Veterans' Memorial)

• Sandwich Only....\$7

• Full Meal Deal (incl. Chips & Drink)....\$10

Delivery (of at least 4 orders, please) available by emailing HillsboroSertoma@gmail.com, or texting 217-313-6009 by 4:00, Mon., Oct. 28

~ As Always, Funds raised by Your Hillsboro SERTOMA Club Stay Local ~

MONTGOMERY NURSING & REHAB CENTER

9086 IL Rt. 127 • Taylor Springs

Will be welcoming trick or treaters from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

Marine Corps League

1385

Chesty says

ALL Marines, ALL Veterans and Friends of the Corps meet at

Gudgel Ranch Saloon14265 E. 2nd Rd., Litchfield, IL

Sunday, November 10

249th Birthday of the Corps

Begins: 1700 Hours - To ??? • Chow: 1800 Hours

Ceremony: 1900 Hours • Donation: Chicken/Potluck

Door Prizes ~ 50/50 ~ Raffles

Proceeds to the MCL Detachment 1385 to help local veterans and for scholarships.

CASUAL ATTIRE

SEMPER FI

U S M C

— TRAP SHOOT —

Rountree Rod & Gun Club

14086 N. 21st Ave. • Nokomis

Sunday, Nov. 3 • 10 a.m.

All Day Meat Shoot

• Turkeys

• Hams

• Sausage

• Bacon

Shells Available

Lunch Available

Boehler Family Will Meet This Saturday In Hillsboro

The Boehler family will be holding their annual reunion at the home of Jesse Boehler, located at 4121 Illinois Route 127 in Hillsboro.

This year's family reunion will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, beginning at 3 p.m.

The meal will be served at 4 p.m. Meat will be provided and guests are encouraged to bring a large covered dish to share. Table settings and drinks will be provided.

For more information, contact Ruth (Boehler) McCario at 618-977-3116.

Marriage Licenses

Christopher Lee Vaughn, Hillsboro; Hannah Jean Black, Hillsboro.

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR TRICK OR TREAT DRIVE THRU

HILLSBORO METHODIST CHURCH

537 Rountree St., Hillsboro

Thursday, Oct. 31

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner on us! Hot dogs, chips and water available along with treat bags!

Enter parking lot from Rountree and follow signs.

sip & shop

November 3, 2024

The Event Center of Montgomery County

11AM-4PM

ADMISSION \$3 AT THE DOOR

Aumann Auctioning Rare 1939 Ford Tractor

Aumann Auctions, a leader in the sale of vintage tractors, is excited to announce the offering of a rare and historic piece at this year's Fall Harvest Auction, the 1939 Ford Aluminum Hood Tractor, serial number 577. This tractor, which is part of Don Henley's personal collection, has an important place in Ford's agricultural legacy, and has long been sought after by collectors of vintage machinery.

The 1939 Ford tractor, part of an exclusive first run of only 600, boasts a unique cast aluminum hood, making it one of the few remaining examples of its kind in existence today. The tractor will be available for auction in pristine, fully restored condition.

Henley, a lifelong Ford enthusiast, has owned the tractor for several years. His love for all things Ford began early in life, extending beyond automobiles to include iconic Ford tractors. In an interview with Aumann Auctions, Henley shared how he came to acquire the rare piece. "We've been Ford collectors our whole life and always wanted an aluminum hood tractor," said Henley. "I heard about this specific one around 20 years ago and spent years pursuing it until, finally, the owners were ready to sell."

The tractor underwent a



This rare 1939 Ford Aluminum Hood Tractor, serial number 577, will be auctioned off as part of Aumann Auctions' Rest-O-Riginal Auction, part of the Fall Harvest series running from Sunday, Nov. 3 to Saturday, Nov. 9.

frame-off restoration in Henley's workshop, resulting in what he calls a "nut and bolt restoration." Today, it stands as one of the finest examples of the rare Ford tractor model.

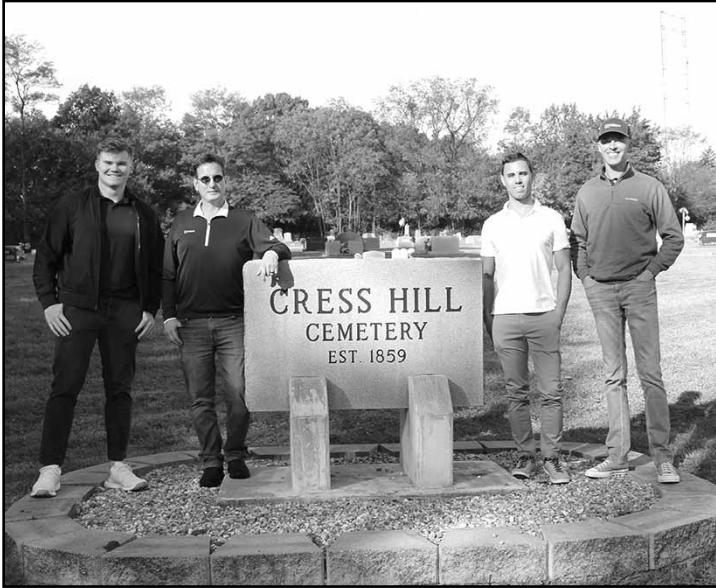
The 1939 Ford Aluminum Hood Tractor has significant historical importance. It was developed as a result of the handshake agreement between Henry Ford and Harry Ferguson, which led to the creation of the first tractors with a three-point hitch system. According to Henley, these early Ford tractors were intended for debut

at the 1939 World's Fair, with the first 600 units featuring aluminum hoods due to an unusual production situation. "Ford didn't have the stamping dyes for the steel hoods ready in time for the fair," said Henry. "So they cast them in aluminum." As a result, these tractors became some of the most iconic pieces in Ford's tractor history, particularly among collectors.

The Ford Tractor Collectors Club currently has fewer than 40 serial numbers from these early tractors on record, making each one rare in its

own right. "We've taken the tractor to the Ford V8 meets for the past three years, and it always draws a crowd," Henley said. "People have heard of these tractors, but it's rare they actually get to see one."

The tractor is featured in Aumann's Rest-O-Riginal Auction, part of the Fall Harvest series running from Sunday, Nov. 3 to Saturday, Nov. 9. Bidders can view the full catalog, including the tractor, on the Aumann Auctions website, www.aumannauction.com.



Pictured above, are members of the Pattern Energy group that visited Montgomery County on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The group donated funds that will cover a year of operation and maintenance costs. From the left is Hunter Delor, John Sullivan, Diogo Botelho and Dustin Kloiber. *Journal-News Photo*

Pattern Energy Donates To Cress Hill Cemetery

Members of the Pattern Energy group in Houston, TX, made the trip to Montgomery County's Cress Hill Cemetery on Tuesday, Oct. 22. They were welcomed by President of the Cemetery Board Jerry Gregory and Secretary Chris Papin.

Pattern Energy has made a donation to the Cress Hill Cemetery in an amount equivalent to a year of operating and maintenance costs.

"We are excited about our future in Montgomery County," said Diogo Botelho, Pattern Energy's business development manager. "But for Pattern, it's not just about the future, for us, being a good neighbor also means understanding and honoring the history of the places in which we operate. When

Jerry Gregory told us about Cress Hill and the number of historic veterans' graves located within it, we wanted to find a way to honor those buried there and the importance of this place to the community."

Pattern Energy is currently working to develop The Shoals Renewables project in Montgomery County. The Shoals represents a private investment of \$1 billion and would bring widespread economic benefit to the community through the creation of 500-700 construction jobs, tax revenues and project road improvements. More information on the Shoals project can be found at patternenergy.com/projects/the-shoals-renewables/

Accidents

Deer Accidents

Michael G. Richards, 21, of Cowden, was traveling west on 22nd Ave. in Zanesville Township at 7:21 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, when they struck a deer. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene.

Selah S. Kohler, 20, of Greenville, was traveling southbound on Red Ball Trail, approximately one tenth of a mile north of Mt. Moriah Ave. at 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, when a deer entered the roadway. Kohler struck the deer causing damage to their vehicle.

Lee E. Eddington, 43, of Irving, was traveling east on Fillmore Trail in East Fork Township at 4:47 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, when he struck a deer near the intersection of Fillmore Tr. and School House Rd.

Minor damage was done to the vehicle.

Vehicles Smack Mirrors

Adam W. Evans, 37, of Irving, was traveling westbound on Seven Sisters Ave. in Irving Township at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18, when a vehicle driven by an unknown driver crossed the center line, causing both vehicles to smack mirrors. The unknown driver fled the scene, leaving Evans' vehicle with mirror and window damage on the driver's side.

Fire Calls

Garage Fire

The Shoal Creek Fire Department was dispatched at 12:44 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, for a garage fire in Sorrento. The fire was mostly under control upon arrival. Ten firefighters responded and New Douglas Fire Department was called for mutual aid. The firefighters were back in service at 1:30 p.m.

Trick Or Treat Hours

Butler: Oct. 30-31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Coffeen: Oct. 30-31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Donnellson: Oct. 31 • 5 to 7 p.m.
Farmersville: Oct. 31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Fillmore: Oct. 31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Harvel: Oct. 30-31 • 5 to 8 p.m.
Hillsboro: Oct. 30-31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Irving: Oct. 30-31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Litchfield: Oct. 26 • 4 to 9 p.m.,
and Oct. 31 • 6 to 9 p.m.
Nokomis: Oct. 30-31 • 5 to 8 p.m.
Panama: Oct. 30-31 • 5:30 to 8 p.m.
Raymond: Oct. 30-31 • 5 to 8 p.m.
Schram City: Oct. 30-31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Sorrento: Oct. 31 • 5 to 8 p.m.
Taylor Springs: Oct. 30-31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Waggoner: Oct. 31 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Witt: Oct. 30-31 • 5 to 8 p.m.

Vote for Democrat
Richard Wendel
for
County Board District 5
16 Years Experience
All Votes Appreciated!
Thank You,
Richard Wendel

Thank You!

The Coffeen Fire Protection District would like to thank the following hole sponsors and contributors for our very successful first annual golf scramble: Bank and Trust Company, McKay Napa Auto Parts, Bill's Truck Repair, Coffeen Main Street Gaming, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Lang Mowing and Landscaping, Laughlin Electric, First Due Consulting and Dean Funeral Homes.

Sincere thanks to the Indian Springs Golf Course and B2B Prints and Promos for the sponsor signs. I would also like to thank everyone who donated the silent auction items. The second annual golf scramble will be held on Sept. 13, 2025. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to be a part of this!

