

The Journal-News

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The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County

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Hillsboro, IL 62049

Volume 173, No. 28

Thursday, August 14, 2025

County Board Approves New Hire, More Help For Assessors Office

by Kyle Herschelman

After a month without a supervisor of assessments, the Montgomery County Board believes they may have a solution to the over-worked and overwhelmed staff in that office.

The Supervisor of Assessments (SOA) office has been shorthanded since the resignation of past SOA Kendra Niehaus, who submitted her resignation on June 10, with her last day in office coming on June 27. Adding to the trouble were retirements and resignations that left the office with just one employee, Michaela Gray, who has been shouldering the full workload.

During the monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Board, Chairman Doug Donaldson introduced Niehaus' possible successor, Tysha Mullen, who was approved

as chief deputy assessor at the meeting.

Mullen comes to the position after serving as chief operating officer for the Montgomery County Housing Authority. Development and Personnel Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert said that Mullen is currently enrolled in classes to become SOA certified and would be a candidate for that position once those classes are completed.

Board member Patty Whitworth asked if Mullen was guaranteed the job once she was certified. Both Donaldson and Ruppert said that wouldn't be the case and the hiring of the position still had to be approved by the personnel committee and the full board.

In addition to Mullen's hiring, the board also approved a contract with Property Evaluation and Tax Advisors (PETA) for a per month cost of just over \$14,000. Ruppert

said that the office currently ranks near the bottom in efficiency in the state, but he believed that PETA will help get the office back on track, keep it from falling further behind and set it up for success in the future.

Donaldson added that PETA said they would work with the company on a month-to-month basis and would only stay as long as they were needed in the office.

Board member Evan Young asked where the money to pay for PETA was coming from. Donaldson said since they were not paying an SOA salary, most would come from there, with Ruppert estimating that three quarters of the cost would come out of the office's budget.

Board member Ethan Murzynski asked if Gray was also taking the classes to become SOA certified. Donaldson said she was and might be interested in the position down the

road. Board member Bill Bergen asked if she was interested in the position now, with Donaldson saying no and that it was more of a long term goal.

Later in the meeting, the board approved a \$3,000 bonus for Gray, with Finance and Budget Committee Chairman Andy Ritchie saying he had received good reports about her work in the office.

Ritchie added that she was able to successfully open the 2025 board of review for complaints and has handed out some complaint packets, but has not received any packets back yet. He also thanked the board for approving PETA's hiring as there are 170 township changes and the additional help will be crucial for inputting those changes correctly.

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Little Action Taken At Nokomis Council Meeting

by Ben Schwarm

Despite a long executive session held by members of the Nokomis City Council at its regular Monday, Aug. 11 meeting, few issues were actually brought forward for a vote.

In the brief open meeting portion of the council session, perfunctory motions were approved to accept the past meeting minutes and for the approval of the monthly bills. The council also approved a building permit for the property at 301 W. State St., as well as granting a business district grant to that property in an amount up to \$25,000.

The property was the site of the former Standard Oil gas station and is being renovated for the "Farmer's Station" shop which will offer fresh produce and meat

products and will include a drive through window for ready-to-eat food service.

The council then went into a closed executive session to discuss, according to the agenda, "the setting of a price for the sale or lease of property owned by the public body" and "disciplinary action with respect to police personnel."

After well more than an hour in the private session, the council returned to the open meeting and announced that no action had been taken in the executive session and adjourned without further comment.

Mayor Dylan Goldsmith and commissioners Mike Glenn, Tisha Morris and Charlie O'Malley were present at the meeting. Commissioner Scott Arkebauer was absent.



The Illinois Review Board has approved the certificate of need for major infrastructure modernization at Hillsboro Health (formerly Hillsboro Area Hospital) this August. The project, which is expected to begin in 2026, will include replacement of the central utility plant, expansion of surgery services and renovation to the hospital's front lobby.

Review Board Approves Hillsboro Health Updates

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board officially approved Hillsboro Health's Certificate of Need application for a construction project at its main hospital campus on Tuesday, Aug. 12. This critical infrastructure up-

grade is designed to modernize facilities, expand outpatient surgery services and ensure continued access to high-quality care for the Hillsboro community and surrounding areas.

The proposed building project in-

cludes three major components:

• Central Utility Plant Upgrade: Replacement of aging mechanical systems to improve energy efficiency, reliability and support future growth.

Continued on page 5A

Hillsboro School Board Prepares For First Day

by Isaiah Atkins

While students are enjoying the final few days of summer vacation, the Hillsboro School Board was informed on Tuesday evening, Aug. 12, that maintenance staff and construction crews are on track to have the new high school ready to go for the first day of school on Monday.

District maintenance supervisor Fred Butler shared with the board that all the schools' various summer projects are wrapping up and that they will all be ready come Monday. Regarding the new high school, "There are a lot of little things still to do," Butler said. "We will be ready to go come Monday." Superintendent Hope McBrain thanked Butler and his crew for "pushing really hard to have the school ready for students on Monday."

The new practice gym area will not be completed by the start of the school year, Butler explained, with plans to install the gym floor on Monday, beginning a four-week process. "All the materials are on-site and ready to go, but we have to get the gym floor down," Butler said.



Pictured above are the new faces across the Hillsboro School District this year. In front are Coral Christian, Madison Hamby, Erin Gile and Tammy Bauman. In back are Adam Haston, Autumn Amling, Dan Stewart, Alli Suess, Cassidy McGaughey, Erin Caveny and Steven Fenske.

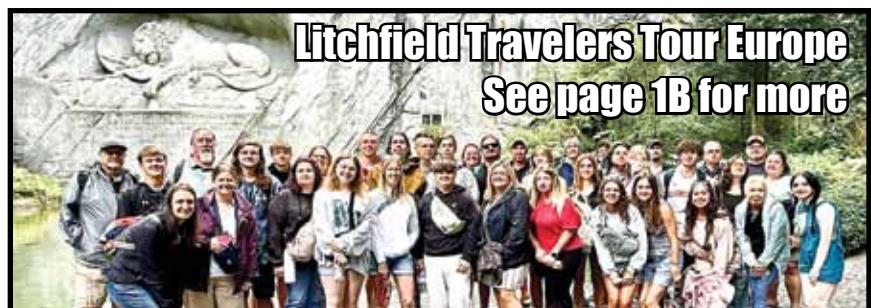
Journal-News Photo

HHS Main Building Bricks Available Through Saturday

Bricks from the historic main building of Hillsboro High School are now available to the public, following the demolition of the 104-year-old building in July. There is no charge for the bricks, but there is a limit of five bricks per household. Anyone interested should park in the high school student parking lot and access the dumpster on the east side. Bricks will be available until Saturday, Aug. 16, at 8 p.m.

Weather Forecast			
Thu 14	86°/67°	Partly Cloudy	0 8%
Fri 15	91°/70°	Partly Cloudy	0 8%
Sat 16	94°/71°	Mostly Sunny	0 7%
Sun 17	94°/72°	Mostly Sunny	0 15%

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Litchfield Travelers Tour Europe
See page 1B for more

"The concession stand will be ready, and the bathrooms are ready. The gym is the main unusable space."

Demolition of the old building is down to the final foundation, McBrain said,

with a chance to be completed by Monday. Considering parking lots, McBrain said that the tentative goal is to have the new lots finished around the end of the first quarter.

After being directed to develop a district budget for FY26, McBrain presented a "definitely tentative" budget for the current fiscal year.

Continued on page 5A



New Royalty Crowned At Morrisonville Picnic

A new royal court was crowned at the annual Morrisonville Picnic pageants in Morrisonville Park, beginning on Thursday, Aug. 7, with the Little Miss, Little Mister and Junior Miss Community Queen contests, followed by the Miss Community Queen on Friday evening, Aug. 8. Pictured above is the 2025 Morrisonville community royalty. From the left in front are Little Miss Charlotte Ferrill, Miss Community Queen Hannah Jostes and Little Mister Dane Klinger. In back is Junior Miss Community Queen Olivia Grundy. *Raymond News Photo*



Pictured above in front is 2025 Miss Community Queen Hannah Jostes. Behind her, from the left, are second runner up and Miss Congeniality Izabell Edwards, retiring 2024 Miss Community Queen Alea Wagahoff and first runner up Taryn Clarke. The queen's pageant was emceed by Megan Held. *Raymond News Photo*



Pictured above in front is 2025 Junior Miss Olivia Moore. Behind her, from the left are first runner up Abigail Lipe, 2024 Miss Community Queen Alea Wagahoff, 2024 Jr. Miss Emilee Dunkirk, Miss Congeniality Thea Jack and second runner up Charlotte Grundy. The pageant was emceed by Linda Sheedy. *Raymond News Photo*



Pictured above are contestants from this year's Little Miss and Little Mister pageants. In front, from the left are second runner up Jaxon Lee, 2025 Little Mister Dane Klinger, 2025 Little Miss Charlotte Ferrill, first runner up Blakely Beard and second runner up Campbell Klinger. In the middle are first runner up Brayden Murphy, 2024 Little Mister Bryce Wempen, 2024 Little Miss Adeline Grundy and 2024 Jr. Miss Emilee Dunkirk. In back is 2024 Miss Morrisonville Alea Wagahoff. *Raymond News Photo*



All good things must come to an end, and with school starting across the county this week and next, local swimming pools are closing up for the season.

In Litchfield, Memorial Pool had its last day of the season on Sunday, Aug. 10. Milnot Beach on Lake Lou Yaeger will be open through the Labor Day weekend, but starting Aug. 10 will only be open on weekends from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The last day of the season is Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1.

In Nokomis, Memorial Pool will have its last day of the season this Saturday, Aug. 16, with admission of just \$2 per person. And as an added bonus, Nathan Clementz of Country Financial is hosting a free day of swimming on Friday, Aug. 15, for anyone who wants to swim.

Uhly's Country Market in Hillsboro is hosting a customer appreciation day this Friday, Aug. 15, offering customers a free watermelon

on any purchase. Staff members picked up 400 watermelons from three different Amish farms, perfect for those end of summer picnics. They will also be selling hot lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Uhly's Country Market is located at 1132 Vandalia Road in Hillsboro.

Local residents already know that Willow Lane Spa in Litchfield is one of the most relaxing places to be in the area. And now, it's official! Willow Lane Spa has been ranked as the number one spa in central Illinois and in the top 50 for the entire state of Illinois. Located at 317 W. Union, they offer a variety of services to meet any needs. Stop by and see why they're ranked number

one today!

And speaking of exciting news, McKay Napa Auto Parts is opening its 27th store in Chatham in mid-August. They will be doing some remodeling to the shop, located in the former Family Video location.

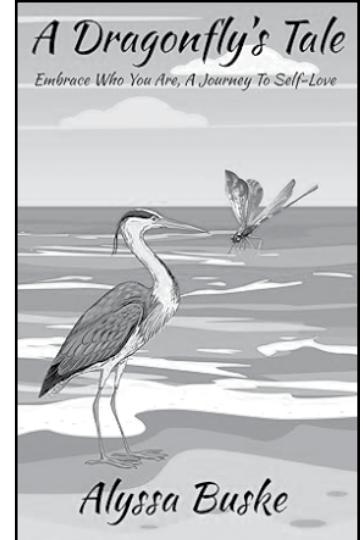
"The only way to hang around this business so long, as in eight decades, is by having great people work together with us," said Earl Flack, president and CEO. The McKay family of stores has grown from 16 stores in 2003 to 26 stores in 2025.

Litchfield author Alyssa Buske has finished her second book, a fully-illustrated children's book, "A Dragonfly's Tale" in memory of

Bethanie (Skinner) Gasperson, who passed away in July 2017.

This inspiring tale is sure to delight children and adults alike, and its universal message will resonate with anyone who has ever felt like they don't quite fit in.

The book came out on July 23 and is available to order on Amazon.



RSVP Members Celebrate Recent Birthdays

Members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) met to celebrate July, August and September birthdays, as well as discuss recent and upcoming volunteer efforts.

Members who celebrated their birthdays in person include Mable Murray (August), Pam DeLong (August), April Leetham (August), Betty Rhodes (August), Denise Warnock and Carolyn Meier (August).

Those not in attendance were Anne Huber (July), Connie Harling (July), Tish Spelbring (July), Deb Held (July), Terry Rogers (July), Martin Niehaus (July), Diana Putnam (August), Ginger Barnes (August), Viola Martin (August), Tom Hoppes (August), Patty Niehaus (August), Kevin Leitheiser (September), Claudette Kellow (September), Gale Thacker (September), Carol Brinson (September), Becky Lipe (September) and Charlene Modla (September).

RSVP is a program that connects individuals aged 55 and older with volunteer opportunities in their communities.

Individuals interested in volunteering can commit to an hour or more a week. The times and days are flexible based on the individuals availability. Volunteers must be 55 years of age or older.

For more information, contact Carol Herrin, RSVP program specialist, at 217-994-0114 or email cherrin@cfsc.org



Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Members celebrated birthdays that fall in July, August and September, as part of the group meeting on Friday, Aug. 1. Pictured above, from the left are Mable Murray (August), Pam DeLong (August), April Leetham (August), Betty Rhodes (August), Denise Warnock and Carolyn Meier (August).



In addition to celebrating birthdays, members of RSVP socialized as part of a regular meeting. Attendees, pictured above, in front, from the left, are Carol Herrin, Susan Hovey, Crista Davis, Norma Clemons and Bob Warnick. In back, from the left, are Mable Murray, Pam DeLong, April Leetham, Betty Rhodes, Denise Warnock, Carolyn Meier, Alice Elam and Nancy Hindle.

Vega Couple Named Litchfield Yard Of Month For August

Together Litchfield Can (TLC) has selected their yard of the month for August, which goes to Cathy and Jerry Vega. Their yard is located at 710 S. Lincoln St. in Litchfield.

The yard has a mixture of hydrangeas, annuals, perennials and colorful containers all the way to the guards posted out back over the vegetable garden. The yard is viewed as a haven for birds and insects. TLC encourages residents to check out the yard and congratulate the Vegas.

TLC is a group of Litchfield residents that have come together to create and execute upon an action plan that builds up their local community.



The Journal-News Presents Our Fall Farm Tab

For more information call Cheryl Hilt or Perry Jackson at 217-532-3933



Will Be Published September 15

Hill's Fort Society To Host A Descendant's Reunion

The Hill's Fort Society is hosting a descendant's reunion on Saturday, Sept. 20. Morning colors and the introduction of the descendants with fife and drum core will take place at 10 a.m. The fort tour will be held at 10:30 a.m. and a meal will be held at 12 p.m.

