

The Journal-News

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Hillsboro, IL 62049

Volume 173, No. 74

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Earthquake Shakes Ohlman Early Tuesday Morning

Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency is providing information regarding a magnitude 3.5 earthquake that occurred at 1:27 a.m. Tuesday morning, Jan. 20.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake was located 1.8 miles northwest of the town of Ohlman and about five miles northeast of Nokomis. The event occurred at a depth of approximately

8.8 kilometers (5.5 miles). The center of the earthquake occurred in Christian County but was felt by several residents throughout Montgomery County.

Shortly after 1:27 a.m., Montgomery County 911 began to receive a number of calls from individuals who reported the incident but none indicated any injury or damage. By mid-morning several individuals had reported

feeling the earthquake via social media and nearly 2,000 people had made a report through the USGS "Did You Feel It?" reporting system.

At the end of the day, no damage or injuries have been reported in Montgomery County. Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Montgomery County EMA will continue to monitor information from the USGS and other partners and will provide updates if

additional information becomes available.

Residents who felt the earthquake are encouraged to submit a report at earthquake.usgs.gov, as public reports help scientists better understand seismic activity.

For earthquake preparedness information or questions, county residents may contact Montgomery County EMA at danh@montgomerycountyil.gov or 217-313-4153.

Litchfield Officials Host Meeting About Hunting

The City of Litchfield will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. at City Hall, located at 120 E. Ryder St., to discuss free hunting registration originally presented at the Sept. 8, 2025 council meeting and tabled until Feb. 5, 2026.

Residents are encouraged to attend if they need clarification on the registration process or have questions for the Lake Superintendent

regarding hunting on City of Litchfield property. This agenda item will be brought to the City Council meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 6:30 p.m., for consideration by the City Council.

Those who would like more information on the topic are asked to contact the Litchfield Lake Department at 217-324-5441 or email lake@cityoflitchfieldil.com.

Hillsboro City Council Invests In Renovations

By Cayden Huber

The Tuesday, Jan. 20 meeting of the Hillsboro City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m., with all members of the council present. With no public comment at the meeting, the minutes of the Jan. 6, meeting stood as written.

Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements Fred Butler was the first to speak, delivering the Parks and Public Properties report. Butler and Parks and Recreation Supervisor Jim May met with the Montgom-

ery County Soil and Water Conservation District (MC-SWCD). A list of partners who are helping with grants and work on the lake will be provided at a later date.

Many hours were spent working on leaves and cutting trees in the campground and the wildflower patch and bluff was burnt at Challacombe Park. The Christmas tree has also been taken down and snow was blown off downtown and Challacombe House sidewalks after the snow on Jan. 16.

Continued on page 7A



County Teams All Out For McGraw Invite

Nokomis' Luke Eisenbarth (right) snags a rebound away from Father McGivney's Brendan Kayser in the first half of the Redskins' opening game at the Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational in Litchfield on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Three of the four boys basketball teams who call Montgomery County home play in the 58-year-old tournament, with Hillsboro joining Nokomis and the host Purple Panthers. Pool play wrapped up Wednesday night, with bracket play beginning tonight, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m. and continuing on Jan. 23 and 24, with six games scheduled for Saturday at Simmons Gym to determine this year's final placement. For more on the tournament, see Sports.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann



Rescuing Underdogs and Felines Fund (RUFF) was started to help dogs and cats in Montgomery County Animal Control with medical expenses and encourage adoption of sheltered animals. Pictured above are some of the dogs that RUFF has been able to help through their work.

RUFF Assists With Emergency Animal Medical Care

by Cayden Huber

Rescuing Underdogs and Felines Fund (RUFF), based in Nokomis, is an organization dedicated to helping dogs and cats in Montgomery County Animal Control (MCAC) with medical expenses, encouraging adoption and letting the public know what struggles shelters are facing.

Jessica Durbin, Shannon Young and friends join together to hold fundraisers

and adoption events, such as Canines and Cars, to raise money for medical expenses such as surgeries, amputations and getting animals rescued. RUFF is always looking for volunteers to assist with adoption events as well as dog handlers and those who can get the animals ready for the social interactions of an event. Those interested in volunteering are asked to call Montgomery County Animal Control at 217-532-3334.

The group came about

after learning of a few dogs who were at the end of their timeline in animal control, which inspired them to volunteer to foster and save the dogs from euthanasia. Overloading was also a major problem for animal control. The group began attending County Board meetings and wanted to see what they could do. Given that animals at the shelter have a six-month timeline, the group began looking for a way to get money that was sure to be used for

animal medical expenses.

Durbin said, "RUFF came about out of pure necessity. Unfortunately, about a few years ago, a dog named Daisy passed away over a weekend period because she didn't have access to the emergency medical care that she desperately needed. We, as powerless volunteers but huge animal lovers, were absolutely heartbroken that ended up being her fate."

Continued on page 7A

Litchfield School Board Approves New Calendar

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

Members of the Litchfield School Board unanimously approved the district calendar for the 2026-2027 school year during their regular meeting on Tuesday evening, Jan. 20, at the Unit Office in Litchfield.

The meeting opened with a public hearing including a proposal for the option of holding school on five legal holidays. Board member Ron Anglin was absent from the meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Kelly McClain said the state allows school districts to hold school in session on five state holidays (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Casimir Pulaski Day, Columbus Day and Veterans Day). She added that the school calendar committee is recommending for school to be in session on Casimir Pulaski Day next year (part of the 2026-2027 school year)

on Monday, March 1, 2027.

However, Dr. McClain said the district is seeking approval for all five holidays to provide flexibility in calendar planning. She added they are only looking at Casimir Pulaski Day at this time.

Dr. McClain said Litchfield is one of the few districts in the state that does not hold school on Casimir Pulaski Day. She added that the state requires time during that day to learn about the historical contributions and civic legacy of Pulaski.

In other calendar news, Dr. McClain said teacher's institute days will be Aug. 10-11 with early dismissal days the first week of school (student attendance Aug. 12-14) as students get re-acclimated to the school schedule.

She said the 2026-2027 calendar includes a two-week break for Christmas and a one-week spring break around Easter.

Continued on page 6A



West Side Branch Celebrating 45 Years in 2026!

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Congressional Candidate Makes Stop In County

by **Mary (Galer) Herschelman**

“A lot of candidates talk about what they’re going to do,” said Judy Bowlby. “I look at being a legislator first as a servant to the people. That sometimes gets lost when you have legislators who have served a long time.”

Bowlby is a candidate in the Republican primary for the Illinois Congressional District 15, which includes Montgomery County. In the March 17 primary, she will face incumbent Mary Miller and Ryan Tebrugge.

In kicking off her campaign in 2026, Bowlby stopped at a variety of places in Montgomery County Jan. 13-14, including Grandma’s Kitchen in Irving, Hillsboro McDonald’s, The Depot in Nokomis and Montgomery County Farm Bureau in Hillsboro, among other places. Bowlby stopped to visit with farmers, blue collar workers, bankers, small business owners and other residents.

Bowlby, who now resides in Riverton, grew up on a farm in Cerro Gordo. She was raised by an aunt and uncle who were tenant farmers and helped to walk through beans, de-tassel corn, feed the hogs and gather the eggs.

After high school, she attended Eastern Illinois University, where she earned her degree in clinical psychol-



Judy Bowlby, a Republican candidate for the 15th Congressional District, met with local residents in Montgomery County Jan. 13-14. Pictured above, Bowlby (seated in the middle of the table on the right) greets officials in Irving at Grandma’s Kitchen for breakfast.

ogy. While she was in grad school, she spent a year as an ambassador for the Illinois and American Soybean Association, travelling all over the country.

She began her career as a therapist, and later worked for several years in pharmaceutical sales. In the early 1990s, she began a 25-year career in government affairs work.

“I had a chance to get to know legislators on both sides of the aisle,” Bowlby said. She’s very proud of the work she did in government affairs, especially in health care. Bowlby helped to expand a Circuit Breaker program, which was initially designed to help supplement diabetes care for the working poor. Her work allowed for the expansion of the program to cover Parkinson’s, arthritis, glaucoma and Alzheimer’s. She even had the chance to work with boxing legend Muhammad Ali to get the legislation some traction. After the bill was passed, six other states followed suit in expanding their programs.

Bowlby retired from her government affairs career, but found herself uneasy

about how divided the country had become. She started attending rallies, meeting young people, veterans and senior citizens, all worried about different things. “Some of those rallies touched me more than some of the political rallies,” she said. “It was a place where all ages were coming together because they felt like they weren’t being heard.”

Congressional candidates could begin collecting signatures in August, and Bowlby didn’t decide to run until mid-September, giving her only six weeks to collect 1,545 signatures to get on the ballot in the Republican primary. In those six weeks, she went door-to-door throughout the large district meeting residents and talking to them about state and national issues. She ended up gathering over 3,000 signatures, and fondly remembers the first event she attended to get signatures, Canines and Cars in Nokomis. “The thing that drives me is that we need to come together,” Bowlby said. “It’s hard to deal with everything in the world when we’re fractured as a country.” Bowlby kicked off her campaign on the steps of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, quoting President Abraham Lincoln’s a House Divided speech. “My main goal is to begin a conversation with people,” she said. “And I encourage people to go vote in the primary. Many wait until the general election, but if you don’t go vote in the primary, you limit the moderate voters. It’s hard to get people to come to the polls for a primary. It takes bravery. And I can’t think of a better time than this to be brave.”



Litchfield Bank Celebrates 45 Years At West Side Branch

It’s a celebration 45 years in the making as the West Side branch of First National Bank in Litchfield marks its 45th anniversary in 2026. In honor of this special occasion, the bank branch has a special giveaway table in the lobby and will host weekly prize drawings from now through June 5. Bank officials are also planning a special celebration later this year. Pictured above, teller Tug Schwab shows off the branch’s special giveaway table.

Journal-News Photo

Litchfield Water Returns To Standard Disinfection

The City of Litchfield would like to inform water customers that the water system is no longer operating under an enhanced free chlorine disinfection, also known as a “free burn.” The city has successfully transitioned back to its standard water treatment process using chloramines.

As a result of this change, residents may notice the taste and smell of their tap water returning to normal over the next one to two weeks. This timeframe allows the newly treated water to fully circulate throughout the distribution system.

To help expedite this process, city crews are actively flushing fire hydrants across the community to ensure fresh water moves efficiently through the system.

The City of Litchfield sincerely thanks residents for their patience and understanding as crews worked through necessary repairs within the water disinfection system. Maintaining safe, reliable drinking water remains a top priority, and the city appreciates the community’s cooperation during the temporary operational adjustment.

Public Meetings

Panhandle School Board

The Panhandle School Board will be meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26, at the Panhandle Learning Center, located at 113 N. School St. in Raymond.

Agenda items include a building update and discussion regarding the saddle club property and the 2026-2027 school calendar.

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Schram City Seeking Veterans Names

The Village of Schram City is in the process of gathering names for their recently completed Schram City Veterans Memorial. The village is seeking names of those who have lived in Schram City and served in the military. These names will be listed on the monument located in front of the Village Hall.

Please send names to Schram City Village Hall, 510 22nd Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049 Attn: Anna Spears. Any questions can be directed to Anna Spears at 816-804-4033.

The deadline for name submissions is Saturday, Feb. 28.



ONLINE ALL THE TIME
www.thejournal-news.net

The First National Bank of Litchfield is celebrating **45 YEARS** at our West Side Branch

Join us weekly beginning **January 5th through June 5th** to win a special prize!

Stop by our Downtown or Westside lobbies and enter for a chance to win special prizes drawn every **Friday**. Open to all customers & non-customers.

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- *Must be 18 years old or older to enter
- *No purchase necessary to participate
- *One entry per person, per week
- *Directors, officers, and employees of the bank are prohibited

Walk-in Hours Available

The Hillsboro Health Primary Care clinic offers walk-in hours Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for non-emergency illnesses and conditions. No need to be an established patient at our clinic.

Hillsboro Health Primary Care providers Dr. Michael Koeppen, Katie Wollerman, FNP-C, and Bee Raj, PA-C, welcome patients of all ages.

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Obituaries

Thomas E. Lindgens, 63 Served His Country



Thomas E. Lindgens Jr., 63, of Hillsboro, died at 10:06 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at his residence in Hillsboro.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10 to 11 a.m. at New Hope Baptist Church in Worden. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. at the church, with Pastor David Lindgens officiating.

Mr. Lindgens was born on Dec. 29, 1962, in Highland, a son of the late Thomas and Beatrice (Roberts) Lindgens Sr. He served his country honorably, serving in both the U.S. Army and later the U.S. Navy. He retired from the U.S. Navy as a disabled veteran.

Mr. Lindgens married Tracy O'Neil on March 6, 1998, in Florida and she survives.

Mr. Lindgens worked as a sheet metal worker at Boeing (formerly McDonnell-Douglas) in St. Louis, MO, for many years. He would later start his own business, owning and operating Lindgens Tree Service out of Hillsboro.

Mr. Lindgens was a past member of the Mt. Moriah Masons Lodge #51 AF and AM in Hillsboro. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Mr. Lindgens is survived by his wife, Tracy Lindgens of Hillsboro; four children, Thomas E. (fiancee Shelbi Roberts) Lindgens III of Collinsville, Samantha Lindgens of Brighton, Ryan (Heather Jackson) Lindgens of Mt. Olive and John Bryan of Hillsboro; seven grandchildren, Oakleigh Lindgens, Parker Lindgens, Hayley Hicks, Danielle Hicks, Gavin Hicks, Ava Lindgens and Ryan Lindgens Jr.; two sisters, Donna Lindgens of Staunton and Connie Holland of Litchfield; and four nieces and nephews.

Mr. Lindgens was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials are suggested to the family. Condolences may be left online at www.williamsonfh.com.

Pansy J. Day, 89

General Electric Inspector



Pansy Jeanette Day, 89, of Litchfield, died on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, at her home.

Graveside services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at Cedar Ridge Cemetery in Honey Bend. Litchfield Family Funeral Service is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Day was born on July 27, 1936, in Honey Bend, a daughter of Franklin Joel and Ollie Marie (Neldon) Kean. She attended Honey Bend schools. She married Harley Lee Tibbs in June 1956 in Corinth, MS, and he preceded her in death on April 24, 1990. She later married Kenneth Lee Day in April 1993 at First Christian Church in Decatur. He would also precede her in death in April 2010.

Mrs. Day worked at Litchfield Creamery Co. When she moved to Decatur, she worked at several creameries and then started at General Electric as an inspector until she retired in 1970. Mrs. Day was raised in the Pleasant Hill Christian Church and later attended Litchfield Christian Church. She enjoyed watching the murder classics on television.

Mrs. Day was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; brother, George "Jack" Walter Kean; and several half brothers and sisters. Mrs. Day is survived by her half-sister, Joan Langer of Livingston; brother, Lee (Teri) Greer of Taylorville; niece, Patty (Kenny) Crumbey of Livingston; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice. Condolences may be left online at www.litchfieldffs.com.

Hillsboro To Host First Love Local Vendors Fair

The first annual Love Local: Hillsboro Valentine's Market, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Hillsboro Lions Club.

The Valentine's Day ven-

dor fair is a family-friendly event and will feature a variety of vendors offering crafts, candles, homemade goods, baked treats and more. There will also be prizes and free activities at the event.

LANCER LINES • by Ella Jenkins at Lincolnwood

Lincolnwood Cheer Clinic Performs Tuesday



Hello and welcome back to another week of the Lancer Lines!

I will start off this week with the answer to last week's riddle. Here it is: What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less? The answer: a hole. I hope you all enjoyed that riddle!

The Lincolnwood cheer team hosted their annual children's cheer clinic on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the boys' basketball game. The boys played against Lutheran and came out with a win for both varsity and junior varsity. The dance was to the new "Zootopia 2" soundtrack, and each age group had a couple of cheers to perform. The cheers and dances took place between the junior varsity and varsity games. The kids did awesome and the high schoolers had a blast teaching them!

The Pawnee Track coach came yesterday, Jan. 21, to give an information meeting about the season and see who is interested in joining the track team this spring. If someone was interested but could not make the meeting,

they had until Tuesday, Jan. 20, to inform Mr. Stone.

Mr. Elvidge's Farm Animal Productions class had a great time at Borgic Farm yesterday and everyone is very grateful for the great opportunity!

Yearbook members that are on the photography team have been taking pictures at sports events for the yearbook. We appreciate the time they put in to make the yearbook great!

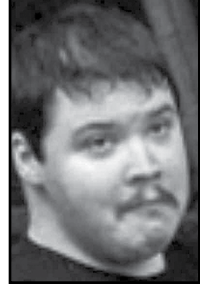
Jessie Blackburn, the director of LLCC-Litchfield, and Tisha Miller, LLCC's enrollment coordinator, are coming to the high school on Friday, Jan. 23, to assist juniors and seniors in completing registration for their dual credit courses. This is where students indicate whether they wish to receive college credit for the courses they are enrolled in. We appreciate the time they put into our programs.

I will end this week with another riddle. Here it is: What kind of room has no walls, doors, or windows?

That's all for this week! I hope you enjoyed and are excited for the answer to the new riddle. Have a great week and stay warm!