Leah Stanfill 217-313-0561
Coffeen Fire Department

NO news is BAD news

Share your news at
thejournal-news@consolidated.net

ROB CORSO
FOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD
DISTRICT 7

- Litchfield native
- 32 years public school teacher and coach
- Coordinator FCA Power Camp
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- Fiscal Conservative: Committed to responsible spending and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used efficiently
- Passion for service: Driven by a deep love for the community and a desire to make a lasting impact.
- Endorsed by the MCCRC

VOTE NOV. 5TH
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Choose to Finance for 48 mos. Interest Free!

GROWING YOUR ROOTS • by Katie Wilson, Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Understanding Wooded Acreage Assessment



Good day and Happy Halloween!

Harvest is starting to wrap up in the county as farmers have had ideal weather to complete this annual fall task. It's been a mostly beautiful fall season and I hope we have more beautiful days ahead.

A friendly reminder before we jump into the topic of the month, and that is to RSVP for our annual meeting if you have not done so already. Members will meet at the Witt Lions Building on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m. We are asking for reservations by Nov. 1 to allow time for food preparation.

You may have heard talk at the coffee shop about wooded acreage tax assessment. We wanted to bring you the facts on this issue, so I contacted our tax and local government expert at Illinois Farm Bureau, Brenda Matherly.

Brenda composed the following facts about wooded acreage in Illinois and how it is taxed. Please take a few moments to read on, as I feel this will answer several questions for Montgomery County residents.

How is wooded land assessed in Illinois? That is a question many landowners would like the answer to.

In very general terms, wooded acres are classified as either "farm" or "non-farm" property for the purpose of taxation. State law considers wooded acres that are part of a larger farming operation, or are being systematically managed for a timber harvest, to be classified as farmland.

Wooded acres that are not associated with a larger farming operation are to be

classified as non-farm and assessed at 33.3 percent of market value.

This classification standard is based on the concept of the property's "primary use" as provided for in the Illinois Property Tax Code and the Illinois Department of Revenue's guidelines for assessing farm property.

Under the concept of primary use, the portion of the landowner's property being farmed must be larger than the wooded acres. This farmed property to wooded acre ratio provides evidence that the primary use of the operation is farming. If the wooded land is larger in acres than the farmed portion of the total property owned, then the primary use of the land is not farming. In that case, the wooded land does not qualify for a farmland assessment.

However, if the wooded acres do not qualify for a farmland assessment, there are other options the landowner can consider to help reduce the tax burden.

The first option is known as the Wooded Acreage Assessment Transition Law (35 ILCS 200/10-500). Under this law, if the wooded acreage is at least five contiguous acres and was classified as farmland (but did not qualify as farmland) during the 2006 assessment year, then the wooded land shall receive a reduced assessment when compared to a market value assessment. The property shall continue to be assessed under the Wooded Acreage Assessment Transition Law until it is transferred or if the ownership interest changes by more than 50 percent. If that happens, the property no longer qualifies for the reduced wooded acreage assessment transition rate.

Landowners also have

the option of enrolling their wooded acres, that do not qualify as farmland, into a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) provided for under the Conservation Stewardship Law (35 ILCS 200/10-400). Under this law, landowners that have at least five contiguous acres of wooded land can work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to create a plan for the property that specifies conservation management practices. If approved by IDNR, those wooded acres will be assessed at 5 percent of their market value. This CMP assessment will likely provide a reduction in the property's tax burden. The plan must be reviewed and approved by IDNR every ten years.

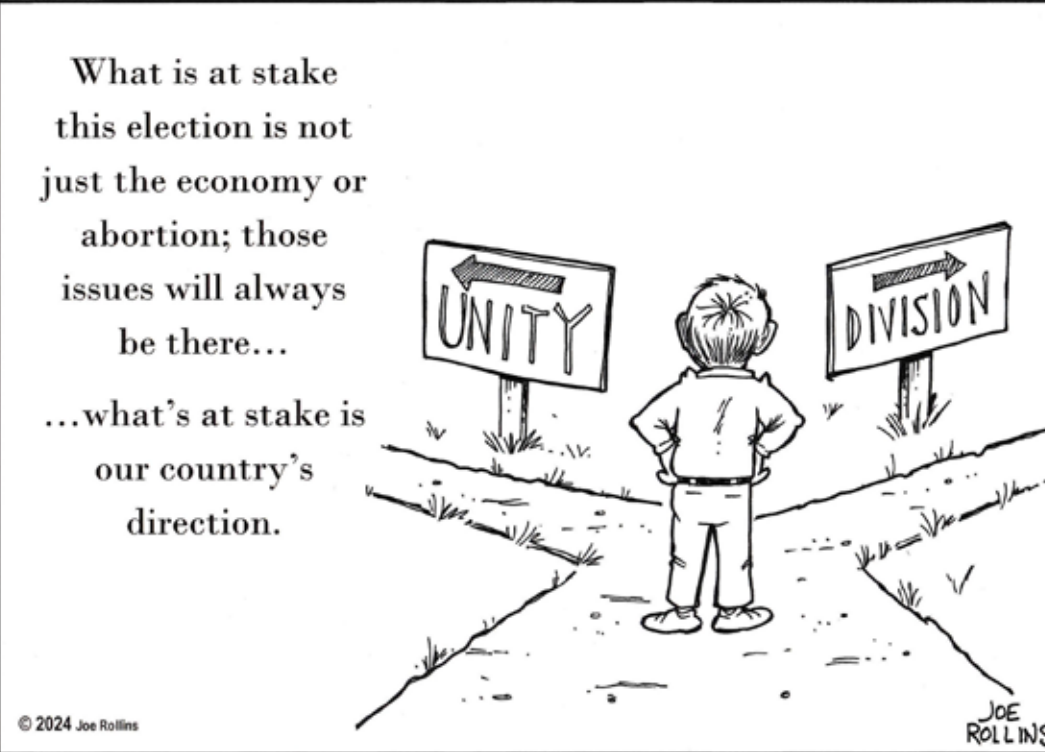
For those landowners who would like a program focused more on managing their wooded acres for a timber harvest, a forestry management plan (FMP) might be a good option. Property enrolled in this plan, as provided for under the Illinois Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/10-150) and approved by IDNR, shall have a more comprehensive management plan focused on timber production. To qualify, the landowner must have at least five contiguous acres on which there are no buildings. Since the property enrolled in an FMP is managed for the production of a timber harvest, it qualifies as farmland and is assessed as such.

For more information on wooded land assessments and the impact on property taxes, please contact your Montgomery County Farm Bureau at 217-532-6171 or via e-mail at kwilson@montcofb.com.

Thanks for growing your roots in local agriculture!

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



A GRACE FILLED JOURNEY • by Mary Herschelmann

Life Doesn't Always Have To Be Perfect



to be wonderful."

A perfectionist by nature, I often have to remind myself of this, and I have found myself working with Charley lately on this very thing.

In my young adult years, I just assumed I would get married and have kids and live happily ever after. I had a job I loved, and figured the family would make life complete.

So, what does that do to your plans when you find out your child has a terminal illness that has no cure? Suddenly that "perfect" picture is gone.

I really struggled at first. I didn't understand why it was happening to us, and I clung to these notions of a "perfect" life.

Eventually, through some hard lessons, I figured a few things out. Instead of worrying about if/when we would lose Grace, we focused our efforts on providing her the best life we could, even if it wasn't a perfect one. And although some days I worry about whether or not I did enough for Grace, I feel like she did have a great life and she definitely

knew she was loved.

It's been almost three and a half years since she's been gone, and I have to say that some habits die hard. I find some of those "perfectionism" tendencies creep back into my life and I'm working hard to help Charley understand that we don't have to be perfect.

It wasn't long after Kyle and I had gotten together that I was baking snickerdoodle cookies for a bake sale at our church. Now, I'm known for my chocolate chip cookies, but I never tried them before, and the cookie dough spread out funny on the pan. I'm rather embarrassed to admit that I was on the floor sobbing that the cookies didn't turn out right, and I don't think Kyle had any idea what to do with me. I am lucky that he went ahead and married me anyway.

The other day, I threw a pineapple angel food cake in the oven one evening, and while it was baking, I used some overripe bananas to make banana muffins, planning to throw them in the oven when the cake was done. Out of habit, I turned the oven off when the cake was done instead, and ended up ruining the muffins. Despite the fact that I wasn't really out

much, I let it ruin the rest of my evening.

After shopping one day, I brought home a Halloween house to decorate (similar to a gingerbread house at Christmas). Charley wanted it to look just like the picture on the box. On the first hand, I don't think they provided that much icing. On the second hand, neither of us is that artistic. I kept reminding her that the project was just something fun to do together, and if we were pleased with the way it turned out, then that was all that mattered.

Later that night we were carving pumpkins, and she couldn't decide what she wanted to make. She was worried it wouldn't turn out very good. We spent some time talking about different ideas, and in the end had a great time carving our not-so perfect pumpkins. Toward the end, we were poking out the pumpkin pieces and despite our best efforts to be careful, a small part broke off. I was really proud of Charley that she didn't cry. We tried our best to fix it, and she said how good it still looked.

I think it's human nature for us to want things to be the best they can be, and I still strive for that in everything I do. But I also try to remember that "life doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful."

REDSKIN REVIEW • by Grace DeWerff at Nokomis

Redskins Celebrate Red Ribbon Week



All week there will be dress-up days going along with the theme, "Life's a Movie, Film Drug Free."

Monday is, "be a star, stay drug free," where students can dress as their favorite movie star or TV character. Tuesday is "no white-lies, just true stars," and students will be dressing in white-lie T-shirts. Wednesday is "say no to drugs and yes to dreams" and students will be dressing as their future careers. Thursday students can dress in their Halloween costumes to go along with the slogan "lights, camera, costumes: stay drug free on Halloween." Finally, on Friday students are wearing all red to support Red Ribbon Week. Prizes will be awarded to those voted best dressed throughout the week.

Along with the dress-up days, teachers will be decorating their doors for a competition, so keep an eye out for your favorite!

Some other important notices this week include the Art Club meeting on Wednesday,

Oct. 30 in study hall. Student Council will also host a meeting on Wednesday Oct. 30.

FCCLA members are invited to participate in the FCCLA Decorate the Door for Halloween! There's a limit of ten participants, so be sure to get signed up. Ms. Williams' door will be decorated on Tuesday, Oct. 29, during study hall. All supplies and snacks (popcorn) will be provided.

