

The Journal-News

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Hillsboro, IL 62049

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Thursday, November 30, 2023

County Candidate Filing Period To End This Monday

Candidates interested in running for county offices to be nominated or elected in the March 19, 2024 general primary election may now file their petitions at the Montgomery County Clerk's office located on the first floor of the Historic Courthouse, according to County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser.

The filing period for submitting completed nominating papers and petitions for county offices with the

county clerk/recorder's office began this past Monday, Nov. 27, during regular office hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will conclude next Monday, Dec. 4, when the office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As of end of workday on Wednesday, Nov. 29, several candidates have already filed their petitions including Daniel T. Robbins (R) for circuit clerk and Randy Leetham (R) for coroner.

Those who have filed for Montgomery County Board include Kenneth Folkerts (R) for District #2, Connie Taylor Beck (R) for District #1, Robert Corso (R) for District #7, Russell E. Beason (R) for District #5 and Ethan Murzynski (R) for District #6.

Candidates who have filed for precinct committee representative include Connie Taylor Beck (R) for North Litchfield #1, Jim

Moore (D) for Hillsboro #5, Chase Wilhelm (D) for Fillmore Consolidated, Chuck Napier (D) for North Litchfield #6, Kathy Painter (D) for Raymond, Kathy V. Rogers (D) for North Litchfield #2, Timothy L. Fogle (D) for North Litchfield #3, Rick Robbins (R) for Fillmore Consolidated, James E. Jones (R) for Irving, Roberta Meyer (R) for East Fork #2, Lyle R. "Dick" James (R) for Hillsboro #3, Patty Whitworth

(R) for Hillsboro #6 and Bill Bergen (R) for South Litchfield #1.

County offices to be nominated by the established Democrat and Republican parties in the March 19, 2024 general primary election include circuit clerk, coroner and state's attorney as well all of the eight of the County Board seats in all seven County Board Districts.

Continued on page 6A



So Many Choices, So Little Time 'Til Christmas

Ryker Weitekamp contemplates his options as he gets down to business with Santa Claus regarding the upcoming holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 25, in Farmersville. Santa made a trip down from the North Pole to Montgomery County's panhandle in celebration of the village's 12th annual Christmas tree lighting. In addition to St. Nick, the Farmersville Revitalization Committee had crafts and cookies for the kids, hot chocolate, a silent auction and a performance by students from the Panhandle School district. For more on the celebration, see page 8A.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Panhandle Recommends Tentative Levy

by Kyle Herschelmann

The Panhandle Board of Education approved the tentative levy for the district on Monday, Nov. 27, that would keep the tax rate similar to what it is this year if the projections for the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) are correct from the county assessor.

Superintendent Aaron Hopper gave the board two options for the levy: one that had a higher percentage of an increase than in the past few years and a second that put the increase in the levy just below the five percent that necessitates a truth in taxation hearing. The board approved the second option, but will be actively watching state funding, which could change.

The state started evidence-based funding in 2017 according to Hopper, which provides the most funding for schools in the first tier, slightly less funding in the second tier and even less funding in the third tier. Panhandle has been in the second tier since the start of the program, but moved up to the third tier this year because of the district's current financial status. Hopper explained that basically, because the board were good stewards of the district's money, their funding could decrease.

If funding does decrease significantly, this could force the board to increase future levies to make up for their financial obligations. The board will vote on the final tax levy at the December meeting.

Continued on page 6A



The Village of Taylor Springs has renovated and refurbished the former VFW Post on Illinois Route 127 into The Outpost, now a meeting and banquet hall available to rent through the village.

Journal-News Photo

Village Trustees Officially Open The Outpost

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

trustee Melinda Marsh. "The village is really investing in our future."

"I think it's just beautiful," said Village of Taylor Springs

The building Marsh is talking about is the newly

renovated The Outpost, which was formerly the VFW Post on Illinois Route 127.

Continued on page 6A

Plummer To Lead Litchfield Chamber

by Mary (Galer) Herschelmann

Growing up in a small business, Litchfield native Lauren Plummer knows not only the hard work and dedication it takes to succeed, but also some of the challenges business owners may face.

Plummer, who grew up helping her parents at Plummer Funeral Home, has been serving as the executive director of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce since May of this year.

"I wasn't necessarily looking for this job," Plummer said. "But I saw the position was open, and I thought it was something I could be good at. So, I took a chance."

A 2016 graduate of Litchfield High School, Plummer went to Columbia College in Chicago, where she majored in cinema arts and sciences with a minor in photography.



Litchfield native Lauren Plummer has been serving as the executive director of the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce since May of this year.

Prior to graduation, she moved to Los Angeles, CA, as part of her program, but ended up moving back home due to the Covid pandemic in early 2020.

Continued on page 6A

Thu 30	50°/41°	PM Showers	50%
Fri 01	51°/37°	Showers	37%
Sat 02	47°/35°	Cloudy	10%
Sun 03	48°/31°	AM Showers	37%

Index	
Police.....	6B
Classifieds	6B
Family	4A-5A
Kids Page	4B
Obituaries	3A
Sports.....	1B-3B



Journalisms

News About People and Events of Interest Throughout The County

He's making his list and checking it twice, and you don't want to be left out!

The deadline is fast approaching to get those letters to Santa Claus. In order to get them to the North Pole in plenty of time for Christmas, letters should be submitted to *The Journal-News* by Friday, Dec. 1. Letters may be mailed to *The Journal-News* at P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049 or placed in our drop box at 431 S. Main Street in Hillsboro. They can also be submitted by email to thejournal-news@consolidated.net.

Dear Santa letters will be published in our Christmas edition on Thursday, Dec. 21.

The Jolly Old Elf himself will be making a stop in Raymond next week to greet local youngsters of all ages. Stop by First National Bank in Raymond on Thursday evening, Dec. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. The bank is located at 403 E. Broad Street in Raymond.

Looking for some unique Christmas gifts? Stop by Country Crafts and Ceramics this weekend for their annual open house. Located at 16327 Reincke Road in Irving, the open house will be held Dec. 2-3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 217-533-4665.



And for the coffee lover in your life, Ground to Grounds Coffee Shop in Hillsboro has the perfect gift idea. Owner Kayla Brauer said they are launching a very special coffee this holiday season, 1823 Hillsboro Holiday Blend. The coffee was roasted by her husband's family in Louisville, KY.

Brauer said the artwork on the front of the coffee bags is special. Jeff Dunn brought the image to her of the Rainey family in a snowball fight on Main Street in Hillsboro in 1910. Most families at that time didn't own cameras, but the Rainey family did, capturing this picturesque image.

The 16-ounce bags of coffee sell for \$16 and will be available starting on Friday, Dec. 1.

"I've always wanted to sell coffee in our shop," Brauer said. "So, this one is super special to me. I'm really proud of it, and it would make a great Christmas gift."

It'll be a little bit naughty and a little bit nice as Blended Artists Imaginarium brings a Christmas Improv Show to live this weekend at the Grand Theatre in downtown Hillsboro. And don't miss their Ugly Sweater contest!

Shows will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. They can be purchased online at www.bestmovieideal.com.

Santa Claus will also be making a stop in Litchfield to greet some furry friends this holiday season. Animal Medical Center in Litchfield is hosting pet portraits with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments are filling up quickly, so make yours today! For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 217-324-3311.

Public Meetings

County Board Coordinating Committee

The Montgomery County Board Coordinating Committee will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, in the county board room in the Historic Courthouse, located at #1 Courthouse Square in Hillsboro.

Agenda items include discussions on an EMA report and hazardous mitigation plan, CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee update, capital improvement fund reports/update, animal control facility and policy update, and fiscal year 2024 budget update and approval.

Hillsboro Police And Fire Board

City of Hillsboro Police And Fire Board of Commissioners will meet 4:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1. The agenda will include discussion/approval of list of certified candidates for lateral transfer and authorization for board secretary to submit a letter of recommendation to city council for hire.

Volunteers in Nokomis are finalizing plans for this year's Snowkomis Christmas celebration Dec. 8-9 in downtown Nokomis. Festivities include drawings in local stores, ornament making, holiday treats, a photo booth and even a Christmas parade. For a complete schedule of all the fun, see page 9A in today's edition.

Alpha Candles is teaming up with The Abbey on Broad for a special candle-making night on Thursday, Dec. 7. Tickets are \$50 and include the chance to make two customized candles and a free drink and refreshments. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit the Alpha Candles Facebook page.



The conference will give interested parties a chance to share their opinion about the five-year permit renewals for Deer Run Mine in Hillsboro.

Loyal *Journal-News* reader Robert Clearwater called the paper Monday morning about a photo opportunity. Mr. Clearwater said he had the most beautiful hornet's nest in the tree in his front yard on West Wood Street and hoped a photographer could stop by to take a photo. Our staff thought so too, and we hope readers enjoy the beauty of nature.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is hosting an informal conference on Monday evening, Dec. 4, at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex, located at 210 S. Main Street in Hillsboro.



Litchfield first responders were dispatched to the Quality Inn on Tuesday, Nov. 28, after reports of a construction accident. Photo courtesy of retired LVFD Lieutenant Russ Campbell

Man Falls From Roof In Litchfield Accident

The Litchfield Fire Department was dispatched for the report of a construction accident at the Quality Inn, located at 1010 E. Columbian Blvd. in Litchfield, at 2:46 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Montgomery County 911 dispatch center advised that the patient fell from the high roof onto a secondary lower roof and was still off of the ground. Six firefighters and responders were on the scene. Ambulance 817 was re-directed back to Station 1 to retrieve Ladder Truck 803 by Chief 800. Chief 800 arrived on scene and assumed command. Ambulance 816 arrived on scene and began patient care.

ARCH Air Medical was requested by paramedics to respond to the scene. The landing zone was established by the Litchfield Police Department in the parking on the east side of the building.

Truck 803 arrived on scene and set up to remove the patient from the roof with the stokes basket and bucket. Paramedics were able to perform several interventions and trauma package the patient on the roof.

He was loaded onto the bucket of Ladder Truck 803 and brought to the ground. He was then transferred to the awaiting stretcher. ARCH Air Medical took over care of the patient and transported him to St. Johns Hospital Trauma Center. All units returned to service at 3:30 p.m.

David E. Leetham, 56

Arrangements Incomplete

David E. Leetham, 56, of Lincoln, formerly of Hillsboro, died on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, in Lincoln.

Mr. Leetham was born on March 30, 1967, to Carl E. "Sonny" and the late Carol Ann Leetham. In addition to his father, he is survived by two brothers, Kevin Leetham and Randy Leetham, all of Hillsboro.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro. A complete obituary will be posted online when available and printed in the next edition.

Delores Dudas, 84

Born In Raymond



Delores Dudas, 84, of Illiopolis died on Monday morning, Nov. 27, 2023, at her home.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Illiopolis United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. Private graveside services will be held at Camp Butler National Cemetery at a later date. Park Funeral Home in Rochester is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Dudas was born on May 6, 1939, to the late Omar and Viola (Halford) Walch in Raymond and graduated with the Lincolnwood High School class of 1957. She married Dale L. Dudas of Staunton on Feb. 14, 1960, and he preceded her in death on Friday, Dec. 27, 2019.

Mrs. Dudas retired from Formosa Plastics in August 2003, where she worked for Borden Chemical & Plastics as EPA/OSHA Clerk for 25 years. She was a member of the Fireman's Auxiliary for 22 years. She was involved in many areas of the Illiopolis United Methodist Church. Mrs. Dudas was very active in the United Methodist Women, being a Sunday school teacher for many years and church treasurer for over ten years. She also published a newsletter for the church.

Mrs. Dudas was a member of the Illio Gals and the Kitchen Band of Illiopolis. She loved collecting dolls and glass dishes. She also loved to crochet and did many items for the church. She will be missed by her family, friends and the community.

Mrs. Dudas is survived by her two sons, Dayton (Sue) Dudas of Tennessee and Devin (Laurie) Dudas of Springfield; nine grandchildren, Destine (Steve) Asselin of Florida, Dawn Dudas of Bloomington, Nick (Jessie) McKinney of Tennessee, Mailyne (Christian) Calvin of Tennessee, Krystal Dudas of Tennessee, Michael and Ericka Dudas of Pleasant Plains and David Dudas, Heather Dudas, Timothy and Crystal Dudas, all of Springfield; 11 great-grandchildren, Brayden Robertson of Bloomington, Aiden and Addison McKinney, Presley, Chrislyne, Sloan, and Skye Calvin of Tennessee, Erin, Brynne, and Avery Asselin of Florida and Benjamin Dudas of Springfield; brother, Richard (Beverly) Walch of Springfield; nephews, Kevin Walch and Chris Heather of Springfield and one niece, Tammy Bourmatnov of California; and many cousins, of whom Mrs. Dudas was the oldest.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Dudas was preceded in death by her brother, Don Walch and his wife Mary.

Memorial donations may be made to the Illiopolis United Methodist Church. Condolences may be left online at www.echovita.com.

Christmas Concert Will Feature Local Musicians

"It Feels Like Christmas" concerts will be held this weekend at two local churches. Both will feature tenor Thomas M. Taylor IV, soprano Elizabeth Clark, baritone Ellis Henley and pianist Laura Bender.

