# The Journal-News

$1.50

*The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County*

22 Pages

Hillsboro, IL 62049 | Volume 173, No. 92 | Thursday, March 26, 2026


# Hillsboro City Council Approves Several Upcoming Events

**by Ron Deabenderfer**

Three members of the Hillsboro City Council convened at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, to meet with a standing room crowd present; representing Hillsboro were Mayor Don Downs, Utilities Commissioner Kendra Wright and Public Safety Commissioner Tommy Justison. Absent were Finance Commissioner Patrick Ward and Parks and Public Properties Commissioner Fred Butler. The three present met requirements for a quorum.

The majority of the public attendees were firefighters, and two of them were the only presenters during the Public Comment section. Both were concerned about perceived attacks on their department's structure. Rusty Kirby, secretary of the Hillsboro Volunteers, read a letter (he had written) into the record about events at the monthly meeting of the volunteers held on Thursday, March 12. The first paragraph voiced the volunteers' 30-0 vote of confidence in Fire Chief Joe Lyerla — "...we are happy with Chief Lyerla's leadership, organizational skills, and supervisory abilities."

Also unanimous was the department's support of the Dispatcher/Engineers' positions as they have been established. "We DO NOT want any changes..." was the most relevant sentence of the second paragraph, The second speaker, Geoff Trost, was a former council member who served as Finance Commissioner for 12 years. He's also been a volunteer firefighter for 31 years. He said, "I am proud to be a member of the finest fire department in Montgomery County and beyond." He concluded, "If we don't have city workers, we don't have a city."

Three other citizen-included items were on the agenda. Julie and Bob Pachesa asked the city to sign a variance for a fence to be constructed between their back yard (at 109 Lakeside Drive) and city-owned property west of the South Marina. They pointed out it was a small variance (20 inches rather than 24) and only at one point along the fence line.

Mayor Downs said he was afraid the variance would set a precedent; he suggested alternatives might be available, and Commissioner Wright said in such cases the city might sell the necessary land to the fence owners. Downs wants to visit the site to see if other options are possible, so no action was taken.

The second request was made by Jeremiah Goltz of Bunker Hill as he represented United to Revive, a not-for-profit, who wants to organize a "Christian-learning Event" on the Lincoln Plaza stage for Saturday, June 13.

*Continued on page 6A*

# Panhandle Approves Changes To Handbook

**by Kyle Herschelman**

The Panhandle School Board approved the 2026-27 district handbook during their meeting on Monday, March 23, clarifying some of the expectations for its students in the process.

Raymond Grade School Principal Joe Webb said the handbook committee, which consists of teachers, administrators, students and parents, thought that clarity was needed in some areas and changes to make things easier on students, parents and school staff.

Some of that clarity was in regard to the five mental health days that each student can use as an excused absence and whether those days count toward the ten excused absences (with parent call-in) already allowed in the handbook.

Webb said the five days would be included in those ten and that many schools do the same. Part of the reasoning is that 15 days absent closes in on the chronic truancy threshold.

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Dan Mulch listens to discussion from the Stop The Shoals meeting in Witt in February. Mulch and others formed the group to oppose the Shoals Renewables project proposed by Pattern Energy, which consists of a 500 MW wind energy facility and a 500 MW solar energy facility.

# Stop The Shoals Wants To Save County Skyline

**by Kyle Herschelman**

Imagine buying five acres of land out in the country and building your dream house, some place to get away from it all. Now imagine that one of your neighbors wants to put up a wind turbine, a 500-foot tower with three 200-foot blades rotating, plus blinking red lights warning on-coming aircraft. And then, instead of one turbine, there's 100, or 200, or maybe even more. How would you feel?

Those are the questions Dan Mulch wants land owners in Montgomery County to ask themselves as he tries to fight off The Shoals Renewables, a wind and solar farm project proposed by Pattern Energy.

The project is intended to be a 500 MW wind energy facility and a 500 MW solar energy facility. According to Pattern, the project represents a private investment of almost $1 billion and will provide enough electricity to power the needs of more than 700,000 Americans yearly.

Pattern's website regarding The Shoals also says it would create 500 to 700 construction jobs during the construction of the project (which would span about two years) and would create "millions of dollars of opportunity for local businesses to provide materials and services."

*Continued on page 6A*



Robert Carpenter was sworn in as the next chief of police for the City of Litchfield during the city council meeting on Thursday, March 19. City Clerk Vickie Throne swore in Chief Carpenter, with the assistance of his wife Connie.

*Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman*

# Carpenter Sworn In As Litchfield Chief

**by Kyle Herschelman**

Surrounded by the officers he works with, past and present, Robert Carpenter was sworn in as chief of police for the City of Litchfield on Thursday, March 19, during the Litchfield City Council meeting.

"I will serve the citizens to the best of my capability. I will serve the mayor to the best of my capability. And I will serve these officers as a chief," Carpenter said. "I believe in teamwork, we're all one team. When things go right, we all get credit. When they go wrong, we all get credit."

Previously the police chief of Maryville, several of Carpenter's former officers joined those from the Litchfield Police Department for the ceremony, with Carpenter saying that it made him a little emotional hearing the two groups talk in the hallway before the meeting.

*Continued on page 6A*



Tom Burenga, above on the left, was honored for his commitment to serving the agricultural industry with the 2026 St. Isidore's Friend of Agriculture Award. Pictured above, Kevin Niemann, right presents the award to Burenga.

*Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins*



Gene and Stephanie Hebenstreit were honored at the recent Farm Family event at HSHS St. Francis Hospital for their years of service to their community. They are pictured above with award presenter Eric Helgen.

*Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins*

# St. Francis Recognizes Farming Community

**by Isaiah Atkins**

On Monday morning, March 23, farmers from across Montgomery and Macoupin Counties enjoyed a Farm Family event at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.

The event was held by St. Francis Foundation's Agricultural Committee, and consisted of free health screenings, a hearty breakfast, a pair of guest speakers and the presentation of both the annual St. Isidore Award and the foundation's Special Recognition Award.

Guest speakers included local farmer Jonathan Griffel, who shared some insight on what the future of farming might look like in Illinois, and local writer and author Tom Emery, who presented on the history of farming in Illinois, beginning in the 19th century.

*Continued on page 7A*

**Weather Forecast**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thu 26 | 89° / 38° | Partly Cloudy | 15% |
| Fri 27 | 51° / 27° | AM Clouds/PM Sun | 19% |
| Sat 28 | 53° / 40° | Mostly Sunny | 3% |
| Sun 29 | 67° / 55° | Mostly Cloudy | 1% |

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Pictured above, in front, from the left are Montgomery County Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Cody Gudgel (candidate for Montgomery County Board), Shawn Bazillion (precinct committeman), Montgomery County Board member Russ Beason, Kendra Wright of the Hillsboro City Council, Roberta Meyer (precinct committeeman and secretary of Montgomery County Republican Central Committee), Retha Corso (precinct committeeman), Leo Hernandez (precinct committeman) Roy Schieferdecker (precinct committeman) and Montgomery County Board member Jeremy Jones (chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee).

In the second row are Montgomery County Board member Chris Daniels (treasurer of the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee), Tim Hopper (candidate for Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder), Litchfield Mayor Jake Fleming, David Vollmer (precinct committeeman), Hillsboro City Council member Tommy Justison (precinct committeeman), Jim Jones (precinct committeeman), Litchfield City Council alderman Bert Holloway, Montgomery County Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Billy Beckham (incoming precinct committeeman), Montgomery County Board member Ethan Murzynski and Montgomery County Board member Rob Corso (vice chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee).

In back are Brian Patton (precinct committeeman), John Wright (precinct committeeman), Montgomery County State's Attorney Brian Shaw, Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser, Ed Boyd (candidate for Montgomery County Board) and Illinois State Senator Jason Plummer.

***Photo courtesy of Amanda Daniels***

# Republicans Host Annual Lincoln Day Dinner

Montgomery County Republicans rallied at the 54th annual Lincoln Day Dinner, held Saturday, March 21, at the Litchfield Community Center.

Hosted by the Montgomery County Central Republican Committee, the crowd enjoyed a dinner catered by Tosi's Diner of Raymond.

Montgomery County Sheriff Tyson Holshouser served as master of ceremonies for this year's event. He welcomed everyone and introduced Michelle Amyx, who provided patriotic music and sang the National Anthem.

Montgomery County Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance and Precinct Committee Chairman Brian Patton of Hillsboro gave the invocation before the meal.

Following dinner, Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser introduced members of the Montgomery County Board and other dignitaries.

Special guest speakers for this year's event included US Congresswoman Mary Miller, State Representative Hal Holbrook, State Representative Wayne Rosenthal, State Senator Steve McClure, State Senator Jason Plummer, Tom DeVore and Zachary Emberton.

At the end of the evening, Sheriff Holshouser thanked everyone for coming and Patton led the benediction.

## Obituary

### Ronnie L. Boyd, 81

***World-Class Benchrest Shooter***



Ronald 'Ronnie' Lee Boyd, 81, of Hillsboro, died at 8:36 a.m., on Monday, March 23, 2026.

Funeral services will be on Friday, March 27, at 11 a.m. at Hough-Dean Funeral Home in Hillsboro. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Interment will take place at Oak Grove Cemetery in Hillsboro, at a later date.

Mr. Boyd was born on June 13, 1944, in Hillsboro; he was raised by his grandparents, Paul and Bessie Boyd, who both preceded him in death. He was known to those that knew him best as Ronnie Boyd. He graduated from Hillsboro High School, a proud member of the undefeated 9-0 Hillsboro Football Team of 1961, which was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2021.

Mr. Boyd married the former Norma Laurent on Nov. 21, 1964, though the marriage ended they maintained a close friendship that lasted throughout his life.

A lineman for Illinois Power and Ameren for 38 years, Mr. Boyd was a member of IBEW Union Local #309 in Collinsville. Most of his life, he enjoyed drag racing and was a member of the National Hot Rod Association. At his home track, Motion Raceway in Assumption, he raced his Boss 302 Mustang "Good Vibrations." Mr. Boyd then raced a front engine dragster, eventually moving into rear engine dragsters competing in both Super Comp and Comp Classes.

Mr. Boyd stopped driving and spent 15 years as the clutch specialist on Tim Wilkerson's Alcohol and Nitro Funny Cars until he retired from racing and started shooting. Mr. Boyd enjoyed 600 and 1,000 yard competitive shooting and was ranked second in the world at one time by the International Benchrest Shooters, and he was a proud member of the Litchfield Sportsman's Club.

Mr. Boyd is survived by his daughter, Dionne (Kenneth) Manzer of Raymond; sister, Joan Compton of Springfield; two grandchildren, Gabe (Tracie) Murphy, and Nicole (Paul Avila) Murphy Avila; and great-grandson, Paul Avila II.

Memorials honoring Mr. Boyd may be made to the Litchfield Sportsman's Club, 4047 Old Litchfield Trail, Litchfield, IL, 62056. Hough-Dean Funeral Home is assisting the family. To express condolences to the family online, place an order for flowers, or for directions, please visit *www.houghdeanfh.com.*

## Journalisms

News About People and Events of Interest Throughout The County

Hop on down the Bunny Trail this weekend with a wide variety of community egg hunts. Check out the list in today's edition. Many local businesses are also hosting hunts over the next two weekends.

~ ~ ~

Still looking to fill those Easter baskets? Stop by the Bloom and Buy Market this Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Annex at Lincoln Plaza. They will have spring shopping with local makers, raffle to support a local cause, photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting and crafts with the Topper Art Club.

~ ~ ~

The Montgomery County Retired and Senior Volunteers will be hosting a spring bake sale this Friday, March 27, in the basement of the Hillsboro Area Public Library. Proceeds will benefit local senior programs. For more information, contact Carol Herrin at 217-994-0114.

~ ~ ~

And don't forget as this weekend marks Palm Sunday, it's the last day for local fish fries in Hillsboro, Raymond, Nokomis and Litchfield. Make sure and see their ads in today's paper for more information.

~ ~ ~

Speaking of Easter, stop by the Litchfield Public Library for their Bunny Hunt. You'll have a chance to find their giant stuffed Peep and win a prize!

And don't miss their next $9 Night Out on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. to make spring lemon-themed decor. Space is limited so make sure and call the library to reserve your space.

~ ~ ~

Even though it's only spring break, it's never too early to start thinking about those summer celebrations! Conner Family Amusements is gearing up for this year's Irish Days celebration in Farmersville May 28-30. They are currently selling VIP armbands good for all three days of the celebration for $75. It's a perfect Easter basket stuffer. Check out the link on the Farmersville Irish Days Facebook page.

~ ~ ~

It's time to start gearing up for Old Settlers too! Volunteers with the Old Settlers Association are looking for participants in this year's Old Settlers Queen contest. It's a chance for high school girls in the Hillsboro School District to meet new people, earn some extra spending money and represent their hometown. For more information or to sign up, contact Shawnna Rovey at 217-556-6177 or sign up in the school office.

~ ~ ~

No fooling with a couple of April 1 notices. The city of Hillsboro reminds residents that the Glenn Shoals Lake Marina slips are due at City Hall by Wednesday, April 1.

Another April 1 deadline; Edgewood Cemetery lot owners are reminded to remove all seasonal decorations by that date for mowing to begin.

~ ~ ~

Montgomery County Indivisible is joining hundreds of No Kings protests around the country this weekend. Join them in front of Hillsboro City Hall on Saturday, March 28, from noon to 1 p.m. Other local protests will be held at the Route 66 Park in Staunton from 10 to 11 a.m. and the Bond County Courthouse from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

~ ~ ~

Think you're smarter than a fifth grader? Test those skills at two local trivia nights this weekend. The Friends of Hillsboro Library will host their rescheduled trivia night this Saturday, March 28, at the Hillsboro Lions Club. Trivia begins at 6 p.m. Registration is $100 per teams of eight. Call or text 314-669-4589 for more information.

Crazy Eights meets March Madness at the annual Panhandle Educational Foundation trivia night on Saturday, March 28, at the Waggoner Centennial Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins at 7 p.m. Up to ten-person teams are $88. Proceeds provide grants for Panhandle teachers and student scholarships.

~ ~ ~

Don't miss the Hillsboro Country Club's first quarter membership special! Join anytime through the end of March and pay only the remainder of 2026 and receive the first quarter of 2027 free. Offer applies to regular and young adult 2 memberships. For more information, call or text 217-556-6190.

~ ~ ~

And in sad news, the corporate office of Ruby Tuesday's has announced the closure of the Litchfield location. Employees thank the loyal customers for their support and wish everyone well.

~ ~ ~


Introducing...

AFSHAN IQBAL, MD

Infectious Disease

HILLSBORO health SPECIALTY CLINICS



ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

The Hillsboro Health Specialty Clinics now offer infectious disease care for patients who do not want to travel far for appointments.

Dr. Iqbal's scope of practice expands across the entire spectrum of infectious disease, and she is committed to addressing the concerns patients have. "I am on my patients' team and want what is best for them," says Dr. Iqbal.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Care for the immunocompromised
- HIV/AIDS medicine
- Infectious disease (ID) in the ICU
- Prosthetic device infections
- Multi-drug resistant infections

**Provider referrals are required.**

Request to be seen at Hillsboro Health Specialty Clinics.
1200 E. Tremont St., Hillsboro, Illinois

Call **217-532-6266** to schedule an appointment.

HILLSBORO health

www.hillsborohealth.org




## Charles H. Williams, 90

### *Born In Hillsboro*



Charles 'Chuck' Henry Williams, 90, of Divernon, died Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Concordia Village Skilled Nursing Care.

Visitation will be from 1 p.m. till time of services at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at Bramley Funeral Home, located at 11 N. 1st St., in Divernon, with the Rev. Randy Sharp officiating. Burial will be in Brush Creek Cemetery in Divernon.

Mr. Williams was the oldest son of the late Ira Henry William Williams (Farina, 1905-1982) and Dorothy Eliza Dalton-Klanke Williams (Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada, 1914-1995) of Hillsboro.

He married Lucille Nichols on Aug. 27, 1960 and she preceded him in death on Aug. 17, 2022. In addition to his wife and parents, Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his siblings, Alta Margaret Murdock, Iva Emoline Rogers and Idamae Maxine McBride.

Mr. Williams served in the Air Force from 1955 to 1959 as a teletype and cryptographic operator and spent six months in Taiwan (formerly Formosa) in a combat zone during the Quemoy Crisis. He worked from 1959 to 1960 at Western/Olin Mathieson in quality control, from 1960 to 1961 as a Shell Refinery lab sampler and from 1961 to 1991 as an artist/technical illustrator in the Publications Dept. at Fiat-Allis Construction Machinery. When Fiat closed, he worked at the State of Illinois Drivers Services and as a security guard at the Capitol Complex in Springfield for 22 years.

Mr. Williams sang in the Methodist Church Choir, volunteered as a Little League baseball coach and was a golf chaperone for local children in Divernon and a precinct committeeman, Lions Club member and American Legion member.

Mr. Williams is survived by her two children, Kevin (Jean) Williams and Sherri Williams; three dearly loved grandchildren, Jared Williams, Kara (Matthew) Strubinger and Kurtis Williams; one great-grandchild, Myles Williams; and two sisters, Edith Elaine (Bill) Milkes and Dorothy "Dottie" Henrietta Pearl (Phil) Lindholm.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Bramley Funeral Home, Divernon, is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be left online at *www.bramleyfh.com.*

## JoAnn Azdell, 92

### *Ties To Local Area*



Jo Ann (Northcutt) Azdell, 92, of Mexico, MO, died on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, at her home surrounded by her family.

A private graveside service was held Thursday, Feb. 26 at East Lawn Memorial Park. Friends and relatives were invited to attend a Celebration of Life on Saturday, February 28, at 9 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Mexico, MO.

Mrs. Azdell was born on Dec. 3, 1933, in Mexico, MO. She was the beloved daughter of Harold E. Northcutt and Virginia (Atkinson) Northcutt. She learned the values of hard work and community growing up on a farm northeast of Mexico, MO. She attended Beagles Rural School and Mexico High School, graduating in 1951. Mrs. Azdell went on to attend Culver Stockton College and Missouri University, reflecting her lifelong commitment to education and personal growth.

Mrs. Azdell shared this passion with students as a teacher. She taught at Hedgedale rural school for two years and Van-Far for five years, where she taught fifth and sixth grade students.

On June 2, 1957, she married Berry J. Azdell. Together, they established their home on what is now recognized as a family Century Farm, located near Mexico, MO, on Route J. The couple cherished their 68 years on this farm, nurturing their family and creating lasting memories.

Mrs. Azdell dedicated much of her time to volunteer service. At McMillian School, she served as a volunteer, a Girl Scout leader and a member of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). Mrs. Azdell also took on the role of church youth leader, providing support and encouragement to the next generation.

Mrs. Azdell's foremost passion was her family. In her later years, she developed a keen interest in genealogy, dedicating herself to researching and preserving her family's history. She compiled genealogical records and created comprehensive family histories for her daughters, ensuring their family heritage would be remembered for generations to come. She also contributed her research skills and enthusiasm for local history to the published Audrain County Missouri History Book, taking pride in her community's legacy.

Mrs. Azdell was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Mexico. She was also a member of the Audrain County Area Genealogy Society, Missouri State Genealogy, Audrain Historical Society and Presser Hall.

Mrs. Azdell is survived by her husband, Berry Azdell; daughters, Sheila (Mark) Thomas of Lady Lake, FL, formerly of Litchfield, and Janet (Jack) McBride of Mexico, MO; her four grandsons whom she was very proud of, Josiah (Taylor) McBride, Jonas (Natalie) McBride, Andrew (Dominique) Dizon-Thomas and Colin Thomas; and her six great-grandchildren, Naya, Micaiah, Esther, Asa, Africa and Sanyu McBride.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Virginia Northcutt; and her brother, Randall Northcutt.

Memorials may be given to the First Presbyterian Church in Mexico, MO or the Audrain County Area Genealogy Society. Condolences may be left online at *www.arnoldfh.com.*

*Call us for your pre-planning needs. The best time is now.*




**708 S. State Street • Litchfield, IL 62056**
**217-324-3322 • www.litchfieldffs.com**

## Gary K. Nelson, 94

### *Served His Country*



Gary "Rocky" K. Nelson, 94, of Chatham, formerly of Lake Ka-Ho, Springfield and Litchfield, died on Monday evening, March 23, 2026, at Springfield Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service, located at 700 S. State St. Litchfield. Funeral Services will be conducted at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at Litchfield Family Funeral Service. In accordance with his wishes, Mr. Nelson's body was donated to science to further medical research and education.

Mr. Nelson was born on Dec. 16, 1931, in Litchfield, a son of Kenneth Nelson and Melvina (Hensley) Nelson. He graduated from Litchfield High School with the class of 1949 and after high school, enrolled in Blackburn College, before enlisting in the United States Navy to serve in the Korean War.

After his service to our country, Mr. Nelson furthered his education and earned a bachelor's degree at Indiana Tech. He married Phyllis Boyd on April 26, 1953 in Litchfield.

Mr. Nelson spent his career as a civil engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation, until his retirement in 1991. His most notable project was helping plan and design Interstate 55. Mr. Nelson was a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Litchfield VFW, Engineering Society of Illinois, and served on the Lake KaHo Village Board. He was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan, enjoyed traveling with his family, bowling, hunting, golfing and working on cars in his garage.

Mr. Nelson also attended many Navy ship reunions, as well as, took two Honor Flights, one as a guardian and one as a veteran. He enjoyed staying active, he enjoyed roller coasters, went zip-lining in his 80s and played bocce just last summer. His greatest joy was helping others and volunteering; he helped with Meals on Wheels and Mt. Olive Care Center Food Pantry for 30 years after he retired.

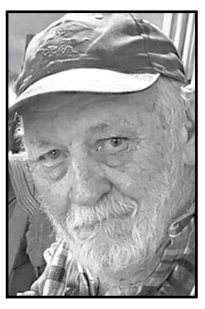
Mr. Nelson was preceded in death by his parents; son, Bradley Hewitt; and brother, Glenn Nelson.

Mr. Nelson is survived by his wife, Phyllis Nelson; son, David (Elizabeth) Nelson of Staunton; daughters, Susan (William) Kessler of Chatham and Nancy (Joseph) Moore of Chatham; grandchildren, Michael, Meaghan, Josephine, Kenneth, Jacob and William; and 13 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lutheran Social Service of Illinois or Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. Please visit *www.litchfieldffs.com* to leave condolences or light a candle in his memory.

## Gary 'Doc' Morrow, 76

### *Enjoyed Fishing, Hunting*



Gary "Doc" Morrow, 76, of Hillsboro, died at 10:35 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Springfield Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at the Panama VFW. All are welcome to bring a story, enjoy a cold beer and wear bib overalls in honor of Mr. Morrow. Hough-Dean is assisting the family.

Mr. Morrow was born on Dec. 26, 1949, in Donnellson, a son to John A. and Lorraine A. (Locke) Morrow. He married Cathy Morrow; they later divorced.

Mr. Morrow was a coal miner and later on in his career an over-the-road truck driver. He was member of the National Rifle Association who enjoyed fishing, hunting, collecting guns and riding his side by side.

Mr. Morrow is survived by his daughter, Vicky (Jim) Armbruster of Donnellson; brother, Larry (Betty) Morrow of Staunton; sister, Ruth (Larry) Loveless of Gillespie; grandchildren, Amanda (Alex) Wall of Sorento and Jimmy (Rachel) Armbruster of Livingston; and his great-grandchildren, Willow, Lily, Haley and Jackson.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Sue Morrow.

To express condolences to his family online, please visit *www.houghdeanfh.com.*

**Remembering Lori Stewart**

*Born August 7, 1961*
*Went to Jesus March 28, 2006*



**She was a Superstar and dearly loved by her family, many friends, co-workers, and many others - young and old!**
**We miss you Lori so much and can't believe it's been 20 years!**
***We will meet again!***

Montgomery County Monument Works
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## Ella M. Brown, 89

### *Strong And Courageous*



Ella Marie Beechner Brown, 89, died in the early morning hours of Friday, March 20, 2026, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Visitation will be Monday, March 30, from 4 p.m. until the time of the memorial service at 5:30 p.m. at Bramley Funeral Home located at 150 Reichert Road in Divernon with Jesse Orme officiating. A time of gathering will follow in the reception room. Burial will be at a later date at Rovey Cemetery in Farmersville.

Mrs. Brown was born on Jan. 12, 1937, in Cameron, MO, to Marvin and Lois "Mildred" McCollough Beechner. She spent much of her childhood in Missouri, moving frequently and attending over ten different elementary schools due to her father's employment as a swine herder and feed dealer. Through these experiences, she learned to make friends easily and developed the warm, engaging personality that would remain with her throughout her life. In the early 1950s, she moved to Farmersville, where she graduated from Farmersville High School with the class of 1954.

On Jan. 26, 1957, she married Glenn A. Brown. Together they raised four children: Linda S. (Lynn) Boston of Girard, Larry J. Brown of Springville, TN, Stephen P. (Renee) Brown of Morrisonville and Brian L. Brown (Crysta Weitekamp) of Springfield.

Mrs. Brown worked at Art's Restaurant in Farmersville. She continued her career path at Dickey-John Corporation for 24 years, where she rose to a leadership position. She retired in January of 1999. As her parents aged, she and Glenn were instrumental in their care and also the care of her beloved Aunt Frances. In retirement, Mrs. Brown continued to enjoy life through outings with friends and time spent with grandchildren at their sporting events. She enjoyed painting ceramics and created many keepsakes that her family enjoys to this day. She laughed easily and brought joy to those around her. Mrs. Brown was also a great St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Mrs. Brown served as a member of St. Mary's Altar Society and gave her time helping with church bazaars. She was talented and creative. She took great pride in remodeling several rooms in her home. She enjoyed cooking for family and friends, bowling and serving as a Boy Scout den mother, creating many fond memories for her children and others.

Family was at the heart of Mrs. Brown's life. For many years, she and her husband spent meaningful time with her parents—helping them with household chores, sharing Sunday breakfasts and making Christmas stollen bread. She and her husband loved working the daily crossword in the *State Journal Register* along with doing puzzles.

Mrs. Brown was a strong and courageous woman who led her family with love and grace. She faced adversity with strength and found joy in everyday moments. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

In addition to her children, Mrs. Brown is survived by her grandchildren: Janelle (Robert) Fanning of Girard; Kelly Boston (Matt Bostick) of Farmersville; Allison Boston of Girard; Matthew (Jessica) Boston of Girard; Jarrad (Jackie) Brown of Springfield; Ethan (Katie) Brown of Morrisonville; Alyssa (Matthew) Rever of Raeford, NC and Leyton (Alyssa) Brown of Urbana; and great-grandchildren Olivia and Charlotte Fanning, Kallen Bostick, Easton, Landon and Peyton Boston, Andrew and Tyler Brown, Trenton and Adalyn Rever and Nora Mae Brown.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers, Frank E. (Bud) Beechner and Benjamin Beechner; sister-in-law Paulette Beechner; daughter-in-law Joliene Brown; and grandson Andrew Paul Brown.

Memorial donations to Farmersville/Waggoner ambulance services. Condolences may be left online at *www.bramleyfh.com.*

In Loving Memory
**Lt. Raymond Clotfelter**
335 Fighter Squadron
4th Fighter Group
European Theater
WWII



**The Journal-News**
The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County
Published Monday & Thursday
431 S. Main, PO Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049
**217-532-3933 • thejournal-news@consolidated.net**

Owners ..... John and Susan Galer
Publisher ..... Mary (Galer) Herschelman
Editor ..... Isaiah Atkins
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Reporter/Photographer ..... Cayden Huber

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

Subscription Information

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

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After his presentation, Mike Anderson invited the audience to inspect and try playing any of the displayed musical instruments. In the photo he demonstrates the banjo to Grace Booth and Mike Maccanelli. *Journal-News/Nancy Slepicka*

## Historical Society Brings Music Program In March

Mike Anderson of Jacksonville, known professionally as the Dulcimer Guy, entertained more than 50 guests with music and humorous stories of Abraham Lincoln and Civil War soldiers, Sunday afternoon. March 22.

The free program sponsored by the Historical Society of Montgomery County was held at the Free Methodist Church in Hillsboro.

Anderson said Civil War soldiers didn't want to be burdened with cumbersome band instruments, so they created music with small devices like the mouth harp, bones, harmonica and homemade banjo.

The music historian sang and played familiar tunes on a variety of instruments, including mountain dulcimer, banjo, mouth harp, harmonica and nose flute.

Anderson frequently performs in Springfield at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Lincoln Historic Site as well as storytelling festivals nationwide.