Dylan M. Borgic, 25

Celebration Of Life Set For Saturday



Dylan Michael Borgic, 25, of Hillsboro, died on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025, in Hillsboro.

A celebration of life for Mr. Borgic and his late brother, Billy Newberry, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Taylor Springs Community Center. Dinner will be served and all are welcome to celebrate the lives and share memories of Mr. Borgic and Mr. Newberry. Hough-Dean Funeral Home in Hillsboro is assisting the family.

Mr. Borgic was born in Litchfield on Jan. 10, 2000, a son of Steven Alfred and Suzanne Lea (Borgic) Tatham. He was a graduate of Hillsboro High School with the class of 2018. He was an avid video gamer and had a large friendship base through his years of gaming. He was a talented LEGO builder and loved spending time with his cousin and his nieces and nephews. He loved traveling to Disney World. He will be remembered for his kind heart.

He is survived by his parents, Steven and Suzanne Tatham of Hillsboro; sister, Cindi (Jeffery) Hollo of Litchfield; stepsister, Jessica (Bryan) Keeper of Hillsboro; maternal grandmother, Kathryn Borgic of Hillsboro; aunt, Laura Lessman of Hillsboro; uncle, Darryle (Jenny) Matsumiya of Hawaii; cousin, Alexis Lessman of Hillsboro; nieces and nephews, Cedric Longwell, Archer Borgic, Meela Hollo, Addy Hollo and Sharayah Keeper.

He was preceded in death by his brother, William Newberry and his uncle, James Borgic.

Online condolences may be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Reba E. Prange, 99

Loving Mother, Grandmother



Reba Ellen Prange, 99, of Litchfield, died at Litchfield Health and Rehab Center in the early morning hours of Monday, Jan. 19, 2026.

Visitation will be held at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 11 a.m. until the time of service at 1 p.m. Funeral services will follow at the funeral home at 1 p.m.. Pastor Lynne Taylor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church will officiate. Burial will follow in Cedar Ridge Cemetery in Honey Bend. Plummer Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Mrs. Prange was born on June 15, 1925, in Litchfield, a daughter of Earl and Florence (Mull) Brown. She married Delmar Louis Prange on Oct. 1, 1954, at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, and they enjoyed 51 years of marriage until his passing on May 20, 2006. She was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield and enjoyed bowling. She will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother. She worked in the office of Brown Shoe Company for 11 years and later was a dedicated employee for many years at Carnegie Public Library in Litchfield.

She is survived by her sons, Randy (Debbie) Prange of Raymond, Dennis (Paulette) Prange of Litchfield and Jim (Evelyn) Prange of Scottsburg, IN; daughter-in-law, Karen Prange of Las Vegas, NV; grandchildren, Josh (Jessica) Prange, Jake (Chrissy Sempowski) Prange, Joe (Holly) Prange, Liane Ray, Emily Prange, Paul Franklin (Lydia) Prange, Maxwell Prange, Sera Prange, Chloe (Mikel) Hones, William Prange and Miriam Prange; great-grandchildren, Michaela, Makenna, Liam, Blake, Crew, Sawyer, Elodie and Erik and sister, Vera Zarr of Huntington Beach, CA.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be directed to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church or Litchfield Public Library.

Condolences may be left at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Billie R. DePew, 94

Served His Country

Billie Raymond DePew, 94 of Henderson, NV, died on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, from age-related causes.

Mr. DePew was cremated and buried in the Centerfield Cemetery in Utah.

Mr. DePew was born in 1931 to Justin August DePew and Gladys Pauline Casey in Alhambra. He served four years in the United States Army during the Korean conflict.

Mr. DePew married Bonnie Louise Ellis in 1951 upon his return from the war. They had four children, Cindy Lynn (Ruester), Kelly Ray DePew, Doree Louise (Anderson) and Kyle Micheal DePew. In 1990, Mr. DePew lost his first wife, Bonnie. In 1992, he met Luzviminda Sears, an avid bowler on his league. They married soon after.

Mr. DePew is preceded in death by his parents; five brothers; two sisters; wives, Bonnie and Minda; and his youngest son, Kyle.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you say a prayer.

William Newberry, 26

Celebration Of Life Set For Saturday



William "Billy" Newberry, 26, of Hillsboro, died Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 at Hillsboro Area Hospital.

A celebration of life for Mr. Newberry and his late brother, Dylan Borgic, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Taylor Springs Community Center. Dinner will be served and all are welcome to celebrate the lives and share memories of Mr. Newberry and Mr. Borgic. Hough-Dean Funeral Home in Hillsboro is assisting the family.

Mr. Newberry was born in Litchfield on Jan. 4, 1997, to Steve and Suzanne (Borgic) Tatham.

He was a 2016 graduate of Hillsboro High School. He loved his family and dogs.

Mr. Newberry is survived by his parents; grandmother Kathryn Borgic; siblings, Cindi Hollo, Jessica Keeper and Matthew Tatham; aunt Laura Lessman and uncle Darryle Matsumiya; cousin Alexis Lessman; nephews Cedric Longwell and Archer Borgic; and nieces Meela and Addy Hollo and Sharaya Keeper. His brother, Dylan M. Borgic, followed him in death on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his uncle James Borgic.

Memorials in Billy's honor can be directed to his family. Condolences can be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Marion H. Durr, 80

Ties To Local Area



Marion Harold Durr, 80, of Van Burenburg, died at 2:37 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Toberman-Dean Funeral Home in Coffeen. Father Jeffrey Stone will preside. Burial will be in Green Hill Cemetery in Van Burenburg. Visitation will be held Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

Mr. Durr was born on Feb. 24, 1945, a son of Herschel Emeril and Evelyn Eurura (Wilson) Durr. He graduated from Vandalia High School with the class of 1964.

Mr. Durr was a desk clerk at The Garden's Restaurant and Hotel and Best Value Inn, both in Litchfield. He also worked with Crane Packing Co. in Vandalia. He was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Greenville.

Mr. Durr is survived by his brother, Harry (Jacque) Durr of Vandalia; niece, Ashley (Matthew) Brooks of Louisville; great-niece and great-nephew, Cecilia and Creed; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herschel and Evelyn.

Memorials may be directed to the family of Marion Durr c/o Harry Durr. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is in charge of arrangements. To leave an online condolence or order flowers, please visit www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Sharon R. Thompson, 62

Enjoyed Family, Friend Time



Sharon Renee Thompson, 62, of Benld, died at St. John's Hospital in Springfield on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at 10:37 p.m.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Kravanya Funeral Home in Gillespie is in charge of arrangements.


Mrs. Thompson was born on Nov. 23, 1963, in Alton, to William F. Tucker and Barbara Comb Tucker. She married Mark Thompson on May 3, 1983, in Alton. He preceded her in death on Oct. 28, 2019. She was a legal secretary for a law office

and enjoyed playing video games and being with family and friends.

She is survived by her sons, Jim (Kelly) Thompson of Hillsboro and Geoff (Melissa) Thompson of Gillespie; grandchildren, Jesse, Luke, Grayson, Caleb and Parker; and brother, Richard Tucker of East Alton.

Mrs. Thompson was preceded in death by her parents; spouse; sons, Jesse Tucker and William "Bill" Thompson.

Condolences may be left at www.kravanyafuneral.com.



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Montgomery County

MONUMENT WORKS

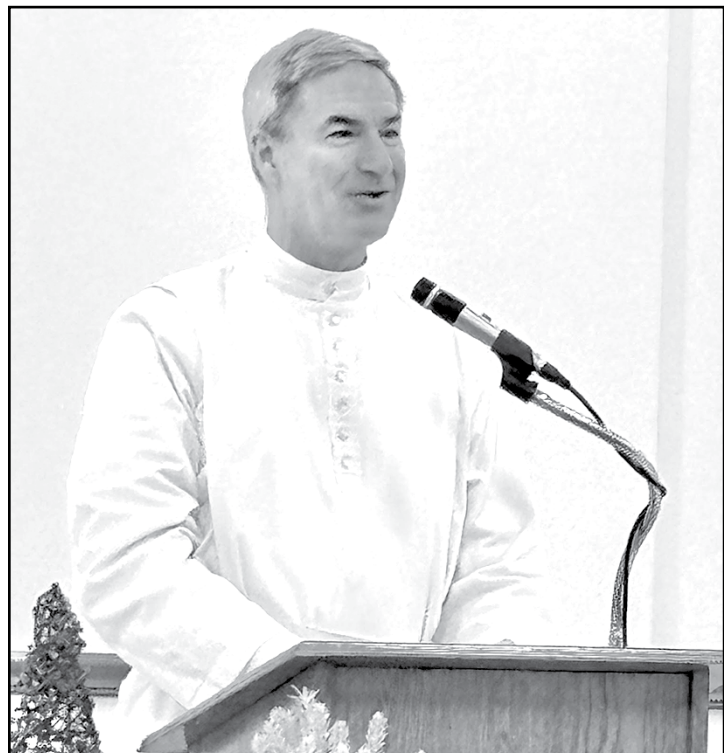
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY MONUMENT

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We want to let you know we offer pre-planning as well as the right now planning. We will walk you through every step and be here for you during your difficult time. Please call **217-324-5673** or visit the office at **1350 East Union St., Litchfield** and see Kim and let us know how we can meet your needs.





Father Augustine Visits St. Raymond's Church

St. Raymond's Catholic Church in Raymond had a very special guest visitor during Mass on Sunday, Jan. 18. Father Augustine of the Springfield Corpus Christi Priory, attended an 8 a.m. Mass at the church. He also attended Mass at St. Maurice Catholic Church in Morrisonville. In the afternoon, he joined a special reception at the Raymond Knights of Columbus Hall, where he addressed what Catholics believe and answered questions about the sacraments. *Raymond News Photo*



Litchfield Schools Host First Planning Session

Litchfield School District hosted their first strategic planning session on Thursday evening, Jan. 8, welcoming over 60 students, staff, parents, community members, board members and administrators together to discuss the goals of the district.

Attendees engaged in conversation and meaningful activities as the district looks forward to creating a five-year plan with the help of the community. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 5 to 8 p.m. Dinner will be provided, and all are welcome.

Those interested in participating should contact the Unit Office at 217-324-2157 or email Superintendent McClain directly at kmccclain@litchfieldpanthers.org.

Pleasant Hill To Host Valentine's Dinner Theatre

Pleasant Hill Christian Church is gearing up to present their dinner theatre, "Family Fun", for the community's Valentine's entertainment.

The "Family Fun" dinner theatre will be presented Friday, Feb. 13, with a 6 p.m. meal served and on Saturday, Feb. 14, at an earlier 5 p.m. serving time.

"The 2026 production promises to be another great time for all in attendance," says Pleasant Hill staff member Darrin Daugherty. "Our director and cast have been working hard for several months to rehearse this production. It will have unique qualities that separate it from past productions, as Director Crissy Dowland worked hard to plan a fun theme."

As the evening opens, everyone will enjoy a terrific meal. As the production unfolds, one will enjoy a fun, relatable comedic production filled with lots of laughs. "Family Fun" is the perfect treat for a Valentine's theme.

This year's theatre features a tight knit cast that includes Pleasant Hill members from Montgomery and Macoupin counties, including several dinner theatre veterans as well as a few rookies. The cast includes Jay and Sarah Fetter from

Litchfield; Carlinville residents Matt and Crissy Dowland, Mark and Heather Lohnes-Kanllakan, Ed Hammann and Mark Olroyd. Sue Caudle resides in Atwater and the cast includes Raymond residents Greg and Dee Neisler.

As the production unfolds attendees will enjoy the characters, laugh at their antics and gain solid relationship advice. Everyone is invited to make reservations now for this hilarious comedy.

Pleasant Hill is thrilled to offer this event once again for the local communities. The doors open for seating 20 minutes prior to each

production, a buffet begins the evening, the production follows and an intermission is taken for dessert. Tickets for the dinner theatre begin at \$70 per couple and are cheaper by tables of eight. Seating is strictly limited to reservations only.

To make reservations for the dinner theatre tickets, visit this web page to locate a reservation form: www.pleasanthill.cc/events. Call the church at 217-229-3074 with any questions or to place credit card orders. Pleasant Hill is located at 19433 West Frontage Road in rural Raymond, one mile north of Route 108.



Eickhoff And Wilkinson Enjoy December Nuptials

Alex Eickhoff of Hillsboro and Bailey Wilkinson of Palmer were united in marriage on Dec. 20, 2025, at The Homestead wedding venue in Petersburg. Sebastian Wong of Chicago served as the officiant for the ceremony.

The new Mrs. Eickhoff is the daughter of Bill and Laura Wilkinson of Palmer. Her husband is the son of Jeff and Angie Eickhoff of Hillsboro.

For their winter wedding, the couple chose a Christmas theme. The bride wore a white lace dress and carried a bouquet of red roses. Music for the ceremony included "Christmas Canon" as the bride's entrance music. Maddie Eickhoff, sister of the groom, played the piano and sang the couple's first dance song.

The bride chose her childhood friend and softball teammate Maria Brockcamp as her maid of honor. Other bridesmaids were her sister-in-law Breanne Wilkinson, the groom's sister Maddie Eickhoff and her friends Karlee Kuntzman, Sydney Davidson, Mackenzie Harmon and Kynleigh Blake.

Flowerman was Brady Wilkinson, brother of the bride and flowergirl was Addison Wilkinson, niece of the bride. Ring security included Camden and Renna Burke, cousins of the groom.

The groom chose his friend and golf teammate Ben Warian as his best man. Other groomsmen were his

friends, Dane Huber, Wilson Hamby, Joe Mattson and Gunnar Michheimer and his cousins, Ray Wille and Aaron Wille.

Ushers for the ceremony were Jason Burke and Brandon Wille, uncles of the groom.

The new Mrs. Eickhoff attended Lincoln College for three years and graduated from Greenville University in 2023 with her bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. She is currently a legislative liaison for the Illinois Secretary of State.

Her husband is a graduate of Hillsboro High School. He attended the University of Minnesota for two years, where he was part of the men's golf team, and spent three years at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, where he was also a member of the men's golf team. He graduated in 2025 with a bachelor's degree from SIUE in exercise science. He is currently obtaining his insurance licenses and working as an accountant for White and Associates in Hillsboro.

Prior to the ceremony, the groom's family hosted a rehearsal dinner at The Riverbank Lodge in Petersburg. Following the ceremony, a reception with 250 guests was held at the Homestead wedding venue in Petersburg.

The couple are planning a honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico in January. They are making their first home in Springfield.

CEO Students Meet Tech Startup Founder

On Thursday, Jan. 8, students in the Montgomery CEO program had the opportunity to hear from Dillon Carter. Dillon is an entrepreneurial tech leader and founder of Aura (GoAura, www.goaura.com), the modern AI-powered repricing platform designed to help online sellers maximize profitability and automate pricing on marketplaces like Amazon and Walmart.

Carter appeared via Zoom call to a joint-meeting of Montgomery, Macoupin, Bond and Fayette County

CEO students.

Dillon connected with the young entrepreneurs on how to start a business with little startup capital. "A business is an experiment. I didn't have an LLC or a website or business cards," he explained, "but there was low friction to starting a business on Amazon. So I set up an account, bought stuff, sold it, made money, and then learned how to scale it."

The CEO students thanked Carter for his time and encouragement.

Hillsboro Library Trivia Night

Saturday, Jan. 24
Hillsboro Lions Club
Trivia Begins at 6 p.m.
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Trivia by What the Facts

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Olympic Bar Crawl
Saturday, Jan. 31
 Entry: \$20 per team of 4 - \$30 at the Door
 Registration: starts at 4:30 p.m. at HalfTime
 Opening Ceremonies: 5:30 p.m.
 Cross the Finish Line: 8 p.m.
 Bad Decision starts at 8:30 p.m.

Participating Bars:
 Halftime, Courthouse Pub,
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Mason Named 2025 Irish Days Shamrock Superstar

During the first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 6, the Irish Days Committee elected Kayla Mason, pictured above, as their Shamrock Superstar for the 2025 festival.

The committee cites the award as an opportunity for them to recognize a standout member whose contributions may not always be seen but are definitely felt and greatly impact the celebration.



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Miss Lincoln Prairie Alia Stewart of Litchfield hosted a reflection activity centered on "From Dream to Duty," in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19.

Stewart Hosts Activity For MLK Day

Miss Lincoln Prairie Alia Stewart of Litchfield hosted an activity in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19. "MLK Day is a reminder that dreams become meaningful when we step into our duty," said Stewart.

"I was honored to host a reflection activity centered on 'From Dream to Duty,' inviting the community to

connect Dr. King's vision to their own responsibility as leaders and changemakers. I was also grateful to serve as host and scriptwriter for the MLK Convocation, helping to uplift the voices of those committed to justice, equity and service."

"Proud to represent a community that chooses reflection, adaptability and action in honoring Dr. King's legacy.

As Miss Lincoln Prairie, this holds special meaning knowing that Illinois was the first state to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a state holiday. His dream has always required more than remembrance. It calls us to responsibility, leadership and continued action," said Stewart.

TOPPER TALK • by Milla Anderson at Hillsboro High

ACT Testing Scheduled For This April



Hello, Topper Nation!