The 2 p.m. Saturday,

Dec. 2, concert will be at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gillespie.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, will host the concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3.

Both events are free, and pianist donations accepted.

Monday Deadline For Nokomis Jr. High Sock Drive

The ongoing Winter Sock Drive at Nokomis Junior High School and Nokomis High School needs new socks in their original packages, for all sizes of kids and adults.

From now through Monday, Dec. 4, students can deliver the socks to their character education advocacy or senior seminar teachers.

The class with the most donations will receive a reward. The socks will be delivered to Nokomis Christmas Missions.



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OPEN HOUSE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
22198 E 5TH RD, RAYMOND, IL 62560

HIGHLIGHTS: '21 Case IH 580 QuadTrac track tractor, 323.3 hrs.; '20 Case IH 340 Magnum MFWD tractor, 462.7 hrs.; '14 Case IH Puma 160 MFWD tractor, 1,319.4 hrs.; JD 4020 2WD tractor, 8,999 hrs.; Farmall M 2WD tractor; '22 Case IH 6150 4WD combine, 149.45 eng./112.13 sep. hrs.; '21 Drago GT 8-30 8 row 30" corn head; '22 MacDon FD130 30' flex draper head; '17 Brent 1082 grain cart; J&M HT8 30' head cart; J&M 4WS15 35' head cart; '18 Brandt 1585 85' grain belt conveyor; Westfield WR80-51 8"x51' auger; Wheatheart X10-73 10"x73' swing-away auger; Wheatheart 10"x71' swing-away auger; '22 Case IH Early Riser 2150 16 row 30" planter; Unverferth Seed Runner 3750 seed tender; '22 Case IH Tiger-Mate 255 45' field cultivator; '21 Case IH 875 Ecolo-Tiger 11-shank disk ripper; '05 International 4400 grain truck, 259,438 mi.; '98 Blair 25' flatbed trailer

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Obituaries

Glen L. Greenwood, 85

Beloved Teacher



Glen Louis Greenwood, 85, of Coffeen, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at 4:45 p.m. at Montgomery Nursing and Rehab in Taylor Springs.

Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Hillsboro. Funeral service will be Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Hillsboro, with burial following at Green Hill Cemetery in Van Burensburg. Military rites will be accorded at graveside. The Rev. Mike Skinner and the Rev. Breck Nelson of First Baptist Church in Hillsboro will officiate.

Mr. Greenwood was born April 24, 1938 in Coffeen to the late Oliver and Dorothy (Myers) Greenwood. A graduate of Vandalia High School, he attended Eastern Illinois University and then received his bachelor of science degree at Greenville College and received his elementary education teaching certificate at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. He served in the United States Army and as Presidential Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, and taught for many years at Coffeen School.

Mr. Greenwood married Edwina Rose Sexton at Erlanger Chapel in Chattanooga, TN on May 14, 1960, and she preceded him on Oct. 2, 2017. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Hillsboro, Hillsboro Jaycees, Lions Club in Coffeen, and served as secretary for the Coffeen Fire Department for 20 plus years as well as a trustee for Green Hill Cemetery in Van Burensburg. He loved gospel music and sports especially St. Louis Cardinals and Illini sports.

Mr. Greenwood is survived by his son, the Rev. Dr. Glen (Laura) Greenwood of Alton and daughter, Theresa Greenwood, Centralia; grandchildren, Cathryn (Michael) Zerkel of Alton and Rachel (Jack) Legg of Springfield, OH.

He was preceded by his parents; wife; and two sisters, Evelyn Greenwood, in infancy and Lila Walters.

Memorials are recommended to Green Hill Cemetery in Van Burensburg. Condolences may be left online at www.tobermandeanfh.com.

Bert C. Arnold, 96

WWII Veteran



Bert C. Arnold, 96, of Litchfield, died on Nov. 22, 2023 at the home of his daughter, Margi Brockhaus in Mission, KS.

A graveside memorial service will be held at a later date.

Mr. Arnold was born on Monday, Oct. 24, 1927. He attended Blackburn College where he met his wife Annette "Annie" Schroeder. He received his BS degree from Washington University in St. Louis. They were married Sept. 10, 1949, and she preceded him in death on May 27, 1999.

An Army veteran, Mr. Arnold served in the occupational services of WWII in Japan. In civilian life, he primarily was affiliated with the Litchfield Grocery Co. He was also a partner in Arbeco frozen food distributors and WJ's Convenience Store. Mr. Arnold was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church, the longest member on record at the Litchfield Country Club, a Rotarian and a past member of the Litchfield Elks Club. He was a lifelong Litchfield resident.

He is survived by his two daughters, Patty Brockhaus (Larry) of Chandler, AZ and Margi Brockhaus (Jerry) of Mission, KS; four grandchildren, Ashley Saunders (Adam), Michael Brockhaus (Wendie), Andrew Brockhaus (Amy) and Kacie Matias; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Maynard Arnold; and two sisters, Virginia Driskell and Marian Yaeger.

Paul J. Westbrook, 84

Lifelong Hillsboro Resident

Paul J. Westbrook, 84, of Hillsboro, died Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at Hillsboro Area Hospital.

No services are planned at this time. Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Westbrook was born on Sept. 6, 1939 in Hillsboro, to the late James and Edith McCaslin Westbrook. He married Peggy Betoche on April 14, 1962, and she survives.

He was a graduate of Hillsboro High School and managed Laclede Steel for 37 years. Mr. Westbrook was of the Presbyterian faith and was a past member of the Jaycees, Hillsboro Moose and Hillsboro Country Club. Mr. Westbrook was a member of the Coffeen softball team the Road Runners, and enjoyed watching the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Bears and loved to golf.

He is survived by his wife; children Tony (Marcia) Liebsher, Terry (Linda) Liebsher and Jan Richardson; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one brother, Robert Westbrook of Hartford, CT, and one sister, Martha Jackson of Witt.

Mr. Westbrook was preceded in death by his parents; one great-grandchild; and brothers Walter and James Westbrook and sister Maude Lamb.

Memorials may be made in Mr. Westbrook's name can be directed to MCCA. Condolences can be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com

Ronnie E. Stolz, 67

Loved His Family Deeply



Ronnie Earl Stolz, 67 of Decatur, died on Nov. 27, 2023, at Decatur Memorial Hospital in Decatur.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Sutton Memorial Home in Taylorville. A funeral service will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Keith Ferrell officiating. Interment will follow at Nokomis City Cemetery.

Mr. Stolz was born on Aug. 28, 1956, in Springfield, to Lawrence Stolz Jr. and Delora (Ward) Stolz. Mr. Stolz loved driving

around looking at older homes and farmhouses. In his free time, he enjoyed drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon while watching old and scary movies. Above all, he loved his family dearly.

He is survived by his son, Ryan Stolz and daughters Lisa Stolz, Amy Stolz and Mandy Leigh, all of Decatur; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; mother, Delora Stolz of Mt. Auburn; brothers Bruce (Julie) Stolz of Blue Mound and Loren Stolz of Mt. Auburn; as well as one uncle and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Stolz Jr. and his infant twin sister, Connie Sue.

Memorials in Mr. Stolz's honor may be made to his family. Sign the online guestbook at suttonmemorialhomes.com.

Donald J. Settles Sr., 50

Served His Country



Donald Joseph "Popeye" Settles Sr., 50, of Litchfield, died Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, at his residence in Litchfield.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service home in Litchfield. Funeral services will follow at 5 p.m.

Mr. Settles was born April 28, 1973, in Litchfield, a son of Ronald Lee and Janet Sue (Wendel) Gelsing. He married Jamie Lasko on May 6, 2010, at The Point at Lake Lou Yaeger.

A graduate of Litchfield High School with the class of 1991, he joined the Navy, where he served as a gas turbine mechanic and served in Desert Storm. He had worked at Menell Milling in Mt. Olive and was last employed as a union miller at Olin Brass in Alton.

A member of the Litchfield VFW, he was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers, NASCAR and the St. Louis Cardinals, a love he shared with his daughter, Isy. His favorite holiday was the 4th of July, and he loved fireworks and making sure his son Dalton always had the best birthday. 'Donnie Jo' was always the life of the party and loved entertaining everyone around him. He loved his family and friends deeply.

Mr. Settles is survived by his spouse, Jamie Michelle Lasko of Litchfield; mother, Janet Sue Gelsing of Carlville; daughter, Brittany (fiancé Zachary Cook) Settles of Pekin son, Donald "DJ" (Mary'a) Settles, Jr. of Spring, TX, daughter, Isabelle Lasko of Gillespie and son, Dalton Settles of Litchfield; grandchildren Skylar, Cayden, Eva, Karson, Rylie, Hunter, Carrie and Breyer; brother, Robert Settles of Missouri, sister, Joanna (Paul) Maberry of Litchfield, sister, Sharon (Tom) Stoecker of Worden, brother, Johnny (Stanett) Settles of Litchfield and brother, Ronnie (Sarah) Gelsing of Litchfield; father-in-law, John (companion Erika) Lasko of Litchfield; sister-in-law Kathleen (companion, J.W.) Lasko of Litchfield; as well as many beloved nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Mr. Settles preceded in death by his father, Ron Gelsing, in 2009.

Memorials may be made to the family. Please visit <http://www.litchfieldffs.com> to leave condolences or light a candle in his memory

Katherine Whitehouse, 83

Humor Delighted Many



Katherine "Katie" Whitehouse, 83, of Litchfield died Tuesday Nov. 28, 2023, at 1:46 a.m. at Heritage Health Care in Litchfield.

Funeral Services will be held Monday, Dec. 4, at 10 a.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service in Litchfield. The Rev. John Hannigan will officiate. Burial will be in Elm Lawn Cemetery in Litchfield. Visitation will be held Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service.

Mrs. Whitehouse was born on July 19, 1940, in Litchfield, a daughter of the late Michael and Catherine (Semplowski) Funk, and the youngest of 13 children. She graduated from Litchfield High School with the class of 1958, and married Jack D. Whitehouse on Aug. 3, 1963, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Litchfield.

She was employed as a kitchen and bath designer at RP Lumber before retiring several years ago. She was a huge animal lover and was devoted to caring for her golden retriever, "Bill". Mrs. Whitehouse enjoyed gardening, decorating, fishing, thrifting and attending auctions. She had a great sense of humor that delighted many, and had many interests, but her greatest love was family and friends. She was a talker and never met a stranger. She was one of the sweetest people in the world and will be truly missed.

Mrs. Whitehouse is survived by her three sisters, Helen Zimmerman of Dublin, OH, Sophie Southworth of Litchfield and Edna Nail of Litchfield and brother, Mike (Nancy) Funk of Litchfield; 25 nieces and nephews; and several great and great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Jack D. Whitehouse; and sisters Stephanie Ranch and Regina Nail and brothers Lou Funk, Walter Funk, Charles Funk, Stanley Funk, Frank Funk and Joseph Funk.

Memorials may be directed to PAWS Care of Montgomery. Online condolences can be given at www.litchfieldffs.com.

Harry R. Buckley, 68

Police Officer, Warden

Harry R. Buckley, 68, of Litchfield and Mount Olive, died on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023.

No services are planned at this time. Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Buckley was born in Kansas City, MO, to the late Harry L. and Frieda Buckley. He married Dia Dudley, and they later divorced.

He worked as a Mount Olive police officer, warden and had owned and operated Buckley's Construction Co. in Litchfield and Bucks Tavern in Benld. Mr. Buckley enjoyed spending time and working with the Litchfield Amvets.

He is survived by his children, Mathew Buckley of Ocala FL, Jaime Wellman of Litchfield, Harry Buckley of Litchfield and Brian Buckley of Litchfield; several grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and two brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Buckley was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Condolences can be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com

Bruce E. Throne, 82

Enjoyed Competitive Running



Bruce E. Throne, 82, of Litchfield, died Friday evening, Nov. 24, 2023 at Hillsboro Rehabilitation and Health Care in Hillsboro with his family by his side.

Visitation will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Litchfield Family Funeral Service home in Litchfield. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2:30 p.m. at the funeral home, with the Rev. John Vidakovich and the Rev. Judy Vidakovich officiating.

Mr. Throne was born on Sept. 24, 1941, to Charles E. and Phyllis (Davenport) Throne in Hennepin. He attended Litchfield High School with the class of 1960. He married Donna L. Mattioda on May 28, 1960, at St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Litchfield.

Mr. Throne began his career at Wepco, later at International Paper, both in Litchfield, and then at Fiat-Allis in Springfield. In 1969, he began his career as a heavy equipment operator with Norfolk Southern Railway, retiring in 2002 after more than 32 years of service, where he took great pride in mastering the skills of his trade and became a respected legendary backhoe operator. Mr. Throne was a member of St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Litchfield, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Union and was a past member of Litchfield Moose Lodge 1634.

Mr. Throne was a dedicated father, grandfather and husband. He loved spending time with family. Some of his proudest moments were spent watching his granddaughters grow up.

He was best known in the community as an avid competitive runner, completing nine marathons and countless 5K, 10K and 15K races. His most prestigious accomplishment was competing in the Boston Marathon in 1982.