Information about Anderson and his programs can be found at *www.dulcimerguy.com*.

## Extension To Host Youth Strawberry Jam Workshop

The Montgomery County 4-H and Extension office will be hosting a hands-on youth strawberry jam canning workshop on Thursday, April 2, from 1 to 3 p.m.

All youth, ages eight to 18, are welcome and invited to attend the event and learn how to make and safely preserve strawberry jam, as well as take home a jar of one's creation and some recipes.

Learn more and register at *go.illinois.edu/MCstrawberryjam*.

## Imagine Hillsboro To Host Free Back To School Store

Imagine Hillsboro will be hosting their free back to school store from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 25. Imagine Hillsboro is asking for new and gently used clothing in sizes four to adult. They ask that clothing items have no stains and are school appropriate. Any season of clothing is welcome.

Imagine also asks that no used underwear, bras or socks are donated, along with no swimwear and no shoes. New shoes are purchased and they have no storage or way to clean any should they be donated.

Imagine is also seeking donations of school supplies, backpacks and laundry detergent, new hygiene items and new, in-package socks and underwear. Used prom and dance attire for boys and girls will also be accepted.

Donation may be dropped off at the Methodist Church across from Hardee's from April 1st to 30th. Chris Gutierrez will not be able to help unload but he can help guide donors where to go. Cassie Malloy is in charge of the event and questions can be directed to her via email at *Cassiem1988@gmail.com* or direct message. Those who want to donate money or time are asked to reach out directly.

The store will be held at the Hillsboro Free Methodist Church, located at 1400 Seymour Ave. It is free to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students must reside in the Hillsboro School District.

More information is available at *Facebook.com/backtoschoolfreestore*, *imaginehillsboro.com* and *milesofsmilesltd.com*.

## St. Francis Offering Teens Volunteer Opportunities

HSHS St. Francis Hospital is offering opportunities for area teens to volunteer this summer through the 2026 Junior Volunteer Program. Applications are being accepted now through May 1.

Applicants must be high school students maintaining at a least a "C" average, be a minimum of 14 years of age by June 1 and be willing to volunteer at least two hours per week during the summer program. Junior volunteers will perform a variety of duties in various hospital departments.

Registration materials are available on the hospital's website volunteer page at *hshs.org/st-francis/community/volunteer*.

All participants in the program will be required to present proof of COVID immunization or have a parent sign a declination form (available in the application packet online). An additional requirement includes attendance at a hospital orientation.

A limited number of positions will be available. For more information, contact HSHS St. Francis Hospital at 217-324-8200. For more information about HSHS St. Francis Hospital, visit *stfrancis-litchfield.org*.

## Millburg Collecting Donations For Pantry

Little Miss Pana Chamber of Commerce Hadleigh Millburg of Raymond will be collecting food or monetary donations for the Panhandle Food Pantry until Sunday, April 19. The week of April 19, Millburg will be advertising a small giveaway until Saturday, April 25 to help hit her goal. Donation boxes will go up at various locations in April.

Requested items include hamburger helper mixes, 64 oz. juices, boxed cake mixes, sugar, non-perishable items and cereals.

Non-perishable food items may be dropped off from April 19 to April 25, with locations being announced at a later date. Monetary donations may be made via cash, check or Venmo. Checks may be made payable to Panhandle Food Pantry and Venmo payments may be sent to @*charlienemillburg*.

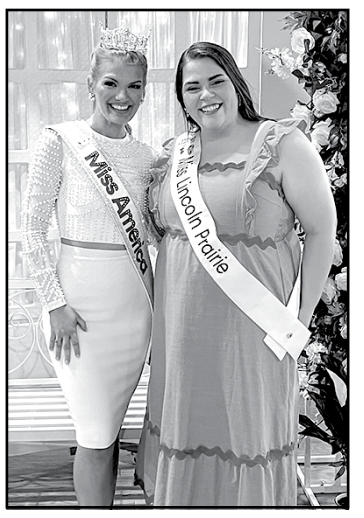
Those with questions can contact Charliene Millburg at 217-827-1969.



## Litchfield School District Honors Retiring Teachers

Litchfield School District thanked their retiring teachers and commemorated them for their years of service in the district on Friday, March 13, at the unit office. Pictured above front row is Jill Huff (33 years), Karen Savage (15 years), Della Witter (22 years) and Jan Jenkins (28 years). In back is Jo Brummet (24 years), Mark Viehweg (28 years), Marvin Savage (18 years) and Bob Witter (12 years). Not pictured is Joel Jubelt(10 years).




## Two Local Queens Meet Miss America In March

Two local queens made their dreams come true when they met with 2026 Miss American Cassie Donegan at the Miss Illinois Rising Stars brunch, held Saturday, March 21, at the Prairie View Reception Center in Springfield. At left is Little Miss Pana Chamber of Commerce Hadleigh Millburg of Raymond. At right is Miss Lincoln Prairie Alia Stewart of Litchfield. Stewart was crowned in November, and will compete for the title of Miss Illinois June 10-13 in Marion, which is part of the Miss America circuit.

## South Central Conference Honors Scholastic Bowl

Following the end of the regular season, the South Central Conference has announced this year's 2026 All-Conference team, including several students from Litchfield and Hillsboro.

This year's first team All-Conference includes Kaleb Buckellew of North Mac, Isaiah Burdell of Litchfield, Terry Grizzle of Vandalia, Trystan Lamm of Staunton, Lucas Rosenthal of Gillespie and Collin Walker of Greenville.

On second team All-Conference are Audrey Billington of Hillsboro, Nate Clendenen of Southwestern, Eli Ennen of Greenville, Brett Gillespie of North Mac, Aiden Green of Staunton and Evelyn Hale of Litchfield.

Earning third team All-Conference honors are Danielle Furness of Carlinville, Coleson Hoffman of Greenville, Elijah Sears of Greenville, Owen Trader of Hillsboro, Houston Turley of Carlinville, Addy Walden of Southwestern and Roger Zhu of Greenville.

**IHSA Scholastic Bowl**
**Lincolnwood Sectional**
**Saturday, March 14**

- New Berlin **520**, Litchfield **260**
- Father McGivney **490**, Auburn **180**
- New Berlin **650**, Auburn **90**
- Father McGivney **530**, Litchfield **130**
- New Berlin **580**, Father McGivney **250**
- Auburn **290**, Litchfield **230**

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Dine In • All You Can Eat!
Our famous fried fish, baked fish, fries, mac-n-cheese, pizza, green beans, baked beans, applesauce, cole slaw, dessert
Adults/Carryouts: $17 • Box of Fish Only – $29
Kids 5-11 Fish Buffet: $8 (4 & under free)
Fishless Buffet (Pizza & All Sides): $12

You Could Be The Next Old Settlers Queen!
*Meet New People*
*Earn Money*
*Represent Your Hometown*



The Old Settlers Committee is looking for young ladies, freshmen thru seniors in the Hillsboro High School District, who would like to run for Old Settlers Queen this year.
Call or text Shawnna Rovey at 217-556-6177 or stop in at the HHS office to sign up

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MARCH 28, 2026
NO KINGS
Staunton Rt. 66 Park
10 to 11 a.m.
Hillsboro City Hall
Noon to 1 p.m.
Bond County Courthouse
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Macoupin & Montgomery County Indivisible Citizens Against Trump

FOOD AND OTHER VENDORS WANTED
AT OLD SETTLERS CELEBRATION IN HILLSBORO
Wednesday, August 5 & Thursday, August 6
Deadline: July 31st
For more info, call or text 217-246-2432 with questions.
Contracts available at
The Journal-News, 431 S. Main, Hillsboro,
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hillsboroaccounting@hillsborotax.com

St. Agnes Lenten
Fish Frys
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
February 20 thru March 27
FRIDAY FISH FRY
Fried Fish, Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Corn Nuggets, and Cake for Dessert
$15 per meal • Drive thru Only
at St. Agnes New Parish Center

# Litchfield To Host Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive in Litchfield on Tuesday, March 31, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Moose Lodge, located at 221 N. Madison St. All blood types are needed. Donors will receive a $15 Amazon gift card by e-mail. A1C testing will be done on successful donations.

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 1800-Red Cross.

Walk ins will be accepted, usually there are more open times in mid and late afternoon. Donors will be asked for their Red Cross donor card or a photo ID. Donors can save time by using Rapid Pass for pre-donation reading and health history before arriving on the day of the drive at *RedCrossBlood.org* / *RapidPass* or the Donor App.

There is no upper age limit for donors but must be 17 or 16 with signed parental consent form. Donors must be in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds. In most cases, it is the condition not the medicine that cause deferral. If the condition is under control the day of donation, the person may be able to donate. This includes high blood pressure and diabetes.

Holy Family Church will provide sandwiches, relishes, cookies and soda for the canteen. Subway will donate some sandwiches along with cups from McDonalds and coffee by the Moose.

Cheryl Hartel is chairman of the canteen and RSV volunteers serving the canteen table will be Marti Corderko, Pam DeLong and Janece Neunaber. Janice Kalaher and Joyce Cranford will be at the registration table. The street department will set up the room for the drive.

Janet Saathoff is coordinator of the Litchfield Community Red Cross Blood Drives. Visit *RedCrossBlood.org* enter Litchfield Moose or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1- 800-733-2767) to learn more and schedule an appointment.



# Bernadine Hines Makes Spring Donations

Bernadine (Tosetti) Hines made several donations to local organizations this spring. Hines is a native of Nokomis and the daughter of the late Elio and Yolanda Tosetti, who for years has shown her generosity to her former hometown. Recently, she made some new contributions to various parts of the community. Pictured above, from the left are Stephanie Kilzer of the Nokomis High School bank, Sonya Maretti of St. Louis Catholic School, Dave Schweizer of the Nokomis/Witt Area Ambulance Service, Jack Tosetti (brother of Bernadine Hines), Joletta Hill of the Nokomis/Witt Area Ambulance Service, Paula Hamrock of the Nokomis Food Pantry and Brad Janssen of Nokomis Memorial Pool.



DAR chapter members accepting the $250 donation from the left are Carolyn Cerven, Vice Regent Patty Whitworth, Treasurer Kendra Wright, Regent Chris Garner, Historical Society Vice President Mike Rappe, Chaplain Anne McLaughlin, Registrar Lori Hopwood and Carol Calvert, DAR member and Historical Society treasurer.

# DAR Plaque To Honor County's Namesake

A project of the local Christiana Tillson chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has received the support of the Historical Society of Montgomery County.

The society's $250 donation will help fund a permanent plaque honoring Major General Richard Montgomery (1738-1775), a Revolutionary War hero and this county's namesake.

The plaque will be dedicated later this year as part of the DAR chapter's celebration of America's 250th anniversary. It will be installed on the south wall of the Historic Courthouse facing the DAR bench and Revolutionary War cannon.



**Eden Beckham and teacher Claire Perfetti**



**Peyton Treece and teacher Nikki Warchol**



**Emberlyn Walker and teacher Claire Perfetti**

# LECC First Graders Join 100 Point Club

Three first graders at Litchfield Early Childhood Center in Litchfield have been recognized for joining the 100-Point Club in the Accelerated Reader program this spring.

Those students include first graders Eden Beckham, Peyton Treece and Emberlyn Walker. To reach this honor, they read between 100 and 200 books, and answered comprehension questions correctly on the computer.

In addition to having their picture in the paper, these students received lunch with Principal Adam Favre.



# Litchfield Elementary Prepare For IAR

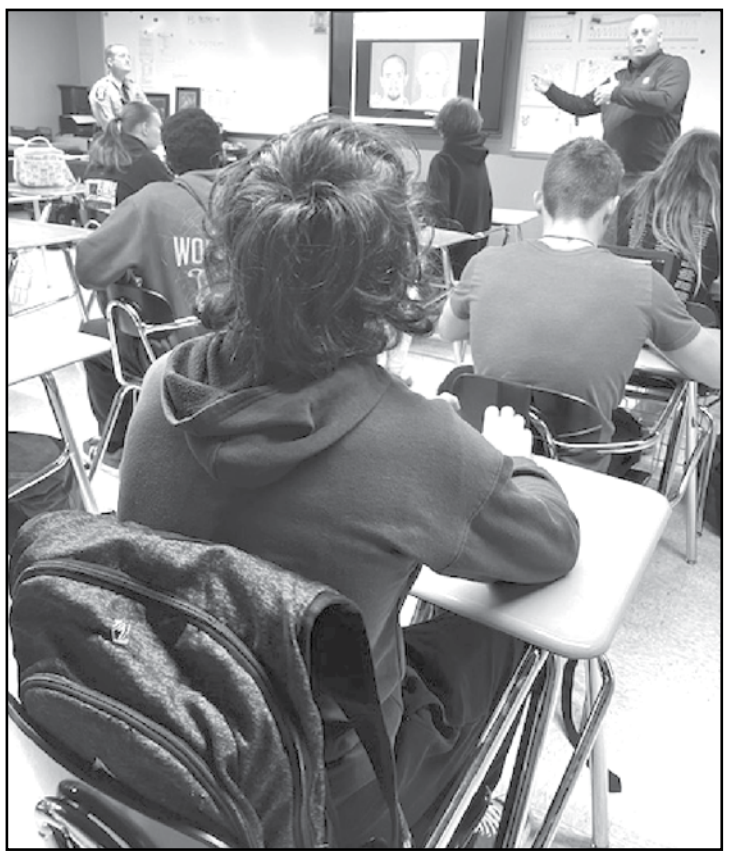
Litchfield Elementary School recently pumped up third, fourth and fifth grade students on Friday, March 13, for the upcoming Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). The Illinois State Board of Education describes the IAR is "the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in the public school district." The Board also says, "IAR assesses the Illinois Learning Standards incorporating the Common Core and will be administered in English language arts and mathematics to all students in grades three to eight"

# Hiltoppers Hear From Billingsley

Hillsboro High School, along with driver's education teacher Mr. Coziar and School Resource Officer Frank Kenny, would like to thank Illinois State Police Trooper Billingsley for spending the day with students on Thursday, March 5.

Trooper Billingsley met with health classes, classroom driver's education (CDT) classes and behind the wheel (BTW) classes. In health classes, students heard about drug awareness, impaired driving and how substance use can impact judgement, safety and future opportunities.

Driver's education students' lessons focused on responsibility behind the wheel and the real-world consequences that can result from unsafe decisions. Hillsboro High School says their goal is to provide students with the knowledge and perspective they need to make safe, responsible choices in and out of the driver's seat.



Hillsboro High School health and driver's training classes heard from Illinois State Police Trooper Billingsley on Thursday, March 5. Health classes learned about drug awareness, while driver's training classes focused on making safe, responsible decisions.

# AgeLinc Plans Two Public Hearings

The Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland has scheduled public hearings on the fiscal year 2027 area plan. The purpose of the public hearings is to gather feedback and accept testimony from interested individuals pertinent to the fiscal year 2027 area plan.

The first public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 14, at 10:30 a.m., at Senior Services of Central IL, located at 209 E. Sheridan Road in Petersburg.

Another hearing will be held locally on Tuesday, April 15, at the Litchfield Community and Senior Center, located at 1100 S. State St.

A second hearing will be held on April 15, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Taylorville Senior Center, located at 701 W. Adams in Taylorville.

Host sites will have a copy of the public information document, containing the summary draft of the area plan, available for review prior to the hearings. The Public Information Document is also available for review onlin e at *https://agelinc.org/general-public-information/*. Questions concerning the public hearings of the Public Information Document may be addressed to the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland. At the public hearings, testimony will be accepted without discussion. Written testimony will not be accepted at the Area Agency's office through 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25

The Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland is a planning and service organization designated by the Illinois Department of Aging to develop and coordinate programs and support services for older adults and family caregivers in a twelve-county area.

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# Hillsboro City Council

*Continued from page 1A*

Those who attend are promised free food, live music, and "encouraging speakers focused on community, hope, and personal growth."

The group's last event at Hillsboro Shores drew 200 people; Goltz hopes to draw 150 to the event in Hillsboro. Police Chief RandyLeetham said the city can accommodate that many by prohibiting parking in front of the plaza; the council voted 3-0 to allow the use of city property.

The third person, who asked for use of Glenn Shoals Lake facilities for three events, was Megan Kindernay, who represented the Glenn Shoals Lake Club. That group is planning a beginning of the season celebration at the North Marina parking lot on May 15, an Aqua Run on July 15, and kayak races for the weekend of Sept. 4-6 at the North Marina. Permission for the three events was granted.

Bills contracted in February for approval in March totalled $642,533.95. In their ongoing effort to control expenses, the council agreed to switch from their current supplier of energy for street lights (Constellation) to AEP by authorizing a four year contract with an estimated cost of $17,387.82 per year. They will also sign a three year contract with Santana Energy Services for natural gas purchases (municipal use only). These bids were submitted by Rock River Energy Services Company.

On the Economic Development front, the council approved a payment of $116,410 to Jardogs, AI, Inc., from Business District Funds for improvements (based on required receipts) for their building at 925 S. Main Street. The vote was 3-0.

Two Facade Improvement grants were approved for Hillsboro Journal, Inc. The first was for their building at 425 S. Main Street; projected cost of improvements is $4,250, so it's eligible for a grant of $2,125. The second request was for property at 419 South Main; estimated cost is $14,657.79, so the project will receive the maximum grant allowed by the facade program, $5,000.

The Police Department will soon have a 2023 Dodge Durango to add to its fleet; the cost to the city is $33,192, and it was already budgeted. It has 21,754 miles on its odometer, and it was purchased from Victory Lane in Carlinville. Also to be purchased are Hillsboro Tourism booklets; the first edition was taken by consumers quickly. The new order will be placed at nearby interstate highway rest areas and sent to other tourist centers. The 1,400 copies will cost $4,810.

The pay application from Plocher Construction for work at the under-construction waste water plant was for $853,827.24. It will be paid by the USDA because of a loan the city had to have to build the plant, but loan payments will follow.

Tabled was a motion to appoint Doug Donaldson to the Natural Resources Committee to fill a vacancy; he had been recommended by the committee after recent interviews. Mayor Downs questioned the choice because of a possible conflict of interest; (Donaldson is currently chairperson of the Montgomery County Board.) The motion was tabled to give time to see if indeed the two positions conflict.

Justison asked for a discussion about the possibility of live-streaming future council meetings. Mayor Downs strongly opposed the idea, saying that anyone interested in the meetings should attend in person; Justison argued that mainstreaming would help communications. The mayor said he wasn't there to "put on a show or be a tv star." Wright said her position is in the middle; she wanted to know who would do the live stream and be in charge of the production. It was on the agenda as discussion only; it may appear as a motion on a later agenda.

Although Commissioner Butler wasn't present, he had electronically provided reports about activities of the Street Department and of the Parks and Public Properties Department. The street crew has been busy with curb and gutter work on Jefferson Street and repairing a storm drain on East Tremont. They also did sidewalk work at the sports complex and helped put the South Marina back in place after the Sunday storm.

The Parks Superintendent, Jim May, had visited the lake lots whose leases had not been renewed to decide which leases would have their deposits returned; some, primarily because of refuse left behind, will not receive a refund of their deposit. This fall, May plans to review all lots for compliances as a basis for issuing abatement notices or revoking licenses.

He said the city has received two applications for the pool/marina manager job. Those interested in that job, as well as lake users, are reminded that the marina will no longer be a full-service restaurant.

All available campground sites have been taken. The campground opens April 1.

Justison said the fire department is still mourning the loss of their Chaplain, Ralph Ward, and asked for a moment of silence to honor him. He said too that he would resign from the department at this time; he enjoyed his time with the volunteers, but his duties as Public Safety Commissioner for the council affected his duties as a firefighter. He said he fully supports Chief Lyerla and the dispatchers/engineers.

Wright reported that the lake is at full pool, so the mine is buying water from the lake again. She said a new Class A operator has started at the water plant (as of today, Thursday, March 26, the same day a retirement lunch is to be held for the two retirees, Mike Finn and Craig Traylor). She also said the "...construction project is plugging along."

Mayor Downs thanked Traylor and Finn for their years of service to the city.

Economic Development specialist Melissa Smith asked the city to finalize plans for lights and planters to beautify downtown so the bidding process can begin. She emphasized the importance of the American 250 kickoff celebration.

She and the daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are working on a grant application to support local activities, and she's designed vertical banners for the light poles. She also has forms and information about an American 250 Home Decorating Tour on the Head To Hillsboro website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 7 in city hall. They are always interesting, and visitors are welcome. The gavel falls at 7 p.m.

# Litchfield City Council

*Continued from page 1A*

"We had a very strict interview process and he did a wonderful job," Mayor Jake Fleming said. "He has ten-plus years of experience, having already been chief in Maryville. He could be a huge asset to our city."

Prior to the swearing in ceremony, the city hosted a public hearing for the proposed improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. Adrianne Eilers with Crawford, Murphy and Tilly (CMT), the consulting design engineers, provided an overview for the $23 million project:

"The project includes improvements to preliminary treatment, secondary treatment, disinfection, sludge handling, storm water systems and support facilities, along with removal of some outdated equipment. The plant currently treats about three million gallons per day and serves more than 2,800 residential customers, plus multiple industrial and commercial users. Much of the equipment is over 25 years old and has reached the end of its service life.

Construction is expected to begin in May of 2007 and completed by April 2029, with a total project cost of approximately $23 million. The project will be funded through the Illinois EPA's water pollution control loan program. To repay the loans, sewer rates will increase, but even with this increase, the annual cost remains under two percent of the city's medium household income, which is considered affordable by state comparison standards.

Environmental reviews have been completed with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and historic preservation agencies. These reviews conclude that the project is unlikely to cause significant environmental, historic, or cultural impacts, and any construction impact will be temporary."

John Hanafin of Litchfield spoke during the public comment portion of the hearing and pointed out that the report provided by CMT was difficult to read because pages were put in backwards and questioned what else might be wrong with the project if that was done incorrectly.

He also spoke about the long history the city had with CMT, but questioned some past mistakes by the engineering company.

City Administrator Breann Vazquez asked Hanafin if there was something he'd like to comment on specifically about the wastewater treatment plant. Hanafin questioned the use of three different rates for water and sewer in the city and how he used less water at his office than at his home, but paid significantly more because it was classified as industrial.

Hanafin also criticized the use of 2020 census numbers, CMT's 12 percent charge for fees, the lack of information about the effect of storm water and other factors.

Eilers said that the hearing was for the improvement of the wastewater treatment plant, not the collection system, and said that the project isn't changing the capacity of the plant and it will still be able to handle the amount of storm flow it handles now.

Hanafin questioned the lack of details in the report and asked what might be missing from it. Vazquez said that CMT's report was exactly what the city asked them to report on and encouraged Hanafin to meet with her and Mayor Fleming if he had issues, but it wasn't appropriate to address them at the consultants who did what they were hired to do.

Hanafin continued to question the project, asking about the extra electricity needed. Vazquez again requested that he meet with them at another time or put his concerns in writing.

Later on in the regular meeting, during the city report, Mayor Fleming congratulated Litchfield sixth grader Owen Pryor on winning an IESA state wrestling title at 65 pounds and noted that he will be absent at the next meeting, but Alderman Dwayne Gerl will serve as mayor pro tem.

Fleming also thanked the Litchfield Fire Department, Litchfield Police Department and Litchfield Street Department for their work during the fire at the bowling alley. Fire Chief Adam Pennock recapped the incident, thanking acting-Captain Chad Dooley for making the decision to not send fire fighters into the blaze due to concerns with the roof, and to all of those from surrounding fire departments who helped keep the fire from spreading.

Also in the city report Alderman Josh Hughes said that a petition started by Libby Jones to put the post office box back in its previous position had more than 500 signatures. Hughes also asked for a status update on the National Primers project at the new industrial park and the street situation in Ward 3.

Vazquez said that National Primers is moving forward, but no date to break ground has been set. She also said that the city will be redoing some roads in Ward 3 and are establishing a plan moving forward.

In new business, the council approved a change in the health insurance for city employees from Blue Cross Blue Shield to United Healthcare. Carson Baugher of Assured Partners said that Blue Cross Blue Shield's bid was an increase of 10 percent, which was less than they thought it could be due to the loss ratio from last year. Baugher said that United Healthcare's bid was a 13 percent reduction in rate for a plan, but with a better prescription drug co-pay.

Alderman Bert Holloway said that United Healthcare had been receiving negative publicity for several things, including prior authorization for treatment and pre-exsisting conditions. Baugher said that employees can't be denied from coming onto the plan due to pre-exsisting conditions, but prior authorization for treatment has become more common. He added that it hasn't been an issue with his other clients and Assured Partners has a good relationship with United Healthcare.

Mayor Fleming asked if Springfield Clinic was included in the coverage from United Healthcare. Vazquez said it was, as was Litchfield Family Practice, SSM Health, HSHS and other groups.

The council also approved the demolition of structures located at 115 East South Street and 1221 North Van Buren and three motions related to granting a special use permit to allow 508 East Water Street to be used as a short-term rental property. The house at 508 East Water Street was built by the building trades program at Litchfield High School in 2012.

The council also approved a large scale development plan for 414 North Old Route 66, where Casey's is planning to put in a new 4,358 square-foot convenience store and gas station.

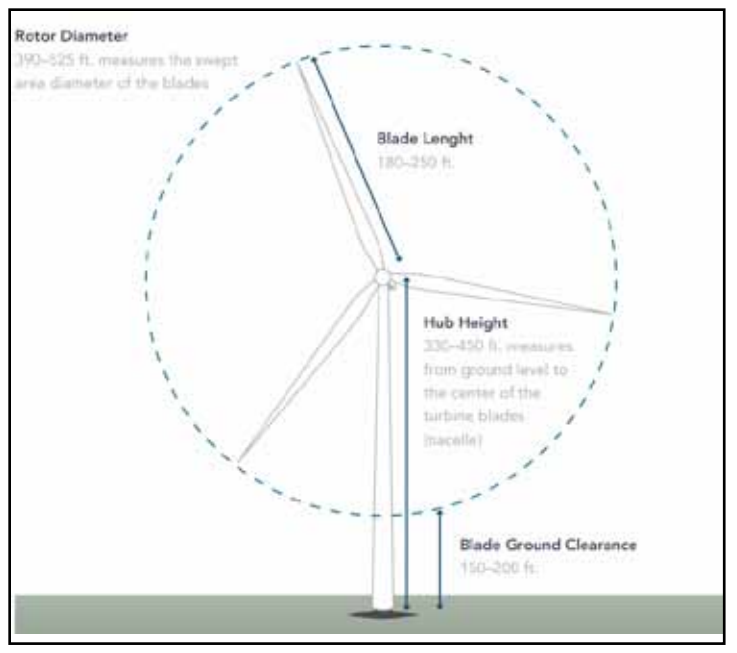
In water department business, the council approved a professional services agreement with HMG Engineers for design and permitting services for the Phase III water system improvements project for an amount not to exceed $76,500. Alderwoman Zumwalt, who abstained from the vote, asked if the city was planning to pursue grants to help pay for the project, with Vazquez saying they were.

Before going into closed session at 7 p.m., the council approved payment to the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) for tourism promotion services through Great Rivers and Routes for $18,000. Mayor Fleming noted that this was less than in years past. Vazquez said previously the city had its own contract with Great Rivers and Routes for $40,000, but are members of the MCEDC and were able to utilize its contract with the tourism group.

The council met in closed session until 8:03 p.m. and approved three items once returning to open session, including the minutes from the March 5 executive session, an amendment to Chief Carpenter's employment agreement and approval of the purchase of real estate located at 113 East Union.

Vazquez said that Carpenter wasn't eligible for IMRF retirement, so the employment agreement was amended to support a 401A retirement plan. She added that the purpose of purchasing 113 East Union from the Montgomery County Trustee is to have the building demolished.

The next meeting of the Litchfield City Council will be on April 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Corwin Hall.




This graphic from the Shoals Renewables brochure, which can be found on the Pattern Energy website, shows the approximate dimensions of the wind turbines that are proposed for the 500 MW wind energy facility in rural Montgomery County near Raymond.

# Stop The Shoals

*Continued from page 1A*

Mulch, who has spearheaded the "Stop The Shoals" grassroots opposition to the project, believes that the negatives outweigh the positives of the project.

"I was just mad for a long time," Mulch said of his first reaction to the project. "It was like, 'I can't believe some company wants to come in here and install 100 of these 60-story skyscrapers all through this flat farmland."

For a while, Mulch thought the project was just going to be talk, or fizzle out, similar to what another proposed wind farm, the Virden Wind Project, seemed to do. But when Pattern moved their office from Nokomis to Raymond, he decided that it was time to act.

