

Tuesday Is Consolidated Election Day In Montgomery County

Voters have municipal, township, school district, library and park district offices to fill in the consolidated election on Tuesday, April 1.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day.

Officials will be elected in all 20 county municipalities, with contested races in Litchfield and Witt.

Witt for city alderman, Taylor Springs for village president and Walshville for village president. Raymond's village president race will have just one name on the ballot, but another two have filed write-in candidacy.

Several of the townships have contested races: East Fork, Grisham, Hillsboro, South

In addition, there are contested races for Hillsboro School Board, the Grand Prairie of the West Library District and the Nokomis Library District.

Interested locals may once again gather at the County Board Room located on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro on Election night to view election returns as they become available after the polls close at 7 p.m.

Live results will be broadcast through local radio and available up-to-the-minute online through the county website at montgomerycountyil.gov.

Nominations Open For 2025 Citizen Of Year

Nominations are being sought for the 2025 Irish Days Citizen of the Year. Local members of the community who know someone who volunteers their time and talent in the community are invited to nominate them for the award.

Nominations may be made by submitting a letter to Farmersville Bank and Trust with the nominee's name and a brief description of their volunteer activities.

The closing date for submission letters is Thursday, May 1.

Bridge Closure On I-55 Takes Effect On April 1

The Illinois Department of Transportation has announced the replacement of the bridge decks on the overpasses at Virden Avenue and North 33rd Avenue over Interstate 55 in Montgomery County. Closure of the bridges will be necessary while the improvements are being made. Work begins on Tuesday, April 1.

In addition to the bridge closures, nighttime lane closures on I-55 will be necessary. Other improvements include new concrete at the bridge approaches and new guardrails. Benefits from the project include providing a smoother driving surface and additional road durability. The improvements are expected to be completed at the end of October.

Motorists wanting to cross the bridge will need to use an alternate route. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

The work comes as part of Rebuild Illinois. Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,200 miles of highway and nearly nine million square feet of bridge deck as part of the program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation.

District Six updates from IDOT may be found on Twitter at [@IDOTDistrict6](https://twitter.com/IDOTDistrict6) or the traveler information map on gettingaroundillinois.com.



Annual Princess Ball Delights Over 200

It was a night full of sparkles and twirls as more than 215 young princesses and companions attended the annual Imagine Hillsboro Princess Ball on Saturday evening, March 30, at The Event Center of Montgomery County in Taylor Springs. The evening included a meet and greet with princess characters, photos, raffles, a popcorn bar and more. At the end of the night, each princess received a crown headband. Pictured above, at left, AvaJane Lawson, age five, dances with her dad, John, and at right, four-year-old Juniper Jagosh takes a spin on the dance floor with her dad, Logan.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



Above, TASC families start their Saturday morning with an Adaptive Open Gym at Hiltop Elite Academy of Tumbling and Trampoline of Hillsboro; one of several activities the local support group hosts each month for families of neurodivergent individuals.

April Marks Autism Awareness Month

by **Tori O'Dell**

April marks Autism Acceptance Month. In the five decades that have passed since the Autism Society first began publicly celebrating autism, in an organized effort to spread awareness and inclusion of autistic individuals, the international campaign has shifted its focus from "awareness" to center on "acceptance" in the form of encouraging people to take meaningful actions towards inclusion for autistic individuals.

Locally, TASC (The Autism Support Connection) will kick off their Autism Acceptance activities with a monthly support group meeting this Thursday, April 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Free Methodist Church in Hillsboro.

The month-long celebration will continue with an adult-centered educational event at Nokomis Public Library, from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, where members of TASC will be available to speak about the local support group and the resources offered. Also on Saturday, April 5, a sensory friendly showing of "Minecraft" will be offered at 1 p.m., at the Orpheum Theatre in Hillsboro.

Continued on page 7A

Farm Bureau Holds Annual Field Day

Illinois Farm Bureau hosted a Nutrient Stewardship Field Day on Thursday, March 27, at Don Murphy's Farm in Harvel. The morning began at the farm, with donuts and coffee provided by the Farm Bureau.

Illinois Farm Bureau funds the Nutrient Stewardship Grant, which is eligible for all county farm bureaus to apply for. Nutrient Stewardship Grant funds allow farm bureaus to host field day events.

According to Illinois Farm Bureau Environmental Program manager Bena Pegg funds are used towards Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) efforts. NLRS is a national strategy being utilized in the Mississippi River Basin where drainage from upstream creates an area afflicted by hypoxia, a lack of oxygen in the water, which can kill aquatic life.

There is currently a 4,000 square mile deadzone in the Gulf of Mexico. NLRS efforts hope to reduce that to 2,000 square miles. There is also a goal for 2025 to reduce



David Kleinschmidt with Progressive Agronomy Consulting showcases the inside of a soil pit on one of Don Murphy's fields that uses strip-tilling tactics.

Photo Courtesy of Katie Wilson, County Farm Bureau Manager

nitrate by 15 percent and phosphorous by 25 percent.

When normalizing for flow, nitrogen has seen a reduction, while phosphorous levels are still high, although that is not exclusively due to runoff from farms. Another contributing factor to higher phosphorus levels is streambank erosion.


Continued on page 7A

Weather Forecast

| | | | |
|--------|---------|--------------------|-----|
| Mon 31 | 50°/34° | Cloudy | 3% |
| Tue 01 | 55°/50° | Cloudy | 7% |
| Wed 02 | 72°/48° | Thunderstorms/Wind | 94% |
| Thu 03 | 56°/47° | Rain | 68% |

Index

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Court..... | 4B |
| Classifieds | 4B |
| Family | 4A |
| Obituaries | 3A |
| Opinion | 6A |
| Sports..... | 1B-3B, 6B |



217-532-3933 • thejournal-news@consolidated.net • advertisejn@consolidated.net • www.thejournal-news.net



Alex Durbin of Edwardsville submitted the winning theme "Making Memories" for the 2025 Old Settlers Big Parade. Pictured above, Alex Durbin, at left, is presented the \$50 reward from Old Settlers Treasurer Sean Wyant.

Durbin Submits Theme For Old Settlers Parade

The theme for the 2025 Old Settlers big parade will be "Making Memories." The theme, submitted by Alex Durbin of Edwardsville, was chosen from over 60 entries given to the Old Settlers committee at their March meeting. Durbin received a \$50 check for submitting the winning theme.

The big parade will step off on Thursday, Aug. 7, but the committee is still looking for several individuals or a group to be in charge of the parade. Paul and Lori Stewart have stepped down after many years of being in charge of the parade. Anyone that is interested or is seeking more information

may call Mary Brown at 217-556-0662.

Officers for 2025 were also elected, with Mary Brown elected president, Rod Stewart elected vice president, Sean Wyant elected treasurer, Susie Galer elected assistant treasurer and Tracey Wyant elected secretary.

The group meets every month on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Challacombe House in Hillsboro. The public is always welcome.

The committees are working hard to bring the celebration to the area. Dates for this year's event are Saturday, Aug. 2, Sunday, Aug. 3, Wednesday, Aug. 6 and Thursday, Aug. 7.

County Receives State Farm Bureau Grant Funding

Montgomery County has a recipient of an Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Rural Development Grant aimed at elevating rural communities.

Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) was awarded \$3,700 for their communications upgrades project, which will enhance communication and permit quicker emergency response times.

The grant funds will be used to help purchase a new high frequency radio system. A high frequency base radio ensures that emergency responders can maintain consistent communication across long distances, regardless of local infrastructure and/or in the event of a natural disaster, power outage or severe weather, impacting traditional communication systems like cell towers.

Montgomery County EMA communications upgrades is one of 23 projects from across the state that was awarded a rural development grant. IFB awarded \$105,000 in its second year of the grant program, which is anticipated to return for a third year in 2026. The program provides resources, tools and support to help local communities and



Pictured above, from the left are Mark Lewis and Dan Hough of Montgomery County EMA (emergency management) and Montgomery County Farm Bureau President Dennis Hand.

counties overcome challenges inherent in rural development projects, such as lack of funding and volunteers, complicated grant applications and others.

Seven of the projects are for emergency services and 16 are for rural development. Projects include grocery access, training for current and potential small business owners, a rural health clinic,

community center upgrades, an intergenerational Boys and Girls Club, a new water tower, improvements for emergency communications and much more.

In selecting grants, IFB searches for projects that will meet a need in a community, county or rural area and get residents excited about what is happening in their community.

"We had an amazing response in the second year of this program," said Ryan Tate, IFB associate director of local government. "Illinois Farm Bureau is honored to provide funding to move these projects forward in rural communities and excited to see the positive impact these applicants are making in the areas of emergency services, economic and community development and quality of life. We are proud to make this investment, and we are thrilled to see county Farm Bureaus engaged in the program and working to build these local relationships."

In addition to the grant program, IFB's Local Government team has fostered rural development through conferences, publications and engagement with other organizations, such as the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, Rural Partners, the Illinois Rural Health Association, USDA Rural Development and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs.

Applications for the 2026 rural development grants are expected to open in October. For more information on the grant program, visit ilfb.org/rdgrants.

Nokomis Yard Sale Map Deadline Set For April 24

Residents in the Nokomis area who would like to be included on the map for the upcoming city wide yard sales on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, should submit their information by Thursday, April 24.

There is no cost to have your name on the map. Newkomis is generously covering the cost of map

printing. To be featured on the map, please include a name, address, dates and times of the sale and sale items. Residents will need to get a free yard sale permit from city hall prior to their sale.

Information may be dropped off at city hall or can message JoAnn Marquess on Facebook.



St. Francis Welcomes Visit From Hospital Sisters

On Friday, March 14, HSHS St. Francis Hospital welcomed a number of Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. The event included a Mass to honor them during National Catholic Sisters Week as well as a tour and lunch in celebration of St. Francis Hospital's 150 years of serving the Litchfield community through their ministry founded by the Hospital Sisters on Nov. 13, 1875.

Pictured above, from the left in the front is Melissa Logsdon, Rachel Nation, Gretchen Bilbruck and Alyssa Clements. Second row is Shannon Maddaleno, HSHS St. Francis Hospital Chief Administrative Officer Aryn Hunter, Sister JoAn Schullian, OSF; Sister Ritamary Brown, OSF; Sister Ann Pitsenberger, OSF; and Sister Annice McClure, OSF. Third row: Jane Martin; Tera Scroggins; Becky Jackson; Sister Emerencia Tirkey, OSF; Sister MaryAnn Falbe, OSF; Lorrie Hayden; Sister Maureen O'Connor, OSF, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Superior; Sister Jomary Trstensky, OSF, Chair, Hospital Sisters Ministries; Sister Josephine Vanitha, OSF; Lori Stewart; Sister Maira Barry; Sister Rosily Menachery, OSF; Dawn Martin; Holly Kesterson and Paula Endress. In the back row is Alesia Haslett, Jorden Ekstrom, Josh Mahkovtz, Karen Webb, Ian Polus, Nick Bristow, Melissa Snow, Marilyn Pastrovich and Elisa Feldmann.



Pictured above, Marilyn Pastrovich, Melissa Logsdon, Sister Ritamary Brown, OSF; Sister Jomary Trstensky, OSF, Chair, Hospital Sisters Ministries; and Sister Maureen O'Connor, OSF, Hospital Sisters of St. Francis Superior, reminisce and view photo albums of HSHS St. Francis Hospital through the last 150 years.

Pictured above are Deybie Smith, Melissa Lee, Sister MaryAnn Falbe, OSF; and Sister Annice McClure, OSF, in front of the St. Francis Wound Care Center's Healing Tree. Leaves are added to the tree when patients complete their treatment, and butterflies represent patients who have passed during their treatment.

Serving All of Your Printing and Design Needs

- Letterheads
- Envelopes
- Business Cards
- Flyers
- Invitations
- Banners
- Posters
- and more



Get started today with safe and efficient service!!
Call or stop by:

Journal Printing Co.

431 S. Main St., Hillsboro, IL 62049
Phone: (217) 532-3933
Email: journalprintingco@gmail.com

Put A Boro Bar In Their Easter Basket



\$3.99
Each

Golden Tickets Still Remain

The Journal-News • 431 S. Main Street • Hillsboro



Pictured above is Sister Ann Pitsenberger, OSF, who served as Executive Vice President/Administrator of St. Francis Hospital from 1969-72; with Tera Scroggins, Lisa Miller; and Sister Emerencia Tirkey, OSF.

Sally Crane, 88
Loved To Travel



Sarajoan “Sally” Crane, 88, of Litchfield, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, at 4:15 a.m. at The Wealshire of Bloomington in Bloomington, MN.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, April 5, at 11 a.m. at Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield. The Rev. David Massey-Brown will officiate. Private entombment will be in the Henrichs Family Mausoleum at Elmwood Cemetery in Litchfield. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

Memorials may be designated to Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield.

Mrs. Crane was born on Dec. 11, 1936, in Virden, a daughter of Russell Wayne and Elizabeth (Betty) Pence. She graduated from Litchfield Community High School with the class of 1954. She then attended one year of college at Eastern Illinois University. Mrs. Crane later transferred to Southern Illinois University Carbondale for the remaining three years. She graduated in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in education.

Mrs. Crane married Richard Thomas “Tom” Crane, Jr. on March 24, 1957, at the Old House of Sunshine on N. State St. in Litchfield. He preceded her in death on Sept. 19, 2021.

Following college, Mrs. Crane taught first and second grades and did some substitute teaching. She lived in Chicago, Shelbyville, Mattoon and Eureka and then moved to Indianapolis, IN, in 1968.

Mrs. Crane worked for 16 years in Indianapolis for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination, retiring in 2002 when she moved to Litchfield. She was a member of Union Avenue Christian Church and the Litchfield Women’s Club. She volunteered at the Route 66 Museum in Litchfield. Mrs. Crane enjoyed traveling to Germany and throughout the US including Hawaii; she looked forward to vacationing in Branson, MO, every year to see the shows. Mrs. Crane enjoyed collecting antiques and selling them at the Pink Elephant Antique Mall.

She was loved by all the staff at The Wealshire of Bloomington, who considered her one of their favorites. They shared sweet stories of how she would try to put them to work organizing files and getting paperwork done.

Mrs. Crane is survived by her son, Sgt. Major (SGM) US Army Retired, Richard Thomas (Thalia) Crane, III, of Lamia, Greece; three daughters, Laurie Knutson of Bloomington, MN; Sheryl (Michael) George of Peoria, AZ; Susan (John) Byrd of Bloomington, IN; sister, Susan Jean Pence of Chicago; brother, Russell Eugene Pence of Champaign; ten grandchildren, Peyton (Dustin) Coar; Toryn White (Tim Hickam), Finnegan Byrd, Eric (Rei Liou) Knutson, Ryan (Mandy) Knutson, Emily (Tyler) Thorpe, Richard Thomas Crane IV (fiancée, Nadine Bittel), Steven Crane, Chistopher George and Philip (Natalie) George; and ten great-grandchildren, Hadley, Emery and Maisie Coar, Hadley and Soren Knutson, Mitchell and Elliott Thorpe, Channing and Charleen Crane and Mila Crane.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com

Frank C. Skelton, 78
Train Enthusiast



Frank C. Skelton, 78, of Litchfield, died Thursday evening, March 27, 2025, surrounded by his family at Aspen Creek of Troy.

A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date. A private inurnment will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Litchfield.

Mr. Skelton was born in Litchfield, a son of Roy James and Eliza Marie (Crane) Skelton. He graduated from Litchfield High School with the class of 1965 and was known as the “class clown.” He went to work for the

Norfolk and Western (now known as Norfolk and Southern) Railroad, which he retired from in 2001. A life-long lover of all things train-related, he also enjoyed shooting sporting clays, hunting, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Mr. Skelton and the former Beverly Kalaher were married in 1967, and they later divorced. He married Sheri Ray in 2003, and she survives.

In addition to his wife, Sheri, Mr. Skelton is also survived by his children, Sean Skelton (Stacy) of Edwardsville, Rebecca Cusanelli (Al) of Maryville and Ryan Skelton (Sarah Biggs) of Litchfield; grandchildren, Hannah Skelton of St. Louis, MO, Claire Schuessler of Los Angeles, CA, Jake Skelton of Granite City and Charlie Schuessler of Maryville.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Marie Skelton; brother, John (Jack) Skelton; and a sister, Susan Mayfield.

Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is in charge of arrangements. To sign the online guest book or light a virtual candle, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Shirley A. Kempf, 88
1955 Coffeen Graduate



Shirley Ann (nee Smith) Kempf, 88, died on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in Franklin, IN.

Services are private, and Mrs. Kempf will be laid to rest at Mount Moriah in Coffeen. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory-Greenwood Chapel.

Mrs. Kempf was born on Sept. 14, 1936, to Joseph and Carolyn (nee Hanner) Smith, in Coffeen, IL. She was one of five children. She attended Coffeen Public School, and Mrs. Kempf was the last class to graduate from there in 1955. After graduation, Mrs. Kempf moved to Indianapolis to live with an aunt and uncle. She worked for Mayflower Moving Company.

It was while she lived in the city that she met and married Donald J. Kempf, a former resident of Chicago. They were married Oct. 24, 1959, in Indianapolis. They had three children: Selena Ann, Denise Marie and David Joseph. Mrs. Kempf spent her early married years as a homemaker. She was an avid reader and enjoyed spending time outdoors.

Mrs. Kempf is survived by her three children, Selena and David Kempf, and Denise (Dave) Kohlmeier; seven grandchildren, Kyle, Chad and Kurt Bryant, Jocelyn and Daniel Kohlmeier, Jessica (Seth) Graves and Samantha Kempf; three great-grandchildren, Kansas, Krosley and Sunny Bryant; and one brother, Robert Smith.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers: Terry, Darryl, and Alan.

Condolences may be left online at www.stpierrefamilyfuneral.com.

Ross A. Kershaw, 85
Avid Reader



Ross Allen Kershaw, 85, of Vandalia, died on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at his home in Vandalia.

Visitation will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday, March 31, at Miller Funeral Home in Vandalia. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, with Pastor Randy Whitehead officiating. Burial with military rites will follow at Green Hill Cemetery in rural Fillmore. Miller Funeral Home in Vandalia is assisting with arrangements.

Mr. Kershaw was born on Jan. 4, 1940, in Fayette County, the son of the late Cecil W. and Helen B. (Towell) Kershaw. He married Carolyn Louise Probst on Nov. 1, 1960, in Vandalia, and she survives.. He worked many years for the Coffeen Coal Mine and later retired from the Coffeen Power Plant. He served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960. He was a member of the Woburn Church of Christ, and he enjoyed traveling to Wyoming, hunting, fishing, sitting out on his porch, working in the yard and he was an avid reader, sometimes reading two books at a time.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Timothy R. (Anne) Kershaw, Jeffrey A. (Cindy) Kershaw, Elizabeth A. (Kevin) Elam and Christopher W. (Julie) Kershaw, all of Vandalia, and Patrick I. (Wendy) Kershaw of Brownstown; 11 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and brother, Cecil R. (Nancy) Kershaw of Coffeen.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Thomas Kershaw; and sisters, Mary J. Durbin and Helen A. Seamon.