If one has an ancestor who served as a ranger during the war of 1812, or was an early settler who used Hill's Fort for protection, they are invited to the reunion. Attendees are asked to bring pictures and stories of their early ancestors. A meal will be served with descendants asked to bring a dish to share. The fort will provide meat, drinks and tableware.

Those wishing to attend should contact Cindy

Tischhauser at (618) 304-5519. The Hill's Fort commemorative site is located at the Farm Heritage Museum grounds south of Greenville.

Isaac Hill was the surveyor of Bond and Fayette County and who the fort is named after. Rangers known to be serving in September of 1814 and families who used the fort for protection include John Journey, Fields Pruitt, Robert Linn, Joseph Pruitt, William Grotts, Azor Gregg, Thomas Higgins, Titus Gregg, William Burgess, Hiram Arthur, Joseph Lindley, John Boucher, Simon Lindley, Samuel Lindley, Isham Reavis, Stringer Potts, Wilson Brown, William Purlsey, David White, William Hill and Sam Davis.

Obituaries

Thursday, August 14, 2025 - 3A

Janean Stretch, 90

Loving Mother, Grandmother



Janean Stretch, 90, of Hillsboro, died on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2025, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

The Funeral Mass was offered at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Hillsboro, on Tuesday, Aug. 12. Burial followed at St. Agnes Cemetery in Hillsboro.

Mrs. Stretch was born July 9, 1935, to Bud and Louise Miller of Shelbyville. She married Dale Stretch on July 7, 1953. He preceded her in death on July 10, 2004. They became parents of Connie Mills of Coffeen, Denise Hancock of Peoria, Cheryl Johnston of Canyon Lake, CA, and John (Linda) Stretch of Hillsboro. Mrs. Stretch has 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

In her lifetime, Mrs. Stretch was a bus driver for ECSE in Hillsboro Unit School District, a ham radio operator, La Sertoma president, Lioness club member, St. Agnes Council of Catholic women member and a caregiver for the elderly. She was an avid Bridge player, loved playing cards and Dominoes with friends and loved baking cookies for family and friends. She received numerous awards in her 48 years as an Avon representative.

Mrs. Stretch was preceded in death by her parents, Bud and Louise; her husband of 51 years, Dale; her sister, Rita Hubbard; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Woods, Jack Allen and Ron Pollard; sons-in-law, Bill Johnston, Russell Hancock and Tom Mills; and great-grandson, Balin Robbins.

In addition to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, she is survived by her siblings, Veda Woods, Judy Pollard and Roger (Cathy) Miller, all of Shelbyville.

In lieu of gifts, the family has asked that donations be made to: St. Agnes Building Fund, P.O. Box 98, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049.



The LST 325 will visit Alton's riverfront on Sept. 18-22 with public tours available. *Photo courtesy of USS LST Ship Memorial*

World War II Ship Will Host Fall Tours In Alton

A piece of world maritime history, the LST 325, will dock at the Alton Riverfront Sept. 18-22 and be open for public tours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Admission for these self-guided tours is \$20 for adults, \$10 for those six to 17 years of age and free for kids five and under.

Visitors to the LST 325 will meet the ship's crew who will provide detailed descriptions of the role the LST ships played during U.S. wars and honor the men who served on the ships. The ship, which was used in the invasion at Omaha Beach on D-Day, is one of 1,051 LSTs built in the U.S. during World War II, and is the only remaining working LST in the country.

"This is an important piece of our World War II history and we are pleased to welcome the LST 325 to Alton," Cory Jobe, president and CEO of the Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau said.

The LST ships could carry 20 Sherman tanks in the hold of the ship and 30 to 40 trucks, tons of fuel, ammunition or supplies and soldiers. The LSTs were used during World War II and the Korea and Vietnam conflicts. The

Landing Ship Tank (LST) measures 328-feet-long.

Present during the World War II invasion of Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, the LST 325 was also in Sicily, Italy, on July 10, 1943. It was one of the first LSTs to be built in the U.S. at the U.S. Navy Shipyard in Philadelphia.

Other ships were built on the Illinois River at Seneca and on the Ohio River in Pittsburgh, PA, and Evansville, IN. Shipyards completed construction of an LST ship every five days and then workers, welders and equipment installers boarded the vessels and completed the work while they were enroute down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico.

During World War II, the LST 325 made more than 42 round trips from England to France, supplying allies with fuel, ammunition and other supplies. The LST took wounded soldiers back to England, serving as a hospital ship. On one of her trips, the crew rescued 600 soldiers in the North Sea after their ship was torpedoed and sunk.

The LST 325 has a home port of Evansville, IN.

Thank You!

I wish to thank all those who sent cards and condolences at the passing of my wife of fifty-three years, Carol (Spelman) Prater. She was most dear to me.

Gratitude to the professionals at Plummer Funeral Home for their kindness in managing the details of Carol's final transition. And a special big Thanks to the members of Bond County Hospice who were invaluable during the stressful final times, especially Diana who was present at the end and to Rebecca for her calls.

Thanks also to all who donated financially to the Hillsboro Public Library in Carol's name.

Husband and Lifelong Friend

Denise L. Gipson, 61

Longtime Social Worker



Denise Louann Gipson, 61, of Litchfield, died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025, at her home in Litchfield.

There will be no services. Litchfield Family Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Gipson was born Nov. 5, 1963, in Milwaukee, WI, a daughter of Elmer and Delores (Phillips) Finger. She graduated from Gillespie High School with the class of 1980. She married Jim Gipson on Dec. 12, 2000, in the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Mrs. Gipson was employed as a social worker for the State of Illinois in Carlinville. After working for 31 years, she retired in 2015.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters.

Mrs. Gipson is survived by her husband, Jim Gipson of Litchfield; two sisters; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Litchfield Food Pantry. Please visit www.litchfieldffs.com to leave condolences or light a candle in her memory.

James R. Downey, 89

Loving Father, Grandfather



James "Jay" R. Downey, 89, of Farmersville, died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025, at his home.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

Mr. Downey was born Sept. 30, 1935, in Olaton, KY, the son of Kenneth and Geneva Daniels Downey. He married Clara Ruzes on January 29, 1955, and she preceded him in death on March 12, 2012. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Farmersville.

He is survived by his one daughter, Sandy (Dave) Moffitt of Farmersville; two sons, Rick Downey of Farmersville and Terry (Cathie) Downey of Morrisonville; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Downey was preceded in death by a son, Alan; and a brother, Cliff Downey.

Memorials may be made to the family to help with funeral expenses. Condolences may be left online at www.bramleyfh.com.

Hillsboro Health Expands Access To Imaging Services

Hillsboro Health announces its suite of outpatient imaging services, including MRI, CT, X-ray, ultrasound and mammography, is available for patients who need appointments by calling 217-532-4196.

As some regional facilities face appointment delays due to a shortage of radiologists and radiology technologists, Hillsboro Health is stepping up to ensure timely, high-quality imaging care for our community.

"We understand how critical imaging services are for diagnosis and treatment," said Hillsboro Health Director of Imaging Services Edith Dagen. "Our team is committed to providing reliable access to imaging, especially when some patients are experiencing long wait times elsewhere. Hillsboro Health is here to help."

To further strengthen its MRI capabilities, Hillsboro Health recently welcomed Dan Rikli, RT, MR, ARRT, MRSO as its new MRI technologist. Rikli brings more than 11 years of experience in MRI and holds specialized training as a Magnetic Resonance Safety Officer (MRSO), ensuring the highest standards of safety and expertise in MRI procedures.

Hillsboro Health, formerly called Hillsboro Area Hospital, is a local, independent health care organization comprised of a 25-bed, not-for-profit, critical access hospital that provides inpatient, outpatient and emergency services.

Hillsboro Health also offers primary and specialty care, therapy services, assisted living facilities and a fitness and aquatics center.

Calvary's Ignite Nights Kicks Off Wednesday

Ignite at Calvary Baptist Church in Hillsboro will begin this Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Ignite is offered for all ages, from age three through high school. The youth programs begin at 6 p.m. with a meal. There is also an adult

class that meets from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Transportation is available. Questions may be directed to the Calvary Baptist Church office at 217-532-3035. Calvary Baptist is located at 1001 Rountree St. in Hillsboro.

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Lawrence Beaty, 88

Could Fix Anything



Lawrence "Speed" Beaty, 88, of Taylorville, died on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025, at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

A visitation was held on Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Perfetti-Assalley Funeral Home in Morrisonville. A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, Aug. 14, at 11 a.m. at St. Maurice Catholic Church in Morrisonville. Interment will follow at St. Maurice Cemetery.

Mr. Beaty was born on July 21, 1937, in Morrisonville, to the late Wayne and Marcella (Rhoads) Beaty. On June 21, 1969, he married Marilyn Bailey in Decatur, and she survives.

Mr. Beaty spent many years as a hardworking farmer, caring for the land with the same dedication he showed in all areas of his life. He worked as a Pioneer Seed salesman, where he built strong relationships and always took pride in doing his best work. Even after retiring, he was quick to help whenever someone needed a hand.

Mr. Beaty was an active member of St. Maurice Catholic Church, Morrisonville Knights of Columbus #1151, the Morrisonville Township Board, Christian County Farm Bureau and was the sexton of St. Maurice Cemetery.

Mr. Beaty was an avid Cardinals and Illini basketball fan, but most of all he was his grandkids' biggest fan. He never missed a chance to be in the stands, cheering them on no matter the sport or the season.

Mr. Beaty had a special gift. He was what we lovingly called a "jerry-rigger," the kind of man who could fix or create something out of anything. He could turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Mr. Beaty never met a stranger and will leave behind a legacy that's hard to put into words. It's the things he built, the lives he touched, and the lessons he passed on. He will be greatly missed.

In addition to his wife, Marilyn Beaty, Mr. Beaty is survived by his children, Kimberly (Phillip) Meyer of Springfield and Kristina (Bill) Ray of Taylorville; grandchildren, Bradley Meyer, Kyle (Anabella) Meyer, Jett Richards, Elle Richards, Bailey Meyer and Kailynn Ray; and his siblings, Norma Jean (Ron) Cole and Dennis Dale Beaty.

Mr. Beaty was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Mary Lorraine Nobbe.

Memorials may be made to Hickory Estates in Taylorville or to the Taylorville Memorial Hospital Foundation. Perfetti-Assalley Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Please sign the online guestbook at assaleyfuneralhomes.com.

John Aber, 67

Litchfield High School Grad



John Aber, 67, formerly of Litchfield, died on Monday, July 14, 2025, at his in-laws' home in Wentzville, MO.

Burial was held at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery on Friday, Aug. 8.

Mr. Aber was born on Oct. 22, 1957, in Springfield. He graduated from Litchfield High School. As a beloved member of the Wright City school district community, he was fondly referred to as 'Big John.' He was a cherished husband, uncle and friend. Mr. Aber will be missed.

Mr. Aber is survived by his cherished wife, Kristina Aber, after 29 years of marriage; four nieces; six nephews; and many other family members, including brothers, Robert, Arthur, Eugene and sister, Ruth.

Mr. Aber was preceded in death by his parents, William and Pansy Aber, and foster parents, Harold and Dennis Pettit John.

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

Meetings

Hillsboro Library Board

The regular monthly meeting of the Hillsboro Area Public Library Board will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 19, beginning at 6 p.m. Board members will be discussing landscaping in front of the library, policy updates, a new marketing/programming committee, cleaning of the storage room and the October book sale hosted by Friends of the Library.

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Family

4A - Thursday, August 14, 2025



Betzold, Fuller Married In Outdoor Ceremony

Austin Betzold of Nokomis and Sara Fuller of Bloomington were united in marriage on Saturday, July 12, 2025, in a private late afternoon outdoor wedding at the bride's grandparent's farm, near Bloomington. As part of their wedding ceremony, they united soil from each of their family farms. Pastor Kent King-Nobles officiated the ceremony.

The new Mrs. Betzold is the daughter of Jeff and Amy Fuller of Bloomington. She graduated from Normal Community West High School in Normal and then Illinois State University in Normal with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business. She is currently employed as an underwriter for Great American Insurance Company.

Her husband is the son of

Catherine Bohan of Hannibal, MO, and Bruce Betzold of Nokomis. He graduated from Nokomis High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University, in agricultural studies with a minor in agronomy. He is actively engaged on the family farm where the couple will make their home.

The couple celebrated their nuptials with a reception, dinner and dance at The Interstate Center in Bloomington.

A "Meet & Greet" reception will be held locally at The Vault, located at 101 E. State St. in Nokomis, on Sunday, Aug. 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to come congratulate the newlyweds and welcome the new Mrs. Betzold to the local community. Everyone is welcome, but no gifts please.

er-in-law Justin Corgan as his best man. Other groomsmen were his brother-in-law Luke Ferranto and his friends Ramond Cox and Ryan Valchar.



Rebecca Hill Receives 2025 Mae Seward Sorrells Award

Rebecca Hill of Nokomis has been named the 2025 Mae Seward Sorrells Nursing Scholarship recipient. She is attending the University of Illinois-Chicago (Springfield campus) this fall to begin her studies in the bachelor of science in the nursing program. Pictured above, from the left are Patty Cady of the Hillsboro Health Auxiliary and Rebecca Hill.

The Mae Seward Sorrells Nursing Scholarship is awarded to high school students enrolling as first-year nursing students at an accredited school. The purpose of the \$500 award is to encourage nursing students to seek a position at Hillsboro Health upon completion of training. Eligible students must be residents of Montgomery County one year prior to date of application or be currently employed at Hillsboro Health.

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Birth

Griffin and Shayla (Ortega) Billick of Litchfield announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Charlie Raye Billick, born at 6:42 a.m. on July 22, 2025, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. She weighed 7 lbs., 5 ozs., and measured 19.75 ins. long.

Her father works for Evergreen Senior Living and her mother works for Lily Pad Learning Center.

Paternal grandparents are John and Darcus Billick of Litchfield. Maternal grandparents are Adam and Chrissy Ortega of Litchfield.

Paternal great-grandparents are Joyce Benthal of Litchfield and Cheryl Thomas of Troy. Maternal great-grandparents are Jeff and Angela Wilhelm of Bloomington, Paul and Debbie Froese of Bloomington and Alvaro and Jeanne Ortega of Mendota.



Litchfield Fundraiser To Benefit Willa's Family

Family and friends of Warrior Willa are hosting a Litchfield benefit in her honor on Saturday, Aug. 23.