"You kind of wait around for somebody to do something and I knew if I didn't do something, I was going to regret it. After some sleepless nights, I just started writing," Mulch explained. "I posted on Facebook and I couldn't believe the response. Then I turned it into a video and it got even more shares."

Two impromptu meetings were also held in Raymond and Witt to get the input of others. Above everything else, the video, the Facebook post, the meetings got people talking about the project, where they were able to find out how others felt directly.

"Say there's a guy knocking on my door every other day trying to get me to sign up for a high voltage power line through my property and he's telling me that everybody's doing it and I just as well sign up, too. But we're not actually talking to our neighbors," Mulch said.

The meetings showed that those who are against the project have a lot in common. They want to leave the land better than they found it. They want the next generation to have the same opportunities that they did. And they don't want to look at 500-foot wind turbines for the rest of their lives.

The potential size of the turbines is one of Mulch's biggest sticking points. Pattern hasn't announced what size of turbines they will be using but their brochure on The Shoals shows a potential tip height (the total height from the ground to the highest point) of 700 feet, about 70 feet taller than the Gateway Arch.

That's slightly taller than what Pattern's other operational wind farms use (they have 12 in the United States plus ten more in Canada), with most using one of two turbines: a Siemens Gamesa 2.3 MW (aprox. 616-foot tip height) or a General Electric 1.5 MW (aprox. 444-foot tip height).

The Panhandle Wind facility in Texas has the capacity for 400 MW (100 MW less than the proposal for The Shoals) and uses 79 Siemens turbines and 118 General Electric turbines.

"You may think this isn't in my backyard, that it's a Raymond or Nokomis area problem, but these industrial wind turbines are so massive - and when you multiply them by 100 or more... they're going to be in everybody's backyard," Mulch said. "If Pattern gets their way, it's going to be more than 100 and I'm just not okay with that. I'm not okay with the public not knowing what is possibly coming very soon."

The lack of easily accessible information is also a problem for Mulch. The Shoals website says the capacity of the facility, but not where the turbines will go, what size the turbines will be or what routes the collection lines will take.

"If they're that proud of this big investment in Montgomery County, then tell us about it," Mulch said. "But they don't have to because the state sets the rules and as long as they follow the rules, to a bare minimum, they get approved."

Those two items are just the tip of the iceberg for opponents. There's the reports of sleep loss due to the sound and noise of the turbines. There's the worry of all that electricity flowing under Montgomery County land. There's the potential of places like Raymond or Witt or Butler being boxed in by turbines, preventing any growth in those communities. There are the questions about what happens to all of the equipment when the farm is no longer functional, or if the facility is sold to a different company.

So how do opponents of the project stop it? You stop Pattern from being able to connect the dots.

Each turbine has to have a way to get the energy it produces to the electrical grid, which is done by collection lines underground. To run these lines, Pattern has to get easements from the land owners. No easement, no collection line. No collection line, no turbines.

"Unfortunately, they try to downplay the importance of the collection lines. 'I know you don't want a turbine, Mr. Farmer, but we just want to run a power line through your land... so we can build turbines,'" Mulch said. "I want landowners to pause, set aside the financial offer and consider what the power line is actually for. It's the power line for a massive, transformational industrial wind turbine project in your backyard. Every no matters."

And Mulch wants you to know that if you're not for this, there are plenty more people out there just like you.

"You wouldn't believe the relief that some of these guys have when they come to the meetings. They're like, 'Oh, you're here? You don't like these things either?'" Mulch said. "The conversations I've had out there have been unbelievable. There are so many more people that are against this project than are for it. I still think there's a lot of people who regret signing up."

Mulch doesn't want others to have those same regrets. He just wants to be able to look out the window and know that the view that his family has had for generations is the same one his children will get to enjoy for years to come.

*For more information on The Shoals Renewables, visit patternenergy.com/projects/the-shoals-renewables. For more on the efforts to stop the project, email them at StopTheShoals@gmail.com or visit Stop The Shoals - Montgomery County IL on Facebook.*

# St. Francis Awards

*Continued from page 1A*

Committee member Eric Helgen thanked Paula Endress for her longtime service to the community, and noted that this will be her final event before retirement. "She has been amazing and she will be missed," he said.

Committee member Kevin Niemann presented the St. Isidore's Friend Of Agriculture award to Tom Burenga of Worksaver Inc. A Pennington, NJ, native, Burenga grew up on his family farm and was active in 4-H and the FFA throughout his youth. While in high school, Burenga had a contract with the local Campbell Soup factory to grow tomatoes as well as renting a chicken house, where he raised 3,000 broilers every few months. He farmed 80 acres with a 1938 hand-cranked International F-12 tractor.

Burenga attended Michigan State University, where he earned his degree in agricultural engineering in 1966. The most influential time in his education, Burenga says, was working on building a tomato harvester with professors and graduate students. Over the years, he would develop 18 different patents on farm equipment, beginning with a patented pea combine.

Burenga married his wife, Paulette, in 1967. In 1980, the couple moved to Litchfield, where Burenga was hired to manage Wikomi, now Worksaver. Under his ownership, the company began its longtime partnership with the John Deere Company, and Worksaver now builds 38 different pieces of equipment for them, as well as Bobcat and Alamo.

Worksaver now produces over 400 implements for agricultural, industrial and construction needs. They enjoy working with local schools, helping empower the next generation of good and skilled trade employees. Burenga thanks the company's more than 70 employees for all of their service over the years, Worksaver President Mike Kloster for his leadership and Ken Elmore, president of First National Bank in Litchfield for his longtime partnership with the company. Elmore stated regarding Burenga: "He is one of the most honest people I have had the pleasure of working with. He goes out of his way to do the right thing."

Tom and Paulette will celebrate 59 years of marriage this summer and are the proud parents of Thomas, Christina and Tim (now vice president at Worksaver).

"We have lived here over 45 years and met a whole bunch of great people," Burenga said. "People in agriculture are one of the best classes of people."

He added, "I couldn't have done it without my wife, my number one supporter, who greets me with a smile after a bad day, and so many great employees."

Helgen presented the Special Recognition Award to Gene and Stephanie Hebenstreit of Victory Lane Ford. The couple has long been active contributors of their time, talent and treasure to our hospital, Helgen said. The Hebenstreit's began the Victory Lane Challenge, matching the gifts of others to benefit the St. Clare Center food pantry, resulting in over $120,000 over the years in donations. The Hebenstreits and Victory Lane Ford also cover the cost of the box lunches delivered to working farmers twice a year. Stephanie has served the hospital as a longtime member of the auxiliary, while Gene is a member of the Foundation Leadesrship Council.

The couple, both Gillespie natives, have owned and operated Victory Lane Ford since October of 1998, with locations in both Lichfield and Carlinville. They take great pride in working alongside their daughter Chelsey and son Alec, both integral partners in the business.

Gene is quick to thank his wife for all of her hard work in the office as well as their incredible team of employees, all operating under the motto: "Do the right thing, always." They enjoy serving the community, which Gene notes, "when you help people it comes back to you a hundred fold."

"St. Francis is such a nice local hospital," Stephanie said, "It saved our son's life, and it cared for my mother while she battled cancer. Everyone here is so kind and caring and it means a lot to us. We are so thankful."

For more information about HSHS St. Francis Hospital, visit *stfrancis-litchfield.org*.

# Panhandle School Board

*Continued from page 1A*

Also, it was added that students aren't allowed to participate in extra curricular activities if they use a mental health day, with Webb saying that the committee felt that it was more important for the student to focus on their mental health rather than a game.

Board member Heather Millburg asked about counselling for students who use multiple mental health days. Webb said that comes into play after the second day is used and parents are consulted to determine the best path for the student.

Counseling also centered around another change in the handbook, which pertained to action taken regarding extra curricular activities after a student is involved in a "high level" offense, such as use of drugs, tobacco or alcohol, theft and other criminal acts, hazing or bullying or violation of the student athletic social networking policy.

The action calls for the student to be suspended for half a season for one of the high level violations, unless they self report, then they are suspended for a quarter of a season for their first offense. Students can also go through counselling to cut their suspension in half, making it an eighth of a season if they self report or a quarter of a season if they don't.

Due to different availability of counselling and amounts of time needed for different issues, students would be eligible to return even if they are still in counselling.

Board member Scott Cowdrey asked about the change, saying that in the original there was some confusion on which offenses were subject to the actions above and which weren't. Webb explained that it was just the higher level offenses that were subject to the longer suspensions.

Board member Darrin Daugherty asked how the type and length of counselling was determined. Lincolnwood Principal Ken Schuster said that it was mutually approved by the parents and the administration.

In addition to those changes, the handbook made criteria uniform to participate in career and technical education training, like at the South Central Illinois Regional Workforce Training and Innovation Center in Litchfield and Capital Area Career Center in Springfield. Early graduation attendance requirements were also added as students have to have 94 percent attendance in the semester before.

Superintendent Aaron Hopper said there may be some other minor updates, but these were the changes set by the handbook committee. The motion passed 5-0, with board members Terri Payne and Dana Pitchford absent.

In other business, the board approved the consent agenda and the summer maintenance plan. Included in the maintenance plan are the replacement of the unit ventilators in the cafeteria by Henson Robinson, painting in the Farmersville cafeteria kitchen, closing out abatements in the band room, the back of the library and some other spaces, hanging of photos in the Hall of Champions 2.0 outside the multipurpose gym and repair of the damaged area of the rock and chip parking lot near the track.

Daugherty asked about lining the rock and chip parking lot in between the Panhandle Learning Center and Raymond Grade School. Hopper said that they could look at that, adding that it had been about two years since it was last done.

Superintendent Hopper also spoke about the multipurpose gym and gym renovations at the school, saying that S.M. Wilson was in the process of closing out the punch list. Some metal work on the roof and downspouts are among the last things to be done.

Hopper said the school also tested a lift that they believe would work for different projects in the gym and auditorium stage and that the floor covering for the main gym was received and would be installed soon.

The district is also looking at purchasing bleachers for the multipurpose gym. Hopper said the ones they are looking at are nine-feet long and three to four rows high. The plan would be to purchase four sections of the bleachers at $2,200 per section.

New signage is also planned for the outside of the gym, with the Lincolnwood High School sign moved closer to the high school entrance.

An overnight trip for the softball team was also approved as the team is planning to go to the Illinois State University softball game against Indiana State on April 11, with hopes of seeing Carrollton grad, former opponent and ISU freshman Lauren Flowers play for the Redbirds.

In administrative reports, Superintendent Hopper congratulated the Morrisonville-Lincolnwood junior high volleyball team on their state championship and state runner-up trophies and thanked Morrisonville for hosting two assemblies for students at both schools.

Hopper also noted that spring break will begin with dismissal at 2 p.m. April 16, with students returning on April 22, and that the last day of student attendance is anticipated to be May 21. He also said he is planning to attend the inaugural Association of Rural and Small Schools Conference on Friday, April 17.

Principal Schuster also recognized the volleyball teams and noted that baseball and softball had started and the Lincolnwood Drama Club was preparing to perform "Frozen" in April.

In FFA news, Hannah Hill finished first in dairy cattle, while Tori Elvidge and Reagan Penrod were FFA district winners. The FFA banquet will be on April 1.

Schuster also noted that the 5 Essentials Survey was completed, IAR and SAT test schedules had been established and the National Honor Society induction will be held April 15.

In Principal Webb's report, he noted some of the events that were held in March, including Read Across America Week on March 3-6, Family Fun Hour on March 13 and the district collaboration day, which focused on Cartwheel, a mental health partner to schools that works with struggling students and families and works to get them help that is needed in a more timely manner.

Webb also said that the next Quest Cash store will be on Friday, March 27, and spring pre-K screenings will be on March 31 and April 1.

Before entering closed session at 7:32 p.m. Millburg asked how big of an issue vaping has been at Lincolnwood, mentioning that Hillsboro recently installed vape detectors. Principal Schuster said that it hasn't been as big of an issue at Lincolnwood, but several students have been caught. He added that the repercussions for vaping at school have been a good deterrent for the students.

After returning from closed session at 7:49 p.m., the board voted to keep closed session minutes from Oct. 2025 through Feb. 2026 closed, approved a leave request for cross-category teacher Alexis Hardy and hired Hardy as a math teacher for the 2026-2027 school year and accepted resignation letters from paraprofessionals Mason Kerley and Shelly Fenton and cheerleading assistant coach Shannon Mitchelar.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m., with the next board meeting scheduled for April 27.

# Applications Now Open For Democrat Scholarship

The Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee has announced that it will award a $1,000 scholarship this spring to a graduating senior in one of the county high schools.

The scholarship is available to any 2026 graduating senior from a Montgomery County high school, who is a resident of Montgomery County from a Democrat family and who will be pursuing a degree at any post secondary educational institution. Interested applicants should provide the following to their guidance counselor for transmittal to the committee: Letter of acceptance from the institution of higher education the applicant will be attending; a five hundred (500) word essay on the topic "What I Consider America's Greatest Accomplishment in its 250 Years of Existence"; copy of high school transcript and statement of family income.

Failure to include all of the following items will result in failure of the applicant to be considered for the scholarship

Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, April 17.

The scholarship, named in honor of the longest serving Montgomery County Clerk, Eunice May Russell, will be awarded at the annual awards ceremony at the successful applicant's school. This will be the 12th annual awarding of the Eunice May Russell Democrat Scholarship.

# County 4-H To Plant Oak Tree Savanna On April 6

The Montgomery County 4-H and Extension office will be hosting an Oak tree savanna planting day on Monday, April 6, at 2 p.m. All 4-H members are invited to attend the event, plant oak trees, learn about local habitats and make an impact on their community.

Attendees are asked to bring shovels and gloves if possible. Learn more and register at *go.illinois.edu/oaktreesavana*.

**ATTENTION:**

**EDGEWOOD CEMETERY LOT OWNERS**

All seasonal decorations are to be removed by April 1st to commence mowing.

**Edgewood Cemetery Board**

**THE CITY OF HILLSBORO WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING REMINDER:**

**GLENN SHOALS LAKE MARINA SLIPS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1ST**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**
**COUNTY OF Montgomery - Hillsboro, ILLINOIS**

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LEHMAN MORTGAGE TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-5
Plaintiff
vs.
ETHEL E. WILLIAMS; TERRY WILLIAMS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
**24 FC 22**
CALENDAR
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Montgomery County will on April 15, 2026, at the hour 10:00 a.m., Courthouse lobby, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 10-33-451-018.

**Commonly known as:**
**503 E. RYDER ST., LITCHFIELD, IL 62056**

The real estate is: single family residence.

If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, **Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109.** 24-241832
SHERIFF
I3282929

88-3tT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
JODI S COMPTON; CHARLES R COMPTON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
**NO. 2025FC29**
**707 NORTH MADISON, LITCHFIELD, IL 62056**
**NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on February 9, 2026, will on April 29, 2026, in THE FRONT DOOR OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 120 NORTH MAIN STREET, HILLSBORO, IL 62049, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Montgomery, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 10-33-315-014

**COMMONLY KNOWN AS:**
**707 North Madison, Litchfield, IL 62056**

Description of Improvements: White vinyl siding, single family home

The Judgment amount was $29,737.05.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - **McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 333 W Wacker Drive, Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60606-1220. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088.** Please refer to file# 25-21412IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.

I3283483

90-3tT

# Litchfield's 2026 Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

## Rise And Grind Named Litchfield Business Of The Year

**by Isaiah Atkins**

"I'm so thankful to open a store and work here in Litchfield," Sydney Budd says. "This is a dream and it feels really good to be seen."

Since 2023, Budd has owned and operated Rise and Grind Coffee Co. in Litchfield, serving coffee with care to her devoted customer base. She and her team were recognized for their significant achievement and outstanding contributions to the local community with the 2025 Litchfield Chamber Business of the Year Award.

Budd, along with her family and staff, will be honored at the organization's 78th annual banquet on Thursday evening, March 26, at the Gudgel Ranch Saloon in Litchfield.

"Rise and Grind was recognized for their strong community presence and their consistent support of local events and fundraisers," Litchfield Chamber President Dillon Clark said. "Their welcoming atmosphere, amazing coffee and friendly service have made them a popular place for people in the community to gather and connect."

Budd, a 2019 Litchfield High School grad, was a student at Lincoln-Land Community College when she first started working for James and Sara Randle at Coffee Xpresso. "I was in school studying for elementary education and it was the perfect part-time job," she explains. "I had always thought of teaching as being a great way to be involved in the community and I wanted to help people of all backgrounds. But when Sara asked me if I wanted to buy a coffee shop, one thing led to another and I took it on in January 2023."

Of course, purchasing a brick-and-mortar Litchfield staple was no easy undertaking for the then-college student. To save money, Budd opened the Rise and Grind Coffee Co. trailer, a portable coffee stand that she then took all over Central Illinois to local events, markets and more. "When I was finishing up college, I knew that coffee was what I wanted to do," Budd explains. "Looking back, God always had a plan. It was so nerve-wracking to change my career path, because I've always been a planner, but I'm so glad I took the chance, because this changed my life in the best way possible."

Operating the coffee trailer all over the local area gave Budd the chance to get her name out there and meet people where they were. "I met so many great people who have turned into very loyal customers still." She operated the trailer for seven or so months, a brief but memorable experience she'll forever treasure. "It was just so much fun, spending time with my mom all day and building the foundation of what I wanted to do," she explains. "Family was always that foundation. My mom was my first employee and my dad has been my right-hand man." She credits her parents, Brian and Shelia Budd of Litchfield, for teaching her the value of hard work and community. "My dad owns our family business Budd's Paint Service here in town and I've learned so much from him about business and morals," Budd says. "Watching him own and operate a business showed me just how hard it is to do. It never turns off; it's your life. But it's so rewarding."

Through those weeks of buying supplies each morning and then taking the trailer all over central Illinois with her mom to events and markets, the ultimate goal, she says, remained the same: to open the shop at the W. Union St. location. "It was really hard work and it makes me so thankful now just to put in the key and open the front door," she says.

She would not consider herself to always be an entrepreneur, nor did she dream of being a businesswoman. "That wasn't on my radar growing up," she says. "As a 22-year-old, I never thought this would be possible. The business has taught me so much about what I am capable of. If you have a dream and you're willing to put some hard work into it, you can do anything."

While Budd didn't ever expect to be where she is now, what she loves most about the job is exactly what she's always wanted: community.




Since 2023, Rise and Grind Coffee Co. has provided the Litchfield community great drinks, friendly faces and space for community. The company was honored as this year's Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year and will be recognized at the awards ceremony on Thursday, March 26, at the Gudgel Ranch. Pictured above from the left are barista McKenzie Wilson, owner Sydney Budd and barista Tressa Zimmerman. ***Journal-News Photo***

"Growing up, I was always very talkative. I never knew a stranger," she says with a laugh. "Of course that goes hand in hand with the coffee shop business. Every customer has become a big part of my life. I truly enjoy knowing how the last T-ball game went or how your grandma is doing. Being a 'chatty Kathy' has helped me a lot in the business." That personality has proved infectious across the rest of her staff, who have made their diverse customers' mundane coffee runs a personal affair. "When we say, 'Good morning' and 'Have a nice day,' we really mean every word," Budd says. "It's not just a habit. Our customers have become great friends and we care deeply about them."

Budd is quick to credit her staff of friends and family who have made her mission their own. "We are built on family and my team treats you like family," she says. "I am so proud and thankful for them all and I couldn't do this without them. It takes a team and a good team at that."

Of course, Budd is quick to point out that they equally care about serving the best possible drink, exactly as the customer wants. "Just about the first thing we say to most people is, 'Do you want your usual?'" she says. "It becomes a race to see how quick we can get it done. It's fun and I have the best people."

A Purple Panther through and through, Budd always knew she'd put her roots in her hometown. "It's so much more personal to be here and being able to serve my teachers, classmates and friends from the years is the cherry on top."

Since opening three years ago, Budd has quickly made an effort to support local Litchfield community initiatives. "I always wanted to give back to the community," she says. "This community helped raise me into the person I am." Over the past several years, Rise and Grind Coffee Co. has supported the annual post-prom, Stamp Out Cancer, bought cheerleading uniforms, collected donations for Adopt-A-Pet, collaborated with other local businesses and more. "I have a hard time saying no, but I'm okay with that," she says. "Being a part of the community means being willing to help your neighbor and I'm looking forward to doing more of that in the future, along with not just being part of the community, but forming the community."

"It's fun to help each other."

In addition to serving coffee and serving the community, Budd takes pride in providing a physical space where both things intersect. "It's not just a cup of coffee; it's where you start your day," Budd says. "So many walks of life converge at the coffee shop," pointing out the different morning coffee groups that have organically started meeting. "It's eye-opening to see how many people become friends over coffee," she says.

Additionally, Budd has taken heart to their many out-of-town customers, stopping by on their long cross-country road trips or quick trips to sports tournaments and the like. "People find us off the interstate and stop by on their vacations," Budd says. "There's a family that stops by once each summer and we won't see them again until the next year. It's just so cool."

Local connections and strangers passing through, along with college students studying, morning coffee regulars, business owners meeting and friends hanging out, form the tight-knit Rise and Grind family, open to all to leave their worries and stress at the door and enjoy coffee and community. "It means everything to me," Budd says. "This place is my home and means so much to me to be able to share even just a sliver of it with everyone."

As she looks ahead, Budd is excited to watch her son, Hayes, born this past year, grow up at Rise and Grind and meet all of their visitors. "I'm raising my baby and owning a coffee shop and seeing how the two things come together," Budd says. "They already have in really beautiful ways."

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# Litchfield's 2026 Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner



Brittany Ronco was awarded the 2026 Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Special Recognition Award.

## Ronco Receives Chamber Special Recognition Award

**by Cayden Huber**

The Litchfield Chamber of Commerce has awarded Brittany Ronco with special recognition. Ronco has lived in Litchfield for practically her entire life, working at Litchfield High School for the past 11 years. She has been with her husband, Josh, for 15 years and married for ten. He owns Ronco's Auto Body. Ronco has three children, her stepsons, Brayden, age 18 and Ben, age 16 and daughter, Payton. age 12.

Ronco is a part of Together Litchfield Can (TLC), Litchfield Community Partners and Litchfield Sports Boosters. With TLC, Ronco is a part of the Beautification Committee for fall and spring, helping to paint flower pots and cleanups at the park and lake. For Litchfield Community Partners, Ronco handles holiday parades such as the Halloween and Christmas parades, helps with the Festival of Trees and works in marketing for their events and getting volunteers involved.

Ronco's proudest accomplishment is "Being involved in the town and working to make the town beautiful." She said, "I have an extensive network of people that I can call upon when help is needed. I am so grateful to all these people in my life that are willing to step up and help."

She added, "It was a very unexpected recognition, but I am honored to receive it. I want to continue to see our community grow. I've never really liked being in the spotlight, I'm more of a doer. If something needs to be done, I'm going to do it and do it the best I can. I've always believed you can't complain if you're not willing to get involved, and that's what pushed me to start stepping up in the community."

Ronco says she "would love to see more people get involved." She says, "It's easy to have opinions, but real changes happen when people get involved. We welcome involvement from all of our community members."

Dillon Clark of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce says, "Brittany Ronco was selected for her continued involvement in community service and support of local initiatives. Often working behind the scenes, she consistently contributes her time and effort to help organize and support many community events and organizations."

## Candi Mazza Named Citizen Of The Year

**by Mary (Galer) Herschelman**

"Everything was so easy to move here, it was like it was meant to be," said Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Candi Mazza. "It just seemed like this was where we were supposed to be."

Mazza, along with her husband, Dominick, and children Janet and Sam, moved from western Pennsylvania to Litchfield in November 2019. In addition to Janet and Sam, who are students in the Litchfield School District, the Mazzas have two grown children, Kayleigh (husband Syngin) Stockdale and Tony Mazza, and seven grandchidlren, Benjamin, Dominick, Ellis, Colter, Gracelyn, Logan and Savannah, who all reside in Pennsylvania.

"Candi Mazza was selected for her dedication to helping others throughout the Litchfield community," said Litchfield Chamber of Commerce President Dillon Clark. "She has been actively involved in helping families in need by organizing food boxes, connecting people with resources, and supporting programs that assist local children and families."

The Mazzas met while serving together in the Army. Dominick had 28 years of service and Candi had six. When Dominick retired he took a job in waste management training and was eventually offered a job in Springfield, IL. His boss suggested Litchfield as a new home because it was halfway between Springfield and St. Louis, MO, where his boss was located.

"We thought Litchfield was a nice little town," Mazza said.

They flew in on a Sunday to check it out and drive around. Lori Gardner was showing them just a few houses on the market. Dominick had his eye on some land on Day Spring where they could build a home, but Candi wasn't so sure. While checking out the land at the end of a cul-de-sac, the Mazzas met Tom and Susan Shelton, who just happened to know of a house that would soon be on the market on Weeks Lane.

"We toured the house and thought, this is it," Mazza said.

Following her military service in the Army National Guard, Mazza worked at the Family Action Center, helping families of deployed soldiers. That was similar to the work she did while she was enlisted, she just continued the job as a civilian. She also worked in human relations for Target and then became a stay-at-home mom when Janet was born in January 2008.

And while she wasn't necessarily looking for a job when they moved to Litchfield, one happened to find her.

During a visit with her grandkids, Logan brought the newspaper from the mailbox and it just happened to have an ad for a part-time position with the school district as a parent engagement coordinator.

"Since I didn't know anyone in the community, I thought it would help me meet people," she said.

Mazza interviewed with the school district, for what was more of a full-time job, and started in February of 2021.

"Adam Favre was my supervisor and he told me I could make this position into what I wanted," she said. "He told me to figure out the need and fill that need. And he told me to call Jon Magnuson."

Within the first two weeks, Mazza sat down with Magnuson, who is a local pastor and founder of The Next Network. He showed her available resources in the area, what meetings she should attend, who to contact when she needed help.

"He really took me under his wing," she said. "He really helped me."

Over the past five years, Mazza has been finding ways to meet the needs of Litchfield students.

"The needs of our students are very great. Some don't have school clothes or PE shoes. Some don't have food at home," she said. "It's very important to me to make sure every kid in Litchfield has everything they need to succeed in school."

After a slow start, Mazza started receiving referrals from teachers about students who needed shoes or snacks for school.

"I started reaching out to families to ask them how I could help and to meet them where they were," she said.

In the past five years, Mazza has put families up in Air BnBs and hotels, gotten them on the waiting list for housing, made sure families had enough to eat, bought tires so parents could get their kids to school. She keeps a supply closet at the school with school supplies and clothes for students.



Candi Mazza was named the 2026 Citizen of the Year by the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce.

"If a student feels comfortable and confident with a full belly, they're more apt to pay attention in class," she said.

Mazza said she was surprised when the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce called to recognize her as this year's Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

"I like to do what I do in the background," Mazza said. "There are lots of people in the community who don't even know what I do. But I do appreciate the recognition."

Prior to this year, Mazza served for three years on the board of directors for the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce.

She and her husband, along with their kids, will be in attendance at this year's awards dinner.

"My husband had no idea what he was getting into when I took this job," Mazza said. "He's picked up furniture at night. He's fixed bikes so middle school kids could get to school. And he's never told me no."

The Mazzas will celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary this year.

"When I told him about the award, he just kind of smiled and said, 'that's pretty cool,'" Mazza said.

Following this school year, Mazza's position as family engagement coordinator has been eliminated by the Litchfield School District. She said she's not sure what's next for her as she fields job offers.

"When I took this job, I wasn't looking for a job," she said. "But it turns out this was where I was supposed to be for the past five years."

And although the Mazzas have only lived in Litchfield about eight years, it's definitely become home to them.

"Litchfield is a pretty cool town," Mazza said. "The community just comes together in very extraordinary ways. There were times I needed something for students and I would get ten messages right away. The community really works well together, and I don't know if I've ever seen that before. The way the community rallies together and helps others; that's pretty cool."