Memorials may be made to the Fayette County Cancer Fund.

Condolences may be left at www.millerfh.net.

ROE Alternative Schools Schedule Easter Break

The Regional Office of Education #3 alternative education programs in Vandalia, Effingham and Litchfield will be holding their family/student conferences on Thursday, April 3, from 3 to 6 p.m. and Friday, April 4, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. There will be no school on Friday,

April 4.

There will be no school from Thursday, April 17, to Monday, April 21, for Easter break.

Questions may be directed to Laura Benhoff at 618-283-9311, Jake Elliott at 217-408-2185 or Amber Kidd at 217-342-2865.



Litchfield Seniors Hold Monthly Senior Dance

The Litchfield Senior Citizens Club held a free senior dance on Sunday, March 9, with 63 in attendance. *Hot Rod Mercury* provided live music and played all the hits as the dance floor was full most of the night. Evergreen Assisted Living of Litchfield donated two apple pies for the buffet. One was given as a door prize.

Pictured above are door prize winners from left to right, Toni Taylor, Shirley Ingold, Karen McCaffery, Rebecca Oatsvall and Jane Sears.

Hillsboro Health Hosting Diabetes Class, Health Fair

Hillsboro Health will be hosting a diabetes management class on Monday, April 14, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The class will be held in the Cloud Room at Hillsboro Health. It is designed to help individuals with diabetes learn ways to manage the condition with nutrition, activities and healthy living tips. Those looking to attend may RSVP to 217-532-4230. Light refreshments will

be served. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

Hillsboro Health will also be holding a health fair on Tuesday, June 17 and Wednesday, June 18, from 6:30 to 9 a.m. Lab draws will be discounted at the \$40 health fair panel. The health fair will also be held in the Cloud Room. Those looking to schedule may contact 217-532-4200.

Public Meetings

Hillsboro City Council

Hillsboro City Council will meet on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at Hillsboro City Hall, located at 447 S. Main St.

Agenda items include discussion on the design-build base contract for the municipal pool project, an amendment to the city zoning map, renewing the line of credit and plans for the wastewater treatment plant.

Honoring Lives and Celebrating the Memories of a Lifetime

Assalley
FUNERAL HOMES

• Panama • Sorento • Morrisonville •
• Greenville • Taylorville •
1-217-824-3311
www.assalleyfuneralhomes.com

HELLO, MONTGOMERY/MACOU PIN COUNTIES.

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

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

  **Montgomery County**
MONUMENT WORKS
1350 EAST UNION AVENUE
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056


The Journal-News
The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County

Published Monday & Thursday
431 S. Main, PO Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049
217-532-3933 • thejournal-news.com/consolidated.net

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

The Journal-News (USPS 245-560) is published twice-weekly (Monday and Thursday) by Hillsboro Journal, Inc., 431 S. Main St., Hillsboro IL 62049. Periodicals postage paid at Hillsboro, IL and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal-News, PO Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049.

Subscription Information
Subscriptions are payable in advance. Complete the following and mail to The Journal-News, P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049-0100. Or call 217-532-3933 to order a subscription and charge it to VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express, or pay online at www.thejournalnews.net.

| | 6 months | 1 year | 2 years |
|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| In Montgomery County | \$44 | \$60 | \$116 |
| Out-of-county Rates | | | |
| Mailed once a week | \$60 | \$90 | \$170 |
| Mailed twice weekly | \$86 | \$125 | \$242 |
| E-edition on www.thejournal-news.net | \$60 | \$116 | |

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____



The ‘Meet The Machines’ event brought out a wide collection of trucks, tractors and heavy machinery on display for all to enjoy.

Raymond News Photo

Raymond Gets Chance To ‘Meet The Machines’

All were welcomed as Let’s Get Chemotional held their ‘Meet The Machines’ event on a beautiful Saturday, March 22, in downtown Raymond. The event raised donations for Stamp Out Cancer while providing youth and heavy machinery enthusiasts a chance to check out a variety of large trucks, lifts, tractors and more.

ARCH additionally landed a helicopter, much to the delight of all in attendance. Pork patties were served and a good time was had by all.

Montgomery County Sheriff Tyson Holshouser and Captain

Lance Weitekamp were present and accounted for, and put on a performance showing their K-9 unit in action.

The Let’s Get Chemotional team thanks all of the volunteers, presenters and attendees.

Let’s Get Chemotional is one of the several fundraising Stamp Out Cancer teams this year. Based in Raymond, the team consists of Rachel Treece and Charlene Millburg. For more information, visit their Facebook page at Let’s Get Chemotional: Stamp Out Cancer 2025 or www.stampoutcancer.org



Pictured above at the Meet the Machines Event, from the left are Jr. Miss Madison Yard, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Captain Lance Weitekamp and Little Miss Hadleigh Millburg.

Raymond News Photo

Births

Samantha Porter and Ryan Petroski announce the birth of their son, Owen Lee Petroski, born at 11:21 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25. He weighed 6 lbs., 3 oz. and measured 18.5 inches long.

He has two brothers, Weston Petroski, age six and Wyatt Petroski, age two, and two sisters, Rilyn Petroski, age ten and Kynlee Petroski, age eight.

Maternal grandparents are Kim and Aaron McCarty of Irving and Shane and Calea Porter of Ramsey. Paternal grandparents are Mark Petroski and Anita Jett of Donnellson and Tammy Balla of Donnellson.

Paternal grandparent is Joan Petroski of Reno.

Marriage Licenses

Brenden Charles Friesland, Irving; Kharynn Peyton Millburg, Waggoner.

Witt Community To Host Events In April, May

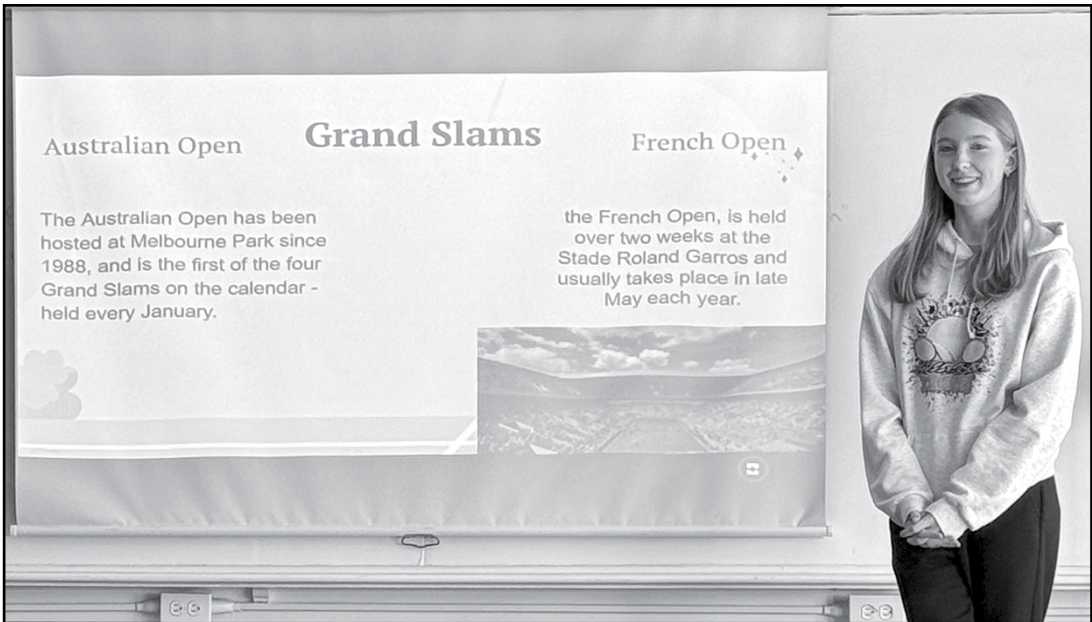
The Witt Community has a host of events on the docket throughout April and May for all members of the local community to enjoy.

On Saturday, April 12, the Witt Veterans Second Annual Chicken Dinner will be held at the Witt Lions building. Each meal includes two pieces of chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, noodles, green beans, slaw and homemade rolls. The event is drive through only and tickets are available for \$15 until Sunday, April 6. Contact committee members Mary Jean Myers, Donna Yeske, Tim Taylor, Bill Hartman, Dale Walcher, Denise Kistner and Diane Cabello for tickets.

On Thursday, April 17, the food pantry will be open from 10 to 11 a.m. To access the pantry, one must call 217-594-2455 for a food box.

Also on Thursday, April 17, the These Three Outreach Center clothing area will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Questions may be directed to David at 217-898-8194.

On Saturday, April 19, the annual Easter egg hunt and other activities will be held in Witt City Park, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Breakaway and the Witt Lions Club, the event will feature food, crafts, face tattoos, live bunnies to pet, photo opportunities with the Easter bunny and an egg hunt to begin at 1 p.m.



HHS Culture Club Discusses Tennis

Hillsboro High School Culture Club’s Alexis Carlyle taught the club about her favorite sport, tennis, on Monday, March 17, during a club meeting. Carlyle taught the club about some of today’s most notable tennis players and the intricacies of celebrated tournaments such as Wimbledon. The club learned about the different tennis court styles of grass, hard, clay and artificial grass, in addition to the occurrence of grass and clay stains on white clothing. Because several Culture Club members are tennis players, there were many contributions from the audience.



4-H County Cloverbuds Learn About Sewing

The Montgomery County Clovers Cloverbud 4-H Club met on Sunday, March 16, at the Litchfield Library Community Room to learn a little about sewing. After learning how to thread a needle and tie a knot in the thread, members tried their hands at sewing a little mouse cat toy made of 4-H fabric, ribbons, and a pompom using a running stitch. The finished toys included a pinch of catnip inside with the stuffing. The Cloverbuds who do not own cats made their mice without the catnip. Pictured above are the Cloverbuds with their creations: Sophia and Zoey Nail, Connor Schmidt, Andrew Stoneburner, and guest Clover, Addilyn Stoneburner. Contact the Extension Office at 217-532-3941 for information about the 4-H program in Montgomery County.

Litchfield To Host April Blood Drive

Litchfield High School will be hosting a community blood drive on Friday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 1705 N. State St., inside the school gym.

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 Feb. 14 are eligible to give at this drive.

ImpactLife is a nonprofit community organization providing blood products and services to more than 100 hospitals and emergency medical service providers.

Those interested in making a donation should contact Jo Brummet at 217-324-3955, ImpactLife at 800-747-5401 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 60537 to locate the drive. Appointments are requested.

www.thejournal-news.net

Thank You

My heart is filled with love and thanksgiving for each and everyone who made my 90th birthday such a blessing.

Thank you for each visit, card, call, and gift that I received. Each and everyone of you made my day!

Marcella Jackson

DRIVE-THRU SAUSAGE DINNER

Featuring Ron Hemann’s Famous Pork Sausage!

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025
Serving 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church & School
1301 N. State Street, Litchfield

Fresh homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes, sausage milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, cranberry sauce, bread, and dessert.
\$15

FRESH 5 LB. PACKAGED SAUSAGE FOR SALE
(LINK OR BULK) • \$25
PRECOOKED LINKS • 1 DOZEN \$18

AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER BY APRIL 1
TO PLACE ORDERS, CALL 217-259-1372
MAY ALSO PURCHASE DAY OF DINNER

Sponsored by Thrivent



HILLSBORO

SERTOMA CLUB

Once again Serving



MONDAY, APRIL 7

10:45 – 1:00

(or while they last)

CNB Parking Lot

(across from Veterans’ Memorial)

• Sandwich Only....\$7

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

Delivery (of at least 4 orders, please) available by emailing HillsboroSertoma@gmail.com, or texting 217-313-6009 by **4:00, Sun., April 6**

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

Schott

for Alderman

Third Ward in Litchfield

Please Vote for Kevin Schott

- 24 Year Veteran, Illinois Air National Guard
- Veteran, Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Past Fire Chief, Litchfield Fire Department
- Past Director, Montgomery County EMA

With your help, I will be open, honest and transparent as your Alderman, and continue my service to my community.



Thanks for all you do!

Lions Donate To Christian Missions

by Kevin Laurie

The Nokomis Lions Club recently presented a donation to the Nokomis Christian Missions.

Originally opened as the Nokomis Community Closet in 1998 by founder Ann Best, the Ministerial Alliance of Nokomis joined with the Nokomis Community Closet and is today known as Nokomis Christian Missions. It has grown in its location over the years, with each one being bigger than the last.

The Christian Missions consists of a board, with representation of each church, co-directors, Kevin and Joan Laurie, cashier, Susie Adams, and bookkeeper Sonya Marretti. Last but certainly not least are the the volunteers who keep the store full. The mission averages about 25 volunteers a month, ranging from grade school to high school students to a fun bunch of retired individuals, all of whom do a wonderful job.

Through the support of the local area, the mission has been able to supply quality



Pictured above, 45-year Nokomis Lion Tim Huber presents a donation to Joan and Kevin Laurie of the Nokomis Christian Missions.

goods at very low prices. Even though the Mission features clothing, they also offer a variety of items, including furniture, housewares, shoes, books, toys and more. The Ministerial Alliance supports other programs in the area, including a book bag program for youth, Bridge the Gap and the Heat and Fuel Fund.

The Ministerial Alliance of Nokomis consists of the First Baptist Church of Nokomis, Grace Baptist Church, United Methodist Church, Nokomis South Fork United Methodist Church and the St. Louis Catholic Church of Nokomis. Financial contributions are always welcome to support this great mission.

REDSKIN REVIEW • by Grace DeWerff at Nokomis

Redskins Ready For Spring Musical



Happy Monday, Redskin fans!

It feels like it's officially spring outside! Our baseball and softball teams

have been welcoming the warmer weather.

The Lady Redskins have a packed week again, with two more conference games. On Monday, March 31, they will travel to Ramsey. The following day, April 1, they will face Tri-City at home in a conference match-up. On Wednesday, April 2, the girls will travel to Shelbyville to take on the Rams. To end their week, they will travel to Tri-City on Thursday, April 3, for another conference game. All games will begin at 4:30 p.m., as long as the weather allows. Good luck!

The Redskins also face

Tri-City in conference matchups this week, being at home on Tuesday, April 1, and at Tri-City on Thursday, April 3. On Wednesday, April 2. In between conference games, the boys will travel to Gillespie to take on the Miners. All games will begin at 4:30 p.m., same as the girls. Good luck, boys!

The track team has two meets this week. On Tuesday, April 1, they will travel to Pana to compete. On Thursday, April 3, they will travel to Shelbyville. Good luck to our athletes!

The FFA Farm Bureau trip will be this Wednesday, April 2, with tours in Greenville and Litchfield. To all members going, have fun! On Thursday, April 3, the FFA horticulture team will compete at Mt. Vernon high school, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Good luck to members competing!

Juniors, there will be an

ACT meeting on Tuesday, April 1, in preparation for ACT day this Friday, April 4.

There will be a Student Council meeting for the April committee on Wednesday, April 2.

One of the Stamp Out Cancer teams will be hosting donkey basketball at the high school this Wednesday, April 2. It will begin at 5 p.m, and is sure to be a good time. If you're free, come watch some donkey basketball!

"Aladdin" officially premieres starting this Friday, April 4, and through the weekend. If you're free, come see the show in the Old Gym, you won't want to miss it!

It's another packed week for the 'Skins! Hopefully the rain clears up for baseball and softball. If you're free come support students at games, competitions, or at the play this week. I'll see you next Monday!

PANTHER PRESS • by Claudia Deren at Litchfield

Panther Seniors To Take Class Trip



Hello Panthers!

Last week, the LHS Drama Club held their play previews, giving students from all Litchfield

schools and children of all ages the exciting opportunity to see snippets of the show performed by the talented cast. This is always a fun and memorable day for both the performers and the students who get to enjoy a sneak peek of the production.

Of course, the full performances, held Thursday through Sunday, were ab-

solutely spectacular. The cast and crew's hard work and dedication truly shined on stage. We are incredibly grateful for all the support from our community members, family and friends who came out to enjoy and help with the show.

Looking ahead, this Friday, the senior class of 2025 will head out for their second and final senior trip. They'll spend the day making memories as they enjoy some friendly competition at Top Golf, followed by a visit to the St. Louis Zoo. This trip is sure to be a great experience for the seniors as they celebrate their final weeks

together before graduation.

Spring sports are also in full swing, and our Panthers are off to a fantastic start this season! Baseball will have junior varsity and varsity games throughout the week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, many of which will be played at home!

Softball will compete on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Girls soccer will take the field on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Finally, track and field will have a meet on Tuesday.

Good luck to all our athletes, and have a great week, Panthers!



4-H Starr Shooters Recover Wreaths

Starr Shooters 4-H members honored veterans interned at Witt cemeteries by reclaiming wreaths as a public service in February. Club members are grateful to the Montgomery County community for supporting their efforts since 2016. Pictured above in the front, from the left are leader Heather Hampton+Knodle, Gage Lehman and Katelyn, Ethan and Thomas Marley. In the back are Fallon Knodle, Trenton Lehman and Denise and River Kistner.

Hillsboro Public Library Has March Titles

Hillsboro Area Public Library has announced new titles for month of March.

New adult regular print titles include *Beg, Borrow or Steal*, *Practice Makes Perfect* and *When in Rome* by Sarah Adams, *Not Who We Expected* by Lisa Black, *Mary's Calico Hope* by Anne Blackburne, *Battle Mountain* by CJ Box, *Blood Moon* by Sandra Brown, *Peacemakers* by Wanda Brunstetter, *Hold Strong* by Robert Dugoni, *Robert B. Parker's Buried Secrets* by Christopher Farnsworth, *B is for Bonnet* by Shelley Shepard Gray, *Friends Helping Friends* by Patrick Hoffman, *Nemesis* by Gregg Hurwitz, *Boxcar Librarian* by Brianna Labuskes, *The Crash and Ward D* by Freida McFadden, *Lethal Prey* by John Sandford and *Far From Home* by Danielle Steel.

New adult large print titles include *Blood Moon* by Sandra Brown, *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall, *We All Live Here* by Joyce Moyes, *Since the Day We Danced* by Kerk Murray, *The Writer* by James Patterson, *Bonded In Death* by JD Robb, *Far From Home* by Danielle Steel and *Courting an Amish Bishop* by Mindy Steele.

New adult non-fiction titles include *Those Who Can't Teach* by Shelley Kenow, *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson, *Brooke Shields is Not Allowed* by Brooke Shields and *Hope of Heaven* by Sheila Walsh.

New children's fiction and easy reader titles include *Bat and the Business of Ferrets* and *Bat and the End of Everything* by Elana K. Arnold, *Welcome to the Honey B&B* by Melody Carson, *Happy Father's Day from the Crayons* by Drew Daywalt, *Spring ABC* by Jannie Ho, *Raft* by Jim Lamarche, *Don't Think of Tigers* by Alex Latimer, *Lift* by Minh Le, *Hickory Dickory Dock*, *Humpty Dumpty* and *the Great Fall* and *Mary Had a Little Lamby* by Mike Lock-

ett, *Easter in the Barnyard* by Dandi Daley Mackall, *Chicka Chicka I Love Dad* and *Chicka Chicka I Love Mom* by Bill Martin, *5 Silly Easter Eggs* by Ilanit Oliver, *Are We There Yet?* and *Bear is a Bear* by Dan Santat, *Birthday Buck (#1 Series)*, *Hide and Seek (#2 Series)* and *Talking Turkey (#3 Series)* by Jimmy Tidmore, *Will the Pigeon Graduate?* by Mo Willems and *Detective Duck: The Case of the Strange Splash* and *Detective Duck: The Case of the Missing Tadpole* by Henry Winkler.