Willa is the 20-month-old daughter of Ty White and Macey Blevins and was diagnosed with a brain tumor in April. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Willa and her family as she undergoes treatment.

The day kicks off with a Yard-to-Yard competition. Participants will check in at the Litchfield Moose Lodge between 10:30 and 11 a.m. for a map with various stops. They will also get a scorecard to mark scores from the yard games at each stop.

Registration will be accepted through Saturday, Aug. 16, and forms are available at the Litchfield Moose Lodge. The entry fee is \$50 for up to two people in the competition and the dinner to follow at the Moose.

At 5 p.m., participants must return to the Litchfield Moose Lodge for the final chance to earn points before turning in their scorecards.

Prizes will be awarded for first and second places as well as braggin' rights for the best stop.

The Litchfield Moose Lodge will also be hosting a



Warrior Willa

fundraiser dinner that night. Tickets are \$15 per person. Doors open at 5 p.m. with a cash bar, free jukebox and silent and dessert auctions.

Dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. including pulled pork sandwiches, lettuce salad, baked beans, potato salad and chips.

At 7 p.m., there will be a live auction. After the live auction, winners of the silent and dessert auction and the yard-to-yard competition will be announced.

For more information, contact Jess Traylor at 217-556-0367 or the Litchfield Moose Lodge.



DeLapp, Karas Marry In Summer Ceremony

Emma Delapp and Andy Karas, both of Ellisville, MO, were united in marriage on June 21, 2025, in St. Louis, MO. Seth Georgson presided over the ceremony.

The new Mrs. Karas is the daughter of Beth and Tony Ferranto of St. Genevieve, MO, and the granddaughter of Dick and Judy James of Hillsboro. Her husband is the son of Jim and Sue Karas of Ballwin, MO.

The couple chose an elegant, clean, classy and glam wedding with Becky Rastet providing the wedding music. For her special day, the bride chose a Maggie Sottero, Iravati Allover beaded gown from Clarice's Bridal. Her bouquet of white roses and white chrysanthemums was created by Jody Hahn.

The bride chose her best friend and fellow teacher Nicole Ernst as her maid of honor. Other bridesmaids were her sisters-in-law Amanda Corgan and Angela Karas and her cousin, Mackenzie Lawson.

The groom chose his brother-in-law Justin Corgan as his best man. Other groomsmen were his brother-in-law Luke Ferranto and his friends Ramond Cox and Ryan Valchar. Flowergirl for the ceremony was Mia Frerichs and ring bearer was Tanner Delapp. Ushers for the ceremony were Justin Leuthauer and Mel Carr, friends of the groom.

Prior to the ceremony, a rehearsal dinner was held at San Jose Mexican Restaurant. Following the wedding, a reception for 190 guests was held at the Wildwood Hotel in St. Louis, MO.

The new Mrs. Karas graduated from SEMO with her bachelor's degree in 2019 and her master's degree in 2023. She is a teacher for the Fox C-6 School District.

Her husband graduated from Marquette High School.

He is a salesman for Bomarito.

Following a honeymoon trip to Crete, Greece, the couple are making their first home in Ellisville, MO.



Litchfield Schools Introduce New Staff This August

The Litchfield School District officially welcomed students back for the 2025-2026 school year on Wednesday, Aug. 13. To ring in the new year, the district recognized new staff joining Panther Nation this fall. Pictured above, in front, from the left are Litchfield Middle School Principal Chad Carty, Litchfield Elementary School Principal Paula DalCanton, Technology Support Specialist Susan Miley, Litchfield Early Childhood Center custodian Gary Loskot, Litchfield High School ag science teacher Stacy Swanson, special education paraprofessional Sandra Mullen, SCI Center clerical aide Kayla Clelland and bus driver Brad Johns. In back are Litchfield Elementary School life skills aide Anne Fullington, Litchfield Elementary School special education aide for fourth grade Mackayla Sorsen, Litchfield Elementary School special education second grade teacher Alexandria Quinn, Litchfield Elementary School custodian Nicetas Seago, Litchfield High School activities custodian Gregg McKay, Litchfield High School physical education and health teacher James Bryant and Litchfield High School art teacher Alexis Tharp. Not pictured is Litchfield Early Childhood Center Make-It aide Cindy Ewin.

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Heartfelt Thanks...

Thank you for all the cards, calls, visits, and to everyone who came to my 94th Birthday Celebration. You will never know what all of that meant to me.

God Bless You All

Ethel M. Liston

Hillsboro Health

Continued from page 1A

• Surgical Services Expansion: Construction of an 11,000-square-foot addition to house two new operating rooms, a procedure room, post-surgery recovery suites and a modern central sterilization area.

• Enhanced Patient Experience: Renovation of the hospital's front lobby and construction of a new entrance canopy to improve accessibility and the overall patient and visitor experience.

Much of the hospital's current infrastructure dates to its original construction in 1975. This project will replace outdated mechanical equipment and surgical

spaces with modern, efficient and patient-centered designs that reflect today's standards of health care delivery.

"This project represents a significant investment in the future of health care in our area," said Hillsboro Health President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Alexander. "Upgrading our infrastructure and expanding outpatient surgery capabilities ensures patients have access to high quality health care without having to travel long distances. This growth will also enable us to continue to serve our community for generations to come."

Construction is expected to begin in early 2026 with completion targeted for late 2027.

Hillsboro School Board

Continued from page 1A

One notable change (~\$950,000) from FY25 to FY26 is that the district will not receive ESSER grant funding this year. The grant funds were used to fund building and construction needs.

The other big difference is regarding state funding for certain mandated categoricals, which McBrain said the state is predicting that the district will not receive all of the money they have received in the past. "It's a pretty bleak outlook in terms of what we are going to receive for state funding," McBrain said. While not affecting evidence-based funding (EBF) or corporate personal property replacement tax (CPPRT), it will affect the reimbursements received for special education, transportation, driver's ed, etc. "We are looking at receiving 73 percent reimbursement this year, compared to last year's 79 percent," McBrain said. Reimbursement for private facilities, such as alternative schools and sites, is expected to go from 80 percent to 40 percent.

On the expense side of the Ed Fund, the biggest change this year is in salaries, where retirements (and their subsequent lower-salaried replacements) led to a decrease.

Coaching salaries were updated for FY26, with several adjustments to align with coaching stipends and officiating expenses, along with more equitable funding to some of the programs that were not receiving a supply budget.

Retirement, IMRF, and Tort are funds that have been underlevied in the past, with expected deficits in the budget, albeit not as far in the red as in previous years.

All in all, total operating funds are projected to be \$584,352 in the black, or \$731,530 without Tort, both good numbers. "I think we are in a pretty good spot," McBrain concluded. "I am concerned about how we will continue that moving forward if the state doesn't provide some of those reimbursement models."

She added that she expects the budget will shift quite a bit over the next month as they continue working on it.

The tentative budget will remain on file for public inspection for 30 days until an FY26 budget hearing at the next school board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the unit office.

Superintendent McBrain and the school administrators across the district took time to introduce much of the new district staff that has been hired for the upcoming school year. Coffeen principal Marci Gutierrez introduced Coral Christian, who is coming aboard as a pre-K teacher, as well as aides Tia Niehaus and Hannah King and Kim Leible as a trained

home visitor.

Beckemeyer Principal Zach Frailey introduced his three new teaching hires, all in the third grade hallway: Madison Hamby, Alli Suess, and Chloe Mattson. Four aides have also been brought on board: Ronald Newton, Reagan DeVaisher, Audra Moore, and Gloria Holt.

New junior high principal Adam Haston introduces the new faces at HJHS, beginning with aides Tammy Bauman and Erin Gile. Cassidy McGaughey and Steven Fenske were hired as special education and seventh-grade science teachers, respectively.

HHS Principal Blake Lipe introduced new high school chemistry teacher Erin Caveny.

Additionally, McBrain introduced new junior high dean of students Dan Stewart and new curriculum director Autumn Amling. "We are fully staffed and running. We feel good about where we are at," McBrain said, adding that she is looking forward to the school year.

The present board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, along with last month's proposed policy recommendations and a change order to the construction project, paving the north parking lot with concrete instead of chip and oil. All votes passed 6-0, with Board President Matt Lentz absent.

McBrain presented the 2025 administrator and teacher salary and benefits report, which is available on the school website.

The board also voted unanimously to again approve the hiring of Scheffel Boyle to conduct the district audit for fiscal year 2026.

In good news reports,

McBrain reported that the district has been notified they will be receiving the Energy Grant funds they applied for, although the specifics are still to be announced. The funds are not presently included in the tentative FY26 budget.

High school principal Blake Lipe thanked Fred Butler and his team for their hard work getting the high school ready for the new year, citing the significant progress in the last ten days.

At 7:44 p.m., the board motioned to move into closed session. Following the closed session, the board approved the employment of bus aides Tabatha Dewitt and Michelle Bergman, part-time business teacher and technology support specialist Laura Rensch, junior high science teacher Steven Fenske, teaching assistants Erin Gile, Audra Moore, and Gloria Holt, volunteer junior high softball coach Carly Boden, and volunteer high school tennis coach Emma Dixon. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Hiltopper Classmates Share 65 Years Of Memories

Members of the Hillsboro High School class of 1960 shared 65 years of memories at their reunion, held Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 5, at The Ariston Cafe in Litchfield. They enjoyed a meal and dessert, as well as a chance to catch up and look at old photos. Classmates are from Hillsboro unless otherwise noted. Pictured above, in front, from the left are Jo Lucille (Chase) Gibson of Centralia, Carol (Claxon) Kirby, Sue (Robbins) Fuller, Janet Rhoades of Litchfield, Norma (Burris) Clemens, Linda (Baugher) Young, Sandra (Muse) Lanter, Patsy (Washburn) Bourdoumis, Judy (Rice) Hauck Costar of Tavares, FL, and Mary Jean (Hewitt) Riley of Edwardsville. In back are Charles Moody of Fillmore, David Pence, Walter Neely, Maurice Dodd of Peachtree City, GA, Robert Whitman of Coffeen, Gene Redman of Highland, Bruce Gunn, Jim Kenney, Nick Bourdoumis, Gary Manifor of Charleston and Kay Leone (Woodruff) Keys of Stillwater, OK. Not present for the photo but attending the reunion was Carol (Best) Brown of Golconda.

Journal-News Photo



Lynch Family Hosts 75th Reunion In Butler

Members of the Lynch family met for their 75th reunion on Sunday, Aug. 3, at the Butler Community Center in Butler. More than 50 descendants of John Henry and Ludema Lynch enjoyed a carry-in luncheon and some delicious catered items too. The reunion included a funny silent auction/white elephant exchange, as well as the annual business meeting, election of officers and presentation of awards. Honored this year were the oldest family members, Corky Lynch and Mary Jean Lentz.

Journal-News Photo



A total of 55 people gathered to celebrate the 80th annual Klekamp family reunion on Saturday, Aug. 3, at Walton Park in Litchfield.

Klekamps Celebrate 80th Annual Family Reunion

The annual Klekamp family reunion was held on Saturday, Aug. 3, at Walton Park in Litchfield. The 2025 reunion marked the 80th for the family. There were 55 members in attendance including two guests.

A moment of silence was given in memory of Joyce Osterman and William (Bill) Klekamp. David and Beth Klekamp traveled the farthest distance from South

Carolina, surprising everyone with last minute plans to attend.

Dorothy Klekamp Mansholt was the oldest member in attendance. She shared that she has attended all of the reunion gatherings from the first reunion to the present. She recalled that the first reunion was held in Springfield and her father, Ted Klekamp, drove his bus, picking up local relatives and driving them to the

reunion.

Jonas Cloyd and Sloan Wernsing were the youngest in attendance. Mia Marie Choc was welcomed as a new member. Kelly Eash and Mary King were introduced as guests.

Birthday wishes were sung to Ann Jenne and Dorothy Mansholt, having birthdays on Aug. 4 and Aug. 5, respectively. Officers for

the next reunion, to be held on Aug. 2, 2026 will remain the same, consisting of Jim and John Osterman as co-presidents, Nancy Hyam and Tiffany Osterman as co-secretary treasurers.

The members enjoyed reminiscing, sharing highlights of previous reunions and playing bingo while enjoying the beautiful weather. A fun time was had by all.

Chandler Takes Pulpit At Litchfield Southside Church



Pastor John Chandler

Southside Church in Litchfield is thrilled to announce that God has led John Chandler to be the church's new senior pastor. Chandler comes from Malvern, AR. He is married to Keilani and they have three beautiful girls, Beth, Kati, and Holly. He received an associate degree in biblical studies from Central Arkansas Baptist Bible Institute. He has also received a bachelor's degree in theology at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, AR.

Chandler was previously

the senior associate pastor at Second Baptist in Malvern, AR, for 19 years. Prior to that he served as youth pastor at United Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, AR.

Chandler has a passion for ministry and it is his prayer that God will use him to prepare disciples to continue

to serve and worship Jesus Christ. Southside Church is excited to continue God's mission under John Chandler's leadership to "Love God, Love People and Make Disciples."

Please join the church in welcoming Pastor Chandler and his family to Litchfield and Southside Church.

PANAMA MULLIGAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST

Serving Mulligan & Hotdogs 12 p.m.-Gone

Free Kids' Activities

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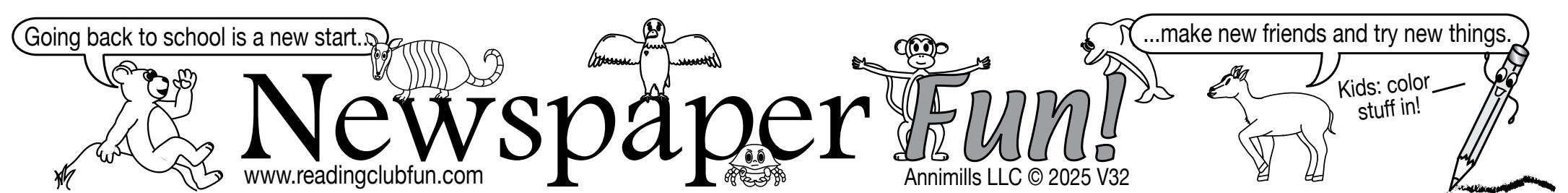
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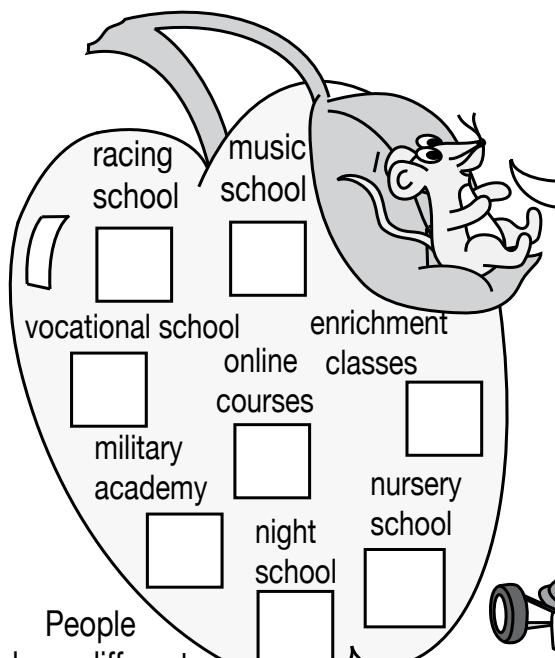
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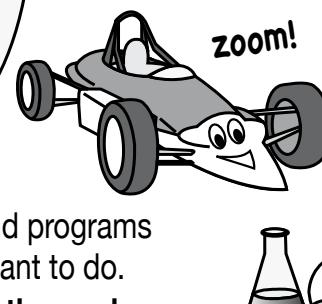


There are many kinds of schools and programs to help people achieve what they want to do.