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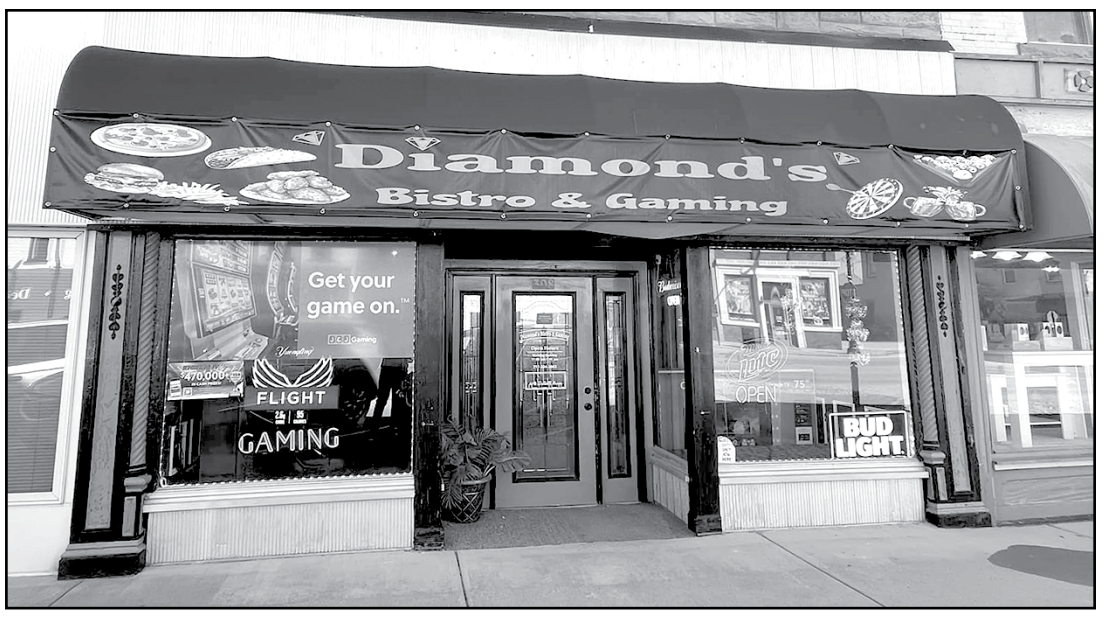
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# Litchfield's 2026 Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner




Diamond's Bistro and Gaming in downtown Litchfield was named this year's Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Rising Star Award winner. *Journal-News Photo*

## Diamond's Bistro Named Rising Star

**by Cayden Huber**

Diamond's Bistro and Gaming in Litchfield was recently recognized as the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce's Rising Star as part of its annual awards. Diamond's is operated by Tiffany Bradburn, who had worked at the business under previous ownership. Her boyfriend, Robert Maguire, bought the business in November of 2025. She thanks her staff for the success the business has had. "I have a really great staff, we all work really well together," said Bradburn.

Dillon Clark of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce said, "Diamond's Bistro was recognized as a rising star for their growing presence in the community and the positive energy they bring to downtown Litchfield. Known for their great food and friendly service, they have quickly become a favorite spot for many in the community."

When asked about her reaction to earning the recognition, Bradburn said, "I was really excited about it. I wasn't expecting it."

"We're trying to stay active in the community," Bradburn said. Last year, Diamond's offered a free Thanksgiving meal and they are planning another one for the Easter season. During the Thanksgiving dinner, donations were accepted for the Litchfield Food Pantry. In addition to the Thanksgiving meal, Diamond's hosted a Stamp Out Cancer event, are hosting a fundraiser for the Squatches youth travel baseball team and are staying open later for local sports teams. "We have a lot of big ideas. We're still brand new at it, so you'll have to stay tuned," said Bradburn.

"We're really grateful that the community and chamber voted for us. We've gotten a lot of support."

Diamond's Bistro and Gaming is located at 308 North State St. in Litchfield. They are open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.




## Fenton Named Educator Of The Year

**by Mary (Galer) Herschelman**



Litchfield Middle School physical education Patricia "Trish" Fenton has been named the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce 2026 Educator of the Year.

"I was completely shocked," said Litchfield Middle School physical education teacher Patricia "Trish" Fenton when her friend Crystal Rivali called to tell her she'd been named the 2026 Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. "Something like that had never even crossed my mind."

Fenton has served a variety of positions in the Litchfield School District for the past nearly 20 years.

"Trish Fenton was recognized for the positive impact she has on students through her energy, encouragement and passion for education," said Litchfield Chamber of Commerce President Dillon Clark. "She is known for creating a supportive and engaging environment for students while also showing strong support for school activities and the overall school community."

A graduate of Litchfield High School, Fenton earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and her master's degree in teacher leadership from the University of Illinois in Springfield. She also took classes later to earn her certification in physical education.

Her career in education started as a pre-K teacher for five years in the Litchfield Head Start program. She then spent eight years as a pre-K teacher for the Litchfield School District, followed by seven years as a first grade teacher and two years as a Litchfield Middle School physical education teacher.

"After my time with the littles, I was ready for something different," Fenton said. "I love everything about sports and now that's my job."

While attending church at the Free Methodist Church in Hillsboro, Fenton said she took notice of a sermon about sabbaticals.

Longtime LMS physical education teacher Lori Heise was retiring, and Fenton was interested in that position. Fenton thought she could take a year-long sabbatical to take classes she needed to get her certification to teach physical education.

"I started to wonder if I should do that (sabbatical), and try to get Lori's job." Fenton said. "People were gonna think I was crazy. But I decided then and there that this was the sign I needed. If it works out, it was where I'm supposed to be. I'm really glad it took me right back to be with the kids."

Although she's only been at the middle school for the past two years, Fenton has loved her time there.

"I really feel like I was making a difference," she said.

One thing she brought to the job is a positive energy award she gives out each quarter to a student who's a good teammate and is really trying in PE. The prize is a box of Krabby Patties for "not being crabby in PE."

She's also brought fall fest, winter fest and spring fest parties to PE, as well as dress-up days.

"I just love stuff that's fun and the kids enjoy doing," she said. "Everyone has to take PE, so this gives kids something to look forward to."

This will be her last year as middle school PE teacher. Fenton will be transferred to Litchfield Elementary School as a PE teacher for third through fifth grades.

"It's a bummer leaving because I really like it here and the chance to make connections with the kids," Fenton said. "But I'm looking forward to working with the younger kids again too. They're just so happy to be there."

While Fenton's career has brought her to teach students of a variety of ages, Fenton said the job's really not that different.

"It's really not," she said. "All kids just want someone to listen to them and to care about them."

At the pre-K level, she loved getting to know the families of her students and making connections with them. In first grade, she loved teaching reading.

"When it happens for someone, it's just amazing," she said. "It was really filling my cup all the time."

At the middle school, Fenton said the wins are different, but very special. She keeps a board above her desk full of notes students have written to her.

"They're very sweet and kind, and I get my cup filled here too," she said.

In addition, Fenton enjoys her job as a track coach at the middle school as well.

"I've kind of been all over the district," she said. "And I was certainly never expecting an award like this."

Leading Fenton to a career in education was her fifth grade teacher, Carol Frailey.

"I wanted to be just like her," Fenton said. "She loved you where you were and genuinely cared about you. Somehow that stuck. I thought maybe I could be a Mrs. Frailey for somebody."

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# 'Frozen' Opens This Week At Nokomis

After weeks of rehearsals, the Nokomis School District will present "Frozen, Jr." this weekend in the old gym. Students in Nokomis Junior High School and Nokomis High School will perform on Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, at 7 p.m. both nights. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $5 for students and $7 for adults. Refreshments will be available. Cast members are pictured above.

In front, from the left are Payton Coots (Young Elsa, Snow Chorus), Genesis Howell (Young Anna, Snow Chorus), Avry West (Elsa) Natalie Graden (Anna), Jager Johnson (Kristoff) and Elyse Tuetken (Sven). In back are Charli Sullivan (ensemble), Ava Gipson (ensemble), Viviana Kirby (ensemble), Paige Coots (ensemble), Aaliyah Colon-Gonzalez (ensemble), Alea West (ensemble), Avery Snow (Olaf), Riley-Lyn McBroom (King Agnarr, Oaken's Fam), Keeli Sanders (Hans), Savannah Grimes (Bulda), William Graden (ensemble), Leala Eddington (Pabbie), Ahmsher Utterback (Oaken), Parker Sullivan (Duke of Weselton) and Layne Johnson (ensemble). Not present for the photo were Leigha Smith (Queen Iduna, Summer Chorus), Zaeden Beamen (bishop, guard), Ariana Hocq (ensemble) and Julia Grimes (ensemble).

**DRAGON BEAT** • by Isabelle Zbinden at HJHS

# Dragon Track Squads Ready For Season



Hey there Dragon Beat audience! Welcome back to more information about HJHS.

This week our track members had practice all week. They are getting ready for their first track meet on Monday, March 30, in Carlinville. This week the last week for the iReady March Madness challenge. The final four will be playing on Thursday and Friday to determine a champion. That winning PRIDE classroom will challenge faculty in a basketball game to be on Wednesday before Spring break. This will be a tough game to play as the Faculty are defending champions.

Scholar Bowl had a match against Pocahontas and Greenville. Our eighth grade team lost to both of them, while our seventh grade took on a victory against Pocahontas but lost to Greenville. They get to try again against Pocahontas tonight for one of their home matches. They will also compete against Litchfield.

For any eighth grader interested in doing high school cheerleading and getting students in the school spirit then, there are forms up in the office. You will need to fill out all of the papers and read through it thoroughly.

In social news at HJHS, last Friday night was the Spring Fling dance, Neon Glow Themed with 80's music. Kindness Club members passed out kind notes to students encouraging anybody and everybody to spread positivity throughout our school.

Builder Club members are working on getting enough points towards their year end field trip, by bringing in items for the month. Don't forget that a student who is in Builder's Club can bring in soda caps at any time throughout the school year.

You may have noticed the old sign missing from the front of the yard. It was taken down yesterday and will be replaced by a new electronic one.

Are you ready for an awesome joke for this week? Well okay then, a book fell on my head. I have only my-shelf to blame it on! Get it? That joke was a pretty good one.

Now instead of doing two jokes this week I'm going to tell you a riddle. What's bought by the yard and worn by the foot?

That is the riddle for this week. Tune into next week's article to keep updated on HJHS and to find out the right answer for the riddle.

# Redman To Speak At Wild Birds

Wild Birds Unlimited will be hosting a eastern bluebirds program on Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m. at the store, located at 2216 Troy Rd. in Edwardsville.

Master Naturalist Nancy Redman of Hillsboro will present the program. The program is free and open to the public. All are welcome to have fun and learn more about eastern bluebirds in Illinois.



Wiseman Rentals

# Litchfield Church To Host Palm Sunday Worship

Minister Lynne Taylor will lead worship with Holy Communion for Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m. in the church sanctuary at 824 North Monroe St. in Litchfield.

Scriptures for proclamation and study are Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16 and Philippians 2:5-11. The Gospel of the day is Matthew 27:11-54. This passage is about the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus Christ as a fulfillment of Scriptures and the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

The adult Bible study meets at 8:45 a.m. The current study centers around the Revelation to St. John. "Hebrews" fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m.

The church's Mission Beyond Our Walls for March 2026 is Litchfield Post Prom. Funds are used by volunteers to provide a fun, drug-free celebration after the Prom Dance.

Worship services are livestreamed on the Mt. Zion Lutheran, Litchfield, IL YouTube channel.

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The Journal-News Section B

Hillsboro, IL 62049 Thursday, March 26, 2026

# Cress Sets School Hurdles Record In Outdoor Debut

One outdoor meet into her first high school season and Hillsboro freshman Kaelin Cress has already made enough memories to last her entire career.

Running the 33-inch 100-meter hurdles for the first time in a high school meet, Cress broke the school record in the event, clocking in at 17.25 seconds during the Lady Hiltoppers outdoor opener at North Mac.

If that wasn't enough, Cress also took first in the 300 meters hurdles, running a 51.06, and was part of Hillsboro's 4x200 meter relay team with Lydia Collins, Layla Blankenship and Sophia Watkins, who won the race in a time of 1:50.59.

Blankenship knows a little about breaking records herself as she went a program best 17'0.75" in the long jump at her first indoor meet back on March 7, at the Rushville-Industry Indoor Invite.

Cress' success mirrored that of the team as a whole as Hillsboro finished second by just three points, coming up with 107 points as a team to Litchfield's 110.

The names from the 4x200 relay also had success in the sprints, with Watkins winning the 100 (13.36) and 200 (27.86), while Blankenship was second in the 100 (13.73) and Collins was third in the 200 (28.97). Collins, Blankenship, Watkins and Kailey Weiss also won the 4x100, running a 51.82 for the win.



Kaelin Cress

Collins and Blankenship were also the top two finishers in the long jump, with Collins going 4.95 meters and Blankenship going 4.65 meters. Amya Greenwood added a first in the triple jump as well, going 9.24 meters to take the top spot.

*Continued on 3B*

# Lady Hiltoppers Score Pair Of Shutout Wins

The Hillsboro girls soccer team picked up a pair of shutout wins to start the week as they defeated Metro-East Lutheran 4-0 on March 23, and Taylorville 6-0 on March 24.

The Hiltoppers launched attack after attack throughout the first half of Monday's game in Hillsboro, but came up empty time after time.

Finally, with three minutes to go in the first half, Hillsboro's ever-present pressure paid off. Kearstynn Davis brought the ball into the box on the right side, shook free from a defender and slid a pass toward Peyton Christian. The Metro-East Lutheran goalie charged out to make the stop, but Christian slid a shot into the left corner of the goal to make it 1-0.

The second half was more of the same as Hillsboro's scoring opportunities came early and often in the opening minutes. With 26 minutes showing on the clock, the Toppers added their second goal, when Emma Andrews deflected a through ball by Aubrey Huber past the defense. Peyton Christian beat the defense to the loose ball and knocked in her second goal of the game.

Huber made it 3-0 three minutes later when she wove through traffic and chipped a shot over the goalkeeper's outstretched hands from eight yards out on the left side.



One of the anchors of Hillsboro's defense, Brooklyn Kirby (left) looks to clear a ball out of harm's way during the Toppers' game against Metro-East Lutheran on March 23. Kirby, along with fellow backs Sloan Bertolino, Liberty Helton and Kinley Greenwood and goalkeeper Delaney Adams, helped the Hiltoppers to back-to-back shutouts over Metro-East Lutheran (4-0) and Taylorville (6-0) to start the week. *Alysia Seely/Magnolia Studios*

The freshman nearly had another goal on a rocket from ten yards out, but the Metro-East Lutheran keeper knocked it out of harm's way.

Hillsboro finished off their scoring with eight minutes to play, with Tinleigh Schulte slamming home a free ball from almost the goal line.

Play remained in favor of the Hillsboro offense for the rest of the time, with the far post stealing a goal away from Kearstynn Davis late, as the senior playmaker settled for two assists on the night.

Delaney Adams recorded the shutout, but much of the credit goes to her backline of Sloan Bertolino, Liberty Helton, Kinley Greenwood and Briley Kirby, who made Adams' day as boring as possible.

**Taylorville**

Shutout number two on the season came just a day later as Adams and the Hillsboro defense held a shorthanded Taylorville squad scoreless for a 6-0 win.

Much like the Metro-East Lutheran game, Hillsboro dominated possession and had multiple scoring opportunities that just missed from Kearstynn Davis, Kaylee Hood, Gracie Chambers, Aubrey Huber and Peyton Christian.

*Continued on 3B*

# Litchfield Girls First At Opening Outdoor Meet

The Litchfield girls track team took the top spot in the team results in their opening outdoor meet of the season on Tuesday, March 24, in Virden, as they edged Hillsboro by three points.

The Lady Purple Panthers finished with 110 points, with Hillsboro taking second with 107 and North Mac third with 78.5. Litchfield finished the day with 11 top three finishes, including five wins on the day.

Maggie Schwab accounted for two of those wins individually, running a 2:40.31 in the 800 and a 5:48.27 in the 1600. Schwab also teamed up with Leighton Warchol, Brooke Braasch and Gracie Boden to take first in the 4x400, running a 4:53.70.

Warchol also collected an individual win in the 400, running a time of 1:07.69, while Lana Cress was third in the 100 (13.96) and second in the 200 (28.81). The 4x100 team of Cress, Jada Carroll, Kilee Hoover and Harley Foulk also finished second, clocking in at 52.59.

In the field events, Hoover was first in the high jump, clearing 1.60 meters. Gracie Boden and Jennah Longwell added a pair of third place finishes, with Boden going 8.55 meters in the triple jump and Longwell throwing 8.47 meters in the shot put.

While Schwab will be busy this weekend with the Illinois Top Times indoor meet in Bloomington, the rest of the Lady Panthers will be back in action on March 31, when Litchfield hosts Gillespie and Carlinville.

**March 24 at Virden**

**Girls Team Results:** 1. Litchfield 110; 2. Hillsboro 107; 3. North Mac 78.5; 4. North Greene 58.5; 5. Bunker Hill 42; 6. Pawnee 18.

**Litchfield Girls**

**100:** 3. Lana Cress 13.96; 5. Harley Foulk 14.11; 7. Jada Carroll 14.22

**200:** 2. Lana Cress 28.81; 4. Kilee Hoover 28.98; 6. Jada Carroll 30.15

**400:** 1. Leighton Warchol 1:07.69; 3. Gracie Boden 1:12:12

**800:** 1. Maggie Schwab 2:40.31

**1600:** 1. Maggie Schwab 5:48.27

**4x100:** 2. Harley Foulk/Kilee Hoover/Jada Carroll/Lana Cress 52.59

**4x200:** 2. Harley Foulk/Kilee Hoover/Jada Carroll/Lana Cress 1:53.51

**4x400:** 1. Leighton Warchol/Maggie Schwab/Brooke Braasch/Gracie Boden 4:53.70

**Shot Put:** 3. Jennah Longwell 8.47m; 10. Josie Coatney 6.86m; 13. Xindy Dong 6.21m; 19. Makenna Petroline 5.56m; 22. Angle Balestri 5.13m

**Discus:** 5. Jennah Longwell 20.18m; 6. Xindy Dong 19.16m; 11. Josie Coatney 15.75m; 20. Milyn Rodil 11.67m; 21. Makenna Petroline 10.87m

**High Jump:** 1. Kilee Hoover 1.60m

**Long Jump:** 4. Harley Foulk 4.24m

**Triple Jump:** 3. Gracie Boden 8.55m

# Redskins Score 29 Runs In Back-To-Back Wins

The Nokomis High School baseball team started their week with a pair of wins over North Mac on March 23, and Edinburg on March 24, scoring 29 runs on 24 hits in the two games.

In Virden on Monday, Nokomis used an eight-run second inning to take an early lead, en route to a 17-11 victory over the Panthers.

Oddly enough, Nokomis only had two hits in the inning, a leadoff single by Luke Eisenbarth and a run-scoring single by Nolan Herpstreith, but they benefitted from three walks and three hit batsmen.

North Mac picked up a run in the second, but Nokomis added three more runs in the third on an error, a walk and singles by Carter Wexstten, Blain Goodwin and Herpstreith to make it 11-1.

After a scoreless fourth inning, it looked like Nokomis might be able to end the game early as they scored three more runs in the top of the fifth after three walks, an error and a single by Kannon Jonas.

The Panthers had other ideas, though, as they scored seven runs on six hits, two errors, a walk and a hit batsman.

North Mac made it 16-9 with a solo run in the bottom of the sixth, but Nokomis added three more runs in the seventh on one hit (a double by Wexstten), an error and a walk. The run parade continued in the bottom of the seventh with two more runs, before Izaak Doyen got the final two batters out on strikes to end the slugfest.

All six outs Doyen got on Monday were on strikeouts as he allowed two runs on three hits in the final two innings. Bryce Gillock started the game for Nokomis and gave up six runs (only two earned) on seven hits and a walk, with four strikeouts in four and a third innings, while Luke Eisenbarth pitched two-thirds of an inning, allowing three runs (one earned) on five hits, two walks and one strikeout.

**Edinburg-South Fork**

The bats didn't cool off on Tuesday as the Redskins picked up a 12-4 win over Edinburg-South Fork in the MSM Conference opener for both teams.

Kannon Jonas singled and scored on an error off the bat of Nolan Herpstreith to start the game, before Edinburg plated two runs in the bottom half of the inning on two hit batsmen, a walk and two singles.

Nokomis regained the lead in the bottom of the second, scoring four times on three hits (a double by Levi German and singles by Luke Eisenbarth and Carter Wexstten), plus a walk and two sacrifices.

The Redskins maintained the 5-2 lead until the bottom of the fourth, when Edinburg plated two more runs on a walk, an error and two singles. Nokomis got one run back on an RBI single by German, who drove in Herpstreith after he singled to start the inning.

The Wildcats stayed within arm's reach of the lead, but didn't score in the fifth or sixth. In the seventh, Nokomis put the game away as they doubled their score with six runs in the top half of the inning.

*Continued on 3B*

# Lady Lancers Get Both Sides Of Ten-Run Rule

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville softball team experienced both sides of the ten-run rule this week as they picked up an 11-1 victory over Vandalia in five innings on March 23, then lost a 10-0 tilt to Tri-City/Sangamon Valley/Mt. Pulaski in six innings on March 24.

The Lancers' bookended their win on Monday with home runs, getting a solo shot by Tori Elvidge in the first and a grand slam by Taryn Clarke in the fifth. Elvidge's homer started a trend of three straight one-run innings for Lincolnwood, who got back-to-back doubles from Audrey Germann and Hannah Jostes in the second to make it 2-0 and a single from Clarke and an RBI double from Ella Jenkins in the third to make it 3-0.

Vandalia picked up a pair of singles in the first inning, but Elvidge, Lincolnwood's starting pitcher, got out of the inning and didn't allow a base runner in the second or third frames.

*Continued on 3B*

# Vandalia's Lewis Handcuffs Hiltopper Offense

**by Ron Deabenderfer**

Vandalia's Jack Lewis "had a day" on the mound and at the plate when the Vandals came to the Hillsboro Sports Complex Tuesday afternoon, March 24; the right-hander surrendered only one hit, a double pulled down the third base line by Liam Blackburn leading off the bottom of the second, as he shut out the host team. A ground ball to Lewis, a foul pop-up to first, and a ground ball to short ended the threat.

The only other runners the Toppers had were Chase Spangler, whose ground ball to third resulted in a throw which pulled the first baseman off the bag in a close play, and Austin Hughes, who was hit by a pitch in the bottom of the seventh after Sawyer Hindle drew a walk. Lewis struck out seven and walked only one during his complete game performance.



Hillsboro's Liam Blackburn pitched well for the Toppers on Tuesday, giving up just six hits and two earned runs (five total) while striking out one, but his counterpart, Vandalia's Jack Lewis, held the Toppers to just one hit in a 5-0 victory for the visitors from Fayette County. *Journal-News/Kyle Herschelman*

At the plate, he had two hits, a single in the first and a triple to deep right field in the fifth, reached on an error, and was hit by a pitch. He scored two of the Vandals' five runs.

Blackburn also pitched effectively, taking the mound for each of the seven innings before a home run by the visitors' Ayden Carroll as the seventh began ended his day. Spangler stopped the damage at that point.

Though the Toppers fell to 1-3 record-wise, the young team showed improvement. Defensively, they were sound; offensively, they put the ball in play more often than not. It's better to hit the ball somewhere on the field of play than to strike out, and to do so is noteworthy against a hurler as good as Kelly was Tuesday.

It wasn't a torturous, we-have-no-chance game to watch.

*Continued on 3B*



## Sports Calendar

**Hillsboro Hiltoppers**
**Thursday, March 26**
4:15 p.m. - Softball hosts Mulberry Grove
4:30 p.m. - Girls Soccer at East Alton-Wood River
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Taylorville
**Friday, March 27**
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Greenville
**Saturday, March 28**
9 a.m. - Boys Tennis at Flora Tourney
10 a.m. - Baseball hosts Maryville Christian
2 p.m. - Baseball hosts South Fork

**Lincolnwood Lancers**
**Thursday, March 26**
4:30 p.m. - Baseball vs. Tri-City at Morrisonville
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Tri-City
**Friday, March 27**
4:30 p.m. - Baseball vs. Gillespie at Morrisonville
5 p.m. - Softball hosts Riverton
**Saturday, March 28**
11 a.m. - Softball hosts North Mac
12:30 p.m. - JV Softball hosts Litchfield

**Litchfield Purple Panthers**
**Thursday, March 26**
4:30 p.m. - Baseball at New Berlin
4:30 p.m. - JV Baseball at Springfield Southeast
4:30 p.m. - JV Softball hosts Breese Central
5 p.m. - Girls Soccer at Athens
**Friday, March 27**
4:30 p.m. - Softball at Pawnee
4:30 p.m. - Fr. Baseball at Alton
5 p.m. - Girls Soccer at Waterloo Gibault
**Saturday, March 28**
9 a.m. - JV Girls Soccer at Athens Tournament
10 a.m. - Baseball at Mt. Pulaski
12:30 p.m. - JV Softball at Lincolnwood

**Nokomis Redskins**
**Thursday, March 26**
4:30 p.m. - Baseball hosts Edinburg
4:30 p.m. - Softball hosts Carlinville

*Instagram @journalnewssports*

# Panthers Pick Up Tough Win Over Tornadoes

On Tuesday afternoon, March 24, a classic pitching duel broke out on the campus of Litchfield High School as the Taylorville Tornadoes and the Purple Panthers battled it out on the sandlot.

In a game defined by grit and defensive pressure, a two-run fourth inning proved to be the difference-maker, allowing the Purple Panthers to secure a hard fought 3-2 victory. The win moves Litchfield to an impressive 4-1 overall record, while Taylorville drops to 2-2.

The drama began immediately in the opening frame as both squads claimed a run in their half of the inning.

In the top of the first, Purple Panthers' starter Ethan Saathoff faced an early challenge when the second Tornado he faced connected on a solo dinger. Despite the early scoreboard deficit, Saathoff showed veteran composure. He settled down instantly after the hit, silencing the next two Taylorville batters with a swinging strikeout and a fly out to end the threat.

Trailing 1-0 and coming off a hitless performance the night before, the Purple Panthers did not wait long to find their rhythm at the plate on Tuesday. Ryker Witt ignited the home crowd by reaching the base paths after being hit by a pitch. Moments later, Max Leitschuh earned the honors of the team's first hit of the night, tattooing a one out RBI double. Witt circled the bases to score the tying run, squaring the game at 1-1. While two fly outs left Leitschuh stranded, the Panthers had successfully answered the Taylorville challenge.

The score remained deadlocked in a stalemate until the bottom of the fourth inning. Max Leitschuh once again played the role of catalyst, leading off the home half with a disciplined base on balls. After a pop out recorded the first out of the inning, Matthew Bywater stepped to the plate and delivered a clutch base hit. With runners now on the corners and the pressure mounting, the Purple Panthers looked for a way to break the 1-1 tie.

Laidyn Jones took matters into his own hands, putting the ball in play on an attempt to sacrifice his at-bat for the lead. The strategy paid off as Taylorville's defense committed a costly fielding error that allowed Jones to reach safely. In the chaos of the miscue, both Leitschuh and Bywater crossed home plate to give Litchfield a 3-1 advantage after four innings of action.

The Panthers threatened to blow the game open in the bottom of the fifth. A single by Kaiden Law combined with another Tornadoes defensive error put runners on the corners with only one out. However, Taylorville managed to escape the jam with a crucial double play, keeping the score within reach.

In the top of the sixth, the Tornadoes began to inch closer. Facing reliever Laidyn Jones, Taylorville managed to manufacture a run to trim the lead to 3-2. It was the only damage Jones would allow, as he induced the necessary outs to escape the inning with the lead intact. In the final frame, Jones slammed the door shut, retiring the Tornadoes in the seventh with a punch-out and two clinical ground outs to seal the bounce-back win.

The victory was fueled by a gem from Ethan Saathoff, who surrendered just one run across five dominant innings while racking up seven strikeouts. On the offensive side, Leitschuh, Bywater, and Law provided the necessary spark with three timely hits.

Litchfield will be back on the road on Thursday, March 26, when they play at New Berlin.

**March 24 at Litchfield**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylorville | 100 | 001 | 0 | -- | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| Litchfield | 100 | 200 | x | -- | 3 | 3 | 0 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cappellin | 6.0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| **Cappellin 1 HBP* | | | | | | |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Saathoff | 5.0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Jones | 2.0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

***Taylorville Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Isaac Repscher 2-3. **2B:** Maxx Grieme 1. **HR:** Colton Gatton 1. **Runs:** Colton Gatton 1, Maxx Grieme 1. **RBI:** Colton Gatton 1, Carter Cappellin 1.

***Litchfield Batting***
**2B:** Max Leitschuh 1. **Runs:** Ryker Witt 1, Max Leitschuh 1, Matthew Bywater 1. **RBI:** Max Leitschuh 1, Laidyn Jones 1.
**Records:** Litchfield-Mt. Olive (4-1); Taylorville (2-2).

# Lady Hiltoppers Beat Shelbyville By Thirteen

The Hillsboro High School softball team pounded out 15 runs on 13 hits and benefitted from eight Shelbyville errors as they knocked off the Rams 15-2 on Tuesday, March 24.