Mr. Throne enjoyed the St. Louis Cardinals and was a charter member season ticket holder of St. Louis Rams for 21 years. He had a natural talent for auto mechanics and gave a special meaning to the term "shade tree mechanic," as it was common to see him rebuilding an engine hanging from a tree limb in his younger years.

He enjoyed auto racing, blues festivals, wineries and most of all traveling with his wife. Mr. Throne was recognized by everyone he met for his smile and his selflessness. He touched a lot of hearts, both at home and around the globe and forever remains in the hearts of many.

Mr. Throne is survived by his wife, Donna; two sons, Tony (Vickie) Throne of Litchfield and Troy Throne of Litchfield; four granddaughters, Kayla Throne, Lexi Throne, Casey Throne and Madi Throne; two sisters, Evelyn Haycraft of Hillsboro and Virginia (Mike) Hedrick of Benld; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and a special brother-in-law, James Mattioda of San Diego, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles E. and Phyllis M. Throne; and half sisters Helen Bushaw and Edith Richman.

Memorials are suggested to the St. Timothy UMC Soup Kitchen or the donor's choice. Online condolences can be given at www.litchfieldffs.com.

Margaret Usher, 80

Loved Birdwatching



Margaret Usher, 80, of Irving, died Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, surrounded by her family.

A memorial service for Mrs. Usher was held on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at 6 p.m. with Dawson Miller officiating. Hough and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Usher was born on Nov. 1, 1943, in Hillsboro, to Edward Eskra and Catherine McDade. A 1961 graduate of Hillsboro High School, she attended St. John's School of Nursing in Springfield before marrying her high school sweetheart, Kenneth Roger Usher.

They worked together at their business and over the road truck driving. She loved spending time with her family, traveling and bird watching.

Mrs. Usher is survived by her husband, Roger Usher of Irving, her daughter, Debby (Tim) Friedman of O'Fallon and son, Scot (Brenda) Usher of Fillmore; grandchildren, Zachary Usher of Denver, CO, and Brittney (Jake) Tester of Farmersville; great-grandchildren Ryker Tester and Maisie Tester; and a brother.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorials in her honor may be made out to the Alzheimer's Association. Condolences may be left online at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

The Journal-News

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THANK YOU!

Perhaps you sent a card, text or letter, said a prayer or thought of us. Maybe you prepared food for the funeral dinner, served it or brought in food. Your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks to Hough Funeral Home, Montgomery County Coroner's Office, Pastor Nathan Diveley and our Southside Church family for their love and support during this time.

The Kenneth Jett Family



Dragon Cheerleaders Donate To Angel Tree

The Hillsboro Junior High School Dragon cheerleading squad are brightening spirits this holiday season by adopting angels from the Hillsboro Angel Tree project. Each cheerleader adopted an angel, and donations were presented to coordinator Melanie Sherer. Pictured above, from the left are Sherer, HJHS Cheer Coach Jessica Furness, Captain Avery Maddaleno and Co-Captain Audrey Billington.

Births

Cody Anglin and Tessa Fenton of Litchfield announce the birth of their son, Milo Tate Anglin, born at 1 p.m. on Nov. 22, 2023, at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield. He weighed 6 lbs., 7 ozs., and measured 19.5 ins. long.



Milo has one older sister, Kenadi Dagon, age 13. His father is a coal miner and his mother is a dialysis technician.

Paternal grandparents are Phil Anglin of Litchfield and the late Misty Anglin. Maternal grandparents are Bob and Glenda Fenton of Hillsboro and Tracy and Blaise Davidson of Litchfield.

Paternal great-grandparents are Dorothy Anglin of Mt. Olive and the late Jess Anglin, Sr. Maternal great-grandparents Lee and Kim Fenton of Hillsboro.

Stephanie George and Ethan White of Hillsboro announce the birth of their son, Maverick Shane White, born on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 ozs. and measured 18 ins. long.

He was welcomed home from the hospital by big sister Ava White, age four.

Maternal grandparents are Mary and Scott George of Pana. Paternal grandparents are Natalie Maier and Tim White of Hillsboro.



Litchfield Library Plans A Gingerbread Contest

The Litchfield Public Library will hold a family gingerbread house decorating contest in early December. Families can come in to the library from Dec. 1 through Dec. 9 and pick up a pre-made gingerbread house to take home and decorate as they wish. Candy, toys, paint or whatever sort of designs and decorations are welcome. Houses should be returned to the library by Dec. 13, where they will be displayed and judged by library visitors and staff. Sara Zumwalt, library director, shows a gingerbread house pre and post decoration.

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Old Settlers Royalty Help Angel Tree

The Old Settlers royalty is making the holidays brighter for families in need in the Hillsboro community this holiday season. The theme of their float for the Imagine Hillsboro Small-Town Christmas parade on Saturday, Nov. 25, was "Helping Angels Fly," and members of the Old Settlers royalty crew invited the community to help them fill their float with new toys and gifts for the Hillsboro Angel Tree project this year. They presented donations to the Angel Tree on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Pictured above, from the left are 2023 Old Settlers Tiny Toddler Jonah Niehaus and his mom, Tia Niehaus, 2023 Old Settlers Junior Miss Avery Robinson, 2023 Old Settlers Queen Jenna Durbin and Melanie Sherer, coordinator of the Angel Tree project.



DAR Donates To Historical Society

Members of the Christiana Tillson chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented a \$500 donation to the Historical Society of Montgomery County on Wednesday morning, Nov. 29. Regent Patty Whitworth said one of the missions of the DAR was historic preservation, and members were happy to support the efforts of the local organization in bringing history to life in Montgomery County. DAR members also toured both the Harkey House and Montgomery County Museum, both in Hillsboro. Pictured above, from the left are DAR members Mary Herschelman, Carol Calvert (who is also on the board of the Historical Society), Kendra Wright and Chris Garner and Historical Society board members Linda Zimmer, Dee Motycka, Susan Marten, Linda Guthrie and Mike Rappe. Not pictured is Patty Whitworth, regent of the Christiana Tillson chapter of the DAR.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #12

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Litchfield Community Unit School District #12 for 2023 will be held on December 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Unit Office, 1100 Old Rt. 66, Litchfield, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district, may contact Dr. Gregg Fuerstenau, Superintendent, 1100 N. Old Rt. 66, Litchfield, Illinois, 217-324-2157.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$6,598,689.97.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$7,273,935. This represents a 10.23 percent increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$991,132.30.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$1,038,281. This represents a 4.75 percent increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$7,589,822.27.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$8,312,216. This represents a 9.52 percent increase over the previous year.

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Hillsboro Library Director Speaks At Rotary Meeting

Laura Naugle, who serves as director of the Hillsboro Area Public Library, was the guest speaker at the Hillsboro Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15. She talked to Rotarians about upcoming programs and the services the library provides in the community. Pictured above, from the left are Rotarian Mike Ryan, Library Director Laura Naugle and Rotary Club President Steve Cullison.

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Carron Is New Executive Director At Cross Over

Jennifer Carron has been hired as the new executive director for Cross Over Ministries.

She will be working closely with Erica Petcher, program director for Haven Home of Hope, and will be responsible for full-time and part-time staff.

Carron was formerly a Cross Over board member and contributed greatly to the growth and development of the ministry.

"We are very grateful that Jennifer will be taking on the role of our executive director. Not only is she passionate about supporting people with mental health and substance use challenges, but she is a resident of Montgomery County who has been involved for the past two years in community efforts to bring awareness and education," said Linda Liebscher, President of Cross Over Ministries. "She is dedicated to helping bridge gaps in mental health services and

treatment to bring quality obtainable care to our community. We are blessed to have her as our executive director."

Carron's responsibilities will include working closely with the Cross Over board to develop new fundraising and grant ideas and building relationships in the county by representing Cross Over Ministries at community and leadership meetings. She will also be coaching and mentoring the staff at Haven Home of Hope to ensure that the guests have the support and resources they need for their recovery and wellness.

Cross Over Ministries is a Christ-centered community committed to supporting people with mental health and substance use challenges in their recovery and wellness journeys. For more information about the ministry or Haven Home of Hope visit their website at www.crossover-nfp.com or their Facebook page.



Pictured above are the winners of the annual Patriot's Pen Scholarship competition at Litchfield Middle School. From the left, first place winner Tilly Fergusen, second place Braeden Knapp and third place Sam Mazza.

CNB Honors Martincic As Student Of The Month

CNB Bank and Trust in downtown Hillsboro has honored Hillsboro High School senior Chloe Martincic as the Student of the Month for November. The daughter of Shelby and Nathan Martincic of Butler, she is a member of the HHS tennis team, Topperettes dance team, president of National Honor Society, Culture Club, art advocate for the Art Club, class secretary and Science Club. She is also part of the Sources of Strength program at HHS and volunteers for organizations like the Montgomery County Cancer Association in her spare time. After graduation, Martincic plans to attend college to study chemical engineering.

As the November Student of the Month, Martincic will receive a \$50 gift card and is eligible for the Student of the Year award, given in May. Pictured above, from the left are Missy Caldwell of CNB Bank and Trust and Chloe Martincic.

Journal-News Photo



Pictured above presenting the donation are Shelley Halleman, MCCA board member, Cindy Miles, Diagnostic Imaging Director, Pam Myers, MCCA board member, Kennette Pryor, Lead Mammography Technologist and Derek Ade, Director of PCH Foundation.

MCCA Donates To Pana Community Hospital

Montgomery County Cancer Association (MCCA) presented Pana Community Hospital Foundation with a check for \$5,000 on Nov. 20. Funds were presented by Shelley Halleman and Pam Myers representing the MCCA. The money will be used by the Diagnostic Imaging department for breast cancer services offered at

Pana Community Hospital to enhance early detection of breast cancer.

MCCA is a not-for-profit organization that raises funds to help cancer patients in Montgomery County. The funds are given to area hospitals including Pana Community Hospital, which serves portions of Montgomery County.

First Christian Church Begins Advent Journey

The First Christian Church in Hillsboro will begin the Advent journey with worship this Sunday, Dec. 3, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

The scripture readings will be from Isaiah 64:1-9 and the Gospel of Mark 13:30-37. The hymns for the first Sunday of Advent will be "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "O Come to the Mountain," "Bread of the World" and "Come, Thou Long-Expected

Jesus."

Anyone who does not have a church family is welcome to prepare your heart and mind for the anniversary of the Savior's birth with First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Hillsboro. Holy Communion is a part of worship each Lord's Day, and is open to all who believe in Jesus the Christ.

For more information, call 217-532-3461.

Litchfield Library Hosts Fun Christmas Activities

The Litchfield Public Library invites children and families to participate in three holiday activities.

Gingerbread House Decorating Contest: Pick up a gingerbread house at the library Dec. 1-9, decorate and return it to the library by Dec. 13 for judging. Prizes will be awarded for most popular, staff pick, most creative and more.

A Rudolph Christmas: Go to the library on Friday, Dec. 8, 5-7 p.m., for family-friendly reindeer games and crafts.

Christmas Storywalk: Beginning Dec. 18, a special Christmas story will be featured on the library's outdoor story walk.

Litchfield Public Library is located at 1205 S. State St.

Support Group Hosts Annual Holiday Party

Members of the Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group will host their annual Christmas party on Monday evening, Dec. 4.

Beginning at 6 p.m., the party will be held at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact Tina Hagemeyer at 217-246-6126 or Tracey White at 217-285-4945.



Nokomis Students Enjoy Trip To Library

The new Nokomis Public Library was recently visited by third graders of Nokomis North Elementary School. Students agreed it was an educational and fun field trip.

Litchfield Middle School Holds Award Program

The annual Patriot's Pen and the Citizenship Educator Teacher of the Year Awards Program was conducted at the Litchfield Middle School on Tuesday, Nov. 21.

The Patriot's Pen Scholarship Competition is a 300 to 400 word essay contest sponsored nationwide by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary and is open to all students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, including those home schooled. This year's theme was "My Pledge to Our Veterans."

Litchfield Middle School had a total participation of 267 students in the language arts classes, which represents the entire enrollment of the middle school. Few schools in the state can top that level of participation.

The names of the top three finishers were announced. First place was awarded to Tilly Fergusen, and she received \$100, a gold Patriot's Pen medal and a certificate of merit. The second place award went to Braeden Knapp, who received \$50, a silver Patriot's Pen medal and a certificate. Sam Mazza was awarded third place. He received \$25, the bronze Patriot's Pen medal and a certificate. The top three entries have been entered into the next level of judging in the VFW 12th District.

Also honored at the program were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gregory Fuerstenau, Litchfield Middle School Principal Dr. Russell Teppen and teachers Shannon Diveley, Jennifer Fleming and Kelly Eldred. Additionally Shawn Hogue was honored. They each received an award citations for their



Mrs. Shannon Diveley, pictured above, was awarded as the Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year at Litchfield Middle School on Tuesday, Nov. 21.

critical roles in conducting the programs at LMS.

The VFW and Auxiliary sponsors another program in their attempt to partner with school systems in communities across the country. Named the Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award, this award is offered in three categories, K-5, middle school and high school.

Mrs. Shannon Diveley was honored as this year's recipient of the award at Litchfield Middle School for her continued focus on integrating and promoting character, patriotism, respect, responsibility and accountability in the execution of her teaching endeavors. Mrs. Diveley has been advanced to the VFW 12th District for the next level of judging.

