

Council Hopes ‘Wildflower’ Encourages Growth In Litchfield

by **Kyle Herschel**

The City of Litchfield took the next steps toward the development of the property along Clark Street into the “Wildflower” residential subdivision during their meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6, approving five motions pertaining to the land owned by the Earl Schmidt Family. The motions were to approve an ordinance annexing the Schmidt Estates subdivision into corporate limits, to approve an ordinance authorizing an economic development

agreement with Jack Matthews Development and three ordinances pertaining to the tax increment redevelopment plan and project for TIF redevelopment project area number four. While all five motions passed 7-0 (Alderwoman Marilyn Sisson was absent), former alderman David Hollo expressed some concerns over the agreement prior to the discussion. Hollo said that he believed the project was too aggressive and possibly reckless, and that there were other options available to the city.

“The developer wants the city to pay for half of all costs including the purchase of the land and then allowing him to sell properties and keep all profits with no return to the city,” Hollo said. He continued, saying that \$1,785,000 of funding for the project is from the long term economic development fund, and that using those funds and \$750,000 of general sales tax originally allocated for that fund in 2026 and 2027 would leave the fund with a deficit of \$632,056 at the end of the April

2027 budget year if budgeted expenditures remain the same. Hollo said that there are other options, including purchasing the property from the Schmidts (which they offered), with the property then surplus and put out for proposals from multiple developers, with the city receiving the profits from the sale of the properties. Hollo said that is similar to what the city did with the Eagle Ridge subdivision, where the city spent \$1.6 million developing 70 acres into 41 lots and 1.7 miles of roads

and city water mains. “In four years we have recouped \$1.1 million through the sales of six lot leases, Hollo said, adding that three one million dollar homes had been built, with two more slated to begin construction this spring. Hollo said that he, City Administrator Breann Vazquez and former Economic Development Director Tonya Flannery met with Bob Plummer to encourage him to develop the final eight acres of the Prairie Estates subdivision. *Continued on page 5A*



Raymond Kortte of Rockton shares a moment with his four-year-old daughter, Audrey, following the mobilization ceremony of the Illinois National Guard Charlie Company on Sunday morning, Feb. 9, in the Litchfield High School Gym.

Journal-News/Mary Herschel

Charlie Company Mobilizes For Deployment

by **Mary (Galer) Herschel**

“Make no mistake. We are the Charlie Company and we are ready,” said Captain Justin Asbury, company commander of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry. On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 9, 130 soldiers of “The Blackhawk Battalion” of the Illinois National Guard were

mobilized in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The ceremony was held in the Litchfield High School gym with hundreds of family members and friends present. It was one of five ceremonies throughout the state of Illinois held over the weekend in support of Operation Spartan Shield. A total of 550 soldiers are deploying from units based in Marion, West Frankfort, Effingham, Litchfield and Mount Vernon.

The battalion will be headquartered in Jordan and will have personnel in 17 locations and seven different countries. Their primary mission will be securing and protecting U.S. and allied forces and will also include training with many allies in the region. The deployment is unrelated to conflicts in the region, but rather a regular rotation of U.S. Army units into the Central Command Area of Responsibility. *Continued on page 5A*

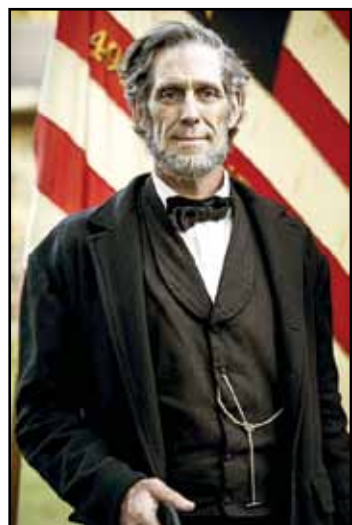
Lincolnwood To Host Annual Choir Festival

Lincolnwood High School will be hosting the annual area choir festival on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Ten local high school choirs will come together to perform a concert at 6:30 p.m. in the Lincolnwood High School gym. Students will get to rehearse together during the day with guest director

Dr. Fred Kiser and guest accompanist Chris Lord. Admission to the concert is free, but donations are accepted to help cover festival costs. Participating schools include Taylorville, Pana, Shelbyville, Lincolnwood, Central A&M, Litchfield, Nokomis, Ramsey, Vandalia and Carlinville.

Lincoln Performer To Visit In Hillsboro

The personage of Abraham Lincoln will be in Hillsboro on Sunday, March 2, to inform and entertain attendees of a 2 p.m. program sponsored by the Historical Society of Montgomery County and its Looking for Lincoln committee. The event will be held at the Free Methodist Church, located at 1400 Seymour Ave. in Hillsboro. Refreshments will follow in the church fellowship hall. Randy Duncan of rural Springfield, who at 6’4” looks remarkably like the 16th President, has been a Lincoln presenter for many years at schools, churches and libraries and for civic and business organizations. He has performed as Lincoln during Civil War reenactments and at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Home National Historic Site



Randy Duncan

in Springfield. Tickets, \$10 each or two for \$15, may be purchased March 2, at the door or in advance on Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Montgomery County Museum, 305 S. Broad St. in Hillsboro.

Witt Vets Memorial Nears Completion

Members of the Witt Veterans Memorial Committee met on Wednesday, Feb. 5, as they continue work on the memorial project. Those present for the meeting were Cheryl Miller, Tim Taylor, David Cearlock, David Pembroke, Alvin Yeske, Bill Hartman, Darrell Miller, Denise Kistner, Mary Jean Myers and Donna Yeske. Jay Martin, treasurer was absent, but reported they are currently at \$101,000 in fundraising, with less than \$5,000 to go. The committee ordered the wall stones in October and it can take up to six months to come in.

The goal, if they are delivered in time, is to set a tentative ceremony date for July 4, 2025. More information will be available when the stones arrive. The Veterans Dance was discussed and always a hit, so the third annual Veterans Dance is scheduled for Nov. 8 at the Witt Lions Building. They also set the date for the second annual drive thru chicken dinner on April 12, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Witt Lions Building. This will include two pieces of chicken, St. Barbara’s recipe chicken and noodles, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, slaw, dessert and Jay’s home-

made roll. They are keeping the price the same as last year \$15 per meal. All committee members have tickets available to sell. Completing the list of names for the walls is very important, and members have been working diligently on this for a few years. The Witt Veterans Memorial will have names of all who served in peace time and war time, that lived in Witt, attended school in Witt and all buried in the Witt Cemetery. They will have it back on the Witt Veterans Memorial Facebook page or email wittveterans@gmail.com for more information.




All phases of the Witt Veterans Memorial project are now in place, except the monuments. The flags, light poles and two benches were donated by the Harold Miller family and the Jack Lynch family. Committee members hope for an official dedication ceremony on July 4.

Weather Forecast

Mon 10	37°/29°	Mostly Cloudy	2%
Tue 11	35°/27°	Cloudy	9%
Wed 12	29°/13°	Snow	93%
Thu 13	21°/10°	Partly Cloudy	6%

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Sectional Bound!

Seven wrestlers from Hillsboro and Litchfield advance to the sectional tournament!

See Sports for more.





Lanter Named CNB's Student Of The Month

Emily Lanter has been recognized as the January Student of the Month at CNB Bank and Trust in Hillsboro. Lanter is involved with band as a drum major, captain of the scholar bowl team, president of the culture club, a member of chamber choir and second in her class. Following graduation, Lanter plans to pursue a degree in English with the intention of becoming an educator. She is a Donnellson resident and the daughter of Alison and Brad Lanter.

Pictured above, Melissa Caldwell, at left, presents a \$50 gift card to January student of the month Emily Lanter, at right. Lanter is also eligible for the bank's Student of the Year award which will be given in May.

IDPH Gives Tips To Avoid Respiratory Viruses

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that in line with the national trend, the state's overall respiratory illness level has ticked up from moderate to high, driven by an expected early winter jump in hospital admissions.

With respiratory illnesses on the upswing, IDPH issued a health alert to hospitals and healthcare facilities recommending that they take note of local conditions and consider targeted steps to mitigate the circulation of seasonal illnesses. These could include visitor restrictions and source control through measures like masking.

"The New Year has arrived, and Illinois is experiencing the expected winter surge in seasonal respiratory illnesses," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "It is now more important than ever to use the many tools at our disposal to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. The most effective tool remains vaccinations for flu, COVID-19 and RSV. It is not too late to get your vaccines, as the seasonal respiratory season can extend late into the spring."

"Other effective tools to prevent exposure to respiratory illnesses include enhanced ventilation, good hand hygiene and a well-fitting mask," Dr. Vohra continued. "These tools may be valuable to all our Illinois residents but are especially important for those most at risk including individuals over 65, individuals with chronic medical conditions, and individuals who are immunocompromised."

Director Vohra recommended that anyone who is feeling symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever, runny nose, sore throat or cough, consider getting tested and treated early in the course of their illness, especially if they are at risk for serious illness or spreading it to someone who is at risk of serious illness. Treatments for flu and COVID-19 are most effective when they are given early in the course of the illness. Those who are ill should avoid spreading germs to others by self-isolating (i.e. staying away from others when they are ill) or wearing a mask if unable to isolate.

IDPH has posted two helpful new FAQ documents on its website providing the latest guidance on vaccinations and how to get tested and treated for seasonal illnesses. In addition, the CDC has created a new Respiratory Illness Data Channel that provides nationwide county specific information that would be valuable for anyone planning to travel out of state.

Antiviral treatments for flu are most effective when given within 48 hours of starting to feel ill and are only available by prescription. Older adults, young children and those who are pregnant or have certain underlying conditions are at risk for complications and should contact a healthcare provider to be assessed for the need for treatment as soon as possible.

Adults without insurance may check with their local health department for options or contact a free and charitable clinic or a Community Health Center.



Sheedy Retires From Kitchell Library

Linda Sheedy retired as director of Kitchell Memorial Library in Morrisonville on Friday, Jan. 31. Pictured above to commemorate her career with the library are library board member Marilyn Boston, library staff Paula Smith and Charity Daughtery, Linda Sheedy, library staff-person Chrissy Wescott and board members Beth Fuchs and Deb Forbes. Not pictured are board members Catherine O'Connell, Jamie Grundy and Brian Grundy.

Raymond News Photo

Public Meetings

Montgomery County Board Of Review
The Montgomery County Board of Review will meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 10, at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro.

Hillsboro Planning Commission Meeting
The Hillsboro Planning Commission will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Agenda items include updates from Imagine Hillsboro and the Natural Resources committee, as well as an update on the city from Sarah McConnell and reviewing zoning code for solar panels.

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

In the Coordinating Committee, agenda items include updates on the EMA Report, CIPT IGA and Ordinance and the Broadband Breakthrough.

In the Development and Personnel Committee, agenda items include updates on animal control, Plains Solar, Montgomery Springs Solar and the Nokomis TIF District.

In the Buildings and Grounds Committee, agenda items include updates on the courthouse chiller bid, the Green Diamond Bike Trail and a new hire for a cleaning position.

In the Roads and Bridges Committee, agenda items include updates on the UKA Virden Wind Road Use Agreement, the Coffee Road and Seven Sisters Ave. Intersection.

In the Finance and Budget Committee, agenda items include updates on the SOA Report, Capital Improvement and Coal Fund Reports, Ambulance Service agreements and the county travel ordinance.

Litchfield School Board
Members of the Litchfield School Board will have a special meeting on Tuesday evening, Feb. 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Unit Office, located at 1100 N. Old Route 66, in Litchfield. Following roll call and public input, the board will enter into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

Hillsboro School Board
The Hillsboro School District will be holding their regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the district unit office, located at 1311 Vandalia Road in Hillsboro.

Agenda items include continuing the discussion on staffing levels at Beckemeyer as well as a presentation on pending teacher retirement legislation and consideration of the 2024-2025 year-end school calendar, the 2025-2026 school calendar and a request for an overnight cheer trip.



Vandals Strike Witt's St. John's Cemetery

St. John's Cemetery, located just west of Witt, was recently the victim of vandals. Cemetery trustees are looking for information to find the individual(s) responsible so that they can repair the damage.

Anyone with any knowledge of the act should contact Barry Lipe at 217-254-7113.

Farmersville Knights Hosting Pork Chop Meal

The Farmersville Knights of Columbus will be hosting a pork chop dinner at the KC Hall on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. Dinner will include two pork chops, a baked potato, green beans and cake. The cost for the meal is \$15 per person and both dine in and carry out options are offered.

Correction

In last Thursday's Raymond Village Board article, the village clerk was incorrectly identified as Cathy Downey. The village clerk is Denise Downey.

The Journal-News apologizes for the mistake.

www.thejournal-news.net

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"Led By The Light Of The Lord." ~ John 8:12

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Obituaries

Monday, February 10, 2025 - **3A**

Thomas A. Baker, 92

U.S. Army Veteran



Thomas A. Baker, 92, of Auburn, died on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, at Arcadia Care. A memorial ceremony was held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at First Baptist Church, located at 310 W. Madison St. in Girard, with the Rev. Victor Angulo officiating. Butler Funeral Home in Chatham assisted with arrangements.

Mr. Baker was born in Waggoner on July 16, 1932, the son of the late Frank and Marion (Fleming) Baker. He married Patricia Garst at Church of the Brethren in Girard on March 4, 1956, and she survives.

He graduated from Waggoner High School in 1950 and later proudly served in the U.S. Army in 1952. He worked as a storekeeper for the State of Illinois. He enjoyed solving crossword puzzles, specialized cars, singing at church and was an avid Cardinals fan. He was also a member of FFA.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Baker is survived by his son, Mike Baker; daughters, Kristine (James) Friesen and Patricia (Jay) Mitchell; grandchildren, Ryan (Jessica) and Chad (Christina) Friesen; and great-grandchildren, Raelynn, Samuel, Jade, Piper and Charli Friesen.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Mary Borden and Martha West; brothers, Robert Baker and Hobart Wood; and daughter, Karen Baker.

Condolences may be left at www.dignitymemorial.com.

Debra Gonet, 62

Deeply Loved Her Family



Debra Gonet, 62, of Coalton, died peacefully on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 at her residence.

Catholic Mass was held on Saturday, Feb. 8, at St. Louis Catholic Church. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery in Nokomis. Stiehl-Dawson Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Mrs. Gonet was born on July 22, 1962, in Hillsboro, the daughter of C.W. Fox and Vickie (Umberger) Maedge. On June 20, 1981, she married Tom Gonet at St. Louis Catholic Church in Nokomis, and he survives.

She always had a love of children, learning and teaching. She became a teacher and educated young minds in five states over 29 years and retired last year.

She was heavily involved in St. Louis Catholic Church's ministries and enjoyed many hobbies including sewing, quilting, canning, making cards, scrapbooking, walking and traveling. Above all she loved her family and friends deeply and unconditionally. She was an amazing cook and avid gardener. She lived for her time with grandkids and was extremely kind to everyone. She helped when she could, remembered to keep in touch and above all, she knew how to show and give love.

In addition to her mother and husband, she is survived by her children; Craig (Brooke) Gonet of Nokomis and Nikki (Cory) Kunkle of Breese; grandchildren, Sydney Engelhart, Kellene Engelhart, Jayden Gonet, Peyton Gonet and Claire Finely; siblings, Tammy (Randy) Fox Blose, Kenneth (Kimberly) Carlock, Corey (Amanda) Fox; stepmother Donna (Fox) Liffick; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to St. Louis Catholic School.

Condolences may be left at www.stiehl dawsonfh.com.

Ruth A. M. Cranford, 93

Dedicated Homemaker



Ruth Ardella Marie (Frerichs) Cranford, 93, of Litchfield, died on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at 4:14 a.m. at Litchfield Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, Feb. 10, at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield. Funeral services will follow at noon at the church, with the Rev. Fred Kraemer officiating. Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Cranford was born on Nov. 23, 1931 in Litchfield, a daughter of the late Edward and Emma (Sewing) Frerichs. She graduated from Litchfield High School. She married Robert C. Cranford on March 31, 1951, at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, and he preceded her in death on June 17, 2014.

She baked many wonderful desserts at The Gardens Restaurant in Litchfield during her 26 years of employment there. Prior to that, she was a dedicated homemaker and candled eggs at the Litchfield Egg Warehouse. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield. She loved watching the St. Louis Cardinals, NASCAR and game shows and she enjoyed playing bingo and playing the lottery.

Mrs. Cranford is survived by her son, Kevin (Connie) Cranford of Springfield; daughter, Debra (Mike) Peters of Elburn; granddaughter, Kristine Cranford of Milwaukee, WI; step-grandson, Mike Peters of Montana; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Roger Allen Cranford; sisters, Lucille Frerichs, Viola McKimney and Marie Morris; brothers, George Frerichs, Benjamin Frerichs, John Frerichs and infant brother Roy Frerichs.

Memorials may be made to Zion Lutheran School, 1301 N. State St., Litchfield, IL 62056.