Can you match each school in the apple above to its purpose below? Write the number (1, 2, 3,...) of each purpose in the correct box.

1. teaches a skill or trade to help you on a job or career path
2. teaches how to get along with others and other pre-kindergarten skills
3. for people who work or take care of children during the day
4. prepares people for service and leadership in the armed forces
5. lets people keep on learning and trying new things
6. lessons taught and completed on a computer
7. business, recording arts, how to set up live events
8. safety, vehicle care, skid control, driving awareness

People of all ages are going back to school! Yes, all ages! Some are getting a basic education, some are preparing for kindergarten or college, and others are interested in learning skills and trades to help them land a better job or build a career. It doesn't matter how old we are – we all can learn something new to help ourselves.



Take good notes!





The seventh grade girls state champion volleyball squad was one of the many participants in the annual Morrisonville Homecoming parade, held on Saturday evening, Aug. 9.

Raymond News Photo

It's All About The Parade At Morrisonville Picnic

The 97th annual Morrisonville Picnic was held on Saturday, Aug. 9, as part of the three day picnic event. This year's parade theme was "It's All About The ____," and offered prizes in seven categories.

Winners include the Knights of Columbus Hall, which took first in the organization category, followed by the FFA. The seventh grade girls volleyball state champions and 7th grade boys basketball sectional champions tied for third.

Candi's Diner won the business category, with Casey's close behind, and Poogans Creamery won the decorated vehicle division, followed by the Kraner family. The Downey family once again placed first in the individual category.

In the decorated golf cart/ side-by-side category, first place went to Janet Navarrete, while second went to Quiet Waters.

First place in the out-of-town division went to the First National Bank of Raymond.



Members of Montgomery County Democrats are pictured above preparing the meals for their Nokomis Area Library Fundraiser on Friday, Aug. 1.

Democrats Raise \$1362 For Nokomis Library

Montgomery County Democrats hosted a pork patty fundraiser for Nokomis Public Library on Friday, Aug. 1. Meals of pork patties, chips, a drink and a token for a Nokomis Dairy Queen ice cream cone were given away in exchange for library dona-

tions. In total, \$1362 was raised for the library.

Montgomery County Democrats thank all who came out to participate and express gratitude to Nokomis Dairy Queen, Hillsboro IGA and McDonald's for their support.



Montgomery County Democrats presented a \$1362 donation to Nokomis Public Library on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Pictured above, from the left are Phil Blazich with Montgomery County Democrats, Library Board Secretary Margie Eisenbarth, Library Director Lisa Casterline, Mike Glenn with Montgomery County Democrats and Library Board President Jake Leonard.

Journal-News Photo

Three Honored At Augustana

Augustana College announced more than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2024-2025 spring semester. Students who have earned the academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

Local students making the Dean's List include Isabella Roach of Litchfield, a psychology major; Kayden Liebscher of Hillsboro, an accounting and business administration-business intelligence major; and Magnus Wells of Coffeen, a kinesiology major.

Montgomery County Board

Continued from page 1A

Finance and Budget

In other business in the finance and budget committee, Ritchie reported that the Capital Improvement and Coal Fund reports had a June payment of \$170,361.72, which he believed put the funds over one million dollars for the year.

Ritchie also reported that the contract with Bruce Harris and Associates for the Geographic Information System (GIS) update is ready to be signed, with an initial fee not to exceed \$22,003.31, plus a monthly fee of \$752 for support. Ritchie said that is less than what the county currently spends with current GIS provider, Beacon.

Ruppert asked if there was a transition date to switch over to the new website. Ritchie said between six weeks and two months.

The board approved the contract and an updated pre-approved payment list. Ritchie spoke about a training reimbursement policy, which would require employees to repay training costs if they leave their position before a certain date. County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser suggested the policy and will continue to research what other areas do before a completed policy is brought to the board.

The county was also able to void its assessment contract with Grisham/Walshville/East Fork townships, who now have a township assessor. Ruppert asked if that assessor would be afforded the same access to the county's software as North Litchfield's assessor. County Coordinator Mike Plunkett said that North Litchfield is considered a test case for the county's IT department and if everything goes smoothly, they hope to do the same with the aforementioned townships and possibly Hillsboro Township as well.

The county will also begin the budget process later this month, with hearings scheduled for 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28, with Bellwether. Ritchie said that preliminary information suggests that the county can expect a six figure surplus and that they will look closely at overappropriations and credit and debit card usage.

Roads and Bridges

In roads and bridges committee, Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski said that the cost of the culvert replacement on Hill Circle will be \$26,000, with the county covering half that amount. Murzynski also spoke about the Arches Rail Trail, which is in need of repair due to motorcycles and ATVs using it.

County Engineer Cody Greenwood spoke about the Walshville Road improvement project, saying that the state archeological department is doing tests and has contacted nearby land owners, and a request to vacate streets and alleys in Zanesville Township.

Greenwood said that attorneys for landowners asking for the streets to be vacated gave a plat to the county clerk's office, but he needed guidance on the next step of the process. County Clerk Leitheiser said that the area is part of an area called Leesburg and the streets were platted, but never developed.

State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti, joining the meeting remotely, said that there needed to be a petition signed by two-thirds of the land owners. Donaldson said he believed three landowners were involved, so just two would be needed for the petition. Plunkett added that something similar had been done with half of Van Burenburg and he expected another petition to vacate the other half in the future.

Greenwood also gave an update on the heavy equipment shed, saying that they went a cheaper route on some items, such as fewer windows, in order to reduce costs. He added that they were expected to hang ceilings on Aug. 13, with overhead door installation coming in a week or two.

Buildings and Grounds

In buildings and grounds committee business, the board approved a bid from Henson Robinson for two high efficiency boilers, which will replace three cast iron boilers, for a cost of \$70,592. Committee Chairman Mark Hughes said that Maintenance Director Phil Ernst was able to find a grant from Ameren to cover \$3,500 of the cost.

Jaytech Water Solutions also took water samples for county buildings and had suggestions on chemicals that could be added to improve water quality and efficiency in some equipment.

Hughes also spoke about three dead trees that needed to be removed from near the jail, adding he hoped the highway department could help with the project, and heating and cooling problems in courtroom three in the Montgomery County Courthouse. Hughes said he believed they have a solution to the problem and are getting bids to install a mini-split.

The county is also getting bids for work involving the Illinois Clean Lighting Act and Ameren, who will provide lighting upgrades, with the county just paying for labor. Hughes closed out his report by thanking Rob Smith of RL Contractors for pouring concrete, Hillsboro Rental for donating use of a post hole digger and Jeff Dunn for painting the pole for the new historical marker on the grounds of the Historic Courthouse.

Development and Personnel

In the development and personnel committee report, Chairman Ruppert said that bids were being sought to enclose the front porch of the animal facility, there are fewer animals at the facility than at the previous

meeting and that Animal Control Warden Trish Papin has implemented a call log to give the board a better idea of what they are doing, adding that they responded to their fourth call that day just before the meeting.

Papin added that the animal control now has a verbal agreement with Dr. Stacey Funderburk of Countryside Vet Services for veterinary needs in Dr. Alan Probst's absence. She added that Dr. Funderburk may be able to help with lower cost spaying and neutering for the animals at the facility.

Papin said another source of low cost spaying and neutering services, the Animal Protective League, is short-

handed as a new veterinarian is coming from out of the country and is having difficulty with immigration.

She also thanked County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser's office for donating expired first aid kits, which are able to be used for the animals.

The board also approved siting permits for CF IL Solar (Farmersville), RDC IL N. 24th Solar (by Harvel) and both Atticus Solar and Finch Solar (Route 127 south of Hillsboro), each with five to six conditions.

Board member Evan Young voted against the RDC IL N. 24th Solar and the Finch Solar projects.

During public comments, Bill Schroeder expressed concern over the number of solar projects in the county and suggested putting a cap on that number and how many acres they can use. He said that the county or someone will end up with a lot of useless equipment at some point when these projects have exceeded their lifespan and it will be up to taxpayers to pay for it.

After Schroeder spoke, Evan Young mentioned that there is not much the county can do if the solar companies meet the criteria required by the state.

"We have ad hoc committees doing this, that and the other thing," Schroeder responded. "When are we going to be our own regulators? When are we going to have a say in what actually affects our community?"

During the discussion on the permits, Ruppert said that the county has to abide by the state guidelines, but all solar contracts have to have reclamation clauses included if the solar company goes bankrupt.

Later in committee business, Ruppert reported that the county had been fully reimbursed for projects through phase one of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Energy Transition Grant and were working on phase two. Plunkett added that the county was notified that day that applications for the third phase were now being accepted. This will be the final year the county is eligible for the grant, which was for three years after the closing of the Coffeen Power Plant.

Ruppert closed out his report by saying that the next committee meeting will be moved to Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 5 p.m. due to the Labor Day holiday, and that the committee discussed the secession resolutions regarding Indiana and that he did not believe it was in the best interest of the board to make a statement on that.

Coordinating

In coordinating committee business, Chairman Donaldson said that IT Director Kurt Watkins is working on improvements to the telephone system and the GIS system and recently completed phishing testing, which Donaldson said revealed some issues that needed to be addressed.

Donaldson said that County EMA Director Danny Hough was working on a

grant to update the sirens system, but Hough received word that the county did not receive those grants.

Donaldson noted that the wooded acres ad hoc committee met on July 15 and will meet again on Aug. 19, and that the rules committee met and changed language for when the county terminates the head of a department.

Evan Young asked about the language, with board member Connie Beck saying that the new language calls for the department head to be suspended with pay until the full county board can vote on the decision.

Donaldson said that he recently attended a mayors meeting, where they discussed derelict properties and how to respond. He also spoke about the request from Bluewave Solar and Silicon Ranch Solar regarding putting a solar project on the county farm. State's Attorney Affrunti said he will look at the contract and possibly reach out to the attorney general.

The board also approved keeping the closed session minutes from meetings on March 3, March 31 and June 4 permanently sealed.

Other Business

The meeting started with Leitheiser speaking about the late Laura Cerven, who worked in the County Clerk's office and passed away on July 21. Leitheiser said that Cerven had a wonderful attitude, was always quick to help and will be greatly missed.

Before the committee reports, the board approved the mileage and per diem requests, the minutes of the last board meeting and heard the liaison reports.

Russ Beason reported as CEFS Board liaison that the Meals on Wheels program is facing financial trouble due to cuts from DOGE and other factors, like food costs. Beason said that the cost has been as high as \$11 per meal, but was currently at \$9 per meal for the 140 people currently receiving meals. He said that number fluctuates, but usually is around the 100 person mark.

Beason said that CEFS is soliciting donations from the community and that they are currently down \$50,000 in Montgomery County.

In other liaison reports, Mark Hughes attended the MCEDC board meeting and the corporation is switching to a partnership with Rivers and Routes. Rob Corso attended the UCCI conference in Galena. Ethan Murzynski said that the 708 board is reviewing applications and Chris Daniels said that bids are being accepted for renovating the kitchen and replacing carpet at the senior center.

Before closing out the meeting, the board approved the committee reports, a motion to pay bills and payroll and the appointments of Amy Jeffers to the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service, Leonard Rovey to the Farmersville Waggoner Fire Protection District and Brett Holliday to the 708 Board.

Before adjourning the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Donaldson mentioned that the fall electronics recycling drive has been moved to the old highway department building on Seymour Avenue in Hillsboro, from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 13.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Panama Mulligan To Return On August 31

The annual Panama Mulligan will return on Sunday, Aug. 31. On the menu will be mulligan and hotdogs from noon until supplies are gone. There will also be free kids activities. Other Panama businesses and activities will be available on the day as well. Iron Horse will serve bratwursts from noon to 3 p.m., the same time frame that the *Miller/Maguire Music Duo* will be performing live music. *The Chapman Brothers Band* will then perform from 3 to 6 p.m. Nu Way Deli will be

serving chicken dinners from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and two piece chicken and wedges to go from 1 to 3 p.m.

Those interested in Panama history will be able to view the Panama Museum from noon to 1 p.m. and visit the John L. Lewis historical marker at John L. Lewis Park and the Mineworkers' Monument at Panama Union Cemetery. The Panama Mulligan is organized by the Panama VFW, the Panama Mulligan Committee, Iron Horse Saloon and Nu-Way Deli.



New Awning Complete For Short Furniture

After weeks of exterior renovations, Short Furniture in Litchfield has a brand new look brightening up downtown Litchfield. The famous green awning was replaced and now extends the entire length of the storefront on State Street in Litchfield. Other exterior renovations, including repainting many of the building's details, have also been completed this summer. Short Furniture is celebrating its 155th birthday this summer as a family-owned business. Staff members thank local customers for their patience throughout the construction process and invite the community into the store to see their inventory of more than 2,000 pieces and great deals throughout the store.