Red Hat Magnolia Group Enjoy Trip To Kretzer's

Ladies in the Red Hat Magnolia Society enjoyed a trip to Kretzer's in Hoyleton on Wednesday, Nov. 15. Beverly Greenwood offered a blessing for the food, and everyone present enjoyed themselves.

In addition to Greenwood,

those in attendance included Phyllis Holloway, Barb Cass, Mary Dietl, Betty Ellington and guest Richard Holloway.

The Red Hat Magnolia Society will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at the Main Dish in Hillsboro at 10:30 a.m.

on-line all the time
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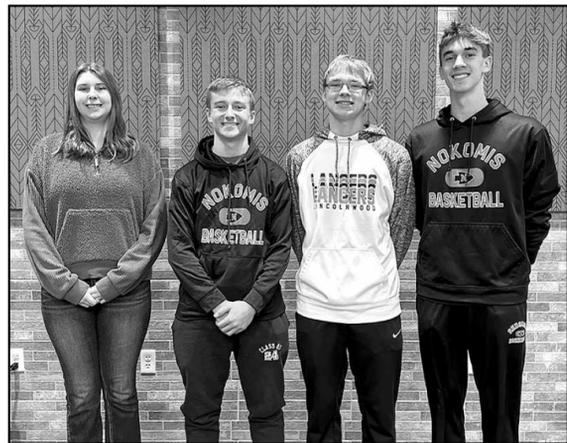
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NHS Seniors Named Illinois State Scholars

Four Nokomis High School seniors have been named Illinois State Scholars this fall. From the left are Coree Keagy, Maddux Himes, Cade Johnson and Reece Lohman.

State Scholars are selected annually based on standardized test scores combined with sixth semester class rank. These exceptional students rank in approximately the top ten percent of graduates from Illinois high schools. The Illinois State Scholar designation is a non-monetary award. Each State Scholar will receive a congratulatory letter and a Certificate of Achievement from ISAC.

Candidate Filing

Continued from page 1A

In addition, Democratic and Republican precinct committee representatives will be elected at the general primary election, and those candidates will also file petitions at the county clerk's office.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5,

2024.

For more information, contact the county clerk/recorder's office at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, email County Clerk Leitheiser at sandy@montgomerycountyil.gov, access the county website at www.montgomerycountyil.gov or call them at 217-532-9530.

Litchfield Chamber

Continued from page 1A

The Litchfield Chamber of Commerce had been without an executive director for about six months. Former Executive Director Beth Cherry had been helping board members some, but the board had to step up in different ways.

Plummer's first official date with the chamber was on April 12, and she started as an administrative assistant. She officially started as executive director in May 2023, and hit the ground running helping to plan several events, like the annual golf outing, Chamber of Commerce pageants and the Colors of Cancer Run in September.

"I've enjoyed putting on the events," Plummer said. "I've been able to engage with people I have known my entire life, and also have enjoyed meeting new people. I'm really enjoying trying to help my community grow and thrive."

Plummer was recently part of a community mapping process to help bring the community together and plan for the future.

Among her goals as executive director of the chamber, Plummer hopes to grow membership, which has been

down some lately. She also hopes to host some Lunch and Learn events in the future to give businesses a chance to see all the resources the chamber has to offer.

"I want to create connections that benefit our business community," she said. "We want to give them something they can utilize to grow their businesses."

Most recently, she worked with the City of Litchfield's economic development office on Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25, providing a holiday gift guide, a Passport to Christmas punchcard and a scavenger hunt to help bring customers into local businesses to see what they have to offer this holiday season.

"I hope businesses will continue to join the chamber so they have help when they need it," Plummer said. "We provide a network to local businesses that is supportive and caring. Our job is to help promote local businesses in Litchfield and this region."

The Litchfield Chamber of Commerce office is located inside the Carnegie building at 400 N. State Street in downtown Litchfield. To learn more about all they have to offer, call 217-324-2533 or visit their website at www.litchfieldchamber.com.

Nokomis City Council Adopts Tax Levy

by Ben Schwarm

In a very brief session at its Nov. 27 regular meeting, the Nokomis City Council approved an ordinance to approve the city's corporate tax levy for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending Apr. 30, 2024. With commissioners Lou Stauder and Scott Arkebaur and Mayor Dylan Goldsmith present, the motion was approved 3-0. Commissioners Tisha Morris and Mike Glenn were absent for the meeting.

With just the small contingent of the council present, several issues were rescheduled for consideration at the next council meeting. Commissioners did approve

motions to approve the 2024 city holiday schedule and to advertise for bids for the sale of a piece of city property near the water treatment plant.

The council also approved motions to open a non-interest bearing checking account at the First National Bank of Nokomis for the CDBG grant. Finally, the mayor and council approved an agreement between the City of Nokomis and the Illinois Department of Transportation in the amount of \$7,475 for the resurfacing of Spruce St.

The council did go into a brief closed executive session but no action was taken upon reconvening in open session.

The Outpost

Continued from page 1A

When membership dwindled so much that the VFW Post could no longer sustain itself, the building was purchased by Dave Ronen several years ago. Ronen did some of the interior remodeling to the building in hopes of transforming it into an archery shooting range.

That never materialized, and about two years ago Ronen sold the building to the Village of Taylor Springs.

"He thought the village could do something really nice with it," said trustee Sheri Reynolds. "And we've slowly been getting it ready to rent or lease over the past two years."

Marsh and Reynolds added that Mayor Harry Jackson

and village officials were looking for some additional income and thought the creation of a meeting place and banquet hall would create just that.

Among the renovations, the village had all new flooring installed throughout, thanks to the help of Seward Masonry, Chambers Flooring and Quality Flooring. Kirby Painting repainted all the walls and village officials including the mayor and trustees volunteered to do most of the other renovations. All four of the building's bathrooms have also been remodeled.

"It really was a community effort," said Reynolds.

She added that as they were working on renovations, they were trying to come up

with a good name. They had lots of suggestions, including one favorite, The Venue. But it was a suggestion from Taylor Springs Chief of Police Warren Hall that stuck.

"Warren popped up with The Outpost," Marsh said. "We liked it because it is outside of town and it pays tribute to the VFW Post."

Starting on Dec. 1, The Outpost will officially be available to rent or lease, and it's already been decorated for the holidays. Reynolds' mom Barb Denton and Jerry Ostermon donated the Christmas trees and other decorations, sprucing up the space just in time for the holiday season. The tablecloths and centerpieces are not included in the rental price but can be added.

The small meeting space in front, which can hold 30 to 50 guests, is available to rent for \$25 an hour or \$100 for the day. The entire venue is ready to rent for \$475, which includes the cleaning fee. The big room can seat up to 200 guests. Tables and chairs are included in the rental fee.

Reynolds said they don't have a kitchen in the venue, but they do have a sink. They are hoping that as the facility grows, they will be able to add a sink with a bar and a large refrigerator at some point.

"It's truly a special place," Reynolds said. "We can see weddings here and Christmas parties. The possibilities are endless."

For more information, call 217-532-3354.

Panhandle School Board

Continued from page 1A

In other business, the board approved the consent agenda and authorized Hopper to consult with a law firm in preparing real estate documents pertaining to the district's plans for the Raymond Saddle Club property, which was given to the district several years ago.

The property was previously used by the FFA program, but it has been increasingly difficult to do so due to time constraints based on its proximity to the school and that it's hard to access. Hopper said the district consulted a law firm when they sold the previous unit office building and this would be the first step if the board wished to either sell or trade the property for a parcel closer to the school.

Hopper added that he had already been approached by several local individuals interested in the property.

The board also approved an increase to the hourly rate for bus drivers and discussed the process of coaches or teachers being reimbursed for driving to events. Hopper said that the state requires an endorsement in order for those individuals to be reimbursed. Board member Scott Cowdrey said that he didn't agree that teachers or coaches should have to get the endorsement if they had already met the requirements to drive the vehicles.

Two trips for Lincolnwood-Morrisonville athletic teams were approved as well. The baseball team was originally scheduled to go to Davenport, IA, to see a minor league game, but the trip conflicted with the Lincolnwood senior trip and Morrisonville prom. Instead, the team will be going earlier in the season to Marion to see their Prospect League team, the Thrillville Thrillbillies.

The boys basketball team will be going to Indianapolis as they have the opportunity to play Madison on Jan. 25, at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers.

Lincolnwood Head Coach Matt Millburg said that the opportunity came about after the Lancers added Madison to their schedule, then received a call a short time later asking if they would be interested in playing in Indianapolis. Madison alum and former head coach Maurice Baker, who coached the Trojans to a fourth place finish at state in 2020, is an assistant coach for player development for the Pacers.

Millburg said that he has gotten a block of hotel rooms near the venue and has spoken to Butler University about having a practice at historic Hinkle Fieldhouse and has been in contact with the Pacers about a practice at their facility. The game, which will be played at 11 a.m., with tickets also good for the Pacers game against the Philadelphia 76ers that night.

Cowdrey asked if those who ordered tickets would be sitting together. Millburg said he assumed so and was planning to make a group order for the team.

Board member Dana Pitchford asked how many there would be going in regards to the team. Millburg said that with players, cheer-

leaders, coaches and staff, he estimated about 50. He added that the team isn't leaving until after students have qualified for a full day of school on Wednesday, meaning they would not miss an extra day.

In other business, the board approved the purchase of a back-up generator from Walch Electric for \$53,900. Hopper said the district had already been approved for a \$40,000 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund grant and hoped to be able to adjust the grant to cover more of the cost.

In financial business, the board authorized Hopper to work with local banks in increasing the amount of one certificate of deposit at Bank and Trust Company and adding another CD at First National Bank of Raymond to take advantage of interest rates around five percent.

Board Development
In the board development segment of the meeting, the district's homeless liaison, Raymond Grade School Principal Joe Webb, spoke about what the district is doing to assist students who are classified as "homeless."

Webb said that by definition, the students also include families that have moved in with another family, those who live in campgrounds or hotels or other dwellings like sheds or campers.

The district receives about \$9,000 through the McKinney-Vento Act, which ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness can enroll in and attend school without barriers. These funds are used for such things as tutoring, lunch fees, transportation costs, shoe and clothing purchases, school supplies and hygiene kits. Webb said that the program also assists with medical referrals, transfer of records, coordination between schools, parent education and domestic violence assistance.

Webb said about 28 students in the Panhandle District qualify for these services and in the past, the district has used the funds to waive school fees, purchase gas cards for students attending the Capital Area Career Center in Springfield and provide transportation for a student to finish the year out at Lincolnwood after her family moved to Auburn. Of those students, Webb said that 75 percent of them are in situations where two or more families are living under one roof.

Mary Adams of the Regional Office of Education has done training for teachers in sixth through 12th grades and the main goal of the program is to help the kids who are affected and eliminate the stigma that can come with homelessness.

Pitchford asked if staff members were identifying the kids that could benefit from the program. Webb said that was the case 99 percent of the time. He said the first step is to talk with the kids to get a better feel for the situation, then immediately contact the family if a need is there. He said the time lapse between speaking to the student and speaking to the family is where there are some times issues, so they try to make contact personally

as soon as they can.

Webb also said that oftentimes the situation may only be for a few months, but once the student is designated as homeless, they are eligible for help for the entire year.

School Board Conference

Board members Scott Cowdrey, Dana Pitchford, Terri Payne and Darrin Daugherty, along with Superintendent Hopper also spoke about the recent school board conference and some of the sessions they attended, which included topics like negotiations, solar energy, the IHSA, evidence based funding, electric school buses, security and locker technology.

Cowdrey said that he sat in on the negotiating session and felt like the district was doing things right in regards to having a team culture with the teachers, rather than an "us versus them" feeling.

Pitchford also said that some of the sessions provided affirmation that the district is doing what it is supposed to, adding that one takeaway was that, "it's not our job to hire staff, it's just our job to pay them." She added that made volunteer situations interesting and appreciated that Hopper brought motions to the board for proposed volunteers.

Pitchford said she also sat in on three round tables there discussion was a little more open than in some sessions. The discussion focused on teacher wellness and creative personal development opportunities, including one called "PD in PJs" that one area had success with.

A representative from McKendree University in Lebanon also spoke with Pitchford regarding their new program that offers a path for paraprofessionals to become teachers. The cost of the program is \$300 per credit hour, down from \$1,100 per credit hour, and is similar to the ones at Blackburn and SIUE and the one being initiated at Eastern Illinois University.

Payne said that she sat in on the IHSA session, which included a number of representatives upset about the disparity of success between public and private schools in some areas and sports, and on a session with the Rural Schools Association, which she said was more or less a membership drive.

Daugherty went to a session on student engagement, with one of the districts speaking about their board, which has a junior and senior student on it. The students do not vote, but have all the materials the other board members do and discuss items with the board. Daugherty said that the student representatives were able to convince the board to stop the practice of having a valedictorian and salutatorian in one instance.

In addition to the student engagement, Daugherty also noted that of the 699 mandates that are put upon school districts, only four are funded, and that he sat in on the electric bus discussion, but at \$200,000 with a 105-mile radius, that wasn't a good option for Panhandle.

Administrative Reports
Lincolnwood High School Principal Ken Schuster said

that the SAT test results from the current senior class placed them in the top 18 percent in the state.