Condolences may be left at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Charles K. Bland, 77

Air Force Veteran



Charles Keith Bland, 77, of Maryville, died at DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton, MO, on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025 at 10:59 a.m.

Visitation will be held on Monday, Feb. 10, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wood River from 9 to 11 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. at the church. Burial will be at Bunker Hill Cemetery in Bunker Hill. Kravanya Funeral Home in Bunker Hill is assisting with arrangements.

Mr. Bland was born on July 21, 1947 in Alton, to the late Charles Bland and Alice Landreth Bland. He married Linda Joann Quattlander, and she survives. He was retired after having been an auditor for the IRS. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force after having served during Vietnam. He enjoyed swing dancing, traveling, history, the outdoors and being with his family.

In addition to his spouse, he is survived by his children, Lindsey (Broderick) Lawson of St. Charles, MO, and Shawn (Sarah) Bland of Maryville; grandchild, Brooks Bland; brother-in-law, Marlin (Jill) Quattlander of Nokomis; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Gary Bland; sisters, Joyce Brownfield and Jackie Whitlock.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1327 Vaughn Road, Wood River, IL 62095.

Condolences may be left at www.kravanyafuneral.com.

Carol J. Monetti, 92

Loved Time With Family



Carol Joyce (Rahm) Monetti, 92, of Carlinville, died on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025 at the Village at Morse Farm in Carlinville.

Private graveside services will be conducted at a later date. Davis-Anderson Funeral Home in Carlinville is assisting with arrangements.

Mrs. Monetti was born on May 25, 1932, in Litchfield, a daughter of Edna Sievers Rahm and Elmer Rahm of Staunton. She attended Zion Lutheran School in Staunton for eight years and graduated from Staunton Community High in 1950. She attended Illinois State University for one and a half years, majoring in art. In the summer of 1952, she accepted a job at Shell Oil Refinery in Wood River, in the personnel department.

In 1955, she married Charles J. "Charlie" Monetti and moved to Carlinville. He survives. She was employed in the office at MJM Electric for several years. When her husband opened his own auto repair shop, the North End Garage, she did the bookkeeping there and generally kept things moving smoothly, as his mom did before her.

The couple spent 23 years during the winter months in Ft. Myers, FL, in Heritage Cove. Mrs. Monetti loved to spend time working in her yard and her flower beds, reading, dancing, laughing and enjoying her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She never met a stranger and was loved wholeheartedly by one and all. She will be missed by many.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son, Gary Alan (Janell) Monetti of Tampa and New Smyrna Beach, FL; daughter, Susan (John) Mackay of Raymond; grandchildren, Courtney Johnson and Pierson Monetti of Tampa, FL; and two great-grandchildren, Carter Paige Johnson and Glades Hutchinson Monetti.

Memorials may be made to Macoupin County Animal Control and Zion Lutheran Church.

Condolences may be left at davis-andersonfuneralhome.com.

Raymond Community To Host Blood Drive

The Raymond community will be hosting a community blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 3 to 7 p.m. at 510 E. Sparks, inside the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Those interested in making a donation should contact ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 60041 to locate the drive. Appointments are requested.

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

Potential donors must be

at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo ID is required to donate.

For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401. Donors who last gave on or before Dec. 24 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, etc.) or use the bonus points in the donor rewards store or to direct a donation to charity.

Bonnie Zalar, 103

Devout Catholic



Jebron Jenice "Bonnie" Zalar, 103, of Litchfield, died on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, at her residence.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Litchfield. The Fr. Dan Willenborg will preside. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. Visitation will be held at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of service.

Mrs. Zalar was born in Panama on Sept. 11, 1921, a daughter of Antone and Freda Marie (File) Piprock. She graduated from Hillsboro High School with the class of 1939 and attended Alton Beauty School and Lincoln Land Community College. She and Joseph Zalar were married on May 19, 1946, at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Staunton, and they enjoyed nearly 66 years of marriage before his passing on Feb. 20, 2010.

Mrs. Zalar owned and operated Bonnie's Beauty Shop out of her home for over 30 years, helping women look their best. She was a member of Holy Family Parish in Litchfield and was active in the St. Anne's Society there. A faithful servant of the Lord, she could be found reciting St. Jude's Novena for anyone in spiritual need of prayer. In 2019, she received Lady of Distinction Award for outstanding service, generosity and dependability by Bishop Paprocki of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield.

Mrs. Zalar also volunteered her time at SHS St. Francis Hospital and with the VFW Auxiliary Post 3912. She belonged to several polka clubs, including the Springfield and Metro East clubs. She was also active with the exercise classes at the Litchfield Community Center and the Litchfield Senior Citizens Center. She was an excellent cook and had over 2,000 cookbooks in her collection.

She is survived by her son, Joseph A. Zalar of Litchfield and her daughter, Angela M. Zalar Bouillon (husband, Mark) of St. Louis, MO; two grandchildren, David Bouillon and Sarah (Chase) Streltz; one great-granddaughter, Sienna Q. Streltz. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Betty Sawyer.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Litchfield Volunteer Fire Department. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is in charge of arrangements. To sign the online guest book, light a virtual candle, or for more information, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Brenda J. Ouellette, 63

Passion For Food Industry



Brenda Jean Ouellette, 63, of rural Harvel, died at 6:12 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at her residence.

A memorial service will be held at St. Raymond's in Raymond on Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m., followed by a memorial funeral Mass at 5 p.m. The Rev. John T. Hanagan and the Rev. Florent Kanga will preside.

Ms. Ouellette was born on Jan. 26, 1962, to Reynold and Lillie Ouellette in Caribou, ME. She graduated from Caribou High School in 1980. From an early age, Ms. Ouellette worked in restaurants, where she discovered her passion for the industry. Ms. Ouellette will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her indomitable spirit and heart of gold left an unforgettable impact on those around her.

She is survived by her sister, Theresa (husband, Tom) Riffey; nephew, Michael Riffey; niece, Tracy Riffey; great-niece, Giada; two aunts and several special cousins.

Ms. Ouellette was preceded in death by her parents, Reynold and Lillie Ouellette; brother, Reynold Jr.; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

In memory of Ms. Ouellette, the family kindly requests that donations be made to a charity of the donor's choice. The family has entrusted Hough Funeral Homes as well as Plummer Funeral Home to help make arrangements. Condolences may be left online both at www.houghfuneralhome.com and www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

obituaries posted daily
www.thejournal-news.net

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LITCHFIELD, IL 62056

THANK YOU!

We want to thank everyone who came to Bill's service. Thank you for your phone calls, visits, cards and food.

Thank you to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church and everyone who brought food for the dinner.

Thanks to Pastor Ryan and Pastor Zac, you made the service extra nice!

May God Bless all of you!

Sue Jones and Family

In Loving Memory Flight Officer

Archie F. "Sonny" Daniels



83rd Fighter Squadron
78th Fighter Group
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6-17-20 ~ 2-11-44



Terry and Linda Guthrie

Guthrie Couple Celebrate Fifty Years Of Marriage

Terry and Linda (Renken) Guthrie were married on Feb. 15, 1975, and will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple was married at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Irving. They are the parents of one son, Brian (Kathy) Guthrie of Tampa, FL, and one daughter, Dana (Shane) Grammer of Litchfield. They are the grandparents of Easton Grammer of Litchfield and Kinley Guthrie of Tampa, FL.

Terry retired from Vistra, the former Coffeen Power Station after 46 years. Linda retired from Cullison and Vandever Law Office after 34 years. Linda is the daughter of the late Dale and Faye Renken of Hillsboro and Terry is the son of the late Allan Guthrie and Marilyn Guthrie of Hillsboro. The couple are planning a cruise to Hawaii later this year.

Cook Your Way to a Healthier Heart



Free, hands-on cooking classes offered by University of Illinois Extension and Hillsboro Health will teach residents how to lower blood pressure and cholesterol through heart-healthy meals. Nutrition and Wellness Educator Lisa Peterson will lead the classes covering cooking techniques, label reading, and recipes. An extra bonus... prizes & expert tips from Illinois Extension and Hillsboro Health!

Classes will be held at Hillsboro Health on Feb. 13 and 25 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Hillsboro Health is located at 1200 E Tremont St and the class will take place in the Cloud Room (enter through the main hospital entrance or patio entrance).

Register online at go.illinois.edu/cjmmevents or call 217-532-3941. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 217-532-3941.



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Births

Kaleb and Suzanne (Morrison) Northcutt of Fenton, MO, announce the birth of a son, Rowan James Northcutt, born at 6:10 a.m. Friday, Jan.31, 2025, at Mercy South Hospital in St. Louis. He weighed 7 lbs., 8 ozs. and measured 20 ins. long.

He was welcomed home by big brother Kael, age seven, and big sister Stella, age four.

His father is a correctional officer for the State of Missouri and his mother is a dental assistant.

Paternal grandparents are Chuck and Laura Northcutt of Versailles and Kim and Rob Parmenter of Calhoun. Maternal grandparents are Robert and Sandy Morrison of Coffeen.

Paternal great-grandparents are Judy Harr of Hardin and Lawrence Million of Roodhouse. Maternal great-grandparents are Elsie Palmer of Moro.

~ ~ ~

Alex and Mandy Wall of Sorento announce the birth of a daughter, Lily LeeAnn Wall, born at 7:50 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese.

She weighed 7lbs., 8ozs. and measured 19 ins. long.

She was welcomed home by big sister Willow Wall, age three.

Her father works for Nelson Tree Trimming and her mother is a Hillsboro pre-K teacher.

Paternal grandparents are John Wall of Sorento and Ronda Berkman of Donnellson. Maternal grandparents are Jim and Vicky Armbruster of Donnellson.

Maternal great-grandparents are Gary and Cathy Morrow of Donnellson.

~ ~ ~

Mike and Summer (Robbins) Reed of Jacksonville, FL, announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Maybry Kristyne Reed, born at 4:56 p.m. on Jan. 17, 2025, at Baptist Health Downtown in Jacksonville, FL. She weighed 8 lbs., 12 ozs., and measured 21 ins. long.

Her father is a financial advisor and strategic wealth specialist and her mother is an attorney at Cobb and Gonzalez, P.A.

Paternal grandparents are Keith and Kim Reed of Salisbury, NC. Maternal grandparents are Rick and Julie Robbins of Coffeen.

Paternal great-grandparents are Annette Fowler of St. Augustine, FL, and the late Mary Young. Maternal great-grandparents are Gene and Sherry Robbins of Litchfield, Bill and Linda Daileda of Las Vegas, NV, and the late Mabel McElroy.

~ ~ ~



Marriage Licenses

Ronald Chauncey Gill, Litchfield; Vicky Lynn McNealy, Litchfield.

February Quarter Auction Benefits Coffeen Memorial

The Coffeen Veterans Memorial Committee will be holding a quarter auction at The Lodge on Main in Hillsboro on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Doors will open at 6 p.m.

with a \$5 entry fee. There will be a cash bar and attendees will be allowed to bring their own snacks. There will also be many items to bid on as well as a 50/50 drawing.

PORK CHOP DINNER

Farmersville Knights of Columbus will be hosting a

PORK CHOP DINNER

at the KC Hall on

Saturday, February 15, 2025
from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Includes: Pork Chops (2), Baked Potato, Green Beans, Cake
\$15.00 Per Person

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Saturday, Feb. 15th

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Nokomis Lions Donate To Nokomis Food Pantry

The Nokomis Lions Club recently made a donation to the Nokomis Food Pantry. Pictured above, Frank Steele, a member of the Lions Club, presents a donation to Doris O'Malley, director of the Nokomis Food Pantry. Donations can be mailed or delivered to 118 South Spruce in Nokomis. They serve an average of 100 families per month.

4-H Starr Shooters Enjoy Winter Outing

Laser tag, race cars and arcade games were enjoyed on the annual winter outing by Starr Shooters 4-Hers. Pictured above, Landon and Logan Hilgendorf and Louis Quattlander compete on one of the many arcade games at The Edge in Belleville. The group also enjoyed attending a St. Louis Blues hockey game.

HSHS, ImpactLife Host February Blood Drive

HSHS St. Francis Hospital will be hosting a community blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1215 Franciscan Drive, inside the donor bus.

Those interested in making a donation should contact ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 60456 to locate the drive. Appointments are requested.

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

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo ID is required to donate.

For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 1-800-747-5401. Donors who last gave on or before Dec. 24 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, etc.) or use the bonus points in the reward store or direct a donation to charity.

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- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 -
Fried Chicken, Pork Cutlet, Salmon Patties
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 -
Hamburgers 11-4; Fried Fish 11-7;
Chicken Fettucini & Prime Rib Served 4-7 pm



Under the direction of Ellis Henley, Litchfield High School choir students performed the National Anthem during the mobilization ceremony for the Illinois National Guard Charlie Company on Sunday morning, Feb. 9.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelman

Charlie Company

Continued from page 1A

Serving as master of ceremonies for the mobilization program was Jacob Considine. After the soldiers marched into the gym, he welcomed those in attendance to the program and honored both military and local dignitaries, including Litchfield Mayor Steve Dougherty, Litchfield Police Chief Kenny Ryker and Litchfield Fire Chief Adam Pennock. Considine also recognized veterans in attendance, asking them to stand and be recognized.

Students from Litchfield High School, under the direction of Ellis Henley, sang the National Anthem and the official orders of the mobilization were read.

Considine also provided a history of "The Blackhawk Battalion," which was originally organized as a militia company at the villages of Kaskaskia and Cahokia along the Mississippi River. First to speak during the ceremony was Brig. General Lenny Williams, who thanked the crowd for their support of the soldiers, especially those veterans in attendance.

"You have passed the baton onto this group of soldiers," Williams said. "I promise you they're in good hands. Thanks for all you have done for our country and for passing the baton onto these soldiers."

Williams, who has deployed several times himself, said it can be especially chal-



Company Commander Justin Asbury speaks to soldiers at the mobilization ceremony on Feb. 9.

Journal-News Photo

lenging for the families left behind.

"Our soldiers are ready, but it's only because of the support structure you provide at home," he said. "It doesn't happen without the support of family. The entire weight of our organization, 10,000 soldiers strong, is behind you."

Williams also thanked the soldiers for their unwavering service to the state and the nation. He added that only 2 percent of all Americans are currently on active duty in the military, with 6 percent of all Americans as veterans.

"You have already done so much, and we are grateful to you," Williams said.

In closing, he shared three

things with the soldiers. The first was to always do more than what is asked of them and seize the opportunity to achieve greatness. He also encouraged the officers and NCOs to be good leaders and finally, he asked the troops to take care of each other.

"You're trained, ready and professionals," he said. "You're going to crush this mission."

Next to speak was Captain Justin Asbury, who is the company commander. He thanked the families for their support and talked to the soldiers about the upcoming mission.

"You're going to make some friendships that will last you a lifetime," he said.

Asbury added the soldiers would have a chance to learn and grow, as they build relationships with other partner nations.

He asked family members to stay in contact with their soldiers.

"Deployment is hard, and the families back home share the greatest burden," Asbury said. "You have our deepest gratitude."

Asbury said the troops still had a bit of training to do together at Fort Bliss, Texas before officially deploying to the Middle East.

Before concluding, the battalion was presented with a state of Illinois flag that will fly with the company during deployment.

Following the ceremony, the troops were dismissed to their families for hugs and well wishes.

Litchfield City Council

Continued from page 1A

Plummer proposed developing the property if the city would front \$500,000 in development costs, but the city refused. Plummer also offered to sell the property to the city to allow them to put out the bid for development.

Hollo suggested that the proposal be sent back to the economic development committee so the city could pursue something more economically feasible.

Vazquez addressed some of the concerns Hollo brought up during the discussion on the project, saying that the money from the TIF district does not allow incentives for new construction which might be needed for other projects, which is why that money is being used for infrastructure.

Vazquez also believed that there would not be a cash flow issue with the long term development fund as there won't be as many heavy expenditures as there have been with the establishment of the industrial park and other projects. She also believed that the city will receive more than the \$750,000 budgeted from sales tax for the long term economic development fund.

Vazquez said that the project also differs from Eagle Ridge, where the city already owned the land and were selling lake lot leases. City Attorney Michael McGinley said that purchasing the property from the Schmidt Family in order to develop it would be a different and more complicated process.

Alderman Jake Fleming confirmed with Vazquez that the economic development committee approved the project unanimously. Vazquez said not everyone on the committee was present, but those who were voted for the project.

Alderman Ray Kellenberger asked what developers share of the project was. Matt Pfund from Jack Matthews Development said that they are responsible for 50 percent of the costs to develop the land plus all of the construction costs for

the 12 residential units that are required in the economic development agreement.

Pfund said that they don't expect to build every home on the 20 acres, which will feature 34 single-family lots and 12 triplex lots, and that local builders are welcome.

Earlier in the discussion, Pfund spoke about the project, which will feature three different components: the 36 townhomes/triplexes, the single-family homes that surround them and a section of lots surrounding a cul-de-sac. The slightly larger lots were done after a suggestion made by the planning commission.