Shelbyville starter Karli Boehm only walked two batters in the game, but they were the first two and both Lux Reynolds and Lainey Lessman went on to score. Reynolds scored on a sacrifice fly by Briley Kirby, while Peyton Chappelear drove in Lessman with a double.

Shelbyville got the second out of the inning on a strikeout, but Gracelynn Crayne reached on an error, allowing Chappelear to score and make it 3-0 before the Rams got out of the inning.

After Shelbyville stranded a runner on second in the bottom half of the first following a double by Alex Jokisch, Hillsboro plated two more runs on a triple by Mikenna McSperritt, a single by Brooklyn Fisher, a single by Lessman and another sacrifice fly by Kirby.

Lessman, who got the start on the mound, struck out two of the three batters she faced in the second, then delivered the knockout blow to the Rams in the top of the third.

With two outs in the inning, Lessman drilled a two-run home run to left field to make the score 10-0 in Hillsboro's favor. Brooklyn Fisher also scored on the homer after she contributed the fifth of Hillsboro's five singles to start the inning.

Ella Schaake, Gracelynn Crayne, Kaya Connor and Mikenna McSperritt had the other four base hits, with Connor and McSperritt picking up RBIs.

The Toppers added one run in the fourth on singles by Schaake and Connor, then tacked on four unearned runs after Reynolds, Lessman and Kirby all reached on errors in the top of the fifth. Reynolds and Rylee Rogers (Lessman's courtesy runner) scored on the error off Kirby's bat, while Kirby crossed home plate on a double by Peyton Chappelear, who scored three batters later on a steal of home.

After four scoreless innings, the Rams finally solved Lessman somewhat in the bottom of the fifth, scoring two runs on a single by Jasmine Wildman, but the Topper sophomore closed out the win by getting the final batter to line out to first.

Lessman struck out four and didn't walk a batter in the abbreviated five-inning game, giving up three of the five hits allowed and both runs in the bottom of the fifth.

She was also one of six players to have two hits for Hillsboro, along with Peyton Chappelear, Ella Schaake, Kaya Connor, Mikenna McSperritt and Brooklyn Fisher.

Hillsboro, who played Ramsey on Wednesday, March 25, will host Mulberry Grove on March 26, then head to Greenville on March 27, in a non-conference bout.

**March 24 at Shelbyville**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hillsboro | 325 | 14 | | --- | 15 | 13 | 0 |
| Shelbyville | 000 | 02 | | ---- | 2 | 5 | 8 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lessman | 5.0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Boehm | 5.0 | 13 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 2 |

***Hillsboro Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Lainey Lessman 2-3, Mikenna McSperritt 2-3, Brooklyn Fisher 2-3, Peyton Chappelear 2-4, Ella Schaake 2-4, Kaya Connor 2-4. **2B:** Peyton Chappelear 2. **3B:** Mikenna McSperritt 1. **HR:** Lainey Lessman 1. **Runs:** Lux Reynolds 2, Lainey Lessman 2, Peyton Chappelear 2, Gracelynn Crayne 2, Brooklyn Fisher 2, Briley Kirby 1, Ella Schaake 1, Kaya Connor 1, Mikenna McSperritt 1, Rylee Rogers 1. **RBI:** Briley Kirby 3, Lainey Lessman 2, Kaya Connor 2, Peyton Chappelear 1, Mikenna McSperritt 1, Brooklyn Fisher 1.

***Shelbyville Batting***
**2B:** Alex Jokisch 1, Adison Musser 1. **Runs:** Aylah Logan 1, Adison Musser 1. **RBI:** Jasmine Wildman 2.
**Records:** Hillsboro (4-0); Shelbyville (3-2).

# Nokomis Snaps Skid With Win Over Rams

The Nokomis Lady Redskins snapped a three-game losing streak on Monday, March 23, with an 11-8 victory over Ramsey in Nokomis.

After a scoreless first inning the two teams combined for seven runs in the second, with Ramsey taking a 4-3 lead once the smoke cleared. The Rams got their four runs on three singles, two walks and an error, with two runs coming with two outs.

Nokomis loaded the bases to start their half of the second, getting a double from Ella Huelson and back-to-back singles by Faith Morrison and Kalasandra Cook. A single to center by Haley Evans scored both Huelson and Morrison to cut the deficit to two, with Kara Beatty (courtesy running for Cook) scoring two batters later on a single by Camryn Engelman.

The Redskins loaded the bases with a walk to Addi Cress, but Ramsey got out of the inning without further damage.

A miscue by the Rams in the fourth inning gave Nokomis their first lead. After Leigha Smith tripled and Camryn Engelman singled, Addi Cress put the ball in play and picked up a little league home run, going all the way around the bases on an error to make it 6-4.

Nokomis added another run when Cloey Dirks reached on the third error of the inning for Ramsey, then scored on a single by Maddison DeWerff.

The lead lasted less than a half inning as Ramsey came back with three runs on three hits and a walk in the top of the fifth to tie the game at seven.

Dirks, who started on the mound for Nokomis, helped her own cause in the bottom half of the fifth, after Camryn Engelman singled and scored on an error off the bat of Addi Cress, who scored soon after on a passed ball. On a 2-2 count, Dirks homered to center field, upping the Redskins' lead to 10-7 before Ramsey got out of the inning.

The Rams did get one run in the sixth on a walk, a steal and two ground outs, but Nokomis canceled out that tally in the bottom of the inning with an RBI ground out by Kalasandra Cook that drove in Ella Huelson, who tripled off the right field wall to start the inning.

Up 11-8 going into the top of the seventh, Nokomis gave up a single to start the inning, but got out number one on a fielder's choice. After another single, Dirks picked up her sixth strikeout of the inning for out number two, then caught the Rams trying to steal home to end the game.

Five of the eight runs Dirks allowed in the win were earned as she allowed nine hits and five walks to go along with her six strikeouts. Ramsey's Anna Benhoff had seven strikeouts and allowed 11 runs (eight earned) on 13 hits and two walks.

Nokomis, who played at Gillespie on Wednesday, will have another South Central Conference foe to contend with on Thursday, March 26, when they host the Carlinville Cavaliers.

**March 23 at Nokomis**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ramsey | 040 | 031 | 0 | -- | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| Nokomis | 030 | 431 | x | - | 11 | 13 | 2 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benhoff | 6.0 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Dirks | 7.0 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 6 |

***Ramsey Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Kaylianna Morrison 2-3, Kelly Cook 2-4, Rynn Hewitt 2-4, Grace Eller 2-4. **2B:** Grace Eller 1, Kelly Cook 1. **Runs:** Bella Rhodes 1, Violet Williams 1, Anna Benhoff 1, Grace Eller 1, Rynn Hewitt 1, Kaylianna Morrison 1, Kelly Cook 1, Kaesyn Welton 1. **RBI:** Rynn Hewitt 2, Kelly Cook 2, Bella Rhodes 1, Violet Williams 1, Kaylianna Morrison 1.

***Nokomis Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Ella Huelson 3-4, Camryn Engelman 3-4. **2B:** Ella Huelson 1. **3B:** Ella Huelson 1, Leigha Smith 1. **HR:** Cloey Dirks 1. **Runs:** Camryn Engelman 2, Addi Cress 2, Cloey Dirks 2, Ella Huelson 2, Faith Morrison 1, Leigha Smith 1. **RBI:** Haley Evans 2, Addi Cress 2, Camryn Engelman 1, Cloey Dirks 1, Maddison DeWerff 1, Kalasandra Cook 1.
**Records:** Nokomis (2-3), Ramsey (0-2).

# Mohawks Slug Out Split With Staunton, Tri-City

Offense wasn't a problem for the Morrisonville-Lincolnwood baseball team to start week two of the regular season as the Mohawks scored 22 runs in 12 innings in a pair of games against Staunton on March 23 and Tri-City/Sangamon Valley on March 24.

Eight of those runs came in Monday's game against the Bulldogs, who escaped Morrisonville with an 11-8 victory.

Staunton scored three runs in each of the first two innings, getting a three-run home run by Carter Legendre in the first inning and another three-run home run by Bryce Coalson in the second inning.

Morrisonville battled back in the bottom half of the second, drawing a pair of walks to Cody Ganther and Kaleb Paproth before Staunton got the first out. A single by Tucker Armentrout moved everyone up a base, with Ganther and Paproth coming in to score in the next at-bat on an error off the bat of Bryce Cowdrey.

After Staunton got the second out of the inning, the merry-go-round continued. Mason Tryon drove in Luke Pope (courtesy running for Armentrout) and Cowdrey to make it 6-4, with Brodey VanHooser plating Tryon with a double to left to cut the lead to one. Jhude Walker tied things up for the Mohawks, doubling to left field to drive in VanHooser and tie the game at six before Staunton got out of the inning.

The Bulldogs regained the lead in the top of the third when Lucas Coalson scored on an error off the bat of Ashton Rizzi, but things settled down over the next two innings as the score remained 7-6 going into the top of the sixth inning.

Staunton extended their lead with two runs in the sixth, but the Mohawks answered with two of their own in the bottom half of the inning on a double by Tryon that scored Brody Lush (who reached on an error) and a double by VanHooser that scored Tryon.

Staunton loaded the bases with two outs in the top of the seventh and extended their lead to 11-8 after back-to-back walks to Aiden Saracco and Carter Legendre forced in two more runs.

Not wanting to risk another Morrisonville comeback, Staunton turned the ball over to Braelyn Brown, who struck out the first two batters he faced in the bottom of the seventh, then got a ground out to short to end the game.

Brown was one of four pitchers used by the Bulldogs, along with Saracco, Matthew Overyby and Carson Dugger. The quartet allowed nine hits and five walks, while striking out eight.

Morrisonville also used four pitchers, starting with Cody Ganther, then Kaleb Paproth, Kade Osterholt and Brody Reed. The group gave up eight hits, seven walks and struck out six batters in seven innings.

**Tri-City**

The Mohawks were just as potent on the offensive end the following night, but were even better on the mound as Mason Tryon and Kade Osterholt combined for a one-hitter in Morrisonville's 14-1 win over Tri-City/Sangamon Valley.

Tryon struck out seven batters in three innings, with 28 of his 40 pitches going for strikes. Osterholt struck out three batters and gave up one run and one hit, a single by Kasey Strawkas that drove in Owen Byerline with two outs after Byerline reached on an error to start the inning.

By that point, Morrisonville had already scored seven runs, starting with Tryon scoring on an error after a single by Brodey VanHooser, and VanHooser scoring on a double by Jhude Walker in the next at-bat. Three-more runs scored in the third inning courtesy of a two-run double by Walker that scored Tryon (who singled) and VanHooser (who reached on an error), with Walker scoring on a ground out off the bat of Cody Ganther. Tucker Armentrout and Brody Lush added to the lead in the fourth when they reached on a single and a walk and scored on an error of VanHooser's bat.

After Tri-City's lone run in the fourth, Morrisonville doubled their run total with seven runs on five hits, two walks and an error. Armentrout, Bryce Cowdrey, Brody Lush, Jhude Walker and Cody Ganther all had RBIs in the top of the fifth, making the score 14-1.

Osterholt took over from there, striking out two of the last three batters, with a ground out mixed in between.

The victory not only gave Morrisonville their second win, it also moved them to 1-0 in the MSM Conference. They'll play the Tornadoes again on Thursday, March 26, this time in Morrisonville, followed by another home tilt on March 27, against Gillespie.

**March 23 at Morrisonville**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staunton | 331 | 002 | 2 | - | 11 | 8 | 2 |
| Morrisonville | 060 | 002 | 0 | -- | 8 | 9 | 3 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saracco | 1.2 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Overby | 2.1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Dugger | 2.0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Brown | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Ganther | 1.2 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Paproth | 3.1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Osterholt | 1.2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Reed | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 |

**Reed 1 HBP, Osterholt 1 HBP*

***Staunton Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Bryce Coalson 3-4, Ashton Rizzi 2-4. **2B:** Bryce Coalson 1. **HR:** Bryce Coalson 1, Carter Legendre 1. **Runs:** Bryce Coalson 3, Ashton Rizzi 2, Lucas Coalson 2, Braylen Brown 1, Carter Legendre 1, Reese Bohlen 1, Cale Dugger 1. **RBI:** Carter Legendre 4, Bryce Coalson 3, Cale Dugger 1, Reese Bohlen 1, Aiden Saracco 1.

***Morrisonville-LW Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Brodey VanHooser 3-3, Bryce Cowdrey 2-3, Mason Tryon 2-4. **2B:** Brodey VanHooser 2, Jhude Walker 1, Mason Tryon 1. **Runs:** Mason Tryon 2, Brody Lush 1, Brodey VanHooser 1, Cody Ganther 1, Kaleb Paproth 1, Luke Pope 1, Bryce Cowdrey 1. **RBI:** Mason Tryon 3, Brodey VanHooser 2, Bryce Cowdrey 2, Jhude Walker 1.
**Records:** Morrisonville-Lincolnwood (1-1); Staunton (3-0).

**March 24 at Buffalo**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morrisonville | 203 | 27 | | --- | 14 | 11 | 1 |
| Tri-City | 000 | 10 | | ---- | 1 | 1 | 7 |

***Pitching Statistics***

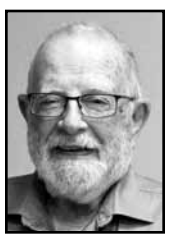
| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tryon | 3.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Osterholt | 2.0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Jackson | 4.0 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Ruple | 1.0 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

***Morrisonville-LW Batting***
**Multiple Hits:** Jhude Walker 3-4, Tucker Armentrout 2-3, Brody Lush 2-3. **2B:** Jhude Walker 2, Tucker Armentrout 1. **Runs:** Mason Tryon 3, Brodey VanHooser 3, Jhude Walker 2, Bryce Cowdrey 2, Brody Lush 2, Zane Whalen 1, Luke Pope 1. **RBI:** Jhude Walker 4, Cody Ganther 3, Bryce Cowdrey 1, Tucker Armentrout 1.

***Tri-City/SV Batting***
**Runs:** Owen Byerline 1. **RBI:** Kasey Stawkas 1.
**Records:** Morrisonville-Lincolnwood (2-1, 1-0); Tri-City/Sangamon Valley (0-3, 0-1).

**Commentary** • by Ron Deabenderfer

# An Apology And An Explanation



I apologize for a lack of foresight before I went to the Hillsboro Sports Complex to cover the East Alton-Wood River and Hillsboro baseball game last Thursday, March 19.

It was the first game I'd covered without the additional task of serving as the official scorekeeper, and it didn't work out particularly well.

First, I didn't take an official paper scorebook. Instead, I tried to jot notes as the game progressed but that was harder to do in orderly fashion than I anticipated. I gave up in the third inning, after Hillsboro went ahead, because I realized I couldn't read or use my disorganized effort.

I decided to depend on technical help from Game Changer or Max Preps or a website source that has been available for several seasons for several sports at *The Journal-News* office.

Friday afternoon, Tabitha, a kind-hearted co-worker, hit the internet to find the information I needed. I used the EAWR submission, since they were the opposing team. It said the Hillsboro pitcher surrendered five hits.

On publication night, Sports Editor Kyle Herschelman said the Hillsboro scorer said Hillsboro's pitcher had thrown a no-hitter, but that the Toppers had committed four errors.

I'd written the story as I remembered the game, using the notes I had. I knew that discrepancies probably existed because telling whether a runner reached on a hit or an error is always a judgement call. My standard is if the play is difficult, it's a hit, but if it should have been made, it's an error.

Coaches typically like their players to be credited with hits and not charged with errors - that's human nature. Parents want their offspring to have high batting averages and high fielding averages.

As the system works now, there are three separate versions of most games - what the home team reports, what the visiting team reports (to whichever service they send the information) and what an impartial scorer produces.

I have learned my lesson. I went home after my *Journal-News* stint Sunday night and dug out my old-fashioned scorebook from it's retirement spot in the file drawer.

I promise to be accurate as I can be for the games I cover.

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# Taylorville Outduels Litchfield Softball

Peyton DeMichael scored three times for Taylorville and held the Litchfield-Mt. Olive softball team to just five hits as the Tornadoes beat the Lady Panthers 7-1 on Tuesday, March 24.

DeMichael scored the second of Taylorville's two runs to start the game, with Olivia Gray also coming around to give the visitors the lead. Both players scored again in the third after picking up base hits to start the inning, with Carsen Corzine and Grace Rogers driving them in with a single and a sacrifice fly.

The first five batters accounted for all seven Taylorville hits, with five hits coming in the first three innings.

In the fourth, fifth and sixth innings, Litchfield starter Alexis Mielke faced just one over the minimum, giving up a leadoff single and an error in the sixth, before a double play kept it a 4-0 lead in Taylorville's favor.

The Lady Panthers got one of those runs back in the bottom of the sixth, with Charlie Bono driving a two-out single to center, then working her way around the bases on a steal and a passed ball. Bono would score soon after reaching third, making it 4-1 after Chloe Green reached on an error.

The Tornadoes did their best to snuff out any hopes of a rally in the top of the seventh when they scored three unearned runs on two errors, a failed fielder's choice and a double by Rogers that made it 7-1.

Litchfield threatened in the bottom of the seventh as they loaded the bases on a walk to Mielke and back-to-back singles by Aria Feeley and Madi Rimar, but DeMichael got the next two batters to ground into fielder's choices, followed by another ground out to short to end the game.



Litchfield starter Alexis Mielke struck out nine batters in the Lady Panthers' 7-1 loss to Taylorville on Tuesday, March 24.

*Tabitha Ostermann Photo*

DeMichael finished with five strikeouts and a walk in seven innings, giving up five hits and one unearned run. Mielke struck out nine and walked two in the game, giving up seven runs (five earned) on seven hits.

Following a Wednesday trip to Collinsville, the Panthers will travel to Pawnee on Friday, March 27, to take on the Indians.

**March 24 at Litchfield**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylorville | 202 | 000 | 3 | - | 7 | 7 | 2 |
| Litchfield | 000 | 001 | 0 | - | 1 | 5 | 4 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DeMichael | 7.0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Mielke | 7.0 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 |

***Taylorville Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Olivia Gray 2-4, Peyton DeMichael 2-4. **2B:** Grace Rogers 1. **Runs:** Peyton DeMichael 3, Olivia Gray 2, Carsen Corzine 1, Ella Reiss 1. **RBI:** Carsen Corzine 3, Grace Rogers 3.

***Litchfield-MO Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Aria Feeley 2-3. **Runs:** Charlie Bono 1.

**Records:** Litchfield-Mt. Olive (2-2); Taylorville (2-1).

# Hillsboro Boys Win Big At North Mac

The Hillsboro boys track team racked up 192 points to take the top spot in the team standings at their first outdoor meet of the season on Tuesday, March 24, in Virden.

The Toppers finished 20.5 points ahead of Litchfield, who was second, with North Mac taking third with 63.5 points.

Amony Anderson had a strong debut to start his senior season as he won the 100 meters (11.77), 200 meters (24.27) and long jump (6.04 meters) individually, and was part of the 4x100 team that took second with Brady Stritzel, Elijah Patton and Noah Satterlee.

Hillsboro also picked up wins in the 800 (Aiden Robinson, 2:10.80), 1600 (Elijah Patton, 4:57.96) and 3200 (Josiah Atkins, 12:26.77), plus a second place finish in the 400 (Jalen Stewart, 56.38). Ryan Page also took second in both hurdles events, running a 19.82 in the 110 meter hurdles and 48.36 in the 300 meter hurdles.

In addition to the second place finish in the 4x100, Hillsboro also won the 4x200, with Stritzel, Logan Gill, Ethan Hamby and Leland Armbruster running a 1:44.97, and in the 4x400, with Patton, Stewart, Robinson and Zach Rowe running a 3:49.00.

In the field events, Armbruster picked up the win in the pole vault as he cleared 3.66 meters (12'0") for the first time in a meet. Noah Satterlee was second in the high jump, clearing 1.83 meters, while Nolan Adams and Jaxon Chambers were tied for third at 1.78 meters. Brady Stritzel also took third in the triple jump (11.17 meters), while Gabriel Wells was third in both the shot (11.30 meters) and discus (35.40 meters).

After a solid start to the season, the Hiltoppers will try to do even better when they come home for the first time on Tuesday, March 31.

**March 24 at Virden**

**Boys Team Results:** 1. Hillsboro 192; 2. Litchfield 171.5; 3. North Mac 63.5; 4. Pawnee 40; 5. North Greene 22; 6. Bunker Hill 11.

**Hillsboro Boys Results**

**100:** 1. Amony Anderson 11.77; 4. Noah Satterlee 12.53; 6. Parker Page 12.77; 13. Ethan Hamby 13.34; 17. Derek Hartman 14.04

**200:** 1. Amony Anderson 24.27; 3. Parker Page 26.44; 6. Logan Gill 27.04; 12. Derek Hartman 29.03; 13. Lewis Buske 31.57

**400:** 2. Jalen Stewart 56.38; 5. Davis Tomei 59.50; 10. Jacob Lenczycki 1:15.14

**800:** 1. Aiden Robinson 2:10.80; 6. Caleb Patton 2:27.72; 7. Devin Hartman 2:28.20; 8. Zach Rowe 2:29.59

**1600:** 1. Elijah Patton 4:57.96; 5. Josiah Atkins 5:43.73; 6. Devin Hartman 6:00.97

**3200:** 1. Josiah Atkins 12:26.77

**110 Hurdles:** 2. Ryan Page 19.82; 5. Yandel Sanchez 20.79; 7. Kane Beckwith 23.82

**300 Hurdles:** 2. Ryan Page 48.36; 6. Yandel Sanchez 53.74; 8. Jaxon Chambers 56.07; 10. Kane Beckwith 1:01.22

**4x100:** 2. Brady Stritzel/Elijah Patton/Noah Satterlee/Amony Anderson 45.38; 4. Parker Page/Davin Hubbart/Leland Armbruster/Davis Tomei 48.85

**4x200:** 1. Brady Stritzel/Logan Gill/Ethan Hamby/Leland Armbruster 1:44.97

**4x400:** 1. Elijah Patton/Jalen Stewart/Aiden Robinson/Zach Rowe 3:49.00

**Shot Put:** 3. Gabriel Wells 11.30m; 8. Aiden McKinney 10.08m; 9. Tytin Wells 10.03m; 12. Jacob Lenczycki 9.21m; 15. Cruz Smith 8.95m

**Discus:** 3. Gabriel Wells 35.40m; 4. Tytin Wells 31.75m; 6. Aiden McKinney 28.14m; 16. Cruz Smith 19.38m; 17. Jacob Lenczycki 18.10m

**High Jump:** 2. Noah Satterlee 1.83m; 3. Nolan Adams 1.78m; 3. Jaxon Chambers 1.78m

**Pole Vault:** 1. Leland Armbruster 3.66m

**Long Jump:** 1. Amony Anderson 6.04m; 5. Davis Tomei 5.27m

**Triple Jump:** 3. Brady Stritzel 11.17m; 5. Nolan Adams 9.52m

# PORTA Hands Litchfield First Loss

After starting the season with three straight wins, the Purple Panthers baseball team stumbled out of the batter's box on Monday in Litchfield. The PORTA Bluejays silenced the Panther bats with a combined no-hitter, handing the home team a 3-0 shutout and their first loss of the young season as they would fall to 3-1.

The defeat was not a minor setback, but instead it was a heavyweight clash against a quality Bluejays squad that improved to 4-0. Although the Panthers were held hitless, they showed veteran patience and found ways to haunt the base paths throughout the contest.

In the bottom of the second, Matthew Bywater became the first Panther to reach base after wearing a pitch. Laiydn Jones followed with a textbook sacrifice bunt to move Bywater into scoring position, but a pair of strikeouts and a groundout left him stranded.

Litchfield threatened again in the third when Max Gretjak worked a gritty six-pitch walk, and again in the sixth when Max Leitschuh reached on a fielding error, though the Bluejays defense tightened up to keep both runners from moving past second base.

Despite the quiet bats, the Purple Panthers' pitching staff and defense kept the game within reach.

Tucker Pastrovich earned the start and threw four solid innings, allowing only one hit and two strikeouts. The lone run against him was unearned, coming in the fourth inning after a lead-off single, an error and a walk loaded the bases setting up a sacrifice fly.

Titan Hires took over on the bump for the final three innings, surrendering two unearned runs on just one hit while striking out two. PORTA added their insurance runs in the top of the seventh to extend the lead to 3-0. In the final half-inning, the Bluejays retired the Panthers in order to seal the victory.

The loss marks the first blemish on the schedule for the Purple Panthers as they moved to 3-1 overall.

**March 23 at Litchfield**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PORTA | 000 | 100 | 2 | - | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Litchfield | 000 | 000 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 1 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Donnan | 7.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| **Donnan 1 HBP* | | | | | | |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Pastrovich | 4.0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Hires | 3.0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| **Hires 1 HBP* | | | | | | |

***PORTA Batting***

**Runs:** Lucas Kinney 2, Carson Rutherford 1. **RBI:** Jett Karrick 1, Nash Donnan 1, Ethan Hoagland 1.

**Records:** Litchfield-Mt. Olive (3-1); PORTA (4-0).

# Nokomis Baseball

*Continued from 1B*

Dylan Yeske drew a bases loaded walk to force in the first of those six runs, with Landon Glenn, Blain Goodwin (2) and Kannon Jonas (2) also picking up RBIs with base hits in the inning.

German and Glenn combined for a 1-2-3 bottom of the seventh as Nokomis improved to 3-2 on the season with the eight-run win.

Blain Goodwin got the start on the mound for Nokomis and gave up four runs (two earned) on four hits, three walks and two hit batsmen, with five strikeouts in 3.2 innings. German got the next nine outs, allowing three hits and a walk with three strikeouts, while Glenn struck out the lone batter he faced.

The Redskins will host Edinburg on Thursday, March 26, in the return game of the MSM home-and-home series.

**March 23 at Virden**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nokomis | 083 | 030 | 3 | - | 17 | 9 | 4 |
| North Mac | 010 | 071 | 2 | - | 11 | 15 | 7 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gillock | 4.1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Eisenbarth | 0.2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Doyen | 2.0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| **Gillock 1 HBP* | | | | | | |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Millburg | 1.0 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Ford | 2.0 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Rovey | 2.0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Carter | 2.0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Millburg 3 HBP* | | | | | | |

***Nokomis Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Nolan Herpstreith 3-3, Carter Wexstten 2-2, Kannon Jonas 2-3. **2B:** Carter Wexstten 1. **Runs:** Carter Wexstten 4, Blain Goodwin 3, Kannon Jonas 2, Nolan Herpstreith 2, Kadynn Petty 2, Izaak Doyen 1, Luke Eisenbarth 1, Dylan Yeske 1, Landon Glenn 1. **RBI:** Kannon Jonas 3, Nolan Herpstreith 1, Micah Barker 1, Izaak Doyen 1, Luke Eisenbarth 1, Kadynn Petty 1, Carter Wexstten 1.

***North Mac Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Luke Alexander 3-4, Collin Etter 3-5, Cayden Reside 2-4, Chase Millburg 2-4, Clark Sanson 2-4, Camden Earley 2-5. **2B:** Luke Alexander 2, Camden Earley 1, Cayden Reside 1, Chase Millburg 1, Collin Etter 1. **Runs:** Luke Alexander 2, Collin Etter 2, Clark Sanson 2, Colton Leonard 2, Jack Rovey 1, Camden Earley 1, Ryan Crawford 1. **RBI:** Camden Earley 2, Chase Millburg 2, Ryan Crawford 1, Cayden Reside 1, Clark Sanson 1, Luke Alexander 1, Collin Etter 1.

**Records:** Nokomis (2-2); North Mac (2-1).

**March 24 at Edinburg**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nokomis | 140 | 010 | 6 | - | 12 | 15 | 3 |
| Edinburg | 200 | 200 | 0 | - | 4 | 7 | 2 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Goodwin | 3.2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| German | 3.0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Glenn | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Goodwin 2 HBP* | | | | | | |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Clark | 5.0 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| O'Connell | 2.0 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

***Nokomis Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Levi German 3-4, Kannon Jonas 3-5, Luke Eisenbarth 2-3, Carter Wexstten 2-3, Nolan Herpstreith 2-5. **2B:** Levi German 2, Blain Goodwin 1, Carter Wexstten 1. **3B:** Kannon Jonas 1. **Runs:** Luke Eisenbarth 2, Dylan Yeske 2, Blain Goodwin 1, Kannon Jonas 1, Nolan Herpstreith 1, Lane Herpstreith 1, Levi German 1, Micah Barker 1, Landon Glenn 1, Carter Wexstten 1. **RBI:** Blain Goodwin 3, Kannon Jonas 3, Levi German 1, Luke Eisenbarth 1, Dylan Yeske 1, Landon Glenn 1, Carter Wexstten 1.