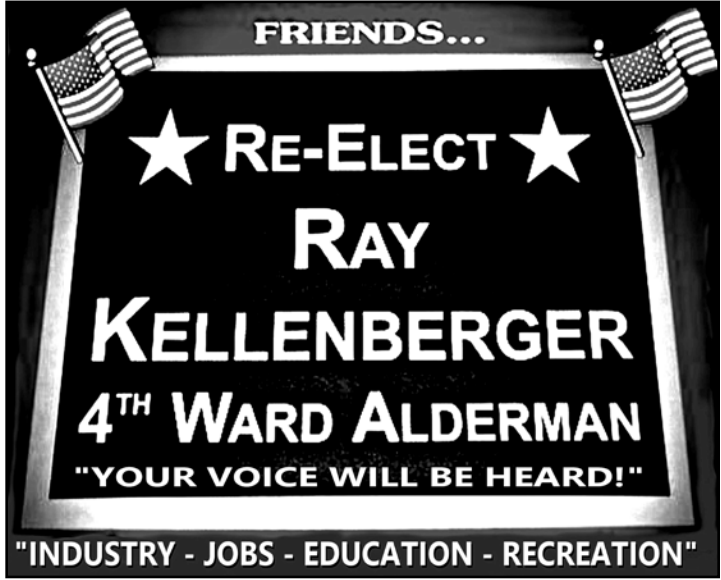
New children's graphic

novels include *Buns Gone Bad #1* by Anna Humphreys, *Pizza and Taco: Coolest Club Ever* by Stephen Shaskan.

New children's non-fiction titles include *What is the Story of Smokey Bear?* by Steve Korte and *Where is Tornado Alley* by Wes Locher.

New young adult fiction titles include *The Deep End*, *Escape from the Everglades*, *Every Hidden Thing* and *2nd Storm* by Tim Shoemaker.

A *First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat was added as a new young adult graphic novel



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

VOTE

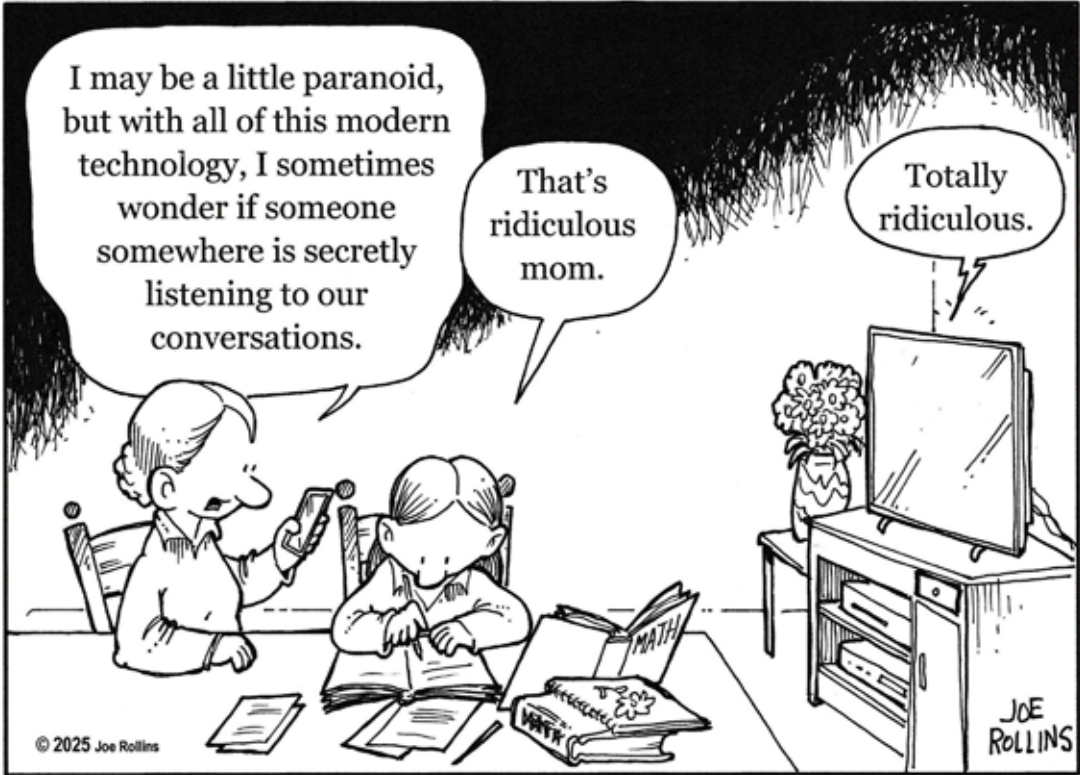
April 1

ELECT WARREN HALL For Taylor Springs Village President

Over 30 years of honesty and integrity serving the Taylor Springs community.

Joel's Corner

by Joe Rollins



A FEW GOOD WORDS • by Isaiah Atkins

Remembering The Only Gene Hackman



Gene Hackman died last month, and with him, goes the era of the everyman movie star, lost amidst the action heroes and heartthrobs.

I remember my first Gene Hackman film. Like many, I met him as Lex Luthor in 1978's "Superman" (and two lesser sequels), a role that catapulted his name into my lexicon around age eight. My brother and I watched the four Christopher Reeve Superman movies on repeat for years, thanks to a four-film collection snagged at Walmart by Dad. While Reeve, the way he effortlessly transforms from mild-mannered Clark Kent to the courageous man of tomorrow, will always be my favorite part of the films, Hackman's Lex Luthor is a close second. (My eight-year-old take? Too much hair to be the evil egghead.)

But as I grow older and re-watch "Superman" and more films, Hackman's brilliance on screen shines through. Luthor has a dangerous charm and bravado to him, but what I'll always remember is how evil he was. It's movie full of tights and alien crystals, and yet I always left it not believing a man could fly, but that Hackman was truly and unabashedly evil.

The audience is made known of this from the first scene, when he pushes a cop into an oncoming train, until the very end, when he's locked in prison and the key thrown away. Superman is good, and Hackman is bad. For two hours, he was very good at being bad.

It's a common trend with Hackman films; his greatest gift was how easy you forget he's acting. He truly disap-

peared into his roles, which sprawled in every possible direction, from the aforementioned supervillain to the small town basketball coach in "Hoosiers" to brash beat cops and more. Part of this is that Hackman never looked like a movie star; rather it seems that he was introduced to the world as a 45-year-old. He looked like he could be a dirty cop, a washed up coach, a greasy spy, a haunted recluse. It was always believable. And so he ascended the the Hollywood ranks anyways. But to call him a character actor reduces his greatness, as he was truly one of the great leading men of the last 50 years.

Since his death, I've watched several of his iconic films. "The French Connection" is a masterpiece, because Hackman plays this unlikely, unheroic and dirty police detective as exactly that. No Hollywood gloss or no redeeming heroics, just Hackman disappearing behind the badge and gun of Jimmy 'Popeye' Doyle, who acts first and thinks second. Three years later, "The Conversation" casts him as the polar opposite: a quiet, well-meaning surveillance expert unraveling into paranoia. His dialogue is sparse; like the audience, he's often just listening.

"Mississippi Burning" paired him with Willem Dafoe as a pair of FBI agents in segregated small-town Mississippi, and Hackman delivers yet another stellar performance, complete with a convincing southern drawl. His foil to Denzel Washington in the submarine thriller "Crimson Tide" draws inspiration from all sorts of his previous roles, the bravado of Luthor, brashness of Doyle, the determination of FBI

Agent Rupert Anderson. His imposing figure is magnified in the claustrophobic confines of a nuclear submarine. His commands booming through every scene. Roles like these made you forget that he wasn't really an FBI agent or Navy brass, that he isn't actually ordering a nuclear missile attack.

"Enemy of the State" stars Will Smith at the peak of his Fresh Prince powers, but all eyes are on Hackman when he arrives halfway through the film. A spiritual sequel to The Conversation, Brill mirrors Harry Caul, Hackman's earlier paranoia-driven spy. The magic lies in the natural evolution across the 30 years between films: Caul teetered on the edge of schizophrenia; Brill has fully embraced the eavesdropper's life.

My favorite thing about Gene Hackman is that, in every character, in every role, I always believed that he was the smartest man in the room. The way he carries himself is the same as Lex Luthor or as Popeye Doyle, and that's just a little bit brighter than everyone else. And the audience has to believe him.

I don't think there will ever be another Hackman. Actors don't grow old anymore, or if they do, they certainly don't look it. But Hackman arrived in the film industry a middle aged everyman, weary with the world but having just enough reluctant bravado to be a leading man, and unwavering self-belief that made him an unlikely protagonist, or a formidable foe to the most heroic of heroes.

Movies were better with Gene Hackman, because he always made them gritty, real and alive.



GRANDMA'S DIARIES • by Carole (Best) Brown rosebudbooks@gmail.com

March 1958 Came In Like A Lion



March 1958 lives up to the adage that it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Several snowstorms roar through early in the month, but the warmest day of the new year arrives near the end of March. Lassie, the new pup causes havoc on washday, but he also finds a new friend, Butch Sammons, the English Bulldog who lives just down the road.

Grandma faces a bit of a dilemma with the ladies of the Helping Hand Quilting Society; thankfully, no fisticuffs interrupt the quilting.

Terrible news for my dad, Merle. He was making a delivery in Boston when his truck was hit by city bus and nearly totaled. The bus driver suffered a heart attack and lost control of the bus loaded with riders. Dad had to stay in Boston for the month and negotiate with the insurance company. We were fortunate that he wasn't hurt.

Saturday, March 1, 1958
Today is Alberta's birthday. 33 degrees at 7 a.m. We tried to call Alberta at 8 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. No answer.

Sunday, March 2, 1958
Slight snow. 36 degrees high. I went to church and Sunday School. Mrs. McCammon called yesterday to ask me to play for Sunday School. Mary Lou had other plans. Neta May was sick. Opal Henry was sick. We planned to go to the White Cottage in Raymond for dinner; but Geraldine called to ask us up to her house. Bessie McCallum died suddenly while playing for Fillmore church service.

Monday, March 3, 1958
27 degrees at 7 a.m. 36 degrees, high. Cloudy until ten o'clock. Mrs. Toberman went with us to the Allen Funeral Home to see Bessie McCallum. We had to wait an hour, so we went to the cemetery. The wind was so very chilly and the ground wet. Afraid we might catch cold.

Tuesday, March 4, 1958
Carl was looking for a man to come and get hay. No one came. He made Lassie a box big enough for her to lie in. Took the saw to Raymond to Mr. Mitts to be sharpened.

Wednesday, March 5, 1958
Today is Jim Best's birthday. We went to the doctor before noon. Carl paid him \$44. Carl's blood count was as it should be. He examined a spot on my right cheek. It has been there a month. I am to go March 12 and have it cut out. Carl paid our six months Blue Cross dues. \$57.58. I got 15 yards of green print to line

Larry's two quilts. Phoned Mrs. King, Irving to get them quilted.

Thursday, March 6, 1958
I went to the quilting. It is Mrs. McCammon's second quilt. Emma Gray kept harping on the list of quilts that had been spoken for to quilt. She is #25. I got mad almost. I said how was I to know she had a top ready if she didn't tell me to put her name on the list. I wrote them down in the order they spoke for their turn.

Friday, March 7, 1958
Bit of snow. I sewed on my green broadcloth dress. Got the sleeves in and the hem turned up. I vow the next dress I make, I'll do it all in one day. John Keith came to collect for Red Cross. Carl gave him five dollars.

Saturday, March 8, 1958
Such a cold wind. Geraldine phoned that she and Linda were going to Springfield to Linda's dentist, and I could go along. I wanted to go to the Top Value stamp store. I didn't have enough stamps to get a pressure cooker. Their three shelf stands looked very nice, but I didn't get anything. I do enjoy looking in Springfield. Got a white collar for my green dress. Merle is still in Boston. He is having trouble with the bus company that damaged his truck. Billingsley came for more hay. He got 20 bales and will pay the next load he gets. Connie came to stay all night.

Sunday, March 9, 1958
High, 40 degrees. Deep snow. We didn't expect it. Cars stalled on the hills. Treacherous driving. We didn't go to church. Connie was here all day. Margie and Jim came after her about four. Three men came to Margie's door about three a.m. They couldn't get up the hill. They were men connected with the theater. Snow melted fast when the sun shone about 11 a.m.

Monday, March 10, 1958
I washed and dried all in the house, but a sheet and night gown. Lassie pulled my gown off the line and tore it. I guess she will have to be spanked. Charlotte Dey buried at Morrisonville, a former teacher of mine.

Wednesday, March 12, 1958
Margaret went with us when we went to the doctor's office. Dr. Turner Douglas cut out the spot on my right cheek near my ear that wouldn't heal. It was sewed up, and I was to come Friday to have it dressed. Merle got home from Boston after dark. He had been gone since Feb. 3.

Thursday, March 14, 1958
Went to Dr. Turner Douglas to have my operation dressed. He said it looked o.k.

I partly marked for quilting

the top Marie Henry gave the Helping Hand. I am at a loss to know how to mark the three inch piece which is between the blocks. Lassie went to Marian's to play with Butch. She came when she heard me calling.

Sunday, March 16, 1958
I didn't go to church. People would wonder about the patch on my face. People of Butler get things so wrong. Today is Irene Newport Knodle's birthday. We went to Nokomis for dinner.

Monday, March 17, 1958
Mary Nimmons entered Hillsboro Hospital for surgery. I went back to Dr. Douglas. He said my incision had healed nicely, and I could take the patch off on Friday. I'll go back and let them do it. Merles all came for supper. Carole had a bad cough.

Tuesday, March 18, 1958
I wrote air mail letters to Alberta and Aleta. We took them to Litchfield, but missed the morning mail by about ten minutes. Carl got two pairs of gray work pants. \$3.95 each, plus \$0.24 tax. Mrs. McCammon and Katherine Osborn came to practice songs. Also Nancy Osborn. Mary Nimmons was operated on for a tumor. It was the size of a grapefruit, but shaped like a pear.

Thursday, March 20, 1958
Carl wanted to go to Mrs. Gertie Fronknecht's sale at 1:30 p.m. Came a very heavy snow when we left home. It melted as it fell and had quit before two p.m. Carl gave \$38 for a John Deere horse drawn mower.

Saturday, March 22, 1958
We went to Raymond bank at three where Carl deposited the Hudler check of \$86.70 he paid for hay. Carl paid Dr. Waggy \$7 for doctoring the cow. James Billingsley paid for three loads of hay—62 bales at \$0.72 per bale. All he owed for was \$44.64 total.

Friday, March 23, 1958
40 degrees at 7 a.m. 56 degrees, high. Warmest day of the year.

Sunday, March 30, 1958
Wayne and Geraldine ate dinner with us. Geraldine then went after Alberta Wilson to help decide on pulpit furniture paint on Wares Grove Church. Wayne and Linda took us to see the church.

Monday, March 31, 1958
7 a.m. Warmest day of the year. 60 degrees, high. I got dinner for Wayne, Hubert, and Bill Rendle. Bill is carpenter on the annex of the Wares Grove Church. He gave Lassie to us, but he is grandpa to the boy who owned him. Howy has his oats sowed. Carl broke the wheat ground, may be solid enough to put on nitrogen.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Nancy Slepicka presents some excellent points about the threats against public broadcasting by the Trump administration. But it should be even more important that state that it is highly possible for National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to sustain themselves without governmental funding.

The initially planned allocation to the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (which is managed by the U.S. Congress) is \$535 million. That figure includes \$10 million in earned interest from investments, nearly \$268 million for direct grants to local public television stations, nearly \$100 million for broadcasting grants, \$83 million for grants to local public radio stations and roughly \$97 million in allocations relating to radio broadcasting, system support and administration.

Compared to the monetary contributions made by individuals like you and me as well as wealthy philanthropists, the government's funding allocation is very minute in comparison. Out of that \$535 million currently set aside by CPB, PBS gets 16 percent, or

\$85.6 million. NPR member stations get a share of 10 percent, or \$53.5 million, plus a share of 10 percent that comes in from ad revenue from affiliate stations. But those allocations represent less than 2 percent of their respective annual budgets.

98 percent of the annual budgets for both PBS and NPR are covered by ordinary people like you and me, as well as wealthy philanthropists and philanthropic organizations.

What is completely ridiculous is the hatchet job on PBS and NPR while the Trump administration ignores the other media outlets funded and/or operated by the government.

Have you heard of Voice of America (VOA), the Armed Forces Radio Network (AFRN), Public Radio International, American Public Media, Public Radio Exchange and Pacifica Radio? All of them are funded by CPB in some capacity, while VOA is entirely run by the government and CPB shares costs with the U.S. Department of Defense to maintain AFRN.

Grant funds go toward maintaining the vast broadcast network for NOAA Weather Radio, a crucially important tool for Americans to be prepared for severe weather.

The Trump administration

is making this a partisan issue while the 2025 media bias chart from Ad Fontes Media reveals that both NPR and PBS are closer to the middle with the Associated Press, Reuters and United Press International compared to the mindless psycho-babble spewed by the Democratic and Republican divisions within the mainstream media, making an absolute joke of the journalistic profession.

I, for one, recall the golden days of PBS in the 1990s with the late Shari Lewis and "Lamb Chop's Play-Along", a wide variety of cooking shows hosted by Justin Wilson and Martin Yan (among others), Arthur, Clifford the Big Red Dog and the iconic Nightly Business Report (co-hosted by the late Paul Kangas, "wishing all of you the best of good buys" and that epic theme that ran for its entire run on PBS and when it was revived on CNBC).

If the government decides to do away with half a billion for public broadcasting, I'm sure the general public will have no problem covering the shortfall, considering we, as the general public, already fund 98 percent of their operations.