He agreed with Hollo that the plan was aggressive, but added that they were excited for the development. Pfund said the big unknown is how quickly the initial 12 residential units are inhabited and how soon the other lots are sold.

Pfund said that each of the components, or sections of the components, could have its own HOA (homeowners association), with different covenants and restrictions. He said what those restrictions are depends on the market.

Alderman Cassidy Paine, a real estate agent in Litchfield, said that Litchfield does have some HOA's currently, with the monthly fees covering things such as snow removal, roofing and siding replacement. McGinley added that the HOA restrictions allow property owners a way to solve issues privately.

In addition to the action pertaining to the new residential development, the council also approved a resolution for a facade grant for Niehaus Cycle sales for lighted awnings and an emergency roof grant for the property at 117 East Edwards Street. Matt Vaughn and Carol Sneed were also approved as appointees to the tourism advisory board.

In lake department business, the council approved the adoption of a colored flag lake level notification system. The system uses two seven-foot by three-foot flags at Marina 1 and 2, with green

meaning no restrictions, yellow restricting watercraft to under 20 miles per hour, red restricting watercraft to idle speeds and black meaning that the lake is closed to watercraft.

Lake Superintendent Heather Bell said that the system will help with situations like this past Memorial Day, when the area experienced record rain fall.

Alderman Fleming said that several citizens asked for a visual reference like the flags, with Bell adding that the status of the lakes would also be posted on social media.

Alderman Sara Zumwalt asked what the cost of the flags would be. Bell said the cost for two sets of flags is estimated to be less than \$500.

The council also approved the fees for the Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation Area and the lease agreements for the Lake Lou Yaeger Campground and Bicentennial campground. The changes in the fees can be viewed online with this article at www.thejournal-news.net.

The city noted that even though there was a slight increase in camping rates, Litchfield is still well under priced compared to other local campgrounds.

They also noted new services/amenities/attractions to the Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation area, including an online camping reservation system with interactive maps, senior and military rates for beach admission, improved admission and concession areas at Milnot Beach, an expanded beach area, a toddler swim area, a handicap/wheelchair entrance to the beach/lake area, a shade structure on the beach, an enclosed sand volleyball area, a kayak rental station, renovated cabins, a fenced in boat storage area, an improved primitive camping area and a new playground and pavilion at the Bicentennial campground.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m. The council will meet again on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Amateur Radio Club To Meet Wednesday

The Montgomery County Amateur Radio Emergency Corp. will have their regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12. It will be at the Challacombe House, located at 509 School St., two blocks east of the junction of Rt. 127 and Rt. 16 in Hillsboro.

Other upcoming events include an amateur radio technician-level review session and license testing on Saturday, Feb. 15, and Saturday, Feb. 22. Review session will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Location will be Bradford Bank Community

Room, located at 100 E. College St. in Greenville. Gordon West 2022-2026 Technician Class book will be used. It can be ordered on Amazon.

Testing for all FCC amateur license classes will be on Saturday, Feb. 22, beginning at about 2 p.m. and open to anyone for all license levels.

Attendee are encouraged to pre-register and bring your FCC FRN number.

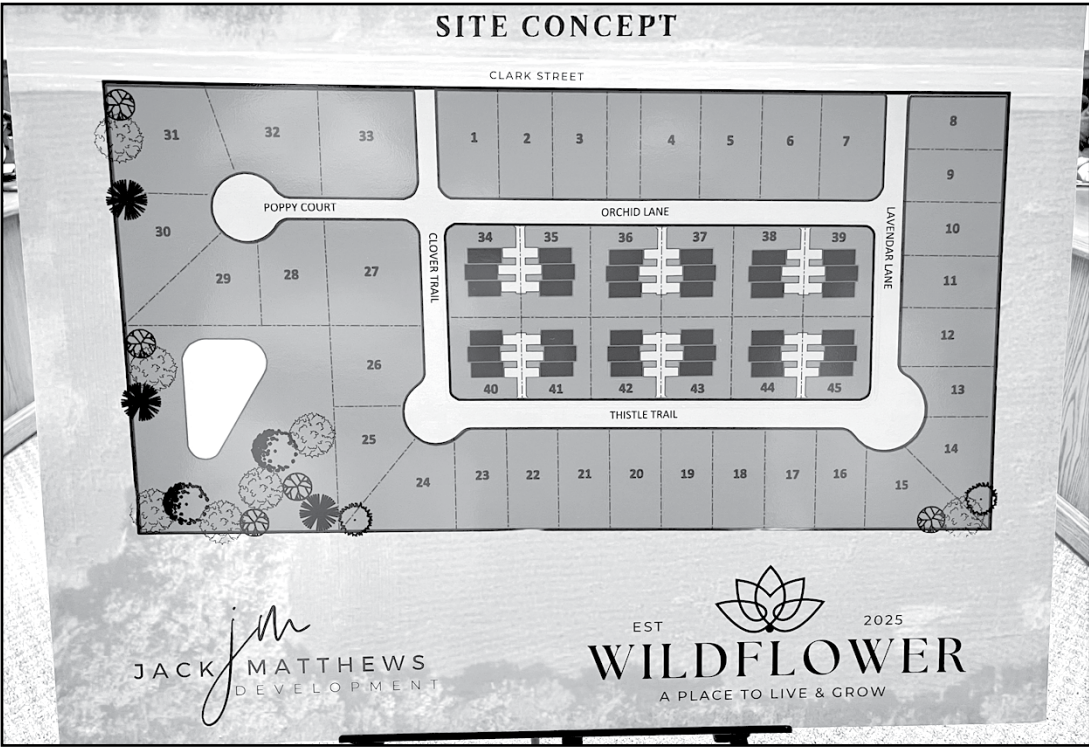
For more information or to pre-register, email to ovarc@ovarc.net. Please pre-register for session and testing.

Lewis and Clark Hamfest will be held on Saturday,

March 15, from 7 a.m. to noon. The event is located in "The Commons" building at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey. For more information go to hamfest@k9ham.org.

The club's next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 12, at the Challacombe House at 7 p.m.

The Montgomery County AREC meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend. For more information contact Judy Reynolds at 217-259-5650.



Matt Pfund from Jack Matthews Development provided a concept of the layout for the Wildflower subdivision that is planned for the area off of Clark Street during the Litchfield City Council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6. The project calls for 12 triplex/townhome lots surrounded by single-family lots.

Journal-News Photo



Houchlei Raises \$1,000 Through T-Shirt Sales

Hillsboro High School is recognizing their very own Sadie Houchlei for raising nearly \$1,000 through donations and T-shirt sales to benefit the Eaker family. Houchlei designed a detailed art project and then transformed the drawing of Hillsboro High School onto a T-shirt, to sell as a fundraiser. All proceeds were donated to Alana and Cooper Eaker, the high school girls JV basketball coach. The school thanks Houchlei for her service to her community.

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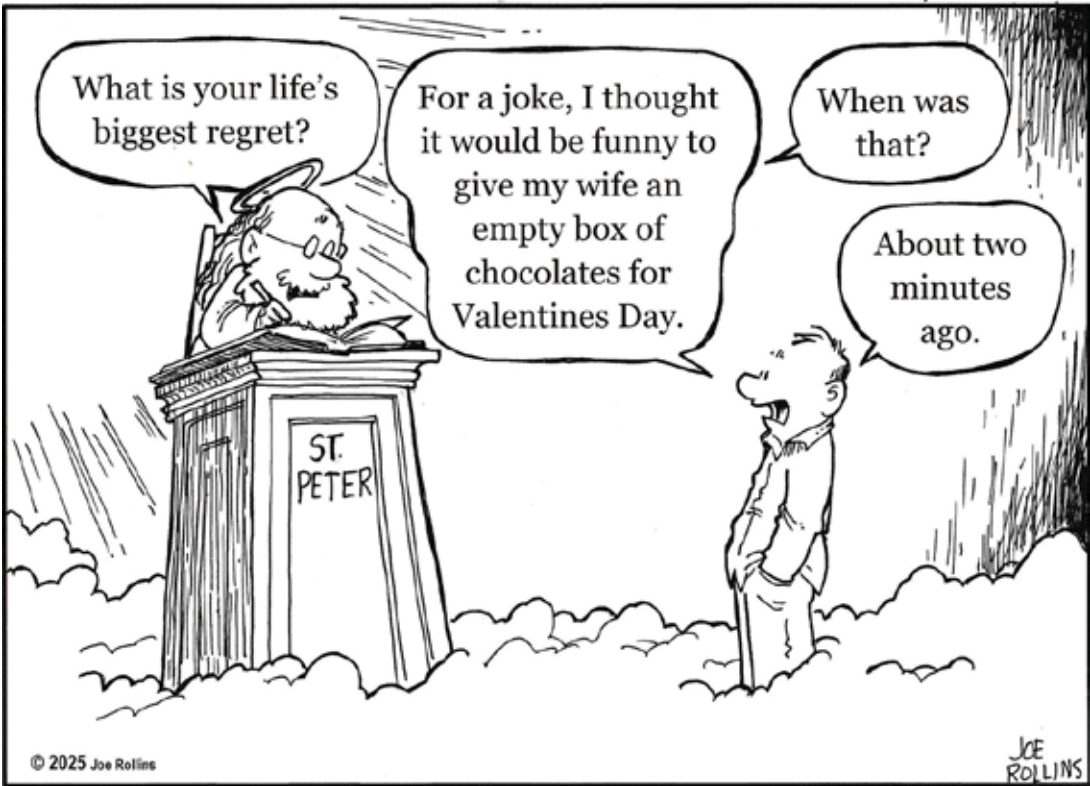
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Joes Corner

by Joe Rollins



Letter To The Editor

To the Editor,
I did not help elect Mr. Trump to the Presidency because I do not trust him. He has repeatedly lied and continues to spread untruths.
I don't want to debate the dozens of executive orders he has already issued in his attempts to ignore the Constitution and bypass Congress in its role as an equal branch of government.
But if you helped elect Mr. Trump, are you comfortable with the fact that the world's richest man, Elon Musk, a private citizen, has been given access to the U.S. Treasury Department and its payment systems by the new Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent? President Trump has publicly acknowledged this access.
Mr. Musk and his DOGE team can now see personal and financial information of individuals and businesses that receive federal checks. They now have the ability to monitor (control, deny) federal payments made to government departments as well as Social Security benefits, Medicare, salaries, tax refunds—essentially manage the nation's checkbook.
This unexplained and unjustified access is now in the hands of a private individual whose companies annually receive millions of dollars in federal contracts. A person

who is not an appointed or elected government officer bound by ethics and conflict of interest laws. A person who has not taken an oath of office.
Mr. Musk is not accountable to anyone.
Regardless of political affiliation, we all receive and rely on benefits from the federal government. Regardless of what you think about our government, it at least provides systems of oversight and accountability.
Do you trust that Elon Musk has your best interests at heart? I don't.

Nancy B. Slepicka
Hillsboro

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My name is Jim O'Neill. I grew up in Hillsboro. My mother's family were long-time Republicans, including my grandfather Jess Weller, who ran for Mayor against Joe Long and lost, and my mother, Virginia O'Neill.
My father was a Roosevelt Democrat whose family lost farmland in Iowa during the Great Depression. We had lively political discussions at family dinners.
I always voted for the candidate I believed would best serve America. I am a firm believer in the church/state division as our forefathers were.
I do not recognize the current Republican Party under Trump representing any of the values I grew up believing. The best candidates put America and the Constitution - the country - before party. As Mitch McConnell demonstrated on "60 Minutes" last Sunday, he and

the Republicans put party before country.
I support the veteran's ad 100 percent. Here is why. To date, as in his personal life, Trump believes he is not subject to the law of the land; to date he has broken 18 laws (I can enumerate from a legitimate source).
He apparently believes he can sign an order, and it overrides the Constitution, birthright citizenship for example.
I know Nixon had his enemies list, but I have never seen the pettiness Trump has shown. His treatment of General Milley, who devoted 40 years of his life serving this country, is shameful.
The chaos Trump's ally, Musk, who has his minions gathering data, they are neither qualified nor have appropriate security clearances to analyze and understand is very frightening.
Trump seldom keeps his word about anything (see the wall the Mexicans are

going to pay for) except for his revenge against people just doing their legitimate jobs.
Mr. Miller, once again following the Trump game, you call the ad author a coward. Any man who serves his country in uniform defending our Constitution can never be called a coward for his opinion.
If you knew his name, what would you do? You know mine (I am a vet too, holding a Top Secret clearance for many years). Your charges about Joe Biden are unfounded; show me some proof from a legitimate source. You won't find any.
If you thought Biden was deranged, how about Trump taking Canada, Greenland and Gaza? I am going to end with a little humor. The most highly classified programs are typically referred to as "black programs." Any suggestions for a new name under Trump?

Jim O'Neill

GUEST COLUMN • by Valerie Belusko

Kindness, Smiles Are Contagious

Monday, Feb. 17, is National Random Acts of Kindness Day. This celebration was established in Denver, Colorado, in 1995 by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation. The idea behind the day was to make the world a better place by spreading kindness (big and/or small).
Random Acts of Kindness (also known as RAOK) profoundly impact community connectivity by creating a sense of unity and compassion among individuals. Small gestures of kindness, whether it be helping an elderly neighbor with their groceries or paying for someone's meal at a restaurant, can strengthen the bonds between community members and foster a sense of belonging.
When individuals participate in acts of kindness, they spread joy and positivity in their community. By practicing empathy and compassion, they show that they genuinely care about their neighbors' well-being and are always ready to offer a helping hand when it is needed. This not only supports the community but

also strengthens the bonds between its members.
Engaging in acts of kindness not only benefits the receiver but also boosts self-esteem, increases life satisfaction, releases endorphins and positively impacts the mental well-being of the giver. The positive effects of kindness have been extensively studied and documented by reputable sources such as the Center for Resilient Children, the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the National Library of Medicine with PMC PubMed Central and more.
Furthermore, acts of kindness can inspire others to also engage in similar actions, creating a ripple effect of positivity throughout the community. This can lead to increased collaboration, cooperation and communication among community members, ultimately strengthening the neighborhood's social fabric.
Small acts of kindness can have big impacts on communities by creating new connections, feelings of unity and belonging, creat-

ing a culture of compassion and value.
In a world where negativity and division can often dominate the headlines, National Random Acts of Kindness Day encourages individuals to take a moment to brighten someone's day and spread a little joy. From paying for a stranger's coffee, volunteering at a local charity, holding a door open, giving a friendly greeting and smile, sharing a compliment, sending handwritten thank you notes, letting someone know you are grateful for them, picking up trash in the hallway or on the street, to allowing a fellow driver merge into your lane - all of these small actions can make a big difference in someone's day. Let your smile and random act of kindness, be contagious!
Illinois Extension leads public outreach for University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions and adapt to changes and opportunities.

REDSKIN REVIEW • by Grace DeWerff at Nokomis

Redskin FFA Members Earn Awards




H a p p y Monday, Redskins fans! Last week was big for our student-athlete seniors.

L a s t Thursday


was senior night for the girls basketball team, including Natalie Brownback, Grace DeWerff, Lizzy Hill and Becca Hill. On Friday night, the cross country seniors, Jack Johnson and Abby O'Malley were recognized at halftime of the boys basketball game. And finally, on Saturday, it was senior night for the boys, Atticus Bertolino, Ian Keller, and Drake Taylor, along with our cheerleaders, Marcie Carroll and Jahna Guinn. A big congratulations to these students for their hard work, and a reminder to soak up what's left of the school year!
The cheerleaders had a full day on Saturday, as they traveled to Pleasant Plains for the 2025 Queen of Hearts Showcase. They brought home some hardware, winning first place for best band chant and third place halftime award. They even were back in time to cheer on the boys at home that night. Congratulations, girls!
The Redskins basketball team had most of the week off, not playing until last Friday when they faced a very good Calvary team, losing 80-62. The following night, they bounced back quickly when they faced a county rival, Hillsboro. An interesting game all the way until the end, but the 'Skins pulled it off, defeating the

Hiltoppers.
This week, they will face Pawnee on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at home for a conference game. On Thursday, Feb. 13, they will travel to Bunker Hill for another conference match-up to take on the Minutemen. Good luck, boys!
The Lady Redskins traveled to Sangamon Valley to play Tri-City last week for a conference game, winning 74-32. They faced the Brownstown Bombers at home on Thursday, defeating them 54-36. On senior night, we kept it interesting, going to double-overtime with the Cowden-Herrick Bobcats, but managing to pull away for the win, 61-54.
This ended an undefeated season on their home floor. The girls will finish up their regular season this week, traveling to Waverly on Feb. 10, to face the South County Vipers in the conference championship, and then on Tuesday Feb. 11, when they travel to Virden to take on North Mac in a rescheduled game. Good luck, girls!
Last week was big for FFA, too. The parliamentary procedure and conduct of chapter meetings teams competed in difficult team events at Greenville. They have been practicing for months, and both teams moved on to districts. A special congrats to Levi German as first place chairman and Jack Johnson as fifth place floor member.
Members were also recognized for their STAR projects. Bond Knodle was the Section 19 STAR in ag placement winner and Kyle Reynolds was the Section 19 STAR winner in ag business.