***Edinburg-SF Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Cash O'Connell 2-3. **Runs:** Cash O'Connell 1, Colton Puccetti 1, Hudson Hout 1, Michael Foli 1. **RBI:** Noah Clark 1, Cash O'Connell 1. Ken Fisher 1.

**Records:** Nokomis (3-2, 1-0), Edinburg-South Fork (0-3, 0-1).

# Hillsboro Baseball

*Continued from 1B*

The Toppers host Taylorville today, Thursday, March 26; first pitch is at 4:30. Saturday's a bonus day for baseball fans; At 10 a.m., the Toppers face Maryville Christian. Then, Maryville Christian will play Edinburg-South Fork at noon. When that game is over, Hillsboro will oppose Edinburg-South Fork.

**March 24 at Hillsboro**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vandalia | 202 | 000 | 1 | - | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| Hillsboro | 000 | 000 | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | 3 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lewis | 7.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| **Lewis 1 HBP* | | | | | | |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Blackburn | 6.0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Spangler | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Spangler 1 HBP* | | | | | | |

***Vandalia Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Jack Lewis 2-3, Kohnor Depew 2-4, Chase Cearlock 2-4. **2B:** Chase Cearlock 1, Kohnor Depew 1. **3B:** Jack Lewis 1. **HR:** Ayden Carroll 1. **Runs:** Kohnor Depew 2, Jack Lewis 1, Andrew Casey 1, Ayden Carroll 1. **RBI:** Chase Cearlock 2, Andrew Casey 1, Qwentyn Stombaugh 1, Ayden Carroll 1.

**Records:** Hillsboro (1-3); Vandalia (1-1).

# Lincolnwood Softball

*Continued from 1B*

In the top of the fourth, the Lancers gave Elvidge some more run support, getting three runs on three hits, a walk and an error. After a leadoff single by Elsa Burenga and a fly ball for out number one, Hannah Jostes made it 4-0 with her second double of the game. Vandalia got the second out on a pop up to the catcher, but Jostes moved to third on a passed ball and scored on a single by Clarke.

Clarke moved up a base on an error on her base hit to left, then after a walk to Elvidge, the Lancer senior scored when Ella Jenkins put the ball in play and reached on an error. The run put Lincolnwood up 6-0, but the Vandals did get one run back in the bottom of the inning when Bella Walk doubled and scored on a ground out three batters later by Liah Hoyle.

Any hopes of a comeback were dashed in the top of the fifth when Taryn Clarke hit the third pitch she saw over the right field fence for a two-out grand slam. Hannah Hill, Elsa Burenga and Hannah Jostes scored on the homer, reaching base on a single, a walk and another single.

After the big fly by Clarke, Tori Elvidge reached second on an error and was courtesy ran for by Brianna Boyd. Boyd scored moments later on Jenkins' second double of the game, making it 11-1 to set up the mercy rule.

After giving her team the opportunity to end the game early, Clarke finished the job by striking out the side in the bottom of the fifth to finish off the win, Lincolnwood's fourth in their first six games.

**Tri-City**

The Lancers may have wished they could have saved a few of those runs for their next game as offense was hard to come by against Tri-City. The Tornadoes held Lincolnwood to just two hits, a single to lead off the fourth by Ella Jenkins and a double by Audrey Germann to lead off the fifth. Jenkins and Germann also reached on an error and a walk during the game, with Tori Elvidge reaching after being hit by a pitch in the first, accounting for all of Lancer base runners in the game.

Lincolnwood will get another shot at the queens of the MSM Conference on Thursday, March 26, in Raymond, the first of three straight home games for the Lancers, who host Riverton on Friday and North Mac on Saturday.

**March 23 at Vandalia**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lincolnwood | 111 | 35 | - | - | 11 | 12 | 0 |
| Vandalia | 000 | 10 | - | - | 1 | 3 | 5 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elvidge | 4.0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Clarke | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Sefton | 5.0 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 7 |

***Lincolnwood-MV Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Hannah Jostes 3-3, Taryn Clarke 3-4, Ella Jenkins 2-4. **2B:** Ella Jenkins 2, Hannah Jostes 2, Audrey Germann 1. **HR:** Taryn Clarke 1, Tori Elvidge 1. **Runs:** Taryn Clarke 3, Elsa Burenga 2, Hannah Jostes 2, Tori Elvidge 1, Brianna Boyd 1, Hannah Hill 1, Audrey Germann 1. **RBI:** Taryn Clarke 5, Ella Jenkins 2, Hannah Jostes 2, Tori Elvidge 1.

***Vandalia Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Bella Walk 2-2. 2B: Bella Walk 1. Runs: Bella Walk 1. RBI: Liah Hoyle 1.

**Records:** Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (4-2); Vandalia (0-3).

**March 24 at Buffalo**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lincolnwood | 000 | 000 | - | - | - | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Tri-City | 301 | 501 | - | - | - | 10 | 8 | 1 |

***Pitching Statistics***

| **Away** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elvidge | 5.0 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| **Elvidge 1 HBP* | | | | | | |
| **Home** | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
| Woodworth | 6.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| **Woodworth 1 HBP* | | | | | | |

***Lincolnwood-MV Batting***

**2B:** Audrey Germann 1.

***TCSVMP Batting***

**Multiple Hits:** Lexi Patton 2-2, Hanna Ferriell 2-3, Audrey Cooper 2-4. **2B:** Hanna Ferriell 1. **Runs:** Audrey Cooper 2, Alyson Murphy 2, Maebri Bender 2, Lexi Patton 1, Lily Woodworth 1, Ellie Cummins 1, Lauren Gideo 1. **RBI:** Audrey Cooper 2, Alyson Murphy 1, Maebri Bender 1, Hanna Ferriell 1.

**Records:** Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (4-3); Tri-City/Sangamon Valley/Mt. Pulaski (4-0).

# Hillsboro Girls Track

*Continued from 1B*

Cress, Collins, Blankenship and Watkins will be in action this weekend at the Illinois Top Times indoor meet in Bloomington on March 27-28. Hillsboro's first home meet will be March 31, with Greenville, Southwestern and Staunton also in attendance.

**March 24 at Virden**

**Girls Team Results:** 1. Litchfield 110; 2. Hillsboro 107; 3. North Mac 78.5; 4. North Greene 58.5; 5. Bunker Hill 42; 6. Pawnee 18.

**Hillsboro Girls Results**

**100:** 1. Sophia Watkins 13.36; 2. Layla Blankenship 13.73; 10. Kailey Weiss 14.49; 13. Amya Greenwood 15.05; 18. Lillian Kirn 17.40

**200:** 1. Sophia Watkins 27.86; 3. Lydia Collins 28.97; 7. Kailey Weiss 30.86; 12. Lillian Kirn 37.92

**100 Hurdles:** 1. Kaelin Cress 17.25

**300 Hurdles:** 1. Kaelin Cress 51.06

**4x100:** 1. Lydia Collins/Layla Blankenship/Kailey Weiss/Sophia Watkins 51.82

**4x200:** 1. Lydia Collins/Layla Blankenship/Kaelin Cress/Sophia Watkins 1:50.59

**Shot Put:** 5. Marie Fenslau 8.17m; 8. Clara Lentz 7.19m; 14. Jossalyn Kimbro 6.10m; 17. Amirah Gorman 5.87m; 21. Aliza Hammers 5.39m

**Discus:** 8. Amirah Gorman 18.03m; 10. Marie Fenslau 16.88m; 14. Jossalyn Kimbro 15.12m; 17. Clara Lentz 14.25m; 19. Aliza Hammers 12.54m

**High Jump:** 4. Kaelin Cress 1.42m

**Long Jump:** 1. Lydia Collins 4.95m; 2. Layla Blankenship 4.65m

**Triple Jump:** 1. Amya Greenwood 9.24m

**March 21 at Mt. Zion**

*Illinois Top Times*
*Final Qualifier*

**60:** 11. Sophia Watkins 8.34

**200:** 7. Sophia Watkins 28.27

**400:** 10. Kaelin Cress 1:05.37

**60 Hurdles:** 2. Kaelin Cress 9.25

**4x200:** 4. Lydia Collins/Layla Blankenship/Kaelin Cress/Sophia Watkins 1:51.30

**Long Jump:** 5. Layla Blankenship 5.07m; 8. Lydia Collins 5.01m

# Hillsboro Girls Soccer

*Continued from 1B*

Chambers' chance was particularly heartbreaking as the sophomore skied a rebound attempt from close range after the Taylorville keeper blocked Kaylee Hood's point-blank attempt.

Chambers would get her chance later, but Hannah Laurent picked up goal number one against the Tornadoes five minutes into the second half when she deflected a shot from Kearstynn Davis. The Taylorville keeper tried to knock the deflection away, but it trickled over the line to break the scoreless tie.

As it turns out, that's all Hillsboro needed to get on track. Goal number two came three minutes later, when Kaylee Hood passed to Gracie Chambers on her right and Chambers maneuvered around the defense before putting a shot into the far side of the net.

Chambers made it 3-0 just after ten minutes had passed in the second half as she stole a ball from the Taylorville defense and made a long run for her second goal of the day.

The goals continued to pour in after that. Aubrey Huber intercepted a goal kick and scored with 26:18 to play, followed by a goal from Chloe Atkins, who looked for the pass to her right before taking the opportunity herself to make it 5-0 with 24:46 to play.

Hillsboro's final goal came just two minutes later, when Huber rifled a shot from the left side that the Taylorville keeper got a hand on but couldn't corral. Charging in from the right side, Aleigha Marburger buried the rebound to make it 6-0.

With 33 players on this year's roster, Coach Dave Mattson used the opportunity to give his subs some time on the field as they closed out the win.

Now 3-1 on the season, the Lady Hiltoppers will be back on the road today, March 26, to face East Alton-Wood River.

**March 23 at Hillsboro**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Metro-East Luth. | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Hillsboro | 1 | 3 | - | 4 |

***Hillsboro Statistics***

**Goals:** Peyton Christian 2, Tinleigh Schulte 1, Aubrey Huber 1. **Assists:** Kearstynn Davis 2. **Goalkeeper:** Delaney Adams (1st shutout).

**Records:** Hillsboro (2-1); Metro-East Lutheran (0-2).

**March 24 at Taylorville**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hillsboro | 0 | 6 | - | 6 |
| Taylorville | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |

***Hillsboro Statistics***

**Goals:** Gracie Chambers 2, Chloe Atkins 1, Aleigha Marburger 1, Aubrey Huber 1, Hannah Laurent 1. **Assists:** Kearstynn Davis 1. **Goalkeeper:** Delaney Adams (2nd shutout).

**Records:** Hillsboro (3-1); Taylorville (0-3-1).

# Congratulations Lady Mohawks!

# Seventh Grade State Champions





The Morrisonville-Lincolnwood volleyball team won their second straight seventh grade IESA Class 2A state championship on Saturday, March 14, completing an undefeated 29-0 season without losing a set. In front, from the left, are Claire McWard, Jaylee Krager, Paislee Krager, Lennox Cole and Jaylynne Carron. In the middle row are Carli Gilpin, Chevy Penrod, Audrey Rovey and Olivia Moore. In the back are Coach Kimberly Denney, Cara Eggiman, Paizley Crawford, Gracie Arnold, Layla Wagahoff, Emery Meisner, Coach Cassie Krager and Coach Haelee Damm.

The Morrisonville-Lincolnwood eighth grade volleyball team capped a fantastic season with a second place trophy from the IESA Class 2A State Tournament in Auburn on Saturday, March 21. In front, from the left, are Kessa Stephens, Jaylynne Carron, Katrina Millburg, Lilyan Hill, Carli Gilpin, Paislee Krager and Kerrigan Meyer. In the back are Coach Kimberly Denney, Lauren Collum, Lennox Cole, Jaylee Krager, Kate Waterman, Rylie Waterman, Addy Maisel, Coach Cassie Krager and Coach Haelee Damm. The team finished the season with 24 wins and five losses.

# Eighth Grade State Runner-Up


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# Panthers Top Two 13 Times At North Mac

The Litchfield boys track team finished first or second in 13 events in their first outdoor meet of the season on Tuesday, March 24, at North Mac High School in Virden as they finished second to Hillsboro at the meet.

The Purple Panthers finished with 171.5 points, 20.5 behind Hillsboro and 107.5 ahead of third place North Mac.

Litchfield took home two firsts in the hurdles, where Johnathon Bowles won both events by more than two seconds. The Litchfield senior clocked in at 17.34 for the 110 hurdles and 46.07 for the 300 meter version of the race.

The Panthers also took first in the 400, where Lukas Paine ran a 55.67, and second in the 100 (Jaxon Ray, 11.99), 200 (Jayden Keith, 25.95), 800 (Dean Gibbs, 2:13.16) and 1600 (Nolan Engstrom, 5:03.58).

Bowles and Ray picked up a win in the 4x100 as well, teaming up with Alec Roach and Brylan Marten to run a 44.55. The Panthers 4x400 squad of Paine, Andrew Boston, Fisher Ellis and Draven Jones finished second, clocking in at 4:05.09.

Marten added to Litchfield's win total in the jumps, taking first in the triple jump with a mark of 12.44 meters, while Bowles was second at 11.86 meters. Marten was also second in the long jump at 5.88 meters.

Freshman Jaylen Komor took second in the pole vault, clearing 3.05 meters, while senior Riley Ayres was second in the shot put at 11.38 meters.

Bowles and Roach will both be at the Illinois Top Times meet on March 27-28 in Bloomington, with Litchfield's next team meet scheduled for March 31, at home against Gillespie and Carlinville.

**March 24 at Virden**

**Boys Team Results:** 1. Hillsboro 192; 2. Litchfield 171.5; 3. North Mac 63.5; 4. Pawnee 40; 5. North Greene 22; 6. Bunker Hill 11.

**Litchfield Boys Results**

**100:** 2. Jaxon Ray 11.99; 5. Jayden Keith 12.57
**200:** 2. Jayden Keith 25.95
**400:** 1. Lukas Paine 55.67; 3. Andrew Boston 56.76; 4. Camron Zumwalt 59.21
**800:** 2. Dean Gibbs 2:13.16; 3. Fisher Ellis 2:19.36; 4. Nolan Engstrom 2:20.09; 5. Jake Wilson 2:22.90; 9. Draven Jones 2:30.49
**1600:** 2. Nolan Engstrom 5:03.58; 3. Fisher Ellis 5:16.76; 4. Dean Gibbs 5:20.66; 7. Dawson Hemken 6:14.85
**110 Hurdles:** 1. Johnathon Bowles 17.34
**300 Hurdles:** 1. Johnathon Bowles 46.07
**4x100:** 1. Johnathon Bowles/Alec Roach/Jaxon Ray/Brylan Marten 44.55
**4x400:** 2. Andrew Boston/Lukas Paine/Fisher Ellis/Draven Jones 4:05.09; 3. Camron Zumwalt/Nolan Engstrom/Jake Wilson/Dawson Hemken 4:20.34
**Shot Put:** 2. Riley Ayres 11.38m; 5. Landon Pryor 11.02m; 10. Trais Dobrinich 9.91m; 17. Carter Wernsing 7.05m
**Discus:** 5. Landon Pryor 29.03m; 13. Riley Ayres 23.97m; 14. Trais Dobrinich 21.00m; 19. Carter Wernsing 14.63m
**High Jump:** 5. John Scurlock 1.68m
**Pole Vault:** 2. Jaylen Komor 3.05m; 4. Hudson Walker 2.74m
**Long Jump:** 2. Brylan Marten 5.88m
**Triple Jump:** 1. Brylan Marten 12.44m; 2. Johnathon Bowles 11.86m



Hillsboro's Chase Saathoff picked up his second Progressive American Flat Track Singles podium finish in three races with a third place finish at Senioa Raceway in Georgia on March 21.

# Saathoff Third In Georgia

Chase Saathoff picked up his second podium finish in three races in the Progressive American Flat Track Singles series, taking third at Senoia Raceway in Senoia, GA, on March 21.

The Hillsboro motorcycle racer was the fastest in the first qualifying session, with a best lap of 18.015 seconds for the quarter-mile track. In the second qualifying session, Saathoff shaved a little off that time, running the third fastest lap at 17.907. That put Saathoff in the first singles heat, where he finished second to Tom Drane by .097 seconds, more than two seconds ahead of third place finisher Travis Petton.

In the main event, which consisted of six minutes plus two laps, Saathoff took third, finishing 1.406 seconds behind winner Trevor Brunner. Justin Jones finished in between Saathoff and Brunner, .721 seconds behind the winner.

With the finish, Saathoff currently sits third in the standings with 47 points, three behind Brunner for second and nine behind Tom Drane for first.

Saathoff will switch coasts for round four of the series as he'll run at Ventura Raceway in Ventura, CA, on April 25, the first of two races in California. A week later, Saathoff will be in Chico, CA, at the Silver Dollar Speedway short track.

# Cahokia Creek Riders Kick Up Dust In OKC

The Cahokia Creek Dirt Riders were well represented at round two of the American National Enduro Championship, the Beta Cross Timbers National Enduro in Oklahoma City on March 21-22.

Morrisonville's Jhenner Walker picked up the win in the C 250 class, completing four sections in 1:42:17.889 to place 173rd overall. Jhenner's dad, Jeremy Walker, also competed in the A 45+ class, finishing tenth in his class and 187th overall with a time of 1:53:07.425 for four sections.

Edwardsville's Brandon Burge and his sons Hank, Charlie and Andrew also made the trip to Oklahoma City. Hank Burge was the big winner, finishing first in the A 200 class with a time of 2:25:13.403 for six sections, good enough for 39th overall. Charlie Burge ran the Enduro Futures race and finished third, running four sections in 1:50:51.908 to finish 178th overall.

Andrew Burge ran in the youth challenge and finished third in the 85cc (7-11) class, running three laps in 1:14:36.832 to take 20th overall. Brandon Burge rounded out the quartet with an 11th place finish in the B 40+ class, posting a time of 2:01:38.796.

The two families, with a few additions, also competed in the first round of the series, the Sumter National in Sumter, SC, on Feb. 7-8.

In the big bikes, Jhak Walker and Walshville's Travis Lentz both finished in the top 20 overall. Walker was fourth in the NE Pro2 class and 12th overall with a time of 2:37:17.781 for six sections, while Lentz was first in the A 250 class and 18th overall with a time of 2:43:56.370.

Hank Burge also ran six sections, clocking in at 3:06:40 to finish third in the A 200 class and 109th overall, while Brandon Burge was 20th in the B 40+ class, running five sections in 3:13:52.296.

As he did in round two, Jhenner Walker picked up the win in the C250 class, running four sections in 2:05:59.797. Charlie Burge was third in the Enduro Futures class, running a 2:12:04.447 for four sections, while Jeremy Walker was 18th in the A 45+ class, running a 2:24:48.726.

In the youth division, Jhorjie Walker was 20th overall and first in the Girls (7-11) class, running 12 laps in 1:18:21.013, while Jhacek Walker was 28th overall and sixth in the 65cc (7-9) class with a time of 1:14:40.396 for ten laps. Andrew Burge finished one spot ahead of the younger Walker, placing 27th overall and sixth in the 85cc (7-11) class with a 1:19:05.496 for 11 laps.

Round three of the American National Enduro Championships will be on April 11-12 in Centreville, MS.

# Students At Nokomis Named To Honor Roll

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

**High Honor Roll**

**Seniors:** Bryce M. Gillock, Dylan M. Yeske, Blain R. Goodwin, Levi K. German, Nolan N. Herpstreith, Camryn E. Engelman, Addison Glenn, Kennley R. Kirk, Kinley Stolte, Arianna Hocq, Ella Huelson, Kadynn Petty, Grace King, Riley-Lyn McBroom and Riley Reynolds.

**Juniors:** Braydon S. Cachera, Griffin C. Engelman, Harry W. Lynch III, Leigha Smith, Parker Beaty, Chloe Smoot, Fausto Centeno, Mackenzie Mehochko, Daelon Patton, Alivia Sabol and Maliah Harris.

**Sophomores**: Dominic Hammond, Maddox B. Hoffman, Quincee M. Siebe, Carsyn Bertolino, Lily Broers, Alaina Bugg, Hannah Tarter, Ilexia Doyen, Luke Eisenbarth, Brooklyn Marley and Keeli Sanders.

**Freshmen**: Joelle E. Jackson, Jager Johnson, Jack Province, Colby Reitz and Adyson Standerfer.

**Honor Roll**

**Seniors:** Maddison R. DeWerff, Remi Tester, Laura Falcetelli, Summer Spencer, Caleb Bauer, Nicholas Huston, Glavine Himes, Andrew Suslee, Kennadie Johannsen, Mylee Clements, Isabella Brummet, Elizabeth Watson, Deiken Altevogt, Addelyn Pearse, Rilee Waterman, Walker Stewart, Faith Morrison and Aaliyah Pearson.

**Juniors:** Kiley Lawhorn, Carter Wexstten, Addison Kirkpatrick, Aubrianna Ketcherside, Fallon Knodle, Kalasandra Cook, Reese Goodin, Katelyn Marley, Kaitlyn Adams, Cloey Dirks, Devin Robertson, Kali Johnston, Isabella Lyons, Trevor Gregg, Paige Coots, Kannon Jonas, Hunter Casterline, Dalton Yeske, Christopher Norine, Samuel Rhodes, Madalyn Barding, Alexis Linn and Konnor Reynolds.

**Sophomores:** Elissa Probst, Maddox DeWerff, Olivia D. Black, Jenna Kamer, Grady Taylor, Abigail Probst, Colby Wilson, Zoe Jackson, Ryan German, Luke Johnson, Vera Garcia Reina, Chaerin Lim, Sapata Richardson, Kendree Dean, Kenadi M. Dagon, Aubrey Baldwin, Landon Orsborn, Autumn Davis, Raina Lidster, Kara Beaty and Tristan Stevens.

**Freshmen:** Coda Barnes, Kolton Cachera, Ethan Marley, Avry West, Genesis Howell, Emma Quattlander, Landon Glenn, Micah Barker, Nina Johnson, Jordyn Marley, Paige Suslee, Cole Bailey, Natalie Graden, Leni Johnston, Addilynn Cress, Lexie Smith, Carter Abendroth, Kennedi Aumann, Aliyah Lidster, Colt Bertolino, David Gipson III, Bryton A. Renaker, Keatyn R. Brooks, Brynn M. Greff, Lane Herpstreith, Elyse Tuetken, Dayne Brownback, Trenton Yager, Madilyn Marshall, Harlie Matthews, Colby Stewart and Aliczander Sleboda.

# Another Walker, Another Winner In GNCC Series

Talladega is known for speed and on March 7-8, no one in her class was faster than Morrisonville's Jhorjie Walker, who picked up the win in the Girls 65cc (7-11) class in round three of the Grand National Cross Country series in Alabama.

One week after her brother Jhak won his first XC2 250 Pro race in the series, Walker was the only one in her class to finish four laps, doing so in 1:57:29.813 to get the win and finish 58th overall in the Youth Bikes division. The win was her second in three GNCC races this season.

Walker's older brother Jhenner also made the podium in his class as he finished third in the YXC2 Super Mini Jr. (12-13) class with a time of 1:43:15.820 for five laps. Another brother, Jhacek, finished 14th in the 65cc (9) class and was 114th overall, finishing two laps in 1:43:36.677.

Jhak Walker rounded out the Walker family results with a fourth place finish in the XC2 250 Pro class. Walker finished five laps in 3:14:01.736, taking 16th overall in the PM Bikes division.

The Walker family were joined in Alabama by brothers Zach and Cooper Duff of Donnellson and Walshville's Travis Lentz. All three racers finished in the top ten in their class, with Zach Duff taking ninth in the Sportsman A class with a time of 1:10:46.999 for two laps, good for 81st overall in the AM Bikes division.

Both Travis Lentz and Cooper Duff ran in the 4-Stroke A Lites class, finishing fifth and ninth respectively. Lentz ran four laps in 2:48:28.130 and finished 38th in the PM Bikes division, while Duff ran four laps in 3:12:26.278 to take 49th overall.

This weekend, March 28-29, will see the GNCC in Society Hill, SC, for the Camp Coker Bullet at Moree's Sportsman's Preserve.

# Litchfield Middle School Announces Honor Roll

Litchfield Middle School has announced its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year. Students who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA are denoted with an asterisk *.

**Eighth Grade:** Myla Beckham*, Kaylee Belusko, Ian Birkenkamp*, Tinley Birkenkamp*, Waylon Black*, Aubrie Boston*, Noah Burdell*, Parker Calufetti*, Adalynne Carty, Zaniah Chapman, Wade Cherry, Aria Crabtree, Avery Crabtree, Camryn Cruthis*, Adalynn Davidson, Atlas DeWitt, Malachi Diveley*, Leah Edwards, Connor Engstrom, Alex Farrar*, Tilly Fergurson*, Tessa Floyd, Jordan Foulk, Libbey Gibbs, Presley Gifford*, Grace Gorowski*, Aden Greenwood, Darcey Hartel, Josiah Heigert, Hendrix Helfrich, Morgan Helgen, Rylee Hemken, Eli Hester, Leah Hockett-Martin, Lydia Jones*, Khloe Keith*, Olivia Kenter*, Aleksandr Khaev*, Sicily Lamb*, Mason Lemon*, Tevin Lenard, Wyatt Loew*, Cash Logsdon*, Ryder Maguire*, Sam Mazza, Willow McSperritt, Michael Napoli, Kyree Page, Landen Page*, Giuliana Reyes*, Wyatt Rich, Colin Roach*, Cameron Sanchez, Mollie Severtson, Aralyius Taylor, Drake Taylor, Zoey Walker, Kaden Weatherford*, Kinleigh Weiss, Gavin Winstead, Emrik Witt, Remie Witt*, Lillian Wright*, Colson Young and Parish Younker.

**Seventh Grade:** Sophia Anderson, Avery Barcum*, Nolan Baxter, Eliza Beckham, Drake Beiermann, Lana Bergman, Lillian Birkenkamp*, Evelyn Boston*, Mason Bradburn, Sarah Brassie, Alexus Carney, Zane Casey, Maxlyn Chambers, Maggie Cheng, Raelynn Colvin*, Emerson Cooper, Clark Cress, Alan Dong*, Jayse Ellinger*, Meyer Ellis*, Natalie Ellis*, Macie Estell, Tyson Ettling, Cooper Favre*, Paine Foss, Riley Foulk, Nevaeh Godar, Ryan Gray, Natalie Green, Bonnie Hale*, Keeyannah Hammack*, Olivia Helfrich, Makenzie Hendricks, , Beau Heyen, Mahina Holliday*, Memphis Jackson*, Kaibrik Jade*, Lynnox Kessler, Landon Krauss, Zora Krefft, Timberly Law, Dexter Link, Landon Loveless*, Lilly Mabrey, Ellen Melchert, Maia Neuhaus, Shelbea Nockman, Raj Patel, Kaylee Pellhum*, Maebry Pence, Jace Pennock, Madilynn Pizzo, Wesley Reed, Gunner Scarborough, Bentley Schafer, Waylon Schipkowski, Kelly Sexton, Ranna Traylor, Caris Vaughn*, Selena Walker, Sawyer White, Leo Woodring, Rosalie Wright, Kobe Wyatt and Christian Young.

**Sixth Grade:** Alexandra Abel, Rodolfo Alonzo, Ryder Beeler, Jocelynn Blake*, Harley Bradburn, Jaxson Calufetti, Avery Clelland, Dalton Coatney, Bentley Cox, Lauren Cruthis*, Yelena Davidson, Kyleigh Dean, Daphni Dworsack, Ella Engstrom, Travis Farris, Samuel Fenton, Miles Fleming, Leah Goldman*, Serenity Gray, Avery Guest, Eleanor Hale*, Dessa Hammack, Addison Hammer, Grace Hammer*, Brayden Hearn, Layla Hunn, Aaliyah Jones, Reed Jones, Annabelle Justison, Mikaela Komor, Kolbe Law, Payton Lee, Elliot Link, Deztini Mahan, Carson Mix, Ariah Moore, Colby Moore, Kynlee Mount, Abigail Nowell, Dash Ostendorf*, Mahi Patel*, Kylee Pence, Owen Pryor, Amelia Roach, Omarr Robinson, Kai Rodil, Payton Ronco, Trace Ross, Luke Savage, Chloe Seaton*, Claire Seaton, Grayson Short, Scarlett Smith, Andrew Stewart, Natalie Stewart*, Sydney Stout, Cassidy Taylor, Lorryn Thompson, Raelynne Welsh, Kaleesi White*, Teigan White and Hadley Wolfe.