The 11th annual FCCLA Pumpkin Carving Contest begins this week, Monday, Oct. 28 through Thursday, Oct. 31. Fourteen teams are competing and the winning team will be awarded \$25. Teams will be carving during study hall, during lunch, and after school on Tuesday.

There will also be an FCCLA Go Ahead... Bake My Day next week on Wednesday, Oct. 30 in Ms. Williams' room during study hall. Participants will be making eerie eyeball pretzel rods.

As for athletics, soccer's season came to an end last week in the regional championship, taking the loss to Pleasant Plains, 2-0. Their final record was 10-10.

The Lady Redskins head into post-season going strong. Last week, they defeated Calvary on Tuesday, 25-16, 25-13, to go undefeated in

the conference. They gained their 30th win of the season at the Pawnee tournament on Saturday. I would say they are in good shape for their first regional game, which will take place today, Monday Oct. 28.

Football took a tough loss within the last seconds of the game on Friday, losing 15-14. They head into play-offs on Saturday, Nov. 2, playing Camp Point Central at 2 p.m.

FFA sent 13 members to Indianapolis for the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo last week. They participated in sessions to celebrate the successes of FFA and hear motivational speakers, visited a career fair to interact with over 300 colleges and industry booths, and they had fun too, attending a rodeo, riding go-karts, and playing mini-golf.

Nokomis FFA was ranked a Two Star Chapter, which is the second highest ranking at the national level. Three graduated members, Skylar Stewart, Alden Knodle and Kolin Reynolds, were also recognized and awarded their American FFA Degree, which is the highest degree within the FFA. Congratulations!

I hope everyone has a great week this week, and that students soak up and enjoy the Red Ribbon festivities. See you next Monday!

Letter to the Editor

We the undersigned, wish to publicly announce our support for Bryant "Butch" Hitchings in his candidacy for Montgomery County Resident Circuit Judge.

Having known Bryant for many years, we can attest that he is a smart, fair, decent, man of faith, with impeccable integrity.

Bryant is a lifelong Montgomery County resident. He knows the people and the challenges that exist in our county and is well suited to

adjudicate the legal matters in Montgomery County courts.

The "rule of law" is a sacred and fundamental tenet of American society. Those charged with the responsibility of ensuring fairness and justice within our court systems must be of the highest moral and ethical caliber.

We could think of no other person more qualified to carry out this responsibility than Bryant "Butch" Hitchings.

Please join us in supporting him for Montgomery County Resident Circuit Judge. This November, VOTE HITCHINGS!

Sincerely,
Willie Cobetto
Earl Meier
Bob Wessell
Greg Springer
Junice Springer
Mike Glenn
Kevin Schott
Judy Keith Dalhaus
Kathy Painter

PANTHER PRESS • by Claudia Deren at Litchfield

LHS Drama Club Announces Musical



Hello Panthers!

Welcome back after a long weekend! This Friday, Nov. 1, we'll have a 12:15 p.m. dismissal for Teacher Improvement Day.

Last Thursday, Oct. 24, our seniors had an exciting opportunity to explore their futures through college visits, volunteer work and job shadowing. It was a fantastic day for them to gain insights into their next steps!

Meanwhile, the LHS Chamber Choir made their annual trip to Southern Illinois University at Carbon-

dale, where they learned new music, worked with fellow students and directors, and performed in a joint concert with hundreds of other talented musicians.

The wait is finally over! Last week, the LHS Drama Department announced this year's musical, *The Sound of Music*! Get ready for a lot of hard work as we gear up for an amazing production in the spring!

With Halloween just around the corner, clubs like Pop Culture and FCCLA are gearing up for some festive activities. Pop Culture will host a lively Halloween party, while FCCLA plans to visit special members of our community to spread some holiday cheer.

We're excited to see how our clubs celebrate this spooky season!

As we wrap up the fall sports season, last Thursday and Friday marked an incredible Senior Night for our volleyball, football, cheerleading and band seniors. Congratulations to all LHS senior athletes for their hard work and dedication throughout the season!

While the season is winding down for many, volleyball will continue competing this week, starting on Monday, and cross country will have their races on Saturday. Good luck to our teams!

Have a fantastic week, Panthers, and enjoy your Halloween!



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Looking for the right person to fill a job vacancy? Meet Selma.

Put Selma to work for you.

Selma can help you find qualified folks who are eager work, or she can help you find just the job you're looking for.

visit thejournal-news.net or call 217-532-3933 today



Trinity Members Learn Of 'Pillars Of Africa' School

Trinity Lutheran Church in rural Litchfield celebrated their first annual Mission Festival on Sunday, Oct. 20. Tim and Eunice Peterson of Faith Lutheran Church in O'Fallon shared their travel adventures to Manyangwa, Uganda, a village just north of Kampala, the capital. They enlightened members and guests of Trinity with pictures of "Pillars of Africa," a school for orphaned and abandoned children which houses and educates children, preschool to high school ages. The school also has a small medical clinic to treat the members of Pillars and the local neighborhood. They also have a budding vocational school to teach the older students and abandoned mothers a trade so they become self-sufficient. Refreshments and fellowship followed the service. Pictured above, are students and teachers from Pillars of Africa School, along with speakers, Tim and Eunice Peterson of O'Fallon.



Nokomis Lions Club Celebrates Candy Day

The Nokomis Lions Club and volunteers were visible at the four-way stop in downtown Nokomis this past week giving away rolls of candy and accepting monetary contributions to be used for Lions Club projects. Pictured above, from the left is Frank Steele, Mike Glenn and Jim and Judy Rupert.

**e-mail your ad to
advertisejn@consolidated.net**

Library Hosts Next \$9 Night Out On Nov. 14

Litchfield Library will be holding their next \$9 Night Out on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. Participants will make their own ornament tree.

There will be a variety of color schemes available for ornaments, including all silver, all gold, blue and silver, black and red and more.

The event is for adults only and requires pre-registration by Monday, Nov. 11, at the library since space is limited. The cost for all supplies is \$9.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRE-FILING NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the office of Sheryl Reynolds at Village of Donnellson will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon beginning Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024 through Monday, Nov. 18, 2024 (until 5:00 p.m.) for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 1, 2025 for the following offices: one (1) President (4 year term), three (3) Trustee seats (4 year terms).
Sheryl Reynolds
Village Clerk

49-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

Central Illinois Storage will be holding a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. **SALE WILL TAKE PLACE AT www.storage-treasures.com.** Property being sold includes all contents in units of the following:

Hillsboro
H110 Donnie LeForce
Litchfield
L207 Amie Greenwood L224 Jaclyn Lane
L227 Jamie Portwood

Auction (4 units) October 31, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.
Central Illinois Storage, Carlinville, IL 62626 • 217-854-3492

PRE-FILING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the office of the Montgomery County Clerk, #1 Courthouse Square, P.O. Box 595, Hillsboro, IL 62049 will be open from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. from Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 through Monday, November 18th, 2024 (open until 5:00 P.M. on last day) for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 1st, 2025 for the following Offices:

School Board Members in the Hillsboro Unit School District #3:

3 four year term seats to be elected

School Board Members in the Nokomis Unit School District #22:

4 four year term seats to be elected

School Board Members in the Litchfield Unit School District #12:

3 four year term seats to be elected

School Board Members in the Panhandle Unit School District #2:

3 four year term seats to be elected

Per authority of Sandy Leitheiser, Montgomery County Clerk and Local Election Official for School Districts

Carlinville Church To Hold Blood Drive Nov. 6

The Carlinville community will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 12 to 5 p.m., at the Elks Lodge, located at 201 W. Main St. in Carlinville. The drive is sponsored by SS Mary and Joseph Catholic Church.

Those interested in making a donation are instructed to contact ImpactLife Springfield at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 60045 to locate the drive. Appointments are requested. Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that takes 45 minutes to one hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors.

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through [www](http://www.bloodcenter.org)).

bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 lbs. A photo ID is required to donate. For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401.

Donors who last gave on or before Sept. 11, are eligible to give at this drive.

All donors will receive an ImpactLife promo voucher for their choice of either an EGift Card (Target, Amazon, Walmart, Olive Garden, etc.,) use the bonus points in the online rewards store or direct a donation to local area foodbanks.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF BOIS D'ARC-HARVEL PITMAN-ZANESVILLE MULTI-TOWNSHIP TAX ASSESSING DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Bois D'Arc-Harvel-Pitman-Zanesville Multi-Township Tax Assessing Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Pitman Township Hall in Waggoner.

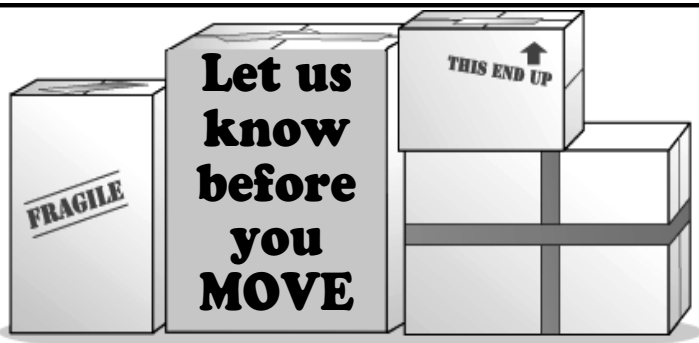
The purpose of the Special Board Meeting will be to discuss and approve the annual tax levy for tax year 2024, payable in 2025. Tax Assessor Salary for the next election term of 2025-2029 will also be set.

Randi Riemann,
Multi-Township Treasurer
49-1t

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the commissioners of the below districts will be holding their annual meetings at

**155 N. 500 E. Rd., Morrisonville, IL
Union Drainage District
Ricks & Rountree #3
Monday, Nov. 11, 2024 • 8:30 a.m.**



To make sure delivery of The Journal-News is uninterrupted, please let us know your new address before you move.

Name _____

New Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Effective Date _____

Old Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: The Journal-News, P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049



Nokomis Womans Club Donates To Food Pantry

The Nokomis Womans Club recently gave a donation of \$300.00 to Nokomis Food Pantry. The fundraisers that the Nokomis Womans Club have held make it possible for the club to donate to the community. Pictured above is Doris O'Malley of the Nokomis Food Pantry and Sally Sides, vice president of the Nokomis Womans Club.

Witt To Host Christmas Auction November 15

The City of Witt will be holding a Christmas auction at the Witt Lions Building, located at 600 W. Broadway in Witt. The auction will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, with proceeds going to Envision Witt and the Witt Fire Department.