Congratulations to both of these members.
Atticus Bertolino, Levi German, Dolan Harrison, Kyle Reynolds and Bond Knodle have all been approved by Section 19 to earn their State Degrees. Fallon Knodle was the Section 19 Greenhand STAR winner in ag science. Peyton Harrison was a finalist for Greenhand STAR Farmer and Katelyn Marley was runner-up for Greenhand STAR ag business. Congratulations to all of these members, everyone involved did an amazing job!
Wednesday, Feb. 12, will be the FFA Proficiency Awards Banquet at St. Elmo High School. Next week will be FFA week, and it's kicking off this Saturday with the annual Community Breakfast in the high school cafeteria. It will be from 7 to 10 a.m., and anyone is welcome.
The Academic Challenge Team competed in Regionals last week at Blackburn College. The team received second place. Individual students who placed were Abby O'Malley in both English and biology, Jesse Osterhous in physics, Grace DeWerff in biology and Bryce Gillock in chemistry. Congratulations!
There will be an informational meeting for students interested in doing track and field on Monday, Feb. 10.
The scholastic bowl team has a match on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Auburn, starting at 5 p.m.
It was another packed week for the Redskins! Quick reminder that this Friday will be a 2:15 p.m. dismissal. We'll catch up again next Monday!



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PANTHER PRESS • by Claudia Deren at Litchfield

Litchfield Honors Seniors Thursday



Teacher of the Month. We are thrilled to congratulate Mrs. Lamore, who has been selected as our January Teacher of the Month. As for our Students of the Month, we are proud to recognize freshman Alyvia Hester, sophomore Evelyn Hale, junior Nick Cochran and senior Lucas Jones. We are lucky to have them as part of our school community. Congratulations to all of you!
Last week, a group of

students enrolled in our high school's Community Service class had the opportunity to take a trip downtown to The Briar Rose. They spent time shooting content for a segment highlighting local businesses, which will be featured in upcoming episodes of Panther Spotlight. Be sure to check it out on the LCUSD12 YouTube channel.
Looking ahead, on Feb. 14, our seniors will attend a Career Expo during the school day. Additionally, students will have an early dismissal on this day due to Teacher Improvement Day.
Sports enthusiasts, mark your calendars! On Monday, Feb. 10, the girls basketball team will have a home game against Vandalia High School, starting at 6 p.m.

Then, on Thursday, Feb. 13, they will face off against Piasa Southwestern High School at 6 p.m. for their Senior Night. Let's make sure we show our seniors some extra support at their last home game.
Meanwhile, the boys basketball team will head to Vandalia for an away game on Feb. 11, at 5 p.m. and return home on Friday, Feb. 14, for a game against Staunton at 6 p.m. In addition, our LHS cheerleaders will be hosting their Winter Kiddie Camp and will perform during halftime of the home game on Valentine's Day.
Keep up the great work, Panthers, and have a great week.



Litchfield FFA Competes In Meat CDE

Members of the Litchfield FFA competed in the Meats Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) held at Highland High School on Wednesday, Jan. 15. At the contest, participants identified different beef and pork retail cuts, graded beef carcasses according to USDA yield grade and quality standards and placed classes of retail cuts and beef carcasses. Participating varsity members were Tyler Belusko, Olivia Sykes and Wesley White. The varsity team placed sixth overall. Greenhand member, Allison Belusko, participated and placed as the 9th overall high Greenhand individual. Pictured above, from the left, are Tyler Belusko, Allison Belusko, Wesley White and Olivia Sykes.



Litchfield Competes In Veterinary Tech

Five members of the Litchfield FFA program traveled to Staunton High School on Tuesday, Jan. 28, to participate in the IAVAT Section 15 FFA Veterinary Tech Career Development Event (CDE). The Vet Tech CDE is a competitive event that tests the participant's ability to apply veterinary science knowledge and skill in practical settings as well as identify breeds, parasites and equipment. Participants also completed a written exam, a veterinary math exam and demonstrated hands-on veterinary techniques. The team placed fifth overall. Pictured above, from the left, are John Stanley, Grason Thimsen, Tyler Belusko, Megan Lee, Olivia Sykes and Faith Ellinger.



Nokomis FFA Competes In Agronomy

The Nokomis FFA Agronomy team placed eighth overall in the state at the State Agronomy CDE held on Saturday, Dec. 14. The competition was held at the University of Illinois. Pictured above, from the left, are Nokomis FFA Agronomy team members Dylan Yeske, Bryce Gillock, Caleb Bauer and Bond Knodle.

Mouse Races Will Be Hosted On March 22

Mouse Races presented by Litchfield Sports Booster will be held on Saturday, March 22, at Gudgel Ranch Saloon. Ticket prices are \$20 per person in advance and \$25 per person at the door. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with the races beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets

may be bought in advance by contacting Nikol Leitschuh at 217-414-3260.

In addition to the mouse races, there will also be a dessert auction, a silent auction and mouse roulette. Attendees may bring their own snacks.

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TUES., FEB. 11 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Phyllis Libsack Estate auction. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Preview & pickup at 824 St. John Street, Greenville. Preview Feb. 10, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Feb. 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.

SUN., MAR. 2 - Bidding ends for online only auction of a 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with a mostly finished basement, deck and sunroom. Register/bid at mollettauctions.com. Open House Feb. 16, Noon-2 p.m. at 824 St. John Street, Greenville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

TUES., MAR. 4 - 1 p.m. CST Virtual Online Fayette County, IL Land Auction. 160 taxable acres +/-, 3 tracts. Richard P. Hudspeth Testamentary Trust, Gladys S. Hudspeth Testamentary Trust and Alliance Community Bank - Trustee. Real estate is located approx. 9 miles south of Nokomis or 16 miles northwest of Vandalia or 18 miles northeast of Hillsboro in Sections 19 & 30, T9N-R1W, Hurrian Twp., Fayette County. These tracts are all tillable with productive soils. Sullivan Auctioneers, 844-847-2161.

DCFS Scholarship Applications Open

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is currently accepting applications for the 2025 DCFS Scholarship Program. Through the program, a minimum of 53 academic scholarships will be awarded to current and former youth in care for the upcoming school year, with four awards reserved for the children of veterans and two awards presented to students pursuing degrees in social work in honor of Pamela Knight and Deidre Silas, two DCFS caseworkers who succumbed to injuries sustained in the line of duty.

Scholarship recipients receive up to five consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers if they attend an Illinois public university or community college including a monthly grant of \$1,577 to offset other expenses and a medical card. In 2024, DCFS awarded scholarships to 334 college-bound youth, the most in the agency's history.

"It is my priority as governor to ensure that all Illinois students, including youth in DCFS care, have the resources they need to pursue higher education," said Governor J.B. Pritzker. "After awarding

a record-breaking 334 DCFS scholarships to young leaders last year, I am thrilled to share that we are once again opening applications for 2025. I highly encourage all current and former youth in care to apply."

"Transitioning from high school to college can be a stressful time for any young person, and even more so for the youth in our care who have already worked so hard to overcome obstacles in their young lives," said Illinois DCFS Director Heidi E. Mueller. "These scholarships will give our youth some peace of mind knowing that they won't have to worry about how to pay for school so they can concentrate on their education and pursuing their dreams."

The DCFS Scholarship Program is available to youth who have an open DCFS case, whose cases were closed through adoption or guardianship or who aged out of care at 18 or older.

"The DCFS Scholarship has been a significant support in my journey toward higher education," said Makaya, a 2024 scholarship recipient. It has alleviated the financial burden, allowing me time

to focus more on my studies and less on how to pay for them. It has also provided me with opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities and further my education without the constant stress of financial constraints."

Scholarship recipients are selected based on their scholastic record and aptitude, community and extracurricular activities, three letters of recommendation from non-relatives and a personal essay illustrating their purpose for higher education. Scholarships are awarded to students interested in pursuing education at trade schools, community colleges or traditional colleges or universities.

Applications are available online at <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/ILDCFS2025>. Students are encouraged to submit their applications in advance of the March 31 deadline. Students or caregivers may call the DCFS Office of Education at 217-557-2689 or email dcfs.scholarship@illinois.gov with questions about the application process or for more information.



Nokomis FFA Visits Ground Zero Conference

Freshmen and sophomore Nokomis FFA members enjoyed their time at the Ground Zero Conference in Springfield. They participated in leadership and team building activities while interacting with hundreds of FFA members from around the state.

Pictured above, from the left, in the back are Illinois FFA President Trenton Payne of Olney, Hunter Casterline, Hailey Chiti, Kensey Davis, Zoe Jackson and Ayden Henry. In the front are Olivia Black, Kalasandra Cook, Alauna Patton, Ilexia Doyen and Jenna Kamer.

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Terms and Conditions: Real Estate is sold "AS IS, WHERE IS" with no guarantees or warranties, expressed, written or implied. Potential buyers may do inspections at their expense. Real Estate requires \$5000.00 earnest money by certified funds (non-refundable) plus buyer's premium of 2%; must be taken to Seven Oaks Realty, 989 E. Beaumont Ave., Greenville, IL no more than 24 hours following the acceptance of final bid price, with the balance due and possession given in approximately 30-45 days. You will also enter into a real estate purchase contract with Seven Oaks Realty for said property. Auction Company provides information from seller and county records. It is the responsibility of the buyer to verify all data. All inspection must be done prior to close of the auction at buyer's expense. This sale is not contingent on any inspections, appraisals, or financing. Only high bidder will have the opportunity to negotiate following the auction.

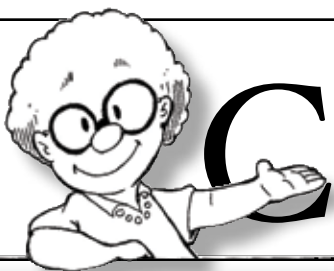
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8A - Monday, February 10, 2025



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Court

- Joshua L. Anders, 39, of Auburn, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance on Jan. 18.
- Savannah D. DeMulling, 41, of Litchfield, was charged with felony financial exploitation of the elderly over 80 over \$5,000 and felony delivery of meth, 15 to 100 grams on Jan. 17.
- Earl L. Elwood, 36, of Nokomis, was charged with felony burglary on June 22, 2024.
- Oliver W. Marit, 62, of Litchfield, was charged with felony possession of meth under five grams on Jan. 19.
- Chad McComas, 47, of Litchfield, was charged with felony financial exploitation of the elderly over 80 over \$5,000 and delivery of meth, 15 to 100 grams on Jan. 17.
- Kimberlee B. Sanders-Green, 38, of Pana, was charged with felony possession of meth, 15 to 100 grams, on Jan. 13.
- Pamela K. Smith, 47, of Witt, was charged with felony theft on Jan. 4.
- George W. Stewart, 72, of Litchfield, was charged with

- felony use of vehicle/property to distribute meth on Jan. 19.
- Trenton A. Vercoglio, 26, of Mt. Olive, was charged with two felony counts of possession of meth under five grams and driving 15-20 mph over the limit on Jan. 14.
 - William H. Baker, 34, of Nokomis, was charged with criminal damage to property under \$500 and reckless driving on Jan. 10.
 - Earl L. Elwood, 36, of Nokomis, was charged with battery making physical contact on Jan. 18.
 - Logan T. Large, 22, of Litchfield, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 20.
 - Christopher L. Meyer, 46, of Litchfield, was charged with resisting a peace officer on Jan. 17.
 - Kyra L. Petty, 35, of Nokomis, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia on Jan. 12.
 - Justin D. Sies, 27, of Litchfield, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 15.
 - David P. Cook, 33, of Nokomis, was charged with domestic battery with bodily harm on Jan. 12.

- John W. Beach, 65, of Nokomis, driving on a revoked license, one year prison, six months mandated supervised release, fine and court costs.
- Dalton W. Branham, 26, of Carlinville, residential burglary, four years probation, 88 days jailtime, drug and alcohol treatment, fine and court costs; possession of stolen firearm, dismissed.
- Stephanie D. Burdell, 50, of Hillsboro, battery making physical contact, one year supervision, fine and court costs.
- Matthew W. Butler, 43, of Litchfield, driving under the influence, two years supervision, alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
- Shad M. Cole, 49, of Wilsonville, possession of meth under five grams, dismissed.
- Kianna C. Eaton, 29, of Hillsboro, battery causing bodily harm, dismissed.
- Shawn M. Emery, 33, of Raymond, possession of a controlled substance, two years probation, drug and alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
- Candita Floyd, 47, of Farmersville, battery making physical contact, nollied.
- Mark S. Forester, 60, of Butler, possession of meth under five grams, two years probation, drug and alcohol treatment, eight days jailtime, fine and court costs.
- Meagan J. Gaynor, 49, of Nokomis, criminal trespassing to a residence, six days jailtime, fine and court costs.
- Geoffrey G. Glass, 44, of Virden, driving on a revoked license, one year conditional discharge, 30 days jailtime, fine and court costs.
- Edwin Gutierrez-Sanjuan, 24, of Menard, aggravated battery of a peace officer, three years prison, one year mandated supervised release, fine and court costs.
- Jessica L. Jones, 22, of

Court

- Hillsboro, two counts of possession of meth under five grams, dismissed.
- Ronni R. Krummel, 26, of Donnellson, possession of meth under five grams, two years prison, six months mandated supervised release, fine and court costs.
 - Payton A. Leaster, 32, of Hillsboro, criminal trespassing to a residence, one year supervision, fine and court costs; criminal damage to property under \$500, dismissed.
 - Natasha J. Lee, 37, of Moweaqua, possession of meth under five grams, 3.5 years prison, six months mandated supervised release, fine and court costs; felon possession of a firearm, dismissed.
 - Michael E. LeMarr, 54, of Farmersville, delivery of meth under five grams, eight days jailtime, two years probation, drug and alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
 - Blain L. LeMaster, 34, of Hillsboro, possession of firearm with no serial number, dismissed.
 - Ruben M. Lopez, 34, of West Chicago, driving under the influence, two years supervision, alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
 - David W. Lovelett, 34, of Litchfield, driving under the influence, 18 months supervision, alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
 - Elizabeth N. Lovsey, 29, of Gillespie, armed violence category one, dismissed; felon possession of firearm, four years prison, one year mandated supervised release, fine and court costs; possession of a controlled substance, dismissed.
 - Artur Malisev, 36, of Naperville, resisting a peace officer, six days jailtime, fine and court costs; driving under the influence, dismissed.
 - Casey A. Matthews, 43,

- of Taylor Springs, possession of a controlled substance, two years probation, four days jailtime, drug and alcohol treatment, fine and court costs; possession of meth under five grams, dismissed.
- Elida K. McClintick, 55, of Belleville, aggravated driving under the influence, five years prison, one year mandated supervised release, fine and court costs; aggravated DUI while license revoked, dismissed; driving on suspended license, dismissed.
 - Ricky D. McDonald, 38, of Litchfield, burglary, dismissed; theft with intent, \$500 to \$10,000, dismissed; two counts of aiding stolen vehicle, dismissed; possession of a controlled substance, dismissed.
 - Dakota M. Reinacher, 23, of Hillsboro, driving under the influence, two years supervision, alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
 - Michael W. Reynolds, 46, of Hillsboro, aggravated domestic battery by strangulation, dismissed.
 - Andrew H. Schmedeke, 24, of Hillsboro, reckless driving, one year probation, fine and court costs.
 - Justin D. Sies, 27, of Litchfield, retail theft under \$300, one year supervision, fine and court costs.
 - Shalita B. Simmons, 42, of Carlinville, retail theft under \$300, dismissed.
 - Bryan K. Spangler, 56, of Gillespie, aggravated fleeing police, two year probation, 120 days jailtime, drug and alcohol treatment, fine and court costs; driving under the influence, dismissed.
 - Steve L. Wilken, 51, of Peoria, driving under the influence, two years supervision, alcohol treatment, fine and court costs.
 - Lila R. Wise, 57, of Herrick, criminal trespassing to a residence, four days jailtime, fine and court costs.

Disney Trip Tips
Available At
Library Feb. 18

Litchfield Library is offering a free seminar on how to go to Disney on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. Marissa Pastrovich of It's A Small World Adventures will be on hand to present her best Disney tips and tricks, covering theme parks in Florida and California, as well as the Disney Cruise Line. The meeting is free to attend and will be held in the Lay Community Room. Anyone who has thought of a Disney vacation but isn't quite sure how to go about it is invited.

Wares Grove
Association To
Meet On Feb. 16

The Wares Grove Cemetery Association will meet for their annual meeting on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. at Wares Grove Church. The meeting is open to the public. Members of the association include President Adam Pollard, Treasurer Adam Anderson and Secretary Zach Frailey.

Fire Calls

Fire In The Oven
Hillsboro Fire Department was dispatched to an oven fire on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 3:54 p.m. at a N. Broad St. residence. Twenty-two firefighters responded and were on scene for 15 minutes.