Jake Leonard
Nokomis



Litchfield Students Bring ‘Sound Of Music’ To Life This Spring

Members of the Litchfield High School Drama Club brought “The Sound of Music” to life as this year’s musical production, held March 27-30, at the Kilton Fine Arts Center in Litchfield. Pictured above are members of this year’s cast and crew. Principal members of the cast are Ava Fetter as Maria, Lukus Middleton as Captain von Trapp, Addison Farrar as Mother Abbess, Devin Hansel as Max Detweiler, Alex Gasperson as Elsa Schraeder, Gretchen Heigert as Liesl von Trapp, Clayton Logsdon as Rolf Gruber, Camron Zumwalt as Friedrich von Trapp, Claudia Deren as Louisa von Trapp, Cash Logsdon as Kurt von Trapp, Payton Ronco as Brigitta von Trapp, Adalyn Boehler as Marta von Trapp and Sophia Nail as Greta von Trapp. Members of the supporting cast include Bella Reyes as Frau Schmidt, Derek Sawyer as Franz, Garrett Hale as Herr Zeller, Audie Hale as Admiral Von Schreiber, Kendai Rigsby as Ursula, Aaron Hale as Baron Elberfeld, Selina Cochran as Baroness Elberfeld, Ella Savage as Sister Margaretta, Olivia Reid as Sister Berthe, Bristol Everett as Sister Sophia, Lily Sipes as Sister Helga, Janet Mazza as Sister Frieda, Sammi Rieke as Sister Agatha, Conner Roettgers, Nick Hasquin, James Vaughn and Ethan Rosado as soldiers and Maddy Dunham, Evelyn Hale, Kilee Hoover Calvert, Sydney Weatherford and Summer Wilson as nuns. Ensemble members are Megan Boyd, Alyvia Hester, Emma Hollo, Cassie Loveless, Rebecca McBride, Kayleigh Morgan, Melanie Pence, Dimarys Portorreal-Cruz, Claire Reid, Tikkit Satterlee, Melody Ann Smith, Kaiti Spang and Wesley White.

Production crew includes Directors Ellis Henley, Cassie Lord-Remmert-McKorkle and Paige Sprankle, Stage Manager Emily Caldieraro, Costume Designer Taylor Henley and Producer DeDe Irvin. Stage crew includes Alex Calladine, Ava Ballard, Amanda Sypherd, Gabe Wilson, Andrew Boston and Kassie Taylor, as well as Emma Wilson as prop master assistant, Olivia Sykes, Nick Cochran, Hudson Debarr-Walker and Liam White on lights and sound, Lynne Taylor and Maggie Reynolds on video, directors’ assistants Jessica Zhang, Deeya Patel and Savannah Roach, Garrison Cleaver and crew members as ushers, Larry Caldieraro, Lloyd Irvin and Nick McKorkle on set design, Brooke Borrowman, Cheryl Frerichs, Diane Spinner and Audrey Orf as scenery artists, Jessie Zhang, Ella Rose Hohnsbehn, Melody Ellinger, Sarah Rieke, BreAnna White, Madi White, Kelby White, Brooke Braasch, Darby Braasch, Deeya Patel, Paislei Foss, Myla Burris and Raylynn Jones on the hair and make-up team, Taylor Henley, DeDe Irvin, Lizzy Hale, Aryn Dooley and Jennah Longwell on costumes and Myla Burris and Mrs. Sprankle’s drama class on advertising. Members of the pit band were Taylor Henley, Libby Jones, Chris Lord, Chet Lord-Remmert, Amy Newkirk, Nancy Shellhammer, Nick Adam, Josh Bader, Will Cress, Bill Crispens, Cal Frerichs, Hannah Phillips, Alec Roach, Sam Schwab, Damian Vega, Elisa Walch, Jake Wilson, Michael Wujek and Will Wujek.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Plummer Photography

Nutrient Stewardship Day

Continued from page 1A

“We’re looking to keep nutrients in the field,” said Katie Wilson, Montgomery County Farm Bureau manager.

The first stop during the day was the Meisner farm to discuss no-till and cover crop strategies. The land is farmed by Matt Meisner, his father Mark and uncle Larry. They started using cover crops in the field that was toured in 2014, mostly cereal rye. They currently plant 40 pounds per acre, but plan on cutting back to 30 or 35 due to the thickness they see in some years. The current rye had been planted between Sept. 11 and Sept. 15.

In previous years, they would have terminated the cover crops earlier, however, they reported not seeing beans for around a month, leading to the creation of weed pressure. “If we let it grow then burn it off, that’ll save a pass with the sprayer and save some money,” said Matt Meisner.

Meisner also reported no erosion or concern with mice

in the cover cropped field. There was also no issue with cover crops getting into the tiling. Meisner said that they only use herbicide when it’s time to terminate cover crops.

The next stop was one of Murphy’s farms, where he practices strip tilling. David Kleinschmidt with Progressive Agronomy Consulting spoke to those in attendance while investigating the inside of a soil pit. He specified how through strip tilling, farmers have greater control over where crops are planted, and are able to concentrate the roots in an ideal area for nutrients, rather than have roots that greatly spread throughout the area.

The farm on display during the tour currently uses wheat as a cover crop. Kleinschmidt noted that wheat doesn’t grow as deep as rye, and that deeper rooted cover crops, when terminated, have the capacity to leave a path for corn roots to follow, allowing them easier access to carbon, and thus, growth.

After the farm tour, the group met back at Murphy’s machine shed for lunch,



Matt Meisner, pictured above, showcases a field that uses no till and cover crop strategies as part of the Nutrient Stewardship Field Day on Thursday, March 27.

Photos Courtesy of Katie Wilson, County Farm Bureau Manager

which was provided by Lipe’s Lunchbox.

Pegg was first to speak, giving an introduction and talking about the Nutrient Stewardship Program. Kleinschmidt was next, showcasing a rainfall simulator and comparing a plot of land with cover crops and one without. The simulation showed the difference in runoff between the two plots of land.

Kris Reynolds, the Midwest Director of the American Farmland Trust (AFT) highlighted key takeaways from the tour and discussed AFT resources. Lora Scott with the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District then spoke on farmer resources and an update for the Hillsboro Lakes project.

Comments from farmers were then taken before the day’s events concluded.

Autism Acceptance Month

Continued on page 1A

On Saturday April 12, the Hillsboro Ministerial Alliance will host a sensory friendly Easter Egg Hunt, beginning at 11:15 a.m., at Beckemeyer Elementary School.

A TASC+ hangout night, for neurodivergent individuals ages 14 and over, will be held on Wednesday, April 16, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the location is still to be determined;

and a bowling and pizza party will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, at the Litchfield Bowling Alley.

TASC’s Autism Acceptance festivities will end with a Family Fun Day at Bremer Sanctuary in Hillsboro, on Saturday, April 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. With the collaboration of the sanctuary’s stewards the Bremer event will feature wagon rides, a guided hike, and hot dogs and s’mores. The TASC Board asks that

those planning to attend the Family Fun Day at Bremer please RSVP to Tori O’Dell at 618-795-4170 to help ensure there are enough supplies/food for all attendees.

While held in celebration of Autism Acceptance Month, TASC’s activities are open to all families of individuals with differing needs. TASC covers the costs of these

events.

For more information on TASC or questions about the upcoming events contact Lynn Sellers at 217-556-9535 or Kim Draper at 217-710-3958, email tascillinois1@gmail.com, or follow the public “TASC (The Autism Support Connection)” page on Facebook.

Historical Society Hosts An Experienced Dowser

Anyone interested in the art and science of dowsing is invited to attend the quarterly meeting of the Historical Society of Montgomery County on Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m., at the Challacombe House, 509 School St., Hillsboro. Light refreshments will be available.

After a short business meeting, local historian Linda Hanabarger of rural Vandalia will describe how she became a dowser 33 years ago, what she uses as divining rods, and the variety of items she can successfully locate.

In addition to finding un-

derground sources of water for deep wells, Hanabarger has located unmarked burial sites in old cemeteries and elsewhere. To date, she has identified and certified where 17 soldiers were buried after battles in the Civil War and other conflicts.

Membership in the Historical Society is open to all; dues are just \$10 a year. In addition to quarterly meetings, the Society regularly sponsors programs for the public and maintains the Montgomery County Museum and the Historic Harkey House at 305 S. Broad St., Hillsboro.

I, Brian Redman, am the current Fire Chief of the Village of Taylor Springs. I have been a volunteer/EMT /and an EMR for 27 years. During my time as Chief, I have successfully worked with a grant writer and have received for TSFD 100% grants that are at no cost to the Village that better our Fire Department and add to the safety of the Villagers.

This keeps the Fire Department NFPA compliant. I also have been a school bus driver for the Hillsboro School District for over 30 years. I drive one of the school buses that takes and brings kids back home to Taylor Springs safely.

Myself, and these TSFD volunteer firemen are proud to endorse the current Village President, HARRY JACKSON for Village President and JODY JACKSON for Village Trustee.

Ron Gazda, Linda Klotz, Jake Jones, David Wrachford, Justin Redman, Matt and Caleb Page, Brookelynn Hopley, Nick Hopley and Alex Carter.

Please VOTE on April 1st.

A Night With The Lancers
Dinner Auction
Saturday, April 12 • Doors Open at 5 p.m.
\$50 per ticket • Silent Auction
Order Tickets by April 3
Call 217-313-6935 to RSVP
Litchfield Christian School
608 N. Van Buren • Litchfield

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NOKOMIS, a banking corporation,

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

Defendants
2025FC3
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered by this Court on March 13, 2025, in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

A. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Steven Johnson, First National Bank of Nokomis, 122 W. State St., Nokomis, IL 62075, Phone: (217) 563-8311.

B. The common address or other common description, if any, of the real estate is as follows:
**419 Monroe Street
Nokomis, IL 62075**

C. The legal description of the real estate 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)

D. The tract of land is improved with a residential home.

E. The property may be inspected prior to sale by contacting Steven Johnson, First National Bank of Nokomis, 122 W. State St., Nokomis, IL 62075, Phone: (217) 563-8311, by appointment only.

F. The time and place of sale are as follows: Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., Montgomery County Court House, main lobby, 120 North Main St., Hillsboro, IL 62049.

G. The terms of sale are:
1. Ten percent of the bid price shall be paid at the time of the sale and the balance of the bid price shall be paid immediately following the entry of an Order confirming the sale. All payments shall be in cash or cash equivalent.
2. Any announcements by the Sheriff at the sale shall be binding and shall take precedence over all prior announcements including announcements contained herein.
3. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.

H. Title will be conveyed subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

Plaintiff, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NOKOMIS, a banking corporation, by its attorneys, Beavers, Calvert & Brotherton
By: /s/ Beth E. Brotherton
BETH E. BROTHERTON

BETH E. BROTHERTON
BEAVERS, CALVERT & BROTHERTON
Attorneys for Plaintiff
221 West Main Cross – P.O. Box 320
Taylorville, IL 62568
Phone: (217) 824-3341
Fax: (217) 824-3842

89-3tM

It's All Good News!

brought to you by ... **TOSETTI** & Associates

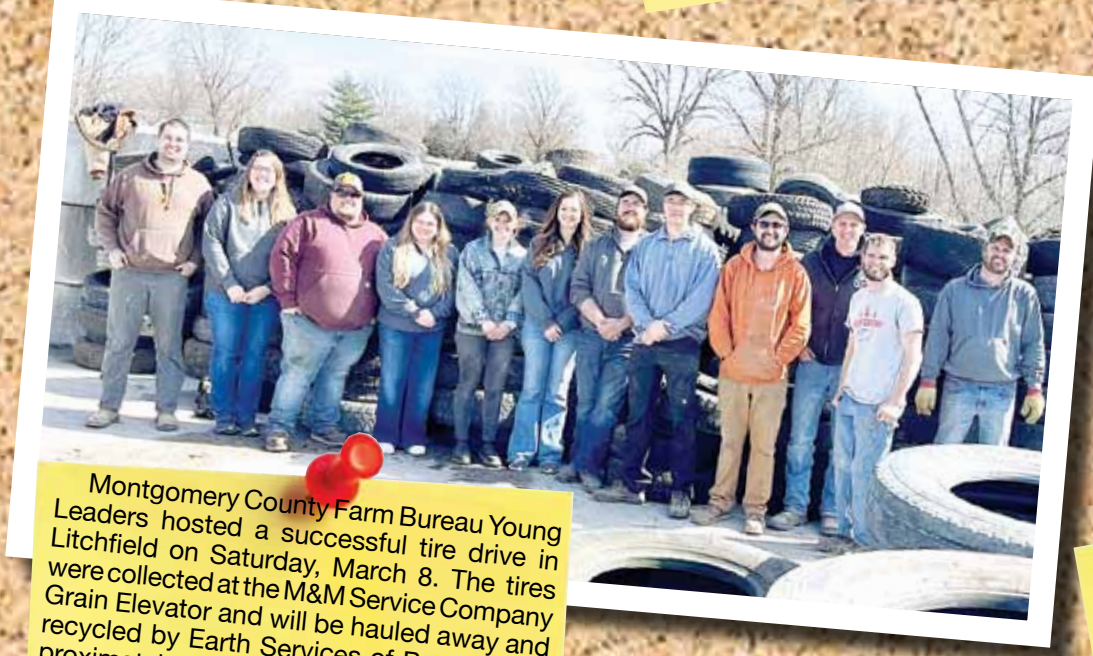
Send Us Your Good News!
tosettijn@gmail.com
journalnewsmary@gmail.com
Any Good News items selected will receive a \$25 gift from Tosetti & Associates and be entered to win a \$50 gift.



Litchfield Elementary School (LES) Future Leaders donated over \$700 to the Montgomery County Cancer Association in March by selling handmade art.



Members of the Sew and Show Quilt Guild have a new project this spring, adding zippers to shirts for local cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment.



Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Leaders hosted a successful tire drive in Litchfield on Saturday, March 8. The tires were collected at the M&M Service Company Grain Elevator and will be hauled away and recycled by Earth Services of Benton. Approximately 30 tons of tires were collected from 35 households and farms.



Residents at Hillsboro Health Assisted Living (formerly Tremont Ridge) enjoyed a fun St. Patrick's Day-themed project provided by the Ladies from St. Agnes Parish group



The Hillsboro Breakfast Sertoma Club presented a donation to the Coffeen pre-K, which will go towards improving speech and hearing classes at the school.



Kindergarten through eighth grade students at St. Louis School in Nokomis enjoyed learning to roller skate, thanks Adopt-A-Class PE sponsor, Jack E. Tosetti, for making the activity possible.



Members of the Old Settlers royalty are giving back to their community this spring by helping out with the community Easter egg hunt. The foursome filled nearly 1,000 plastic eggs with treats for the big event.



The Irving Methodist Church Mission Ministry Team collected diapers for the Hillsboro Light-house Pregnancy and Health Services. Each month, the team donates items to a non-profit organization.



Members of the Sewing for Missions organization made another delivery of children's hospital gowns and other supplies to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham on Tuesday, Feb. 25.



Christmas came a bit early this year for students at Beckemeyer Elementary School in Hillsboro, as members of Whitetails Archery presented a donation of unlimited equipment to the physical education department, including bows, arrows and targets.



Nokomis senior Jayde Gonet connects with a pitch for one of the Lady Redskins' four hits against Gillespie on Wednesday, March 26. The Miners took advantage of nine Nokomis errors to pick up a 9-0 win over Nokomis, who fell to 2-5 with the loss.
James Ryan/NokoPhoto

Lady Redskins Look To Bounce Back After Losses

After a comeback win over North Mac and a close loss to Pawnee, Nokomis' games on March 26 and 27 were not how they wanted to end the second week of the season. The Lady Redskins were outscored 26-2 in the two games as they fell to 2-6 on the season, with hopes of turning things around this coming Monday, March 31, when they travel to Ramsey. In their game against Gillespie on March 26, the Lady Redskins were held to four hits by the duo of Sadie Sholtis and Paxton Reid as Gillespie picked up their second win of the season with a 9-0 victory. Sholtis had ten strikeouts and didn't walk a batter in five innings, while Reid struck out three and walked one in the final two frames. Camryn Engelman, Jayde Gonet, Maddison DeWerff

and Kalasandra Cook had singles for Nokomis, whose best chance at scoring came in the bottom of the sixth when Leigha Smith walked and Gonet singled. Smith moved to third on a sacrifice fly to center, but Reid got the final out to end the threat. Cloey Dirks took the loss on the mound, but gave up just six hits and three walks, with five strikeouts. The Redskins were hampered by nine errors, which resulted in five unearned runs on the night. Ava Rakers led the Gillespie offense with a single, a double and three runs batted in. The Miners scored single runs in each of the first three innings, followed by two runs in the fourth and four runs in the seventh to finish off the victory.

Continued on 3B

Late Rally Lifts Litchfield To Win Over Collinsville

The Litchfield-Mt. Olive softball team gutted out a 4-0 win over Collinsville on March 26, to remain undefeated through five games, but weren't able to get past a tough Pawnee squad as the Indians handed them a 4-3 loss on March 28. Wednesday's showdown with the Kahoks saw Litchfield starter Lili Anne Readenour and Collinsville starter Ali Vielof trading shutout inning after shutout inning, with Readenour giving up just two hits, a two-out single in the third and

a leadoff single in the sixth. Litchfield's first hit came at the start of the second on a leadoff double by Laynie Wyatt. The Panthers loaded the bases with one out after Chloe Green was hit by a pitch and Georgia Glover walked, but Vieluf got the next two batters out to end the threat. The Panthers stranded runners in the third, fourth and fifth innings as well, but finally broke through in the bottom of the sixth.

Continued on 3B

Win, Lose Or Tie, Panthers Still Off To Hot Start

After two lopsided victories in their first week of the season, the Litchfield-Mt. Olive girls soccer team was put to the test in week two, with three games in three days against good competition. The Lady Panthers had three different outcomes in the three games, one win, one loss and one tie, but all three results will hopefully help them later on in the season. On Wednesday, March 26, Litchfield traveled to Jacksonville for a showdown with the Crimson. The two teams finished deadlocked in a 1-1 tie, with Chloe Law scoring Litchfield's goal on an assist by Daphney Hartel. Lynzie Reid had five saves in net for the Lady Panthers.

The following day, Litchfield was back at home as they hosted Athens. The Lady Panthers were looking to avenge a 4-2 loss from the year before, when freshman Ava Bee scored twice for the host Warriors.

This time, it was Litchfield's newcomer who made the difference as McKenna Harmon scored a pair of goals in a 4-3 victory over Athens.

Litchfield peppered the Athens goal, putting 14 shots on net, with Harmon's brace complimented by goals from both Chloe Law and Daphney Hartel. Law also had an assist in the win, as did Adia Melchert.

Lynzie Reid had five saves in goal for Litchfield, who handed Athens their first loss in five games this season to improve to 3-0-1 on the year.

Usually saving the best for last is a positive, but in regards to a stretch of three games in three days, the "best" was a tall order for the Lady Panthers. Waterloo's



Litchfield's Daphney Hartel goes up for a header off a corner kick during the first half of the Lady Panthers' game against Waterloo Gibault on Friday, March 28. Hartel later scored Litchfield's only goal in a 5-1 loss to the Hawks that ended Litchfield's unbeaten streak after four games.
Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Gibault Catholic entered the game with a 5-0 record, having beaten Alton Marquette 1-0 in their previous match.

Litchfield held their own with Hawks, but weren't able to hand the visitors their first loss of the season as Gibault won 5-1 to give the Panthers loss number one.

The Hawks picked up a pair of goals in the first 20 minutes of the first half, but Litchfield controlled more

of the action in the second half of the period. Using her speed, Adia Melchert nearly broke through for the Panthers with 16:30 to play, but a good save by Gibault's Maggie Altes kept the Hawks out in front.