Available items include toys, tools, wind spinners, gloves, tarps, yard ornaments, paper towels, food

items, blankets, bicycle and tricycle items, metal signs and more. All items are new and the auction advertises something for everyone.

Acceptable forms of payment are cash or a good check. The owner of the items is Thomas Factory Outlet. Dennis Aumann Action Service will be doing auctioneer duties.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CLARA B. DALE, DECEASED.
NO. 24-PR-36
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Clara B. Dale, Coffeen, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on October 21, 2024 to Sayna M. Settle, 14358 N. 6th Avenue, Coffeen, IL 62017, whose attorney is Andrew Billington, Attorney at Law, 510 Hillsboro St., Taylor Springs, Illinois 62089.

Notice is given to unknown heirs, legatees and devisees that an order was entered by the court on October 17, 2024 appointing Sayna M. Settle as Adminis-

trator of the Estate of Clara B. Dale.

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

/s/Andrew Billington
Andrew Billington
#6316880

Pretnar and Billington
Law Office
510 Hillsboro St.

P.O. Box 310
Taylor Springs, IL 62089
217-532-9298

abillington@tslawoffice.com
49-3tM

PUBLIC NOTICE

LITCHFIELD CUSD NO. 12 LITCHFIELD, ILLINOIS 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 19th day of November, 2024, at the School District office, 1100 N. Old Route 66, Litchfield, Illinois, the following described property, to-wit:

Litchfield CUSD No. "Madison Park Elementary School Building", commonly known as 800 North Chestnut Street, Litchfield, Illinois, including two additional, adjoining parcels 10-33-408-008 and 10-33-408-007, (hereinafter "said real estate; which sale shall be on the following terms, to-wit:

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 November 14, 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 title described in the Contract for Sale;

8. Said real estate and structures located thereon are being sold in "**AS IS CONDITION**". **Said real estate may contain asbestos or asbestos containing materials.**

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 all 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

ATTEST:
Valerie Cain, Secretary

47-3tM

SELMA CAN
SELL THAT

8A - Monday, October 28, 2024



Classifieds

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WEB: www.thejournal-news.net

EMAIL: thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Announcements

Notices

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

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HELP WANTED: Person to complete musical notation to songs and record them. \$15 an hr. 618-210-0313

Sales

THE STAUNTON Star Times is looking for a part-time advertising salesperson. Position requires experience with sales, the ability to communicate well with businesses and people. Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Star Times, located at 108 W. Main St., Staunton, IL 62088, P.O. Box 180, Staunton. Or email startime@madisontelco.com

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Miscellaneous

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Computer Boards: \$5-15°	Batteries: 15°



Prices Subject to Change
Call for Current Prices



Laborers 1084 Donate Time To Fairgrounds

Volunteers from the Hillsboro Laborers Union Local 1084 joined forces with a class of Montgomery and Macoupin County students from the SCI Center to pour concrete on Thursday, Oct. 24, at the county fairgrounds. The concrete is part of a project to make the fairgrounds more easily walkable, with a new path connecting to county buildings. Jason Jackson, class instructor at the SCI Center, was on the scene, along with laborers business manager Mike Young and Dustin Anderson. Tommy Sherman of the Carpenters Local 270 was also on site volunteering his time and skill.

Farmersville
Shares Trick Or
Treating Hours

The Village of Farmersville will hold its trick or treating hours from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31

Trap Shoot To
Be Held On
Sunday, Nov. 3

The Rountree Rod and Gun Club, located at 14086 N. 21st Ave. in Nokomis, will be hosting a trap shoot an all day trap shoot on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 10 a.m. It will be an all-day meat shoot, with chances to win turkeys, hams, sausage and bacon. Shells and lunch are both available.

County Democrats Hold
Meet And Greet Event

The Montgomery County Democrats hosted a meet and greet for their candidates at Pizza Man in Litchfield on Thursday evening, Oct. 24. Around 100 guests showed up to speak with the candidates, have a meal and have a chance to win some door prizes and baked goods. Both old and new faces came out to meet the candidates and discuss various local policy concerns. Pictured above, from the left, are Bryant "Butch" Hitchings, candidate for Resident Circuit Judge, Richard Wendell, candidate for County Board District 5 and Tim Fogle, candidate for County Board District 7.

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Applications may be picked up and dropped off at: **The Star-Times, located at 108 W. Main St., Staunton, IL 62088; P.O. Box 180, Staunton; one can also email the following: startime@madisontelco.com.**



TUES., OCT. 29 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Georgia Halasey Estate auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Oct. 28, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Nov. 1, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., OCT. 31 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for real estate and 6:30 for personal property with soft close for online only Katherine Whitehouse Estate auction. Real estate consists of 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath ranch style modern home with attached 1-car garage and detached garage/shed. Personal property consists of furniture, appliances, antiques, collectibles and much more. Preview & pickup at 6100 E. IL Rt. 16, Litchfield. Preview: Oct. 28, 4-6 p.m. for personal property and real estate. Real estate by appointment, call 217-473-2507. Pick up/Checkout: Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-Noon Register & bid at mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com. Mike Crabtree, auctioneer, 217-473-2507, crabtreeauctions.com.

SAT., NOV. 2 - Taking Consignments now thru Nov. 2 for Equipment, Lawn/Garden Consignment Auction. Items to be consigned: Lawn/garden, heavy equipment, construction and farm related items such as tractors, tillage tools, harvest and hay equipment, semi tractors, trailers, mowers, tillers, golf carts, ATVs, tools, etc. Make an appointment to drop off your consignments. 937 U.S. Rt. 40 Frontage Rd., Greenville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

TUES., NOV. 5 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Combined Family auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Nov. 4, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Nov. 8, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., NOV. 7 - 6 p.m. Online only auction of 482 lots including antiques, collectibles, glassware, toys, etc. Ends Thurs., Nov. 7 at 6:00 p.m. with a soft close. Preview will be Sunday, November 3 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and pick up will be Sunday, November 10 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located at 404 Jefferson Street, Coffeen, IL. 62017. Eric White Auctioneer. 217-556-2135 Go to whiteauctionservice.hibid.com to register and bid.

SAT., NOV. 9 - 8:30 a.m. (Doors open at 6:30 a.m.) Public Auction for Emery Estate, guns, ammo, knives, hunting supplies, silver dollars. Located at VFW Post 1377, 2043 South 4th St., Greenville (4th St. Spur) Selling: Shotgun, handguns, rifles, cross bow, decoys, reloader, gun cases, hunting books, goose, duck, and turkey calls, plus more. Tom Roniger, Auctioneer, 618-664-1665.

THURS., NOV. 14 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only James Crews Estate-Jewelry auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Nov. 11, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Nov. 14, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

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Litchfield's Rilynn Younker ran a personal best time of 21:32.4 at the Shelbyville Regional on Oct. 26, and earned a qualifying berth to next Saturday's sectional at Lake Land College in Mattoon.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Personal-Best Time Earns Younker Shot At Sectionals

Litchfield sophomore Rilynn Younker ran a new personal best and finished 21st overall at the cross country regional at Forest Park in Shelbyville on Saturday, Oct. 26, earning a ticket to next weekend's sectional in Mattoon in the process.

With just three runners on this year's team, the Litchfield contingent needed to finish in the top five amongst runners not on one of the seven sectional qualifying teams. On Saturday, that meant a time under 22 minutes, a benchmark that Younker accomplished twice this season, at the East Alton-Wood River Invitational on Oct. 12 (21:59.9) and at the South Central Conference Meet on Oct. 19 (21:59.2). Younker's best time before that was 22:00.4, set at the Shelbyville Trail Invite on Sept. 14, on the same course as Saturday's regional.

The course continued to be to Younker's liking as she set a new personal best by 27 seconds, running a 21:32.4. Her time was just three seconds behind this year's South Central Conference champion, Kadence Rochkes of Pana, who ran a 21:29.18.

Younker needed every second she could get to advance to sectionals as she earned the fifth and last qualifying spot. Unfortunately, the first runner outside the five individual qualifiers was Younker's teammate, Darby Braasch, who finished 23rd overall in a time of 22:16.09. Braasch, who didn't run at the Shelbyville Trail Invite earlier in the year, ran her second best time of the season and was 44 seconds behind her teammate for the last qualifying spot.



Hillsboro senior Zoey Spinner, pictured with Assistant Coach Carrie Alexander (left) and Head Coach Marian Williams (center), was named Most Valuable Player for this year's Hillsboro girls tennis team during the team banquet on Oct. 21.

Hillsboro Girls Tennis Wraps Up 2024 Season

The Hillsboro girls tennis team wrapped up their season recently, with the team's end-of-season banquet held on Oct. 21, at The Abbey on Broad.

For the second year in a row, the team qualified for the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Award with a combined average grade point average of 3.67 on a 4.0 scale. The award goes in line with the team's motto over the last three years, "family first, academics second and tennis third."

All players received tennis bracelets and tennis racquet necklaces at the banquet, with several individual awards also handed out. Individual awards went to Rylee Rogers for Most Improved Freshman, Isabella Collins for Most Improved Overall Player, Autumn Long for the Impact Award, Rylie Jones for the Mentor Award, Aly Leisure for the Spirit Award and senior Captain Zoey Spinner for this year's Most Valuable Player.

Continued on 10A

Litchfield Boys Earn Spot In Sectional

The Litchfield boys cross country team put two runners in the top 20 at the Shelbyville Regional on Saturday, Oct. 26, and out-pointed South Central Conference foe Staunton for the seventh and final team qualifying spot for next week's sectional in Mattoon.

The Panthers finished the day with 177 points, 25 points in front of Staunton in eighth. Monticello (91), Decatur St. Teresa (97), Gillespie (98), Shelbyville (103), Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City (106) and Cerro Gordo-Bement (161) also qualified as a team for the Cumberland Sectional at Lake Land College on Nov. 2.

Freshman Nolan Engstrom and senior Kenny Traylor paced the Panthers, something they've done all season long. In the nine events leading up to the regional, Engstrom had been the Panthers' top finisher five times, while Traylor held that distinction four times.

Both runners also ran their second best times of the season, with Engstrom finishing in 17 minutes and 6.1 seconds to finish 16th and Traylor

finishing 18th in a time of 17 minutes and 10.2 seconds.

The trend of saving their best for regionals applied to the rest of the team as well as six of the seven Litchfield runners ran either the second or third best times of the season in Shelbyville (almost all of the team's personal bests came from the East Alton-Wood River meet back on Oct. 12).