In his November report, Schuster also updated the board on upcoming FFA events, athletic news and events at Lincolnwood including the Veterans Day Breakfast and ASVAB testing.

In his report, Webb also mentioned the Veterans Day Assembly, which was attended by students in second through fifth grades. Also noted were the district collaboration day, meetings between the RTI teams, after-school tutoring and social-emotional learning lessons delivered by Kate Wagahoff.

Superintendent Hopper said the district had been reaching out to not-for-profit groups about the two used busses they have as surplus, but haven't had any takers. Hopper suggested putting the busses up for bid, with a minimum bid set at \$5,000.

Hopper also noted that the Performance Evaluation Reform Act committee met on Oct. 30, and that the district celebrated American Education Week during the week of Nov. 13-17. The week was marked by a variety of activities for staff each day to honor them for the work they do with the students.

"I would like to thank Mrs. Sheena Wolfe for coordinating all of the activities within the district," Hopper said in his report.

All three administrators mentioned the Raymond Grade School Literacy Night/Family Reading Nigh, which was on Nov. 14. Students from the National Honor Society volunteered at the night, which was themed "Escape the School."

The event drew 180 students and family members, who were able to use clues and problem-solving to complete their packets and receive a prize.

"Thank you to Ms. Koller and Mrs. Beiermann for all their hard work as well as to other staff who were available to help out that night," Webb's said in his report. "Furthermore, thank you to Project Third Day Panhandle and Bank and Trust in Raymond for providing sub sandwiches, chips and water for the event."

Closed Session
Following the regular agenda, the board went into closed session at 8:15 p.m. and returned to open session 15 minutes later with three motions to approve.

The board approved the request of Samantha Bourke to move from assistant cheer coach to a volunteer cheer coach, approved Judy Best as the art club sponsor and approved Avery Pope as a volunteer girls basketball coach pending successful completion of all state and local employment requirements. The first two motions passed 6-0 (board member Gretchen Snyder was absent from the meeting), while the third passed 5-0, with Board Member Gabe Pope abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The board will meet on Dec. 18 next month due to Christmas being on their regular meeting date.



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LANCER LINES • by Kaylee Gerlach at Lincolnwood

Remembering Perspectives



This Holiday Season

Welcome back to another week of Lancer Lines! I hope everyone had an amazing Thanksgiving!

While on Thanksgiving break, I was faced with different perspectives about how families celebrate Thanksgiving. When this came to me, I started to think about the different views and ideas that we have within our community.

When you think of perspective what comes to mind? Many may say they think of different things others may like or dislike compared to them. When we take these ideas and apply them into our hometown and lives, we are faced with a variety of beliefs, ideas and new improvements, which makes us who we are.

Although individual perceptions add value within our communities, it can also add a level of change that may sadden some community members. When we take these new views and compare them with our own experiences, we can create a stronger solution to support one another.

We can learn to take our differences and use them for good. We can go into our communities and help spread kindness. Here at Lincolnwood, students are pushed to share their perspectives, viewpoints and ideas. When students are given these opportunities, they can be themselves and find their passions whether it be a study area, a club or a sport. Along the way, these passions can also help spread kindness to one another and build lasting friendships.

One example I can think

of is when student-athletes are pushed to learn new skills outside of their comfort zone, which can and most likely will put them to the test. During practice or during a game, we can watch our teams apply these new abilities on and off the court as the boys and girls basketball teams, as well as the Lincolnwood cheer team travels this upcoming week.

This week, the boys basketball and cheerleading teams will open their season. On Tuesday, they traveled to Bethany, where they took on the Okaw Valley Timberwolves in a nail-biter game! The Lancers celebrated their first win of the season as they traveled all the way back to Raymond.

On Friday, they will be back on the road as they take on the Wildcats of Mt. Olive on Dec. 1. Looking ahead to next week, they will make their way to Hillsboro on Dec. 5, for a game against the Hiltoppers. Best of luck to the boys as they travel this upcoming week! The cheerleaders are also looking forward to an exciting week!

The Lady Lancers will be taking on the court Thursday, Nov. 30 versus the Ponies of South Fork. They will also make their way down I-55 as they head to Mt. Olive for a match-up on Dec. 4. Best of luck to our Lady Lancers!

Thank you for reading another week of Lancer Lines! I hope you have a great week!

This week, our quote is from former First Lady Rosalynn Carter: "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."



Madison Park Students Honored By Principal Favre

Madison Park Elementary School Principal Adam Favre has announced the winners of the Principal Recognition Award for the week of Nov. 9. 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 photos at left are kindergarten winners, from the left, Brantley Wood, Bryan Greenwood, Octavia Kelly and Colt Sperry. In the photo at right are first grade winners, from the left, Joshua Gehrig, Brody Boerckel, Kynlee Petroski and Lydia Rich.



Madison Park Students Honored By Principal Favre

Madison Park Elementary School Principal Adam Favre has announced the winners of the Principal Recognition Award for the week of Nov. 17. 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, Noah Young, Rosalie Pattillo, Willow Gudge and Owen Winans. In the photo at right are first grade winners, from the left, Frankie Chappell, Ellie Chappell, Hadlee Swanson and Maddox Stockamp.

State Issues City Of Witt New Fire Truck Funds

Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera and Illinois Finance Authority (IFA) Executive Director Chris Meister issued nearly \$7.2 million in no interest or low interest loans to emergency responders across the state. The loans are made available through the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program.

The City of Witt was one of the benefactors, receiving \$163,397.47 in FTRL funds to purchase a new fire truck. "Our emergency responders put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe, and they need safe and reliable vehicles to get the job done," said Governor JB Pritzker. "That's why I'm proud that my administration is ensuring that fire departments across the state can purchase the fire trucks and ambulance they need to save lives."

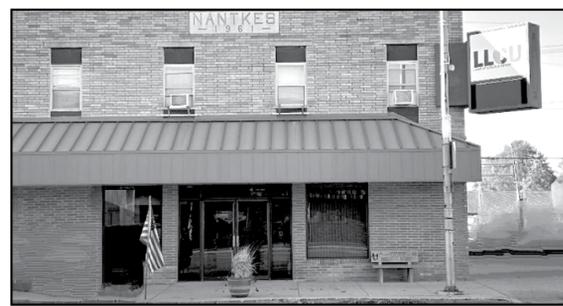
"Without programs such as our Fire Truck and Ambulance Revolving Loan, many departments would have to continue to repair vehicles that are not reliable anymore and never be able to afford a new fire truck or ambulance," said Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera. "The OSFM thanks Governor Pritzker for his commitment to our first responders and safety of our state's residents."

"A staffed fire truck or ambulance must be available to service time-sensitive emergencies in every community in Illinois," said Illinois Finance Authority Executive Director Chris Meister. "Economically beneficial loans are one path to help meet this essential need. We thank Governor Pritzker and Fire Marshal Rivera for the opportunity to help finance the vehicles needed by first responders across Illinois."

The Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program (FTRL) and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program (ARLP) are designed to assist departments or cities in purchasing emergency vehicles that they may not otherwise be able to afford.

Under the FTRL program, fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments may apply for up to \$350,000 in low interest or no interest loans for purchase of a fire truck or brush trucks. The loans must be repaid within 20 years.

Under the ARLP program, units of local government (city, town, village, township, fire department, fire protection district) and not-for-profit ambulance service providers can apply for no interest or low interest loans of up to \$200,000. These loans must be paid back in ten years.



Land Of Lincoln Credit Union of Decatur recently purchased and acquired Nokomis Savings Bank, pictured above, located at 100 W. State St.

LLCU Taking Over Nokomis Savings Bank

Land of Lincoln Credit Union (LLCU), based in Decatur announced in November the completion of its purchase and assumption transaction with Nokomis Savings Bank in which LLCU has acquired the assets and assumed the liabilities of Nokomis Savings Bank, effective Friday, Nov. 10. With the acquisition complete, LLCU has expanded its footprint to include a total of 15 branches throughout a 28-county service area in central Illinois.

"We have already received a very warm welcome by the Nokomis community," said Robert Ares, LLCU president and CEO. "That warm welcome just further confirms that adding the Nokomis branch to the LLCU organization was a smart move. This acquisition will undoubtedly prove success-

ful for LLCU, but more importantly, we are confident that citizens of Nokomis will be very happy with our superior financial products and services, as well as our dedication to community investment."

The acquisition is part of LLCU's strategic growth plan, which includes adding branches and markets to better assist members in Illinois. Most recently, LLCU previously acquired Colchester State Bank of Colchester, finalized in July of 2023. With the Colchester acquisition, LLCU's geographic footprint extended to McDonough County, extending the LLCU service coverage area to 28 Illinois counties.

McQueen Financial Advisors served as financial advisor and Luse Gorman, PC served as legal counsel to Land of Lincoln Credit Union.



Lancer Students Donate Blankets To Area Hospital

National Honor Society members at Lincolnwood High School, in Raymond, have been working since last year to make blankets for hospitalized children to have during their stay and to take home with them. Eighteen blankets were delivered on Friday, Nov. 18, to the Carol Jo Vecchi Women's and Children's Center at St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Pictured between hospital representatives are Morgan Cowdrey, Honor Society secretary, and Kylie Neisler, vice president.

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The Journal-News
The Newspaper of Record for Montgomery County

Dear Santa,

The Journal-News will again be publishing letters to Santa in the Christmas Eve edition. Children's letters will be accepted through Friday, December 1.

Letters to Santa may be mailed to:
The Journal-News
P.O. Box 100
Hillsboro, IL 62049
Placed in the drop box at:
431 S. Main
Hillsboro
or emailed to:
thejournal-news@consolidated.net

Out & About

8A - Thursday, November 30, 2023



Hillsboro Library Hosts 'A Dickens Tale' Dec. 2

Just in time to kick off the holiday season, the Hillsboro Area Public Library is hosting a traveling theater group this Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. Bright Star Touring Theater will present "A Dickens Tale," in a program suitable for students in first grade through adults. The program is free, though there is limited seating, so those interested should contact the library to reserve a spot. Join old Scrooge, bumbling Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, old Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, while discovering the true meaning of the season. For more information, call the library at 217-532-3055.

Raymond Royalty Plan Christmas Fundraiser

Members of the Raymond Celebration royalty crew are decking the halls with a special Christmas fundraiser this holiday season.

2023 Miss Independence Kirsten Pope, 2023 Junior Miss Paislee Krager, 2023 Little Miss Hadleigh Millburg and 2023 Mister Muscle Jesse Carron are hosting "Christmas with Raymond

Royalty" on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Stop by The Living Center in Raymond to enjoy a visit with Santa, drink hot chocolate and complete a holiday craft.

Admission is \$5 per person and donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit the NICU at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

Christmas Tree Lighting To Be Held Monday Night

The first annual Christmas tree lighting event will be held at The Briar Rose in downtown Litchfield on Monday evening, Dec. 4.

Located in the front window of the store, the Christmas tree will be decorated with ornaments made by Litchfield pre-Kindergartners through first grade students.

Santa Claus himself will arrive at 5:30 p.m. to greet youngsters of all ages, and the tree lighting ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. Christmas carolers will also be part of the special festivities that night.

The Briar Rose is located at 216 N. State Street in



Litchfield. For more information, call 217-324-2442.

Litchfield Community Plans Christmas Events

A host of activities are scheduled for the "Litchfield Lighted Christmas" on Saturday, Dec. 16.

Downtown businesses will welcome Christmas Walk visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A free showing of the movie, "The Christmas Chronicles" starts at 12 noon at Westside Cinema.

Santa Claus will greet children from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Briar Rose, and at Litchfield Community Center from 1 to 3 p.m.

Professor Longhair and McDonald's will also provide entertainment and crafts for children at the Community Center.

Model train fans will enjoy watching electric trains at the Ameriprise Financial building, 510 N. State St., from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Lighted Christmas Parade will kick off at 6 p.m. The parade starts at Sihler School and ends at Litchfield Moose Lodge, where kids can pose for pictures with Santa.

Jeff Chapman Bringing Talents To The Grand

by Isaiah Atkins

For 45 years, local musician Jeff Chapman has entertained crowds and touched the soul of his audience through a blend of Americana, the blues, rock and classic southern soul and gospel.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m., Chapman will be performing live at The Grand in Hillsboro, accompanied by Mike Hamilton and performing a full Christmas set of classic tunes.

Chapman's impressive career spans the past 45 years, beginning in his youth growing up in nearby Pocahontas. "When I was born, my parents were a part of a gospel quartet," he says. "So I was really exposed to that since infancy."

It reflects in his personal musical style, which is clearly influenced by his upbringing. Gospel singing parents who also loved playing country music on the radio. Other family members introduced Chapman to more traditional rock and pop bands, such as *Creedence Clearwater Revival* and *Blood, Sweat and Tears*. As he's grown older, he's found himself more interested in the blues, and thus he has now landed on 'Americana Blues and Southern Soul' when asked to categorize himself.

"Everybody's got to fit in a genre, everything's a category, and you have to pick one," he says, "But for me it's really all of them."

Growing up in a musical family is certain to push one in the same direction, and thus at age 13, he picked up the guitar. A few years later, at 16, after people started accepting the notion and who he was, he decided "this is what I wanna do for a career."