Raymond Celebration Seeking New Vendors

Vendors are needed for the Raymond Celebration, which will run on Thursday, Aug. 28, Friday, Aug. 29 and Saturday, Aug. 30. The celebration will run from 5 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and

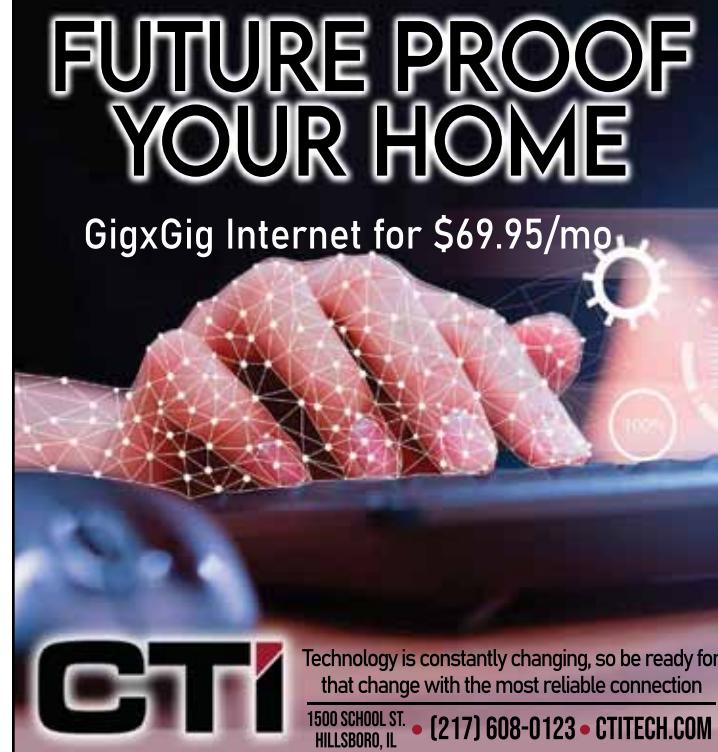
Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday. Vendors will receive a 10x10 space and will need to provide their own tent.

Reservations are first come first served and only

one company or craft type will be accepted. There is a non-refundable \$50 deposit.

Set up will be held on Thursday and Friday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and from 8 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Those looking to register as a vendor may contact Jenn Levy at 217-280-1911 or via Facebook Messenger. The 68th annual Raymond Celebration will be held in the park and around town.



Taylor Tire & Auto of Litchfield has been purchased by Best One of Central Illinois.
(Effective July 5, 2023)

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Hustons, Journal-News Visit Colorado Springs

The Huston family of Coffeen recently made a visit to Colorado Springs, CO, over the Fourth of July holiday. While there, they stayed at the Great Wolf Lodge, explored Pike's Peak, the Royal Gorge, Garden of the Gods and took a ride on the Georgetown Loop train. Pictured above are siblings Emalyn and Garrett Huston with *The Journal-News*, outside of the lodge with the mountains in the background.



The Journal-News Section B

Hillsboro, IL 62049

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Allegra Pantera

Benvenue Pantere Bienvenue aux Panthères Bienvenidos Panteras

Litchfield Travelers
Tour Southern
Europe In July

by Matt Vaughn

Thirty-seven Litchfield-area residents took an 11-day tour of the Alps and Mediterranean, traversing five countries and thousands of miles between July 13 and 23. Headed up by group leader and Litchfield High School teacher Shane Cress, the travelers included recent LHS grads, current students, some adult family members and four chaperones. This is Mr. Cress's sixth European summer tour that he has organized through EF Educational Tours.

After a long travel day on July 13, the group touched down in Zurich, Switzerland early the next morning before visiting the gorgeous waterfalls of the Rhine River, followed by a guided tour of Zurich's Alstadt (Old Town) with views of the Limmat River and Lake Zurich.

The Swiss portion continued the next morning with a walking tour of Lucerne to the winding Chapel Bridge and the Lion Monument, a memorial to fallen Swiss soldiers. Regarding the monument, LHS grad Selina Cochran said, "I like how it captured the Swiss spirit. It was really peaceful there." That afternoon, the travellers crossed Lake Lucerne aboard the MS Gotthard and took a cog train into the clouds as they ascended the nearly 7,000 foot Mt. Pilatus.

Recent graduate Bella Reyes described Mt. Pilatus as the highlight of Switzerland. Climbing many steps to the highest lookout point in the thin air was challenging but worth it, she said, adding that the restaurant inside the visitor's center had the "best real Swiss chocolate, not the tourist stuff."

That night, the tour group attended a Swiss fondue dinner and cultural show, complete with traditional songs, yodeling, folk dances, and the blowing of the 10 foot long Alphorn. Several LHS students and grads suc-



It was an opportunity of a lifetime for 37 Litchfield students, recent graduates, family members and chaperones as they toured the southern Europe for 11 days. With the Lion of Lucerne in the background, in front, from the left are Karen Cress, Michelle Wernsing, Kim Law, Addison Farrar, Audrey Vaughn, Hunter Heyen, Amanda Lamore, Stacy Carter, Alex Gasperson, Caitlyn Travis, Bella Reyes, Marilou Crispens and Olivia Goldman. In the second row are Paul Leefers, Landon Wernsing, Noah Polus, Matt Vaughn, James Vaughn, EF tour director Sam Levi Tas, Ava Ballard, Daphney Hartel, Alex Calladine, Ella Savage, Braden Alexander, Selina Cochran and Theresa Hays. In back are Doug Wernsing, Jacob Valentine, Leslie Farrar, group leader Shane Cress, Josh Hughes, Katie Savage, Billy Gibbs, Dean Gibbs, Bill Crispens, Keith Cochran, Les Hays and Matt Goldman.

cessfully sounded the horn. Junior Dean Gibbs recalled, "You kind of put your lips together and make a kind of spitting sound." Afterwards, recent grad Caitlyn Travis joined Mr. Cress on the stage for a folk dance.

The following day took the travelers to Como, Italy for a hot lunchtime stop in the ancient city by the lake. The impressive twelfth century Cathedral of the Santa Maria Assunta dominated the central square. The heat of Como, however, was exceeded the next day as EF tour director Sem led the group to La Spezia to catch the train to the Cinque Terre region. The name, literally "five lands," refers to a series of five waterfront villages that are inaccessible by road. LHS grad Alex Gasperson recalled about riding the train, "We could see these little glimpses of the Mediterranean. And when we got off the train it was right there. Beautiful."

The day was scorching as travelers first explored Riomaggiore, where some students and graduates swam in the marina while others climbed the steep hill to explore the village above. The next train stop was Vernazza for lunch. One popular choice was handheld paper cones of fried seafood, including calamari, cod, shrimp, and sardines. The final stop of the afternoon was Monterosso al Mare, where many travelers hit the beautiful pebble beach there.

The next day's journey was through the French Riviera, including the tiny city-state of Monaco, one of the wealthiest places on the planet per square kilometer. There, travelers took a walking tour to St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Prince's Palace, decorated in red and white Monaco flags for an upcoming celebration of Prince Albert II's 20 years of reign. The city of Nice on France's Mediterranean

coast was an eclectic mix of modern luxury hotels on the beachfront with the centuries-old pastel-painted buildings covered in awnings and shutters.

The next morning's jaunt to the French seaside village of Cassis included a boat cruise to explore the impressive cliffs and coves from the water. Choppy seas and salt spray made for an exciting excursion before a waterfront lunch.

For history lovers, the day's highlight was the medieval city of Avignon to visit the Palace of the Popes there, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church in the fourteenth century. During the bus ride there, LHS history teacher Josh Hughes took the microphone to tell the story of the conflict between King Philip IV of France and Pope Boniface VIII. LHS grad Noah Polus said of Mr. Hughes' storytelling, "I think that was the

main reason I liked Avignon so much. I've had several classes with him and like how he teaches."

The next day's walking tour in Arles focused on Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh, who resided there between 1888 and 1889, including the notorious incident when he severed his own ear. Local guide Alexia led the group to a series of recognizable locations Van Gogh had painted. The Forum Square, where Van Gogh had painted Cafe Terrace at Night, was a popular site for selfies.

The final stop before leaving Arles was the Roman amphitheater there, which hosted gladiator combat and chariot races in the ancient Roman colony. It remains in use today, as was evident by the workers there setting up for a bullfight to be held later in the week.

Roman ruins remained the focus as the bus headed to Pont du Gard, a restored

stretch of Roman aqueduct. Three tiers of massive stone arches rise 160 feet above the Gardon River. After a trip to the museum, travelers crossed the aqueduct and descended to the riverfront to swim. Several jumped down some 18 feet from a rock platform to splash in the cold mountain waters below. One who made the jump, junior Addison Farrar, remembered that it was "a little scary. I told people I was going to do it, but it was a lot higher than I thought it was."

The next day's bus ride to Spain was broken up by a morning excursion to the seaside town of Le Barcares in France for some paddleboarding. Afterwards, EF tour director Sem organized the LHS students and grads to shop in a French grocery store for a picnic lunch. Late that afternoon, the tour bus reached the last hotel, beachfront accommodations in Calella, Spain, on the beautiful Costa Brava. Most travelers spent the rest of the afternoon before dinner at the beach, splashing in the dark blue Balearic Sea.

The trip's final destination was Barcelona in Spain's Catalonia region. The morning included guided walking tours of the ingeniously designed Park Ruell and the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia. This eye-catching church defies description as competing architectural and visual styles stretch to the heavens. Studded with statues and engravings, the church's exterior showcases major bible stories. Some 20 travellers joined a bicycle tour through the city's Parc de la Ciutadella and to the waterfront. The final evening concluded with a performance of flamenco, a traditional Spanish style of singing, dancing, and guitar playing.

After many days' journey by plane, bus, train, and boat, the tour group finally made it home to Litchfield after midnight on July 24, very tired but happy to have had the travel experience of a lifetime.

Next year's trip is a tour of Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Italy.

Library's Main Street Scavenger Hunt Rocks

Over 30 families enjoyed deciphering clues and locating painted rocks along Hillsboro's Main Street businesses during the first annual Hillsboro Main Street Painted Rock Scavenger Hunt which ran from July 23 to Aug. 2. The activity was organized by the Junior High Summer Book Club and Hillsboro Public Library as an auxiliary activity to their summer reading selection, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, written by Chris Grabenstein.

The students chose 22 Main

Street locations, developed clues for each location, then painted and placed the rocks in a loop along Main St. from Summer St. to the Historic Courthouse.

All participants received an embroidered "Hillsboro Main Street Painted Rock Scavenger Hunt 2025" keychain for returning the game card. Three grandprize winners were randomly drawn from all completed entries. Grand prize packages included Old Settlers ride tickets, Orpheum movie pass, Sweet Spot gift card, and Hillsboro Creamery gift certificate.

Grand prize winners were James McLaughlin, Lexi Downey and Becca Schlechte. All other participants received one of the above prizes.

The Junior High Summer Book Club and Hillsboro Public Library wish to thank everyone who participated in the scavenger hunt and to let them know that planning for the second annual Hillsboro Main Street Painted Rock Scavenger Hunt is already in the works.

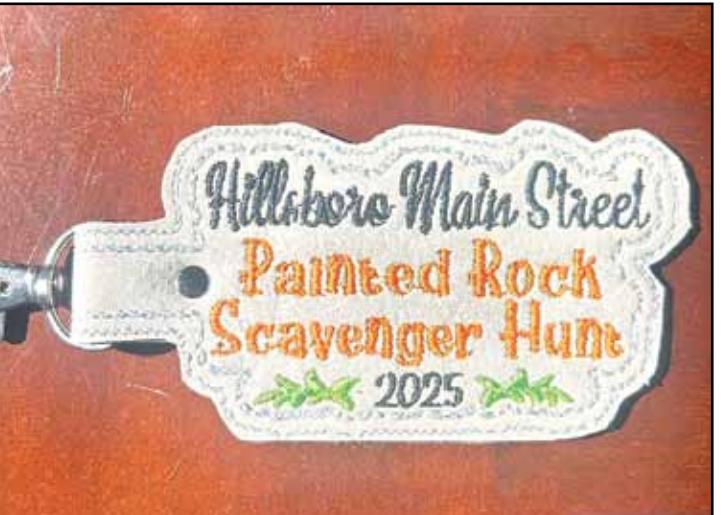
Breakfast and Bingo
The Hillsboro Area Public Library will also be hosting a free community breakfast and bingo on Friday, Aug. 22,

from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by Hough-Dean Funeral Home, the event will feature escalating cash prizes and giveaways. More information is available by calling (217) 532-3055.

Story Hour

The always popular weekly story hour program restarts on Monday, Sept. 8, at 4 p.m. at the Hillsboro Area Public Library.

Gather the kiddos (open to children in preK through third grade) to hear a classic tales or maybe a new favorite every Monday at 4 p.m., September through May.



Participants in this year's Main Street scavenger hunt received an embroidered keychain. Additionally, three grand prize winners were randomly selected.

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Golf Ball Drop Kicks Off 12th Annual TEAM Playday

It's a two-day celebration of all things related to Lincolnwood athletics as the TEAM Playday committee prepares for this year's golf outing on Aug. 23.

The 12th annual golf tournament has a full slate of teams, but there are plenty of other opportunities to contribute to the success of Lincolnwood/Morrisonville athletics.

The festivities begin on Friday, Aug. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Shoal Creek Golf Course in Raymond, with the Lancer coaches selling hotdogs and ribeye sandwiches to the crowd. At 7 p.m., there will be a live auction, with items ranging from items from the old Lincolnwood gym to St. Louis Cardinal tickets. The annual TEAM silent auction will also start on Friday night and will continue on into Saturday, closing at the end of the tournament.

Friday's feature event is the TEAM Golf Ball Drop, when four hundred golf balls will rain down from the Raymond-Harvel Fire Department ladder truck at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per ball and can be purchased from Lincolnwood/Morrisonville

athletes or Lincolnwood Athletic Director Josh Stone by email teamgolfouting@gmail.com or text 217-246-4220 and you do not have to be present to win. The two golf balls closest to the pin win \$500 each, while the ball farthest from the hole wins \$250.

The committee is also partnering with Your Design or Mine on a special TEAM for the Kids store, with T-shirts, tanks, polo shirts, blankets and tumblers available for purchase at teamitemorder.com. Items can be picked up at Shoal Creek Golf Course on the day of the TEAM Golf Ball Drop with no shipping charges.

To date, the TEAM Playday has raised for Lincolnwood athletics \$283,500 over the last 11 years, including \$32,000 last year. This year, the committee hopes to put their money where their mouths are, literally, as some of the funds will go toward an updated sound system at the newly renovated Lincolnwood gym..

To donate to the cause, contribute an auction item, or find out how you can help, contact Dana Pitchford at 217-494-4524.