Jake Wilson finished 42nd for the Panthers in a time of 18:15.44, while Chris McGee was 47th with a time of 18:33.77. Senior Matt Green contributed the fifth scoring run as he finished 61st in a time of 19:40.26. Lucien Quarton and Shay Westhoff also ran for Litchfield, finishing 64th and 75th with times of 20:29.72 and 21:14.20.

The postseason now shifts to Mattoon for the Panthers, who will run at 11 a.m. at Lake Land College for the Cumberland Sectional. The top seven teams and the first ten runners not on a state qualifying team will advance to the state finals, which will be on Saturday, Nov. 9, at D-tweiller Park in Peoria.



Litchfield senior Kenny Traylor ran a 17:10.14 at the regional in Shelbyville on Saturday, Oct. 26, to finish 18th overall and help the Panthers to a sectional qualifying spot for the Cumberland Sectional on Nov. 2.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Oct. 26 at Shelbyville

Class 1A Shelbyville Regional - Forest Park - 3 Miles

Boys Team Results: 1. Monticello 91; 2. Decatur St. Teresa 97; 3. Gillespie 98; 4. Shelbyville 103; 5. Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City 106; 6. Cerro Gordo-Bement 161; 7. Litchfield 177; 8. Staunton 202; 9. Sullivan 219; 10. Greenville 231; 11. Carlinville 265; 12. Altamont 321.

Individual Top Ten: 1. Evan Cook (Decatur St. Teresa) 15:06.02; 2. Will Fuson (Cerro Gordo-Bement) 15:10.62; 3. Chaz Oberkfell (Gillespie) 15:13.57; 4. Johnathan Iacobazzi (Sullivan) 15:15.43; 5. River Derby (Monticello) 15:37.04; 6. Michael Wilson (Greenville) 15:52.14; 7. Tim Sikorski (Monticello) 15:57.71; 8. August Cosart (Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City) 16:00.83; 9. Nathaniel Babcock (Decatur St. Teresa) 16:01.11; 10. Matt Auburn (Decatur St. Teresa) 16:01.97.

Individual Sectional Qualifiers: 4. Johnathan Iacobazzi (Sullivan) 15:15.43; 6. Michael Wilson (Greenville) 15:52.14; 17. Grant Martin (Sullivan) 17:06.35; 22. Rhysie Rucker (Staunton) 17:19.10; 23. Wynn Wilson (Greenville) 17:19.66.

Litchfield Boys: 16. Nolan Engstrom 17:06.10; 18. Kenny Traylor 17:10.14; 42. Jake Wilson 18:15.44; 47. Chris McGee 18:33.77; 61. Matt Green 19:40.26; 64. Lucien Quarton 20:29.72; 75. Shay Westhoff 21:14.20.

Nokomis Boys: 60. Jack Johnson 19:22.69; 84. Will Tucker 25:27.49.

Nokomis Duo Saves Best Times For Regional Runs

The Nokomis cross country team wrapped up a successful season on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Class 1A Shelbyville Regional at Forest Park. Nokomis' two runners at the regional both set new personal bests for the season, and by significant margins.

Jack Johnson finished 60th in a time of 19:22.7, marking the first time he had been under 20 minutes this season. Johnson's previous best came on the same course

in September, when he ran a 20:17.5 at the Shelbyville Trail Invite.

Will Tucker was 84th with a time of 25:27.5 and made an even bigger jump. Tucker's previous best, a 26:50 at the Litchfield meet, was a minute and 23 seconds slower than his regional time.

Both Johnson and Tucker have competed for the last time in cross country, but will be back running for Nokomis for their senior seasons in track in the spring.

Toppers Shoot It Out With Southwestern

by Ron Deabenderfer

Hillsboro's offense meshed well Friday evening, Oct. 25, in the Toppers' last football game of the season; however, the visiting Piasa Southwestern Birds were a point better as they won 41-40. Unlike the other eight games of the season, the outcome was in doubt until the last seconds.

The 40 Hillsboro points doubled their highest total in the first eight games (20 in a 47-20 loss to Vandalia); the Toppers scored 20 points in the last quarter alone Friday night.

Piasa had varied offensive weapons. Junior quarterback Blake Rimbey completed 13 of 16 passes for 170 yards; his favorite target was 6' 7" senior Ian Brantley, who is stout enough to play linebacker and/or defensive tackle (He's hard to defend on the basketball court too). Running back in the visitor's shotgun set was another senior, a 190 lb. quick workhorse who carried 21 times for 168 yards, Grayson Brewer.

Brewer scored on a run of 48 yards and on a 5 yard pass reception from Rimbey. Brantley had td receptions of 12 and 25 yards and also made 5 of 6 extra point kicks. Sophomore Connor Wood

scored two second-half touchdowns as the Birds built what seemed to be an insurmountable 41-20 lead.

Hillsboro's Amony Anderson had his most productive running game, beginning with a 75 yard touchdown sprint in the first minute of the game. The Birds seemed to key on fullback Tytin Wells by having at least nine defenders close to the line of scrimmage; Wells was stopped by a gang tackle after gaining a yard on the first play from scrimmage; on the next play, Anderson ran wide to the east sideline and sprinted south to the end zone 75 yards away. He also scored the last Topper points at the end of the six play, 84 yard drive that finished the scoring.

Anderson's 187 yards (on 20 carries) was high for the game, but he wasn't the only one who stepped up when the cause seemed hopeless. Wells was held to six yards in the first half, but he broke through for 15 yards on Hillsboro's last carry of the third quarter and fought his way for an 18 yard gain before scoring from the 1 in the fun-for-Hillsboro final 12 minutes.

Quarterback Cody Boerckel had his most productive game through the air (7 of 13 for 75 yards, one touchdown, no

interceptions), and he scored a touchdown on a quarterback sneak as the first half ended; the clock showed 0.01 on the scoreboard as the official raised his hands to signal touchdown. Brantley had scored a Bird td. with 50 seconds left in the first quarter; Boerckel had the second quarter touchdown on a two-yard lunge; his, and the Toppers' second, made the score 27-20 at halftime.

The Toppers' leading receiver (and top tackler) for the season was Jackson Tuetken; his 13 yard catch of a Boerckel pass was the beginning of Hillsboro's dramatic comeback. It came with 11:10 to play in the game; the Toppers trailed 41-20 before that score. Elijah Patton's extra point made it a twenty point game.

Patton's onside kickoff was recovered by Hillsboro's Rheece Malloy on the Birds' 49. Three minutes and eight plays later, Wells scored from the 1; all scoring plays from in-close required good offensive line play, and the young line, including Jesse Ringhausen, center Gavin Shomaker, and Liam Blackburn, came through. Patton's kick made it 41-34, and the almost certain outcome of the game became not quite as settled.

Continued on 11A

Vandals Push Past Panthers In Week Nine

When you are walking on to the gridiron for the first time as a freshman, four years seems like a long time away, but in a blink of an eye, you're walking off that field for the last time as a senior.

On Friday, Oct. 25, Litchfield Purple Panthers said goodbye to a group of seniors who had a part in changing the football culture at Litchfield High School. Unfortunately, the visitors would spoil the party as the Vandalia Vandals walked away with a 54-25 victory. The loss would end the Purple Panthers' season with a 3-6 record.

The Vandals flexed their muscles early as they jumped ahead 14-0 in the first eight minutes of the contest. While Vandalia seemed to be scoring at ease, the Purple Panthers' offense struggled to put points on the board.

After gaining short yardage on their first three plays, Litchfield was forced to punt, ending the drive, but a little spark could be seen on their second possession of the night.

The Purple Panthers began the drive on their own 44 yard line, but a big run by quarterback Ethan Saathoff put the ball on Vandalia's 11. Now within striking distance, the Purple Panthers would look to get their first points on the board.

That goal would be achieved when Cooper Martin knocked in a 25-yard field goal with 80 seconds left in the first quarter as the Vandals' lead was narrowed to 14-3.

If you like points and you didn't get enough in the first quarter, the second quarter wouldn't disappoint you. Un-

fortunately for Purple Panther fans, the scoring came from the opposition as the Vandals piled on 21 more for a 35-3 lead at halftime.

Even though it was the Vandals' show in the second quarter, the Purple Panthers defense didn't make it easy. In the first half, the Vandals faced fourth down twice as the Panthers tried to slow their progress.

Those defensive efforts were led by seniors Kayden Bergman and Harrison Thomas. Throughout the year these two have helped lead the defense as they would end the season leading the team in total tackles with 75 for Bergman and 65 for Thomas. On Friday, Bergman collected 12 total tackles, while Thomas was part of nine total tackles.

On the other side of the ball, it just was not Litchfield's night as they couldn't find a way to get the ball into the end zone in the first half.

Their best chance came late in the second quarter, when Saathoff connected with Matthew Bywater on a fourth-and-nine play for a 16-yard gain and a first down. The Panther quarterback got another first down on a 14-yard scramble to make it down to the Vandalia seven, but the Vandals were at their defensive best from there, keeping the Panthers out of the end zone on fourth-and-four by just a few inches.

The Vandals would try to add a few more points before the half ended, but a failed 36-yard field goal kept the score 35-3 in favor of Vandalia at the half.

The brief intermission did not slow the Vandals' offense down as they con-

tinued to find ways to put points on the board. Nearly three minutes into the second half, Vandal quarterback Qwentyn Stombaugh completed an 11-yard touchdown pass to Jacob Johnson the Vandalia's sixth score of the game. Leading by 38 points, the Vandals tried to increase the lead to 40 points on the conversion attempt and start the running clock, but the Panthers picked up a little victory by keeping them from converting the two-point attempt as the score remained 41-3.

Litchfield continued to play for pride and were successful in doing so as they collected their first touchdown a few minutes later.

With just under seven minutes to play in the third quarter, Ethan Saathoff found pay dirt as he rushed into the end zone from four yards out. Saathoff found David Schoen in the end zone for the two-point conversion to make the score 41-11.

Vandalia added one more touchdown before the third frame came to a close, with Stombaugh connecting with Kohnor DePew on a 23-yard score that made it 47-11 after Litchfield blocked the extra point.

Trailing by 36 entering the final quarter, the Purple Panthers could have tucked their tail and let the game play out. Instead they continued to fight throughout the final minutes.

Litchfield again won a small battle as they outscored the Vandals in the final frame, 14-7.