His earliest performances came in the form of duet performances at church, which were crucial for building his confidence on stage. "My dad told me, when you're on stage, don't look directly at

the people, look just above them," he remembers, "it'll calm your nerves. I've remembered that ever since."

His first paid performance came in 1978, when he performed with his brother, Jerry Chapman of Donnellson, and his father for a retired campers association at Lake Carlyle. "They told us they'd feed us, we could play for a bit, and then they'd pass around the hat," he explains. "We made \$64 between the three of us," he laughs. "But it told me that people like what we are doing, and I can live with that."

And so he did, playing live performances over the next 45 years (and counting,) frequenting clubs, bars and other venues, including Schram City's Canton Inn.

In 1981, he started a duet with his brother, *The Chapman Brothers*, playing together every so often. He later launched *Brother Jefferson*, an Americana blues soul band, in 2005, and now can be found performing regularly with the band, duet or even solo acoustic.

Chapman released a few albums through the years, most recently with *Brother Jefferson's* "Reflections" in 2019, compiled of eleven original tracks written by Chapman.

"I like to do all of it," he says. "Songwriting, recording, performing with a band, performing solo, it all teaches you things. I'm still learning."

Songwriting hasn't always been in his repertoire, but Chapman made it a point after releasing a cover blues album in 2005. Since then, he focuses entirely on writing his own releases, especially with the *Brother Jefferson* brand, although he admits it's not always easy.

"You have days where you might sit down and write a few songs because you're inspired, and then there might be months where it's like staring at a blank wall," he admits.

He adds that he is aiming



Pocahontas native Jeff Chapman of the *Brother Jefferson* band will be performing a Christmas concert live at The Grand in Hillsboro on Saturday, Dec. 16. Chapman's beloved musical style is best described as Americana blues and southern soul.

for a spring release of a new album, but that "it's important not to force it. It has to come as it comes."

A benefit of the blended genre where Chapman has made his home is that it allows for variety with the material, he says. "I'll be writing a song, and I'll think to myself, 'This one will be just piano and vocals,' and then another one might be the full band. There's a lot of finalizing that has to be done."

As Chapman's career carries on, so do the people listening to him. "It's funny, over the years, times have changed, but it's really generational," he explains, "I'll have kids come up to me at shows, and they'll tell me their grandma used to come to my shows, and so on. It's stretching three generations."

"It is kind of cool," Chapman admits, before laughing, "But it's like, really?"

Now, Chapman is preparing for something he's never done before: a full Christmas

performance.

"I quickly realized I didn't know the songs as well as I thought I did," he chuckles. "But it's just about always learning something new and stepping out of the normal routine. It'll teach me something new and I'm very excited about it."

Those in attendance can expect an evening of traditional and classic Christmas songs performed by Chapman, accompanied by piano.

Chapman, who's lifelong motto has always been "the music comes first," has been hard at work preparing for the performance. "You have to give the audience a good product," he says. "I'm hoping to see a good crowd of all ages, kids and grandparents alike, and I hope I can offer something a little different this Christmas."

Tickets are available for Dec. 16's 'An Evening of Christmas Music with Jeff Chapman, featuring Mike Hamilton' online at bestmovieideal.com.

Don't Miss The 24th Annual Model Train Show

Kids and adults of all ages will be impressed by operating electric trains during Litchfield Train Group's 24th annual Model Railroad Open House

on Saturday, Dec. 16, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Ameriprise Financial building, located at 510 N. State St. in Litchfield. Admission is \$1 for visitors school

age and older, free for younger children. Proceeds benefit Litchfield Youth Group Charities. For more information, contact Lonnie Bathurst at 217-324-3203.

Farmersville Flips The Switch To Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Farmersville as the village celebrated the upcoming holiday season with the 12th annual lighting of its Christmas tree planted in the park on the square.

In addition to the tree lighting there were crafts for the kids, hot chocolate and cookies, a silent auction and a visit from Santa Claus.

Among those contributing to the event, which was organized by the Farmersville Revitalization Committee, were the Bob Gorman Family (fire pit), Designer Landscapes (christmas tree background for Santa), Maddie Yard (photo props), Zion Lutheran (cookies) and a number of businesses that donated items for the silent auction.



Irish Days Queen Karmryn Russell had the honor of lighting up the Christmas tree in Farmersville on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann



Mary Ann Rimini gives Reese Sidwell a hot chocolate during the annual tree lighting at the Farmersville Park on Nov. 25. In addition to some tasty treats, the event also had crafts for kids and a visit from Santa.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann



Students from the Panhandle School District got a little help from Santa Claus himself as they sang Christmas carols before the lighting of the Christmas tree at Farmersville Park on the village square. The carolers, under the direction of Panhandle music teacher Sarah Weatherford, were just part of the festivities on Saturday, Nov. 25, which was presented by the Farmersville Revitalization Committee.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Country Crafts & Ceramics



Open House
December 2-3
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

16327 Reincke Rd.
Irving, IL

217-533-4665

TOPPER TALK • by Annabelle Wright at Hillsboro High

Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser Helps National Honor Society



Hello, Toppers! The semester is coming to an end! School pictures have finally come back, and don't forget to show them off to all of your friends and family! If for any reason a student did not receive their pictures, they will be available to pick up in the main office.

For all of our seniors, a lot of very exciting deadlines are coming up! The last chance to purchase a discounted cap and gown is on Friday, Dec. 1, so make sure to get those order forms turned in quickly. Also, make sure that you have created your FSA ID so filling out the FAFSA

will be much easier when it becomes available. Finally, early grads, make sure you are watching for all the deadlines so you are right on track to graduate.

On Sunday, Dec. 10, the National Honor Society is holding a gift wrapping fundraiser. From 1 to 6 p.m. at Beckemeyer Elementary School, a group of students will lend a helping hand this holiday season by helping you wrap all of your gifts. It is all free-will donations, and any money made will go directly to the NHS Scholarship fund. Present forms are available to print and fill before the date, but they will also be available on the day of. If you have a crazy busy holiday season coming up and need a hand getting all of your gifts prepared, this is

a great opportunity to save time and energy!

This is another reminder about the Topper Art Club's Pottery Glazing Open House. Anyone who is interested will be able to pick out a pottery item of their choice and have it glazed. Multiple ornaments, coffee mugs, bowls and plates available to purchase. This will take place on Dec. 2 in the Hillsboro High School Art Room from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

And now, onto sports! The girls basketball team is ending off this week's sports with an away game on Thursday, Nov. 30. These ladies have a fairly long bus ride awaiting them, traveling all the way to Piasa. The team has a little gap to start off the next week, before picking right back up with

a home game on Wednesday, Dec. 6. They will be facing off against Marquette, so be sure to head over to the school to cheer them on!

The boys basketball team is finishing off the Carlyle Tournament this weekend, on Saturday, Dec. 2. After this, they will pick back up with their regular season games with a game against Lincolnwood High School. This will be a home game on Tuesday, Dec. 5, starting at 6 p.m.

Wrestling has a home match this Friday, Dec. 1! They will be going against both Carlyle and Althoff and the match will begin at 6 p.m. All BTOP members, this is going to be an Orange Pride Night! Good luck, boys!

Talk to you next week!

PANTHER PRESS • by Amy Frerichs at Litchfield

Panther Athletes Tip Off



In Turkey Tourney

Welcome back, Purple Panthers!

Congratulations to the girls basketball team on getting sixth and the boys team getting fourth in their Thanksgiving tournaments! This week, girls basketball traveled to Williamsville on

Tuesday, and will then play at home on Thursday.

The Boys will travel to Lebanon, then travel to the BOS Center to play New Berlin.

Wrestling continued their season at Shelbyville on Tuesday, with a home meet on Saturday.

Have a great week, Panthers!



Beckemeyer Students Enjoy Thanksgiving Meal

Pilgrims lined the long decorated table in a hallway of Beckemeyer Elementary School on Tuesday, Nov. 21, as kindergarten pupils enjoyed their own Thanksgiving feast.

DRAGON BEAT • by Ella Schaake at HJHS

Dragon Students Collecting For Local Food Drive



Welcome back to another week of the Dragon Beat! Hey Dragons: I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving break!

Now that we're back to school, we've got to work hard until we get to Christmas break, which is going to be here in no time.

Last Tuesday, our eighth grade Lady Dragons unfortunately ended their season playing New Berlin, but they fought a hard game and hopefully we see them all playing in high school. The score of that game was 25-24, very close!

Then on Thursday, we all celebrated Thanksgiving, which I hope everyone enjoyed great meals and spent precious time with their families.

Now onto this week, the boys basketball team has had a busy week with three games on their schedule. Monday

they faced Taylorville and sadly, they lost. Tuesday night they hosted Greenville and suffered another loss. Tonight they travel to Carlisle with tip off time at 6 p.m. Good luck, boys.

While the new gym was busy, the old gym was hosting volleyball tryouts on Monday and Tuesday for both seventh and eighth grade. The teams have been chosen and great job to everyone who made the team!

On Tuesday, there was a meeting for sixth through eighth grade students who have been nominated for the Illinois Science Olympiad program. It's a program where students in the top of their science class are nominated, and they'll have special activities to let the students explore their areas of science! If you're one of those students that got picked, then please inform your parents or guardian.

Sources of Strength Group #5 have been focusing on positive friends this week by

having a music trivia contest every day after announcements. Every day has started with a positive message about the importance of positive friends followed by two songs that relate to friendship.

PRIDES are competing to know the title and artist of the songs as well as if it has ever been included in a movie. As of the time of publication, Mrs. Speraneo's class is winning in 6th grade, Mrs. Tester and Mrs. Hacke's prides are tied, and Mr. Mattson's 8th grade pride is winning.

It's a battle of the badges at all of our schools for the holiday season! The local fire and police departments have stepped up the canned food drive by having a competition between the two "badges." The traditional red buckets are out for the fire department, but this year there are also blue buckets for the police department. Students will be encouraged to place their canned items in whichever tote they want to support.

At HJHS, Builders Club and Student Council have decided to increase the excitement even more by hosting a Pie in the Face competition. For every item that a student brings in during the collection period, they will receive a ticket that they can place in buckets of faculty members who are "willing" to have a pie thrown in their face on the last day of school before Christmas break. Faculty members who have stepped up for the challenge include Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Govaia, Mrs. Hacke, Mrs. Olson, Mr. Mattson, Mr. Lipe, Mr. VanGiesen and Resource Officer Kenny. Let's flood those baskets with goods for our community and maybe even have a little fun too!

That's a wrap for this week's Dragon Beat! Come back next week to hear about more exciting stuff happening at HJHS. Remember to spread positivity, always try your hardest and be yourself! Have a great rest of the week, Dragons!

Friday and Saturday

1. Trendz
 - Junior EMS Poinsettia Sale (5-7 Fri. | 9-12 Sat.)
 - Cindy Lou Who look-alike contest (enter 7-8:30 Fri. | winner rides in parade Sat. morning)
2. Nokomis Gift & Garden Trailer with candied pecans, gifts, decor, and more! Also find them at their normal location 123 Morgan St.
3. 16 and State Mercantile will have treats & a door prize drawing
4. JCo Salon is offering hair finsel (Fri. only) and Shop handmade crafts & paintings from Un"Wine" Yourself Creations
5. Vendor Fair inside The Vault (Old IGA)
6. Sales & prize drawing at Napa-McKay Auto Parts
7. Build your own ornament at BRS Museum with Nokomis Education Foundation
8. Dairy Queen for treats
9. LLCU elves will be handing out gift bags
10. Warm up with coffee, live music, photo booth, & letters to Santa at Ugly Mugs Coffee House *Live music Friday only
11. Strike a pose at CTI's Snowkomis photo booth
12. Build your own ornament with Nokomis FFA in the State Farm parking lot

Friday night

13. Tree Lighting at 5pm and Camren's Causes Hot Cocoa & Ice Skating at City Hall
14. NHS Afterprom s'mores & treats at Jachino Automotive Group
15. Reindeer Treats at Allen's Tire & Auto with Chi Upsilon
16. Country Financial, Trendz, & The Depot present cookies with a reindeer (enter through back of Country Financial in alley)
17. First Baptist Church Live Nativity at The Patio (old Miles Ford building)
18. Food drive, raffle, & free Christmas countdown craft at Teamwork Rehab | Special edition Snowkomis Alpha Candles from North School PTC
19. Reindeer Games at State Farm with Josh Reams
20. Grab a drink & enter a raffle at Sunny & Red's
21. Food Trucks: Donut Dollies, Paul's BBQ, Small Town Treats (Look for Small Town Treats Saturday too)
22. Horse drawn carriage rides sponsored by Chamber of Commerce at The Vault (Old IGA)

Saturday

23. First National Bank Snowman Craft & games with the Grinch (9 am)
24. Cookie decorating at Casey's
25. First Noelle 5k begins at Parish Center (Registration 8:30/Race 9:30)
26. Parade begins behind City Hall at 10:30
27. Nokomis Public Library (11 am - 2pm)
 - Treats with Santa & Mrs. Clause sponsored by Nokomis Women's Club
 - Reindeer Treats with Chi Upsilon
 - Face Painting by NHS Art Club

Don't miss these!