Lentz, Cooper Finish 1-2 At Mission Impossible

Walshville's Travis Lentz and Donnellson's Cooper Duff showed that the real impossible mission was keeping them off the podium as the two Montgomery County racers took the top two spots in the youth division at IXCR's Mission Impossible race on Sunday, Aug. 10.

The two 15-year-olds raced in the Super Mini (8-15) class, and posted the two best times of the day. Lentz ran a 1:04:25 to snag the top spot, with Duff coming in 91 seconds later with a time of 1:05:56. The win was Lentz's second straight in the series after taking the top spot at Pleasant Ridge in Canaan,

IN, on July 20.

Two more Illinois riders also had solid runs in the younger divisions as Loami's Carter Workman was second in the 65cc (7-12) youth class and Eastern Daniels was tenth out of 31 riders in the 65cc (7-12) intermediate class.

In the pro class, Morrisonville's Jhak Walker was near the front in the early going, but had to call it a day after completing the first lap in 24:43.854.

The IXCR Cross Country Racing Series will continue on Aug. 30, with round nine, Whiskey River, in Milton, KY, on Aug. 30-31.



Morrisonville Picnic Hosts Bags Tournament

The Frog Jump wasn't the only thing hoppin' at this year's Morrisonville Homecoming and Picnic. Local players enjoyed the annual Bags Tournament, held Saturday, Aug. 9. Pictured above are the first place winners, Brayden Q and Cassie Buerk. Coming in second place were Jeremy Frazier and Ron Compton, followed by Randy Boden and Andrew Herpstreich in third place and Nate Schneider and Levi Davis in fourth place.



Bremer Hosts Outdoor Cooking Class For Kids

Bremer Sanctuary was the perfect place to be as local youth enjoyed a special outdoor cooking class for kids on Saturday, Aug. 9. The program was led by Beth Groves of the University of Illinois Extension with about a dozen participants. They learned about fire safety, how to make food in a dutch oven and how to make popcorn and chicken nachos over an open fire. The program concluded with a short hike around the sanctuary to learn about what animals eat.



Litchfield drag racer Brayden Hearn picked up his third win in the Junior Dragster Thunder class at World Wide Technology Raceway on Saturday, Aug. 9, and secured a track championship in the process. In the front are Brayden Hearn and Andy Hartline. In the back, from the left are Olivia Armour, Conner Awalt, Timothy Hearn, Jim Komor Sr., Trace Komor, Jim Komor Jr., Brooke Rosentreter (holding Theo), Dylan Rosentreter, David Hearn (holding Smokey), Michelle Hearn, Rich Komor, Tim Reid, Ed Kennerly and Dave Reid.

Hearn Snags Championship In Madison

Litchfield drag racer Brayden Hearn picked up his third win in the Junior Dragster Thunder class at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison on Saturday, Aug. 9, and secured a track championship in the process.

Hearn, the 11-year-old son of David and Michelle Hearn, started off the season with a win and never trailed in the points standings. His win on Saturday gave him

some breathing room going into Sunday's finale, when he finished off the championship.

Damon Haberberger kept Hearn from getting too far ahead, though, winning three races and finishing 23 points back in second place in the final standings.

The Hearns, along with a large contingent of friends and family, were hoping to celebrate a second championship as well as Brayden's

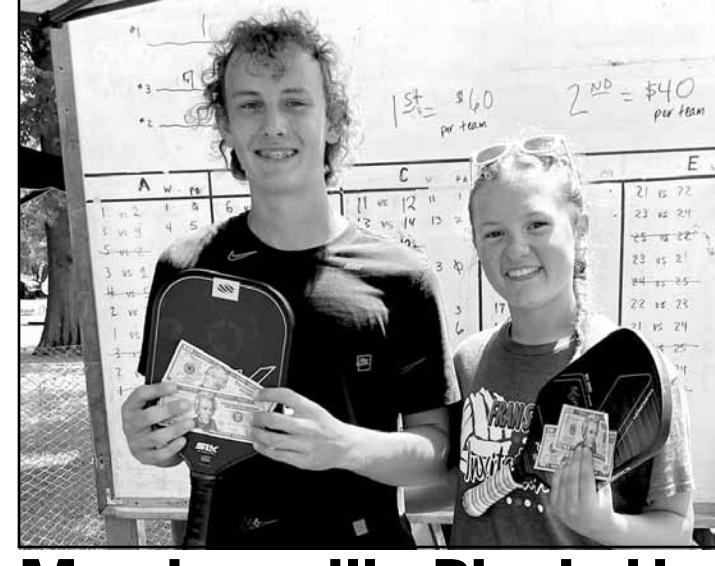
older brother Timothy was in the hunt for a title in the Ranken Technical College High School series.

The Litchfield High School junior was third in the points going into the race, but slipped to fourth in the final standings after a tough weekend on the track. Friend and fellow racer Conner Awalt slipped past Hearn by making it to the finals on Saturday, finishing with 285 points, 22

more than Hearn.

Luke Beach, who won on Saturday, won the points title this season, while Bobby Meyers was second with 329 points.

While the points race at World Wide Technology Raceway is in the books, the race season isn't over for the Hearn family, who plan to be at the Twin 10Ks at Midstate Dragway in Havana next weekend.



Morrisonville Picnic Hosts Pickleball Tournament

This year's Morrisonville Homecoming and Picnic featured a pickleball competition on Friday, Aug. 8, in two divisions, under age 17 and over age 17. At left are the first place winners in the under 17 division, Beckham Schmedeke and Paislee Krager. Other winners in the under 17 division were Antonio Spyridakis and Junior Edwards in second place and Tyce Wagahoff and Katrina Millburg in third place. At right are winners in the over 17 division, Courtney Coy and Kaleigh Tryon. Other winners in the over 17 division were Brady Schmedeke and Beckham Schmedeke in second place and Brody Lush and Mackenzie Harmon in third place.

Old Settlers Hosts Annual Horse Show

This year's Horse Show drew more than a dozen entries as part of the Old Settlers Parade on Thursday evening, Aug. 7, in downtown Hillsboro.

More than \$400 was awarded in cash prizes to participants who joined the fun in this year's parade.

Taking home top honors in the adult division was Cindy Mansholt. Other winners in the adult division were Jordan Forbes and Ashley Christ in second place, Jen Weber and Kay Zumwalt in third place and Chaney Pickerill in fourth place.

In the junior division, Eloise Kirkpatrick won first place, followed by Ember Frank in second place and Adeline Kirkpatrick in third place.

In the youth division, Jayden Christ won first place, followed by Kyla



Cindy Mansholt, at right, took home top honors in the adult division of the Horse Show during this year's Old Settlers Parade on Thursday evening, Aug. 7, in downtown Hillsboro.

Journal-News Photo

Blevins in second place and Arie Vowels in third place.

In the hitch division, Ryan Zumwalt won first place, followed by Zachariah Tyrrell in second place.

LLCU Donates \$10,000 To Decatur Turkey Tourney

Land of Lincoln Credit Union (LLCU) donated \$10,000 to the Decatur Public School District #61 in support of the upcoming Decatur Turkey Tournament. Craig Bundy, incoming tournament director, accepted the donation on Tuesday, Aug. 5. Bundy is taking over as tournament director this year after long-time director, Mel Roustio, retired at the close of last year's tournament after 23 years.

"We are very excited to continue our partnership as presenting sponsor of this long-standing, beloved Decatur tradition," said Carla Hittmeier, LLCU chief marketing officer. "I, personally, have fond memories of



Land of Lincoln Credit Union donated \$10,000 to the Decatur Public School District on Tuesday, Aug. 5, in support of the Decatur Turkey Tournament. Pictured above, from the left, are Decatur Turkey Tournament Director Craig Bundy and LLCU President and CEO Robert Ares.

Kade Beckmier Awarded At State Fair Contest

Sixty-five young livestock exhibitors vied for the title of "Grand Champion Overall Master Showman" on Aug. 8, during the 2025 Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Contest.

Locally, Kade Beckmier, from Morrisonville, was named the Reserve Champion Sheep Division, representing Christian County. He is the son of Craig and Michelle Beckmier.

The exhibitors, who were the winners of their respective 4-H county contests, showcased their skills and knowledge of animal husbandry at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. This presti-

gious competition invites 4-H members ages 14-18 years to display their showmanship skills across three species – beef, sheep and swine. The 4-Hers were judged on their ability to handle each animal, knowledge of the species and animal husbandry, as well as overall showmanship skills.

Three winners were named for each species and scores for all three species were tallied to determine the top five winners overall.

Hunter Shike, from Sardorus, representing Champaign County, Grand Champion Overall Master Showman, while Cole Kinsella, from the village of Wyoming

in Stark County, was named Reserve Grand Champion Overall Master Showman. Third place was awarded to Laikyn Parchert from Illinois City in Rock Island County, while fourth and fifth went to Nolan Hoge of Good Hope, McDonough County, and Carly Powell of Saint Augustine, Knox County, respectively.

Nearly \$8,000 worth of prizes donated by sponsors were awarded this year. First, second and third place overall winners received \$500, \$400 and \$300 cash (respectively), a new show box and other various prizes. Fourth and fifth place overall

received a \$200 and \$100 cash (respectively) and other various prizes. Each species division winner received a \$100 gift card and a zero-gravity chair. Each contest participant received a T-shirt, bucket, harness and \$25 gift card.

This year marked the 25th Annual Master Showmanship Contest held at the Illinois State Fair. This year's contest was hosted by Illinois Farm Bureau. Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President Evan Hultine presented the awards. Congratulations to these outstanding young livestock exhibitors!

Title Transfers

July 28

Larissa Reisinger, Joseph E. Weller to Gary Taylor, QCD, Pt. Lot 8, Blk. 4, Gorin's Addition Litchfield.

Joe Cabello III, Jose Cabello III to Joe Cabello, Jr., Jose Cabello, Jr., QCD, 2 Pts. WH SE, Sec. 6, Witt Township, Pt. Lot 12, 2 Pts. Lot 13, Oland Park Addition (A/K/A) Mitchell's Addition Witt.

Floyd D. Scheifer to Bonnie Scheifer, Floyd D. Scheifer, Rebecca Wood, QCD, NW/SE, Sec. 20, Witt Township.

Bonnie Scheifer, Floyd D. Scheifer to Kimberly Scheifer, QCD, Pt. NH SW, Sec. 20, Witt Township.

Stephen D. Woodcock, Tammy M. Woodcock to Tammy M. Woodcock, QCD, Pt. WH NE, Sec. 5, East Fork Township.

Forrest B. Lipe, Mikka R. Lipe to Forrest B. Lipe, Mikka R. Lipe, QCD, Lot 1, Blk. 11, Hardebeck's Subdivision (A/K/A Addition).

Matthew L. Jones, Shay A. Jones to Joshua Bailey, Carrie Wallace, WD, Lot 30, Lakewood Estates Subdivision.

Michael Ginos to Michael Ginos, Shelby Ginos, QCD, Lots 4 and 8, High School Addition Hillsboro.

Mark Erin Golladay, Montgomery County Clerk, Union Pacific Railroad Company to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 17 06 277 001, Tax Deed, Pt. SE/NE, Sec. 6, East Fork Township.

Jodi Jones, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 17 07 129 023, Tax Deed, WH Lot 5, Lot 6, Blk. 7, Hardebeck's Subdivision (A/K/A Addition).

Beulah Fae Brown Tr., Aaron Dean, Lora Dean, Montgomery County Clerk, Trust No 1 to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 17 35 336 021, Tax Deed, Pt. WH, Lot 12, Blk. 1, Coffeen's GF 2nd Addition Coffeen.

Joseph C. Buttram IV, Montgomery County Clerk, Quantum Lending to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 17 35 354 026, Tax Deed, Pt. NW/SW, Sec. 35, East Fork Township.

Montgomery County Clerk, Keith Phillips to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 17 35 376 004, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 10, Blk. 3, Coffeen.

Irving Church To Hold Grief Support Group

Irving Methodist Church will be offering a free seven-week support group for adults on Wednesday evening beginning Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. Pastor Sue Bryce will lead the group.

The Rev. Bryce holds a bachelor of science degree in religion and psychology and a master of divinity degree with a concentration in pastoral counseling.

Due to limited space, those interested are asked to register early. Registration may be done by calling the Rev. Bryce at 217-291-5663.

feen's GF Addition (A/K/A 1st Addition).

Katherine Bergin, David W. Holmes, Pamela S. Holmes, Nicholas R. Kenny, Montgomery County Clerk, Margie M. White to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 17 35 462 017, Tax Deed, Pt. SH SE, Sec. 35, East Fork Township.

Conway McElroy, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 22, 23 178 003, Tax Deed, Lot 1, VanBurenburg (Original Town and Addition).

Carol J. Lang, Conway McElroy, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 22 23 178 004, Tax Deed, Pt. SW/NW, Sec. 23, South Fillmore Township.

Carl A. Butcher, Louise

Butcher, Sharon Langen, Montgomery County Clerk, Betty Warchol, Elizabeth Warchol to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 20 22 383 034, Tax Deed, Lots 226 and 227, Blk. 12, Panama (Original Town).

Lilli P. Conlee, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 20 24 452 014, Tax Deed, Lots 11 and 12, Blk. 4, Walkerling's Subdivision Donnellson.

Montgomery County Clerk, Henry E. Sutter to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 04 33 402 002, Tax Deed, Lots 6 and 7, Blk. 5, Holmer's Addition Harvel.

Brian Brown, Dacia Brown, Candice M. Chapman, Carl Chapman, Christ Chapman, Donald Chapman, Ralph F. Chapman, Ronald D. Chapman, Ryan T. Fogle, Robert Mehlberg, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 01 303 013, Tax Deed, Pt. NW/NW/SW, Sec. 1, Hillsboro Township.

Franklin J. Altevogt, Teresa A. Altevogt, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 12 22 436 005, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 5, Blk. 11, Hillsboro Township.

ery County Clerk, Jessica Scrtoggins to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 01 305 026, Tax Deed.

Autry Elkins, Montgomery County Clerk, Jared Pollard, Sarah Pollard, Donna R. Roach, John Schaefer to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 02 427 017, Tax Deed, Pt. EH SE, Sec. 2, Hillsboro Township.

Autry Elkins, Montgomery County Clerk, Jared Pollard, Sarah Pollard, Donna R. Roach, John Schaefer to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 02 427 019, Tax Deed.

Joseph A. Kessinger, Montgomery County Clerk, Jeffrey Polus, Kathy Reeves, Roger Reeves to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 02 427 019, Tax Deed, Pt. WH SE, Sec. 2, Hillsboro Township.