Continued on 11A

Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers Tuesday, October 29 7 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Shelbyville or Vandalia at Litchfield Regional	Nokomis Redskins Monday, October 28 6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Altamont at St. Anthony Regional Wednesday, October 30 6 p.m. - Volleyball at St. Anthony Regional
Litchfield Purple Panthers Monday, October 28 6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Greenville at Litchfield Regional Tuesday, October 29 6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Staunton at Litchfield Regional	Lincolnwood Lancers Tuesday, October 29 6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Bunker Hill at Mt. Olive Regional Wednesday, October 30 7 p.m. - Volleyball at Mt. Olive Regional

Panthers Get Senior Night Win

After falling to Pana in the Reed sibling civil war (Litchfield Coach Alivia Reed's sister Izzy is a senior for Pana) on Tuesday, Oct. 22, the Litchfield High School volleyball team needed a win, not just to secure a winning record in the South Central Conference, but for momentum going into the postseason as well.

Going up against Gillespie for senior night, the Panthers picked up that much needed win with a pair of 25-17 victories over the Miners.

After paying tribute to this year's four seniors, Elise Walch, Megan Lee, Gina Painter and Jaydah Caldwell, the Panthers went to work in sending the foursome out on top. A lead proved to be hard to come by in the early going as Gillespie, who at 8-23 was equally desperate for a victory, held a lead for most of the early going.

At least the Miners were in front when it wasn't tied, eight times in the first set, with the last instance coming at 12-12. Litchfield broke the tie with a block by Gina Painter, with Elise Walch following that up with another defensive stop that gave Litchfield a two-point lead for the first time in the game.

The Panthers weren't satisfied with that margin, though, as they continued to build on it in the later stages. Aces from Painter and Avery Stewart boosted the lead to 16-13 and 18-15, but the big move for Litchfield came after Megan Lee put down a kill to make it 19-16 and return the serve to the Panthers' side.

With Brooke Braasch serving, Litchfield rattled off five straight points to get within one of the game winner, with Lexi Logan and Lee both putting down kills. Gillespie delayed the inevitable when a Litchfield spike hit the net, but Lee knocked home the game-winning kill for the 25-17 win in the next rotation.

With one game in the bag, the Panthers seemed more relaxed in the second set and their play showed it. Lynzie Reid started off the serving for Litchfield, who jumped out to a 3-0 lead thanks to



Litchfield seniors Elise Walch and Megan Lee go up for a block during the Panthers' senior night game against Gillespie on Thursday, Oct. 24. With the win, the Lady Panthers improved to 13-14-1 going into Monday's regional tournament, which they host.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman

a kill on a free ball over the net by Gina Painter, a tip by Walch and a hitting violation called on the Miners.

The Panthers continued to string together points as the game continued, while holding Gillespie to one serve and done on each of their first six rotations. Led by libero Alli Frerichs, any Miner hit that made it past the Litchfield block seemed to be destined to be dug up by the Panthers as they dove, lunged and stretched to keep the ball in the air.

With kills from Brooke Braasch, Gina Painter, Lexi Logan, Megan Lee and Chloe Law, the Litchfield lead climbed to double digits, with an ace by Frerichs and a hit out of bounds making it 20-10.

The lead was still ten when Jaydah Caldwell got her opportunity to serve, picking up a service point after Chloe Law's kill made it 24-13.

Gillespie made a minor run to close the gap to seven points, but another kill by Law finalized the win for the Lady Panthers, their 13th of the season.

While the win should give the Panthers a boost of

momentum going into the postseason, the fact that they will be playing the regional on their home court should also help. Litchfield opens up regional play on Monday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. against Greenville, who they beat back on Sept. 19, by a 25-14, 25-21 final score.

If they win, they'll play again on Tuesday against the South Central Conference champs, Staunton, who beat Carlenville on Thursday to go 9-0 in South Central Conference play and extend their conference win streak to 52 games.

October 22 at Pana
Litchfield 12 17
Pana 25 25
Records: Litchfield (12-14-1, 4-4); Pana (26-7, 5-3).

October 24 at Litchfield
Litchfield 25 25
Gillespie 17 17

Litchfield Statistics
Service Points: Brooke Braasch 6, Alli Frerichs 6, Lynzie Reid 6, Avery Stewart 4, Kyndal Law 4, Gina Painter 1, Jaydah Caldwell 1. **Aces:** Alli Frerichs 2, Avery Stewart 1, Gina Painter 1. **Kills:** Megan Lee 6, Gina Painter 4, Lexi Logan 4, Brooke Braasch 3, Chloe Law 3, Elise Walch 1. **Blocks:** Megan Lee 2, Elise Walch 2.
Records: Litchfield (13-14-1, 5-4); Gillespie (8-23, 3-6).

Pana Win Is Toppers' 20th, Coach's 200th

While the Hillsboro High School volleyball team was one win away from their second straight 20-win season coming into last week, there was no guarantee that the Hiltoppers were going to reach that milestone as their final two opponents, Carlenville and Pana, were both in the top three in the South Central Conference.

Now, with those two games in the books, the Toppers not only reached that magic number, but also put themselves in the top three in the conference and helped Coach Emily Zimmerman secure her 200th career victory.

After an emotional and exhausting three-set loss to Carlenville on Oct. 22, Hillsboro bounced back to beat the Panthers on their home floor on Oct. 24, by a 25-21, 26-24 final score. After going 0-for-forever against Pana the last two decades, the Toppers have now beaten the Panthers on their home floor each of the last three seasons, two of which were conference match-ups.

The caveat to the three Hillsboro wins in Pana is that the Panthers also have three wins in Hillsboro in the last three years, including a three-set victory over the Toppers on Aug. 26. The parity between the two clubs was reinforced by Thursday's game, with neither team leading by more than five points at any point.

In the opening set, the two teams traded points back and forth before Hillsboro put together a six-point run that turned a 9-7 deficit into a 13-9 lead thanks to kills from Kailey Weiss and Addison Lowe (2), plus blocks by Peyton Chappellear and Lowe.

Pana fought back to trim the lead to one, but back-to-back kills by Chappellear and Weiss, plus a call for an illegal hit against Pana gave Hillsboro their largest lead of the game at five points.

Despite having their first comeback attempt snuffed out, the Panthers refused to go away. An ace, a kill and a Hillsboro spike into the net tied the game at 18-18 a short time later as Pana seemed poised to take the lead for the first time since the score was 9-8. Instead, senior Addison Lowe took control as she put down her fourth kill of the set, then served up four straight points, including two aces and a tip-kill by Kearstynn Davis.

The two teams traded points, with Hillsboro get-

ting within one point of a victory before Pana broke their serve. To add some drama, Pana's Ayda Coleman served up three straight aces to cut the lead to 24-22, but her fourth serving attempt sailed out of bounds to end the game in Hillsboro's favor.

The second set was equally close, with the score tied ten times in the match. Pana was down by three, 16-13, when they put together a 9-1 run that gave them the biggest lead of the game at five points. Just three points away from Pana forcing a third set, Hillsboro mounted a comeback as they got the serve back on a kill by Kearstynn Davis.

With Briley Kirby on the serving line, Hillsboro scored four straight points as they tied the game on a kill by Lowe. Pana got the lead back on a call for Hillsboro being in the net, but Lowe answered again, hammering home a kill to make it 23-23.

The two serves and a point for each team knotted the game at 24, but Hillsboro ended the game soon after. Kailey Weiss served up an ace to get the Toppers to game-point, while Lowe set up Amaya Greenwood for a kill with a beautiful pass with her back to Greenwood, who hammered home her only kill of the game for the winner.

The final point was a reversal of how things had gone for most of the night as usually it was Greenwood, with 24 assists, setting up Lowe, who had seven kills. Kailey Weiss and Tatum Christian also contributed heavily to the attack as they added eight and seven kills apiece.

The win improved Coach Zimmerman's record to 200-173 since taking over the head coaching position at her alma mater in 2011. In her 14 years at the helm, this is Zimmerman's tenth winning season and her fourth season with 20 wins or more.

For a while on Tuesday, it looked as if that milestone win might come against Carlenville, who was 7-0 in the South Central Conference and tied with Staunton for first going into the match.

Not only were the Cavaliers undefeated in conference play, but they hadn't lost a set to a conference opponent (including a two-set win over Staunton in the Macoupin County Tournament) to that point. Despite falling behind early, the Toppers were able to end that streak as they scored a 25-20 victory to take

an early 1-0 lead.

But with six senior captains on the other side of the court (a seventh senior, Hannah Gibson, missed the game due to injury), Carlenville didn't flinch. The Cavaliers jumped out to another significant lead in the second set and didn't let it get away this time as they won 25-15, with another long point scoring streak at the end. Going into the third set, the momentum had completely shifted to Carlenville's favor and they cruised to a 25-12 win, their 26th of the year.

Two days later, while Hillsboro was securing a share of third in Pana, Carlenville tried to knock off Staunton for the second straight time this year and keep the Bulldogs from their fifth straight undefeated South Central Conference championship. In front of a huge crowd at the Big House on West Main, Staunton nipped Carlenville 25-23, 25-22, to win their fifth straight conference title and their 52nd straight South Central Conference game.

With the regular season in the books, Hillsboro now turns its attention to the regional, where they are the second highest seed, but far from a lock to advance to the regional final on Oct. 31. The Toppers have a bye in the quarterfinals and will play the winner of the Shelbyville/Vandalia game on Oct. 29, at 7 p.m., at the Litchfield Regional. The Rams are the favorite in that game and are 20-12 on the year. Hillsboro and Shelbyville met last year in the regional semifinal as well, with the Rams winning in three sets, 25-21, 24-26, 25-15.

October 22 at Hillsboro
Carlenville 20 25 25
Hillsboro 25 15 12

Hillsboro Statistics
Service Points: Kailey Weiss 8, Peyton Chappellear 4, Amaya Greenwood 4, Briley Kirby 2, Albany Kindernay 2, Addison Lowe 1, Reagan Lentz 1. **Aces:** Kailey Weiss 3, Amaya Greenwood 2. **Kills:** Tatum Christian 11, Kailey Weiss 5, Addison Lowe 5, Peyton Chappellear 2, Amaya Greenwood 1, Kaya Connor 1. **Assists:** Amaya Greenwood 21, Addison Lowe 1, Reagan Lentz 1, Kaya Connor 1, Peyton Chappellear 1. **Blocks:** Amaya Greenwood 1, Addison Lowe 1. **Digs:** Briley Kirby 9, Amaya Greenwood 9, Kailey Weiss 9, Albany Kindernay 6, Kaya Connor 4, Addison Lowe 3, Reagan Lentz 1, Liberty Helton 1, Peyton Chappellear 1, Tatum Christian 1.