- 201 S Spruce
- 123 Morgan St
- 523 E Union
- 100 S Oak

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Happy Holidays!



Tosetti Donates To Local Charities

Bernadine (Tosetti) Hines of Hinsdale, a former resident of Nokomis and the daughter of the late Elio and Yolanda Tosetti has historically been a generous giver to her former community of Nokomis. Here her brother, Jack Tosetti, is presenting some holidays gifts to several local charities, schools and organizations. Pictured above, from left to right are Jim Dooley of Nokomis VFW, Stephanie Kilzer of Nokomis HS Band, Cheryl Gonet, principal of St. Louis Catholic School, Jim Eisenbarth of Nokomis Baseball Museum, Doris O'Malley of Nokomis Food Pantry, Gloria Wendling of Angel Tree, James Rupert of Nokomis Lions Club, Project Share and Jack Tosetti.



Hillsboro Library Hosts Painting Class

Local artist Diane Singler, a retired Hillsboro High School art instructor, taught a class in pastel painting on Friday, Nov. 17, at Hillsboro Area Public Library. Participants included painters new to pastels and others with much experience. They are pictured with their still life creations.

AFSCME Welcomes Guest Speaker

by Joyce Shelton

On Monday, Nov. 13, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Sub-Chapter #87 Retirees members and retired seniors met at the Taylorville United Methodist Church. There were 16 members present.

President David Spinner welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Spinner then asked everyone to stand and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

Spinner asked member, Marian Pierson to introduce guest speaker, Talor Ray, a certified estate planner with Safe Retirement Systems, Inc. Ray, who resides in Saint Joseph, started out by saying since 2009 she had acquired over 300 clients for the foundation of estate planning.

First, she explained a will. A will speaks for you one time, when you pass away. You will need to name an executor to make sure the estate is handled and distributed properly. In Illinois if your estate is over \$4 million, the estate will pay the tax and over \$12 million, the estate is federal exempt. This will come back down in 2025.

Next, she described a trust, and this speaks for you as a type of directive while alive and when you pass away. While alive, it is revocable and you can change it. A revocable trust can be changed or terminated during that person's lifetime. An irrevocable trust cannot be changed once it's established.

Ray stated that you need a power of attorney for property and health care. Both of these speak for you while you are alive and pass away and are the most important legal documents stating who is in charge of making decisions for you. She said the power of attorney for property should be someone reliable and trustworthy to be in charge of your decisions. She stated you will need a transfer on death instrument on the deceased property or dwelling not in a trust. This will keep your home out of probate. For less than 40 acres, you should list the beneficiaries and that will keep it from going to probate.

Ray mentioned that retirement pensions are almost a thing of the past, therefore, you need to manage your own pension or 401K. She



AFSCME Sub-Chapter 87 President David Spinner, at right, is pictured with guest speaker, Talor Ray, a certified estate planner with Safe Retirement Systems, Inc.

said that Social Security is a type of pension or annuity. The question is are you going to have enough money to live on while you are alive? Ray mentioned that no one wants to pay more taxes but there is a big gap until 2035 and taxes will increase by 30 percent.

She brought up individual retirement accounts. To avoid a penalty, wait until you are 59.5 years of age before withdrawal. The number one risk is running out of money.

Ray talked about having medical insurance. The cost of nursing homes in Illinois is nearly 50 percent greater than that of assisted living facilities. She said average nursing home stay is two years and eight months at \$200 a day which brings the total to \$6,000 a month.

Long term care and how it is changing is a hot topic. It is the least planning we do. On the policy, you pay for a certain amount of coverage and are covered up to five years. Short term care offers the same coverages; home care, assisted living about two years. Dementia (assisted living) is not skilled care unless it is coded properly.

Ray concluded her presentation and suggested everyone should work with a certified estate planner for all their estate planning needs.

President Spinner thanked Talor Ray for speaking with the group.

Spinner asked for a moment of silence for people

who recently passed, including Carolyn Herman, mother of member Carol Freeman of Chicago, and Harold Long, (IMRF) who served 32 years for the county highway department and dedicated subchapter member of Hillsboro. Spinner attended the funeral of Harold Long. Also, two other members who passed away were Robert Hull of Macomb (SURS) and Calvin Scoles (IMRF) of Pana.

Spinner reported that there was one new member, Gwen Diehl Reed, and that made 741 members at present time.

The next Taylorville meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Taylorville Methodist Church, located at 200 S. Walnut Street and E. Market Street. A staff person from the Taylorville YMCA will be guest speaker. Don't forget December means the white elephant gift exchange.

The next Hillsboro in-person and Zoom meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 1 p.m. with Scott "Lightbulb" Allen informing of upcoming electric and natural gas costs. The meeting will be held at the Montgomery County Farm Bureau building, located at 102 North Main Street in Hillsboro. Don't forget December means the white elephant gift exchange.

To register and participate in the next AFSCME Retiree Sub-Chapter #87 meeting, you may contact David Spinner, president at 217-324-2018 or email him at Bspinner@consolidated.net.

OPPOSE THE RENEWAL OF DEER RUN MINE PERMITS!

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- Damage and delays on Public Roads such as Route 185
- Health effects of coal dust from mine facility
- Structural damage to buildings
- Farm ground subsided with ponded water and erosion

Longwall mining with its harmful outcomes is only complete on 5 panels of the 17 approved by IDNR. Longwall mining has just begun to affect the additional 7,731.8 acres, and will continue for years ahead.

COME AND COMMUNICATE YOUR CONCERNS!

Monday, December 4th, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

At the Courthouse Annex, 201 S. Main St., Hillsboro (southeast corner of Square)

This Informal Conference gives you the opportunity to voice your concerns about the 5-year permit renewals by Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Mines and Minerals/Land Reclamation Division, or to say how you have been affected.



This ad sponsored by CALM/Citizens Against Longwall Mining <http://www.citizensagainstlongwallmining.org/>



Cub Scouts Visit Litchfield Fire Department

Local cub scouts in Hillsboro-Litchfield Cub Scout Pack 89 paid the Litchfield Fire Department a visit on Monday, Nov. 20.

They learned about the equipment used by the firefighters such as fire trucks, tools and hoses. They toured the fire station, tried on gear and completed a mini training drill obstacle course.

Pictured above are members of Pack 89. In the back row, from the left are Jackson Montes, Maysen Strahan, Harley Bradburn, Leo Woodring, Dylan Bergman and Connor Budd. In the middle row is Deklan Blom, Bo Beckham and Mason Bradburn, and in the front row is Dawson Schneider, Nicolai Richmond, Dallas Denton, and Sawyer Joyce.

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Redskins Clip Crusaders At Home

The Nokomis boys basketball team picked up their first victory of the season on Tuesday, Nov. 28, beating Springfield Lutheran 50-45 in MSM Conference action.

The Redskins were playing on their home court for the second time this season and took the first lead of the game thanks to a layup and free throw by Mason Stauder and a fast break layup by Reece Lohman.

The five-point lead didn't last long as Torry Kistner scored Lutheran's first points to make it 5-2, followed by a three from Matt Hemenway that tied the game just 10 seconds after the midway point of the quarter.

The two teams took turns going on short scoring bursts, with Lohman scoring four straight to break the tie, followed by six straight points from the Crusaders to make it 11-9 in Lutheran's favor with a minute to play. Kennedy DeWerff tied the contest at 11, the third tie of the quarter, but a free throw from Kistner gave Lutheran a one-point lead going into the second frame.

The score remained close in the next period, with neither team leading by more than two possessions. The biggest lead of the first half came with 3:17 to go when Hemenway scored his seventh point of the half to make it 19-15. Nokomis outscored Lutheran 4-1 after that thanks to two free throws by Mason Stauder and a nice move to the basket by Saint Newman, but Lutheran still led 20-19 at halftime.

After holding Lutheran to single digits in the second quarter, the Redskins went to work on the defensive end again in the third. The



Nokomis' Saint Newman looks for an open teammate or path to the basket during the Redskins' home game against Springfield Lutheran on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Newman got six points and Nokomis got a 50-45 conference win over the Crusaders, their first of the young season. *James Ryan/NokoPhoto*

Crusaders would be limited to eight points for the second straight frame, with Parker Cloyd leading Lutheran in scoring in the quarter with a three-pointer at the 4:15 mark.

That gave the Crusaders a one-point lead, completing a comeback after Nokomis

scored seven of the first nine points of the third to build up a four-point advantage of their own. Reece Lohman had five of those seven points (Saint Newman had the other two) and scored the next basket after Cloyd's three to make it 28-27 with 3:32 to play.

The basket sparked a 9-1

run by the Redskins, with Atticus Bertolino, Mason Stauder and Kennedy DeWerff all scoring, plus a putback on an offensive rebound by Drake Taylor at the buzzer that boosted Nokomis' lead to nine points, 37-28, after three.

In the fourth, Nokomis worked to hang onto their lead, trading points back and forth with the Crusaders as the lead stayed in the seven to 11 point range for the first six minutes of the final quarter. Nokomis was up 10 with two minutes to play when Lutheran tried to mount a comeback. A three by Aaden Hillgoss made it 47-40, with Parker Cloyd cutting the margin to five with 65 seconds to play.

Cloyd then blocked a shot on the other end and drew a foul to go to the free throw line. The junior forward wasn't able to capitalize on the opportunity and 17 seconds later Saint Newman hit a pair of free throws for Nokomis to up the lead back to seven.

Lutheran's last gasp came on a three by Conor McCaffrey with 21.8 seconds left, but Nokomis was able to chew up 11 seconds of the clock before Lohman made it a 50-45 game with a free throw. The Crusaders were unable to score quickly, or at all, as Nokomis escaped with the five-point win.

Lohman was a steady presence for the Redskins, finishing with 20 points, 12 of which came in the second half, with five rebounds. Mason Stauder added in 11 points and five assists, while Saint Newman had six points.

Continued on 3B



Lincolnwood's Carly Armentrout (right) and Sophia Painter pressure North Greene's Savette Schofield during the fourth quarter of the Lady Lancers' home game on Monday, Nov. 27. The pair were two of the eight Lincolnwood players to score in Monday's 55-27 win over the Spartans, which improved the Lancers' record to 3-4 on the season.

Kyle Herschelmann/Journal-News

Lady Lancers Repeat Rout Of North Greene

The last time the Lincolnwood-Morrisonville girls basketball team played North Greene, they set a new high-water mark for scoring since the program was brought back in 2019. On Monday, they nearly did it again.

A year after the Lancers beat the Spartans 56-13 in White Hall, Coach Justin Millburg's club put together a balanced effort that saw eight different players score in a 55-27 win on Nov. 27, in Raymond. The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Lancers and upped their record to 3-4 on the season.

Only one of Lincolnwood's top four scorers from the 2022 game returned for the 2023 rendition. Lilly Terneus led the team in scoring in both games, scoring 14 points in 2022 as a sophomore, and 14 more in 2023 as a junior.

Six of Terneus' points came in the opening eight minutes as she helped the Lancers to a 14-8 first quarter lead. The Spartans held an early lead over the hosts, pulling out to a 4-1 advantage, but Lincolnwood went on a 9-0 run to take over the lead.

After leading by as many as six in the first quarter, the Lancers began to stretch out their advantage in the second frame. Three minutes into the contest the lead had ballooned to 10 points and 14 points before North Greene hit a three at the three-minute mark to make it 24-13.

Leah Anderson answered the three with one for the Lancers and North Greene scored just two more points in the quarter as Lincolnwood led 27-15 at halftime.

Continued on 3B

Comets Pick Up Win Over Nokomis

A nine-day layoff and their toughest competition of the young season were a tough combination for the Nokomis girls basketball team on Monday, Nov. 27, as the Lady Redskins fell to Greenville 49-26 on the Comets' home floor.

While Nokomis was 4-0 going into the game, Greenville was 2-1, but had wins over Triad and Father McGivney at the Columbia Tournament. The Comets only loss

was to Carlyle, who didn't have a game within 20 points en route to a tournament championship.

The Comets went 19-13 last season and were 8-1 in the South Central Conference, which they won despite going up against four teams in the conference with 20 wins or more. Greenville lost two of their top three in scoring from that team, but returned Katie Campbell, their leading scorer; Emma

Veith, a talented freshman; and Shayna Henderson, a dynamic senior guard who showed flashes of brilliance in 2022-23.

That trio entered the game with 85 of Greenville's 105 points this season and kept that theme going against the Redskins. Campbell had 10 of her game-high 19 points in the first quarter, with Henderson and Veith adding four apiece as the Comets held an 18-5 lead after one.

Greenville came up with 13 points in the second quarter, 11 from Campbell and Veith, while Nokomis was held to five points for the second straight frame as they trailed 31-10 at halftime.

Oddly enough, Nokomis came about the two five-point quarters in the exact same way, getting a three from Grace DeWerff and a two from Kinley Stolte in both frames.

Continued on 3B



Greenville guard Shayna Henderson (#32) drew a crowd of Nokomis defenders, but got her fair share of points in the Comets' 49-26 victory over the Redskins on Monday, Nov. 27. Henderson, surrounded by Grace DeWerff (#31), Natalie Brownback (#12), Cydney Bertolino (#40), Lizzy Hill (#33) and Camryn Engelman (behind Hill), finished with 10 points, one of three players in double figures for Greenville.