Montgomery County Clerk, Kevin L. Rench, Helen Janean Stretch, Steven L. Traylor to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 02 476 009, Tax Deed, Pt. SE, Sec. 2, Hillsboro Township.

Montgomery County Clerk, Kevin L. Rench, Helen Janean Stretch, Steven L. Traylor, Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 02 476 010, Tax Deed, Pt. SE, Sec. 2, Hillsboro Township.

Lilli P. Conlee, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 20 24 452 014, Tax Deed, Lots 11 and 12, Blk. 4, Walkerling's Subdivision Donnellson.

Gary N. Foland, Irma M. Foland, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 02 477 007, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 1, Simmons Addition Hillsboro.

Armour O. Beckerman, Michael H. Hiller, Pamela D. Hiller, Kenneth L. Knetzer Jr., Montgomery County Clerk, Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 16 11 203 004, Tax Deed, Pt. NW/NE, Sec. 11, Hillsboro Township.

James Currie, Lisa Ann Currie, Montgomery County Clerk, Karis G. Schmedeke, Kurt W. Schmedeke, Kyle E. Schmedeke to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 12 22 436 005, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 5, Blk. 11, Hillsboro Township.

Michael Bacon, Montgomery County Clerk, Union Pacific Railroad Company, Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 08 14 385 001, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot Q, Kettelkamp's Addition Nokomis.

Michael Bacon, Montgomery County Clerk, Lloyd Buchholz, Vivian Buchholz, Walter B. Buchholz, Linda Cockran, Cheryl Flowers, Heather Hutchins, Montgomery County Clerk, Carol Speier, Heather Wyman to Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 08 14 359 006, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. C, Kettelkamp's Addition Nokomis.

Michael Bacon, Montgomery County Clerk, Union Pacific Railroad Company, Montgomery County Tr., Trust No 08 14 385 001, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot Q, Kettelkamp's Addition Nokomis.

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SELMA CAN
SELL THAT

4B - Thursday, August 14, 2025



Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD

CALL: (217) 532-3933

WEB: www.thejournal-news.netEMAIL: thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Announcements

Notices

FARM FRESH eggs located in Witt, dozen \$2.50. 217-246-7785

Employment

Clerical, Office

HELP WANTED: Part time copy editor/ typist. Two days a week, Monday and Friday at the Staunton Star Time in Staunton. Stop in the office to fill out an application at 108 W. Main St. or email a resume to stauntonstartimes@gmail.com

Estate Sale

ESTATE SALE: Estate sale of Pansy "Pat" Hollo. Date: August 16, 2025. Time: 8:00-3:00. Location: 11086 Old Litchfield Trail, Litchfield, IL. Description: Furniture, appliances, dishes, knickknacks, yard ornaments, exercise equipment, and more.

Merchandise

Antiques

FOR SALE: Ford 250 hay baler, antique. \$300. 217-556-6744

Miscellaneous

REFRIGERATOR \$175; air conditioner \$175; queen Murphy bed frame \$150. 217-313-5994

Pets & Supplies

BORDER COLLIES (plus smaller breeds), 573-414-4601, 573-979-5375

Real Estate

Farms, Acreages For Sale

FOR SALE: 26.5 acres Fayette and Montgomery County line. 217-313-5089 after 5 p.m.

Phone 532-3933

To Place Your
Classified Ad

Transportation

Automobiles

FOR SALE: 2011 Chevy Equinox, super clean, no rust, good tires and brakes. 217-851-1411

Motorcycles, Scooters

SELLING 1994 Yamaha motorcycle. 217-851-1411

Police

Litchfield Police

• Kevin L. Kruse, 60, was cited and arrested for attempting to flee an officer, improper traffic lane usage and driving under the influence at 8:53 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7.

• Lisa M. Smoot, 62, was cited for speeding 15 to 20 mph. over the limit at 1:11 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

• Cody B. Agers, 28, was cited for failure to reduce speed at 3:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

• Robert L. Huyear, 64, was cited for failure to obey a stop sign at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5.

• Sarah S. Marley, 41, was cited for expired registration at 6:50 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4.

• Jesse R. Emery, 31, was cited and arrested for driving on a suspended license at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2.

• Allison J. White, 55, was cited for failure to maintain private property, weeds and grasses and cutting vegetation required at 1:46 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2.

• Charles H. Heard, 39, was cited for failure to yield on a private road and unlicensed driving at 12:20 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2.

• Drew A. Schluter, 32, was cited for disregarding a stop sign and failure to recognize right-of-way at 2:07 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2.

• Christin R. Martin, 32, of Mt. Olive, was arrested for a city ordinance violation at 12:35 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1.

e-mail your ad to
advertisejn@consolidated.net

The CITY OF WITT
is Taking Applications for
PART-TIME HELP

For end of the season mowing. Applications can be picked up at Witt City Hall, 106A W. Broadway, Witt, IL 62094.

First Community
Bank of HillsboroHAS AN OPENING FOR A FULL-TIME
POSITION IN THE ACCOUNTING DEPT.

(Benefits include Insurance: Medical, Dental, Vision and Life, Bank pays 100% of cost for the employee)

Also includes: Vacation, Personal Time Off and Simple IRA.

Previous banking experience preferred but not required.

Salary range of \$16 to \$19 per hour depending upon experience.

APPLY NOW AT: 807 S. MAIN, HILLSBORO

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Junior High Track Coach

Starting Date: 2025/2026 School Year

Salary: In accordance with Teacher's Salary Schedule B/Labor Contract; <https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/1100>

Submit Application/Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Adam Haston, Principal; Hillsboro Junior High School; 909 Rountree Street; Hillsboro, IL 62049; E-mail: ahaston@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-3742

Due By: August 29, 2025

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

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Village of Taylor Springs is seeking bids for replacement of approximately 310, 5/8 x 3/4" electronic water meters with Drive-By Mobile Read Technology.

For more information and inspection of the job site, please call Kane at (217) 532-3354 or email: taylorspringsvillage@gmail.com. Bidders must show proof of insurance and pay prevailing wage.

The Village of Taylor Springs reserves the right to refuse any or all bids. **Sealed bids must be returned by Monday, September 1, 2025 at 2 p.m. to Village Hall at 626 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 160, Taylor Springs, IL 62089. Sealed bids may also be placed in the water payment collection box if Village Hall is closed.**

Michael Bacon, Montgomery County Clerk, Union Pacific Railroad Company to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 14 386 001, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot Q, Kettelkamp's Addition Continued Nokomis.

Michael Bacon, Montgomery County Clerk, Union Pacific Railroad Company to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 14 460 001, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. 1, Miller and Young's 2nd Addition Nokomis.

Michael Bacon, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 15 452 001, Tax Deed, Pt. SE, Sec. 15, Nokomis Township.

Michael Bacon, Anna B. Clotfelter, Frank I. Clotfelter, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 15 452 002, Tax Deed, Pt. SE, Sec. 15, Nokomis Township.

James Randall Beetle, Joan Beetle, Domenic Catgenova, Emma Catgenova, Pete Catgenova, Pierina DeWerff, Claudius Ervin Lewis, Randall Lewis Grace, Montgomery County Clerk, Edward S. Randall, Gertrude E. Randall, Harry Randall, Helen V. Randall, Janet Randall, James Randall Beetle, Lewis Grace Randall, Margaretta Westenberger, Merlin W. Westenberger to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 22 279 024, Tax Deed, Pt. Lots 8-10, Zepp's Subdivision Nokomis.

Andrew J. Graden, Montgomery County Clerk, Genece Reid, Lola L. Spears, Thomas L. Spears to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 22 427 003, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 2, Blk. 59, Huggins and Trustees Addition and Out Lots Nokomis.

Roseanna Bogard, Tina M. Keef, Montgomery County Clerk, Kenneth Tosetti, Stacy M. Tosetti, Tina M. Tosetti, Todd Tosetti to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 22 427 007, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. 59, Huggins and Trustees Addition and Out Lots Nokomis.

Julianne C. Flowers, Brett W. Mills, Montgomery County Clerk, Perry J. Pellegrini, Julianne C. Quinn to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No

08 22 428 003, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. 58, Huggins and Trustees Addition and Out Lots Nokomis.

Harley Baner, Katie Baner, Brandon Engleman, Elizabeth Engleman, Katharina Kettelkamp, William Kettelkamp, Brett W. Mills, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 23 106 001, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. 1, Nokomis (Original Town).

Tammy Jo Ackerman Nelson, Marvin Kemmerling, Jr., Montgomery County Clerk, Tammy Jo Ackerman Nelson to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 23 128 010, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. 69, Huggins and Trustees Addition and Out Lots Nokomis.

Tammy Jo Ackerman Nelson, Hillsboro Area Hospital, JC SB, Montgomery County Clerk, Tammy Jo Ackerman Nelson to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 08 23 128 011, Tax Deed, Lots 17 and 20, Blk. 81, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Joshua D. Beeler, Sarah Christine Beeler Owens, Montgomery County Clerk, Sarah Christine Beeler Owens to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 477 016, Tax Deed, Lots 17 and 20, Blk. 81, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Warren Lee Fogle, City of Litchfield, Jonathon D. Melchert, Montgomery County Clerk, Terry Lynn Moore to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 36 100 011, Tax Deed, Pt. NW, Sec. 36, North Litchfield Township.

Brandi Boehler, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 03 21 383 014, Tax Deed, 2 Pts. Lot 12, Blk. 8, Waggoner (Original Town).

Mark Egelhoff, Lynne E. Francis, Kevin D. Heaps, Robert Hollers, Ronald Howard, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 165 014, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 1, Blk. 1, Scherer's Addition Litchfield.

Joseph Beane, Eli Lloyd, Allen Ellsworth, William Guthrie, Jeffrey L. Hilt, Kim M. Hilt, Robert Hollers, Dorothy Hunt, Marvin Hunt, Montgomery County Clerk, George Terrill, Danny Vesper to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 258 015, Tax Deed, Pt. Blk. 23, Burr's 2nd Addition Litchfield.

David May, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 369 007, Pt. Lot 4, Blk. 34, Litchfield EB Addition.

Christine Love, Timothy Love, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 376 004, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 2, Blk. 4, Litchfield (Original Town).

Julianne C. Quinn to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No

Montgomery County Clerk, Mary E. Ray to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 15 04 207 019, Tax Deed, Pt. EH, Lot 8, Blk. 56, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Montgomery County Clerk, John J. Renner to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 15 04 231 016, Tax Deed, WH Lots 17 and 20, Blk. 74, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Montgomery County Clerk, Heather Stivers, David W. Tolberd, Heath Tolberd

Clerk, Robert J. Noe to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 388 004, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 4, Blk. 29 (Litchfield Original Town).

Laura Mae Burnley Crain, Laura Mae Burnley Crain, Kathy Ann Hardt, Shawn M. Hogue, Eric G. Holloway, Shawn P. Isaacs, Shirley Anne Isaacs, Sharon Kuchar, Montgomery County Clerk, Benaiah H. Simburger, Caleb G. Simburger, Elijah M. Simburger, Isaac S. Simburger, Josiah T. Simburger, Shelly Diane Simburger, Hailey Young to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 10 33 407 017, Tax Deed, Pt. Lot 8, Blk. 97, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Chance D. Davidson, Kayla D. Davidson, Kayla D. Durbin to John Chandler, WD, WH Lots 1, 4 and 5, Blk. 2, Hood and Tully's Addition Litchfield.

William E. Sielschott to Aaron Paine, WD, Pt. Lot 4, Blk. 19, Pierce's Addition Litchfield.

William E. Sielschott to Joni Paine, Ronald Paine, WD, Lot 5, Blk. 19, Pierce's Addition Litchfield.

Montana Gilbert to Montana J. Gilbert, Basundhara Raj, QCD, Lot 21, Lakewood Estates Subdivision.

George E. Moeller Jr., Estate, James C. Moeller Exec to Bradley Douglas Borneman Trust, Holly Nicole Borneman Trust, Kelly Elizabeth Borneman Trust, Kristy Lynne Borneman Trust, Stacy Anne Borneman Trust, James C. Moeller Tr, Executor's Deed, SE/SW, Sec. 5, Pt. SH NE, Sec. 6, SE, Sec. 5, SH SW, Sec. 5, SH NW, Sec. 5, SH NE, Sec. 5, Pt. NH, Sec. 5, SE, Sec. 6, EH SW, Sec. 6, WH WH NE, Sec. 6, 2 Pts. NW, Sec. 6, Fillmore Township, Parcels 1-15.

Heather Lee Hampton Knolle Tr, Brian Eugene Knolle Trust, Heather Lee Hampton Knolle Tr to Independent Land Company, WD, NE/SW, Sec. 12, Pt. WH SE, Sec. 12, Irving Township, EH SH NE, Sec. 7, Witt, WH SE/NE, Sec. 4, Pt. SW/NE, Sec. 4, Fillmore Township, SW/NW, Sec. 21, WH SE/NW, Sec. 21, Pt. SE/NE, Sec. 20, Pt. NE/SW, Sec. 7, WH SH NE, Sec. 7, Witt Township, Parcels 1-8.

July 29

Margie E. Krause, Beulah Miller, Fred Miller, George Miller, Brett W. Mills, Montgomery County Clerk, Bruce Poggenpohl, Linda Poggenpohl, Robert Poggenpohl, Russell Poggenpohl to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 06 18 001 018, Tax Deed, Pt. EH SH NW, Sec. 18, Raymond Township.

Brett W. Mills, Montgomery County Clerk to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 06 18 252 004, Tax Deed, Pt. SW/NE, Sec. 18, Raymond Township.

Gertrude Daily Gorman, Gertrude Daily Gorman, John Edwin Gorman, Margaret Gorman, Mary Gorman, Suzanne Gorman, Catherine Keith, Montgomery County Clerk, Mary E. Ray to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 15 04 207 019, Tax Deed, Pt. EH, Lot 8, Blk. 56, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Montgomery County Clerk, John J. Renner to Montgomery County Tr, Trust No 15 04 231 016, Tax Deed, WH Lots 17 and 20, Blk. 74, Huggins PC Addition Litchfield.

Montgomery County Clerk, Heather Stivers, David W. Tolberd, Heath Tolberd

July 30

Ruth Ruppert, Thomas Ruppert to Ruth M. Ruppert Tr, Thomas W. Ruppert Tr, Ruppert Family Trust, Lyn M. Stennett Tr, WD, EH WH NE, Sec. 4, Nokomis Township.