Daphney Hartel and Chloe Law also had chances in the waning minutes of the first half, but it was Savannah Carle who may have had the best opportunity. On a loose

ball down the right sideline, Altes came way out to try to clear the ball away. Instead, the ball went right to Carle's feet and the sophomore tried to put a long shot on net before the Gibault goalie could get back. Carle's shot ended up missing the open goal by inches as she booted it into the side netting to keep it a 2-0 game.

The Hawks nearly added to that margin right before half, but Lynzie Reid came out of her net to cut down the angle as Gibault skied one over the crossbar.

In the second half, the Litchfield defense, anchored by Avery Stewart, Kristin Gruelle, Ava Ballard, Charlotte Reyes and Maya Estell, kept Reid from being tested too many times early on. Playing without sophomore Kyndal Law, who was out with what was a hopefully temporary shoulder injury, the group prevented the Hawks from scoring in the first 20 minutes, despite Gibault having the wind in the second half.

Litchfield finally broke through at the 24:34 mark. With a cross pinballing around in the Waterloo box, a clearance attempt eventually fell to the foot of Daphney Hartel, whose shot to the far post from 18 yards out cut the lead in half.

The Hawks kept at it on the offensive end, however, and eventually wore down an exhausted Litchfield defense. Gibault broke through with 19:27 to play, then added another goal with 10:20 to go when Elena Oggero vollied in a shot after Aubry Thomas' free kick was deflected in her direction.

Continued on 3B

Eisenbarth One Hits Aces In Mercy Rule Win

Luke Eisenbarth threw a four-inning one-hitter and Nokomis scored ten runs in the bottom of the third inning to pick up their third win of the season on Wednesday, March 26, against Mulberry Grove.

The Aces' only hit came with two outs in the top of the first, when Aiden Walker singled, then moved to second when Braiden Walker was hit by a pitch. Eisenbarth got out of the jam, when Izaak Doyen threw out Walker trying to steal third, and allowed just three more base runners over his next three minutes on the mound.

Nokomis gave the freshman all the run support he'd need in the bottom of the first inning as they scored five runs on two singles, three walks and two hit batsmen. Nolan Herpstreith and Ian Keller started off the inning with a pair of singles, with Herpstreith stealing second, taking third on a passed ball and scoring on Keller's base hit. Keller came around to score soon after as he stole second, third and home to make it 2-0.



Nokomis senior Drake Taylor slides in safely at home during the Redskins' home game against Mulberry Grove on Wednesday, March 26. The run was one of 15 Nokomis scored against the Aces as they scored their third win of the season, 15-0, in four innings.
James Ryan/NokoPhoto

Walks to Levi German and Izaak Doyen followed the two singles, with German scoring on a wild pitch to make it 3-0. After Drake Taylor was

hit by a pitch, Doyen made it 4-0 when he scored on a wild pitch as well.

Mulberry Grove starter Braiden Walker got the first

out of the inning on a strikeout, but he plunked Blain Goodwin to end his day.

Continued on 3B

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Support your Montgomery County Veterans

Drivers

Become a DAV Volunteer Driver

- Volunteering not only benefits veterans but also enriches the lives of volunteers.
- It fosters a sense of community and connection, allowing individuals to learn more about the experiences of those who have served.
- Join our dedicated team that transports our veterans to and from appointments.
- The VA provides the van & you provide the vital transportation service for our disabled heroes.

Please call or come by the office for more information

Montgomery County Veterans Assistance Commission

217-532-9695

201 S. Main St.
Hillsboro, IL. 62049





> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you'll want to know your retirement account options.

There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer's 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.

Jacey M Hill
Financial Advisor | 303 Dearborn St
Hillsboro, IL 62049 | 217-532-2999

Mike Delaney, CFP®
Financial Advisor | 614 West Union
Litchfield, IL 62056 | 217-324-2625

Kelly J Steiner
Financial Advisor | 108 E Columbian Blvd S
Litchfield, IL 62056 | 217-324-7909

Blake J Delaney
Financial Advisor | 303 Dearborn St
Hillsboro, IL 62049 | 217-532-2999

IRT-1948M-A AECSPAD 23023800

Lancers Bear Down At Grizzlies Ballpark

The Lincolnwood-Morrisville baseball team picked up a major league win in a minor league park on Friday, March 28, as they defeated Gillespie 8-5 at Grizzlies Ballpark in Sauget.

Both teams scored early, with Lincolnwood getting an RBI double by Mason Tryon after Jonah Elvidge singled and Jhude Walker was hit by a pitch. The Lancers tried to add to their lead, but Walker was thrown out at the plate two batters later on a throw from Gillespie center fielder Brody Shaw.

Shaw was also Gillespie's first runner to get on base as he drew a walk against Lincolnwood starter Jonah Elvidge. Luke Schuckenbrock was hit by a pitch to put two on, but Elvidge struck out the next batter to give

the Lancers two outs.

The Miners weren't done, though, as Jack Kaylor, Dawson Lancaster and Braden Reich all singled to drive in three runs before Elvidge got out of the inning with a strikeout.

It remained a two-run game after two innings as Lincolnwood scored one in the second on a walk to Donny Daugherty and an error off the bat of Brody Lush, only to have Gillespie load the bases with three straight singles off reliever Mason Tryon and score on a fielder's choice. Tryon settled down after that, allowing just three hits in the next five innings, with Gillespie picking up one more run in the bottom of the fourth.

Continued on 3B

Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers
Monday, March 31
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Staunton
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Staunton
6:30 p.m. - Girls Soccer vs. North Mac at Litchfield Tourney
Tuesday, April 1
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Taylorville
4:30 p.m. - Track hosts Greenville, Staunton, Southwestern

Litchfield Purple Panthers
Monday, March 31
4:30 p.m. - Girls Soccer vs. Staunton at Litchfield Tourney
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Mt. Zion
Tuesday, April 1
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Civic Memorial
4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Lincolnwood
4:30 p.m. - Track hosts Carlinville, Gillespie
Wednesday, April 2
4:30 p.m. - Girls Soccer vs. Maryville Christian at Litchfield Tourney
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Ramsey
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Ramsey

Nokomis Redskins
Monday, March 31
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Ramsey
Tuesday, April 1
4 p.m. - Track at Pana
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Tri-City/Sangamon Valley
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Tri-City/Sangamon Valley
Wednesday, April 2
4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Gillespie
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Shelbyville

Lincolnwood Lancers
Monday, March 31
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts North Mac
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Pana
Tuesday, April 1
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Litchfield
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Greenville
Wednesday, April 2
4:30 p.m. - Baseball at Edinburg/South Fork
Get the scores when we do twitter.com/JNsports

Tornadoes Take Care Of Toppers In Five Innings

by Ron Deabenderfer

Even the natural late March weather seems to be conspiring against a very young but promising Hillsboro baseball team if the game played in Taylorville Thursday evening, March 27, is an example. In Hillsboro the cold wind blew and enough rain fell to make any baseball action unlikely; in Taylorville the cold wind blew but little rain fell Thursday morning and early afternoon, so the scheduled game was held.

The result wasn't pretty; the Toppers had one hit, a single by catcher Jackson Tuetken in the top of the first; one reached first on a dropped-third strike; and five walked as their total offense. Tuetken scored the run in the first as Nathan Matoush, Eli Zaidi, and Liam Blackburn each walked. The RBI belongs to Blackburn, who walked with two out. Sadly, the 1-0 lead after the top of the first was the only advantage the Toppers could claim.

The hosts took the lead with four runs in the bottom of the first as a hit batsman, a double, and three consecutive singles made for an "uh-oh" moment as six of the first seven Tornadoes reached base. It was 6-1 going into the bottom of the fourth when Taylorville sent 11 more men to the plate, scoring seven more runs to invoke the ten-run mercy rule. So far this season the Toppers have too often fallen victim to multiple everyone-bats-this-inning occasions.

Taylorville had ten hits in the game and their batters were also hit by Topper pitchers five times, walked once,

and reached base because of error three times. Three of the hits were doubles. Only shortstop Colton Gatton had two hits but every slot in their order had one hit.

Starting pitcher Kason Pembroke was the winning pitcher. The starter for Hillsboro, sophomore Liam Blackburn, absorbed the loss. Also seeing mound duty for the Toppers was freshman Colby Wilkinson.

The double header schedule here for Saturday was cancelled, partly because of the weather forecast (It's a long drive from both Nashville and Freeburg if there's a chance the only reward is return trip south because the field is unplayable) and partly because both had a chance to play on a Turf field closer to home.

Thus the next scheduled game is for this afternoon, Monday, March 31, against Staunton. First pitch is scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|------|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| March 27 at Taylorville | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hillsboro | 100 | 00 | ---- | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Taylorville | 411 | 7x | --- | 13 | 10 | 0 | | | | | | |
| <i>Pitching Statistics</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | | | | |
| Blackburn | 2.2 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Wilkinson | 1.1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| <i>*Wilkinson 3 HBP, Blackburn 2 HBP</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Home | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | | | | |
| Ladage | 0.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Pembroke | 2.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Cappellin | 2.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | |

Hillsboro Batting
Runs: Jackson Tuetken 1. RBI: Liam Blackburn 1.

Taylorville Batting
Multiple Hits: Colton Gatton 2-2, **2B:** Colton Gatton 1, Kason Pembroke 1, Maxx Grieme 1. **Runs:** Colton Gatton 3, Kade Beckmier 2, Clark Durbin 2, Baron Odam 1, Maxx Grieme 1, Isaac Repscher 1, Lane Wemple 1, Carter Cappellin 1, Blake Ladage 1. **RBI:** Isaac Repscher 3, Baron Odam 2, Colton Gatton 1, Kade Beckmier 1, Clark Durbin 1, Hudson DeMichael 1, Carter Cappellin 1, Kason Pembroke 1.

Records: Hillsboro (1-6); Taylorville (4-0).

Vandals Dodge Rain Drops To Hand Hiltoppers A Loss

by Ron Deabenderfer

When the bus carrying the Hillsboro baseball team to a non-conference game in Vandalia, it passed through a rather strong shower near Shafter; the rain didn't affect the Vandals' field, though, nor the outcome, a 7-2 Vandal victory, but their leadoff hitter, speedy Kohnor Depew, did by going three for four and scoring two runs. Equally important was pitcher Jack Lewis, who didn't give up a hit let alone a run as the Vandal who pitched the first four innings.

The Toppers first hit came in the top of the fifth when Maddux McLaughlin singled; Clayton Rufus also singled, and after McLaughlin was forced at third, Nate Matoush doubled Rufus home to break the shutout. By then, though, Vandalia was ahead 4-0 as they scored single runs off Topper hurler Jackson Tuetken in the second and third, when Depew scored on a passed ball before bunching two singles and a double after two were out in the fourth.

Tuetken pitched rather efficiently; although the Vandals collected eight hits, only one of the runs was earned; he walked no one and hit no one with a pitch.

Rufus worked the last two innings for the Toppers; a walk, a double, and a single plus a two-out error allowed the Vandals to salt the game

away in the fifth, but then Rufus threw a 1-2-3 inning in the sixth, including a fly ball by Depew to end the inning. It was the only time Depew didn't reach base.

Hillsboro's last run came in the sixth when, with two out, Sawyer Hindle reached on a fielder's choice, moved over as Chase Spangler singled, then scored on another two-out single by McLaughlin, who had a two-hit day as a freshman to celebrate.

This afternoon, March 27, the Toppers travel to Taylorville; first pitch is at 4:30. Saturday both Nashville and Freeburg come here from the south to play each other and the Toppers; the first of the three games starts at 11 a.m.

| March 25 at Vandalia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Hillsboro | 000 | 011 | 0 | -2 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Vandalia | 011 | 230 | x | -7 | 8 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Pitching Statistics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | | | | |
| Tuetken | 4.0 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Rufus | 2.0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Home | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | | | | |
| Lewis | 4.1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Elder | 2.2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| *Linder 2 UBP, Elder 1 UBP | | | | | | | | | | | | |

***Lewis 2 HBP, Elder 1 HBP**
Hillsboro Batting
Multiple Hits: Nathan Matoush 2-3. **2B:** Nathan Matoush. **Runs:** Sawyer Hindle 1, Clayton Rufus 1. **RBI:** Nathan Matoush 1, Maddux McLaughlin 1.

Vandalia Batting
Multiple Hits: Kohnor Depew 3-4, Adam Buscher 2-3, Owen Halford 2-3. **2B:** Kohnor Depew 1, Chase Cearlock 1, Ayden Carroll 1. **Runs:** Adam Buscher 2, Kohnor Depew 1, Andrew Caey 1, Owen Halford 1, Camden Ruot 1, Kobe Lux 1. **RBI:** Owen Halford 2, Ayden Carroll 1, Chase Cearlock 1.
Records: Hillsboro (1-5), Vandalia (2-1).

Lincolnwood Girls Climb Above .500 Mark

The Lincolnwood-Morrissonville softball team picked up a pair of wins to end the week as they defeated New Berlin and Riverton on the road to push their record over .500 for the first time this season.

The Lady Lancers scored single runs in four of the first five innings, starting with Tori Elvidge crossing the plate when Jenna Matli reached on an error with two outs. After a scoreless second, another New Berlin error contributed to the game's second run as Morgan Cowdrey made it all the way to third on the leadoff miscue, then scored when Matli singled in the next at-bat.

Lincolnwood made it 3-0 in the top of the fourth after Hannah Jostes walked and was driven home by Ella Jenkins. Audrey Germann picked up an RBI in the fifth as she singled after Jenna Matli and Hannah Hill walked earlier in the inning.

The Pretzels had been held to just two hits in the first four innings against Lincolnwood starter Tori Elvidge, but got a run across in the bottom of the fifth, thanks to an RBI single by Riley Holloway. Lincolnwood answered with two runs in the top of the sixth, with two errors, a single by Elvidge and a sacrifice fly by Matli making it a 6-1 game.

The score was still 6-1 going into the bottom of the seventh, when Avery Blackorby tripled to lead off the final frame. After a strikeout, Riley Holloway reached on an error that allowed Blackorby to score. Holloway made it 6-3 on a passed ball, but Elvidge got out number two on a line out to second and worked around a single to strikeout

the final batter of the game.

The Lincolnwood pitcher finished with nine strikeouts, giving up three runs (one earned) on six hits and two hit batsmen. Ella Jenkins had two of Lincolnwood's five hits in the game and drove in a run, while Jenna Matli (2) and Audrey Germann (1) also had RBIs.

Riverton

The win over New Berlin evened Lincolnwood's record at 4-4, with the Lancers improving to 5-4 the following day as they defeated Riverton 21-9 in seven innings.

Lincolnwood scored in all seven innings and early on it looked as if they might need to. After Tori Elvidge put the Lancers on top with a solo home run in the first, the Hawks played four runs in the bottom half of the inning. Hannah Jostes allowed three straight singles to start the bottom of the first, with Gabriella Speaks tying the game on Kelsy Dalby's one-bagger. Jostes' day on the mound came to an end after an error allowed two more runs to score, with Elvidge coming on in relief. The Hawks added one more run on a passed ball, but Elvidge struck out three of the four batters she faced in the first to get out of the inning.

The Lancers got one run back on a "little league home run" as Hannah Hill came all the way around to score on a ground ball to short and two errors. The Hawks got the next two outs, but Ella Jenkins was hit by a pitch and later scored on a single by Elvidge to make it 4-3 before Riverton retired the side.

Lincolnwood took the lead in the top of the third, with a double by Hill driving in

Jenna Matli and Emma Horath, who both singled in the inning. A dropped third strike cost Riverton another run as Hill scored to make it 6-4 in Lincolnwood's favor.

Riverton regained a 7-6 lead on a double, two errors and a hit batsman, but Jenkins went deep on the second pitch of the fourth inning to tie the game at 7-7. A single and five walks led to three more runs as Lincolnwood led 10-7 before Gabriella Speaks got the first two outs of the inning. That brought Jenkins up to the plate for the second time and the junior third baseman left the yard for the second time in the inning as her grand slam home run doubled up the Pretzels at 14-7.

Riverton got two runs on an error, a double, a ground out and a walk, but Lincolnwood regained their seven-run lead with a sacrifice fly by Horath and a run-scoring single by Hill. The Lancers added an RBI single from Audrey Germann in the sixth to make it 17-9, then scored four runs on three hits, a walk, an error and a hit batsman to account for the final margin of victory. Morgan Cowdrey drove in a run in the final frame, while Jenna Matli plated two with a one-out double.

The Hawks got a runner on with one out on an error, but Elvidge worked her way out of the trouble with a pop up to second and her 14th strikeout of the game. She'd finish the day with two hits allowed, plus three walks and five unearned runs.

Lincolnwood will be at home for a pair of games against South Central Conference competition to start

Lady Lancers Beat Vandalia, Fall To Athens

The Lincolnwood-Morrissonville softball team picked up their third win in four games as they defeated Vandalia 7-3 in Raymond on March 24.

Both teams threatened in the first two innings, but the score remained 0-0 until the bottom of the third, when the Lady Lancers scored twice, despite not getting a hit in the inning. Ella Jenkins was hit by a pitch, then came all the way around from first to score on a failed fielder's choice off the bat of Morgan Cowdrey and an error by the Vandalia second baseman. Cowdrey went to second on the error and scored on another Vandalia error in the next at-bat.

Errors were a problem for the Vandals throughout the game as only two of Lincolnwood's seven runs were earned. In the fourth, the Lancers turned three errors, a walk and a fielder's choice into three more runs as they led 5-0 after four innings.

The only two earned runs Vandalia allowed came in the bottom of the sixth, when Tori Elvidge tripled to drive in Carly Armentrout and Ella Jenkins, who walked and singled just before Elvidge's three-bagger.

The Vandals finally caught

a break in the top of the seventh as they capitalized on an error by the Lancers and scored three runs. They'd get another runner on with an error after that, but Elvidge got the final batter to ground to short to end the game.

Elvidge allowed just one hit in five innings of relief, walking three and striking out six. Hannah Jostes got the start and pitched two scoreless innings, allowing two hits and striking out two.

Elvidge also had two of Lincolnwood's three hits and a pair of RBIs, with Ella Jenkins adding the other hit and three runs scored.

Athens

Game two of the week didn't go quite as well for the Lady Lancers as they fell to Athens 11-1 in six innings.

Warriors starting pitcher Isabel Ingram held the Lancers to two hits and struck out five batters, while giving up just one run in the fourth inning. The run came after Ella Jenkins was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning, followed by a double from Tori Elvidge to put runners at second and third. Morgan Cowdrey grounded out for the RBI, but Ingram kept Elvidge on third as she retired the final two batters.

Lincolnwood's tally made

it 4-1 in the Warriors favor after the home team scored three runs on two walks and two errors in the bottom of the first, plus one run in the second on a solo home run by Reilen Reynolds. Lincolnwood starter Tori Elvidge got through the third and fourth innings unscathed, but a two-run home run by Preslie Buckmaster, followed by a solo shot from Aubrey Crispen in the next at-bat upped Athens' lead to 7-1 after five.

After holding the Lancers in the top of the sixth, Athens scored four runs on a walk, three straight singles and a double by Ingram to end the game early due to the mercy rule.