# Nokomis Junior High Announces Honor Roll

Nokomis Junior High School has announced its honor roll and high honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

**High Honor Roll**

**Eighth Grade:** Christian J. Yeske.

**Seventh Grade:** Brooklynn R. Combs, Koen X. Mills and Gabriel W. Sands.

**Honor Roll**

**Eighth Grade:** Kinlee Bennett, Laurelie K. Hill, Abigail Centeno, Rowan L. Schneider, Ripley S. Goodwin, Aleigha N. Huddleston, Rainee J. Linn, Acacia L. Yates, Payton E. Coots, Avery G. Snow, Gia C. Durbin, Haylie J. Spinnie, Lauren DeWerff, Layne J. Ishmael, Parker R. Sullivan, Parker Morrison, Cort M. Yeske, Ahmsher Uttterback, Mia M. Lawhorn, Maverick W. Hoffman, Hailey Johnson, Austin Grimes, Lola Scheifer, Leah M. Lawhorn, Kylee M. Keiser, Charlee M. Clements, Gianna N. Chiti and Christian R. Frayer.

**Seventh Grade:** Emilia S. German, Cora L. Bailey, Emma G. Barding, Nathan Plunk, Rylee Blevins, Savannah L. Gipson, Anna G. Province, Jaycie E. Johnson, Lyla M. Marley, Autumn R. Rhodes, Kale B. Cress, Madeline M. Black, Finley M. Arkebauer, Alysin D. Marshall, Kenley A. Aumann, Mordecai K. Carpenter, Brylee J. Kemper, Colin G. Wexstten, Addelyn Guiot, Jaxon L. Blaum, Rylee R. Westerhold, Cy. J. Himes, Evan J. Bauer, Hope Cerutti, Jemma L. Smith, Caine Morrison, Hannah E. Latch, Kouper J. Brooks, Kylee Hopkins, Cale D. Wilson and Asher M. Meiners.

**Sixth Grade:** Avery S. Blodgett, Madison M. Parker, Kayla A. West, Alea R. West, William A. Graden, Jase M. Thompson, Hannah L. Marley, Jasper M. McNeill, Layne D. Johnston, Easton A. Marley, Lillian N. Martin, Ravyn A. Mathias, Archer J. Pasdeck, Hayden R. Schneider, Audrey T. Boone, Ava R. Gipson, Archer B. Roberts, Carter Bertolino, Bentley D. Ishmael, Qingxuan Wu, Colbi J. Gregg, Charlotte J. Sullivan, Kylara L. Rhodes, Morgan E. Goodin, Amira R. Morrow and Mia Heldebrandt.





# Litchfield Principal Recognizes Young Students

Litchfield Early Childhood Center Principal Adam Favre has announced the winners of the Principal Recognition Award for the week of March 6. These students are recognized by their classroom teacher for positive achievements in academic and social skills. Students celebrate with the entire grade during the building morning meetings on Fridays and receive a certificate to recognize their hard work. In the photo at left are kindergarten winners, from the left, Violet Starwalt, Elias Simon, Greyson Schmitt and Noah Williams. In the photo at right are first grade winners, from the left, Avery LeBlanc and Jaxsyn Bailey.

We're going to help hide eggs...

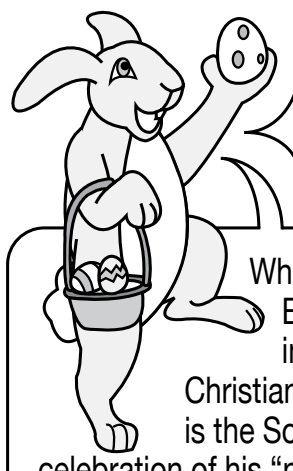
# Newspaper Fun!

...for our cousins to hunt when they visit!

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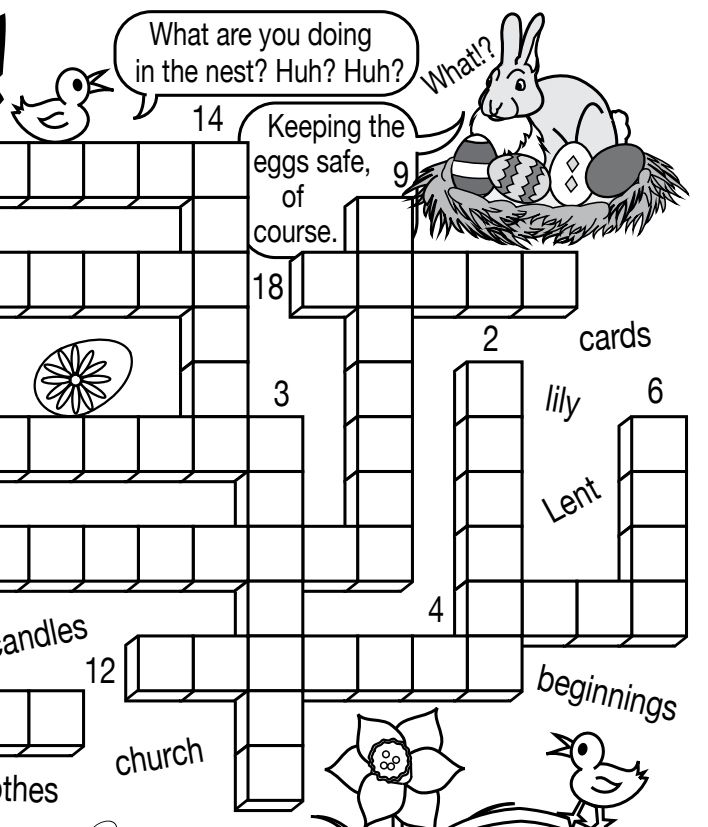
Yay! Easter is almost here! There's so much to do that my cousin Harry the Hare is here to help me get ready.

What do you know about the Easter holiday? Easter is an important Christian holiday. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Easter is the celebration of his "new life after death." It is a time of great joy.

Families spend a lot of time getting ready: cleaning, decorating, planning meals, and getting their best clothes ready for church.

My crossword puzzle is about Easter and what families are doing. **Can you read the clues to fill it in?**

# Happy Easter!

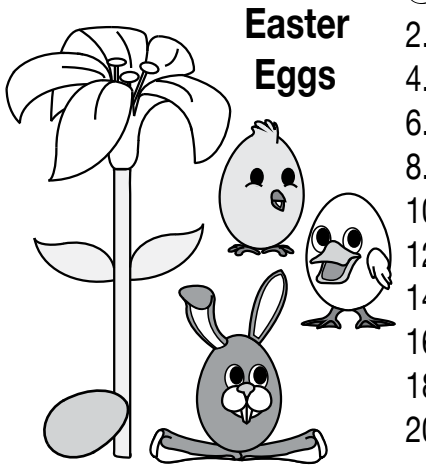






## Easter Time:

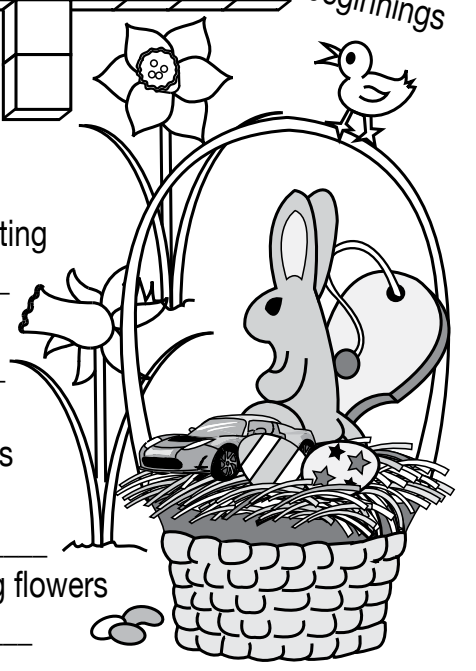
1. the 40 days before Easter; for some people a time for prayer and fasting; many people "give up something," like desserts
3. many Easter services are held at this beginning of a new day
5. ring with joy
7. burn with bright light
9. Easter Bunny brings these, with treats in them...
11. with this kind of rabbit often in the middle
13. beautiful, white flower that stands for "new life after death"
15. soft, yellow baby animals also used as a symbol of new life
17. gentle animal sometimes used as a symbol of Jesus
19. dawning of a new day; can be a time for this



**3 Cute Easter Eggs**

## Families Are:

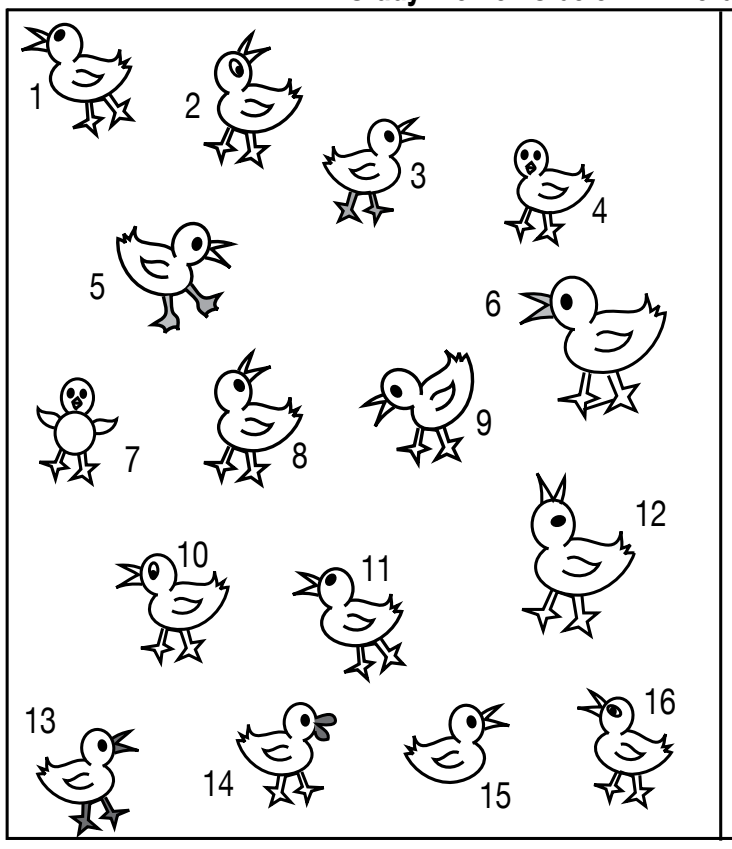
2. cleaning _____ and decorating
4. dying and decorating _____
6. baking hot cross _____
8. dressing in their best _____
10. going to _____ services
12. visiting _____ and relatives
14. hunting for _____ eggs
16. enjoying delicious ham _____
18. sending _____ and buying flowers
20. marching in an Easter _____

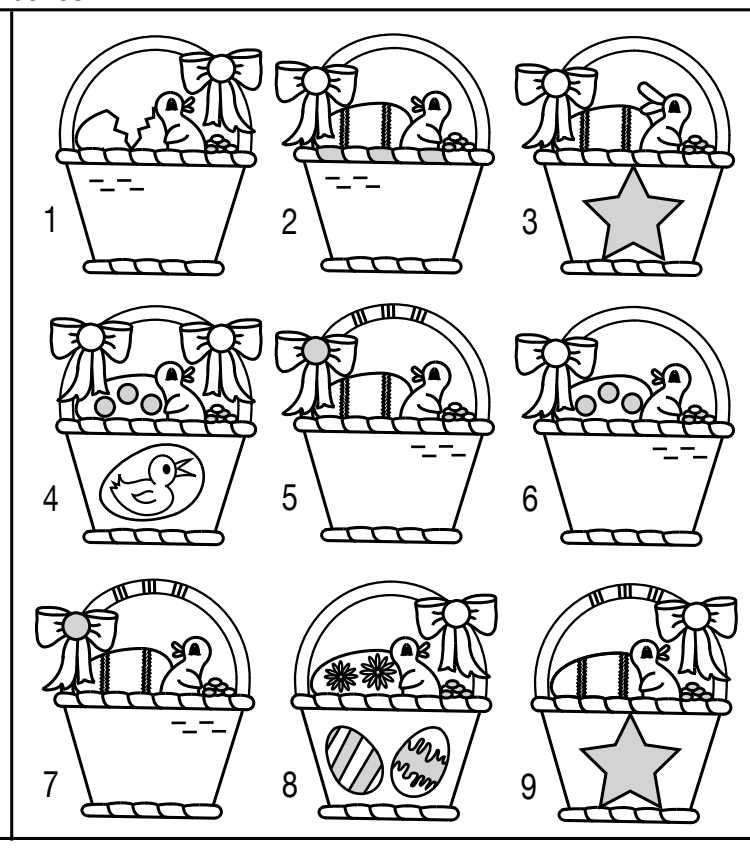


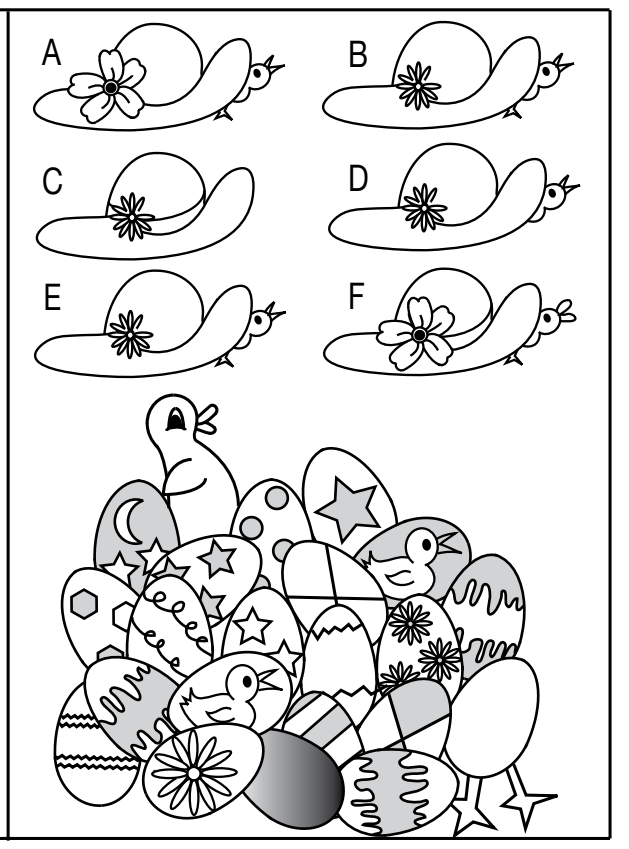
## "DoubleTake" of Easter Fun

**Study the items below in the boxes.**

- In the first box, find 2 chicks that are exactly alike and positioned the same way.
- In the second box, find 2 baskets that are the same.
- In the third box, find 2 bonnets and then 2 eggs that are exactly the same in the pile.

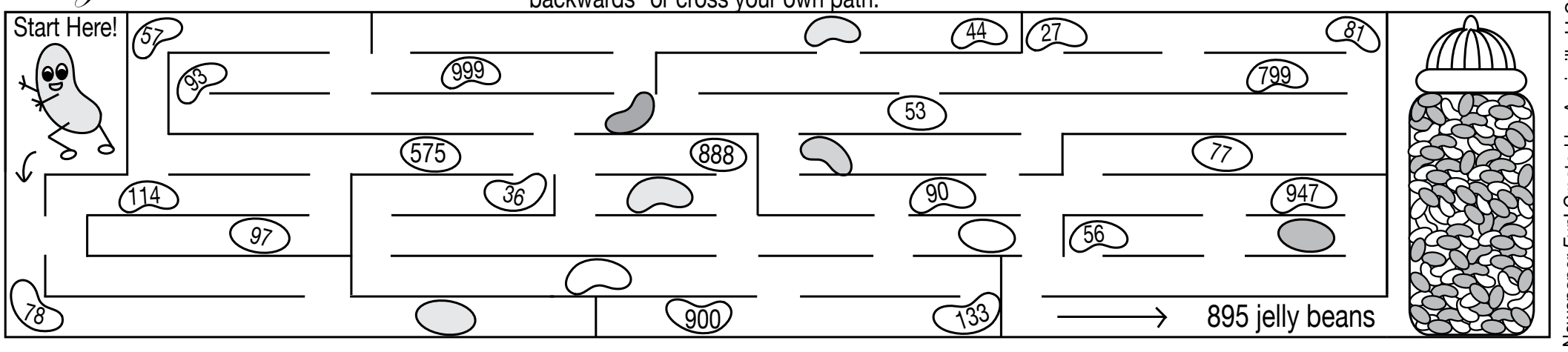



## Jelly Bean Fun Count

Can you make your way through the maze to "pick up" the 12 jelly beans that add up to the number in the jar? You can use a calculator to help. You can pass through jelly beans, but you cannot "go backwards" or cross your own path.




Newspaper Fun! Created by Annimills LLC © 2026

Litchfield National Bank
Member FDIC

Locally owned and operated, serving Litchfield, Illinois and the surrounding communities since 1907

**Two Convenient Locations to Serve You:**

**Main Bank**
316 N. State St.
Litchfield, IL
217.324.6161

**Route 66 Banking Center**
1101 W. Union Ave.
Litchfield, IL
217.324.7979

**https://www.ibankInb.com/**
Member FDIC

# Police

**Litchfield Police**

• Bryce R. Brown, 28, of Benld, was arrested for driving under the influence, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm and motor vehicle theft at 1:43 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, at the intersection of N. State St. and E. Weir St.

• Derek E. Fogle, 35, of Decatur, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and driving on a revoked license at 10:41 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, on IL Rt. 16.

• Thomas J. Perkins Jr., 26, of Litchfield, was arrested for aggravated assault at 6:55 p.m. Friday, March 20, at 720 S. State St.

• Cecilia M. Pitchford, 67, of Gillespie, was arrested for criminal trespassing to real property at 7:51 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Walmart.

• Avery L. Heyen, 25, was cited for driving an uninsured motor vehicle at 12:30 a.m. Saturday, March 21.

• Dawson M. Vonderheidt, 27, was cited for obstructed front windshield at 4:27 p.m. Friday, March 20.

• Jaykin L. Foster, 25, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 10:43 p.m. Thursday, March 19.

• Brett R. Rae, 45, was cited for expired registration at 7:17 p.m. Thursday, March 19.

• Tyler D. Masinelli, 25, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 6:51 p.m. Wednesday, March 18.

• Zachary T. Rodeghiero, 36, was cited for speeding 15 to 20 mph. over the limit at 11:02 a.m. Monday, March 16.

## Position Available
### Constitution Bank Pool & Glenn Shoals Marina Manager

The City of Hillsboro is seeking a responsible individual for the position of manager of Constitution Bank Aquatics Center and Glenn Shoals Marina. Responsibilities include the complete operation of a brand new aquatics facility, Glenn Shoals Marina, pool & marina concessions, management of lifeguards & concession workers, ordering supplies, reconciliation of income, etc. Resumes or letters of interest should be received at Hillsboro City Hall at 447 S. Main no later than 4 p.m. on April 2, 2026. Please call the Parks Dept. with questions at 217 313-6650.

**VACANCY NOTICE**
**Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3**
**Position:** (2) Part-Time Teacher's Aide - Coffeen Early Childhood Center
**License:** Current Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain certification with district assistance.
**Job Description:** Working with PreK age children in the classroom
**Hours:** 7:45 - 11:45 a.m.
**Salary:** Per Teacher's Aide Contract Salary Schedule https://www.hillsboroschools.net/Page/7425
**Start Date:** August 2026
**Submit Application/Résumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to:** Marci Gutierrez, Principal; Coffeen Early Childhood Center; 200 School St.; Coffeen, IL 62017; E-mail to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: (217) 532-7822
**Due By:** April 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 Journal-News* is looking for a part-time ad compositor, Tuesday through Friday mornings. Experience is very helpful. For more information, contact Mary Herschelman at journalnewsmary@gmail.com or call 217-532-3933.

## Notice of Request for Proposals
### Operations and Maintenance of the Litchfield Water Treatment Facility

**Specifications and bid packet available at:** cjoyce@cityoflitchfieldil.com

**Mandatory preproposal meeting:** Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

**Bidding deadline:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

*Submit bids to City Hall, 120 E. Ryder St., Litchfield, Ill., 62056, in a sealed envelope with the item written on the envelope no later than the bidding deadline.*

**Bid opening:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

*The bid opening will be held at City Hall, 120 E. Ryder St., Litchfield, Illinois and is open to the general public.*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

**Hillsboro**
H7 Louis Stanbery H164 Kari Rekart
Auction (2 units) April 9, 2026 -- 10:00 a.m.

**Central Illinois Storage, Carlinville, IL 62626**
**217-854-3492**

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

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

Applications will be available at Witt City Hall, 106A W. Broadway, Witt, IL 62094, 217-594-2814. Deadline is April 9.

**VACANCY NOTICE**
**Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3**
**Position:** Full-Time Secondary Special Education Teacher
**Duties:** The successful candidate will have the ability to work with students in grades 9 through age 22 with a variety of learning and developmental needs and demonstrate knowledge of transition planning focused on post-secondary education, employment and independent living. The postion requires collaboration with special education staff, general education teachers, related service providers and transition specialists to implement Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and support student success. The teacher will provide instruction in functional academics and daily living skills such as personal organization, money management, cooking and household management, while promoting student independence and self-advocacy. Strong communication, organizational and behavior management skills are essential, along with the ability to monitor student progress and maintain required special education documentation.
**Qualifications:** Illinois Professional Educator's License and LBS1 Endorsement or willingness to attain.
**Starting Date:** August 2026
**Salary/Benefits:** In accordance with Teacher's Salary Schedule/Labor Contract
**Exclusive Bargaining Contracts/2024-2028 HUEA Contract**
**Please submit Application, Résumé, Transcripts, Certificates and Letters of Recommendation to:** Blake Lipe, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont; Hillsboro, IL 62049; E-mail to blipe@hillsboroschools.net; Phone 217-532-2841.
**Due Date:** Open until filled
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

## HELP WANTED

Do you love to write stories and be involved in your community? Then *The Journal-News* is looking for you! We are looking for to hire for a full-time editorial position. Duties involve feature writing, copy editing, page layout and some office work. For more information, contact Mary Herschelman at journalnewsmary@gmail.com or call 217-532-3933.

## — SEEKING BIDS —

Cress Hill Cemetery Association is seeking bids for mowing. Mowing consists of all burial sections of the cemetery and mowing, trimming and removal of clippings from grave markers.

Any questions call 217-710-8397 and leave a message.

Cress Hill Cemetery Association reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Submit bids to: **Cress Hill Cemetery Association, 1615 Vandalia Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049.**

## WITT TOWNSHIP WILL BE ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS

on a **1997 Ford F150 Red Pickup Truck**
**Call 217-825-6053** for more truck info.
*Can be seen at the Witt Township Shed, 210 W. Berry St.*
**Bids must be received by**
**3 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2026**
Bids will be read at the following meeting
*Township reserves the right to refuse any bids*
**Mail to:**
**Witt Township**
**attn: BID**
**P.O. Box 206, Witt, IL 62094**
or e-mail wittttownship@gmail.com
include BID in subject

## CEMENT MASON AND PLASTERER'S UNION SEEKS NEW APPRENTICES

Troy, Illinois – The Cement Masons Local No. 90 and Southern Illinois Builders Association Joint Apprenticeship Committee and The Plasterer's Apprentice Program will accept applications from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 (Noon) March 31, April 1, 3 and April 7, 8, 10, 2025 at the Local No. 90 office, 820 Lions Drive, Troy, Illinois.
**The Cement Masons apprenticeship is a three-year program.**
**The Plasterer's apprenticeship is a four-year program.**
Qualifications are:
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age
- Birth Certificate required
- High School Diploma or GED
- Reside within the territorial jurisdiction of: Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery and St. Clair counties.

For more information, call 618-667-2562.
We are an equal opportunity employer.

## Merchandise

### Firewood

FIREWOOD for sale 217-825-9730

### Miscellaneous

SKID STEER stick backhoe attachment and fork attachment for sale. Call or text. 217-710-4509

SCRATCH PADS at The Journal-News, 25 cents each.

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

## Services

### General Services

SETH'S JUNK Removal: brush, junk, yard removal. 883-3446

## Services

### General Services

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

WE DO PRINTING at The Journal-News, 217-532-3933

CENTRAL IL House Painting: Interior/ exterior, homes, businesses, barns, machine sheds, decks, etc. Free estimates, experienced, references. Mike 217-250-5460

Phone 532-3933
To Place Your
Classified Ad

## The City of Litchfield is Hiring a Police Department Civilian Coordinator

The Police Department Civilian Coordinator will serve as the City of Litchfield's designated FOIA Officer and will be responsible for administering and coordinating all requests made under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act for the entire City of Litchfield. In addition to FOIA responsibilities, the position will provide administrative and operational support to the Police Department in areas including scheduling administration, payroll administration, equipment coordination, fleet record management, evidence record assistance, supply inventory and monthly reporting.

The position is based out of City Hall, 120 E. Ryder, Litchfield, IL 62056. The working hours for this position will be Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

This position's pay range is $59,000-$62,000 DOQ. Benefits include IMRF retirement, health, dental, vision insurance and additional coverage options. Residency within 40 miles of the intersection of State and Union is required within 180 days of hire.

To apply for the position, please visit www.cityoflitchfieldil.com or go to City Hall, 120 E. Ryder. Additional information can be provided by contacting the Mayor's Office at 217-324-8151. The position will be open until it is filled.

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 21years 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 *hillsboroillinois.net*.

**City of Hillsboro**
**Board of Police and Fire Commissioners**

**VACANCY NOTICE**
**Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3**
**Position:** 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:** August 2026.
**Salary:** Per Teachers' Salary Schedule/Labor Contract.
Exclusive Bargaining Contracts / 2024-2028 HUEA Contract.
**Submit Application/Résumé/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:** Open until filled.
We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

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 *hillsboroillinois.net*.

**City of Hillsboro**
**Board of Police and Fire Commissioners**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT**
**OF THE FOURTH**
**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,**
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY -**
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
LON CHARLES STROUP,
DECEASED.
**NO. 2026PR10**
**CLAIM DATE NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Lon Charles Stroup, who died February 3, 2026, and who resided at 15173 Seven Sisters Avenue, Irving, Illinois 62051. Letters of Administration were issued to Beth A. Hurren, Independent Administrator.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before September 19, 2026, in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Montgomery County, 120 N. Main St. #125, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, or with the Independent Administrator at the address given below; and any claim not so filed is barred as to all of the estate. If claims are filed with the Clerk, copies must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to Beth A. Hurren, 2315 Brian St., Vandalia, Illinois 62471, and to her attorney, Kyle E. Boose of Law Group Ltd., 307 North Third Street, P.O. Box 1108, Effingham, Illinois 62401, within ten days after they have been filed.

BETH A. HURREN,
Independent Administrator

This document was
prepared by:
Kyle E. Boose
Law Group Ltd.
307 N. Third St.
P. O. Box 1108
Effingham, IL 62401
Telephone: (217) 347-0555
Fax: (618) 283-3037
boose@lawgroupltd.com
Registration #6323660
File #21659.01001

90-3tT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT**
**OF THE FOURTH**
**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,**
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY,**
**ILLINOIS**
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC, PLAINTIFF
VS.
JODI S. COMPTON; CHARLES R. COMPTON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.
**NO. 2025FC29**
707 NORTH MADISON
LITCHFIELD, IL 62056
**NOTICE OF SALE**
**PURSUANT TO**
**JUDGMENT OF**
**FORECLOSURE UNDER**
**ILLINOIS MORTGAGE**
**FORECLOSURE ACT**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on February 9, 2026, will on April 29, 2026, in THE FRONT DOOR OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 120 NORTH MAIN STREET, HILLSBORO, IL 62049, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Montgomery, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

THE NORTH (N) FORTY-FIVE (45) FEET OF LOT THREE (3) IN BLOCK TWO (2) IN TYLER'S FIRST ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY ILLINOIS; AND:

THAT PART OF LOTS TWO (2) AND THREE (3) IN BLOCK ONE (1) IN HARGRAVES'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY, OF LITCHFIELD, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT WHICH IS FIFTY-NINE (59) FEET NORTH (N) OF THE SOUTHEAST (SE) CORNER OF SAID LOT, RUNNING THENCE NORTH (N) ALONG THE EAST (E) LINE OF SAID LOTS THREE (3) AND TWO (2), FORTY-FIVE (45) FEET TO THE NORTHWEST (NW) CORNER OF LOT THREE (3) IN BLOCK TWO (2) OF TYLER'S ADDITION TO LITCHFIELD, THENCE WEST, (W) PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH (S) LINE OF LOT TWO (2) IN BLOCK ONE (1) IN HARGRAVE'S ADDITION TWENTY-FIVE (25) FEET; THENCE SOUTH (S), PARALLEL WITH THE EAST (E) LINE OF LOTS TWO (2) AND THREE (3) IN SAID ADDITION, FORTY-FIVE (45) FEET; AND THENCE EAST (E), PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT TWO (2), TWENTY-FIVE (25) FEET, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SUBJECT TO COAL, OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS AND THE RIGHTS TO MINE AND REMOVE SAME IF AND TO THE EXTENT HERETOFORE CONVEYED, EXCEPTED OR RESERVED. SUBJECT TO COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS OF RECORD, IF ANY.