Hillsboro High School is rolling right along as the semester continues and

there are plenty of important updates for students, parents and staff to keep in mind for the weeks ahead. From testing day to prom plans, here's what you need to know. The answer to last week's riddle is they ride an icicle

One of the biggest upcoming dates is HHS Testing Day on Thursday, April 9. This will be a required school-wide testing day and there will be no off-campus classes or programs held that day. All freshmen will take the Pre-ACT 9, sophomores will take the Pre-ACT and juniors will take the ACT, which is also a graduation requirement.

Seniors will not be in attendance and will instead participate in a college and career day. Thursday, April 9, is not an early dismissal day for the district; however, freshmen, sophomores and juniors who have transportation will be allowed to leave after testing is complete.

Students are encouraged to use the remainder of the day for college and career planning, exploration, or

community service. Attendance is extremely important, as students who miss testing will have to make it up and will not receive early dismissal.

This spring, the ACT, PreACT and PreACT 9 will be delivered digitally, so students must bring their fully charged Chromebook on testing day. Be sure to prepare ahead of time and take advantage of any available ACT practice resources.

February is also the season for kindness at HHS as we prepare for Random Acts of Kindness Day on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Students and staff are encouraged to start practicing kindness now and watch for acts of generosity in the coming weeks. Anyone can nominate a fellow student or staff member using the posted Google Form.

One student and one staff member will be selected for an Epic Act of Kindness Award, earning recognition and a prize. Nominations will be accepted until 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12, and winners will be announced on Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Excitement is also building for prom season. The official 2026 HHS Prom theme is "A Night Behind the Mask." Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2, for an unforgettable night at HHS.

Doors will open at 7 p.m., the coronation will take place at 7:30 p.m. and dancing will run from 8 to 10 p.m. Students are encouraged to start planning early and prepare to create memories that will last a lifetime.

Choir students and those interested in joining should also take note. If you are not currently enrolled in choir but would like to participate during the 2026 to 2027 school year, email Mrs. Lemons (alemons@hillsboroschools.net) to set up a FLEX meeting. Students should not place choir on their schedule unless they are currently enrolled or have already spoken with Mrs. Lemons.

Finally, senior ads are now on sale through the yearbook online store. Parents and students can scroll to the bottom of the page, click "Senior Ads," enter the student's information and either upload a finished ad (from Canva or another platform) or design one online. Prices are \$30 for a quarter page and \$20 for an eighth page. Show your support for the Class of 2026 by purchasing an ad today.

Stay connected, stay involved and keep showing your Topper pride. It's another exciting week to be a Hilltopper! This week's riddle is: Which five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Litchfield Church To Host Worship Service Sunday

Pastor James Davis will lead worship for the third Sunday after Epiphany at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, in the church sanctuary at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield.

Scriptures for proclamation and study are Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18. The Gospel of the day is Matthew 4:12-23, when Jesus called the fishermen to be fishers of people instead.

The adult Bible study

meets at 8:45 a.m. "Hebrews" fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m.

The church's Mission Beyond Our Walls for January 2026 is Pantry Pals at Union Avenue Christian Church in Litchfield. Worship services are livestreamed on the Mt. Zion Lutheran, Litchfield, IL YouTube channel.

The church is seeking to hire a part-time office ministry assistant. If interested please email mzlitchfield@gmail.com or call 217-324-2627 and leave a message.

FCA Plans Trivia Night For Saturday, Jan. 24

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) will be holding a trivia night at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Milk House in Greenville. The cost to enter is \$100 per team of up to ten people. Mulligans, snacks and silent auction items will be offered for purchase. Proceeds from the event will support the provision of Bibles for local FCA huddles and scholar-



Litchfield Third Graders Check Out Model T

Mrs. Reynold's third graders at Litchfield Elementary School have been busy learning about the history of automobiles this January, recently reading a nonfiction text about the Ford Model T. They worked on using text features, such as timelines, to find out more information about a topic. Students learned that the Model T was the first affordable car made, and that was made possible by the improved assembly line. After studying the topic, classmate Sophia Nail's parents brought in a 1915 Model T for students to see, pictured above.



Beckemeyer Students See Jr. Blues Game

Mrs. Hammann's fourth grade class at Beckemeyer Elementary School in Hillsboro was the Class of the Game at the Springfield Jr. Blues game on Friday, Jan. 16. The class watched the Jr. Blues defeat Wisconsin 4-0, got close to the action, interacted with players, ate lots of food and got on the ice as part of the trip.

Nokomis Students Named To Honor Roll

Nokomis High School has announced its honor roll and high honor roll for the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honor Roll

Seniors: Caleb R. Bauer, Camryn E. Engelman, Levi K. German, Bryce M. Gillock, Addison Glenn, Blain R. Goodwin, Nolan N. Herpstreith, Glavin M. Himes, Arianna M. Hocq, Ella M. Huelson, Grace M. King, Kenley R. Kirk, Riley-Lyn M. McBroom, Kadyann N. Petty, Riley S. Reynolds, Kinley E. Stolte and Dylan M. Yeske.

Juniors: Parker E. Beaty, Braydon S. Cachera, Fausto Centeno, Griffin C. Engelman, Harry W. Lynch III, Mackenzie L. Mehochko, Daelon C. Patton, Alivia R. Sabol, Leigha M. Smith, Chloe N. Smoot and Adyson Standerfer.

Sophomores: Quincee M. Riebe and Nathan White.

Freshmen: Coda M. Barnes, Jager O. Johnson, Nina C. Johnson and Jack

M. Province.

Honor Roll

Seniors: Deiken K. Altevoigt, Isabella M. Brummet, Mylee C. Clements, Jesse J. Denby, Maddison R. DeWerff, Izaak M. Doyen, Daryl J. Evans, Laura Falcetti, Cloey J. Hand, Nicholas R. Huston, Darrell O. Jackson, Kennadie Johannsen, Faith E. Morrison, Addelyn F. Pearse, Deziree Robertson, Noah C. Simonton, Summer A. Spencer, Walker J. Stewart, Andrew D. Suslee, Remi Tester, Rilee D. Waterman and Elizabeth L. Watson.

Juniors: Kaitlyn M. Adams, Hunter A. Arkebauer, Hunter L. Casterline, Kalandra J. Cook, Paige L. Coots, Ethan W. Dahler, Cloey A. Dirks, Reese A. Goodin, Trevor J. Gregg Jr., Maliah A. Harris, Kali K. Johnston, Kannon M. Jonas, Aubrianna R. Ketcherside, Addison Kirkpatrick, Fallon Knodde, Kiley M. Lawhorn, Isabella R. Lyons, Katelyn B. Marley, Cody J. Norine, Konnor B. Reynolds, Samuel L. Rhodes, Devin M. Robertson and Carter H. Westtten.

Sophomores: Caryns A. Bertolino, Olivia D. Black, Lily A. Broers, Alaina J. Bugg, Kenadi M. Dagon, Autumn

M. Davis, Kendree L. Dean, Maddox C. DeWerff, Ilexia N. Doyen, Luke A. Eisenbarth, Vera Garcia Reina, Ryan K. German, Dominic Hammond, Maddox B. Hoffman, Zoe E. Jackson, Luke A. Johnson, Jenna Kamer, Keegan D. Kettelkamp, Myka M. LaChance, Raina M. Lidster, Chaerin Lim, Brooklyn R. Marley, Landon W. Orsborn, Alaina G. Patton, Abigail Probst, Elissa Probst, Sapata Richardson, Keeli A. Sanders, Hannah M. Tarter, Grady Taylor and Colby M. Wilson.

Freshmen: Carter J. Abendroth, Kennedy M. Aumann, Cole A. Bailey, Aubrey Baldwin, Micah J. Barker, Colt Bertolino, Keatyn R. Brooks, Kolton M. Cachera, Addilynn J. Cress, Daetona M. Davis, David Gipson III, Landon Glenn, Natalie E. Graden, Brynn M. Greff, Lane P. Herpstreith, Genesis Howell, Joelle E. Jackson, Leni L. Johnston, Aliyah Lidster, Ethan J. Marley, Jordyn L. Marley, Madilyn N. Marshall, Emma Quattlander, Bryton A. Renaker, Aliczander H. Sleboda, Lexie M. Smith, Colby J. Stewart, Paige J. Suslee, Elyse K. Tuetken, Avry J. West and Trenton Yager.

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Pictured above, the newly formed Kiwanis Club of Litchfield works on their first service project. From the left are Adam Ortega, Emily Farris, Alesia Haslett, Ian Polus, Kim Groom, Julie Timmerman, Mike Taylor and Paula Endress.

Photo Courtesy of Adam Ortega

Kiwanis Club Begins Meeting In Litchfield

The Kiwanis Club of Litchfield held its inaugural chartered meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Cornerstone Church. Kiwanis is a service organization made up of volunteers who want to impact and improve the lives of children in their community. The club motto is "Serving the children of the world."

The Kiwanis Club of Litchfield is currently made up of 15 passionate community members who want to help make a difference.

The club's board consists of President Adam Ortega, President-Elect Ian Polus, Secretary Alesia Haslett, Treasurer Kara Amos, and three Board of Directors: Paula Endress, Mike and Angela Taylor. Other chartering members of the club include; Carol Burke, Kelly McClain, David Griffith, Julie Timmerman, Darnell Fogle,

Rose Sypherd, Emily Farris, Christina Ortega and current Kiwanis member, Tonya Flannery.

The club coach is the district's immediate past governor, Kim Groom from Aurora. Kiwanis Club of Litchfield is in the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International. It is one of 164 clubs in the district focusing on improving the lives of children in their communities.

The Kiwanis Club of Litchfield is a dues paying organization with leadership and training at club and district levels.

Kiwanis Club of Litchfield is currently a 501(c)(4). The club meets the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Cornerstone Church community room. For additional information about the club, please email igov2024.25@gmail.com.

Registration Open For Barn Quilt Painting Workshop

The next Barn Quilt Workshop benefitting the Fillmore Historical Society will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Provided at the event will be 1'x1', 18"x18" and 2'x2' primed boards with patterns drawn on, ready to paint. Paint, paintbrushes and painters tape will also be provided. Refreshments and a light lunch are included. All

attendees will need to bring is a hairdryer.

To register, scan the QR code available on the Let's Grow Fillmore Facebook page. Those interested in attending may also call Banne' Ulrici at 217-538-2038. Registration and payment should be completed by Saturday, March 14. Spots are limited so those interested are encouraged to sign up as quickly as possible.

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Litchfield School Board

Continued from page 1A

Currently, the district will have no school on election day (Nov. 3) as that is sometimes required by the state. Dr. McClain said that if it's not required, they will likely make that an attendance day. She said it's easier to put a day back in the calendar than to take one out.

Before concluding her presentation, Dr. McClain thanked the staff members on the calendar committee for their hard work on the matter.

In related calendar matters, the board unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding with the Teamsters Union #525. It is designed to ensure that employees who work year-round are appropriately recognized in years when a traditionally observed holiday becomes a student attendance day. It does not change contract provisions or holiday practices.

Other Business

In old business, the board unanimously approved a second reading of policy updates from Press Plus. Dr. McClain said the list focused on school safety, law enforcement interests, curriculum restrictions and others. Approving the policy updates makes the district compliant with the state.

The board also unanimously approved an updated memorandum of understanding between the district and the City of Litchfield about the school resource officer contract. Due to the Press Plus updates, state code now prohibits school resource officers from issuing tickets on district property or arresting people on school grounds. Dr. McClain said she's scheduled a meeting soon with city officials for next year's school resource officer contract.

The board unanimously approved an emergency resolution to use \$20,000 in

health life safety funds for the purchase of a new water heater at the middle school/high school complex. The building currently had two water heaters that were 24 years old. One of them failed. Dr. McClain said the new one will have more efficiency. They plan to keep the old one at this time and not run it unless necessary.

Board members approved the consent agenda unanimously. It included minutes from the December meeting, as well as deletion of recorded closed session minutes from meetings in December 2023, as well as monthly bills and the treasurer's report.

Bills payable in January total \$300,968.79, including \$164,942.68 from the education fund (\$18,801.09 to the SCI Center), \$23,823.63 from transportation, \$10,903 from capital projects, \$3,623.75 from tort and \$19,499.28 from health life safety. Dr. McClain said they had an issue with a boiler and heater in one of the buildings, which cost about \$20,000 to replace. She added she's working on the ten-year health life safety survey from FGM Architects and they had very few recommendations.

In the treasurer's report, Dr. McClain reported an ending balance in all funds is \$19.1 million as of Dec. 31. The balance in operating funds is \$15.9 million and \$1.1 million in capital projects.

Information Items

District administrators reported they are working through the latest iReady assessment testing in all buildings and working to prepare for the upcoming state testing this spring. Curriculum Director Jennifer Thompson said the district is 80 percent complete with iReady testing. She added preparations are now underway at the Unit Office (Kilton Fine Arts Center) for the upcoming

spring high school musical, "Chicago."

At Litchfield Early Childhood Center, Principal Adam Favre told the board he's very grateful to have multiple options to play inside the building on cold days. He added that the students enjoyed a reward from the PTO fundraiser last fall, which involved him getting two pies in the face and silly string all over. He said the kids had a great time.

At Litchfield Elementary School, Principal Paula Dalcanton said they are working to streamline a new referral process. She added that the kids have set goals for the iReady testing and are planning an LES Cinema Day as an incentive later this month.

At Litchfield Middle School, Principal Chad Carty reported they held a trivia contest for the middle school and high school teachers during the school improvement day in January. The English department won bragging rights and everyone enjoyed it. He added the student success day in December was a hit, focusing on respectful behavior. They're working on mastering iReady lessons this quarter and planning a "tattoo a teacher" event.

In her report, Dr. McClain said they had more than 60 stakeholders attend the first of several strategic planning meetings. They worked in groups and focused on some of the district's strengths and weaknesses. The next one will be tonight, Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Unit Office, with a focus on the Portrait of a Graduate program.

Dr. McClain also reminded the community that they will phase out the former district group on Facebook on Feb. 2, replaced by the new district page.

She added that with cold weather on the horizon, parents should dress their students warmly and check

the district's information on school cancellations.

In a few final items, Dr. McClain said they received two FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests (one from Smart Procure and one requesting information on district retirees) and she said enrollment was sitting at 1,266, which is down three students from last month.

Personnel

The board spent about an hour and 15 minutes in closed session at the end of the meeting. Upon returning to open session, they approved several personnel items.

Board members approved the hiring of several substitute bus drivers, including April Pier (effective next school year) and Timothy Cyprian, Danielle Varner and Gregg Hires (effective immediately).

They approved the reassignment of Robyn Engstrom from elementary nurse to CTE health science instructor and elementary nurse, beginning next school year. They also approved the transfer of Kayla Davidson from clerical aide to secretary.

The board approved the resignations of SCI Director Juleta Ellis, effective June 30, and bus driver Jeanne Gebhardt, effective Jan. 31.

They approved the retirement of Director of Transportation and Building and Grounds Bob Witter (effective Aug. 31), bus driver and mechanic Martin Savage (effective at the end of the school year) and bus aide Karen Savage at the end of the school year.

In a final motion, they approved one FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) request.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Board members will meet again on Tuesday evening, Feb. 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Unit Office.

Raymond Golf Course Gets Bathroom Renovation

The Monday, Jan. 19, meeting of the Raymond Village Board was called to order at 7 p.m. In attendance were Mayor Dennis Held, Clerk Denise Downey, Treasurer Sally Broadus, Jason McCallum, Shawn McCallum, Taylor Link and Trustees Bruce Poggenpohl, Craig Bugg, William Krager, Ryan Bruntjen and Kendall Snyder.

The minutes of the Dec. 15 meeting and the financial

report for December and corrected report were looked over and a motion was made by Trustee William Krager and seconded by Trustee Craig Bugg to approve both. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

In streets and alleys, the welder is no longer working and areplacement is needed. Jason McCallum did some research and found a Miller 255 that he would like to purchase. A motion was made by Poggenpohl to purchase the welder and supplies not to exceed \$6,000 and this was seconded by Bugg. All present voted in favor and the motion

carried. Trustee Poggenpohl discussed getting a tool box for the truck the Village has on order at Landmark.

In golf course updates, Taylor Link is working on golf cart maintenance and repairs. The men's and women's bathroom will be undergoing a remodel of flooring, abseboards, vanities, toilets and fresh paint. Upon completion of the bathrooms, it will significantly enhance both appearance and functionality. Having an AED defibrillator on-site allows the course to be prepared for medical emergencies and protect the safety of guests and staff. A

motion was made by Poggenpohl and seconded by Bugg to purchase the device. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

In water and sewer updates, Jason McCallum has been locating water meters with the locator and only has a few left to complete and he will be looking into a data plan for the tablet as well.

With no other items to discuss, a motion was made by Krager and seconded by Poggenpohl to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor and the motion carried, with the meeting adjourning at 7:34 p.m.

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Hillsboro Fourth Graders Win Edwardsville Tourney

The Hillsboro fourth grade girls are on fire this year. They brought home the championship in the Orange Effect Tournament in Edwardsville Jan. 17-18. They defeated Troy and Edwardsville Saturday in pool play, and then picked up a win over Bethalto in the championship game on Sunday. They are now "double" qualified for state!

Pictured above, in front, from the left are Demi Maass, Mya McBrain, Cora Edgerton, Amelia Yount and Kami Lanthrip. In back are Coach Joe Chappelle, Indi Flowers, Paisey Fenton, Sawyer Chappelle, Heidi Templeton and Coach Morgan Yount.