Jenkins and Elvidge both got on base twice, with Jenkins adding a single to her free base after being plunked, while Elvidge reached on an error later in the contest. Hannah Hill (hit by pitch) and Audrey Germann (walk) were the only other Lancers to reach base. Elvidge took the loss on the mound, allowing 11 runs (seven earned) on ten hits, four walks and three errors, with five strikeouts.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---|----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| March 24 at Raymond | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vandalia | 000 | 000 | 3 | -3 | 3 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Lincolnwood | 002 | 302 | x | -7 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | |

Tornadoes Flatten Another Montgomery County Foe

The Taylorville High School baseball team has not been friendly to Montgomery County high school teams so far in the 2025 season as the Tornadoes are 3-0, with all three wins coming against Montgomery County schools. The third leg of the trifecta occurred on Tuesday afternoon, March 25, when the Tornadoes defeated Litchfield/Mt. Olive 10-0 on the campus of Taylorville High School.

After defeating Lincolnwood and Nokomis last week, Taylorville continued the trend on Tuesday as they scored in four of the five innings.

The Tornadoes jumped out early in the contest as they put two runs on the board in the home half of the opening inning on an Isaac Repscher home run. In the bottom of the second inning, Taylorville increased their lead to 5-0 by adding three more runs to their total, two off of solo home runs by Kason Pembroke and Baron Odam.

While Taylorville con-

tinued to find ways to put runs on the board, Litchfield looked for ways to do the same. Getting runners on the base paths would not be the problem as they would put runners on in each of the first four innings.

In the opening inning, Laidyn Jones was hit by a pitch and moved to second after Max Leitschuh singled with one out. A strikeout and a fly out after the base hit ended any threat the Purple Panthers were putting together. In the bottom of the second, Litchfield once again put a base runner on with one out on the board. Titan Hires singled on the second pitch he saw, but that was far as Hires was able to move around the base paths.

In the third, with one out on the board, Laidyn Jones was once again hit by a pitch. After the second out was recorded, Jones moved over to second base when Ethan Saathoff collected a hit.

Just like in the opening inning, the Purple Panthers'

threat was held back as the Tornadoes closed out the inning with a strikeout.

That would be the closest Litchfield came to scoring. They would get another base runner, in the bottom of the fourth when Tucker Pastrovich reached first base on an error, but he'd be left stranded there when the inning came to a close.

As Taylorville continued to keep the Purple Panthers off the scoreboard, the Tornadoes put more runs on the board. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Taylorville got their sixth run of the ball game, followed by a four-run frame in the fifth that put the mercy rule into effect.

Matthew Bywater got the nod in the challenging non-conference contest and surrendered six of the ten runs, two of which were earned, off of six hits, with three strikeouts. Trailing 6-0, Tucker Pastrovich took the mound in the bottom of the fifth inning, allowing four unearned runs in two-thirds of an inning

the week as they host Pana on March 31 and Greenville on April 1.

March 27 at New Berlin
Lincolnwood 101 112 0 --6 5 3
New Berlin 000 010 2 --3 6 4

| <i>Pitching Statistics</i> | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Elvidge | 7.0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| <i>*Elvidge 2 HBP</i> | | | | | | |

Lincolnwood-Morrissonville Batting
Multiple Hits: Ella Jenkins 2-4.
Runs: Tori Elvidge 2, Ella Jenkins 1, Morgan Cowdrey 1, Jenna Matli 1, Hannah Jostes 1. **RBI:** Jenna Matli 2, Ella Jenkins 1, Audrey Germann 1.

New Berlin Batting

Multiple Hits: Riley Holloway 2-3. **3B:** Avery Blackorby 1. **Runs:** Riley Holloway 1, Halle Bandy 1, Avery Blackorby 1. **RBI:** Riley Holloway 2.

Records: Lincolnwood-Morrissonville (4-4); New Berlin/Franklin/Waverly (0-4).

March 28 at Riverton
Lincolnwood 123 821 4 -2115 5
Riverton 403 200 0 --9 5 10

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pitching Statistics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | | | | |
| Jostes | 0.0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Elvidge | 7.0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 14 | | | | | | |

***Elvidge 2 HBP**
Home IP H R ER BB SO
Riva 6.0 14 16 8 4 8
Speaks 1.0 1 5 5 4 2
***Riva 2 HBP**

Lincolnwood-Morrissonville Batting

Multiple Hits: Hannah Hill 3-4, Morgan Cowdrey 3-5, Jenna Matli 3-5, Ella Jenkins 2-4, Tori Elvidge 2-4. **2B:** Jenna Matli 1, Hannah Hill 1. **HR:** Ella Jenkins 2, Tori Elvidge 1. **Runs:** Ella Jenkins 4, Hannah Hill 4, Tori Elvidge 3, Morgan Cowdrey 3, Jenna Matli 2, Audrey Germann 2, Emma Horath 2, Hannah Jostes 1. **RBI:** Ella Jenkins 5, Hannah 4, Tori Elvidge 3, Emma Horath 2, Morgan Cowdrey 2, Jenna Matli 2, Audrey Germann 1.

Riverton Batting

2B: Allayah Smith 1, Brooklyn Lanham 1. **Runs:** Kelsy Dalby 2, Brooklyn Lanham 2, Gabriella Speaks 1, Alivia Cumberworth 1, Allayah Smith 1, Skyler Stokes 1, Lily Lock 1. **RBI:** Brooklyn Lanham 2, Kelsy Dalby 1, Skyler Stokes 1, Jensen Armintrout 1.

Records: Lincolnwood-Morrissonville (5-4); Riverton (1-4).

| <i>Pitching Statistics</i> | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Sefton | 3.0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Lupton | 3.0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| *G. S. | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Toppers Pick Up 1st Win

After two losses to start the season, the Hillsboro girls soccer team released some frustrations on Thursday, March 27.

The Lady Hiltoppers led 4-0 after 15 minutes in their game against East Alton-Wood River and eventually cruised to a 9-0 victory over the visiting Oilers.

Six different players scored in the rout, with Reagan Lentz starting things off three and a half minutes into the game. Peyton Christian looped a pass in front of the senior, but EAWR's keeper narrowly beat Lentz to the ball. Unfortunately for the Oilers, the keeper mishandled the feed and Lentz was there to tap it in for goal number one.

Number two came two minutes later when Kearstynn Davis broke through the defense and made a run toward the right post. Davis then slipped a shot to the far side, making it 2-0 with 34:30 to play. Hillsboro made it 3-0 on a similar play, with Kamryn Langston playing the role of Davis this time after taking

a pass from Tatum Christian to make the run.

Davis added a second goal with 25:20 to play, but EAWR would hold the Toppers after that as the score stood at 4-0 at the break.

In the second half, it was all Hillsboro. Peyton Christian scored the first of five goals four minutes into the second period, taking a failed defensive clearance and nailing a hard low shot to the far post from 18 yards out.

Brooklyn Kirby made it 6-0, creating a fast break opportunity with a ball through the defense that she caught up to and knocked home at the far post. With 22 minutes to play, Hillsboro went up 7-0 and cut the time in half. Center back Aubrey Reincke was playing high and launched a hopeful shot toward net. The prayer was answered as the Oiler keeper fumbled the long shot, which dribbled into the net.

Langston and Kirby added their second goals in the final moments as Hillsboro improved to 1-2 on the young season.

Litchfield Soccer

Continued from 1B

Up 4-1, Gibault added goal number five when Payton Kelemetc scored after the Hawks took the ball to the endline, then passed it back to the freshman for a wide open shot.

The result wasn't what Litchfield wanted, but if they want to progress further in the postseason, games like the Waterloo one will only make them better.

The Panthers will host the opener in their home soccer tournament on Monday, March 31, in what promises to be another long week. After playing their second straight undefeated team, Litchfield will play a third as the 4-0 Staunton Bulldogs come calling at 4:30 p.m. After that, Litchfield plays Maryville Christian at 4:30, Wednesday, April 2, with the medal round set for April 5.

Nokomis Baseball

Continued from 1B

Reliever Jackson Elam didn't fare much better as Taylor scored on a wild pitch and Kannon Jonas walked before Elam settled down and got the final two outs.

Nokomis stranded two on base in the second inning, but made up for it in the third when they played ten runs on five hits, three errors and three walks. Garrett Engelman, Izaak Doyen and Konnor Reynolds all had doubles in the inning, with Engelman driving in one, while Doyen and Reynolds drove in two apiece.

Needing three outs to end the game in the fourth, Eisenbarth hit the first batter, but got the next three batters in succession to pick up the win.

Nolan Herpstreith went 2-for3 with two runs scored, while Ian Keller, Levi German, Izaak Doyen, Blain Goodwin and Kannon Jonas also scored two runs apiece.

Pawnee

Nokomis' next game gave them the opportunity to avenge a 6-0 loss to Pawnee from two days earlier as they played the Indians on their home field on March 27. The two teams were tied at one going into the bottom of the seventh, when Pawnee got a walk-off double by Carson Wort that scored Torsten Polistina and earned the Indians a 2-1 win.

Nokomis got their run in the first, with Drake Taylor producing an RBI double to left that scored Ian Keller, who singled in the second at-bat of the game.

Keller got the start on the mound for the Redskins as well and didn't give up a hit until the bottom of the fourth, when Carson Wort led off with a single. The Nokomis senior got the next batter out on an infield pop up, but Hudson Wort singled to drive in Pawnee's first run.

The Indians loaded the bases in the bottom of the fifth with a single, an intentional walk and a hit batsman, but Keller got out of the jam.

March 26 at Jacksonville

Litchfield 1, Jacksonville 1
Goals: Litchfield - Chloe Law 1; Jacksonville - Adyson Haeefli 1. **Assists:** Litchfield - Daphney Hartel 1. **Saves:** Litchfield - Lynzie Reid 5.
Records: Litchfield-Mt. Olive (2-0-1); Jacksonville (1-2-1).

March 27 at Litchfield

Litchfield 4, Athens 3
Goals: Litchfield - McKenna Harmon 2, Chloe Law 1, Daphney Hartel 1; Athens - Karsyn Jacoby 2. **Assists:** Litchfield - Chloe Law 1, Adia Melchert 1. **Saves:** Litchfield - Lynzie Reid 5; Athens - Audryauna Harris 14.
Records: Litchfield-Mt. Olive (3-0-1); Athens (4-1).

March 28 at Litchfield

Gibault 2 3 - 5
Litchfield 0 1 - 1
Goals: Litchfield - Daphney Hartel 1; Gibault - Elena Oggero 1, Emily Richardson 1, Karmon Grohmann 1, Natalie Kelemetc 1, Payton Kelemetc 1. **Assists:** Gibault - Emily Richardson 2, Aubry Thomas 2, Payton Kelemetc 1. **Saves:** Litchfield - Lynzie Reid 21; Gibault - Maggie Altes 9.
Records: Litchfield-Mt. Olive (3-1-1), Waterloo Gibault (6-0).

The score remained 1-1 until the bottom of the seventh, when Keller got the first out of the inning before Polistina walked and Wort gave Pawnee their third MSM victory of the season. Pawnee starter Cory Banister allowed one run on five hits and a walk with four strikeouts, while reliever Riley McElroy allowed one hit in the final two innings striking out three. Levi German had two of Nokomis' six hits, while both he and Drake Taylor had doubles for the Redskins.

Now 3-5 on the season, Nokomis will have another home-and-home series with Tri-City on April 1 and April 3, with a trip to Gillespie on April 2 sandwiched in between.

March 26 at Nokomis
Mulberry Gr. 000 0-0 1 6
Nokomis 50(10) x-15 8 0

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
B. Walker 0.1 2 5 5 2 1
Elam 2.0 5 10 1 3 0
Henricksmeier 0.2 1 0 0 10
**Walker 2 HBP*

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Eisenbarth 4.0 1 0 0 2 4
**Eisenbarth 2 HBP*

Nokomis Batting
Multiple Hits: Nolan Herpstreith 2-3. **2B:** Levi German 1, Garrett Engelman 1, Izaak Doyen 1, Konnor Reynolds 1. **Runs:** Nolan Herpstreith 2, Ian Keller 2, Levi German 2, Izaak Doyen 2, Blain Goodwin 2, Kannon Jonas 2, Drake Taylor 1, Luke Eisenbarth 1, Garrett Engelman 1. **RBI:** Konnor Reynolds 2 Izaak Doyen 2, Nolan Herpstreith 1, Ian Keller 1, Blain Goodwin 1, Garrett Engelman 1.
Records: Nokomis (3-4); Mulberry Grove (0-4).

March 27 at Pawnee
Nokomis 100 000 0-1 6 0
Pawnee 000 100 1-2 4 1

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Keller 6.1 4 2 2 5 4
**Keller 2 HBP*
Home IP H R ER BB SO
Banister 5.0 5 1 1 1 4
McElroy 2.0 1 0 0 0 3
**Banister 1 HBP*

Nokomis Batting
Multiple Hits: Levi German 2-2. **2B:** Levi German 1, Drake Taylor 1. **Runs:** Ian Keller 1. **RBI:** Drake Taylor 1.
Pawnee Batting
Multiple Hits: Carson Wort 2-3. **2B:** Carson Wort 1. **Runs:** Torsten Polistina 1, Carson Wort 1. **RBI:** Carson Wort 1, Hudson Wort 1.
Records: Nokomis (3-5, 0-2); Pawnee (6-1, 3-0).

Lincolnwood Baseball

Continued from 1B

That run cancelled out a run scored by Lush in the top of the fourth, but Lincolnwood had bigger things in store for the Miners.

Down 5-3 going into the fifth, the Lancers got back-to-back singles by Elvidge and Walker to start the inning, followed by a double by Tryon that scored Elvidge and ended Gillespie starter Owen Schweppe's day on the mound. Drew Gilpin greeted reliever Carson Hailstone with another double, which drove in both Walker and Bryce Cowdrey, who came on

Nokomis Softball

Continued from 1B

The Pawnee loss stung even worse as the Indians scored a 17-2 victory in four innings, just two days after Nokomis hung with the 6-1 Indians. Fourteen of Pawnee's 16 runs came in the first inning as they sent 19 batters to the plate in the inning. A two-run double by Reagan Clarke, a three-run home run by Ava Rodriguez and a three-run double by Mae McTaggart were the killers in the inning for Pawnee, who added two more runs in the bottom of the second on a pair of walks and a double by Adalyn Boblitt, and one run in the third to put the 15-run rule in place.

Litchfield Softball

Continued from 1B

With Chloe Green on second and Elise Walch on first, Georgia Glover picked up her second single of the game and drove in Green for the go-ahead run. Litchfield wasn't done, though, as Walch scored on a failed fielder's choice off the bat of Camie Gardner-Stump and after a strikeout, the Panthers loaded the bases on a walk to Charlie Bono. With one swing, Alexis Mielke doubled Litchfield's lead as a single and an error allowed the Panthers to go up 4-0 going into the top of the seventh.

The Kahoks got a runner on after an error with one out, but Readenour closed out the game with a fielder's choice and her ninth strikeout in Litchfield's fifth win in as many games. Both Georgia Glover and Laynie Wyatt had two hits in the victory, with five different Litchfield players scoring in the game.

Litchfield tried to pull out another late win on Friday, March 28, but came up a run short in a 4-3 loss to Pawnee, who hosted the game due

to run for Tryon. Hailstone got the next three batters in order, but Lincolnwood now led 6-5.

For good measure, the Lancers added two more runs in the seventh, with Donny Daugherty scoring on a Luke Pope single and Brody Lush scoring on a passed ball after he reached earlier in the inning on an error.

The Miners got a runner on in the seventh on an error with one out, but Tryon needed just four pitches to get the final two outs as he secured Lincolnwood's second straight win.

In addition to his six innings on the mound, Tryon

also had two hits and drove in two runs. Jonah Elvidge also had two hits and two runs scored, while Drew Gilpin drove in two runs.

With back-to-back wins against Carlinville and Gillespie, the Lancers will try to continue their win streak against South Central Conference competition this week as they host North Mac on March 31 and Litchfield on April 1.

March 28 at Sauget

Lincolnwood 110 130 2-8 8 2
Gillespie 310 100 0-5 9 3

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Elvidge 1.0 3 3 3 1 3
Tryon 6.0 6 2 2 0 3
**Elvidge 1 HBP*

31, with tough games looming ahead at home on April 1 against Tri-City and away at Shelbyville on April 2.

March 26 at Nokomis

Gillespie 111 200 4-9 6 0
Nokomis 000 000 0-0 4 9

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Sholtis 5.0 3 0 0 0 10
Reid 2.0 1 0 0 1 3
Home IP H R ER BB SO
Dirks 7.0 6 9 4 3 5

Gillespie Batting
Multiple Hits: Ava Rakers 2-4. **2B:** Ava Rakers 1. **Runs:** Macie Wright 2, Ava Parish 2, Delaney Taylor 2, Sadie Sholtis 1, Laci Schuckebrook 1, Helaina Scott 1. **RBI:** Ava Rakers 3, Delaney Taylor 1, Laci Schuckebrook 1, Helaina Scott 1.

Records: Gillespie (2-4); Nokomis (2-5).

March 27 at Pawnee
Nokomis 200 0-2 3 2
Pawnee (14)21 x-17 11 0

McTaggart plated two runners and put the Panthers in a 4-0 hole.

The score remained the same until the bottom of the seventh, when Litchfield fired one last salvo in an effort to remain unbeaten on the year. Marissa Bono singled and Charlie Bono doubled to start the inning, with Alexis Mielke driving in the first run on a ground out to third.

The Indians got the second out of the inning, but a single by Readenour, a walk to Laynie Wyatt and an error off the bat of Chloe Green allowed Litchfield to score again and cut the Pawnee lead to one. That was as close as they got, though, as Selhime struck out the final batter of the game, her 12th strikeout of the day.

Selhime gave up two earned runs and seven hits in the game, with Charlie Bono grabbing two of Litchfield's seven hits.

Now 5-1 on the season, Litchfield will try to start up another win streak on Tuesday, April 1, when they play at Civic Memorial, followed by a home game against Ramsey on April 2.

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Schweppe 4.0 6 6 4 3 4
Hailstone 3.0 2 2 0 3 2
**Hailstone 1 HBP; Schweppe 1 HBP*
Lincolnwood-Morrisonville Batting
Multiple Hits: Mason Tryon 2-4, Jonah Elvidge 2-4. **2B:** Mason Tryon 2, Drew Gilpin 1. **Runs:** Jonah Elvidge 2, Donny Daugherty 2, Brody Lush 2, Jhude Walker 1, Bryce Cowdrey 1. **RBI:** Mason Tryon 2, Drew Gilpin 2, Luke Pope 1.

Gillespie Batting
Multiple Hits: Colin Griffith 2-3, Sean Haywood 2-3, Dawson Lancaster 2-4. **2B:** Colin Griffith 1. **Runs:** Brody Shaw 1, Luke Schuckebrook 1, Jack Kaylor 1, Sean Haywood 1, Andrew Sellers 1. **RBI:** Brody Shaw 1, Carson Hailstone 1, Dawson Lancaster 1, Jack Kaylor 1, Braden Reich 1.
Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (2-3); Gillespie (2-3).