TAX NO. 10-33-315-014
**Commonly Known As:**
**707 NORTH MADISON**
**LITCHFIELD, IL 62056**

Description of Improvements: White vinyl siding, single family home.

The Judgment amount was $29,737.05.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only-

**McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP**
**Plaintiff's Attorneys**
**333 W Wacker Drive**
**Suite 1820**
**Chicago, IL 60606-1220**
**Tel. No. (312) 346-9088.**

Please refer to file # 25-21412IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.

I3283483

90-3tT

# Irving Methodist Plans For Holy Week Services

Irving Methodist Church will be holding Holy Week services, beginning on Thursday, April 2, with their Holy Thursday Service at 6 p.m. with Holy Communion. The table is open to all faiths.

On Friday, April 3, a Good Friday service will be held at 1 p.m. On Easter Sunday, April 5, sunrise service will be held at 7 a.m. with breakfast following. A regular worship service will follow at 9 p.m.

Irving Methodist Church is located at 124 S. Spruce St.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT**
**OF THE FOURTH**
**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,**
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY -**
**IN PROBATE**
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
ELBERT W. MUNCY, SR.
DECEASED.
**CASE NO. 2026PR7**
**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of ELBERT W. MUNCH, SR. MUNCY of 9750 W. Sunset Rd., Las Vegas, Clark County, NV 89148. Letters of Office were issued on March 9, 2026, to ELBERT W. MUNCY, JR. of 219 Golden Court, Boulder City, NV 89005, whose attorney is Bill Nichelson.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro, IL, 62049, or with the representative or both, within six (6) months from the date the of first publication of this notice, which is September 16, 2026, or within three (3) months from the date of the mailing of this notice, whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative(s) and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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

ELBERT W. MUNCY, JR.,
Executor

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

88-3tT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**VILLAGE OF IRVING**
**ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT**
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2025**
**GENERAL FUND**
**Revenue**

Taxes: Sales, $20,891, Property $29,900, Replacement $4,857, Income Tax $64,829, Video Gaming $13,621, Cannabis $586, Licenses & Fees $4,453, Investment Income $3,521, Misc. $1,843, Fines $596, Rent $4,862.

**Total General Revenues: $149,959.00**

**Payroll**

$0.00 - $25,000.00: Kenda Caulk, Beth Edwards, Derek Gibbs, Tyler Hampton, Charles Harston, Kelly Harston, Jerry Hartman, William Hartman, Harley Hedderman, Lori Jolliff, James Jones, Leora Jones, Larry Keiser Jr, Aaron McCarty, Shawn Murray, Carl Taylor, Donna Yeske.

**Total Payroll: $ 63,205.04**

**Disbursements**

$1,000.00 - $100,000.00: Ace Hardware $1,766.52, Amazon $5,106.99, Ameren $13,187.52, Caseys $1,541.97, CTI $3,106.61, Farmers Oil Co $2,092.27, Fenton Construction $2,535.88, Milano & Grunloh Engineers $12,000, John Deer $1,632.58, Journal Publications $1,946.70, Lifetime Products $4,230, Masten Mosquito Control $1,455, Nail's Power Equipment $57,115.66, Outdoor Power Sales $2,110.28, Patton & Co $8,000, Presnell Tree Service $3,650, Quickbooks $1,767.48, Randy's Rolloff $1,225.20, RMA $13,267.50, Warning Lites of Southern IL $6,105.20

**Account Summary**

**Balance May 1, 2024 ..... $ 230,612.00**
**Total Revenue ..... $ 149,959.00**
**Disbursements & Payroll ..... $ 230,780.00**
**Balance April 30, 2025..... $ 149,791.00**
**Investments:..... $ 73,796.00**

**MOTOR FUEL TAX**
**Receipts**

MFT Allotments $18,124.62, Interest $93.53

**Total Receipts: $ 18,218.15**

**Disbursements**

Falling Springs Quarry $7,639.59, Farmers Oil Co. $367.45, Heidelberg Materials $1,134.30, Hillsboro Outdoor Power Sales $43.00, Hillsboro Rental $368.70, Hilltop Ag, LLC $4,831.36, Journal Publications $132.30, Larry Heuerman $4,500.00, Litchfield Bituminous $52,913.01, Milano & Grunloh $522.50, Nokomis Quarry $281.65.

**Total Disbursements: $ 72,733.86**

**Account Summary**

**Beginning Balance on May 1, 2024.....$135,876.00**
**Receipts ..... $ 18,218.15**
**Disbursements..... $ 72,733.86**
**Balance April 30, 2025..... $ 82,700.00**
**Investments..... $ 18,004.00**

**WATER REVENUE FUND**

Water Collections: $88,375.07 Interest $59.73
Investments $2,084

**Disbursements**

$1,000 - $50,000.00: Bondurant Plumbing $5,270, EJ Water $38,990.50, Midwest Meter $4,246.38, Milano & Grunloh Engineer $2,957, USPS $1,705.36

**Account Summary**

**Beginning balance on May 1, 2024 ..... $243,951.00**
**Disbursements..... $ 53,169.24**
**Balance Ending April 1, 2025..... $235,612.00**

**SEWERAGE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE**

Sewage Collections $30,771.00

**Disbursements**

$0 - $5,000.00: EJ Water $4,413.9, IL EPA $500.00, City of Effingham $377.00
Investments $77,570.00

**Account Summary**

**Balance beginning May 1, 2024..... $238,188.00**
**Disbursements..... $5,290.9**
**Balance Ending April 30, 2025..... $236,123.00**

I, Beth Edwards, Treasurer for the Village of Irving, Montgomery County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report on file for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025.

Beth Edwards
Village of Irving Treasurer

92-1t

**LANCER LINES** • by Ella Jenkins at Lincolnwood

# Lincolnwood FFA Attends State Capitol Day



Hello and welcome back to another week of the Lancer Lines! I hope you all have had a great week and are ready for this week's article!

I will start this week with the answer to last week's riddle. Here it is: Where do sheep go for spring break? The answer: The Baa-hamas! I hope you enjoyed that spring break riddle!

The Lincolnwood Drama Club has started their full-runs of the play. Next week they will add curtain and sound crew to their practices. They have been hard at work on the set, and it is all coming together nicely. The dates for the musical are April 10, 11 and 12, and we hope to see you there!

The Lincolnwood Art Club had a meeting Wednesday to talk about their T-shirt sales.

The Yearbook Club's Butter Braid Fundraiser has come to an end. Thank you to everyone who supported the yearbook.

The Lincolnwood National Honor Society is gearing up for their annual fundraiser as well.

There is a mandatory meeting for the students who are planning to attend senior trip and their parents on April 8.

The Lincolnwood and Morrisonville seniors that participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, scholastic bowl, Drama Club, band and choir are going to the annual senior athlete lunch on April 1 during the school day. This is something the seniors look forward to each year and appreciate greatly!

Tuesday, March 24, was a successful day at the state capital for the Lincolnwood FFA chapter. They had a good day delivering lunches and taking pictures and luckily, they had good weather!

The annual FFA banquet is set for April 1 at 6 p.m. Awards will be given and there will be new officers installed.

April 2 is a 2 p.m. dismissal day for the district. Also, there is no school on April 3 and April 6 for our spring break!

I will end this week with another riddle. Here it is: What kind of shoes do frogs wear when spring comes?

That is all for this week! I hope you all enjoyed and are ready for the answer to the riddle next week! Have a great week!

## Fire Calls

**Hillsboro Ditch Fire**

The Hillsboro Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in a ditch at 5:01 p.m. on Tuesday, March. 24. The crew arrived to the scene at Interurban Circle and Rt. 16 at 5:04 p.m. They returned to headquarters at 5:15 p.m.

**Raymond Vehicle Fire**

The Raymond-Harvel Fire Department was dispatched to a vehicle fire at 11:36 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24. The vehicle was located at N. Rd. and N. 19th Ave. The crew of eight responders returned to headquarters at 12:54 p.m.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**ASSUMED NAME**
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 10, 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: KNEADING BODIES located at 314 N. Monroe St. in the city of LITCHFIELD and state of IL.

Dated March 10, 2026
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
88-3tT

## GRS Foundation Plans Easter Event March 29

The "Give/ Reach Out. Support" (GRS) Foundation will be hosting an Easter event on Sunday, March 29, at Gudgel Ranch Saloon, located at 14265 East 2nd Rd. in Litchfield. Easter Pictures will be available at the event, along with a kid and adult egg hunt, an Easter basket raffle and live music.

www.thejournal-news.net

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**ASSUMED NAME**
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 16, 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: BUSH TRAILER AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL, LLC located at 205 W. TYLER in the city of LITCHFIELD and state of IL.

Dated March 16, 2026
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
90-3tT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT**
**OF THE 4TH**
**JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**
**COUNTY OF Montgomery**
**- Hillsboro, ILLINOIS**
WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LEHMAN MORTGAGE TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-5
Plaintiff
vs.
ETHEL E. WILLIAMS; TERRY WILLIAMS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant
**24 FC 22**
CALENDAR
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Montgomery County will on April 15, 2026, at the hour 10:00 a.m., Courthouse lobby, 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, Illinois 62049, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

THE WEST EIGHTY (80) FEET OF LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) IN BLOCK SIXTY EIGHT (68) IN THE ADDITION TO THE TOWN, NOW CITY, OF LITCHFIELD, AS PLATTED BY PC HUGGINS, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 10-33-451-018.
**Commonly known as:**
**503 E. RYDER ST.**
**LITCHFIELD, IL 62056**

The real estate is: single family residence.

If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection(g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, **Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109.**
24-241832 SHERIFF
I3282929

88-3tT

**TOPPER TALK** • by Milla Anderson at Hillsboro High

# Topper Students Gear Up For A Busy Spring



Welcome back, Topper Nation! Welcome to the third week of the fourth quarter!

As we head into spring, here are a few important updates and reminders for the HHS community. The answer to last week's riddle is: watermelon.

Prom season is quickly approaching! The 2026 HHS Prom theme is "A Night Behind the Mask." Prom will be held on Saturday, May 2, at HHS. Doors open at 7 p.m., coronation begins at 7:30 p.m. and dancing will take place from 8 to 10 p.m.

Prom tickets go on sale Monday, April 13, for $10, and all attendees must purchase a ticket in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Students are also encouraged to complete the Post Prom survey to help organizers plan activities everyone will enjoy.

Graduation for the HHS class of 2026 will be held on Friday, May 22, at 8 p.m. at Sawyer Field, weather permitting, with the HHS Gymnasium as a backup location. Seniors and families should mark their calendars for this important milestone.

The Decision Day Breakfast will take place on Friday, May 1, from 8 to 9 a.m. at HHS. Seniors and their families are invited to celebrate post-graduation plans together. More details will be shared soon.

Honors and Scholarship Night will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at 7 p.m. in the HHS competition gym. Join us as we recognize the hard work and accomplishments of the class of 2026.

Senior Ads are now available through the Yearbook Online Store. Families can either upload a design or create one directly through the site. Prices are $30 for a quarter-page ad and $20 for an eighth-page ad.

As a reminder, for events with large crowds of varsity games and performances, the Topper Tunnel parking lot will be reserved for limited-mobility parking to ensure accessibility for all. Seniors should also complete the Google Form shared by Mrs. Rench regarding future plans as soon as possible.

Be sure to check school announcements and social media, especially Facebook, to stay up to date on everything happening at HHS. This week's riddle is: I am a bow that can't be tied.




# Nokomis FFA Celebrates State Success

Nokomis FFA is celebrating their recent success at the Illinois FFA's State Awards Day.Nine Nokomis FFA members compete with their SAE recordbook projects at the state level. Izaak Doyen was named a state winner in SOE Human and Public Services, while Andrew Suslee placed as the state runner-up in SOE Arts and Communications. Abigail Centeno was the state runner-up in Discovery STAR in Agriscience. Levi German, Kennley Kirk, Fausto Centeno, Alauna Patton and Parker Morrison all finished in the top 5 in the state for their respective areas. Last but not least, Grace King interviewed in the area of STAR Agriscience and will hear results on stage at this year's state convention in June.

To compete at state is a huge achievement for these members who have put in numerous hours towards their projects.

Pictured above, from the left, in the back are Levi German, Parker Morrison, Andrew Suslee, Izaak Doyen, Fausto Centeno and student teacher Ryan Koster. In the front row are Mason Fesser, Grace King, Kennley Kirk, Abigail Centeno, Alauna Patton and Marissa Carlock.



# Nokomis FFA Competes In Public Speaking

Members of Nokomis FFA recently competed in the Section 19 Public Speaking LDE at Cowden-Herrick High School. The competition is one of the toughest to participate in, and the FFA program says it is very proud of its members. Leni Johnston competed in Creed Speaking, while Dominic Hammond and Maddox DeWerff competed in JV Extemporaneous and Levi German and Fallon Knodle competed in Varsity Extemporaneous. German and Hammond placed first overall in their respective categories, while DeWerff took fourth. Pictured above, from the left, are Levi German, Maddox DeWerff, Dominic Hammond, Leni Johnston and Fallon Knodle.

# Doyen Wins State FFA Proficiency




Nokomis' Izaak Doyen was selected as the State Winner by a committee of agriculture teachers, industry friends, parents and volunteers knowledgeable in this work-based area.

Izaak Doyen was selected as the State FFA SOE Award Winner in Human and Public Services. Doyen is a member of the Nokomis FFA Chapter of the Illinois Association FFA. The Illinois FFA recognizes students in six different Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) areas based on their work-based learning experiences outside of the classroom.

FFA members who demonstrate outstanding skills and competencies through record keeping, leadership, and scholastic achievement may be considered for this award. SOEs allow students to learn by doing by either owning and operating a business, working or serving an internship at a business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Doyen was selected as the State Winner by a committee of agriculture teachers, industry friends, parents and volunteers knowledgeable in this work-based area, who reviewed their records online and then conducted interviews at Mt. Zion High School on Saturday, March 21. Doyen is the son of David and Jennifer Doyen from Nokomis. He was previously chosen as the chapter, section and district awardee in this area.

Doyen is also involved in many other FFA activities such as CDEs. In 2023, Izaak was also on the state winning FFA Quizbowl team. Mason Fesser and Marissa Carlock are the agriculture teachers and FFA Advisors at Nokomis High School.

Doyen will receive a plaque for his accomplishments and be celebrated for this great achievement at the 98th Illinois FFA State Convention, June 9 - 11. These plaques are made possible by gifts by individuals, businesses, corporations and organizations through the Illinois Foundation FFA.

# Extension Hosting Horse Showmanship Workshop

Illinois Extension will be hosting a "Horse Showmanship at Halter" workshop, focusing on teaching youth how to properly present horse in hand for competition. Participants will learn essential skills such as correct halter fitting, grooming for show, leading and positioning a horse, executing patterns and demonstrating poise, confidence and sportsmanship in the show ring. The hands-on workshop will help members build communication and teamwork with their horse while preparing for participation in 4-H shows.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 32771 Deer Creek Rd. in Girard. Ages eight to 18 are permitted, but space is limited, and one must be a 4-H member to attend.

Participants are asked to not bring their personal horses, as horses will be on site for participants to work with. Closed toe shoes and required and Crocs are not allowed.




# Steve McClure To Hold Office Hours Locally

State Senator Steve McClure will host traveling office hours on Friday, March 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Doyle Public Library in Raymond. Staff from McClure's office will be on hand to meet with constituents.

**Montgomery County Genealogical Society Research Center**
Litchfield Museum
& Route 66 Welcome Center
334 Historic Route 66 North
PO Box 212
Litchfield, IL 62056
***Monday, Wednesday-Saturday***
***10 a.m. to 4 p.m.***
www.mcgsil.com • info@mcgsil.com

# NOTICE

**NOTICE OF MEETINGS UNDER ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

NOTICE is hereby given that Hillsboro Township shall have regular meetings of its Township Board on the following dates for the 2026-2027 year, April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

**Regular meetings will be the 4th Tuesday of each month.**

**These meetings shall take place at the hour of 6:30 p.m. at Township Office.**

Notice of any rescheduled regular meeting, reconvened meeting, special meeting or meeting held in the event of an emergency will be given as required by the Illinois Open Meeting Act.

Any questions concerning meetings of the Township Board or the Electors may be directed to Donald Hamby, 488 Clear Springs Ln., Hillsboro, IL 62049, (217) 532-3726.

Donald L. Hamby
Township Clerk
92-1t

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

To the legal voters, residents of the Town(ship) of Hillsboro Township in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town(ship) will take place on

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2026**
**being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 8:00 o'clock P.M.**
**at 9056 S. IL Rt. 127**

for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following agenda:

No special agenda business.

Dated March 25, 2026.
92-1t

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Town of south Litchfield in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois, that the **Annual Town Meeting** of said Town will take place on

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**
as required by ILCS 1/30-10
at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P.M. at 311 South State Street, Litchfield, Illinois

for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

Transferring Funds
Erecting a Flag Pole
Adding Flower Planters to the Township Building

Dated: March 10, 2026
Diane Spinner
Town Clerk
92-1t

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

**www.thejournal-news.net**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal voters, residents of the Town of North Litchfield in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the hour of 6:00 PM at North Litchfield Town Hall for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town, and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; especially to consider and decide the following: General Township Business

I. Call Meeting to Order
II. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Appointment of Moderator
IV. Supervisor's Accounts
V. Highway Commissioner's Annual Report
VI. Questions
VII. Adjourn
VIII. Adoption of Opposition of Township Consolidation

**Dated March 26, 2026**
**Christy Johnson**
**N. Litchfield Town Clerk**
92-1t

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Danny Lee Waters, (SR.), formerly a resident of Donnellson, Montgomery County, Illinois, who died on March 9, 2026. Letters of Office were issued by the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Montgomery County, Illinois, on the 23rd day of March 2026 under Case No. 2026-PR-11 unto Danny L. Waters, (JR.), whose address is: Danny L. Waters, (JR.), P.O. Box 714, Panama, Illinois 62077, and whose attorney of record is Stephen R. Cullison, 220 South 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.

If you need further information regarding the electronic filing of claims with the Court, you should contact the Montgomery County Circuit Clerk at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Danny L. Waters, (JR.),
Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate
By: Stephen R. Cullison
Attorney for Independent Administrator
Cullison & Vandever Law Office
220 S. Main St.
P. O. Box 188
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Tele.: (217) 532-5432
Registration No. 00555592
Email: cullisonlaw@consolidated.net
92-3tT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Case No. 2022GC1

In the matter of Blue Grass Creek Drainage District in the County of Montgomery and State of Illinois

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, and public notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of April 2026 at 1:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, the commissioners of the Blue Grass Creek Drainage District of Montgomery County shall appear before the Honorable Judge Christopher Hantla in the Montgomery County Courthouse, the room usually occupied by said Judge as a Courtroom, or in the absence of said Judge, before any other Judge who may be presiding in said Courtroom in the Montgomery County Courthouse located at 120 North Main Street, Hillsboro, IL 62049, and there have a hearing on the Petition to Increase and Establish Annual Maintenance Assessment Levy, at which time and place all interested parties may appear and be heard if they see fit to do so.

Maatuka Al-Heeti Emkes LLC
Attorney for the
Blue Grass Creek
Drainage District
**Prepared By:**
Kyle Emkes
(ARDC#: 6303247)
Cole Mohr
(ARDC#: 6353513)
Maatuka Al-Heeti Emkes LLC
Attorneys at Law
2102 Windsor Place St. 1
Champaign, Illinois 61820
Telephone: (217) 337-0700
Fax: (217) 337-0707
Email: kyle@maelaw.net, cole@maelaw.net
92-2tT




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**2026 Trax - 2.9% APR - 90 Days Until 1st Payment**
** MUST QUALIFY **



**2026 Chevrolet Trax**
#B11201
MSRP ..... $26,175
S.S. Discount..... - 1,786
Customer Cash ..... - 500
**S.S. PRICE..... $23,889**



**2026 Chevrolet Trax**
#B11279
MSRP ..... $28,885
S.S. Discount..... - 361
Customer Cash ..... - 500
**S.S. PRICE..... $28,024**



**2026 Chevrolet Trax**
#B11269
MSRP ..... $27,280
S.S. Discount..... - 390
Customer Cash ..... - 500
**S.S. PRICE..... $26,390**

* Buyer MUST Qualify for ALL incentives *



**2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer Activ**
MSRP ..... $31,285
**S.S. PRICE..... Please Call**



**2026 Chevrolet Equinox LT**
#B11283
MSRP ..... $36,415
S.S. Discount..... - 1,073
**S.S. PRICE..... $35,342**

**2026 Trailblazer - 2026 Equinox 3.9% APR - 90 Days Until 1st Payment**
** MUST QUALIFY **



**2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer RS**
MSRP ..... $32,885
**S.S. PRICE..... Please Call**



**2026 Chevrolet Equinox EV LT**
#B11241
MSRP ..... $38,495
S.S. Discount..... - 514
Customer Cash ..... - 6,500
**S.S. PRICE..... $31,481**



**2026 Chevrolet Equinox LT**
#B11287
MSRP ..... $35,445
S.S. Discount..... - 1,005
**S.S. PRICE..... $34,440**

**Don't Miss The Last Few Remaining 2025 Models**



**2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT**
#B10978
MSRP ..... $57,380
S.S. Discount..... - 4,880
Customer/Bonus Cash - 3,000
Chevy Loyalty Cash..... - 2,500
**S.S. PRICE..... $47,000**



**2025 GMC Silverado EV LT Extended Range**
#B10998
MSRP ..... $76,035
S.S. Discount..... - 6,135
Customer Cash ..... - 4,000
Purchase Allowance..... - 250
**S.S. PRICE..... $65,400**



**2025 GMC Acadia Elevation**
#B11111
MSRP ..... $47,525
S.S. Discount ..... - 6,032
Bonus Cash..... - 1,000
**S.S. PRICE..... $40,493**

* First Responders Qualify for $500 Off GMC Purchase *

Steve Schmitt AUTO GROUP

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# Kitchen Fire Extinguished Monday



Litchfield Fire Department responded to a kitchen fire at a Kirk Dr. residence on Monday morning, March 23. The fire is believed to be the result of unattended cooking.

The Litchfield Fire Department, at approximately 1:36 a.m. on Monday, March 23, was dispatched to a reported stove fire at a residence at 665 Kirk Dr. Engine 810 responded immediately. While enroute, dispatch advised crews that updated reports indicated the fire was out of control and extending across the ceiling. Engine 810 acknowledged the report and continued the response.

Upon arrival, firefighters observed smoke coming from the eaves and roof vent of the apartment building. Command was established by 801, and crews initiated an aggressive interior fire attack. Firefighters deployed approximately 200 feet of 1.75-inch preconnected hose line and made entry through the front door. Upon entry, crews encountered heavy smoke, significant heat and active fire in the kitchen area. The fire was quickly brought under control.

Following extinguishment, crews ventilated the apartment, opened the ceiling to check for fire extension, and inspected the adjoining apartment to ensure the fire had not spread. Prior to the arrival of fire crews, Litchfield Police Department officers utilized two fire extinguishers in an attempt to control the fire and began evacuating occupants from the building. Their quick actions contributed to the safety of residents and helped limit fire spread.

The incident was investigated by one of the Litchfield Fire Investigators who determined the cause of the fire to be unattended cooking.

No injuries were reported.

The Litchfield Fire Department would like to remind residents to never leave cooking unattended and to ensure working smoke detectors are installed in all homes.



# Timber Creek Hosts Easter Egg Hunt

Timber Creek Village Assisted Living in Litchfield hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 21. Eggs were filled by residents, who enjoyed watching the kids hunt for eggs. Timber Creek appreciates everyone who jointed them and helped make the event special.

# Taylor Springs Declines Animal Control Renewal

Members of the Village of Taylor Springs Board convened for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17, at the community building. Acting Village President Jody Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Also present were Trustees Wally Delong, Alisha Roller, William Wright and Jason Caldwell, Village Clerk Amanda Daniels and Attorney Alicia Granito.

The board, after discussion, voted to not enter into a contract with Montgomery County for animal control services at this time. Members of the Board felt as though for the very few animal related issues in Taylor Springs, it would not be practical to have the expense, $1,448 annually. The board determined it may be something to look at in the future.

After approving the minutes of the previous meeting, public works department Superintendent Harrell stated that meter installation is complete and that the IEPA Phase IV Water Project funding is in the works and hopes to begin the work by July.

Fire Chief Redman reported that there were 15 EMS calls and eight medical calls since the last meeting. He reported that two junior firefighters have joined the department and will be attending a basics of firefighting class hosted by Coffeen. With five new volunteers also on staff, Redman informed the board that new radios and pagers will be needed. The board motioned to purchase five of each at a cost of $1,250.

Mayor Jackson stated that the Board may approve bills for fuel and other expenses but reminded the department that funds are getting low in the fire protection fund. With additional expenses, there may be an issue in the future of being able to pay the volunteers the $5 per call fee, which would result in moving money from the volunteer fire fund into the fire protection fund to cover those fees and expenses.

Following the treasurer's report, the board approved a motion to pay the monthly regular bills.

Attorney Granito stated that she has reviewed the volunteer agreement/release for the village and noted that it is sufficient to continue using for anyone whom wishes to volunteer for the village. Granito then presented four ordinances to be approved by the board:

No. 666: authorizing the clerk to be the village collector with an additional monthly salary of $300; No. 667: increasing the new water tap-on fee to $2,500; No. 668: increasing the turn-on fee for delinquent customers to $40; and No. 669: increasing the water usage rates.

All passed unanimously.

In the acting president's report, Mayor Jackson shared that the shop door located unused in the vestibule at Village Hall will be enclosed and made into a memorial wall by Ron Gazda. Gazda will also replace the lighting to better illuminate the wall at nighttime. The community center Memorial plaque will then be moved to the display once completed.

Jackson added that Gazda will also refurbish the wooden bench currently in front of Village Hall into a memorial for the late Harry Jackson and Elwin Saathoff. The board voted unanimously to approve the improvements to the Village Hall vestibule and memorial bench with an amount for materials not to exceed $500.

Village Clerk Daniels reported that the prefabricated restroom and bike path, as funded by round two of the DCEO grant, have been purchased and delivered. The Village maintenance staff will track their time spent on the project installation and report it to the village for the mandatory grant progress report, due each quarter.

Regarding the status of DCEO's third round of grants, Daniels reported that the village has passed Phase II of the application approval process. The application is for $52,690.18, which will go towards new playground equipment and refurbishment of existing basketball court.

Regarding the OSLAD Grant application, draft plans will be drawn up and shared with the village board and community for input prior to the 2026 application opening in July.

Discussion took place about replacement of the copier at Village Hall. Clerk Daniels stated that it was broken for a few weeks making it difficult to complete necessary office work. A quote from Tom Day Business machines was received for a much smaller economical unit in the amount of $1,750 which includes a discount for trade-in on the current unit. The monthly maintenance agreement fee will also be reduced from $30 a month to $20 per month.

The board subsequently approved the purchase of a new copier.

In new business, Jackson annnounced that the plaque for Elwin Saathoff's memorial bench has been received and installed. Daniels reported that members of the Taylor Springs Baptist Church and Saathoff's family are available on Saturday, March 28, at 12 p.m. to attend an unveiling at Village Hall. Refreshments will be available afterwards at the Community Center.

Trustee Roller asked the board if handicap parking spaces can be placed in front of Whiskey Throttle. Attorney Granito stated that it would have to be in compliance with State Motor Vehicle regulations and the board motioned to approve one State Compliant handicap parking space in front of Whiskey Throttle.

The board entered closed session at 7:35 p.m., and returned to session at 8:06 p.m. Following session, the board announced that the Village of Taylor Springs Police Department has been disbanded until a certified replacement can be found.

They also approved ordinance #670 to increasing the treasurer and clerk Salaries to $6,160 annually.

The board voted to begin the bid process for the Outpost property, located at 8354 Illinois Route 127 for sale with bids being opened at the July 21, 2026 meeting, before adjourning the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21.