Pictured above, from the left are first place winners Sarah and Anita Pence with Mike Rappe, vice president of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

Historical Society Quiz Tested Brain And Memory

A non-competitive history quiz challenged and educated members and guests at the quarterly gathering of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, held Sunday afternoon, Jan. 11, at the Challacombe House in Hillsboro.

Quiz Master Mike Rappe, the society's vice president, read through 50 questions on the history of Montgomery County, Illinois and the United States. With occasional background comments, Rappe gave the answer following each question. Participants could compete as individuals, with a partner, or in a group. Smartphone use wasn't allowed, and everyone tallied their own scores.

A perfect score of 75 included 25 points for correct answers to several bonus questions. First place went to the Litchfield team of Anita Pence and daughter, Sarah, who scored 41 points. Placing second and third were Anne Huber and the team of Jack and Lori Evans, all of Hillsboro.

Example questions
"What year did the legislature approve Montgomery County?" (1821) Who was the Revolutionary War hero our county is named after? (General Richard Montgomery) What was the name chosen as the first county seat? (Hamilton) What year did Hillsboro become the county

seat? (1823) How many townships are in Montgomery County? (19) Name the two Montgomery County towns that lie partly in another county. (Panama in Bond, Harvel in Christian)

What year did Illinois become a state? (1818) Who was the first governor of Illinois? (Shadrach Bond) What is the state's official motto? (Land of Lincoln) How many capitals has Illinois had? (3 - Kaskaskia, Vandalia, Springfield) How many Presidents have called Illinois home? (4 - Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama) Name the rivers that border the southeastern, southern and western borders of Illinois. (Wabash, Ohio, Mississippi)

How many signatures are on the Declaration of Independence? (56) Who was the oldest signer? (Benjamin Franklin) When and where were fireworks first used on the Fourth of July? (1777 in Philadelphia) What year did the Star Spangled Banner become the national anthem? (1931) How many branches are in the U.S. Military? (6 - Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and as of December 1919, Space Force)

Final bonus question: What year was the Historical Society of Montgomery County chartered? (1913)

McKendree Names Its Fall President's List

McKendree University has announced the students who made the President's List for the fall 2025 semester. Locally, Faith Olds of Litchfield and Alison Ridens of Sorento made the President's List.

Students on the President's List achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the fall 2025 semester.

RUFF Rescue Group

Continued from page 1A

She deserved so much better and so from that point on, we mere volunteers decided to do something about it. We now hold the power to approve these kinds of medical decisions for the animals of MCAC, just as we would care for our own pets."

Once the group hears of an animal in need, they get a rundown of the animal's history and RUFF pays for the treatment. Animals that

have their medical expenses covered by RUFF must be in Montgomery County Animal Control. "One of our big missions is not just to help the cats and dogs medically. We want to open the public's eyes on what these shelters are going through. We want to open people's eyes to adoption," said Durbin.

"Our number one goal is for the animals at Montgomery County Animal Control not to suffer at all," she added. "If they have a medical need

that arises, we take care of it as long as we have the funds and as long as the animal is listed under MCAC."

RUFF helped with emptying the Montgomery County Animal Control shelter as part of their Home for the Holidays sale. "That was a huge mission that helped," said Durbin.

"We'd love to get more volunteers to help with adoption events and we are always needing more fundraising ideas. Our biggest money-raiser for RUFF is our Canines

and Cars event. It's a car show and dog adoption event held in September, located in Nokomis," Durbin said. "While we've had really good turnouts the past three years, we'd love for even more people to come spend the day helping animals in need."

Those who wish to support RUFF's mission may do so by making a check out to R.U.F.F. and sending it to Montgomery County Animal Control, 11252 County Rd. 900 N, Hillsboro, IL 62049.

Hillsboro City Council

Continued from page 1A

The Street Department had a water leak on Hillside and spread salt during the snowfall. There was a storm damage cleanup of leaves in ditches, fallen branches, and pickup of bags and storm debris. They also did some work with blacktopping and potholes. Butler said, "Right now when they have those water main breaks, it's awfully cold out there for them and they do a really good job. I'd like to thank them for their hard work."

Commissioner of Health and Public Safety Tommy Justison then gave his report, noting that the fire department has received seven calls so far in January, with five of them being placed during the storm with several power poles downed. Two meetings have been held in January in the coding side and Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Matt Lentz has recently worked on some building permits, sign permits and residential solar permits.

Commissioner of Public Property Kendra Wright began her report by saying, "I'd like to reiterate Fred's thank you to the Street Department." The water quality is doing ok with the cold so far and a lot of meters are being installed. She also reported that things are going smoothly at the wastewater treatment facility.

Commissioner of Accounts and Finance Patrick Ward noted that "Budgets will be here before you know it." There are six meetings before the budget needs to be passed.

Mayor Don Downs then discussed a letter to the editor that ran in the Tuesday, Jan. 20 issue of *The Journal-News* that was written by Ron Deabenderfer in regards to the fact that Hillsboro's three most recent monthly Planning Commission meetings have not happened due to the lack of a quorum. In the letter, Deabenderfer says, "If you are willing to serve, see or contact Mayor Don Downs and ask to be appointed. The community needs you."

Downs echoed the sentiment that volunteers are needed for the commission. Downs said, "It has been talked about and they're going to take this seriously." There is now discussion on trying to combine the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. "That's something we're gonna try to move forward on. It's been talked about for years but never been done."

Bobby Johnson of the auxiliary police was in attendance, with Downs noting that there are currently five members of the group, one more than there was a year ago. "We still need help people. Come out and

get involved. That's what helps make our little town nice. Volunteers please, let's get more volunteers please," said Downs.

Economic Development and Community Planner Melissa Smith then gave her report, reiterating Mayor Downs' statement regarding volunteers. "We need volunteers in every aspect around town"

There are two DCEO grants that have nothing new to report and two TIF applications to be discussed later in the evening. She has met with Tori O'Dell to see how the Imagine Hillsboro Events and Festivals Committee could help with America 250 events on the front of sponsorships and fundraising. Smith and Kaitlyn Fath met with a Congressional candidate for the district. The two heard her plans and how she can help the district utilize more funds allocated specifically for the district.

Last week, Smith and a group of people met with a local business and DCEO to discuss the economic health of Hillsboro and what they believed would be a "great current focus and future focus to keep us on a healthy economic path." DCEO provided some information to pass to future business owners or those wanting to expand. Smith took that information with her to a meeting she recently had with a business thinking of moving to the area. She also spoke with the Illinois Arts Council about the Creative Project Grant and ways to bring more art projects and elements into the community.

Bills for the month totaled \$767,057.58. That number was up, but Ward noted that was due to some bills being received slowly and recent months having been lighter. Fire hydrants, the paying of volunteers and other expenses like health insurance made up \$49,000. Ward made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Butler and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Bobby Johnson of Raise The Bar gym requested a closure of the southwest corner of the Courthouse Square for the third annual Raise The Bar Against Cancer Powerlifting Meet on Saturday, April 25. They will use the Lincoln Plaza should weather permit. The event had 30 participants in 2025 and 40 in 2024. The Montgomery County Cancer Association held a bake sale the same day last year which was, "a huge hit" according to Johnson, and he will reach out to them about doing the bake sale again.

The next matter, a redeveloping agreement between

the City and John Galer for renovations to four buildings which had already been approved, but needed to be put into a resolution. Ward made a motion to approve, with Butler seconding, Wright and Justison abstained from the vote. Galer was in attendance and said, "I appreciate the effort on everybody's part in the city. This is a big thing for business owners. This is a big deal what you guys are doing. I applaud you for it and I thank you for it also."

Justison thanked City Attorney Chris Sherer in collaboration with Lentz for his work on an intergovernmental collaboration in the procurement of nuisance weed and grass abatement services. This will allow the City to step in and cure nuisance weeds, working with Nokomis, Witt and Coffeen to be able to do so.

Justison asked to make an amendment to a passage that read, "The Mayor and/or other officials designated by the Mayor are authorized to collaborate with the City's attorneys in the preparation and issuance of a joint RFQ for nuisance weed and grass abatement services." to "The Mayor and the Commissioner of Health and Public Safety and/or other officials designated by either are authorized to collaborate." Justison says this is in order to reflect both continuity of government between two members of the Council when they are both gone and also longer term to tie the department where this is at with the administration of the Mayor.

Ward made the motion to approve with the amendment, with Wright seconding. The matter passed unanimously via roll call vote.

The next order of business was a resolution authorizing the sale of city-owned real estate at a cost of \$20,400. The property is near Lake Glenn Shoals, but it was noted that the sold property does not go to the water or nearby lake lots. Wright made the motion to approve the sale, which was seconded by Butler and passed unanimously.

The next business item was also the sale of city-owned property, this time for the price of \$19,716. Butler made the motion to approve with Ward seconding.

Another resolution for a redevelopment agreement, this time between the City and Woody's Window to the World, LLC, using TIF funding, had been previously approved. Ward made the motion to approve the resolution, with Butler seconding and Wright and Justison abstaining.

A grant for Saini Brothers Inc./Unique Smoke Shop was pulled from the evening's agenda to be discussed again at a later date due to questions.

The next item was a TIF/Business District Redevelopment Grant for Empire 8, LLC for work to be completed at two separate addresses that constitute one building. One address is slated to be a hot dog restaurant, while the other is planned to be available for rental. Empire 8, LLC is seeking help mostly with foundation and roofing. \$139,314 was eligible for reimbursement from TIF. Ward recommended that the City offer 50 percent of the cost, for a total not to exceed \$70,000. The motion passed with Ward making the motion and Butler seconding. Empire 8, LLC is run by Michael Monroe and his father, Brad Monroe, who was at the meeting. They are originally from Lebanon and Mayor Downs welcomed Brad to Hillsboro.

The Council then discussed paying application number six to Plocher Construction for a cost of \$833,736.83, bringing the Council to their total disbursement of \$6,973,276.20. Wright explained that some of the cost is for the oxidation ditch design, but much of it is for construction phased services to Woodard and Curran and a change order for \$80,000 that was already approved. Wright made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ward.

An amendment was made to a design and construction services agreement with Woodard and Curran for the 2026 Lead Service Line Replacement Project that included language requested to the project schedule by the IEPA. The agreement without the IEPA addition was approved back in September. Ward made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Wright.

John "Jack" Evans and Charlie Goad were then appointed to the Hillsboro Police Pension Fund Board to two-year terms. Mayor Downs said, "They have both served on this committee and they do a good job doing so, and we have to have volunteers." Justison made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Wright and approved unanimously.

The final matter of the evening regarded shoreline stabilization for Lake Glenn Shoals. Butler noted that Lentz is already in the area working on another project and they would like to do the project while Lentz is already in the area to help the shoreline. Mayor Downs asked where on the lake the area is located and it was confirmed that it could be reached by land. Butler made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Wright. Justison abstained from the vote.

Justison made the motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ward.

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After acquiring the building in October of 2025, Belcher's Power Equipment is now open in Taylor Springs, offering outdoor equipment sales, service and warranty work. Pictured above, from the left, are siblings Cody and Sam Belcher.

Belcher's Now Open In Taylor Springs

by Cayden Huber

Cody Belcher opened Belcher's Power Equipment in Greenville back in 2023, and has now expanded to Taylor Springs after acquiring the old Outdoor Power Sales building in October of 2025. "The main goal is just to be an asset to the community and to be able to serve the community," said Belcher. Belcher is helped by his sister, Sam Belcher, who added, "We want to provide local service so that people don't have to drive all over. We understand the value of having something local. We've had a lot of customers come to Greenville from this area."

Belcher's Power Equipment offers sales, service and warranty work, from tractors to weed eaters, along with metal buildings, car ports, outdoor power equipment and tractor implements like tillers and boxblades. "The biggest thing we learned is that

there's a local need for our services. There's a need for small town, local service where you can drop it off in town five, ten, 15 minutes away," said Cody.

"We offer all the factory incentives and promotions. We have seasonal sales and promotions on parts and labor also," said Cody. There is currently an ongoing promotion where, with every purchase of a Scag Warrior, a donation will be made supporting breast cancer research and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. They also offer a military and first responder discount.

"It's exciting," said Cody, which was then expanded upon by Sam adding, "and scary." Cody responded, "It's been exciting and scary at the same time." "We both like challenge and are curious. We both grew up in a super small town so you kind of get a lay of the land," said Sam.

Belcher's Power Equipment is currently open from

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. They can be found online at www.belcherspower.com, where they offer online shopping. They can be found on social media at the Belcher's Power Equipment Facebook page and @belcherspower on Instagram. To contact them, email sales@belcherspower.com or call them at 217-608-4031.

They plan to be out and about at community events in the future as well. "We like to be involved in the community," said Sam, noting that they often donate and give away free items. Cody and Sam are also planning on hosting an open house of their own sometime this spring.

Belcher's Power Equipment is located at 9077 IL 127 in Taylor Springs, and they offer pickup and delivery. "We keep a huge inventory here, so if we don't have it here, we have avenues to get it," said Sam.

It's time to put on your thinking caps and help the Old Settlers Committee come up with a theme for this year's Big Parade. The committee would like something patriotic in honor of the nation's 250th birthday. Entries can be mailed to Old Settlers Association, P.O. Box 584, Hillsboro, IL 62049 or submitted online to their Facebook page at Old Settlers Days of Hillsboro, IL.

The committee will vote on a winning theme at their next meeting, Feb. 10, and the winner will be awarded a \$50 prize.

Think you're smarter than a fifth grader? Join the Friends of Hillsboro Area Public Library for their trivia night fundraiser this Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Hillsboro Lions Club. Doors open at 5 p.m., and trivia begins at 6 p.m. Registration is \$100 per eight-person team. Participants may bring their own snacks and drinks and alcohol is permitted. Proceeds will benefit the Hillsboro Area Public Library District. To reserve your table, call or text 314-669-4589.

The Hillsboro Junior High School Student Council is honoring the family of Brody Haston with a Tootsie Pop sale throughout lunch hours this week. Haston, who passed away after a battle with cancer, is the son of HJHS Principal Adam Haston. The Student Council will be selling Tootsie Pops for \$1 each during all lunch modules. Proceeds will be donated to the Bond

Journalisms

News About People and Events of Interest Throughout The County

County Humane Society in Brody's name.



The Nokomis Public Library is home to a beautiful collection of artwork during the month of January.

Stop by and see pieces on loan from Mary Lou Lindahl's personal collection, "The Alaskan Connection." Artwork in the collection highlights the beauty of Alaska.

Hillsboro High School alumnus Brian Graden was recently featured in a Polygon article about the success of the Comedy Central show, "South Park," which Graden helped to bring to the silver screen more than 20 years ago. In the article, written by Brian VanHooker, Graden talks about how he met creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone and how "South Park" became a reality. To read the full story, visit www.polygon.com.

Former Litchfield resident Micah Summers is making headlines this month too. The son of Kevan and Diane Summers of Litchfield has been named one of the 2026 Leading Lawyers in Illinois this January, an honor earned by fewer than 5 percent of lawyers state wide and awarded through peer nomination and evaluation. Summers, who lives in Glen Carbon, works for Walton Telken Bragee Injury Attorneys.

Bank and Trust Company in Litchfield is now accepting applications for the Corwin Memorial Trust. Applications are available online at www.banktr.com. Paper copies are also available at the main branch in Litchfield. Trust funds are used for charitable and educational projects in Litchfield and the vicinity. The deadline for applications is Friday, Jan. 30, at 9 a.m.

Applications may be mailed to Bank and Trust Company, P.O. Box 410, Litchfield, IL 62056 or dropped off at the main branch, located at 401 N. Madison in Litchfield. For more information, call 217-324-7728 or email trustops@banktr.com.

Red Cross To Host Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in Litchfield on Tuesday, Feb 3, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Litchfield Moose Lodge, located at 221 N. Madison St. Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage as requests from hospitals exceed the available supply of blood, leading to about a 35 percent drawdown of blood products in the past month.

Individuals are urged to give now so patients don't face delays in lifesaving care. The shortage is especially serious for platelets and types O, A negative and B negative blood. High flu activity in nearly every state may be sidelining donors, slowing efforts to rebuild the Red Cross national blood supply.

At the same time, hospitals already feeling the strain of the worst flu season in nearly 20 years are now also forced to triage critical blood products. Without immediate action, patients

who count on transfusions, including trauma victims, mothers in childbirth and people with sickle cell disease or cancer, face serious risk.

"Winter always puts pressure on the blood supply, and this year widespread flu and rough weather are making it even tougher," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president of Red Cross donor services. "If you're able, now's a great time to make and keep blood donation appointments, during National Blood Donor Month. Every donation can be a lifeline for a patient who isn't able to hold off on critical care."

Donors are encouraged to make an appointment to give blood by visiting RedCrossBlood.org enter Litchfield Moose, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App or calling 1-800-Red-Cross. All who come to give Jan. 26 to Feb. 28, 2026, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Heart for details.

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Pana's Delaney Hackler guards Nokomis senior Camryn Engelman during the Panthers' home game against the Lady Redskins on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Engelman did a little bit of everything to help her team to a 54-40 win, scoring ten points with seven rebounds, five steals and four assists.