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Dirks 0.2 8 14 14 3 1
Gonet 2.1 4 4 4 3 1
**Dirks 3 HBP*

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Day 0.0 1 2 2 3 0
Cummings 2.0 1 0 0 0 1

Nokomis Batting
Multiple Hits: Camryn Engelman 2-3. **Runs:** Grace DeWerff 1, Camryn Engelman 1.

Pawnee Batting
Multiple Hits: Ava Rodriguez 2-2, Adalyn Boblitt 2-2, Ashlyne Cobb 2-3, Reagan Clarke 2-4. **2B:** Adalyn Boblitt 1. **HR:** Ava Rodriguez 1. **Runs:** Kalee Hinds 4, Ava Rodriguez 3, Adalyn Boblitt 3, Reagan Clarke 2, Hadley Walters 1, Mae McTaggart 1, Ashlyne Cobb 1, Elissa Day 1, Gia Fugnitti 1. **RBI:** Mae McTaggart 4, Ava Rodriguez 3, Reagan Clarke 2, Adalyn Boblitt 1, Kalee Hinds 1.
Records: Nokomis (2-6, 0-2); Pawnee (6-1, 2-0).

March 26 at Litchfield
Collinsville 000 000 0--0 2 2
Litchfield 000 004 x--4 6 1

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Vieluf 6.0 6 4 4 2 6
**Vieluf 3 HBP*

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Readenour 7.0 2 0 0 3 9

Collinsville Batting

Multiple Hits: Faith Fairchild 2-3.

Litchfield Batting

Multiple Hits: Georgia Glover 2-2, Laynie Wyatt 2-3. **2B:** Laynie Wyatt 1. **Runs:** Chloe Green 1, Elise Walch 1, Georgia Glover 1, Camie Gardner-Stump 1. **RBI:** Alexis Mielke 1, Georgia Glover 1, Camie Gardner-Stump 1.

Records: Litchfield (5-0); Collinsville (1-3).

March 28 at Pawnee

Pawnee 000 040 0--4 6 1
Litchfield 010 000 2--3 7 2

Pitching Statistics
Away IP H R ER BB SO
Selhime 7 7 3 2 3 12
**1 Selhime HBP*

Home IP H R ER BB SO
Readenour 5.0 4 4 0 4 9
Wyatt 2.0 2 0 0 1 0

Pawnee Batting

Multiple Hits: Mae McTaggart 2-4. **2B:** Ava Rodriguez 1, Reagan Clarke 1. **Runs:** Kalee Hinds 1, Reagan Clarke 1, Addie Boblitt 1, Hadley Walters 1. **RBI:** Mae McTaggart 2, Addie Boblitt 1.
Multiple Hits: Charlie Bono (2-4). **2B:** Charlie Bono 1, Chloe Green 1. **Runs:** Lili Anne Readenour 1, Georgia Glover 1, Marissa Bono 1. **RBI:** Charlie Bono 1, Alexis Mielke 1.


Records: Litchfield (5-1); Pawnee (6-1).

Dave's Dirt Works and Landscaping



Dave Stearns: 618-410-5884

Auction



SUN., MAR. 30 & MON., MAR 31 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Real Estate Auction for Linda Bohle Estate. Real estate is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a single car garage and fenced back yard plus an 8x10 storage shed. Open House Preview: March 23, Noon-3 p.m. at 1824 Fairmont Drive, Springfield. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

TUES., APR. 1 - Bidding ends for online only Personal Property Auction for Linda Bohle Estate. Items include: Appliances, Waterfall bedroom set, Singer cabinet sewing machine, household, kitchen, and furniture, 1824 Fairmont Drive, Springfield. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., APRIL 3 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Louis Steiner Collection auction. Register / bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at Bond County Fairgrounds, Greenville. Preview March 27, 4-6 p.m. Checkout April 4, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., APRIL 3 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Louis Steiner Collection auction. Register / bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at Bond County Fairgrounds, Greenville. Preview March 27, 4-6 p.m. Checkout April 4, 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.

MON., APR. 14 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Montgomery County Health Department Surplus Auction that includes used vehicles and items to help those with mobility issues. Located at 20114 IL Route 16, Nokomis. Aumann Auctions, 217-563-2523, aumannauctions.com.

Pro Bilt



Farm - Equine - Suburban Residential - Commercial

POST FRAME BUILDINGS

Quality Buildings Bilt For You

Experienced Crews ~ Fully Insured

1-877-999-BILT (2458) • 217-532-9331

Hillsboro, Illinois

CKS METAL CORP

"Honest Weights. Honest Prices."

5579 Old Alton-Edwardsville Rd., Edwardsville

Phone: (618) 656-5306

cksmetalcorp.wordpress.com

M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m. SAT 8 a.m.-Noon

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Copper: CALL FOR PRICE | Aluminum Wheels: 75° |
| Yellow Brass: \$2.05 | Electric Motors: 30° |
| Scrap Iron: \$140/ton | Stainless: 40° |
| Aluminum Cans: 40° | #1 INS Wire: \$1.95 |
| ACR: \$1.60 | #2 INS Wire: \$1.50 |
| Aluminum: 75°-10° | Extension Cords: 75° |
| Painted Siding: 60° | Lead: 55° |
| Computer Boards: \$5-15° | Batteries: 15° |



Prices Subject to Change

Call for Current Prices



SELMA CAN
SELL THAT

4B - Monday, March 31, 2025



Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD

CALL: (217) 532-3933

WEB: www.thejournal-news.net

EMAIL: thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Announcements

Notices

ORDER SELF INKING stamps at The Journal-News, 217-532-3933.

BORO BARS at The Journal-News, Hillsboro.

Merchandise

Furniture

HELEN'S HOME FURNISHINGS: Main Street, Sorrento. Tuesday through Saturday, 9 to 5. 217-272-4600

DRESSER WITH mirror, chest of drawers, night stand, full/ queen size headboard and footboard, dark wood. 217-565-1405

Miscellaneous

ZERO turn Husqvarna; drum set. 217-851-1411

NEWSPAPER bundles. \$1 ea. The Journal-News.

Services

Domestic Care

I DO in-home care. 217-532-2536

General Services

PICKING UP scrap. 217-313-3795

NOTARY STAMPS can be ordered at The Journal-News.

DWP Painting, 38 years experience. Power washing. Selling firewood. 217-851-1411

J&W FENCING, decking, and light construction. Free estimates, 20+ years experience. Serious inquiries only. Call 217-825-5951

SEWING MACHINE Repair: John Compton, 217-563-2443, 217-377-5307.

Nursery, Landscaping

EXCAVATOR AND skidsteer services. Topsoil, grading and seeding. Waterlines, yard hydrant installation/ repair. Trenching, ditch cleaning, landscaping, Free estimates, reasonable rates. 618-972-9414

Transportation

Automobiles

2009 PONTIAC Vibe, very clean. 80,000 miles. 217-851-1411

Boats, Jet Skis

1997 Lowe 1620, 25 HP Johnson engine, 2 Garmin depth finders, Shoreline trailer, New bunk boards, always garaged. Excellent condition. \$4500. 217-820-0635

e-mail your ad to
advertisejn@consolidated.net

Fire Calls

Carbon Monoxide
Hillsboro Fire Department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm on Friday, March 28, at 147 N. Broad St. After investigation, it was deemed a false alarm.

Camper On Fire
Raymond-Havel Fire Department was dispatched to a camper on fire at the northbound I-55 rest stop at 12:29 p.m. Friday, March 28. Eleven members responded along with mutual aid from Farmersville, however the camper was fully involved. They returned at 1:31 p.m.

Mutual Aid
Shoal Creek Fire Department was dispatched to a burning semi truck in rural Pocahontas on Saturday, March 29, at 10:49 a.m. Six members responded and were on scene for an hour and a half.

Preservation
Committee
Meets In March

The Hillsboro Historic Preservation Committee met on Monday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Hillsboro City Hall, located at 447 S. Main St. in Hillsboro. During the meeting, the committee reviewed façade grant applications that had been submitted.

• Ashley D. Adams, 39, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance on Sept. 18, 2024.

• Charles B. Blount, 35, was charged with felony possession of a controlled substance on Dec. 6, 2024.

• Deven K. Boeck, 26, was charged with felony possession of meth, 5 to 15 grams, on Nov. 23, 2023.

• Michael S. Butler, 44, was charged with three counts of felony possession of a firearm while FOID revoked and felony possession of a controlled substance on March 17.

• Kevin L. Corazza, 45, was charged with felony aggravated cruelty to animals on March 13.

• Ian K. Fenton, 31, was charged with felony possession of meth, 5 to 15 grams, on March 17.

• Kristin R. Fox, 44, was charged with felony meth trafficking and felony delivery of meth, 15 to 100 grams, on March 12.

• Charles E. Frederick, 43, was charged with felony

possession of meth under five grams on March 17.

• Elizabeth A. Jett, 45, was charged with possession of meth under five grams on March 13.

• Kohdy L. Lyerla, 31, was charged with felony manufacturing a look-alike substance on March 10.

• Allen J. Mitchell, 28, was charged with felony possession of a firearm while FOID revoked on Dec. 15, 2024.

• Matthew E. Northcutt, 40, was charged with felony possession of meth under five grams, driving on a revoked license and unlawful possession of cannabis as a driver on March 11.

• Bobby W. Pease, 57, was charged with possession of meth under five grams on March 13.

• Christina N. Pinkerton, 42, was charged with felony possession of meth under five grams on March 17.

• Angelina Pugliese, 24, was charged with felony possession of meth under five grams on March 7.

• Jason E. Waggener, 45,

was charged with felony possession of meth under five grams and driving on a suspended license on March 14.

• Lindsey M. Belcher, 47, was charged with misdemeanor retail theft under \$300 on March 8.

• Terry L. Finley, 64, was charged with misdemeanor violation of order after served notice on Feb. 28.

• Sabastian E. Haycraft, 23, was charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct on March 3.

• David L. Hayes, 58, was charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct on March 9.

• Donavon M. Holmes, 24, was charged with misdemeanor criminal damage to property under \$500 on March 11.

• Victoria L. White, 58, was charged with misdemeanor guardian allowing child truancy.

• Connie L. Hollers, 55, was charged with domestic battery causing bodily harm on March 8.

ONLINE
ALL THE TIME
www.thejournal-news.net

Phone 532-3933
To Place Your
Classified Ad

HELP
WANTED

Part-Time
Cashier

Evenings

Corner
Spirits

1533 Vandalia Road
Hillsboro, IL

Time and Money



SAVE BOTH

with the
Central Illinois
Classified Advertising
Network

25 word classified ad,
96 central Illinois newspapers,
over 359,891 circulation.

Call

217-532-3933

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Full Time Classroom Teacher's Aide - Beckemeyer
License: Current Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain certification with district assistance.

Job Description: Working with elementary age children in the classroom.
Salary: Per Teacher's Aide Contract Salary Schedule
<https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/7425>

Start Date: August 2025

Send application/résumé/transcripts/certificates/letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax to: 217-532-5142 or Email to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-6994.

Due By: April 25, 2025

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

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

The following position in Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3 is available for the 2025-2026 school year in the Hillsboro Early Childhood Programs:

Position: Full Time Pre-K Teacher's Aide.

Certification: Current Paraprofessional Certification or willingness to obtain the certification.

Job Description: Working with Prekindergarten Students.

Starting Date: 2025-2026 School Year.

Salary: Per Teacher's Aide Contract Salary Schedule

<https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/7425>

Send employee application (available at the District's website), résumé, copies of transcripts and certificates, and letters to: Marci Gutierrez, Pre-K Director; Coffeen Elementary School; 200 School St.; Coffeen, IL 62017; or Email to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net; phone 217-532-7822.

Due Date: April 25, 2025

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

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Birth to Age 3 Family Educator/Parent Resource.

Duties: Provide home visits, community resources and parenting support for at-risk families of children birth to 3 years.

Certification: Bachelors Degree in Education, Social Services or a related field.

Starting Date: Beginning of the 2025-2026 School Year.

Salary: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract.

Exclusive Bargaining Contracts / 2024-2028 HUEA Contract

Send application/résumé/transcripts/certificates/letters to: Marci Gutierrez, Pre-K Director; Coffeen Early Childhood Center; 200 School St.; Coffeen, IL 62017 or Email to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-7822.

Due By: April 25, 2025

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

TREASURER

FOR THE VILLAGE OF TAYLOR SPRINGS

The Village of Taylor Springs is accepting applications for a Treasurer. Applications and the Treasurer's job duties can be picked up at Village Hall at 626 Main Street. Call Village Hall at 217-532-3354 if you need the packet emailed to you.

The application with a résumé must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. on April 8, 2025 to Village Hall.

Applications can be left in the water-bill drop box at any time. Village Hall hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until Noon.

The successful candidate must be able to successfully complete a drug test and background check.

CITY OF LITCHFIELD
RECORDS and ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE CLERK

The City of Litchfield is seeking a Records and Account Payable Clerk. This position will be responsible for accounts payable duties, which include data entry, processing payments, distribution of checks, and filing invoices for the City of Litchfield. The position will also assist with the filing and keeping of City records.

Health, dental, vision, and life insurance are offered. Starting wage is \$17.47/hour.

Applicants may apply online at cityoflitchfieldil.com or obtain an application by contacting Connie Joyce at 217-324-8151. A full job description is available upon request.

Sealed Bids for Mowing

Nokomis Township is taking sealed bids for maintenance of **Nokomis Cemetery** which requires use of mower, weed eater, and blower.

Bids will be accepted through April 10, 2025 at Nokomis Township, 815 E. Bertolino Ave. Cut off is 4:00 p.m. and bid opening will be April 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Township Office.



DOMETIC

Dometic Marine's facility in Litchfield, IL is our main distribution center that manages the packaging and distribution of aftermarket marine and outdoor power equipment industrial products.

We are now hiring for several positions to join our Litchfield team.

- Buyer/Purchasing Clerk
- Product Manager
- Product Technical Support Rep
- Sr. Accountant
- Warehouse Plant Manager
- Box Truck Driver/Material Handler

Interested applicants email resumes to HR@dometic.com



Short Furniture Hosts County CEO Team Visit

The Montgomery County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) team visited Short Furniture on Wednesday, March 12. Short Furniture is a family-owned business that has been serving customers since 1867. Chris Short, the sixth-generation business manager, shared insights into the company's evolution, from its origins in funeral services and furniture to becoming a thriving multi-location retail business in Litchfield and Shelbyville. Short emphasized the importance of understanding one's consumer, leveraging a small-town cost advantage to compete with big-city retailers and using strategic brand partnerships for marketing. He also highlighted how location plays a crucial role in brick-and-mortar success.



Lancer Basketball Hands Out Year-End Awards

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville boys basketball team held its annual awards banquet on Wednesday, March 19, at the Lincolnwood High School cafeteria. Award winners, from the left, were Cooper Poggenpohl (Most Improved Player), Drew Gilpin (Defense-Desire-Discipline Award), photographer Jean Weitekamp (Friend of the Program), Tucker Armentrout (honorable mention all-conference), Jonah Elvidge (first team all-conference) and Jared Klein (honorable mention all-conference). Klein, Elvidge and Armentrout were also the co-players of the year for the Lancers.

Local Students Named To Blackburn Dean's List

Blackburn College in Carlinville has announced the names of the students qualifying for the fall 2024 Dean's List.

To qualify, students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.6 or better.

Local students named to the fall Dean's List are as follows.

Farmersville: Lindsay Arnold

Hillsboro: Lexy Cameron

Litchfield: Alexander DeLaCruz, Star Hall, Ashley Hickerson, Cara Pence and Danni Riemann

Nokomis: Erika Fortner



Extra! All the news for just \$1⁵⁰
The Journal-News

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

LEA MICHELE BIRKENKAMP,
Plaintiff/Petitioner,
vs.

TRAVIS WAYNE BIRKENKAMP,
Defendant/Respondent.
Civil Action Case No. 2024DC28

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
NOTICE TO TRAVIS BIRKENKAMP, DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT.

DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT'S CURRENT ADDRESS: 529 N. BROWN ST., LITCHFIELD, IL 62056 (last known).

You are notified that a *Complaint for Divorce*, Civil Action No. 2024DC28 has been filed in the Illinois

District Court for the 4th Judicial District, whose address is 120 N. Main St., #125, Hillsboro, IL 62049, seeking dissolution of your marriage to Lea Birkenkamp, and a *Decree of Divorce*, in his/her favor.

Unless you file an Answer or Response or otherwise respond to the *Complaint* or *Petition* referenced above with 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, a default judgment will be taken against you and a *Decree of Divorce* will be granted.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2025.

BY CLERK OF COURT:
DANIEL T. ROBBINS
Clerk of District Court/Deputy
/s/ Tracey Reener
91-3t

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
RICKIE GLENN MYERS,
DECEASED.

**NO. 2025-PR-16
CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Rickie Glenn Myers of Raymond, Illinois, who died on the 26th day of February, 2025. Letters of office were issued on March 10, 2025 to David Myers, 18730 Wild Horse Farm Ct., Wildwood, Missouri 63038, whose attorney is Michael G. Ginos of the Law Offices of Glenn & West, LLC, 320 West Central Street, P.O. Box 36, Nokomis, Illinois 62075.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the

Court at Montgomery County Circuit Clerk, 120 N. Main St., Room 125, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months after date of first publication of this notice or three (3) months from date of mailing to creditor whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before such date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

**Michael G. Ginos #6326948
Attorney for
Personal Representative
320 West Central Street
P.O. Box 36
Nokomis, Illinois 62075
Telephone: 217/563-7777
office@glennwestlaw.com
89-3tM**

Students At Nokomis Named To Honor Roll

Nokomis High School has revealed its honor roll and high honor roll for the third quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honor Roll

Seniors: Natalie L. Brownback, Marcie L. Carroll, Gracelynn M. DeWerff, Garrett R. Engelman, Jayden L. Gonet, Elizabeth C. Hill, Rebecca T. Hill, Jack O. Johnson, Ian P. Keller, Bond Knodle, Abygail R. O'Malley, Jesse L. Osterhous, Morgan Smoot, Allison R. Sneddon, Drake E. Taylor and William A. Tucker.

Juniors: Maddison R. DeWerff, Camryn E. Engelman, Levi K. German, Bryce M. Gillock, Addison Glenn, Blain R. Goodwin, Nolan N. Herpstreith, Glavine M. Himes, Arianna H. Hocq, Ella M. Huelson, Kennley R. Kirk, Grace M. King, Faith E. Morrison, Addelyn F. Pearse, Kadyann N. Petty, Kinley E. Stolte, and Dylan M. Yeske.

Sophomores: Fausto Centeno, Griffin C. Engelman, Harry W. Lynch III and Mackenzie L. Mehochko.

Freshmen: Carsyn A. Bertolino

Honor Roll

Seniors: Atticus Bertolino, Noah M. Blaum, Griffen W. Gregg, Dolan H. Harrison, Alyssa B. Huddleston, Nicole L. Jannink, Mattie J. Johnson, Auron A. Mills, Anthony M. Presnell and Riley Steele.