Mutual Aid

The Shoal Creek Fire Department was dispatched at 1:58 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, to provide mutual aid rehab to Greenville Fire Department, who were on call for a structure fire. Four firefighters responded and were back in service at 2:30 a.m.

Single Vehicle Accident
The Shoal Creek Fire Department responded to a single vehicle accident on S. 6th Avenue at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6. Ten firefighters responded and returned around half an hour later.

Phone 532-3933
To Place Your Classified Ad

ASSISTANT CLERK

The City of Witt will be accepting applications for an Assistant Clerk. Applications may be picked up at Witt City Hall, 106A West Broadway. Applications will be received until **Friday, February 28th, 2025 by 1:00 p.m.**



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Call for Current Prices

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Junior High Girls Softball Coach
Starting Date: 2025-2026 school year
Salary: Extra Curricular Salary Schedule B
<https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/1100>

Send employee application (available at the District's website) and Letter of Interest to: Donald VanGiesen; Hillsboro Junior High School; 909 Rountree Street; Hillsboro, IL 62049; email to: dvangiesen@hillsboroschools.net
Due By: February 28, 2025

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**CITY OF HILLSBORO
MARINA EMPLOYMENT**

The City of Hillsboro will be accepting applications for part-time employees at the Lake Glenn Shoals Marina. Duties include the issuing of boat stickers, pumping of fuel, handling of food, customer service, and cleaning responsibilities.

Applicants must either have obtained or be willing to obtain a food handlers license and a UST Class C Operator's license to pump fuel.

Applications are available on the City's website, www.hillsboroillinois.net, or at City Hall, 447 S. Main St., Hillsboro, IL. Completed applications must be returned to Hillsboro City Hall by Friday, March 7, 2025.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 217-532-5566 ext. 2.

Agri-Women Offering Four Ag Scholarships

This year, the Illinois Agri-Women (IAW) organization is offering four scholarships for females studying agriculture. The Illinois Agri-Women (IAW) organization supports the agriculture industry, works for legislation to support and preserve family farms, communicates with other agriculture organizations and strives to educate the public and promote agricultural awareness.

One \$1,500 IAW Helen Henert Agriculture Education scholarship will be offered to a student who is an agriculture education major who will be finishing their undergraduate degree at an Illinois school in the next year.

Three \$1,000 WCFA Agent of Change scholarships are

offered to students who have attended at least one Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference (WCFA). Eligible applicants include past WCFA attendees and students who participated in the 2021 WCFA Online Curriculum. One scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior; one will be awarded to a current college student and one scholarship will be awarded to a current graduate student.

Applications can be submitted online. The deadline for submissions of completed applications is Monday, March 31. To access applications or find out more information about scholarships, visit Scholarships WCFA (womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com) or www.illinoisagriwomen.org.

Highland Arts Hosting Youth Expo On April 27

The Highland Arts Council is seeking young artists to participate in Youth Arts Expo on Sunday, April 27, at the Highland Masonic Lodge. Visual artists, musicians, vocalists, actors and writers in grades 6-12 are encouraged to apply to be a part of the event. All applicants will be featured and it is free to participate and attend. Anyone interested

should contact Shannon at dramamamamall3@gmail.com. More information and the registration form can be found at the Highland Arts Council website at <https://www.highlandartscouncil.org>. The Arts in Action: Youth Arts Exposition will give young artists an opportunity to showcase their emerging talents with the public from 1 to 3 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF NANCY J. FLOWERS, DECEASED.
NO. 2024-PR-28 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of NANCY J. FLOWERS of the city of Hillsboro, Illinois 62049. Letters of Office were issued on September 5, 2024, to Tracy Mizera at 104 Jane's Way, P.O. Box 153, Raymond, IL 62560, and Megan Kindernay at 137 Pinnacle Point, Hillsboro, IL 62049.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of this Court, First Floor, Montgomery County Courthouse, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049, or with the estate's

personal representative, or both, on or before six months before this date, October 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate's personal representative and to the attorneys for such representative within ten (10) days after filing. Claims not filed on or before six months before this date, October 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., shall be barred.

Dated this September 30, 2024.

Circuit Clerk
of Montgomery County
BY: Daniel T. Robbins,

Jarred J. Rahar
Reg. No.: 6305013
1011 N. Webster Street
P.O. Box 445
Taylorville, IL 62568
Phone: (217) 824-8883
Fax: (217) 824-8884
rahar@ctitech.com

77-3tM

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Concerning A Proposed Solar Farm Project In Unincorporated MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that a public hearing will be held by the County of Montgomery at the Historic Courthouse, Located at #1 Courthouse Square in Hillsboro, Illinois on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM. The public hearing will be held in the County Board Room on the second floor. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed solar project application for the construction and operation of Montgomery Springs Solar (the "Project"), an approximately 5 megawatt alternating current (MWac) ground-mounted solar facility on private land, spanning two parcels in Montgomery County, Illinois. The Applicant is the owner of the proposed Montgomery Springs Solar Project. The Project will be located across two parcels, 29-acre (PRN# 16-24-176-004) and 1-acre (PRN# 16-24-127-007) in Taylor Springs that is owned by Dorothy Race, who has leased the Property to the Applicant. Located just east of the Village of Taylor Springs along IL Route 127, the Property is currently in agriculture production and is bordered on three sides by parcels currently used for agriculture. A village community building lies to the NW of the project area. The application will be available for review in room 202 of the Historic Courthouse located at #1 Courthouse Square Hillsboro, Illinois. In said public hearing, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to present both written and oral comments and testimony regarding the Solar Farm Application.

85-2tM

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FIRST NATIONAL BANK of NOKOMIS, a banking corporation, Plaintiff,

v.
CODY R. BELL, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

Defendants.

2025FC3
NOTICE OF PENDENCY IN ACTION

NOTICE is hereby given to Cody R. Bell, Unknown Owners, and Non-Record Claimants of real estate described in the Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief filed in the above-entitled case on January 17, 2025, that they are named Defendants in above-entitled case, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said Court, that the day on or after which a default may be entered against said Defendants is March 5, 2025 and that the following information applies to the said foreclosure proceeding:

- The names of all Plaintiffs and the case number are identified above.
- The Court in which said action was brought is identified above.
- The names of the title holders of record are:

Cody R. Bell
(iv) A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

Lots 5 and 6 in Block 1 in North School Addition to the City of Nokomis, situated in Montgomery County, Illinois.

(PIN 08-15-454-025)
(v) A common address or description of the real estate is as follows:

419 Monroe Street
Nokomis, IL 62075

(vi) An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

Name of mortgagor:
Cody R. Bell
Name of Mortgagee:
First National Bank of Nokomis
Date of Mortgage:
August 26, 2017
Date of Recording:
August 31, 2017
County where recorded:
Montgomery County, Illinois
/s/ Daniel T. Robbins
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BETH E. BROTHERTON
Reg. No.: 6239045
BEAVERS, CALVERT & BROTHERTON
Attorneys for Plaintiff
221 West Main Cross
P.O. Box 320
Taylorville, Illinois 62568
Phone: (217) 824-3341
Fax: (217) 824-3842

79-3tM

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE: OWNERSHIP OF 1984 PATRIOT MOBILE HOME, V.I.N. #316AB
BRYAN DAVID MAULDING, TRICIA ELAINE MAULDING, As joint tenants with right of survivorship, Petitioners,

No. 2025-MR-000006
AFFIDAVIT FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The undersigned certifies the following:

- This Affidavit is made pursuant to the provisions of 735 ILCS 5/2-206 and 15-1502(c), for the purpose of obtaining jurisdiction over any UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS of the personal property described in the complaint filed herein.
- Said unknown owners and nonrecord claimants cannot be found on diligent inquiry so that process cannot be served upon them.
- The existence, names, presence and last places of residence of UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, are unknown to the plaintiffs.
- This Affidavit is made upon information and belief.
- The clerk of this Court is requested to publish a Notice of Pen-

dency of Action in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/2-207 and 15-1502(c)(2) and to mail copies of such Notice in accordance with Sec. 2-206.

Bryan David Maulding
Tricia Elaine Maulding

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN RE: OWNERSHIP OF 1984 PATRIOT MOBILE HOME, V.I.N. #316AB
BRYAN DAVID MAULDING, TRICIA ELAINE MAULDING, As joint tenants with right of survivorship, Petitioners,

No. 2025-MR-000006
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR JUDGEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above entitled cause was filed in the above court on the 4th day of February, 2025 for Petition for Judgement of Ownership and is now pending in said Court with a court date of March 18, 2025 at 9 a.m., and that the property affected by said cause is described as follows:

1. A 1984 Patriot Mobile Home, V.I.N. #316AB situated in the City of Litchfield, Montgomery County at 835 S. Montgomery Avenue.

Daniel T. Robbins
Montgomery County
Circuit Clerk
79-3tM

Make Someone's Day

Place your congratulatory ad by calling The Journal-News at 217-532-3933 or emailing us at advertisejN@consolidated.net

e-mail your ad to
advertisejn@consolidated.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Informal Conference Hillsboro Energy, LLC Deer Run Mine

Permit No. 424 Rev No. 1

Pursuant to 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1773.13(c) promulgated under the Surface Coal Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act, the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division hereby gives notice that an informal conference will be conducted by the Department on permit revision application No. 1 to permit No. 424 which was submitted by Hillsboro Energy LLC for the Deer Run Mine. The informal conference is scheduled for 5:30 P.M. on Thursday February 27, 2025, at the Montgomery County Historic Courthouse, No. 1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL in the 2nd floor County Board Room.

Daniel W. Barkley, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Mines and Minerals
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
(217) 782-4970

79-1t

— SEEKING BIDS —

Calvary Cemetery, Nokomis is seeking bids for mowing. The mowing consists of all burial sections of the cemetery and the surrounding area. All areas shall be mowed, trimmed and remove grass clippings from grave markers and structures.

Mowing shall be done on an as needed basis. Usually once a week during normal conditions, less during droughts. Any questions call 217-502-4875 and leave message.

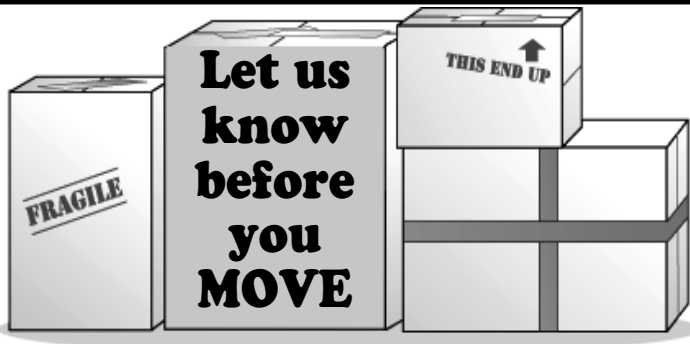
Bids must be received by March 1, 2025.

The Calvary Cemetery Association reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Submit bids to: **Calvary Cemetery, 19396 N. 21st Ave., Nokomis, IL 62075.**

INVITATION TO BID

Hillsboro Community Unit School district #3 will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of any combination of 3 or 4 total 77 passenger diesel or gasoline engine buses and or 83 passenger diesel or gasoline engine buses. Bid information is available at the Bus Garage, 522 East Tremont Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049 or at the Unit Office, 1311 Vandalia Road, IL 62049.

Submit bids to the Unit Office, 1311 Vandalia Road, Hillsboro, IL 62049 in a sealed envelope plainly marked on the outside envelope: **Bus Bid - Do Not Open Prior to 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 24, 2025.** Faxed bids will not be accepted. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXHIBIT B
NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF WITT, IL AND INVITATION TO BID THEREON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Witt, Montgomery County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for purchase, under the successful bid, of the City's fee simple interest in the following real property:

Lots Four (4), Five (5), and Six (6) in Block Seven (7) Hammonds Addition to Town of Witt, situated in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois.
P.I.N.: 13-06-205-001
Property Address: 521 N. 3rd Street Witt, IL 62094

Said real property is currently vacant and unimproved.

Sealed bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 106A West Broadway, P.O. Box 374, Witt, Montgomery County, Illinois during normal business hours until 12:00 Noon on Monday, April 21, 2025. Said proposals shall be addressed to the City of Witt, Attention: City Clerk, 106A West Broadway, P.O. Box 374, Witt, Illinois, and shall bear the legend: "PROPOSAL - SALE OF UNIM-

PROVED REAL ESTATE" and the name and address of the bidder. **All bids received after 12:00 Noon on April 21, 2025 will be rejected.**

The aforementioned real property and any structure(s) thereon are being sold "AS IS" without any warranties or representations. The sale is a cash only sale.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Witt City Council at 7:00 p.m. on April 22, 2025, at City Hall, located at 106A West Broadway, Witt, Illinois. A contract may be awarded to the highest bidder or any other bid found to be in the best interest of the City of Witt. The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Copies of the required sales contract and any bidding documents may be obtained in the office of the City Clerk. Please call (217) 594-2814 with any questions.

Date: February 5, 2025.

Timothy Taylor,
Mayor
City of Witt, Illinois
79-3tM



Hillsboro's Mark Mattson looks to get a pass past the pressure of the Greenville defense during the Toppers' South Central Conference game in Bond County on Friday, Feb. 7. The Greenville defense was only part of the problem for the Toppers as Comet senior Nolan Tabor hit seven threes and scored 38 points in a 69-47 win. *Bill Walker/Walker Photography*

Double OT Victory Keeps 'Skins Unbeaten At Home

The Nokomis Lady Redskins finished off a perfect 12-0 home record for this season on Thursday, Feb. 6, but the Bobcats from Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City (CHBC) didn't make it easy for the home team on senior night.

After four eight-minute quarters and two four-minute overtime periods, Nokomis finally escaped with a 61-54 victory over the Bobcats, improving their record to 24-5 on the season.

Prior to the game the Lady Redskins honored its four seniors, Grace DeWerff, Becca Hill, Natalie Brownback and Lizzy Hill. In their four years, the Nokomis basketball program has won 95 games (and counting), the most of any class since the class of 2002 saw 102 wins in their four years.

Both DeWerff and Becca Hill hit threes in the first quarter, but those were the only two threes of the game for the Redskins, matching a season low. CHBC also had

a pair of threes in the first and hit eight in the game, something that kept them in the contest against the Lady Redskins.

Nokomis narrowly outscored the Bobcats 10-8 in the first quarter, with Lizzy Hill adding two points, along with free throws by Camryn Engelman and Hannah Tarter. After being held scoreless in the first half, Natalie Brownback, Kinley Stolte and Alivia Sabol all found the bottom of the net in the second quarter, combining for seven of Nokomis' 11 points. Macee Rodman and Haley Doty both hit their second threes of the game for CHBC, accounting for half of the Bobcats' points in the second quarter as they shaved a point off the Nokomis lead and trailed by just one, 21-20, at halftime.

The second half would be just as close as Nokomis fed Stolte in the third quarter for six more points and held a 33-32 lead going into the fourth.

Continued on 12A

Hillsboro Girls Dial Up SCC Win Over Vandalia

The Hillsboro girls basketball team hit eight threes in their visit to Vandalia on Thursday, Feb. 6, as the Lady Hiltoppers defeated the Vandals 71-44 for their fifth South Central Conference win of the season.

Half of Hillsboro's threes came in the first quarter, with Ella Greenwood dropping in two, while Amya Greenwood and Delaney Adams followed with one trey apiece. The three-point barrage canceled out Vandalia's first quarter production as the Toppers led 22-12 after one.

Hillsboro outscored Vandalia again in the second, with Adams hitting her second three and scoring seven of her team's 15 points. Madison Lupton, who had seven points for Vandalia in the first, was held to three in the second quarter and the Vandals trailed 37-20 at halftime.

Lupton got back on track in the third, but mostly from the free-throw line. The Vandal senior hit her third three of the game, but also went 4-for-6 from the charity stripe to finish the quarter, and the game, with 17 points.

Vandalia also got 13 points from Ollie Whitehead and 12 from Isabella Walk for the game, but only received two points off the bench.

Hillsboro picked up 21 points off the bench in the game, 18 of which came in the second half as the Toppers stretched out their lead. Karsyn Greenwood had a big quarter in the third, netting seven of Hillsboro's 17 points, then added five more in the fourth as the Toppers finished off the 27-point win.

Karsyn Greenwood was one of four players, and one of three Greenwoods, in double figures as the sophomore finished tied for the team-

lead with 13 points. Amya Greenwood matched her with 13 points, while Delaney Adams had 12 and Ella Greenwood finished with ten. Kearstynn Davis and Tatum Christian added in nine and six points, followed by Kamryn Langston with four and Peyton Christian and Sadie Houchlei with two apiece.

Hillsboro improved to 18-9 on the season and 5-2 in the South Central Conference, while Vandalia fell to 15-11 and 2-4 in the SCC. Hillsboro wraps up the regular season this week against Greenville at home for senior night on Feb. 10, followed by a road trip to Carlenville on Feb. 13.