James Ryan/NokoPhoto

Lady Redskins Build Momentum With Wins

The Nokomis girls basketball team has been battle-tested the last few weeks, but if Monday's results are any indication, the extra work was worth it.

Playing in Nokomis on Jan. 19, the Lady Redskins had four starters put in nine points or more to beat the Lady Trojans 50-43. The win upped Nokomis' record to 15-5, while Auburn moved to 12-10.

The starters scored the lion's share of the points on Monday, but Nokomis did receive a contribution off the bench from Carsyn Bertolino in the first quarter. The sophomore forward had four of Nokomis' 11 points in the opening frame, helping them to keep pace with Auburn's Emme Divjak.

A junior shooting guard, Divjak knocked down two threes and scored 12 points in the opening quarter, helping Auburn take a 14-11 lead after one. Nokomis adjusted their defense to the early outburst and held Divjak to just seven more points as she finished with 19 for the game.

The first quarter was the only one in which Auburn outscored Nokomis, with the Lady Redskins bouncing back with a 17-11 advantage in the second to take a 28-25 lead at

the break.

Kinley Stolte had a pair of free throws in the first quarter, but reached double figures by the end of the first half, pouring in nine points in the second frame.

Scoring slowed for both teams in the third, with Nokomis taking a 36-32 lead at the end of the quarter. Alivia Sabol scored half of the Redskins' eight points as they looked to close out the game.

In the final frame, Nokomis received contributions from all facets on offense and held Auburn to 11 points on the defensive end. Stolte and Sabol combined for seven points in the post, while Hannah Tarter dropped in a three-pointer. Camryn Engelman added four points for Nokomis, going 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final frame.

All told, Nokomis shot 54 percent from the field, going 19-for-35, with a 10-for-17 clip from the free-throw line.

Stolte finished the game with a double-double, contributing 15 points and ten rebounds to the win. Alivia Sabol added ten points and four rebounds, while Hannah Tarter had ten points and three boards.

Continued on 6B

Lincolnwood Takes Out Lutheran In Overtime

The Lincolnwood-Morrisville boys basketball team pulled out a 53-49 victory over Springfield Lutheran in overtime on Tuesday, Jan. 20, to up their record to 5-13 overall and 2-3 in the MSM Conference.

It was an uphill climb for the Lancers in the early going as the Crusaders scored the first nine points of the game, before Tucker Armentrout gave Lincolnwood its first basket at the 5:15 mark. After another two points for Lutheran, Lincolnwood peeled off six more points, including five from Luke Armentrout, to cut Lutheran's lead to three at 11-8.

The Crusaders turned up their defense after that, with Javin Meredith, Jeremy Daniel and Connor Hilligoss pressuring the Lincolnwood guards into turnovers. The result was two transition

buckets and a trip to the free-throw line as the Crusaders ended the quarter on a 5-0 run to double up Lincolnwood, 16-8, after one.

Lutheran added one to their lead to start the second quarter, with a free throw by Lucas Stevens, but the well dried up for the Crusaders after that. The visitors went 0-for-7 the rest of the quarter, with Lincolnwood forcing six turnovers.

The Lancers were able to take advantage of Lutheran's misfortunes as they picked up five points from Tucker Armentrout and a pair of threes from Bryce Cowdrey and Carson Daugherty. Neither team scored in the final 3:45 of the second quarter, but their earlier scoring was enough to give Lincolnwood a 19-17 halftime lead.

Continued on 3B

Tornadoes Knock Off Toppers At McGraw

by Ron Deabenderfer

"Mismatch" was the first thought that came to at least one Hillsboro fan while watching the Toppers and the Taylorville Tornadoes warm up in the Panther gym for the second game for each of the Pool D contestants during the McGraw Memorial Invitational Tournament Tuesday evening, Jan. 20, in Litchfield.

The Christian County team presented a challenge because they were taller; quicker; and, once action began, more accurate shooters. Guard Brock Brown is 6'6" but plays bigger (he dunked twice in the first half on breakaways) but with the quickness of a smaller guard. He had four treys and 20 points in the first half; his shot release from behind the arc was quick, and the shots sometimes came from six feet behind the three point line. Not many high school players could win a one-on-one contest with him.

There was another familiar-to-Montgomery-County name; Maddex Havera's father had quite a successful athletic career at Nokomis before becoming State's Attorney for Christian County. He scored eight points in the three quarters the starters played; a buzzer beater as the third quarter ended gave the Tornadoes a 69-39 lead, sending the game into running-clock status. Nine players scored for Taylorville; Maddex Owens was the other Tornado in double figures with 10. It makes Brown



Hillsboro sophomore Noah Satterlee (above) had four threes and 17 points in front of a jam-packed Panther Gym in Litchfield on Tuesday, Jan. 20, as the Hiltoppers closed out pool play against Taylorville at the Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational. The Tornadoes countered with an onslaught of offense, with seven players scoring seven points or more, led by Brock Brown's 23 points in his team's 79-45 win that moved the Toppers to the ninth place bracket.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

better to be surrounded by others who can be aggressive defensively and with shot selections.

The Toppers were fairly effective offensively in Quarter One. Noah Satterlee came off the bench to hit two threes early; his 16 for the game was both a team and personal (varsity) high. Eli Zaidi had baskets inside, and Kamdin Civitate had a bucket; the Toppers were down 21-15 entering the second period after trailing 10-2 less than three minutes into the game.

Then the Tornado 1-2-2 ball pass seemed to shake

Hillsboro's composure; shots became hurried and turnovers numerous (11 for the half). The lead was 20 by halftime, and the outcome settled, though Mark Mattson's seven third quarter points gave Hillsboro a bit of a pulse.

Now is time to reload; the Toppers face Nokomis in Litchfield tonight (Thursday, Jan. 22) in the Panther Gym at 6 p.m. The tournament ends Saturday, Jan 24, in the big gym, with Hillsboro playing at either 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. (dependent on Thursday's result).

Jan. 20 at Litchfield

McGraw Memorial Invite
 Taylorville 21 23 25 10---79
 Hillsboro 15 9 15 6---45
Taylorville (79) - Brock Brown 23, Maddex Owens 10, Maddex Havera 8, Blake Ladage 8, Patrick Curtin 8, Malique Pearse 8, Wyatt Younker 7, Brody McDowell 3, Braylon Kirk 2, Landon Bowsher 2. **Totals:** 33 6-8 79.
Hillsboro (45) - Noah Satterlee 17, Mark Mattson 11, Eli Zaidi 6, Kamdin Civitate 6, Tony White 2, Jalen Stewart 2. **Totals:** 17 6-10 45.
Three-point field goals: Taylorville 7 (Brown 3, Owens 2, Younker 1, Havera 1); Hillsboro 5 (Satterlee 4, Mattson 1).
Records: Taylorville (9-9); Hillsboro (8-12).

Three-Pointers Lift Griffins Past Nokomis

The death part of the "Live by the three, die by the three," adage tends to get the most attention from basketball fans, but on Tuesday, Jan. 20, the long shot from beyond the arc definitely breathed life into the Father McGivney boys basketball team.

The Griffins, who lost to Triad by 20 in their opening game of the Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational on Monday, hit 14 threes to hand Nokomis a 57-48 loss in the Redskins' first game at the Litchfield tournament.

The loss was a tough one to swallow as the Redskins made one more field goal than the Griffins and were dominant inside the three-point arc for most of the game.

The bulk of McGivney's threes came

in the first half as they scored 34 points on 11 threes and one free throw to hold a 34-26 lead at halftime.

All 18 McGivney points in the first quarter came from three-point land, with six different players hitting threes for the Griffins.

While the Metro-East Catholic school was hitting from deep, Nokomis, went inside, getting six of their first eight points from sophomore forward Luke Eisenbarth. Carter Weststten added in a steal and score 16 seconds after Eisenbarth's last basket in the run and Nokomis led 10-6 with just under five minutes to play in the first.

The two teams traded points, with a three from McGivney, followed by three free throws from Kannon Jonas (2) and

Daryl Evans (1) and another three by the Griffins. Konnor Reynolds increased Nokomis' advantage to three with his first basket of the game, but back-to-back threes by Henry Willenborg and Landon Hall flipped the scoreboard in McGivney's favor.

The Redskins did cut the lead to one in the final seconds on Eisenbarth's third field goal of the game, but McGivney still led 18-17 after one.

As the Griffins adjusted their defense to cover the sophomore more in the second quarter, Nokomis went to the other side, with Konnor Reynolds scoring his team's first six points to make it 23-21 three minutes into the quarter.

Continued on 6B

Pana Comes Back To Beat Purple Panthers

The 2026 Rick McGraw Invitational kicked off Monday, Jan. 19, and the host Litchfield Purple Panthers started action the next day. Entering the tournament as the seventh seed, the Purple Panthers drew the tough tenth-seeded Pana Panthers.

Pana used a late push to overcome Litchfield's early lead as they walked away with a 60-59 upset. The loss started the Purple Panthers off at 0-1 in the tournament as they fell to 10-9 overall, while Pana improved to 1-1 in the tournament and 13-8 overall.

Home court advantage is always a plus, but for the Purple Panthers the home court during the Rick McGraw Invitational has not been the advantage they have looked for.

In the past 20 years (19 tournaments due to COVID), the Purple Panthers have had a record of 27-43 in the tournament with only two winning record outcomes during that span. Litchfield finished 3-1 in the tournament in 2014 and 2-1 in 2008,

with seven other 2-2 records during that span.

On Tuesday evening, the Purple Panthers sprinted out to an early lead, looking to start this year's version of the Rick McGraw Invitational on a positive note.

Litchfield held an early 8-3 lead in the contest and remained the front runner throughout the opening quarter. Pana drew within a field goal, but the Purple Panthers outscored them to close out the quarter.

Sam Schwab had the hot hand in the opening frame as he connected on ten points as Litchfield held a 17-13 lead after one quarter of action.

In the second quarter, Pana turned the tide in the opening minutes as they closed the gap to one with a 5-2 start to the quarter.

After a Purple Panther basket, Pana would once again answer as they knocked in the next six points to grab their first lead since the 5:30 mark of the opening quarter.

Continued on 3B



Litchfield's Titan Hires goes for the steal against Pana's Cash Lynch during the Panthers' pool play game at the Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Litchfield led for most of the game, but Pana charged back late to win 60-59. Litchfield rebounded with a 59-54 win over Roxana on Wednesday, forcing the pool winner to be determined by free throw percentage. Roxana (66.67%) will be in the first place bracket, while Litchfield (63.64%) will be in the fifth place bracket and Pana (63.33%) will be in the ninth place bracket.

Tabitha Ostermann Photo

• First National Bank of Raymond

GO LANCERS!

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Free Throws Pay Off For Lincolnwood Girls

An 8-for-10 performance from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter helped the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville girls basketball team pick up their eighth win of the season on Monday, Jan. 19, as they defeated Ramsey 32-26.

Five different Lancers took a pair of free throws in the final frame, with Kylie Jack, Sophia Painter and Leah Anderson both going 2-for-2. Reagan Penrod and Tori Elvidge both hit the first of their two attempts, with Elvidge also contributing Lincolnwood's only field goal of the quarter.

Elvidge's bucket wasn't just Lincolnwood's only field goal, it was the only basket made in the fourth quarter as Ramsey was held to three

free throws, two by Daisy Allen and one by Anna Benhoff.

The 10-3 advantage in the fourth quarter erased a one-point lead for the Rams, who outscored Lincolnwood 4-3 in the third quarter to break a string of knotted up quarters.

The two teams were tied at 11 after one, despite Sophia Painter dropping two threes and seven points for the Lancers. Jolee Downs added another three in the second quarter, but the Rams went point-for-point with Lincolnwood and the game was tied at 19 at the break.

Downs' second three of the game accounted for all of Lincolnwood's scoring in the third quarter, with Ramsey getting a three from Kelli

Cook and a free throw from Lyla Mollett.

After that, it was the march to the charity stripe, with Lincolnwood's aggressiveness in going to the basket paying off.

Sophia Painter finished with ten points to lead all scorers, while Jolee Downs added six and Tori Elvidge finished with five. Kylie Jack and Hannah Hill added four apiece, followed by Leah Anderson with two and Reagan Penrod with one.

For the game, Lincolnwood went 12-for-16 from the free-throw line, compared to 5-of-10 for the Rams, who had 10 more field goals than the Lancers.

Lincolnwood will stay out on the road the rest of this

week as they travel to Nokomis for an MSM Conference game on Jan. 22, followed by their opening game at the Lady Hawk Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 24, at noon against Granite City in Carrollton.

Jan. 19 at Ramsey
Lincolnwood 11 8 3 10 -- 32
Ramsey 11 8 4 3 -- 26
Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (32) - Sophia Painter 10, Jolee Downs 6, Tori Elvidge 5, Kylie Jack 4, Hannah Hill 4, Leah Anderson 2, Reagan Penrod 1. **Totals:** 8 12-16 32
Ramsey (26) - Anna Benhoff 9, Kelli Cook 8, Daisy Allen 4, Violet Williams 2, Mia Waggoner 2, Lyla Mollett 1. **Totals:** 10 5-10 26.
Three-point field goals: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville 2 (Downs 2); Ramsey 3 (Benhoff 2, Cook 1).
Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (8-13); Ramsey (2-16).

Third Quarter Pushes Titans Past Toppers

by Ron Deabenderfer

What a difference an eight-minute quarter can make in a basketball game!

Hillsboro's boys basketball team made their 12th seed in the 2026 Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational Tournament seem too low when they tangled with the Chatham Glenwood Titans in Pool D play on Monday, evening, Jan. 19, in Litchfield when they grabbed a 23-20 halftime lead, but...

Glenwood used a ten-point third quarter by 6'4" sophomore Cohen Reid to build a base for a game-changing 26-14 spurt en route to a 64-47 victory.

The Titans are young (two seniors, three juniors and seven sophomores make up their 12-man roster); but they are quick and aggressive defensively, and relatively tall compared to Hillsboro.

The Toppers unofficially had one turnover in the first half; five points each by Tony White and Mark Mattson pushed Hillsboro to an 11-7 lead though the Titans grabbed an initial 4-0 lead.

Eli Zaidi, Topper big man at 6'4", was the sole Topper to score in Quarter Two as he had two putbacks and was a perfect 2-of-2 from the free-throw line while scoring all 12 Hiltopper points.

Reid had nine of the Titans' points, but the Springfield-area team seemed dependent on outside shooting to score, and it was ineffective for the first 16 minutes.

Their defensive pressure intensified as the third quarter began, though. Hillsboro's turnover count ballooned and the Titans, with effective help off their bench, ran effectively to turn Hillsboro mistakes into points. Reid made a trey to tie the game; 6'2" senior

Brody Green made another to put the Titans ahead.

Mark Mattson answered with a three to tie the game at 26-26, but then Glenwood decided the game with a 10-0 run that gave them a lead the Toppers couldn't overcome.

White and Kamdin Civitate each added a three, but the poor percentage shot selection that hurt Glenwood in the first half visited the Toppers in the second and the turnover total grew to seven. Once Chatham was safely ahead, Hillsboro couldn't recover.

To make matters worse, the Toppers lost Mattson to an ankle injury with 5:19 to play. A White trey had cut the Titan lead to six (35-29), but the injury continued the bad luck jinx that has plagued Hillsboro this season.

For one reason or another, the Toppers hadn't had all supposed-to-be-available

starters until this game; it's hard to build chemistry with parts missing.

The Toppers (8-11) played Taylorville Tuesday night, Jan. 20, in the same tournament; read about that game in today's *Journal-News*. The Titans play Taylorville Wednesday night to conclude pool play.

Jan. 19 at Litchfield McGraw Memorial Invite
Glenwood 7 13 26 18 --- 64
Hillsboro 11 12 14 10 --- 47
Glenwood (64) - Cohen Reid 25, Brody Green 15, Hugo Lopp 7, Chase Ostermeier 6, Cameron Murphy 5, Kaniela Carvalho 3, Jack Kurmann 3. **Totals:** 24 6-13 64.
Hillsboro (47) - Eli Zaidi 15, Tony White 14, Mark Mattson 8, Kamdin Civitate 6, Blake Cullison 2, Noah Satterlee 2. **Totals:** 15 13-15 47.
Three-point field goals: Glenwood 10 (Reid 3, Green 2, Carvalho 1, Lopp 1, Murphy 1, Ostermeier 1, Kurmann 1); Hillsboro 4 (Mattson 2, White 1, Civitate 1).
Records: Glenwood (6-10); Hillsboro (8-11)

Litchfield Boys Basketball

Continued from 1B

The 24-21 Pana lead would not dampen the Litchfield spirits as they countered Pana's attack with a 9-0 run that put them back in the driver's seat at 30-24. Pana, though, had enough time before the break to narrow that lead down to 32-28.

In the second quarter the emphasis for the Purple Panthers was to go inside as Max Leitschuh led the way with eight second quarter points. Leitschuh's effort helped lead the Purple Panthers as he hit the locker room with ten points, matching Schwab for the team high.

Over the years, Pana has held the series advantage with a 22-11 record, but in the past four meetings, Litchfield has had the upper hand. Holding the four-point lead the Purple Panthers would need a strong effort to continue their recent success against Pana.