Juniors: Deiken K. Altevogt, Caleb R. Bauer, Mylee C. Clements, Izaak M. Doyen, Daryl J. Evans, Kennadie

Johannsen, Riley-Lyn M. McBroom, Riley S. Reynolds, Summer A. Spencer, Walker J. Stewart, Andrew D. Sulee, Remi Tester, Rilee D. Waterman and Elizabeth L. Watons.

Sophomores: Kaitlyn M. Adams, Hunter A. Arkebauer, Parker E. Beaty, Aaron M. Brown, Braydon S. Cachera, Kalasandra J. Cook, Paige L. Coots, Ethan W. Dahler, Cloey A. Dirks, Reese A. Goodin, Maliah A. Harris, Kannon M. Jonas, Bridget R. Jones, Aubrianna R. Ketcherside, Addison Kirkpatrick, Fallon Knodle, Kiley M. Lawhorn, Katelyn B. Marley, Daelon C. Patton, Konnor B. Reynolds, Samuel L. Rhodes, Devin M. Robertson, Alivia R. Sabol, Leigha M. Smith, Chloe N. Smoot, Zane K. Spinnie, Kadence M. Townsend, Hannah Tucker, Carter H. Wexstten and Dalton C. Yeske.

Freshmen: Kara Beaty, Olivia D. Black, Lily A. Broers, Alaina J. Bugg, Hailey J. Chiti, Kenadi M. Dagon, Autumn M. Davis, Kensey M. Davis, Maddox C. DeWerff, Ilexia N. Doyen, Luke A. Eisenbarth, Ryan K. German, Dominic Hammond, Maddox B. Hoffman, Zoe E. Jackson, Luke A. Johnson, Jenna Kanner, Keegan D. Kettlekamp, Myka M. LaChance, Brooklyn R. Marley, Abigail Probst, Elissa Probst, Quincee M. Riebe, Keeli A. Sanders, Hannah M. Tarter, Grady Taylor and Colby M. Wilson.

**NO news
is BAD news**

Share your news at
thejournal-news@consolidated.net



Delta Door, Inc.
Garage Doors & Openers
Sales, Service, Installation
(217) 250-9066
Family Owned & Operated Since 1997
BOB EAST

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF NOKOMIS, a banking corporation,
Plaintiff
vs.

CODY R. BELL, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants
**2025FC3
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered by this Court on March 13, 2025, in the above-entitled cause, the property hereinafter described or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

A. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Steven Johnson, First National Bank of Nokomis, 122 W. State St., Nokomis, IL 62075, Phone: (217) 563-8311.

B. The common address or other common description, if any, of the real estate is as follows:

**419 Monroe Street
Nokomis, IL 62075**

C. The legal description of the real estate 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)

D. The tract of land is improved with a residential home.

E. The property may be inspected prior to sale by

contacting Steven Johnson, First National Bank of Nokomis, 122 W. State St., Nokomis, IL 62075, Phone: (217) 563-8311, by appointment only.

F. The time and place of sale are as follows: Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., Montgomery County Court House, main lobby, 120 North Main St., Hillsboro, IL 62049.

G. The terms of sale are:

1. Ten percent of the bid price shall be paid at the time of the sale and the balance of the bid price shall be paid immediately following the entry of an Order confirming the sale. All payments shall be in cash or cash equivalent.

2. Any announcements by the Sheriff at the sale shall be binding and shall take precedence over all prior announcements including announcements contained herein.

3. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.

H. Title will be conveyed subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

Plaintiff, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NOKOMIS, a banking corporation, by its attorneys,

Beavers, Calvert & Brotherton By: /s/ Beth E. Brotherton

BETH E. BROTHERTON

BETH E. BROTHERTON

BEAVERS, CALVERT & BROTHERTON

Attorneys for Plaintiff


221 West Main Cross – P.O. Box 320

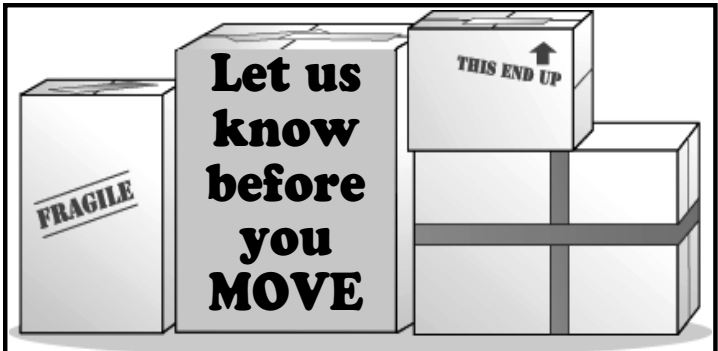
Taylorville, IL 62568

Phone: (217) 824-3341
Fax: (217) 824-3842

89-3tM

BDS Trucking & Excavating
Litchfield • 217-556-3612 or 556-4848
Matt Gerdes
Demolition • Tree & Fenceline Clearing
New Ponds & Pond Clean-ups
Rock & Dirt Hauling
Available Nights and Weekends
• All Types Rock Available •





Let us know before you MOVE

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

Panthers Make Short Work Of Lions

After a tough loss on Tuesday evening, the Litchfield-Mt. Olive baseball team got back into the win column on Wednesday, March 26.

Scoring in every inning, the Purple Panthers tallied 13 runs to cruise to a 13-3 victory over Lanphier. The win was the fifth on the year for the Purple Panthers, while the Lions continue to search for their first win of the season.

In the first three innings, the Purple Panthers were able to add two runs apiece as they built a 6-0 lead through three innings of action.

In the home half of the first inning, Titan Hires produced the first runs of the game as he doubled in both Max Leitschuh and Ethan Saathoff. Leitschuh singled and Saathoff reached on a base on balls. Hires would be left stranded on the base paths as the third out closed out the opening inning.

Litchfield added two runs again in their half of the second, with Ryker Witt and Landon Wernsing starting things off with a pair of singles. Witt stole home with Kenny Traylor at the dish. Traylor then singled home Wernsing to increase the Purple Panther lead to 4-0.

Ethan Saathoff put the fifth run on the board in the bottom of the third inning as he homered on the first pitch he saw. After the first two outs were recorded, Witt reached the base on a five-pitch walk, with Wernsing joining him after being hit by a pitch as the Witt and Wernsing on base became a common theme. Witt scored his second run in the next at-bat thanks to a Lanphier miscue as the Purple Panthers now led 6-0.

In addition to the earlier

RBI, Traylor got his first start of the year on the rubber and the Litchfield senior would not disappoint. Through the first three innings, Traylor faced the minimum number of batters as he did not allow a runner to reach base.

In the top of the fourth, the perfect outing came to a close as he would walk his first batter and followed by surrendering his first hit of the contest. Traylor settled down after that, retiring the next three batters, but a passed ball and a ground out allowed two Lions to touch home plate.

The two runs would only be a minor setback for Traylor as he faced just three batters in the fifth inning, before being relieved on the mound by Max Grejtak with one out in the sixth. Traylor would leave the mound with the win in hand as he struck out nine Lions and gave up four hits and three runs in five and a third innings.

After surrendering their first two runs in the fourth, Litchfield quickly got those runs back in the bottom half of the inning. Matthew Bywater led off the inning with a base hit and two batters later he scored the seventh run of the contest for Litchfield. A ground out by Max Leitschuh allowed Bywater to come around as the Purple Panthers now led 7-2.

Litchfield got two more runs in the inning off of two hits and a walk, as Saathoff and Tucker Pastrovich both scored to make it 9-2 after four innings.

The Purple Panthers added a run in the bottom of the fifth, with Lanphier getting their final tally in the top of the sixth as Litchfield now led 10-3.

Needing three more runs

to close out the game, the Purple Panthers put the first three batters on base before the first out of the inning would be recorded. Tucker Pastrovich and Ryker Witt led off the inning with walks, followed by an error that allowed Landon Wernsing to join them. Litchfield would get one of the three runs they needed on the play as Pastrovich touched home plate.

After the first out was recorded, Matthew Bywater loaded the bases with a walk, followed by a walk to David Schoen that forced in Wernsing for Litchfield's 12th run. The fifth walk of the inning closed out the game as Max Leitschuh walked on six pitches to end the game by the magic ten-run mercy rule.

The win allowed Litchfield/Mt. Olive to get back to the winning ways as they increased their record to 5-2 overall

March 26 at Litchfield
Lanphier 000 201 ---3 4 4
Litchfield 222 313 ---13 12 0

| Pitching Statistics | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | |
| Powell | 4.0 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Russell | 1.1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | | | |
| *Powell 1 HBP | | | | | | | | | |
| Home | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | |
| Traylor | 5.1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | | | |
| Grejtak | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | |

Lanphier Batting
Multiple Hits: Kaimen Smith 2-3.
2B: Kaimen Smith 1. **Runs:** Skyler Russell 2, Kaimen Smith 1. **RBI:** Carter Tucker 1, Kane Baskett 1.

Litchfield Batting
Multiple Hits: Max Leitschuh 2-4, Titan Hires 2-4, Kenny Traylor 2-4. **2B:** Titan Hires 1. **HR:** Ethan Saathoff 1. **Runs:** Ethan Saathoff 3, Landon Wernsing 3, Ryker Witt 2, Matthew Bywater 1, Max Leitschuh 1, Tucker Pastrovich 1, Titan Hires 1, Kenny Traylor 1. **RBI:** Max Leitschuh 2, Titan Hires 2, Matthew Bywater 1, Ethan Saathoff 1, David Schoen 1, Tucker Pastrovich 1, Kenny Traylor 1.

Records: Litchfield (5-2); Lanphier (0-3).

Litchfield's Balance Beats New Berlin

After a convincing win on Wednesday, the Litchfield/Mt. Olive baseball team picked up their third short-game win of the year as they defeated the New Berlin/Franklin/Waverly co-op 10-0 in five innings.

A three-run first inning quickly put the visitors from New Berlin in a hole that became larger as the game progressed.

Matthew Bywater led off the big home half of the first inning and was hit by a pitch. A five-pitch walk for Layen Jones put two Purple Panthers on the base paths with no outs on the board.

New Berlin claimed the first out of the inning during the next at-bat as Max Leitschuh grounded into a fielder's choice. Putting the ball in play allowed Bywater to score the first run of the ball game.

A strikeout would follow and put the potential big inning in jeopardy, but the Purple Panthers continued to put the ball in play, resulting in two more runs for the home team.

A single by Titan Hires gave Litchfield two base runners with two outs. A miscue by the Pretzels allowed Max Leitschuh to score on the error. During the same at-bat, Tucker Pastrovich singled, allowing the scoring threat to continue.

Another miscue by the Pretzels allowed Hires to score, increasing Litchfield's lead to 3-0. Following the second error of the inning, the Pretzels would get out of the twist as they forced the Purple Panthers to fly out, ending the inning.

After a big opening inning,

Litchfield added another run to the board in the home half of the second. With one out on the board, Matthew Bywater doubled to put himself in scoring position. Two wild pitches during the next at-bat allowed Bywater to take third base and score for the Purple Panthers' fourth run of the contest.

Litchfield would score in their third straight inning as they increased their lead to 5-0 after three. It would be another double that would create havoc for the Pretzels' pitching staff as Ethan Saathoff led off the third inning with a two-bagger. More miscues between the pitcher and catcher allowed the Purple Panthers to put another run on the board as Saathoff scored on a passed ball. Prior to the score, Saathoff moved to third base on a wild pitch.

The bottom of the fifth inning is the mark where the game can come to a close when a team is up by ten runs. Leading by five runs, that goal might have been a long shot, but Litchfield's offense has been productive in the early stages of the season.

The Purple Panthers got the first three batters on the base paths and a run scored before the Pretzels could record the first out in the fifth. Singles by Leitschuh and Hires and a walk by Ethan Saathoff helped produce the sixth run of the ball game for the Purple Panthers.

The Pretzels recorded the first out of the inning on the next at-bat but Saathoff reached home plate for the seventh run of the contest.

A fielder's choice and another single allowed the

Purple Panthers to grab their eight run and an error led to the ninth run on the board. Only needing one more run to end the contest, the Purple Panthers would get that run when David Schoen flew out to left fielder. The ball would travel far enough for Landon Wernsing to tag up at third and score on the sac fly as Litchfield picked up the 10-0 victory.

While the Purple Panthers' offense was very productive, Ethan Saathoff was just as strong on the mound. Saathoff went the distance, pitching five shutout innings and striking out 10 of the 17 Pretzels he faced.

The combined effort moved Litchfield/Mt. Olive to 6-2 overall, while the Pretzels fell to 3-2. The Purple Panthers will have a full slate of games this coming week with Thursday their only off day. Home game with Mt. Zion (March 31), Ramsey (April 2), Greenville (April 4) and Civic Memorial (April 5) are on tap, plus a quick trip to Raymond on Tuesday, April 1 to face Lincolnwood.

March 28 at New Berlin
New Berlin 000 00 ---0 2 3
Litchfield 311 05 ---10 8 0

| Pitching Statistics | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Away | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | |
| Robinson | 4.0 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| Scroggins | 0.2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| *Robinson 1 HBP | | | | | | | | | |
| Home | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | | | |
| Saathoff | 5.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | | | |

Litchfield Batting
Multiple Hits: Titan Hires 2-3, Landon Wernsing 2-3. **2B:** Matthew Bywater 1, Ethan Saathoff 1. **Runs:** Matthew Bywater 2, Max Leitschuh 2, Ethan Saathoff 2, Titan Hires 1, Cal Frerichs 1, Ryker Witt 1, Landon Wernsing 1. **RBI:** Max Leitschuh 1, Titan Hires 1, Tucker Pastrovich 1, Ryker Witt 1, David Schoen 1.

Records: Litchfield (6-2); New Berlin/Franklin/Waverly (3-2).



Hillsboro senior Anika Camp, sitting in front with her mom, Jessica Cameron, and dad, Scott Michaels, signed to continue her education and softball career at Missouri Baptist University on Monday, March 24. Joining Camp for the signing, in the back from the left, were Seth Hubbard, her travel softball coaches Jeff Wilson and Chad Johnson from the Southern Illinois Roughnecks, Missouri Baptist assistant coaches Molly Callihan and Jordyn Pearson, Brixley Michaels, Connie and Jim Cameron and William Mattingly.

Journal-News Photo

Camp To Play At Missouri Baptist

by Kyle Herschelmann

Since the pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 season, it's been a journey for the Hillsboro High School softball team to get back to where they were pre-COVID.

The Lady Toppers went from 28-4 in the 2019 season, where they fell to Southwestern in the sectional championship game, to 2-15 in 2021, with a roster that was decimated by injuries during the season.

But since then, Hillsboro has steadily improved and seem to be on a similar track this season under first-year head coach Heather Lessman. During that time, senior Anika Camp has been one of the few constants for the Toppers, consistently delivering for her team at the plate and in the pitcher's circle.

That consistency and continued improvement has earned Camp a chance to play at the next level as she recently committed to Missouri Baptist University in Creve Coeur, MO, just outside of St. Louis.

"We are super excited to have her join the recruiting class of 2025," Missouri Baptist Assistant Coach Molly Callihan said. "Anika brings a level of energy to the field and we know she will do great both on and off the field."

As a freshman at HHS, Camp split innings with junior Taelyn Smith, pitching 53 innings with 40 strikeouts. The Lady Hiltoppers may have only won two games that year, but as they improved, so did Camp.

She'd cut her ERA almost in half and was the winning pitcher in seven of Hillsboro's eight wins that season. In 104 innings, Camp struck out 95 batters and walked just 29, compared to 22 walks in half as many innings as a freshman.

Hillsboro Softball

The Hillsboro High School softball team split a pair of games with Ramsey and Greenville to end week two of the 2025 season as they defeated Ramsey 16-1 on March 26, but fell to Greenville 4-0 on March 28 in a non-conference game. The full story on those games is available at www.thejournal-news.net and will be in Thursday's Journal-News.

Hillsboro's win total and Camp's success increased again last year, with Hillsboro going 12-14 in spite of starting several freshmen. In addition to lowering her ERA for the third straight season, Camp also set career highs in innings pitched (130.2) and strikeouts (124).

And that's not even mentioning her exploits at the plate, where she is a career .357 hitter, with 51 runs scored and 46 RBIs. In 259 plate appearances, Camp has struck out just 27 times, with ten of those coming in her freshman year.

In addition to the Hiltoppers, Camp also played for the Southern Illinois Roughnecks club team. Not only have the Roughnecks given Camp the opportunity to improve her skills on the diamond, they've also given her the opportunity to enter Missouri Baptist already knowing two of her new teammates as Mulberry Grove senior Lily Johnson and East Alton-Wood River senior Haley Pratt are also planning to play for the Spartans.

The trio will try to help a program that was the regular season champion in the American Midwest Conference last year with a 16-2 record. Overall the Spartans were 33-14 and advanced to the NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Round, where they lost two close games to Spring Arbor University (4-3) and South-eastern University (5-4).

The opportunity to continue to play softball is just part of the equation for Camp, who said that her faith also played a factor in her decision.

"I want to further my education and grow my connection with God," said Camp, who plans to go into x-ray science at Missouri Baptist and thanked her parents for their love and support.

But before she goes off to be a Spartan, Camp still has work to do as a Topper. After hitting three home runs and earning first team all-conference honors as a sophomore, Camp didn't go yard in 2024, but already has two dingers in her senior season. She's also second on the team in batting average (.471), RBIs (9) and doubles (3) through five games and is tied with freshman Lainey Lessman for the team lead in runs with ten.

On the mound, she has 17 strikeouts in just 12 innings and provides some experience to a three-person pitching rotation that includes Lessman and fellow freshman Ella Schaaake.

Freshmen and sophomores make up the majority of Hillsboro's roster this year, with Camp, fellow seniors Ella Greenwood and Audrey Shultz and junior Brooklyn Fisher the only ones past tenth grade.

Just watching the Toppers you can see that the future is bright for Hillsboro softball. It's a future that Camp will watch from afar, but one she undoubtedly helped build.

COMMITTED TO LITCHFIELD MAYORAL CANDIDATE DWAYNE GERL

- LIFE-LONG LITCHFIELD RESIDENT.
- 14 YEARS EXPERIENCE WARD 1 ALDERMAN
- LEADERSHIP. EXPERIENCE. COMMITMENT.
- DEDICATED TO PROMOTING NEW BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- UNION PROUD ... FORMER UNION REPRESENTATIVE.
- LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER FOR 42 YEARS.

PLEASE **VOTE** APRIL 1, 2025
PAID FOR BY DWAYNE GERL FOR MAYOR COMMITTEE

DAVID HOLLO

Tuesday, April 1, vote for a leader with experience, integrity and a deep-rooted commitment for our town. Vote David Hollo for Mayor of Litchfield!

www.holloformayor.com

Learn more at www.flemingformayor.com

JACOB FLEMING

FOR MAYOR

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

PIZZA SLICE LUNCH SPECIAL \$3.99

Dine-in Only • 11AM - 2PM • Now Thru Friday 4/4/25

Our lunch specials change weekly and feature pizza, pasta, sandwiches and salads!

Nancy's **LITCHFIELD • 217-324-0707**
13 Thunderbird Circle • Exit 52 Near Hampton Inn