The season finale could be a regional championship preview as the Toppers and Cavies are the top two seeds at the Carlenville Regional. Carlenville, the top seed in sub-sectional A of the Waverly Sectional, will play the winner of #10 North Mac and #7 Auburn in their regional opener on Feb. 17. The #4 Hiltoppers will also play on Feb. 17, as they face off against the winner of the regional quarterfinal between #12 Southwestern and #6 Pawnee. The regional championship at Carlenville is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20.

Feb. 6 at Vandalia

Hillsboro	22 15 17 17	--- 71
Vandalia	12 8 13 11	--- 44

Hillsboro (71) - Karsyn Greenwood 13, Amya Greenwood 13, Delaney Adams 12, Ella Greenwood 10, Kearstynn Davis 9, Tatum Christian 6, Kamryn Langston 4, Peyton Christian 2, Sadie Houchlei 2. **Totals:** 26 11-14 71.

Vandalia (44) - Madison Lupton 17, Ollie Whitehead 13, Isabella Walk 12, Bailey Denning 2. **Totals:** 14 12-20 44.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 8 (E. Greenwood 3, K. Greenwood 2, Adams 2, A. Greenwood 1); Vandalia 4 (Lupton 3, Walk 1).

Records: Hillsboro (18-9, 5-2); Vandalia (15-11, 2-4).

Tabor's 38 Leads Comets Past Hiltoppers

by Ron Deabenderfer

When the Greenville Comets defeated the Hillsboro Hiltoppers 60-56 in mid-January in Litchfield's gym, 6'3" Comet senior Nolan Tabor wasn't available because of illness; when the teams met on the Comets' home floor Friday, Feb. 7, Tabor made his presence felt. He had seven threes (five in the first half), seven field goals inside the arc, and was three of three from the free throw line as he tallied 38 points.

Cale Ackerman, the 6'4" senior who had 17 the first time the teams met, was also in double figures Friday night with 13; the two scorers plus 6'3" senior Ben Hutchinson, who had the defensive responsibility of stopping Topper Nathan Matoush at the Toppers' offensive end of the court, made rebounding and interior scoring difficult for the visitors.

Matoush scored 19 for

the Toppers despite the defensive attention he drew. Coming off the bench (and a bout of influenza), junior guard Tony White added 10 for Hillsboro to be the only other Topper in double figures.

Adding to the Topper problems were turnovers (seven in the first quarter when Tabor alone almost had as many points [9] as Hillsboro had [10] and personal fouls [20]); point guard Cody Greenwood was whistled for two fouls early, which limited his playing time the rest of the game; he and 6' forward Mark Mattson both fouled out while Matoush (4) and reserve Ryder Dettman (4) were close to the same unwelcomed fate.

Hillsboro fell behind 15-6 in the fatal first five minutes of the game. An Izac Zerrusen (his first varsity start) field goal helped, but Hillsboro still trailed 16-10 at the quarter break.

Tabor alone had 10 points in the second quarter to match Hillsboro's total while Ackerman added four to help the Comets to their 14 point halftime lead – too much for the Toppers to overcome on the Comet floor, especially when Tabor matched his first half total of 19 in the second half.

The loss dropped the Toppers to a 3-2 South Central Conference record with North Mac (tomorrow, Feb. 11), Pana, Vandalia, and Staunton still on the conference schedule.

The junior varsity game resembled the varsity game in several ways. The Comets won, 57-51, partially because of proficiency behind the arc; they made 14 treys, including seven by 5'11" junior Addyn Grant and five by 5'10" freshman Christian Swalley. The Toppers had two, one each by Noah Andrews and freshman Noah Satterlee, who had to leave the game with an

ankle injury before the first half ended.

By contrast, the Comets had only 5 two-point field goals while Hillsboro had 20. The loss dropped Hillsboro's J.V. record to 2-7. The freshmen from the 'Boro did win their contest that started the evening's action.

Feb. 7 at Greenville

Hillsboro	10 10 14 13	--- 47
Greenville	16 18 20 15	--- 69

Hillsboro (47) - Nathan Matoush 19, Tony White 10, Mark Mattson 8, Jackson Tuetken 7, Izac Zerrusen 2, Ryder Dettman 1.

Greenville (69) - Nolan Tabor 38, Cale Ackerman 13, Gus Olson 7, Ben Hutchinson 4, Gavin Doll 3, Rowdy Sussenbach 2, CJ Jackson 2.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 5 (White 2, Tuetken 1, Matoush 1, Mattson 1); Greenville 8 (Tabor 7, Olson 1).

Records: Hillsboro (10-14, 3-2); Greenville (16-10, 3-2).

Junior Varsity

Hillsboro JV	18 11 12 10	--- 51
Greenville JV	20 8 19 10	--- 57

Hillsboro JV (51) - Eli Zaidi 20, Elijah Patton 10, Noah Satterlee 5, Amomy Anderson 5, Ethan Hamby 4, Noah Andrews 3, Landen Lipe 2, Jalen Stewart 2.

Purple Panthers Get Back-To-Back Wins

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, Simmons Gym had a twin bill set as the Litchfield boys and girls basketball teams square off on the hardwood against their neighbors from Mt. Olive.

The boys would get the nightcap, as Litchfield looked to get the sweep of the Wildcats, with the Lady Panthers taking down their counterparts in the opener. The Litchfield boys didn't take it easy on their allies as they opened the contest with a 17-1 lead and cruised to a 68-37 victory.

The Mt. Olive and Litchfield school districts have co-op agreements in several sports at the middle school and high school levels, which has created some lasting friendships between students at the two schools.

With those friendships set to the side, Litchfield put the throttle down as soon as the ball game tipped off. The Panthers piled on 17 points in the opening quarter, as both Harrison Thomas and Brayden Ronco connected on six points apiece.

As strong as Litchfield's offense was, their defense might have been a step better as they held the Wildcats to only one point in the opening eight minutes.

The Purple Panthers picked up five steals and forced the Wildcats to turn the ball over five other times for ten turnovers in the quarter. Those turnovers allowed Litchfield to put ten of their 17 points on the board.

The second frame wasn't much different for either team as Litchfield extended their lead by eight points and added 24 more points to their first half total. Ronco would continue to have the hot hand as he added eight more points to up his total to 14 points in the first half.

After not allowing a field goal in the opening quarter, Litchfield's defense would allow the Wildcats to add 16 points to their total. Most of the success in the quarter came off Mt. Olive's shot selections as they shot 56% from the field in the quarter. Litchfield continued to be the better team, though, as the Purple Panthers held a 41-17 lead at the half.

In games with such a dominating performance, it can be hard to keep the momentum or focus, especially after the intermission.

The Purple Panthers found that low that occurs in these types of games in the third frame as Mt. Olive outscored them 11-10 in the quarter.

The Purple Panthers struggled to find the bottom of the net as they shot 31% in the quarter after shooting 47% in the first half. They also committed four turnovers, their most of any tour in the contest. Even with the setback, Litchfield's lead was too large for the miscues to make an impact as they held a 23-point lead after three quarters of action.

The Purple Panthers finally got back on track in the final frame. With help from Tucker Maguire (two points) and Landon Wernsing (five points), Litchfield was able to add 17 points to their total in the fourth quarter. The defense would once again hold Mt. Olive to under ten points after allowing 16 and 11 in the middle quarters.

The dominating performance by the Purple Panthers secured a 68-37 victory and ended a three-game skid for Litchfield, who improved to 11-15 overall. The loss for the Wildcats was their eighth in their last nine games as they fell to 5-17.

Litchfield put three players in double digits as Brayden Ronco led Litchfield with 16 points, followed by Harrison Thomas with 13 and Ethan Saathoff with 11. Mt. Olive put eight Wildcats in the scoring column, led by Briley Viviano with 11 points.

Pana

Five times this season the Litchfield boys basketball team has won back-to-back games. Number five came Friday night, Feb. 7, as the Purple Panthers knocked off Pana 62-50 for their 12th win this season. The win would also keep Litchfield in the hunt for the South Central Crown.

For the second straight game, Litchfield built a commanding lead early in the contest, jumping out to a 12-4 lead in the first quarter. Harrison Thomas was one of the main reasons Litchfield found success in the opening quarter as he continued the tear he has been on for the last six games.

Thomas has reached double digits in each of those

six games, scoring 76 of his 153 points this season in the span. Friday night yielded a season-high 17 points, with six of those coming in the opening quarter.

While Thomas was raising havoc, Pana did not allow Litchfield to pull away in the opening quarter. Trailing by eight, Pana put together a 5-2 run to end the quarter and reduce the Litchfield lead to 14-9.

In the second frame, Pana still did not have an answer for closing down the big guy in the paint as Thomas continued to dominate. The 6'4" 290-pound senior added seven more points to his total as he helped the Purple Panthers extend their lead.

Litchfield was able to get that lead to double digits early in the quarter as they jumped out to an 8-3 run to make it 22-12. That margin would be the biggest of the quarter for Litchfield, as Pana continued to be a pest and stick around.

These types of situations can be scary for the favorite, as they continue to try in vain to keep the underdog down.

After finding themselves down by ten, Pana closed out the half by decreasing that lead to seven points before the half came to close as Litchfield held a 32-25 lead entering the locker room. Thomas' 13 first half points led the Purple Panthers; Brayden Ronco would follow with ten points.

If you are a fan of offense, the third quarter was right up your alley as the two teams combined for 33 points in the quarter. If you are also a fan of the three-point shot, this was your quarter.

The Purple Panthers put up six three-point attempts in this quarter and connected on five. Martavious Jones and Sam Schwab had the hot hand behind the arc for the Purple Panthers in the quarter as both players put down two threes, while Brayden Ronco connected on his third three-point basket of the contest.

The 15 points from behind the arc allowed Litchfield to keep Pana from overcoming the Litchfield lead. The successful attempts accounted for all of the scoring for the Purple Panthers, with the exception of a lone two-pointer from Harrison Thomas.

Once again, though, Pana found ways to get back up

from their opponents' blow. Pana added 16 points in the quarter, only allowing Litchfield to increase their lead by one, as the Purple Panthers held a 49-41 lead after three.

Even though Pana continued to battle in the final frame, the Purple Panthers found a way to continue to build on their lead. Litchfield put five Purple Panthers in the scoring column in the fourth, with Ethan Saathoff leading the way with four points in the quarter. The efforts in the quarter saw them outscore Pana 13-9 to close out the 62-50 victory.

Litchfield had two Purple Panthers in double digits as Harrison Thomas led the way with 17 points, while Brayden Ronco finished with 16. Ronco also led the way behind the arc as he connected on four of the nine Purple Panther treys.

While Litchfield found success behind the arc, Pana could not buy a bucket three-point land as they missed 24 three-point attempts, ending the contest shooting 20%.

Now 4-1 in the SCC, Litchfield will look to win their third straight contest, a first for this the year, when they travel to Vandalia on Tuesday, Feb. 11, before returning home against the conference front runner Staunton on Friday, Feb. 14.

Feb. 5 at Litchfield

Mt. Olive	1 16 11 9	--- 37
Litchfield	17 24 10 17	--- 68

Mt. Olive (37) - Briley Viviano 11, David Schoen 6, Dexter Frizzo 5, Matthew Bywater 5, Jake Frizzo 3, Sean Ussery 3, Gavin Kernbeck 2, Max Grejtak 2. **Totals:** 14 6-8 37.

Litchfield (68) - Brayden Ronco 16, Harrison Thomas 13, Ethan Saathoff 11, Nathan Schaake 9, Martavious Jones 8, Landon Wernsing 5, Tucker Maguire 2, Max Leitschuh 2, Sam Schwab 2. **Totals:** 28 8-17 68.

Three-point field goals: Mt. Olive 3 (Viviano 1, J. Frizzo 1, Bywater 1); Litchfield 3 (Ronco 2, E. Saathoff 1).

Records: Litchfield (11-15); Mt. Olive (5-17).

Feb. 7 at Litchfield

Pana	9 16 16 9	--- 50
Litchfield	14 18 17 13	--- 62

Pana (50) - Madyx Angel 17, Cash Lynch 14, Sam Sims 11, Carson Peters 5, Brayden Carlson 2, Isaiah Harbert 1. **Totals:** 20 4-7 50.

Litchfield (62) - Harrison Thomas 17, Brayden Ronco 16, Martavious Jones 8, Ethan Saathoff 7, Nathan Schaake 6, Sam Schwab 6, Brody Dykema 2. **Totals:** 24 5-13 62.

Three-point field goals: Pana 6 (Lynch 4, Sims 1, Angel 1); Litchfield 9 (Ronco 4, Jones 2, Schwab 2, Saathoff 1).

Records: Litchfield (12-15, 4-1); Pana (8-17, 2-3).

Saints Stay Red Hot With Win Over Redskins

The Calvary boys basketball team picked up their sixth MSM Conference victory of the season on Friday, Feb. 7, as they defeated Nokomis 80-62 on the Redskins' home court.

The Saints dropped 22 points on the Redskins in each of the first two quarters as they led 22-14 after one and 22-9 after two. Joshua Long had seven points in both frames to lead Calvary with 14 points, but the Saints also got 13 from Luke Blackford and 11 from Reese Huffman in the first half. Kannon Jonas and Konnor Reynolds led the Redskins in the first two quarters, with Jonas scoring 12, including a pair of three-pointers, while Reynolds added six.

Jonas continued to have success from deep as he hit

two more threes in the third quarter, plus one in the fourth. The sophomore guard scored nine points in the third, but got some help from Reynolds and Ian Keller, who had four points each.

Nokomis outscored the Saints 22-18 in the third, but still trailed 62-45 going into the fourth.

While Jonas finished off his career-best scoring total with 24 for the Redskins, Luke Blackford was matching him point for point on the other end. The 6'4" junior scored 25 points to lead all scorers, with seven coming in an 18-17 fourth quarter that finished off Calvary's 18-point win.

If it was just Blackford, that would be difficult enough to deal with, but the Saints also had weapons in Joshua

Long (18 points), Josiah Reynolds (17 points) and Reese Huffman (14 points). Antione Hunter finished out the scoring for Calvary with six points as the starting five accounted for all 80 points the team scored.

In addition to Jonas, Nokomis picked up ten points from Konnor Reynolds, nine from Drake Taylor, eight from Ian Keller, seven from Carter Wexstten and four from Atticus Bertolino. Keller also had nine assists in the loss, which moved Nokomis to 12-15 overall and 3-3 in the MSM Conference.

While the loss was difficult, the Redskins are in good company as all of the Saints' MSM Conference wins have been by double digits. Their lone loss was to Tri-City on

Dec. 17, a 63-62 affair when the Tornadoes were missing one of their starters.

MSM Conference play continues for both teams next week with Nokomis playing at Pawnee on Feb. 11, before traveling to Bunker Hill on Feb. 13 and Tri-City on Feb. 18 to end the regular season.

Feb. 7 at Nokomis

Calvary	22 22 18	--- 80
Nokomis	14 9 12 17	--- 62

Calvary (80) - Luke Blackford 25, Joshua Long 18, Josiah Reynolds 17, Reese Huffman 14, Antione Hunter 6. **Totals:** 30 10-13 80.

Nokomis (62) - Kannon Jonas 24, Konnor Reynolds 10, Drake Taylor 9, Ian Keller 8, Carter Wexstten 7, Atticus Bertolino 4. **Totals:** 23 10-18 62.

Three-point field goals: Calvary 10 (Huffman 4, Blackford 2, Reynolds 2, Long 2); Nokomis 6 (Jonas 5, Keller 1).

Records: Nokomis (12-15, 3-3); Calvary (18-8, 6-1).

Panthers Put Five In Top Three

Five Litchfield High School wrestlers punched their tickets to sectionals on Saturday, Feb. 8, with another scheduled to make the trip as an alternate after placing fourth at the IHSA Class 1A Litchfield Regional.

With a combined record of 202 wins and 64 losses this season, Braxton Kieffer, Vincent Moore, Tristan Staggs, Jayden Ellinger, Devin Hansel and Clayton Hauter have been among the Panthers' most consistent winners all season long and showed that again at the regional on Saturday.

Kieffer picked up his second straight regional, adding a 157-pound medal to his 144-pound one from his sophomore year. After beating Colby Madri of Auburn by fall in 36 seconds, Kieffer knocked off Jovonis Lunford of Sacred Heart-Griffin in the semifinals in a 10-1 major decision victory.

The regional championship match was a rematch of the semifinals of last weekend's Rich Lovellette Invitational, with a similar result. In that match, Kieffer defeated Vandalia's Parker Ray at the 5:37 mark, but the Litchfield junior needed a little less time on Saturday as he scored the pin with 13 seconds left in the second period.

The Litchfield/Vandalia match-up in the finals was a fairly common one as Vincent Moore and Tristan Staggs also drew Vandals in their championship matches.

Moore pinned Auburn's Noah Duncan and Shelbyville's Colin Wells

in his first two matches at 120 pounds in a total of one minute and 58 seconds, but ran into one of Vandalia's buzzsaws in the finals, defending 113-pound state champion Preston Waughtel, who transferred to Vandalia with his brother, two-time state champ and University of Wisconsin recruit Tyson Waughtel. Moore took Waughtel to the third round, but the Vandalia sophomore won the match by technical fall 19-4 at the 4:29 mark.