Litchfield would get that advantage in the opening minutes as they increased their lead to 38-31. That lead came in the scoring scarce opening minutes of the third frame. After a three-pointer nearly two minutes into the half by Pana, Litchfield claimed six points in the next two minutes and kept Pana off the scoreboard.

The second half of the third quarter, though, saw both teams finally warm up as they combined for 19 points in those final four minutes.

Litchfield would get the upper hand for those 19 points as they outscored Pana 10-9. The one-point difference allowed Litchfield to build their seven-point lead to eight as they led 48-40 after three quarters of action.

It would be Leitschuh who once again stepped up in the quarter as he piled on eight points for the second straight quarter to up his total to 18

after three.

Even though the Purple Panthers have had success against their first game opponent, it was still the Rick McGraw Invitational, which seems to trump any success the Purple Panthers have had. The tournament curse conquered Litchfield in the fourth quarter as Pana came storming out on a 16-4 push that helped them overcome the eight-point deficit. The 12-point swing put Pana back into the lead at 56-52 with just over two minutes to play in regulation.

Litchfield gave a good effort in the final two minutes, but the early blow was too much for the favorite as Pana built a 60-56 lead with just seconds left on the clock.

After a free throw attempt gave Pana the four-point lead, Litchfield set up a play that allowed Schwab to connect on his fourth three-pointer of the game. Knowing the basket would not mat-

ter, Pana did not guard the Purple Panthers to avoid a four-point play for Litchfield.

Litchfield put four players in double digits, led by Max Leitschuh's 18 points. Sam Schwab and Ethan Saathoff finished with 13 points, while Landon Wernsing hit 11 points.

The loss dropped the Purple Panthers to 0-1 in the tournament going into their game with second-seeded Roxana on Wednesday night.

Jan. 20 at Litchfield McGraw Memorial Invite
Pana 13 15 12 20 --- 60
Litchfield 17 15 16 11 --- 59
Pana (60) - Easton Malisia 18, Cash Lynch 15, Jax Czaikowski 10, Brayden Hicks 9, Tucker Beyers 3, Madyx Angel 3, Micah Meadows 2. **Totals:** 21 7-13 60.
Litchfield (59) - Max Leitschuh 18, Ethan Saathoff 13, Sam Schwab 13, Landon Wernsing 11, Titan Hires 2, Brody Dykema 2. **Totals:** 24 6-8 59.
Three-point field goals: Pana 11 (Malisia 5, Hicks 3, Czaikowski 3); Litchfield 5 (Schwab 3, Wernsing 1, Saathoff 1).
Records: Pana (13-8); Litchfield (10-9).

Lincolnwood Boys Basketball

Continued from 1B

Lutheran finally broke their scoreless streak with a mid-range jumper from Daniel at the 7:24 mark of the third quarter, tying the game at 19 points each. After trading points with the Crusaders, Lincolnwood scored the next five points on a layup and free throw by Luke Pope and a steal and score by Tucker Armentrout.

Lutheran answered and regained the lead, scoring six straight to make it 27-26 with 3:31 to play in the quarter. Shooting woes plagued the Crusaders again in the final minutes of the period as they went 5-for-14 overall in the third, including an 0-for-4 clip from three-point land.

Cody Ganther, Luke Armentrout, Bryce Cowdrey and Izeck Matli each scored two points in the final two and a half minutes of the quarter, giving Lincolnwood their biggest lead of the game at 34-27.

Javin Meredith made sure that lead was short-lived in the fourth, scoring back-to-back two-pointers, with Lane Seifert also scoring for the Crusaders to cut the lead down to one, 34-33. Tucker Armentrout reinforced the lead with five straight points,

then swapped baskets with Jeremy Daniel to make it 41-35 with 3:35 to play.

As they did at the tail end of the first quarter, Lutheran turned defense into offense in the final three minutes of the fourth. Daniel scored four straight points off turnovers to get the deficit down to two, before Luke Armentrout dropped in his third basket of the game.

The back-and-forth continued with a three from Connor Hilligoss, followed by a two from Cody Ganther to make it 45-42, Lincolnwood, with 90 seconds to play. The two teams traded unsuccessful possessions, before Daniel stole the inbound pass with 30 seconds to play and fed Hilligoss for his second three at the 18-second mark.

Lincolnwood worked to set up a final play to break the tie, but Daniel picked off another inbound pass and sprinted to the other side of the court. The junior forward may have been able to end the game in regulation, but Coach Roderick McKenney called a timeout before Daniel could make it to the basket.

After another timeout to get the ball in better position, Lutheran got the ball in to Daniel, whose three at the

buzzer clanked off the front of the rim to send the game to overtime.

Knotted up at 45 points apiece, neither team scored in the first one minute and 24 seconds of the overtime period. Bryce Cowdrey finally broke that streak with a pair of free throws, then added four more points to the Lancers lead with a drive to the basket following a Lutheran turnover and two more free throws at the 1:19 mark.

Down 51-45, Lutheran got within four on a layup by Javin Meredith and within two on a bucket by Connor Hilligoss after a Lancer turnover. With the clock under 30 seconds, Lutheran was forced to foul. Tucker Armentrout made the second of two free throw attempts with 14.2 seconds to go, then did that again with 1.6 showing on the clock after grabbing the rebound on a missed three by the Crusaders.

The free throws gave Lincolnwood a four-point lead at the final horn as they picked up back-to-back wins for the first time this year.

Jeremy Daniel (20) and Connor Hilligoss (14) both reached double figures for Lutheran, but the Crusaders went 22-for-62 from the field, including a 2-for-20 clip from

Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers

Thursday, January 22
5 p.m. - Wrestling at Auburn with Shelbyville, Beardstown
5:30 p.m. - Freshman Boys Basketball at Taylorville
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball vs. Nokomis at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield 9th Place Bracket
Saturday, January 24
9 a.m. - Wrestling at Rochester Invite
11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. - Boys Basketball at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield 9th Place Bracket
1 p.m. - Girls Basketball vs. Wesclin or Salem at Vandalia Mid-Winter Tournament 3rd Place Game

Litchfield Purple Panthers

Thursday, January 22
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at East Alton-Wood River
7:30 p.m. - Boys Basketball at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield 5th Place Bracket
Saturday, January 24
9 a.m. - Wrestling at East Richland Invite in Olney
9:30 a.m. - Girls Wrestling at Anna-Jonesboro Tournament
2:30 or 4 p.m. - Boys Basketball at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield 5th Place Bracket

Nokomis Redskins

Thursday, January 22
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball hosts Lincolnwood
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball vs. Hillsboro at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield 9th Place Bracket
Friday, January 23
TBD - Boys Basketball at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield
Saturday, January 24
11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. - Boys Basketball at McGraw Invitational at Litchfield 9th Place Bracket
5 p.m. - Girls Basketball vs. Madison at Carrollton Tournament

Lincolnwood Lancers

Thursday, January 22
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at Nokomis
Friday, January 23
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Tri-City
Saturday, January 24
Noon - Girls Basketball vs. Granite City at Carrollton Tournament

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Vandalia Mid-Winter Girls Tournament

Monday, January 19
Game 1: #1 Effingham 62, #8 Mattoon 31
Game 2: #4 Hillsboro 44, #5 Mascoutah 31
Game 3: #3 Salem 68, #6 Vandalia 50
Game 4: #2 Wesclin 35, #7 Greenville 26
Wednesday, January 21
Game 5: #1 Effingham 78, #4 Hillsboro 27
Game 6: #3 Salem 40, #2 Wesclin 34

Lady Griffins Double Up In The Third To Beat Panthers

The Litchfield girls basketball team made the trip to Father McGivney Catholic High School on Tuesday, Jan. 20, for a non-conference match-up with the Griffins.

The Lady Panthers managed to keep pace with the home team in the first half, trailing by ten at the break, but a 12-2 third quarter doubled McGivney's advantage and helped the Griffins to a 47-32 victory over LHS.

The Griffins fed Peyton Ellis and Zoe Oller in the opening quarter as they scored ten of McGivney's 14 points in the first eight minutes. Litchfield only had three field goals in the opening frame, but made them count as Adia Melchert had five points, with one three, while Lynzie Reid also knocked down a triple.

McGivney reached double figures again in the second quarter, with five players scoring 13 points, led by Layla Tobin's five. Reid knocked down another three for Litchfield, with Mataya Melchert, McKenna Harmon and Madi Jenkins also scoring as the Panthers scored nine and trailed 27-17 at halftime.

Litchfield's defense continued to improve as the game went on as they held McGivney to 12 points in the third quarter. Unfortunately, the offense disappeared for the Panthers, who were held to a McKenna Harmon two-pointer in the quarter.

The 12-2 third frame

51st Annual Carrollton Girls Invitational

Saturday, January 24
Game 1: 10:30 a.m. - #8 Marquette vs. #9 Beardstown
Game 2: 12 p.m. - #4 Granite City vs. #13 Lincolnwood
Game 3: 1:30 p.m. - #5 Father McGivney vs. #12 Greenfield-NW
Game 4: 3:30 p.m. - #7 Jerseyville vs. #10 Calhoun
Game 5: 5 p.m. - #3 Nokomis vs. #14 Madison
Game 6: 6:30 p.m. - #6 West Central vs. #11 Roxana
Monday, January 26 Consolation Bracket
Game 7: 6 p.m. - Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 3
Game 8: 7:30 p.m. - Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6
Tuesday, January 27 Championship Bracket
Game 9: 5 p.m. - Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6
Game 10: 6:30 p.m. - #1 Liberty vs. Winner Game 1
Game 11: 8 p.m. - #2 Carrollton vs. Winner Game 4
Wednesday, January 28 Consolation Bracket
Game 12: 5 p.m. - Loser Game 1 vs. Winner Game 7
Game 13: 6:30 p.m. - Loser Game 4 vs. Winner Game 8
Championship Bracket
Game 14: 8 p.m. - Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3
Thursday, January 29 Championship Bracket
Game 15: 6 p.m. - Winner Game 10 vs. Winner Game 14
Game 16: 7:30 p.m. - Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 11
Friday, January 30 Fifth Place Bracket
Game 17: 6 p.m. - Loser Game 9 vs. Loser Game 10
Game 20: 7:30 p.m. - Loser Game 11 vs. Loser Game 14
Saturday, January 31 Medal Round
Consolation Championship: 2 p.m. - Winner Game 12 vs. Winner Game 13
Fifth Place: 3:30 p.m. - Winner Game 17 vs. Winner Game 18
Third Place: 5 p.m. - Loser Game 15 vs. Loser Game 16
Championship: 7:30 p.m. Winner Game 15 vs. Winner Game 16
Thursday, January 22
Game 7: 6 p.m. - #8 Mattoon vs. #5 Mascoutah
Game 8: 7:30 p.m. - #6 Vandalia vs. #7 Greenville
Saturday, January 24
7th Place: 10 a.m. - Loser Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8
5th Place: 11:30 a.m. - Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8
3rd Place: 1 p.m. - #4 Hillsboro vs. #2 Wesclin
1st Place: 2:30 p.m. - #1 Effingham vs. #3 Salem

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The 12-2 third frame

Mother/Son Mini Golf To Be 'A Hole Lot Of Fun'

Imagine Hillsboro will be hosting the "A Hole Lot of Fun" mother and son mini golf event on Sunday, Jan. 25. The event will be held at The Event Center of Montgomery County, located at 11198 IL-185 in Hillsboro.

Around for those under six years of age and those who would do best with a sensory-friendly experience will be held from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Two openings are available for all ages mini golf, with one game round running from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and another from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

The cost to play is \$20 per mother and son and \$5 for every additional child. Complimentary drinks and snacks will be provided. Those looking to register may do so online at imaginehillsboro.com.

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4B - Thursday, January 22, 2026



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Fire Calls

Hillsboro Brush Fire
The Hillsboro Fire Department was dispatched to brush fire at 204 W. Kinkead at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 21. The crew of 21 responders arrived at 1:48 p.m. and returned to headquarters at 2:50 p.m.

Carlville Mutual Aid
The Raymond-Harvel Fire Department was dispatched to 21664 Cedar Rd. in Waggoner to provide mutual aid

for a shed on fire on Thursday, Jan. 15. The crew of five responders was dispatched at 6:19 a.m. and returned at 8:07 a.m. Farmersville-Waggoner Fire Department also provided mutual aid to the Carlville Fire Department, as the area is in Carlville's district.

Litchfield Ground Fire
The Raymond-Harvel Fire Department was dispatched to 18276 Painter Tr. in Litchfield for a ground fire along a

fence at 12:13 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 19. Ten firefighters responded to the scene and returned to headquarters at 1 p.m.

Raymond Grass Fire
The Raymond-Harvel Fire Department was dispatched to Goby Ave. in Raymond at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21, for a grass fire. Seven responders were dispatched and returned to headquarters at 12:21 p.m.

Title Transfers

Jan. 12
Shirley J. Helgen Tr., Herman O. Helgen Trust to Shirley J. Helgen Tr., Herman O. Helgen Trust B, Trustee's Deed, SE, Sec. 22, NW/SW, Sec. 23, Walshville Township Parcels 1-4.

Jan. 13
Dan Mehochko Exec, James E. Mehochko Estate to Brett Kalaher, Sierra Kalaher, Executor's Deed, Pt. NW, Sec. 12, Hillsboro Township.

Joseph D. Gipson, Delia Gipson to Joseph D. Gipson Tr., Delia Gipson Tr., D and JD Gipson RTA No 030943, QCD, Lots 6 and 7 and SH Lot 8, Blk. 6, Richmond's 4th Addition Fillmore, Lot 6, Blk. 2, Hammonds 1st Addition Witt.

Jan. 14
ILMAC24 1 to Shawn Stevens, Corporation Deed, Lot 35, Bourquin's Addition Nokomis.

Jan. 15
Timothy E. Reents, Cynthia A. Reents to Dale Lemen, Diane Lemen, WD, Lot 19, Dayspring Estates (F/K/A/ Lindenwood Estates).

Gary Hannig, Randy Hannig, Gregory Hannig, Louis Hannig to Leonard Massa Tr., Russell L. Massa Trust, Special Warranty Deed Pt. WH NE, Sec. 27, Zanesville Township.

Jeanette Manning to Derek Stevenson, WD, Lots 161, 150, 151, 158, 159, 160 and 162, Blk. 8, Pt. Lot 184, Lot

182, Lot 183, Lot 185 and Lot 186, Blk. 9, Panama (Original Town), Parcels 1-4

Jan. 16
Willard James Tr., Kent Wolff Tr., Barbara Anita Wolff Trust to Melvert C. Cordani, Sharon D. Cordani, Kathryn A. Poirot Tr., Meghan E. Hyam Tr., Trustee's Deed, Pt. NH NE/NW, Sec. 22, North Litchfield Township.

Glenn W. Weatherford to Glenn W. Weatherford Tr., QCD, EH SW, Sec. 31, Raymond Township.

Billy Taylor to John C. Smith Jr., Beverly L. Smith, QCD, Pt. NE, Sec. 23, Nokomis Township.

Jacob Walker to Walkers Worx, Lot 16 and Pt. Lot 17, Blk. 5, Hood and Tully's Addition Litchfield. Pt. Lots 4 and 5, Blk. 4, Tomlinson's Addition Litchfield.

Ricky Compton, Kristy Compton to Christopher Satterlee, Natasha N. Hopper, Kurt A. Zenner, WD, Lot 3, Blk. 7, Amnsden's Addition Litchfield.

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Search, View and Print Montgomery County, IL Land Records online at www.landrecords.net at \$8.95 per search.

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Police

• Gregory J. Beile, 44, was arrested on suspicion of committing or having committed an offense at 3:37 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital.

• Riley E. Dempsey, 24, of Worden, was arrested for driving under the influence, resisting a peace officer and criminal damage to government property at 1:50 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the intersection of N. State St.

and E. Kirkham St.

• Joseph A. Lane, 27, of Litchfield, was arrested for criminal damage to property at 6:32 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the 300 block of S. Brown St.

• Jeffrey E. Martin, 46, of Rolling Meadows, was arrested for driving while license suspended, driving under the influence, delivery of a controlled substance and resisting a peace officer at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Westside Cinema.

• Larry R. Spencer Jr., 32, of Shipman, was arrested for aggravated domestic battery and on suspicion of committing or having committed an

offense at 10:43 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Litchfield Police Station.

• Claire M. Wight, 27, of Glen Carbon, was arrested for switching price tags at 1:58 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, at Walmart.

• Destiny H. Poggemoeller, 26, was cited for failure to reduce speed at 4:28 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17.

• Riley E. Dempsey, 24, was cited for driving under the influence of alcohol at 2:58 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13.