Ann A. Whitlow Tr, Charles Ray Pete Whitlow Trust No 101, Virginia Lillian Whitlow Trust No 101 to Bernard J. Marley, Laura E. Marley, Trustee's Deed, Pt. EH SW, Sec. 8, Audubon Township.

Giaudrone's Bang Bang Roofing

• Roofing Installation • Gutters

• Roofing Repair • Siding

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on July 29, 2025, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: THE SMALL TOWN CLOSET, located at 202 SCHOOL ST. in the city of HILLSBORO and state of IL.

Dated July 29, 2025
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
24-3t*

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Pansy L. Hollo, formerly a resident of the Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois, on July 28, 2025. Letters of Office were issued out of the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois, on the 6th day of August 2025, under Case No. 2025-PR-40 unto David Hollo and Mark Hollo whose addresses are: David Hollo, 1201 N. State Street, Litchfield, Illinois 62056 and Mark Hollo, 702 6th Avenue, NE, Conover, NC 28613, and whose attorney of record is Stephen R. Cullison, 220 S. Main Street, P. O. Box 188, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049.

Claims may be filed within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

HILLSBORO AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FISCAL YEAR REPORT JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025

Beginning Balance July 1, 2024 \$ 437,348.40

General Fund \$ 294,919.76

Bank of Hillsboro Account (Special Reserve) \$ 106,245.73

Carlinville National Bank (IMRF) \$ 17,069.94

Bank of Hillsboro Account (Gifts) \$ 19,112.97

Total Assets \$ 437,438.40

REVENUES:

Property Tax Levy \$ 350,526.40

Miscellaneous Income \$ 0.00

Personal Property Replacement Tax \$ 6,891.86

Per Capita Grant \$ 17,207.33

Daily Cash (Fines and Services) \$ 4,587.08

Wills, Gifts and Memorials \$ 1,047.93

Fundraisers and Other Grants \$ 102,000.00

Interest \$ 10,058.25

Total Revenues \$ 492,318.85

Total Cash Available \$ 929,667.25

EXPENDITURES:

Vendors Over \$2,500.00 (Excluding Payroll)

Bank of Hillsboro (Loan) \$ 49,272.00

HRC Construction LLC \$ 19,548.00

Ameren Illinois \$ 18,193.50

Downs Plumbing, Inc. \$ 16,227.96

Hillsboro Electric Co. \$ 11,019.75

E.L. Pruitt Company \$ 10,449.81

Felicia Moore \$ 8,432.75

Ingram \$ 7,597.62

Country Mutual \$ 6,864.01

Visa (Supplies) \$ 6,654.12

Wareham's Security \$ 6,542.27

SteelCase Financial Services, Inc. \$ 4,277.61

Illinois Heartland Library System \$ 3,549.91

Overdrive \$ 3,200.00

Kone, Inc. \$ 2,791.32

Total Vendors Over \$2,500 (Excluding Payroll) \$ 174,620.63

All Vendors Less Than \$2,500 \$ 35,165.03

Total Vendors \$ 209,785.66

Payroll Expenses \$ 91,860.16

Under \$25,000 - Michelle Balla, Bailey Davis, Debra Howard, B. Susan Marten, Nancy Merriman, Rylee Morford, Melissa Trader, Sue VanOstrand, Alivia Willman, Giana Zaidi

\$25,000-\$49,999.99 - Laura Naugle

Payroll Taxes & IMRF \$ 9,777.09

Total Expenditures (Including Payroll) \$ 311,422.91

Ending Balance June 30th, 2025 \$ 605,366.58

General Fund (First Community Bank) \$ 251,332.26

Bank of Hillsboro (Special Reserve Fund) \$ 318,863.02

Bank of Hillsboro (Gifts) \$ 19,835.72

Carlinville National Bank \$ 15,335.58

Total Assets \$ 618,244.34

Subscribed and Sworn this 12th day of August, 2025.

Carol Naylor, Treasurer

I, Carol Naylor, Treasurer, Hillsboro Area Public Library District Board of Trustees, Montgomery County, Illinois, being duly sworn, depose and say that the following funds were on hand at the start of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, the amounts were received from what sources, and the amounts expended for what purposes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, pursuant to Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 102, Paragraph 5.

28-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF WITT PUBLIC
MEETING

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. at Witt City Hall, 106 West Broadway Street, Suite A, Witt, IL 62094. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide information regarding a proposed OSLAD (Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Program) grant for funding park improvements to the Witt City Park located within the City of Witt. The public is invited to attend and provide input on the proposed project.

28-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HILLSBORO, MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
WENDELL L. WEATHERFORD,
DECEASED
IN PROBATE
DOCKET NO. 2025PR38
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of WENDELL L. WEATHERFORD of 6153 N. 18th Ave., Butler, IL 62015. Letters of Office were issued on July 25, 2025, to JACQUELYN RENE WEATHERFORD of 6153 N. 18th Ave., Butler, IL 62015, whose attorney is Bill Nichelson.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL, 62049, or with the representative or both, within six (6) months from the date of first publication of this notice, which is January 31, 2026, or within three (3) months from the date of the mailing of this notice, whichever is later, and any claim not

filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative(s) and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

"E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office."

JACQUELYN RENE
WEATHERFORD,
Executor

Prepared by:
Bill Nichelson #6237771
Attorney at Law
1330 N. Springfield St.
P.O. Box 290
Virden, IL 62690
(217) 965-1400
nichelsonlaw@gmail.com

24-3t

www.thejournal-news.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install a 310-ft Lattice tower at 13299-13211 Park Rd. Litchfield, Montgomery Co., IL 62056 (39 11 53.2 N / 89 36 51.6 W). The height of the tower will be 94.5 meters above ground level (306.5 meters above mean sea level). The tower is anticipated to have FAA Style E (L-864/L-865/L-810), medium intensity flashing dual (white/red) strobe lights. AT&T Mobility, LLC welcomes comments on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106.

Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting EBI Consulting, Project 059759-PR during normal business hours. Comments must be received at 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or via telephone at (617) 715-1822 within 30 days. Interested persons may also review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Antenna Structure Registration (Form 854) file no. A1326107. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns.

The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, but they may be filed with a paper copy by mailing the Request to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the Request should also be provided to EBI Consulting at 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803.

28-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 25-01

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SHOAL CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, BOND AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2025, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2026.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SHOAL CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. That the following is an estimate, by source, of the expected receipts of the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026, for all funds:

Estimated Cash Balance at May 1, 2025	\$ 360,302.00
Real Estate Tax Revenues	185,003.00
2% Foreign Fire Insurance License Fees	6,000.00
Fire Protection Service Fees	10,000.00
Interest	1,000.00
OSFM Small Equipment Grant & Firehouse Rehabilitation Grant	376,000.00
Grants	150,000.00
FEMA Grant	150,000.00
IDNR Grant	10,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	15,000.00
Total Anticipated Receipts and Cash On Hand	\$ 1,263,305.00

SECTION II. That the following sums of money be, and hereby are budgeted and appropriated for corporate, insurance and audit purposes for the Shoal Creek Fire Protection District, a fire protection district in Bond and Montgomery Counties, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026, for the following purposes:

GENERAL FUND

Administrative Expense	\$ 5,000.00
Office Supplies and Printing	2,000.00
Officer's Compensation	10,000.00
Travel and Training Expenses	1,000.00
Publication Expense	5,000.00
Legal Fees	3,000.00
Dues and Subscriptions	7,500.00
Contingencies	5,000.00
Awards Banquet	38,500.00
Total Administrative Expense	\$ 38,500.00

Equipment Acquisition and Operating Expense	\$ 10,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	25,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	150,000.00
Supplies and Equipment/Truck Acquisition	10,000.00
Gasoline and Oil	
Total Equipment and Operating Expense	\$ 195,000.00

Building Expense	\$ 350,000.00
Cleaning	1,080.00
Property Acquisition	30,000.00
Utilities	25,000.00
Engine House #3 Loan	150,000.00
Fire Station Construction	150,000.00
Total Building Expense	\$ 706,080.00

TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION \$ 939,580.00

INSURANCE FUND

Insurance Expenses	
Package Insurance Premium for General, Premises and Vehicle Liability and Casualty Coverage; Errors and Omissions Coverage; Workers' Compensation Coverage; Comprehensive Property and Bodily Injury Coverage	\$ 25,000.00
TOTAL INSURANCE FUND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION	\$ 25,000.00

AUDIT FUND

Audit Expenses	
Professional Fees of Certified Public Accountant for Audit of Fire Protection District Financial Records as Required by State Law	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL AUDIT FUND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION	\$ 5,000.00

TOTAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION-ALL FUNDS \$ 969,580.00

ANTICIPATED CASH BALANCE AT APRIL 30, 2026 \$ 293,725.00

SECTION III. The Trustees shall have the power and authorization during

CHECK OUT OUR NEW



OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL VEHICLES!

WIDE SELECTION OF NEW TRUCKS!

2025 Chevrolet Colorado Trail Boss (B10942)	\$39,989	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4	\$72,815
2025 Chevrolet Colorado Trail Boss (B10944)	\$39,590	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4	\$73,460
2025 Chevrolet Colorado WT/LT (B11070)	\$39,855	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 Pro (B10951)	\$43,990
2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Custom (B11050).....	\$47,890	2026 GMC Sierra 1500 Pro (B11128)	\$52,125
2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Custom Trail Boss (B11094).....	\$50,238	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT (B11079).....	\$57,497
2025 Chevrolet Silverado EV LT Extended Range (B10998).....	\$69,999	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT (B11093).....	\$64,131
2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT (B11126)	\$58,980	2025 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT (B11060).....	\$63,025
2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT (B10849)	\$32,989	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD AT4 (B11090)	\$72,838
2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT (B10976)	\$35,690	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD AT4 (B10949)	\$79,990
2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 WT (B10977)	\$35,690	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali (B11019)	\$82,514
2025 GMC Canyon AT4 (B10974).....	\$50,772	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali (B11017)	\$81,930
2025 GMC Canyon Elevation (B10997)	\$45,985	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate (B10954)	\$86,734
2025 GMC Sierra 1500 Denali (B11056)	\$71,768	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Denali Ultimate (B10996)	\$86,889
2025 GMC Sierra 1500 Elevation (B11067)	\$56,574	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD PRO (B11046)	\$51,674
2025 GMC Sierra 1500 Elevation (B10992)	\$56,440	2025 GMC Sierra 2500 HD SLE (B10953)	\$67,620
2026 GMC Sierra EV Elevation Extended Range.....	\$76,110	2025 GMC Sierra 3500 HD Denali DRW (B11059)	\$88,734
2025 GMC Sierra 1500 AT4 (B11110).....	\$68,990	2025 GMC Sierra 3500 HD SLT (B11036)	\$79,692

WIDE SELECTION OF NEW SUVS!

2025 Chevrolet Blazer EV LT (B11091).....	\$45,980	2026 Chevrolet Traverse LT	\$47,420
2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV RS (B10961).....	\$44,990	2026 Chevrolet Traverse LT (B11125)	\$49,840
2026 Chevrolet Equinox LT (B11051)	\$30,680	2026 Chevrolet Traverse RS.....	\$58,795
2026 Chevrolet Equinox LT (B11140)	\$31,298	2026 Chevrolet Traverse Z71 (B11134)	\$52,220
2026 Chevrolet Equinox LT (B11074)	\$31,562	2025 Chevrolet Trax 1RS (B11117)	\$24,290
2026 Chevrolet Equinox RS (B11131)	\$36,840	2025 Chevrolet Trax 2RS (B11138)	\$27,585
2025 Chevrolet Tahoe Premier (B11122)	\$75,980	2025 Chevrolet Trax Activ (B11114)	\$27,869
2025 Chevrolet Tahoe Premier (B11130)	\$83,310	2025 Chevrolet Trax LT (B11040)	\$24,909
2025 Chevrolet Tahoe RST (B11121)	\$72,605	2025 GMC Acadia AT4 (B11087)	\$55,187
2025 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT (B10836)	\$24,989	2025 GMC Acadia Denali (B11077)	\$61,490
2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT (B11088)	\$26,848	2025 GMC Acadia Elevation (B11111)	\$46,890
2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT (B11108)	\$26,948	2025 GMC Acadia Elevation (B11089)	\$48,427
2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT.....	\$29,115	2025 GMC Acadia Elevation (B11082)	\$48,427
2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer RS (B11062)	\$32,190	2025 GMC Acadia Elevation (B11098)	\$50,980
2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer RS (B11084)	\$32,489	2025 GMC Acadia Elevation (B11115)	\$52,250
2026 Chevrolet Traverse LT	\$44,920	2025 GMC Yukon AT4 Ultimate (B11097)	\$96,201
2026 Chevrolet Traverse LT (B11136)	\$45,410	2025 GMC Yukon Denali Ultimate (B11124)	\$108,985

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Some of the Shoal Creek Golf Course regulars solve the world's problems and have lunch during the course's customer appreciation event on Sunday, Aug. 3, in celebration of its 35th anniversary.

Raymond News Photo

Shoal Creek Celebrates 35 Years

Thousands of golfers have hit the links at Shoal Creek Golf Course in Raymond and on Sunday, Aug. 3, the village took time to show their appreciation to some of them.

The nine-hole public course hosted lunch, activities and giveaways on Sunday in celebration of the 35th anniversary of Shoal Creek Golf Course, which was first proposed in 1987.

In 1988, 93 acres of farmland north of Route 48 was purchased, along with an abandoned residence, and cleared to pave the way for the new addition to the village landscape.

With more than 15,000 volunteer hours, the course was ready for golfers in March of 1990, as customers purchased three-year passes, with a plaque in the pro shop commemorating their contribution.

Since then, Shoal Creek has hosted countless tourna-



Thirty-five years after helping bring Shoal Creek Golf Course to fruition, Raymond Village Trustee Bruce Poggenpohl (left) and Mayor Denny Held are the last two members of the 1990 Raymond Village Board who are still serving today. The plaque, which was erected on the course's 30th anniversary, honors the board and all of the volunteers who made a public golf course in Raymond a reality back in 1990. Raymond News Photo

ments, rounds of golf with friends and high school matches for the Lincolnwood High School boys and girls golf teams.

Bremer To Host Butterflies Program

H and B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary in Hillsboro will be presenting a program on the butterflies and moths of Illinois on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The presentation will be

population swings, their roles in the ecosystem, how to identify and more. The public is invited.

Bremer Sanctuary is located at 194 Bremer Lane in Hillsboro.



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J & J Gaming

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