Tristan Staggs also finished second to a Vandal as Kaden Tidwell (fourth at state in 2024) secured the pin six seconds before the end of the first round. Staggs made it to the championship by beating Kyle Fay of Auburn by fall in 27 seconds and Mt. Zion's Keller Stocks in a 4-3 decision. Saturday's semifinal was the third time Staggs and Stocks had wrestled this season, with Stocks winning by fall with three seconds to go in the first period at the PORTA Invite, while Staggs won 12-9 at the dual meet in Hillsboro.

Overall, Vandalia had wrestlers make the finals in 13 of the 14 weight classes, with ten regional champions and three runners-up. They'd win the team title by 41.5 points over Mt. Zion with 295.5 points.

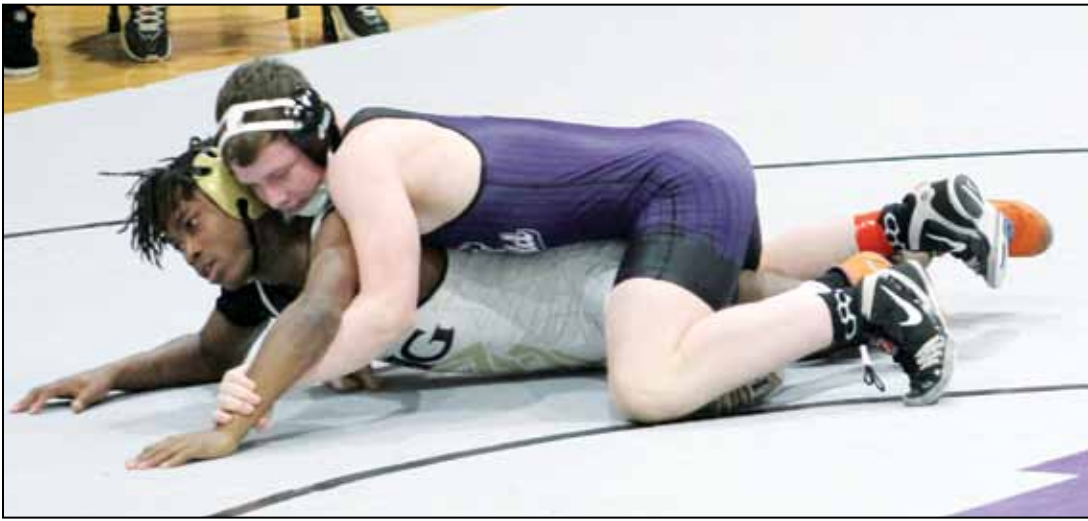
While Kieffer, Moore and Staggs knew their sectional spots were secure before starting their final matches at regionals, Ellinger, Hansel and Hauter had the pressure of competing for third, where it's "win and you're in."

Ellinger defeated Tucker

Kull of Shelbyville for his third pin of the day, taking out the Rams' 175-pounder 31 seconds into the third period to capture third. Ellinger's other two wins were against William Thomson of Sacred Heart-Griffin and Seth Hubbard of Hillsboro, with a loss to eventual runner-up Carson Thornton of Mt. Zion sandwiched in between.

Hansel's path was a little different at 285 pounds as he had to battle back in the consolation bracket after losing to eventual regional champion Dominic Swyers by major decision 14-4 in his opening match. Despite wrestling a class-up, Hansel knocked off three straight heavyweights, beating Austin Brown of Pittsfield by fall in 73 seconds, outpointing Evan Ashmore of Mt. Zion 6-1 and pinning Mason Currie of Hillsboro in 72 seconds to capture third. Hansel and Ashmore had wrestled earlier in the year, with Ashmore pinning the Litchfield senior.

Hauter will serve as an alternate at the sectional after finishing fourth at 144 pounds. The day was a rollercoaster for the Litchfield senior, who scored wins over Shelbyville's Aiden Owens by fall and Mt. Zion's Drayden Smith in a 10-6 decision to pass the 100-win mark for his career. The only wrestler to beat Hauter was Ronald LaPlante, who he had wrestled twice before this year, winning 23-10 on Dec. 7, and losing 4-3 at the Lovellette Invite. Rounds three and four were equally as close as the bout at Li-



Litchfield's Braxton Kieffer works to get position on Jovonis Lunford of Sacred Heart-Griffin during their semifinal match at the IHSA Class 1A Litchfield Regional on Saturday, Feb. 8. Kieffer went on to win the match 10-1, then scored a pin against Parker Ray of Vandalia to claim his second straight regional title.

Photo courtesy of Julie Law

tchfield's home tournament as LaPlante eeked out a 7-4 victory in the quarterfinals and a 7-6 victory in the third place match.

In addition to the sectional qualifiers, Carter Sperry, Creed Robinson, Nicholas Adam, Draven Jones and Samuel Schoeneweis also competed in the regional. Sperry and Adam both went 1-2 at the regional, while Robinson picked up two wins before bowing out in the consolation semifinal round at 132 pounds.

Sectionals will be held on Feb. 14-15 at Carterville High School, about two and a half hours south of Litchfield, near Carbondale. Those who finish in the top four at the Carterville Sectional will advance to the IHSA Class 1A State Finals in Champaign on Feb. 20-22.

Feb. 8 at Litchfield

Litchfield Regional
Team Results: 1. Vandalia 295.5; 2. Mt. Zion 154; 3. Shelbyville 127.5;

4. Litchfield 117; 5. Auburn 96.5; 6. Hillsboro 75; 7. Pittsfield 71.5; 8. Sacred Heart-Griffin 56; 9. Carlinville 18; 10. Illinois United 15; 11. North Mac 7.

Litchfield Wrestling

120: Vincent Moore (39-7) - 2nd - def. Noah Duncan (Auburn) by fall at 0:40; def. Colin Wells (Shelbyville) by fall at 1:18; lost to Preston Waughtel (Vandalia) by tech fall 19-4 at 4:29

126: Carter Sperry (10-28) - lost to Briar Kuhl (Hillsboro) by fall at 1:01; def. Gary Fitzjarrell (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 1:44; lost to Johnathan Kirkbride (Shelbyville) by fall at 1:50

132: Creed Robinson (9-25) - def. Noah Cabrera (North Mac) by fall at 0:28; lost to Brody Matthews (Vandalia) by fall at 1:06; def. Kurtis Killam (Carlinville) by fall at 0:31; lost to Drayven Hamm (Auburn) by tech fall 15-0 at 1:01

144: Clayton Hauter (34-13) - 4th - lost to Ronald LaPlante (Carlinville) by dec. 7-4; def. Aiden Owens (Shelbyville) by fall at 1:18; def. Drayden Smith (Mt. Zion) by dec. 10-6; lost to Ronald LaPlante (Carlinville) by dec. 7-6

150: Nicholas Adam (17-17) - lost to Ridge Regan (Carlinville) by fall at 1:35; def. Colton Copelin (North Mac) by fall at 1:39; lost

to Ryan Crowley (Mt. Zion) by fall at 3:23

157: Braxton Kieffer (32-10) - 1st - Colby Madri (Auburn) by fall at 0:36; def. Jovonis Lunford (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by maj. dec. 10-1; def. Parker Ray (Vandalia) by fall at 3:47

165: Draven Jones (3-30) - lost to Kaden Long (Hillsboro) by fall at 1:57; lost to Waylon White (Pittsfield) by fall at 1:21

175: Jayden Ellinger (35-11) - 3rd - def. William Thomson (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 1:45; lost to Carson Thornton (Mt. Zion) by fall at 1:51; def. Seth Hubbard (Hillsboro) by fall at 5:24; def. Tucker Kull (Shelbyville) by fall at 4:31

190: Samuel Schoeneweis (6-17) - lost to Andrew Scroggins (North Mac) by fall at 2:20; lost to Cannon Creviston (Illinois United) by fall at 1:32

215: Tristan Staggs (35-9) - 2nd - def. Kyle Fay (Auburn) by fall at 0:27; def. Keller Stocks (Mt. Zion) by dec. 4-3; lost to Kaden Tidwell (Vandalia) by fall at 1:54

285: Devin Hansel (27-14) - 3rd - lost to Dominic Swyers (Vandalia) by maj. dec. 14-4; def. Austin Brown (Pittsfield) by fall at 1:13; def. Evan Ashmore (Mt. Zion) by dec. 6-1; def. Mason Currie (Hillsboro) by fall at 1:12

Litchfield Girls Win Big, Scare Staunton To End Busy Week

With three games in four days, it was a busy stretch for the Litchfield girls basketball team, but more importantly, it was a productive one for the Lady Panthers. Litchfield picked up a pair of decisive wins over Mt. Olive on Feb. 5 and North Greene on Feb. 8, with a "productive" loss to Staunton on Feb. 6.

Mt. Olive

Litchfield's 59-26 win over Mt. Olive on Wednesday was the Elise Walch show as the senior set a new career-high with 32 points, pushing her career total over the 500 point mark.

Walch had six threes and six twos in the win, doing most of her damage in the middle two quarters. Litchfield led by just two, 7-5, after the first quarter, but Walch's 13 points in the second sparked a 26-7 advantage in the frame and gave the Panthers a 33-12 halftime lead.

The third quarter was more like the first in terms of overall scoring as Litchfield edged Mt. Olive 11-8 to up their lead to 24, 44-20, going into

the fourth. Walch followed up her double-digit second quarter with a nine-point third quarter, before finishing off the game with five points in the fourth.

Jada Carroll also had six points in the fourth as Litchfield outscored Mt. Olive 15-6 in the final eight minutes to win their tenth game of the year. In addition to Walch, who missed all of last year due to injury, Adia Melchert added nine points, while McKenna Harmon had eight.

Staunton

The 44-26 final score in Litchfield's road tilt against Staunton was a tad deceptive as the Lady Panthers more than held their own against the Bulldogs for the better part of three quarters.

Staunton pulled ahead early with a 12-6 first quarter lead, getting seven points from sophomore Jenna Staggs. Staggs was the only Staunton player to hit a field goal as the other five points came from the free-throw line.

The Panthers were held to six points again in the second

frame, but kept Staunton from hitting double digits as well as they trailed by nine, 21-12 at halftime.

The Litchfield defense continued to improve and limited Staunton to just five points in the third quarter on three free throws by Anna Machota and a two from Lilly Bandy. The Panther offense also caught up to their defensive efforts as they outscored Staunton 11-5 in the third, with McKenna Harmon scoring five points and Elise Walch adding three.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, the well dried up in the fourth quarter as Litchfield was held to a two by Adia Melchert and a free throw by Walch. The Staunton offense also found another gear in the final eight minutes and put up 18 points to turn a three-point lead at the end of the third quarter into an 18-point victory. Ele Feldmann led Staunton in the fourth with eight points and finished with 13 for the game.

McKenna Harmon led the Lady Panthers in scoring with 11 points, followed by Walch

with six and Adia Melchert with four.

North Greene

On Saturday, the Litchfield defense was out in full force as they held North Greene to just 22 points in a 55-22 victory over the Lady Spartans.

The Panthers equaled North Greene's total offensive output in the first quarter as they led 22-4 after one. Elise Walch and McKenna Harmon both had eight points in the opening quarter.

Litchfield held the Spartans to just four points again in the second, with Daphney Hartel leading the way on offense with six points as the Panthers led 33-8 at halftime.

North Greene had the best quarter offensively in the third as they more than doubled their first half total with nine points. Litchfield answered with ten points of their own, including seven from Elise Walch, who entered double figures for the game.

Walch finished the game with two points in the fourth quarter to give her 15 points for the game. McKenna Har-

mon also reached double figures with ten points, while Adia Melchert and Daphney Hartel contributed seven and six respectively.

Now 11-15 overall, the Lady Panthers will try to improve on that mark and their 2-5 South Central Conference record in their final two games of the regular season. On Monday, Litchfield hosts Vandalia, who is 2-4 in the SCC, followed by another home game on Thursday, Feb. 13, against Southwestern, who is 0-7 in conference.

Litchfield also learned that they will be a part of the Gillespie Regional for the postseason, with their first game set for Saturday, Feb. 15, at Roxana at 1 p.m. If the Panthers can get past the Shells, they will get a second shot at Staunton on Monday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. in Gillespie.

Feb. 5 at Litchfield

Mt. Olive 5 7 8 6--- 26

Litchfield 7 26 11 15--- 59

Mt. Olive (26) - Lauren Bailey 9, Ellie Borrowman 9, Samantha Roeske 4, Mattie Marburger 3, Alyssa Aubuschon 1. **Totals:** 9 8-15 26.

Litchfield (59) - Elise Walch 32, Adia

Melchert 9, McKenna Harmon 8, Jada Carroll 6, Lynzie Reid 2, Jenna Longwell 2. **Totals:** 23 5-8 59.

Three-point field goals: Mt. Olive 0; Litchfield 6 (Walch 6).

Records: Litchfield (10-14); Mt. Olive (10-13).

Feb. 6 at Staunton

Litchfield 6 6 11 3--- 26

Staunton 12 9 5 18--- 44

Litchfield (26) - McKenna Harmon 11, Elise Walch 6, Adia Melchert 4, Jada Carroll 2, Madison Jenkins 2, Lynzie Reid 1. **Totals:** 9 7-12 26.

Staunton (44) - Ele Feldmann 13, Lilly Bandy 12, Jenna Staggs 11, Anna Machota 5, Samantha Anderson 2. **Totals:** 14 15-26 44.

Three-point field goals: Litchfield 1 (Walch 1); Staunton 1 (Staggs).

Records: Litchfield (10-15, 2-5); Staunton (21-5, 4-2).

Feb. 8 at North Greene

Litchfield 22 11 10 13--- 55

North Greene 4 4 9 5--- 22

Litchfield (55) - Elise Walch 15,

McKenna Harmon 10, Adia Melchert 7, Daphney Hartel 6,

Lynzie Reid 5, Charlotte Reyes 4,

Jennah Longwell 4, Jada Carroll 4. **Totals:** 23 7-14 55.

North Greene (22) - Bushnell 4,

Harney 3, Sharrow 3, Hart 3,

Schutz 2, Forrester 2, Osborne 2, Raabe 2, Heberling 1. **Totals:** 8 4-10 22.

Three-point field goals: Litchfield 2 (Walch 1, Reid 1); North Greene 2 (Harney 1, Hurt 1).

Records: Litchfield (11-15); North Greene (5-21).

Cougars Come Back To Spoil Lady Lancers Senior Night

by Kyle Herschelmann

The "live by the three, die by the three" mantra nearly killed Illini Central on Friday, Feb. 7, in Raymond, but a strong second half by the Cougars kept Lincolnwood from a victory on their senior night.

Lilly Terneus, Sophia Foster, Taylor Lush and Dorothy Lipscomb were honored prior to the game for their contributions to the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville girls basketball program. Foreign exchange student Abigail Biston was also recognized after spending this season with the Lancers.

Terneus, the program's leading scorer since it restarted for the 2019-20 season, started off the scoring for the Lancers with a three-point play as she converted a free throw after being fouled on a drive to the hoop.

Most of the points in the quarter came three at a time as Lincolnwood's Leah Anderson hit three threes, while Illini Central got triples from Alyvia Morrow, Megan Hughes and Elayna Snyder. The outside assault accounted for 18 of the 29 points scored in the first quarter as the Cougars led 16-13 after one after being up by as many as ten at one point.

Two of Anderson's threes in the first quarter came in the final two minutes as the Lancers cut into the double digit deficit. Anderson's fourth three of the game came just 16 seconds into the second quarter and tied the game at 16 all.

Terneus scored soon after to give the Lancers their first lead of the game, before Illini Central tied things back up with a two by Addie Wilcoxon for the Cougars' first points in almost six minutes. Lincolnwood went on a 10-4 run to end the second quarter, with Terneus and Anderson both knocking down threes to make it 28-22 at halftime.

After hitting three threes in the first, Illini Central was just 1-for-10 from deep in the second quarter. Those struggles, combined with Lincolnwood's successes, put the Cougars down by as many as eight at one point, but they'd come roaring back in the second quarter.

The visitors scored the first nine points of the third quarter as they attacked the hoop instead of setting for threes (they took 19 in the first half). They also kept Lincolnwood's Anderson from getting any wide open shots as the junior guard didn't attempt a three in the third quarter after hitting five of them in the first half.

Following the early run, Lincolnwood battled back and got six straight points from Lilly Terneus (4) and Sophia Foster (2) to regain the lead, but a three by Illini Central's Megan Hughes and a drive to the hoop by Taylor Keihn in the final minute gave the Cougars a 14-6 edge in the third quarter and a 36-34 lead going into the fourth.

The two teams traded points early in the final frame with Lincolnwood trailing by just three 41-38 at the midway point of the quarter. But as the quarter wore on, the turnovers mounted for the Lancers. They'd commit 23 in the game, with many of those in the fourth quarter leading to points for the Cougars.