• Courtney V. Catalano, 43, was cited for disregarding a stop sign at 11:44 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: 3rd Grade Teacher at Beckemeyer Elementary School.
Certificate: Illinois Professional Educator's License with Elementary Education Self Contained Endorsement.
Job Description: Instructing Elementary students.
Starting Date: Beginning 2026-2027 School Year.
Salary: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract.
Exclusive Bargaining Contracts / 2024-2028 HUEA Contract.
Submit Application/Resume/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave., Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax: 217-532-5142; E-mail to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: 217-532-6994.
Due By: February 3, 2026.
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: Special Education Support Personnel (Aide) Beckemeyer Elementary.
Qualifications: Illinois Paraprofessional License or willingness to obtain certification with district assistance.
Job Description: Support elementary students identified with physical, mental and developmental disabilities, providing academic and/or physical assistance. Assist students with self-care, hygiene and feeding as necessary.
Salary/Benefits: In accordance with Teachers Aide Contact Salary Schedule <http://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/7425>.
Submit Application/Resume/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave., Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax to (217) 532-5142 or Email to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-6994.
Applications are available at 1311 Vandavia Rd., Hillsboro, IL 62049.
Due By: January 30, 2026.
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

The City of Hillsboro Board of Police and Fire Commissioners are accepting applications to generate a two year hiring list for the City of Hillsboro Fire Department Engineer / Dispatcher. All applicants must be at least 21 years of age, successfully graduated high school or equivalent, must possess a valid driver's license. Applicants may not have any felony convictions and certain misdemeanor convictions. Entry level applicants must be able to pass a physical and written examination. Starting base salary for Fire Engineer / Dispatcher officers is \$49,108. City of Hillsboro provides Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance with some employee contributions. Single \$66.15 per pay, Employee and Spouse \$79.28 per pay, and Family \$88.96 per pay along with retirement. Applications can be picked up at Hillsboro City Hall or online at hillsboroilinois.net.
City of Hillsboro Board of Police and Fire Commissioners

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: High School Girls' Head Flag Football Coach
Qualifications: ISBE certification or IHSA approved coaching certification.
Description: Organize and manage practices and meets; establish and present schedules, rosters, and records in a timely fashion; conduct and supervise fund-raising activities and training camps; promote athletics and sportsmanship; promote and grow the program; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines.
Start Date: August 2026
Salary: In accordance with Teacher's Salary Schedule B/Labor Contract; <https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/1100>
Submit Application/Resume/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Blake Lipe, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Email: blipe@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-2841
Due Date: January 30, 2026
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Positions: Full-Time Special Education Teacher-Beckemeyer Elementary.
Duties: Responsibilities include working with student accommodations, writing IEPs, managing classroom behavior, developing differentiated instruction for diverse needs, teaching/co-teaching in instructional classes and general education classes. Effective communication and strong collaboration skills with other professionals are essential to this position.
Qualifications: Proper Illinois license and endorsements for working with students with special needs at the elementary school level.
Starting Date: School year 2026-2027.
Salary: Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract.
Exclusive Bargaining Contracts / 2024-2028 HUEA Contract.
Submit Application/Resume/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Zach Frailey, Principal; Beckemeyer Elementary School; 1035 Seymour Ave., Hillsboro, IL 62049; Fax: 217-532-5142; E-mail to: zfrailey@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-6994.
Due Date: February 3, 2026.
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

Library Director Position

Hillsboro Area Public Library District in Hillsboro, Illinois is accepting applications to hire a library Director. The Director should have experience in all aspects of library operations. A master's in library science degree is preferred but individuals with a bachelor's degree in other areas of study are welcome to apply. New graduates will be considered. Individuals with customer service, basic accounting, and computer applications are important. The applicant will interact with local organizations, school librarians, and the school district. The successful applicant can be taught State of Illinois rules and regulations for libraries, library policies and reports. This is a 40 hour per week position. Evening or weekend duties are rarely required. Salary is based on education and experience. Salary and benefits will be discussed with final candidates. A job description is available by contacting the library at hillsborocitylibrary@gmail.com. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and 3 references to the library at the email address above or mail to 420 S. Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049. You can call the library with questions at 217-532-3055. A library trustee will be notified to return your call.
EOE

The City of Hillsboro Board of Police and Fire Commissioners are accepting applications to generate a two year testing / hiring list for the City of Hillsboro Police Department. All applicants must be at least 21 years of age, successfully graduated high school or equivalent, must possess a valid driver's license and FOID Card or be able to obtain a valid FOID Card. Applicants may not have any felony convictions and certain misdemeanor convictions that would prevent them from being an Illinois Police Officer. Entry level applicants must be able to pass a physical and written examination. If selected applicants must undergo a psychological evaluation. Applicants who are hired must maintain their principle residence as follows: for purposes of a take-home squad car, the employee must be living within 10 miles of the Hillsboro City Hall, must be living within the Hillsboro School District, and must be a Montgomery County resident. If an employee lives outside of 10 miles and not more than 20 miles from Hillsboro City Hall, they shall be considered for employment purposes, but will not be entitled to a take-home squad car. Starting base salary for police officers is \$49,327.20, \$54,808.00 after one year. Applicants with prior law enforcement experience / training the City of Hillsboro offers lateral transfer incentives. Officers with a minimum of 3 years of continuous full-time experience at the same department will receive the 5-year longevity benefit time and pay to start, 3 weeks of paid vacation and base salary of \$55,536.00. Applications can be picked up at Hillsboro City Hall or online at hillsboroilinois.net.
City of Hillsboro Board of Police and Fire Commissioners



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Tell your auctioneer it needs to be advertised in call 217-532-3933
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VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3
Position: High School Girls' Head Track Coach
Qualifications: ISBE certification or IHSA approved coaching certification.
Description: Organize and manage practices and meets; establish and present schedules, rosters, and records in a timely fashion; conduct and supervise fund-raising activities and training camps; promote athletics and sportsmanship; promote and grow the program; adhere to all IHSA and District rules and guidelines.
Start Date: March 2026
Salary: In accordance with Teacher's Salary Schedule B/Labor Contract; <https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/1100>
Submit Application/Resume/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Blake Lipe, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Email: blipe@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-2841
Due Date: January 30, 2026
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

HELP WANTED

The Village of Schram City is accepting applications for Village Water Clerk position. Applications and job description may be obtained by emailing the Village at villageofschramcity@gmail.com. This is a part time position, starting pay \$16.00 hr. Applications/Resume may be emailed or left in drop box at 510 22nd St. All applications must be submitted by January 27, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Farmersville Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on February 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Farmersville Town Hall for the purpose of allowing special uses for a public safety building. The agenda is for:

A variance request from the Farmersville Waggoner Fire Protection District to allow for special uses for a public safety building on Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in Block 4 Sedentop's Sixth Addition to Farmersville. The common street address is 102 and 104 Nobbe St., Farmersville, Illinois 62533.
John L. Welsh Zoning Officer

PUBLIC AUCTION

TUES., JAN. 27 - Bidding ends at 7 p.m. for online only auction of jewelry and coins. Preview date: Jan. 26, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.; Checkout date: Jan. 30, 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Preview & Pickup: Bond County Fairgrounds, Greenville, IL. Mollet Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, molletauctions.com, FB Mollet Auction Service.
THURS., JAN. 29 - Bidding ends at 6 p.m. with a soft close for an online only coin auction. 300 lots of coins including gold, silver, foreign, paper, tokens, pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, dollars, proof & mint sets, etc. Preview date: Jan. 25, 12 p.m.-2 p.m.; pickup date: Jan. 31, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. located at 404 Jefferson Street, Coffeen, IL. Go to whiteauctionservice.hibid.com to register and bid. Eric White Auctioneer. 217-556-2135
SUN., FEB. 8 - Bidding ends for online only auction of 4 bed, small country cabin on 5+ acres. Property viewing: Jan. 18, 12-2 p.m., located at 601 Pan Estates Ave., Sorento, IL. Country water, rural electric, septic a 24x36 practically enclosed post frame building. Smaller cabin, 12x15, needs renovated. Main cabin has electric furnace upstairs and wood burning stove in main living area along with wood burning fireplace in main bedroom. Mollet Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, molletauctions.com, FB Mollet Auction Service.
THURS., MARCH 19 - Begins March 2 and ends March 19 at 6 p.m. Large-spring machinery auction. For info and to bid: <https://micenheimerandmeyer.hibid.com>. Micenheimer & Meyer Auction Services, James Micenheimer & Cory Meyer, auctioneers, 217-820-9324, 217-710-5642, Chase 217-280-2473, Curt 217-820-8691.

Clip & Save This Directory!

LLCC Representatives To Visit Nokomis Library

Representatives from Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) will be visiting Nokomis Public Library on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 9 to 11 a.m. to meet prospective students and answer questions about degrees and certificates available through LLCC.

Visitors may also make

advising or financial aid appointments with a representative for a later date, as well as complete an LLCC scholarship application and receive general scholarship advice.

The library is located at 100 N. Spruce St. in Nokomis. People of all ages are welcome to attend.

Litchfield Senior Club To Host Potluck On Sunday

The Litchfield Senior Citizens Club will be having a potluck lunch meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m. at the Litchfield Community Center, located at 1100 S. State St.

Drinks will be furnished,

but attendees are asked to bring a meat, covered dish or dessert to share. The club meeting will follow the meal. Bingo will be the activity. Anyone ages 55 and over is encouraged to attend.

Frosty 5K Rescheduled To Saturday, March 7

With frigid temperatures on the forecast for this weekend, Zion Lutheran School in Litchfield announced that their annual Frosty 5K has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 7, to better protect and serve the runners, families and event

volunteers.

Sign-ups for the event have been extended through Wednesday, Feb. 25. For more information about the event and to register, visit the Zion Frosty 5K event page on Facebook.

e-mail your ad to advertisejn@consolidated.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

To all parties of interest:

Please be advised that Keyrock Energy LLC has applied for a Vacuum Permit to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Vacuum will be applied to the mined-out Herrin Coal Seam, at approximately 331' to 356', at our Landrey #2 well, located at 1732N 0091E SWc SW, Section 07, Township 12N, Range 05W, Montgomery County, Illinois. Please be advised that the public has 15 days, from the date the application is filed with the Department, when the application is filed after notice has been published. Please make comments in writing to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Oil and Gas
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: (217) 782-7756

74-1t

CITY OF HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS

Resolution No. 2026-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED REAL ESTATE (PART OF P.I.N. 12-18-100-029)

WHEREAS, the City of Hillsboro, Illinois (the "City") an Illinois non-home rule municipal corporation pursuant to Article VII, § 7 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, organized and operating under the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/1-1-1, et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-76-4.1) provides that the corporate authorities of a municipality may, by resolution, authorize the sale of surplus public real estate; and

WHEREAS, the City is the owner of a tract of real estate situated at Lake Glenn Shoals (north of Meisenheimer Avenue) in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois, which is legally described as follows:

Part of the Fractional Northwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 9 North, Range 3 West of the Third Principal Meridian, Montgomery County, Illinois, being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the said Fractional Northwest Quarter, thence North 00°47'09" West, along the East line of said Fractional Northwest Quarter, a distance 1058.98 feet to an iron pin set, being the point of beginning.

From the said point of beginning, continue on a contour line elevation of 605 feet (based on normal pool elevation of 590.10 feet) of the Lake Glenn Shoals, chord bearing of North 48°05'29" West, a chord distance of 30.14 feet to an iron pin set; thence along said contour line of 605 feet, a chord bearing of South 84°47'22" West, a chord distance of 153.50 feet to an iron pin set; thence along said contour line of 605 feet, a chord bearing North 66°28'01" West, chord distance of 128.76 feet to an iron pin set; thence along said contour line of 605 feet, a chord bearing North 48°35'15" East, chord distance of 50.38 feet to an iron pin set; thence along said contour line of 605 feet, a chord bearing of North 00°44'52" East, a chord distance of 31.11 feet to an iron pin set; thence along said contour line of 605 feet, a chord bearing North 35°25'31" West, chord distance of 85.71 feet to an iron pin set; thence along said contour line of 605 feet, a chord bearing of North 33°39'38" East, a chord distance of 76.88 feet to an iron pin set; thence South 89°46'33" East, 287.62 feet to an iron pin found on the East line of the Fractional Northwest Quarter of said Section 18; thence South 00°47'09" East, 255.94 feet along said East line to the point of beginning, containing 1.69 acres more or less.

P.I.N.: Part of 12-18-100-029

(hereinafter, the "Real Estate"); and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that said Real Estate is no longer useful or necessary to the operation of the City and, therefore, is surplus real estate; and

WHEREAS, the City has been provided with an appraisal of said Real Estate from Donna J. Howard, MAI, of DJ Howard & Associates, Inc., which indicates the fair market value of the Real Estate is \$19,716.00 (Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen and No/100 Dollars); and

WHEREAS, a Plat of Survey of the Real Estate has been prepared by Nail Land Surveying and has been presented to the corporate authorities at the meeting at which this Resolution is being presented; and

WHEREAS, Larry D. King offered to purchase said Real Estate for the sum of \$19,716.00 (Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen and No/100 Dollars), plus payment of the costs and expenses incurred by the City associated with such sale; and

WHEREAS, Larry D. King owns an adjoining parcel of real estate, which is identified by P.I.N. 12-18-200-004; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City that the Real Estate be sold as set forth herein and subject to a covenant prohibiting disconnection of the Real Estate from the City's municipal boundaries and a right of reversion to the City upon violation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The recitals contained above in the preamble of this Resolution are hereby incorporated herein by reference, the same as if set forth in this Section of this Resolution verbatim, as findings of the City Council of the City of Hillsboro, Illinois.

SECTION 2: The value of the Real estate is hereby determined to be \$19,716.00 (Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen and No/100 Dollars).

SECTION 3: The Mayor, the City Clerk, and the City's attorneys are hereby authorized to do all things and take all actions necessary and appropriate to sell the Real Estate to Larry D. King the sum of \$19,716.00 (Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen and No/100 Dollars).

SECTION 4: The size, use, and zoning of the said Real Estate are as follows:

Size: 1.69± acres
Use: Municipal/vacant
Zoning: R-1

SECTION 5: The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Resolution at the first opportunity following its passage in *The Journal-News*.

SECTION 6: The said appraisal of the Real Estate from Donna J. Howard, MAI, shall be filed with the City Clerk and made available for public inspection at City Hall.

SECTION 7: All resolutions, motions, or parts thereof in conflict with this Resolution are hereby superseded.

SECTION 8: If any section, paragraph, or provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 9: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

Adopted this 20th day of January, 2026, by roll call votes as follows:

| | Ayes | Nays | Present | Absent | Abstain |
|-----------------------|------|------|---------|--------|---------|
| Commissioner Wright | X | | | | |
| Commissioner Butler | X | | | | |
| Commissioner Ward | X | | | | |
| Commissioner Justison | X | | | | |
| Mayor Downs | X | | | | |

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, Illinois this 20th day of January, 2026.

DON E. DOWNS
MAYOR

ATTEST:
DAVID JENKINS
CITY CLERK

74-1t

online all the time
www.thejournal-news.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

To all parties of interest:

Please be advised that Keyrock Energy LLC has applied for a Vacuum Permit to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Vacuum will be applied to the mined-out Herrin Coal Seam, at approximately 332' to 357', at our Landrey #1 well, located at 2098N 0108E SWc SW, Section 07, Township 12N, Range 05W, Montgomery County, Illinois. Please be advised that the public has 15 days, from the date the application is filed with the Department, when the application is filed after notice has been published. Please make comments in writing to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Oil and Gas
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: (217) 782-7756

74-1t

CITY OF HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS

Resolution No. 2026-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED REAL ESTATE (PART OF P.I.N. 12-30-100-018)

WHEREAS, the City of Hillsboro, Illinois (the "City") an Illinois non-home rule municipal corporation pursuant to Article VII, § 7 of the 1970 Illinois Constitution, organized and operating under the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/1-1-1, et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-76-4.1) provides that the corporate authorities of a municipality may, by resolution, authorize the sale of surplus public real estate; and

WHEREAS, the City is the owner of a tract of real estate situated at Cardinal Lane in the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois, which is legally described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin found at the northeast corner of a parcel of land as described in Trustee's Deed in Book 1746, Page 525 (Doc. #20210000801); thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds East, a distance of 187.93 feet to a point 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of Lake Glenn Shoals; thence South 22 degrees 27 minutes 01 second East and 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of said Lake Glenn Shoals, a distance of 152.58 feet; thence South 00 degrees 48 minutes 20 seconds West and 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of said Lake Glenn Shoals, a distance of 56.92 feet to the Lake Glenn Shoals water easement contour elevation of 605 (based on normal pool elevation of 590.1); thence Westerly along the meandering water easement contour elevation of 605 to a point that bears South 85 degrees 22 minutes 27 seconds West, a distance of 409.29 feet from last described course to a point 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of said Lake Glenn Shoals; thence North 86 degrees 03 minutes 04 seconds West and 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of said Lake Glenn Shoals, a distance of 109.23 feet to said water easement contour elevation of 605; thence Westerly along the meandering water easement contour elevation of 605 to a point that bears North 79 degrees 40 minutes 24 seconds West, a distance of 86.93 feet from last described course to the south line of a parcel of land as described in Warranty Deed in Book 1671, Page 696 (Doc. #201800001783); thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds West along said south line, a distance of 41.23 feet to said water easement contour elevation of 605; thence Westerly along the meandering water easement contour elevation of 605 to a point that bears South 81 degrees 37 minutes 47 seconds West, a distance of 30.45 feet from last described course to a point 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of said Lake Glenn Shoals; thence North 88 degrees 03 minutes 55 seconds West and 50 feet off the now or future shoreline of said Lake Glenn Shoals, a distance of 16.54 feet; thence North 00 degrees 15 minutes 47 seconds East, a distance of 3.21 feet to an iron pin found at the southwest corner of a parcel of land as described in Warranty Deed in Book 1671, Page 696 (Doc. #201800001783); thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds East along the south line of said parcel of land, a distance of 374.39 feet to an iron pin found at the southeast corner of said parcel of land; thence North 00 degrees 11 minutes 59 seconds West along the east line of said parcel of land, a distance of 165.00 feet to an iron pin found at the northeast corner of said parcel of land; thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 40 seconds East along the south line of a parcel of land as described in Trustee's Deed in Book 1746, Page 525 (Doc. #20210000801), a distance of 71.22 feet to an iron pin found at the southeast corner of said parcel of land; thence North 00 degrees 05 minutes 05 seconds West along the east line of said parcel of land, a distance of 35.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 65,793 square feet, more or less (1.510 acres, more or less).