Records: Hillsboro (19-11, 5-3), Carlenville (26-6-1, 7-1).

October 24 at Pana
Hillsboro 25 26
Pana 21 24
Records: Hillsboro (20-11, 6-3); Pana (26-8, 6-3).

Hillsboro Tennis

Continued from 9A

The banquet came on the heels of the final two tournaments of the season for the Tennis Toppers, the South Central Conference Tournament in Greenville on Oct. 11, and the sectionals at Mt. Zion on Oct. 18.

At the conference meet, the Toppers finished third with five points, one more than Vandalia and one less than the Bunker Hill-Staunton co-op team. Greenville took the top spot overall with seven points.

All four Hillsboro entries picked up at least one win on the day, with the doubles team of Aly Leisure and Alexis Carlyle going 2-1 for the Toppers' best result. Leisure and Carlyle defeated Maya Henfling and Abbi Jarden of Bunker Hill-Staunton 6-4, 6-0, but fell to Kaylee Tompkins and Bella Walk of Vandalia 6-1, 2-6, 10-8.

Their other win came at the expense of Hillsboro's other doubles team, Rylie Jones and Rylee Rogers. Leisure and Carlyle knocked off their teammates in two sets, 6-1, 6-4 as Jones and Rogers finished the tournament with a 1-2 record, beating Anna Chute and Erin Drannan of Greenville 6-1, 3-6, 11-9 and falling to Korryn Keehner and Faith Taylor of Bunker Hill-Staunton 6-0, 6-1.

In singles play, Zoey Spinner and Avery Reynolds both went 1-2 on the day. Spinner's win came against Addy Sloan of Bunker Hill-Staunton, winning 6-0, 6-1, while Avery Reynolds defeated London Bowles of Vandalia 8-0 for

her win.

A week later, the Tennis Toppers made the trip to Mt. Zion for the Class 1A sectional. Hillsboro put two of their four entries into the state qualifying round matches and tied for fourth in the overall team standings for a positive end to the season.

The Toppers picked up ten points at the sectional, matching Taylorville to tie for fourth place. Maroa-Forsyth (24), Effingham St. Anthony (22) and Mt. Zion (16) were the only teams to finish ahead of Hillsboro.

Seniors Zoey Spinner and Aly Leisure went 1-1 in their final postseason run, advancing to the state qualifying round. Spinner and Leisure defeated the team of Makenna Smith and Emma Knaus of Effingham 6-1, 6-3 in their first match, before falling to eventual third place finishers Nora Trupiano and Liv Hoene of Effingham St. Anthony.

Junior Reagan Voyles also went 1-1 in singles play for Hillsboro. Voyles defeated Sarai Jackson in her opening match, beating the Lincoln High School junior 7-6, with a 10-4 tiebreaker, and 6-1 for a straight set victory. In her second match, Voyles drew the number two seed, Paityn Koester of Mt. Zion, who won 6-0, 6-0 en route to a second place finish at the sectional.

Alexis Carlyle and the team of Avery Reynolds and Rylee Rogers also played for the Toppers. Carlyle lost to fourth-seeded Julia Schultz of St. Anthony 6-0, 6-0, with Schultz going on to finish

fourth at the sectional. Reynolds and Rogers lost their opener to Katherine Niles and Alexis Niles of Maroa-Forsyth 6-0, 6-2. The Maroa-Forsyth sophomores also finished fourth at the sectional.

The sectional tournament wrapped up the season for the Toppers, who finished the year with an 8-6 record as the program finished with a winning record for the second straight season. Hillsboro also had ten full JV matches this season, picking up three wins and a lot of experience that will serve the players better in the future.

This season will also be the last for Coach Marian Williams, who resigned after the season, along with Assistant Coach Carrie Alexander. From running youth tennis camps to encouraging academic excellence to supporting efforts to improve the tennis courts at the Hillsboro Sports Complex, Williams has been an incredible asset to the Hillsboro tennis team and the tennis community in Montgomery County as a whole.

The resignation won't stop that commitment to the sport. Williams is planning to continue to conduct camps and give tennis lessons in Hillsboro and is working with the school district on the possibility of an after-school tennis program during the offseason for junior high and high school players.

While she won't be calling the shots on the court for the Tennis Toppers, Williams' fingerprints will be on the program for years to come.

Redskins Pass Final Test Before Regionals

If the Pawnee Tournament was the final test for the Nokomis High School volleyball team before the postseason, the Redskins passed with flying colors.

In their five games in Pawnee, the Lady Redskins went 4-1 and took third overall. But it's not as much where Nokomis finished in the final standings as it is how they finished off the final tournament of the regular season.

In pool play, Nokomis defeated the teams they should have, making short work of eight-win Delavan and eight-win Springfield Southeast.

In the Delavan game, the Panthers couldn't handle the serve, with Lizzy Hill racking up 24 points and 12 aces in a 25-4, 25-18 win. Mackenzie Mehochko and Addison Glenn also had eight kills apiece in the win, with Kinley Stolte (nine assists) and Becca Hill (seven assists) sharing setting duties.

The Southeast game was nearly as decisive, with Nokomis winning 25-14, 25-17. Mackenzie Mehochko had a big game for Nokomis as she led the team in points (eight), aces (two), kills (nine) and digs (12). She also tied Addison Glenn with one block apiece, with Glenn putting down seven more kills in the Redskins potent 1-2 attack.

On paper, Nokomis' two hardest games in pool play were going to be against 24-win Taylorville and 22-win Mendon Unity. The Redskins hadn't had much success against either team in the recent past, having lost their last six meetings with the Tornadoes and their last four meetings with the Mustangs. Nokomis would play Tay-

lorville in between their wins over Delavan and Southeast and knocked off the Tornadoes in three close sets, 25-21, 22-25, 15-12.

It was a total team effort against the Tornadoes, with Addison Glenn putting down 11 kills and three blocks at the net, Mackenzie Mehochko (20), Kinley Stolte (13), Becca Hill (eight) and Lizzy Hill (seven) combining for 48 digs and Maddison DeWerff serving up 12 points.

The Mendon Unity match, the pool play finale for the Lady Redskins, was just as tight as the Taylorville game, with the exception of the first set, which the Mustangs won 25-13. Nokomis came back to win the second set 25-22, though, and nearly won the third set before falling 15-13.

The Redskins still had a solid game defensively, with Addison Glenn and Kinley Stolte putting down three blocks each, with Stolte also leading the team in digs with 12. The Mustangs did limit Nokomis on the attack, holding Glenn and Mehochko to six kills each.

Rather than see the loss as a detriment, Coach Megan Mehochko used it as an opportunity to see how her team bounced back from adversity. The third place game turned out to be the perfect test as their opponent, Meridian, was not only good (with more than 20 wins on the season), but had beaten the Redskins way back on Sept. 11, in three sets.

The answer to how Nokomis would handle the Hawks in round was answered quickly as they disposed of their opponents from Macon in two sets 25-16, 25-12.

As had been the case throughout the tournament, contributions came from all over, with Becca Hill serving up nine points, including three aces and dishing out eight assists, while Maddison DeWerff added eight digs to lead the defensive effort. Mackenzie Mehochko and Addison Glenn were held to six kills each once again, but Nokomis found other ways to rack up points, with Kinley Stolte adding four kills in addition to her team-high 11 assists, and Camryn Engelman and Hill chipping in two kills apiece. Glenn also had two blocks, while Natalie Brownback also had a block for the Redskins in the win.

With the win, Nokomis improved to 30-4 on the season, matching the program record set last year, when they went 30-7-1 before falling to Valmeyer in the sectional semifinals.

To make it back to the sectionals, the Redskins will have to win three games at a tough Effingham St. Anthony Regional, which starts Monday, Oct. 28, with Nokomis playing Altamont (14-18). The two teams played earlier this year at the Altamont Tournament, with Nokomis winning 25-17, 25-19.

If they win on Monday, the Redskins will play again on Wednesday, Oct. 30, against either St. Elmo/Brownstown (21-11) or Farina South Central (17-15). Nokomis has also played St. Elmo/Brownstown twice this year, beating them in two games on the road and at the Grace Tournament.

The regional championship is set for Thursday, Oct. 31, at 6 p.m.



Litchfield's Caiden Lamb hangs tight to Vandalia's Kohnor Depew, despite getting a helpful hand from the Vandal receiver during the game on Friday, Oct. 25, in Litchfield. DePew had six receptions for 162 yards and two touchdowns as the Vandals picked up a 54-25 victory over the Purple Panthers.

Rich Bauer Photo

Litchfield Football

Continued from 9A

The defense was a bright spot throughout the quarter as they stood strong on several plays by the Vandals. Kayden Bergman was part of a few of those plays as he pulled down an interception.

As the Purple Panthers defense continued to make plays in the final quarter, one of the most remembered play of the season may have been on the offensive side of the field. Not very often does a lineman get his name in the scorebook for points, but Harrison Thomas got that chance on Friday.

After running the ball earlier in the game, Thomas found himself lined up in the backfield once again, with the ball on the 11 yard line. Thomas received the hand off and ended up in the end zone for the first rushing touchdown of his career.

If the play was not called "The Fridge" it should have been as Thomas resembled Chicago Bears legend William "Refrigerator" Perry in Super Bowl XX. Perry's run was from a yard out, but Thomas not only ran over a few Vandals, he also showed his speed and stamina on the 11-yard run.

Litchfield completed the two-point conversion for the final points of the season as the Vandals finished off the

54-25 win.

The 29-point defeat closed the door on Litchfield's season, but it did not reflect the season as a whole, which was full of positives.

Not only was this group of Purple Panthers tasked with continuing the success of last season, they would have to do it with a new head coach. They would also have some big shoes to fill as they would see several new faces at the quarterback, running back and wide receiver positions.

With all of the change entering the season, Litchfield could have turned 2024 into a learning season, but instead they gutted out a solid positive campaign. Throughout the year, a different outcome on a few plays may have changed the final record, but instead of throwing in the towel early, the group fought in all nine games, giving the fans a show to watch.

The Purple Panthers will once again lose some key players on and off the field, but there is a good foundation to the program now and Purple Panthers fans will be anxiously awaiting the 2025 season.