After Hughes made it a four-point game with a free throw, Lincolnwood turned the ball over and Alyvia Morrow made them pay with a dagger three-pointer that made it 45-38 with 2:55 to play. Illini Central did most of their damage from the free-throw line after that as they went 6-for-8 to build up their lead and eventually finish off the 11-point win.

Megan Hughes led Illini Central with 17 points, while Taylor Keihn and Addie Wilcoxon chipped in 12 apiece. After the struggles



Lincolnwood-Morrisonville senior Taylor Lush concentrates on the hoop during her free throw attempt in the Lady Lancers' senior night game against Illini Central on Friday, Feb. 7. Lush and company led 28-22 at halftime, but a strong defensive effort by the Cougars allowed them to come back for a 53-42 victory.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

from three-point range in the second quarter, the Cougars added four more threes in the second half, finishing with eight total for the game.

Lilly Terneus led Lincolnwood with 19 points as she went over 800 points for her career. Leah Anderson finished with 15 points, followed by Sophia Foster with three, Taylor Lush and Tori Elvidge with two and Hannah Hill with one.

Lincolnwood will close

out the regular season in Greenville on Tuesday, Feb. 11, followed by their regional opener on the road in Kincaid on Saturday, Feb. 15, against South Fork at 4:30 p.m. Part of the North Greene Regional, the winner of Saturday's game between the Lancers and Ponies will advance to the semifinals in White Hall against Nokomis on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 7 at Raymond

Illini Central 16 6 14 17 -- 53

Lincolnwood 13 15 6 8 -- 42
Illini Central (53) - Megan Hughes 17, Addie Wilcoxon 12, Taylor Keihn 12, Alyvia Morrow 9, Elayna Snyder 3. **Totals:** 17 11-22 53.

Lincolnwood (42) - Lilly Terneus 19, Leah Anderson 15, Sophia Foster 3, Tori Elvidge 2, Taylor Lush 2, Hannah Hill 1. **Totals:** 15 6-22 42.

Three-point field goals: Illini Central 8 (Morrow 3, Hughes 3, Keihn 1, Snyder 1); Lincolnwood 6 (Anderson 5, Terneus 1).

Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (5-22); Illini Central-Greenville (14-14).

Redskins Pick Up Win Over Hiltoppers

by Ron Deabenderfer

Hillsboro's boys junior varsity and varsity basketball teams suffered the same fates in the Nokomis High School gym when the team tangled Saturday night, Feb. 8; the Redskins 1-2-2 zone press defense proved difficult to solve as the junior varsity fell 61-29 and the varsity succumbed 59-49 in one of those "It wasn't as close as that" affairs.

The pattern seems always the same. Nokomis pressures the ball full-court, using the turnovers that creates to score enough points to slowly but inevitably pull away. This year an added element was to keep track of Hillsboro's leading scorer, Nathan Matoush; coaches on the bench were verbally telling the defense what Matoush's next move was likely to be based on his position on the floor; one suspects that's the result of modern technology providing game tapes to view.

That strategy worked well while the outcome of the game was in doubt; Matoush had three points at halftime with no field goals in the book, and The 'Skins were up 28-18 as 6'1" sophomore Connor Reynolds came off the bench to score nine points in the first sixteen minutes. 6'3" senior Drake Taylor added 8 as the host team slowly pulled ahead.

The only Topper field goals in the opening eight minutes came from Jackson Tuetken who canned two threes from his left corner; the Toppers committed only two turnovers in the first eight minutes, but the pressure defense took its toll in quarter two. Then Mark Mattson had the only Hillsboro field goals (3). Taylor, playing well during his team's Senior Night, had the first two field goals of the quarter, so the lead



Nokomis' Atticus Bertolino boxes out Hillsboro's Jackson Tuetken during the Redskins' home game on Saturday, Feb. 8. Nokomis improved to 13-15 with a 59-49 victory over the Hiltoppers, who fell to 10-15 on the season.

James Ryan/NokoPhoto

was 19-11.

The Toppers' fate seemed sealed; once Nokomis gains an eight point lead, they seldom lose, especially on their home court.

Matoush found his groove despite all the attention he draws these days, scoring six field goals and twenty points in the second half; fourteen came in the last quarter, when only he, Caleb Greenwood (4, including a trey) and Mattson, who also made a trey, would score. The final quarter was the only one in which Hillsboro outscored Nokomis, but the difference (21-19) had minimal effect in the final outcome.

Besides Taylor and Reynolds, Kannon Jonas was in double figures with 13; Ian Keller was effective defensively, as was Atticus Bertolino, who not only helped defend former teammate Matoush but also was a force on the boards as a rebounder. Jonas was seven of nine from the free throw line.

The effects of the press were even more evident in the preliminary game when the Brian Pesko coached squad built a 69-29 lead on a 23-2 first quarter edge. Two of Hillsboro's J.V. guards were held out of the game because of possible varsity participation. Big man (at 6'2") Eli Zaidi had Hillsboro's only points in the opening quarter and was high for the Toppers with 10; sophomore guard Elijah Patton made two treys to be second in the game summary with six points.

Nokomis had three (freshman Luke Eisenbarth with 14, junior Blain Goodwin with 13, and junior Glavin Himes with 11) to achieve double figures states.

Hillsboro will welcome the north Mac Panthers here tomorrow, Feb. 11, for a triple header; the freshman game is set for a 5 p.m. tip. It's only the fifth home game of the 24-25 season.

Nokomis next hosts Paw-

nee on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Feb. 8 at Nokomis

Hillsboro 11 7 10 21 --- 49
Nokomis 15 13 12 19 --- 59
Hillsboro (49) - Nathan Matoush 23, Mark Mattson 13, Jackson Tuetken 7, Caleb Greenwood 4, Ryder Dettman 1, Tony White 1. **Totals:** 15 15-22 49.

Nokomis (59) - Konnor Reynolds 15, Drake Taylor 15, Kannon Jonas 13, Ian Keller 6, Carter Wexstten 4, Atticus Bertolino 2, Blaine Goodwin 2. **Totals:** 23 12-19 59.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 4 (Tuetken 2, Greenwood 1, Mattson 1); Nokomis 1 (Wexstten 1). **Records:** Nokomis (13-15); Hillsboro (10-15).

Junior Varsity

Hillsboro JV 2 9 13 5 --- 29
Nokomis JV 23 17 11 10 --- 61
Hillsboro JV (29) - Eli Zaidi 10, Elijah Patton 6, Braylen Stewart 5, Ethan Hamby 3, Jalen Stewart 3, Amory Anderson 2.

Nokomis JV (61) - Luke Eisenbarth 14, Blain Goodwin 13, Glavin Himes 11, Colby Wilson 7, Maddox DeWerff 5, Kadyann Petty 4, Griffin Engelman 3, Brayden Cachera 2, Halen Barnes 2.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro JV 4 (Patton 2, J. Stewart 1, B. Stewart 1); Nokomis JV 8 (Himes 2, Petty 1, DeWerff 1, Wilson 1, Eisenbarth 1, Engelman 1, Goodwin 1).



Lizzy Hill (#33) peeks back at the court as she and her fellow seniors, Natalie Brownback, Grace DeWerff and Becca Hill embrace near the end of Nokomis' game on Feb. 6. After two overtimes, the Lady Redskins scored a victory on senior night, beating Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City 61-54 to finish with a perfect 12-0 record at home.

James Ryan/NokoPhoto

Nokomis Girls

Continued from 10A

The Redskins got four points apiece from Alivia Sabol and Lizzy Hill in the fourth, but two more threes from Macee Rodman helped CHBC tie the game up at 44 at the end of regulation.

Both teams remained knotted after the first overtime period, scoring six points apiece, but the Lady Redskins exploded for 11 points in the second OT to escape with a 61-54 victory.

All four seniors contributed to the win, with Grace DeWerff reaching double figures with ten points, while also tying for the lead in assists with five. Natalie Brownback was co-leader in assists and had seven points on the offensive end. Lizzy Hill added in eight points and six rebounds, while Becca Hill finished with three points.

Alivia Sabol and Kinley Stolte led the team in scoring with 13 points apiece, with Sabol snagging nine

rebounds, while Stolte had seven. Hannah Tarter (6) and Camryn Engelman (1) also scored for the Lady Redskins.

With an undefeated home record under their belts, Nokomis will try to preserve their unbeaten mark in the MSM Conference as well, as they take on South County on Monday, Feb. 10, in Waverly. Both teams are currently 6-0 in the conference standings, meaning that Monday's winner will be the outright conference champion.

Feb. 6 at Nokomis

CHBC 8 12 12 12 6 4 --- 54
Nokomis 10 11 12 11 6 11 --- 61
Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City (54) - Haley Doty 18, Macee Rodman 14, Ellie Miller 7, Lena Bowlin 6, Avrie Vaughn 4, Ethel Stuckemeyer 3, Carissa Wakefield 2. **Totals:** 18 10-18 54.

Nokomis (61) - Alivia Sabol 13, Kinley Stolte 13, Grace DeWerff 10, Lizzy Hill 8, Natalie Brownback 7, Hannah Tarter 6, Becca Hill 3, Camryn Engelman 1. **Totals:** 21-52 17-30 61.

Three-point field goals: Cowden-Herrick-Beecher City 8 (Rodman 4, Doty 3, Miller 1); Nokomis 2-15 (B. Hill 1, DeWerff 1).

Records: Nokomis (24-5), Cowden-Herrick/Beecher City (10-18).

Two Toppers Move On To Sectional

One veteran and one rookie earned their sectional spots for the Hillsboro High School wrestling team on Saturday, Feb. 8, while two other Toppers will make the trip to the Carterville Sectional as alternates following the IHSA Class 1A Litchfield Regional.

Senior Gaven Vollintine finished second at 144 pounds, while freshman Kohl Fuller was third at 106 pounds as both wrestlers advanced to next weekend's sectional in the south. The two Toppers will be joined by teammates Kaden Long and Mason Currie, who finished fourth at Litchfield and will be alternates for the next round of the postseason.

Vollintine entered the regional with 26 victories, matching his career best from last year, when he also qualified for sectionals. The Hillsboro senior upped his win total to 28 to get to the championship match as he pinned Cade Venrick of Auburn at the 3:04 mark, then outpointed Drayden Smith of Mt. Zion in a 12-5 decision. Vollintine had lost to both Venrick and Smith earlier this year, but avenged both of those losses at the regional.

In the championship match, Vollintine faced Vandalia's Keagan Turner, who picked up a win by fall with 58 seconds to go in the first period. The Vandals put 13 wrestlers in championship

matches on Saturday, with ten regional champions and three runners-up.

While Vollintine will be making his second trip to sectionals, Fuller will be making his first after taking third at 106 pounds in his freshman postseason debut.

After falling to Eli Hill of Auburn in his first match, Fuller defeated Bosco Hyde of Sacred Heart-Griffin by fall in 34 seconds to advance to the third place match. The Topper freshman needed just 58 seconds to dispatch Mt. Zion's Jackson Bough as he captured third and advanced to the next round of the postseason.

The wins over Hyde and Bough were the second of the season for Fuller against both opponents as he pinned Hyde in 90 seconds on Jan. 8, and did the same to Bough at the 3:06 mark on Dec. 17.

Long and Currie also made it to the third place match at Litchfield before ending their day in fourth. Long's only losses came against wrestlers who won their final matches of the day as he defeated Draven Jones of Litchfield by fall at 1:57, before falling to eventual champion Ryne Peavler of Shelbyville at the 1:45 mark. In the consolation semifinal, the Hillsboro senior picked up his 27th win of the season with a win by fall at the 4:48 mark over Destin Lathon of Sacred Heart-Griffin, but

Waylon White of Pittsfield earned the final automatic qualifying spot at 165 pounds with a win by fall with 19 seconds to go in the second period.

Currie drew eventual regional runner-up Andre Townsend of Shelbyville in his opening match and lost by fall at the 1:29 mark, but rebounded with back-to-back wins over Josh Eyer of Sacred Heart-Griffin and Ayden Williams of Auburn to advance to the third place match. Currie had wrestled both Eyer and Williams before and had beaten Eyer by fall, but Saturday's 14-13 decision win over Williams avenged an earlier loss by fall against the Trojan heavyweight back on Jan. 23.

Currie met up with another familiar face in the third place match, Litchfield's Devin Hansel, although the two didn't meet up this season. Hansel's experience won out in the match as he pinned Currie at the 1:12 mark of the first period.

In addition to the sectional qualifiers and alternates, Landon Bandy, Briar Kuhl, Liam Kalar, Abraham Putnam, Westin Fenton, Gavin Shomaker, Seth Hubbard and Olan Lentz also wrestled at regionals. Bandy, Kuhl, Putnam, Shomaker, Hubbard and Lentz all made it to the consolation semifinals before ending their day, narrowly missing a shot at the third

Litchfield Purple Panthers

Monday, February 10
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball hosts Vandalia

Tuesday, February 11
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball hosts North Mac

Nokomis Redskins

Monday, February 10
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball vs. South County at Waverly

Tuesday, February 11
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Pawnee
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at North Mac

Lincolnwood Lancers

Tuesday, February 11
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at Greenville

6 p.m. - Boys Basketball at St. Elmo
[twitter.com/JNsports](#)



Hillsboro's Kohl Fuller looks toward the official during his match with Jackson Bough at the IHSA Clas 1A Litchfield Regional on Saturday, Feb. 8. Fuller went on to pin Bough at the 58 second mark to finish third and earn a trip to next weekend's sectional in Carterville.

Photo courtesy of Julie Law

place match and a sectional berth.

Those who did advance to sectionals will try to finish in the top four at Carterville, with a spot at state on the line. The Class 1A State Finals will be held in Campaign on Feb. 20-22.

Feb. 8 at Litchfield

Litchfield Regional
Team Results: 1. Vandalia 295.5; 2. Mt. Zion 154; 3. Shelbyville 127.5; 4. Litchfield 117; 5. Auburn 96.5; 6. Hillsboro 75; 7. Pittsfield 71.5; 8. Sacred Heart-Griffin 56; 9. Carlinville 18; 10. Illinois United 15; 11. North Mac 7.

Hillsboro Wrestling
106: Kohl Fuller (32-12) - 3rd - lost to Eli Hill (Auburn) by fall at 1:20; def. Bosco Hyde (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 0:34; def. Jackson Bough (Mt. Zion) 23-18 by fall at 0:58

120: Landon Bandy (22-22) - lost to Colin Wells (Shelbyville) by tech fall 16-0 at 4:39; def. Noah Duncan (Auburn) by fall at 5:21;

lost to Alex Reynolds (Mt. Zion) by fall at 1:52

126: Briar Kuhl (24-20) - def. Carter Sperry (Litchfield) by fall at 1:01; lost to Tyson Waughtel (Vandalia) by tech fall 17-2 at 2:31; lost to Elijah Scott (Auburn) by fall at 3:30

132: Liam Kalar (13-20) - lost to Bodee Fathauer (Shelbyville) by tech fall 17-1 at 2:44; def. Noah Cabrera (North Mac) by fall at 1:09; lost to Jaysan Anderson (Mt. Zion) by tech fall 17-2 at 3:14

138: Abraham Putnam (1-3) - lost to Travon Street (Mt. Zion) by fall at 1:02; lost to Tucker Pines (Pittsfield) by fall at 1:43

144: Gaven Vollintine (28-19) - 2nd - def. Cade Venrick (Auburn) by fall at 3:04; def. Drayden Smith (Mt. Zion) by dec. 12-5; lost to Keagan Turner (Vandalia) by fall at 1:02

150: Westin Fenton (13-23) - lost to Jayden Brown (Auburn) by fall at 1:46; lost to Cooper Balen (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 1:33

157: Gavin Shomaker (18-22) - lost to Parker Ray (Vandalia) by fall at 2:39; def. Keegan Reese

(Carlinville) by fall at 1:30; def. Jake Oitker (Pittsfield) 29-15; lost to Jovonis Lunford (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by maj. dec. 16-4

165: Kaden Long (27-17) - 4th - def. Draven Jones (Litchfield) by fall at 1:57; lost to Ryne Peavler (Shelbyville) by fall at 1:45; def. Destin Lathon (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 4:48; lost to Waylon White (Pittsfield) by fall at 3:41

175: Seth Hubbard (16-11) - lost to Ross Miller (Vandalia) by fall at 3:43; def. Owen Evans (Auburn) by fall at 2:32; lost to Jayden Ellinger (Litchfield) by fall at 5:24

190: Olan Lentz (19-26) - lost to Casen Lyons (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 1:10; def. Cannon Creviston (Illinois United) by fall at 1:41; lost to Hayden Mudgette (Shelbyville) by fall at 0:59

285: Mason Currie (15-16) - 4th - lost to Andre Townsend (Shelbyville) by fall at 1:29; def. Josh Eyer (Sacred Heart-Griffin) by fall at 3:32; def. Ayden Williams (Auburn) by dec. 14-13; lost to Devin Hansel (Litchfield) by fall at 1:12



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