P.I.N.: Part of 12-30-100-018

(hereinafter, the "Real Estate"); and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that said Real Estate is no longer useful or necessary to the operation of the City and, therefore, is surplus real estate; and

WHEREAS, the City has been provided with an appraisal of said Real Estate from Donna J. Howard, MAI, of DJ Howard & Associates, Inc., which indicates the fair market value of the Real Estate is \$20,400.00 (Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and No/100 Dollars); and

WHEREAS, a Plat of Survey of the Real Estate has been prepared by Nail Land Surveying and has been presented to the corporate authorities at the meeting at which this Resolution is being presented; and

WHEREAS, Gregory and Marissa Cowell have offered to purchase said Real Estate for the sum of \$20,400.00 (Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and No/100 Dollars), plus payment of the costs and expenses incurred by the City associated with such sale; and

WHEREAS, Gregory and Marissa Cowell own an adjoining parcel of real estate, which is identified by P.I.N. 12-30-100-014; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City that the Real Estate be sold as set forth herein and subject to a covenant prohibiting disconnection of the Real Estate from the City's municipal boundaries and a right of reversion to the City upon violation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The recitals contained above in the preamble of this Resolution are hereby incorporated herein by reference, the same as if set forth in this Section of this Resolution verbatim, as findings of the City Council of the City of Hillsboro, Illinois.

SECTION 2: The value of the Real estate is hereby determined to be \$20,400.00 (Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and No/100 Dollars).

SECTION 3: The Mayor, the City Clerk, and the City's attorneys are hereby authorized to do all things and take all actions necessary and appropriate to sell the Real Estate to Gregory and Marissa Cowell for the sum of \$20,400.00 (Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and No/100 Dollars).

SECTION 4: The size, use, and zoning of the said Real Estate are as follows:

Size: 1.510± acres
Use: Municipal/vacant
Zoning: R-1

SECTION 5: The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Resolution at the first opportunity following its passage in *The Journal-News*.

SECTION 6: The said appraisal of the Real Estate from Donna J. Howard, MAI, shall be filed with the City Clerk and made available for public inspection at City Hall.

SECTION 7: All resolutions, motions, or parts thereof in conflict with this Resolution are hereby superseded.

SECTION 8: If any section, paragraph, or provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 9: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

Adopted this 20th day of January, 2026, by roll call votes as follows:

| | Ayes | Nays | Present | Absent | Abstain |
|-----------------------|------|------|---------|--------|---------|
| Commissioner Wright | X | | | | |
| Commissioner Butler | X | | | | |
| Commissioner Ward | X | | | | |
| Commissioner Justison | X | | | | |
| Mayor Downs | X | | | | |

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Hillsboro, Illinois this 20th day of January, 2026.

DON E. DOWNS
MAYOR

ATTEST:
DAVID JENKINS
CITY CLERK

74-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2026, 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: LIVEWIRE GARAGE located at 803 BIG 4 AVE. in the city of HILLSBORO and state of IL.

Dated JANUARY 14, 2026
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
72-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on January 14, 2026, 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: SEW WHAT located at 29004 N. 17TH AVE. in the city of OCONEE and state of IL.

Dated JANUARY 14, 2026
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
72-3T

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 17-20 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/17-20), notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at 01:30 PM, 10-Feb-2026, in the Offices of the Illinois Department of Revenue, 101 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, Illinois, for the purpose of taking evidence which may be pertinent to the Department's estimate of the percent to be applied to the aggregate assessment of locally assessed property in Montgomery County for the assessment year 2025. This hearing is required by the Property Tax Code.

Based on the comparison of assessed valuations, the analysis of property transfers, and other available information, the estimated percentage to be applied to the aggregate assessment of locally assessed property other than property assessed under Sections

10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/10-110 through 10-140 and 10-170 through 10-200) is 0.00%. Accordingly, the tentative equalization factor is 1.0000.

This meeting will be accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with Executive Order #5 and pertinent state and federal laws upon notification of anticipated attendance. Persons with disabilities planning to attend and needing special accommodations should contact the Property Tax Division, by telephone at 217 785-6619, email Rev. SR-EQUAL@illinois.gov or letter at Illinois Department of Revenue, Property Tax Division MC- 3-450, P.O. Box 19033, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9033, by 03-Feb-2026, to inform of their anticipated attendance.

David Harris
Director of Revenue
74-1t

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO HEIRS

NOTICE is given to RONNIE CRAIG, GREG OSTROW, STEVEN HUNT, GORDON HUNT, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DESCENDANTS OF PATRICIA R. HUNT, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DESCENDANTS OF NORMA JEAN OSTROW, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DESCENDANTS OF GARY OSTROW, DECEASED, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DESCENDANTS OF MARY LOU LIPE, DECEASED, AND UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DESCENDANTS OF ALVIN LIPE, DECEASED, of the Administration proceedings of PATRICIA R. HUNT, deceased, and whose names or addresses are not stated in the Petition for Letters of Administration, that an Order was entered by the Court on January 5, 2026, appointing Wayne Hunt, as Independent Administrator.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given of the death of PATRICIA R. HUNT, formerly a resident of Nokomis, Montgomery County, Illinois, on November 21, 2025. Letters of Office were issued out of the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Mont-

gomery County, Illinois, on the 5th day of January 2026 under Case No. 2026-PR-1 unto Wayne Hunt, as Independent Administrator and whose address is: 2804 S. 11th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703, and whose attorney of record is Stephen R. Cullison of 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 and any claim not filed within that period is barred.

For further information regarding electronic filing of claims contact the Montgomery County Circuit Clerk at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois.

Wayne Hunt,
Personal Representative of
the Decedent's Estate
By: Stephen R. Cullison
Cullison & Vandever
Law Office
220 S. Main St.
P. O. Box 188
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049
Telephone: (217) 532-5432
Registration No. 00555592
Email:
cullisonlaw@consolidated.net
70-3T

COLD WEATHER, HOT SAVINGS

Take Advantage of the **HUGE DISCOUNTS on these 2025 VEHICLES**

MSRP \$76,035
 Steve Schmitt Discount..... - 6,135
STEVE SCHMITT PRICE.....\$69,900
 ***Customer Cash..... - 4,000
FINAL PRICE.....\$65,900
 *Purchase Allowance..... - 250
 **GM First Responder Offer..... - 500



2025 Chevrolet Silverado EV LT Extended Range
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2025 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT
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2025 GMC Acadia Elevation
 #B11111

MSRP \$70,270
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STEVE SCHMITT PRICE.....\$61,924
 Bonus Cash..... - 500
 *Purchase Allowance..... - 2,750
FINAL PRICE.....\$58,674
 Trade Assistance..... - 3,500
 **GM First Responder Offer..... - 500

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Wild Night Closes Out Pool Play

It was a wild one on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational, with three of the four games decided by five points or less.

Seventh-seeded Litchfield pulled the biggest upset of the tournament thus far, knocking off second-seeded Roxana 59-54. That gave all three teams in Pool B a 1-1 record and forced a free throw percentage tiebreaker. The Shells won the tiebreaker, going 16-for-24 for a 66.67%, followed by Litchfield at 21-for-33 (63.63%) and Pana 19-for-30 (63.33%).

Both late games went down to the wire as Marquette beat Civic Memorial 49-44 and Taylorville beat Glenwood 42-39. Marquette will play Roxana and Taylorville will play Triad in the first place bracket, while Civic Memorial plays Litchfield and Glenwood plays Father McGivney in the fifth place bracket

In the other early game, Triad defeated Nokomis 48-26, setting up an all-county showdown between the Redskins and Hillsboro in the ninth place bracket semifinal. Pana and Greenville play in the other ninth place semi.

2026 Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational
 at Litchfield High School

Pool A: 1. Triad Knights (2-0); 9. Father McGivney Griffins (1-1); 8. Nokomis Redskins (0-2)

Pool B: 2. Roxana Shells (1-1); 7. Litchfield Purple Panthers (1-1); 10. Pana Panthers (1-1)

Pool C: 3. Marquette Explorers (2-0); 6. Civic Memorial Eagles (1-1); 11. Greenville Comets (0-2)

Pool D: 5. Taylorville Tornados (2-0); 4. Glenwood Titans (1-1); 12. Hillsboro Hiltoppers (0-2)

Monday, January 19
 • Triad 56, McGivney 36
 • Roxana 63, Pana 59
 • Marquette 63, Greenville 35
 • Glenwood 64, Hillsboro 47

Tuesday, January 20
 • Pana 60, Litchfield 59
 • Civic Memorial 61, Greenville 47
 • Taylorville 79, Hillsboro 45
 • McGivney 57, Nokomis 48

Wednesday, January 21

- Litchfield 59, Roxana 54
- Triad 48, Nokomis 26
- Marquette 49, Civic Memorial 44
- Taylorville 42, Glenwood 39

Ninth Place Bracket

Thursday, January 22
 at Panther Gym

6 p.m. - 8. Nokomis vs. 12. Hillsboro
 7:30 p.m. - 10. Pana vs. 11. Greenville

Saturday, January 24
 at Simmons Gym

11 a.m. - 11th Place Game
 12:30 p.m. - 9th Place Game

Fifth Place Bracket

Thursday, January 22
 at Simmons Gym

6 p.m. - 9. Father McGivney vs. 4. Glenwood

7:30 p.m. - 7. Litchfield vs. 6. Civic Memorial

Saturday, January 24
 at Simmons Gym

2:30 p.m. - 7th Place Game
 4 p.m. - 5th Place Game

First Place Bracket

Friday, January 23
 at Simmons Gym

6 p.m. - 1. Triad vs. 5. Taylorville
 7:30 p.m. - 2. Roxana vs. 3. Marquette

Saturday, January 24
 at Simmons Gym

5:30 p.m. - 3rd Place Game
 7 p.m. - 1st Place Game

Nokomis Boys Basketball

Continued from 1B

The threes kept falling for McGivney, though, as Willenborg and Chase Jansen dropped in three more in the first 4:05 of the quarter, with the last two giving McGivney a 27-23 lead.

Nokomis got its first three seconds later from senior Blain Goodwin, but McGivney scored the final seven points of the quarter on a free throw by Jansen and threes by Shane Riegert and Brendan Kayser.

Seven different players hit threes for McGivney in the first half, with no one making more than three as the Griffins led by eight, 34-26, at halftime.

Nokomis gave McGivney a taste of their own medicine to start the third quarter, with Kannon Jonas hitting a three in the first 30 seconds. The Griffins didn't hit a three in the quarter, but did get their first two, with Chase Jansen swooping in for the bucket at the 7:06 mark of the third.

McGivney led by as many as ten with 4:58 to play, but Nokomis closed out the quarter on an 8-2 run, getting baskets from Carter Weststen, Luke Eisenbarth and Konnor Reynolds to make it 41-37 going into the fourth.

The Griffins' three-less streak ended early in the fourth, with three by Henry Willenborg, his third of the game. A basket by Eisenbarth and Jonas' second three brought Nokomis within two, but Jansen hit his fourth three for McGivney to get the lead back to five.

That seemed to be the trend as Nokomis got the next four points on free throws by Reynolds and Eisenbarth, only to have Willenborg knock down another triple to make it 50-46.

Carter Weststen answered with a two, but the



Konnor Reynolds (#23) had 14 points and ten rebounds for Nokomis in their opening game of the Rick McGraw Memorial Invitational in Litchfield on Tuesday, Jan. 20, but Father McGivney countered the Redskins' inside presence with 14 threes to take a 57-48 victory. *Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann*

lid shut on the Nokomis side after that.

After all the damage done from behind the three-point line, McGivney set up a little closer to finish out the win. They'd make seven of their ten free throw attempts in the final two and a half minutes, securing the eight-point victory and putting Nokomis behind the eight ball in the tournament, with Triad looming in Wednesday's pool play finale.

Henry Willenborg and Chase Jansen had four threes each and led McGivney with 16 and 15.

Nokomis was led by Luke Eisenbarth and Konnor

Reynolds with 14 apiece, with Reynolds also grabbing ten rebounds.

Jan. 20 at Litchfield

McGraw Memorial Invite

Father McGivney 18 16 7 16---57

Nokomis 17 9 11 11---48

Father McGivney (57) - Henry Willenborg 16, Chase Jansen 15, Carson Barone 10, Landon Hall 4, Shane Riegert 3, Brendan Kayser 3, Will Rakars 3, Hayden Apotheker 3. **Totals:** 17 9-15 57.

Nokomis (48) - Luke Eisenbarth 14, Konnor Reynolds 14, Kannon Jonas 10, Carter Weststen 4, Blain Goodwin 3, Colby Wilson 2, Daryl Evans 1. **Totals:** 18 9-12 48.

Three-point field goals: Father McGivney 14 (Willenborg 4, Jansen 4, Barone 2, Hall 1, Riegert 1, Rakars 1, Apotheker 1); Nokomis 3 (Jonas 2, Goodwin 1).

Records: Father McGivney (13-9); Nokomis (13-7).

Nokomis Girls Basketball

Continued from 1B

Camryn Engelman finished with nine points, four rebounds and four assists, while Carsyn Bertolino added four points and five rebounds. Brooklyn Marley added two points and three assists, with Kalasandra Cook and Cloey Dirks contributing three and two assists, respectively.

Pana
 Nokomis held on to the momentum from Monday and put it to good use in Pana on Tuesday, Jan. 20. After trailing 11-9 at the end of the first quarter, Nokomis outscored the Panthers in each of the next three frames to come away with a 54-40 victory over their neighbors to the northeast.

While they found themselves two points behind Pana after the initial eight minutes, there were signs of things to come for the Redskins in the first quarter. Hannah Tarter hit a pair of threes for six of Nokomis' nine points, giving the sophomore guard a little more confidence in her shot.

She'd put that reassurance to good use in the second quarter, scoring nine points with another three, with Brooklyn Marley (5) and Camryn Engelman (3)

complimenting Tarter as Nokomis took a 26-20 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Nokomis guards were nearly able to replicate that production in the third quarter, adding four points to their lead with a 15-11 advantage. Camryn Engelman hit her second three and finished the quarter with seven points, with Tarter hitting her third three and Kinley Stolte adding three points.

Up double digits going into the fourth, 41-31, Nokomis continued to add to their lead, getting seven points from Alivia Sabol and Tarter's fourth three of the game.

The sophomore guard finished the game with 22 points, going 5-for-11 from three-point land in the 14-point win.

Camryn Engelman also reached double figures with ten points, but contributed all over the court with seven rebounds, four assists and five steals. Alivia Sabol led Nokomis in rebounding with 12 boards, while also adding eight points, two assists and three blocks. Brooklyn Marley added in seven points, followed by Carsyn Bertolino with four and Kinley Stolte with three. Stolte also had five rebounds in the win.

Nokomis will have another

neighbor to contend with on Thursday, Jan. 22, when they host Lincolnwood-Morrisonville in an MSM Conference match-up. After that, the Lady Redskins head to Carrollton, where they will play Madison in the first round of the Lady Hawk Invitational at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24.

Jan. 19 at Nokomis

Auburn 14 11 7 11--- 43

Nokomis 11 17 8 14--- 50

Auburn (43) - Emme Divjak 19, Emily Wisniewski 8, Reese Megginson 7, Addi Jones 5, Ellie Harvey 2, Payton Danner 2. **Totals:** 18 4-11 43.

Nokomis (50) - Kinley Stolte 15, Alivia Sabol 10, Hannah Tarter 10, Camryn Engelman 9, Carsyn Bertolino 4, Brooklyn Marley 2. **Totals:** 19 10-17 50.

Three-point field goals: Auburn 3 (Divjak 3), Nokomis 2 (Engelman 1, Tarter 1).

Records: Nokomis (15-5); Auburn (12-10).

Jan. 20 at Pana

Nokomis 9 17 15 13--- 54

Pana 11 9 11 9--- 40

Nokomis (54) - Hannah Tarter 22, Camryn Engelman 10, Alivia Sabol 8, Brooklyn Marley 7, Carsyn Bertolino 4, Kinley Stolte 3, Addysyn Casner 1. **Totals:** 18 11-20 54.

Pana (40) - Brooke Cox 12, Joey Laker 9, Delaney Hackler 6, Brenna Blackwell 5, Ryleigh Casner 3, Adi Blodgett 2, Avery Florey 2. **Totals:** 13 10-12 40.

Three-point field goals: Nokomis 7 (Tarter 5, Engelman 2); Pana 4 (Laker 2, Casner 1, Cox 1).

Records: Nokomis (16-5); Pana (9-10).