October 25 at Litchfield
Vandalia 14 21 12 7--54
Litchfield 3 0 8 14--25

Scoring Summary
1st - 8:56 - Vandalia - Qwentyn Stombaugh 44-yard TD pass to Kohnor Depew (Isaac Sachan kick)
1st - 3:43 - Vandalia - Qwentyn

Stombaugh 4-yard TD run (Isaac Sachan kick)
1st - 1:20 - Litchfield - Cooper Martin 25-yard field goal
2nd - 7:54 - Vandalia - Qwentyn Stombaugh 4-yard TD run (Isaac Sachan kick)
2nd - 2:59 - Vandalia - Kohnor Depew 74-yard TD run (Isaac Sachan kick)
2nd - 1:45 - Vandalia - Qwentyn Stombaugh 10-yard TD pass to Jacob Johnson (Isaac Sachan kick)
3rd - 9:23 - Vandalia - Qwentyn Stombaugh 11-yard TD pass to Jacob Johnson (2-pt. failed)
3rd - 6:42 - Litchfield - Ethan Saathoff 4-yard TD run (2-pt. good)
3rd - 2:44 - Vandalia - Qwentyn Stombaugh 23-yard TD pass to Kohnor Depew (kick blocked)
4th - 8:45 - Litchfield - Ethan Saathoff 22-yard TD run (2-pt. failed)
4th - 1:09 - Vandalia - Jacob Johnson 1-yard TD run (Isaac Sachan kick)
4th - 0:29 - Litchfield - Harrison Thomas 11-yard TD run (2-pt. good)

Litchfield Statistics
Passing: Ethan Saathoff 6-17-128.
Rushing: Ethan Saathoff 14-120, Caleb Coulter 9-62, Harrison Thomas 2-15, Keaton Morgan 8-15, Kayden Bergman 2-11, Martavious Jones 4-11, Matthew Bywater 3-3.
Receiving: Martavious Jones 3-86, Matthew Bywater 1-16, Max Leitschuh 1-16, Kayden Bergman 1-11.
Tackles (Solo/Assists): Kayden Bergman 8/4, 1 INT; Harrison Thomas 3/6; Max Leitschuh 4/2; Martavious Jones 5/1; Matthew Bywater 5/1; Devon Chew 3/2; Caiden Lamb 2/2; Jayden Ellinger 1/3; Briley Viviano 0/3; JB Bowles 2/1; Devin Hansel 0/2; Clayton Logsdon 0/1.
Records: Litchfield (3-6); Vandalia (8-1).

Hillsboro Football

Continued from 9A

This time, to Piasa's surprise, Patton sent the kick-off into the Birds' endzone for a touchback. Hillsboro's defense had to reclaim the ball during the next three minutes; Piasa just had to maintain possession or cover the 80 yards to another score.

They almost did both. Brewer ran wide to his left facing a third down and one and broke clear; Elias Baney finally tackled him on the Topper 17. A false start penalty (the visitors were hurt often by the 11 penalties called on them) slowed them again; then Rimbey threw to Brantley in the front east corner of the endzone; the tall receiver made a diving catch, but he landed just off the field of play, so the ball was Hillsboro's 84 yards from the needed touchdown with little time on the clock.

A first down pass to Tuetken for 7 yards began the drive; an eleven yard run by Anderson meant a first down on the Topper 34. Baney gained 1; Wells gained 3, and only 2:21 remained. Wells overcame defensive attention to gain 13; it was a first down at midfield.

Anderson gained 7, Wells 1, before Boerckel kept for 2 and a drive-sustaining first down at the Birds' 40, but only 1:53 remained. Ethan Hamby gained 5 before the Toppers called their first time out. Then a Boerckel pass to Tuetken for 20 yards put the ball on the Bird 15; hope grew among Topper fans. Dismay was apparent on the opposite sideline.

Baney carried to the PSW 8 before Hillsboro called a time out again; 1:12 remained. An incomplete pass next stopped the clock; then the Toppers returned to their ground game. Anderson reached the 4, Wells fought to the 3, and Anderson ran around the clashing lines to score with 32.6 seconds left.

Drama time in the stands and on the sidelines - would Hillsboro kick the point after? If successful, overtime awaited. Would Hillsboro instead go for two by running or passing? If successful, the Toppers would have their first win of the year. First



Hillsboro's Kamdin Civitate has a firm grasp on Southwestern's Blake Rimbey during the Toppers' season finale in Hillsboro on Oct. 25. The Piasa Birds barely escaped Sawyer Field with a victory, winning 41-40 over the Hiltoppers.

Journal-News/John Galer

Piasa and then Hillsboro called timeouts, prolonging the drama.

When the Toppers lined up to go for the win, they were challenging a Bird defensive line that had both size and experience, but that had surrendered two in-close touchdowns earlier in the game. This time, though, the Toppers couldn't move them enough to give the running backs room to scamper for the necessary three yards, so the visiting Birds escaped with the win.

Still, the stirring comeback had to be comforting to Topper fans. It was a season doomed from the beginning by turmoil and injuries, but those circumstances meant underclassmen gained what could be valuable experience for next season and the one to follow. This game gave the seniors and a dedicated coaching staff a tremendous effort to remember.

Defensive stats from this game will be in a brief review in Thursday's Journal-News; complete team stats. will be published later.

October 25 at Hillsboro
Southwestern (2-7) 14 13 14 0 --- 41
Hillsboro (0-9) 6 14 0 20 --- 40

Scoring Summary
1st - 11:13 - Hillsboro - Amory Anderson 75-yard TD run (kick blocked)
1st - 5:39 - Southwestern - Greyson Brewer 5-yard TD pass from Blake Rimbey (Ian Brantley kick)
1st - 0:50 - Southwestern - Ian Brantley 12-yard TD pass from Blake Rimbey (Ian Brantley kick)
2nd - 9:55 - Hillsboro - Cody Boerckel 2-yard TD run (run failed)
2nd - 8:22 - Southwestern - Greyson Brewer 48-yard TD run (Ian Brantley kick)
2nd - 0:56 - Southwestern - Ian Brantley 45-yard pass from Blake Rimbey (kick failed)
2nd - 0:01 - Hillsboro - Cody Boerckel 1-yard TD run (Ethan Hamby run)
3rd - 6:35 - Southwestern - Connor Wood 1-yard TD run (Ian Brantley kick)
3rd - 3:01 - Southwestern - Connor Wood 39-yard TD run (Ian Brantley kick)
4th - 11:10 - Hillsboro - Jackson Tuetken 13-yard TD pass from Cody Boerckel (Elijah Patton kick)
4th - 8:23 - Hillsboro - Tytin Wells 1-yard TD run (Elijah Patton kick)
4th - 0:32.6 - Hillsboro - Amory Anderson 3-yard TD run (run failed)
Hillsboro Statistics
Passing: Cody Boerckel 7-13-75.
Rushing: Amory Anderson 20-187; Tytin Wells 15-62; Ethan Hamby 9-24; Cody Boerckel 7-10; Elias Baney 2-9.
Receiving: Jackson Tuetken 7-75.

Late Field Goal Lifts Sangamon Valley Past Nokomis

by Kyle Herschelmann

On Friday, Oct. 25, the difference between a record of 5-4 and 6-3 for the Nokomis High School football team came down to one foot.

With five seconds left in the fourth quarter and his team trailing 14-12, Sangamon Valley junior Hunter Martin swung his heavy right foot and connected with the football, curving it just inside the left upright for a 17-yard field goal to give the Storm a one-point win over the Redskins.

Sangamon Valley entered the game with an identical 5-3 record to the Redskins, with both teams losing to Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond, Sullivan-Okaw Valley and Cumberland during the season. The similarities in their record translated to the field as well as Martin's game-winner capped a defensive grinder that saw the Redskins come back from a 12-point third quarter deficit to nearly end their three game losing streak.

Seven of those 12 points came on the first drive of the game for the Storm, who put together a nine-play, 58-yard drive that culminated with a 6-yard touchdown run by quarterback Jaeger Hill.

Kadynn Petty put the Redskins in good position to answer as he ran back the kickoff to the Sangamon Valley 29, but the Storm held Nokomis to just three more

yards before turning the ball over on downs.

After a steady diet of running plays from Hill, Ayden Lynch, Brody Beals and Martin, plus two receptions by Grant Moran, the Storm worked the ball all the way down to the Nokomis ten, before the drive stalled out. Martin, who was also the second leading scorer on the Meridian co-op soccer team, came on to attempt the 23-yard field goal and split the uprights to make it 10-0 with 9:07 to play in the second quarter.

The Redskins had two more chances to score before the half ended, but weren't able to cut into the lead. They did, however, start to establish the running game, picking up a pair of first downs, and returned to form on defense as they held Sangamon Valley to 24 yards on eight plays in the Storm's final two offensive drives of the first half.

Nokomis' momentum took a hit to start the second half, though, as they went four-and-out to start the third quarter, got the ball back on their own two after Sangamon Valley turned it over on downs, then took a safety when Daryl Evans was brought down in the endzone to make it 12-0.

Despite the bad luck, Nokomis bounced back and forced the Storm to punt in their first drive after the safety. With the defense's

success, the offense began to click. Eleven straight running plays, all of which yielded positive yardage, ended with Caleb Bauer scoring from two-yards out to make it 12-8 after the two-point conversion.

Sangamon Valley had a little more success on offense in their next drive, but coughed the football up on the Nokomis 28, with Atticus Bertolino pouncing on the loose ball for the fumble recovery.

Back to work on offense, Nokomis hit the ground

running. Rotating between Nolan Herpstreich and Daryl Evans, with Kadynn Petty busting a 17-yard pass as well, the Redskins made it all the way to the Sangamon Valley 11 before facing a fourth down and five.

After four weeks of less than stellar luck, the Redskins' fortunes changed as quarterback Kannon Jonas was sacked, but the Storm were called for a personal foul on a facemask violation. The automatic first down took the ball to the four-yard line, and after a short loss, Petty

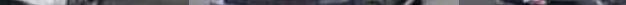
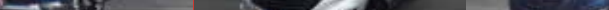


Nokomis' Noah Simonton (#75) tries to track down Sangamon Valley quarterback Jaeger Hill during the Redskins' final game of the regular season on Friday, Oct. 25. The Nokomis defense held the Storm to just 15 points, but a field goal by Hunter Martin in the final five seconds gave Sangamon Valley a 15-14 victory.

James Ryan/NokoPhoto

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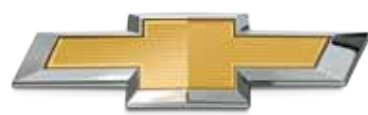
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