Bill Walker/Walker Photography

Lancers Get Late Win Over Wolves

The Lincolnwood-Morrisonville boys basketball team picked up their first win on Tuesday, Nov. 28, but it was far from easy for the Lancers.

Playing Okaw Valley on the Timberwolves' home court in Bethany, the Lancers picked up a 58-56 win with Jared Klein scoring the go-ahead basket on an offensive rebound with three seconds left in the game. The Timberwolves, who went 0-3 at the Cumberland Tournament to start their season, had one last chance to earn their first victory, but weren't able to get a shot off in time as Lincolnwood escaped with the win.

The game was as close at the start as it was at the end, but belonged to the Lancers in between. The

Timberwolves jumped out to a 9-3 lead in the first two minutes, but Lincolnwood rallied to score six straight off baskets by Karson Hayes and Jonah Elvidge and a pair of free throws by Klein.

The two teams traded points down the stretch, with Klein and Brady Schmedeke scoring transition baskets to boost Lincolnwood's lead to three points before the quarter ended with the two teams tied at 14.

In the second quarter, the Lancers got hot from three, but had some company from Okaw Valley's Braden Montgomery. The sophomore guard hit a three to open the quarter and give the Timberwolves a 17-14 lead.

Continued on 3B



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Cougars Claw Their Way Past Hillsboro

by Ron Deabenderfer

Hillsboro's boys basketball team traveled south on Rt. 127 to play SIUE EST CS (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville East St. Louis Charter School) Tuesday evening, Nov. 28; the SIUE team was led by a 6'2" junior guard who could handle the ball, make treys, penetrate, and defend. The fleet Cougar, KeJuan Rives, had 26 points in the first half and finished with 40 to lead SIUE to a 69-61 win.

To the Toppers' credit, they played their most inspired game of the young season; junior Nathan Matoush was Hillsboro's leading scorer with 23, while senior Jace Stewart (20 points) and Mitchell Lowe (12 points) provided senior leadership as well as double figure scoring.

The Cougars had lost to a taller Greenville Comet team by eight points in Saturday's opening round action, but that loss was preceded by two wins. This classic marks their first appearance ever in Carlyle, so their skill level was pretty much unknown before the opening tip.

Once that tip occurred,

their quickness was obvious, but size-wise the two teams were evenly matched. Perhaps it was the necessity to match the Cougars' intensity (they were intent on stealing passes and running the floor); perhaps it was the presence of a very vocal but negative scorer's bench whose comments were at times directed toward Topper players - they went beyond a raucous "Brick" shout whenever a Topper would fire a free throw. The players didn't fall apart in that hostile environment. Rather than just ignoring her, they played harder. Playing in an environment unlike any encountered before, they seemed to use it as fuel.

Rives had 12 first quarter points; listed at 6'2", their big man, Tra' Veon Dennis added four, while guard Chross Mister made one of two free throws. Both teams played aggressive defense, committing at least five fouls each quarter, triggering the two freebies after four per quarter rule that's replaced the one and one shot after six in a half. The Cougars were up 17-16 after one quarter.

Rives shone in the second

quarter; he shot well from deep in the corners when Hillsboro used a zone, and he made contorted lay-ups when he penetrated. In the period he had 16 of the 19 Cougar points. His buzzer beating trey had given his team the second quarter lead; his three-quarters court three as the half ended could have been a dagger as it upped the margin to six.

The Toppers didn't fold; it was 47-41 with 2:30 to play in the third quarter. Defensive efforts against Rives became a tag-team affair as Caleb Greenwood, Tony White, and Mark Mattson took turns guarding him. He sat out part of the fourth quarter with foul trouble, but another guard, 5'7" Breon Johnson, had 11 of his 13 in the second half.

The Toppers next face familiar foe Greenville in Carlyle Wednesday night (Nov. 29) at 7:30 p.m.; the Comets defeated SIUE Charter last Saturday before falling to Carlyle. If the Toppers win, they'll play at 4:30 Saturday; if they lose, they'll be on the floor at 3 p.m. Saturday. Both games will be reported in Monday's *Journal-News*.

November 28 at Carlyle

Kaskashian Classic
Hillsboro 16 14 13 18---61
SIUE Charter 17 19 15 18---69
Hillsboro (61) - Nathan Matoush 23, Jace Stewart 20, Mitchell Lowe 12, Tony White 3, Jackson Tuetken 3. **Totals:** 19 15-24 61.

SIUE Charter (69) - KeJuan Rives 40, Breon Johnson 13, Tra'Veon Dennis 9, Kelton Harris 4, Chross Mister 3. **Totals:** 22 18-21 69.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 6 (Matoush 2, Stewart 2, White 1, Tuetken 1); SIUE Charter 6 (Rives 5, Johnson 1).

Records: Hillsboro (0-3); SIUE Charter (3-1).

Nov. 25-Dec. 2 at Carlyle

Kaskashian Classic
Pool A: Flora, Okawville, Pinckneyville, Woodlawn
Pool B: Carlyle, Greenville, Hillsboro, SIUE Charter

Saturday, November 25
• Pinckneyville 60, Okawville 44
• Greenville 69, SIUE Charter 60
• Flora 68, Woodlawn 57
• Carlyle 61, Hillsboro 44

Monday, November 27
• Pinckneyville 72, Woodlawn 45
• Carlyle 49, Greenville 37

Tuesday, November 28
• Flora 47, Okawville 41
• SIUE Charter 69, Hillsboro 61

Wednesday, November 29
6 p.m. - Pinckneyville vs. Flora
7:30 p.m. - Greenville vs. Hillsboro

Friday, December 1
6 p.m. - Woodlawn vs. Okawville
7:30 p.m. - Carlyle vs. SIUE Charter

Saturday, December 2
3:30 p.m. - 7th Place Game
5 p.m. - 5th Place Game
6:30 p.m. - 3rd Place Game
8 p.m. - 1st Place Game



Williamsville's Tori Zobus (#35) and Mia Root (#24) try to catch up with Litchfield's Madi Jenkins as she goes up for a shot during the Panthers' game with the Bullets on Nov. 28. Jenkins had four points in the game, which Williamsville won 52-22.

Byron Painter/South County Publications

2nd Half Sends Bullets Past Purple Panthers

The Litchfield girls basketball team trailed by just six points at halftime before the Bullets from Williamsville wore the Panthers down and came away with a 52-22 victory on Tuesday, Nov. 28, on their home floor.

The Lady Panthers weren't able to get much going in the first quarter offensively, but held the Bullets to 12 points in the opening eight minutes.

Litchfield trailed by nine going into the second, with Madi Jenkins (2) and Kyndal Law (1) picking up the three points for the Panthers. They managed to erase part of that deficit thanks to four points from Chloe Law and two each from Kyndal Law and Amanda Sypherd as they were within striking distance of the Bullets at halftime, 17-11.

Chloe Law picked up four more points in the third quarter, but Litchfield only scored six in the frame as Williamsville made their move. Five players found the bottom of the net in the quarter for the home team, accumulating 14 points for the Bullets, who now led 31-17.

The momentum of the third quarter carried over to the fourth as they put the game away. The Bullets scored 21 points in the frame and held Litchfield to a three by Chloe Law and a

pair of free throws by Emma Diveley. The 30-point victory was Williamsville's second of the year as they evened their record to 2-2.

Chloe Law finished with 11 points, seven of which came in the second half. Madi Jenkins added in four points, while Kyndal Law had three. Jenkins and Kyndal Law led the team in rebounds with six each, with both of the Laws pacing the team in assists with three each.

Amanda Sypherd and Emma Diveley both finished with two points, with Diveley and Daphney Hartel pulling in five rebounds apiece.

Litchfield will have their first South Central Conference game tonight, Nov. 30, when they host Staunton at 6 p.m. The Lady Bulldogs won their first four games of the season by an average of 29.25 points per game.

Nov. 28 at Williamsville

Litchfield 3 8 6 5---22
Williamsville 12 5 14 21---52

Litchfield (22) - Chloe Law 11, Madi Jenkins 4, Kyndal Law 3, Amanda Sypherd 2, Emma Diveley 2. **Totals:** 9-28 3-4 22.

Williamsville (52) - Char Gleason 11, Britni Walters 10, Naomi Roberts 7, Mia Root 7, Cora Senalik 6, Makenna Dasher 6, Kiyah Kmett 2, Bailey Wherley 2, Tori Zobus 1. **Totals:** 21-5-8-52.

Three-point field goals: Litchfield 1-2 (C. Law 1); Williamsville 5 (Walters 2, Dasher 2, Root 1).

Records: Litchfield (1-6); Williamsville (2-2).

Conference Champs Celebrate Their Season



The Litchfield-Gillespie boys soccer team celebrated their South Central Conference winning season on Nov. 19, with their year-end banquet at the Litchfield Fireman's Clubhouse. Team award winners on the night, from the left, were Most Improved Kenden Longwell, Defensive MVP Brody Dykema, 110% Award winner Joey Reid, Offensive MVP Landon Wernsing and co-Most Valuable Players Drake Gasperson and Anthony Bader.



All-conference honorees from this year's Litchfield-Gillespie boys soccer team were recognized during the team's year-end banquet at the Litchfield Fireman's Clubhouse on Nov. 19. From the left are first team selections Drake Gasperson and Landon Wernsing, second team selection Cooper Martin, first team selection Anthony Bader, second team selection Kenden Longwell and third team selections Brayden Ronco and Brody Dykema.

Hillsboro Holds Awards Banquet

The Hillsboro High School football team held their annual awards banquet on Monday, Nov. 20, at the high school cafeteria. Pictured on the right is Landon Reincke, this year's Most Valuable Player, with Head Coach Joe Reed.



Hillsboro football players Ketch Mills (left) and Jace Stewart (right) earned all-state academic team honors by the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association this year. Mills has a 3.86 GPA on a 4.00 scale, while Stewart has a 3.80 GPA.



The Hillsboro High School football team held their annual awards banquet on Monday, Nov. 20, in celebration of this year's season. All-conference players, from the left, are Dylan Lessman (3rd team offensive skill), Jace Stewart (1st team defensive back), Jackson Tuetken (3rd team defensive back), Seth Hubbard (3rd team linebacker), Zander Wells (2nd team offensive skill), Elliot Lentz (2nd team defensive line), Ketch Mills (1st team punter) and Cole Lenczycki (3rd team offensive line).

T. Todt Shootout Vs. Cancer Set For Dec. 9

by Tom Emery

Several area high school basketball teams will participate in a 16-team shootout to honor the legacy of a beloved area broadcaster.

The fifth annual T. Todt Shootout vs. Cancer event will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, at Litchfield High School, and will feature five boys and three girls games. Tickets are good all day and are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

The event celebrates the life of Terry Todt, the long-time sports director at WSMI Radio, who died in May 2019 after a long battle with a debilitating form of appendix-based cancer. He was survived by his wife, Brenda, and their two children.

An immensely popular figure among coaches, players, and fans, Todt was a familiar voice to many with his enthusiastic love of high school sports and support of area youth, particularly in his hometown of Raymond. He was a member of several Halls of Fame, including the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association and the Illinois Softball Coaches Association.

The shootout is organized by Tim Mize, one of Todt's co-workers at WSMI. All eight games will be broadcast on WSMI 106.1-FM and online at wsmiradio.com.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Montgomery County Cancer Association, an organization that supports cancer victims and their families, and was highly important to Todt. First held

at Carlinville on Dec. 8, 2018, the event has rotated among area high schools, including last year at Hillsboro.

"The T. Todt Shootout is a really special event for everyone," said Mize. "It celebrates Terry's love for high school basketball, but it's also a way to celebrate that Terry meant to all of us."

The shootout begins at 9:30 a.m. with a girls game between Hillsboro and Nokomis, followed by a boys game between Hillsboro and Bunker Hill at 11 a.m.

Carlinville teams will play in the next two games, starting with a girls match-up against Petersburg PORTA at 12:30 and a boys game against Edinburg at 2 p.m. The Gillespie boys then play Lebanon at 3:30 p.m.

Evening games include a boys game between Nokomis and North Mac at 5 p.m. The event then features a double-header between Litchfield and Lincolnwood, with a girls game at 6:30 and a boys contest at 8 p.m. to conclude the schedule.

Raffles with special prizes will be held throughout the day. For more information on the event or to make a donation, call Mize at 217-324-5921.

Dec. 9 at Litchfield 5th Annual T. Todt Shootout vs. Cancer

9:30 - Hillsboro vs. Nokomis - Girls
11:00 - Hillsboro vs. Bunker Hill - Boys
12:30 - Carlinville vs. PORTA - Girls
2:00 - Carlinville vs. Edinburg - Boys
3:30 - Gillespie vs. Lebanon - Boys
5:00 - Nokomis vs. North Mac - Boys
6:30 - Litchfield vs. Lincolnwood - Girls
8:00 - Litchfield vs. Lincolnwood - Boys

Toppers Take Two At Taylorville

The Hillsboro High School wrestling team picked up two victories in their varsity opener on Tuesday, Nov. 28, defeating Springfield Southeast and Taylorville on the Tornadoes' home mat.

The match against Southeast was the closer of the two as the Toppers edged the Spartans by six points, 36-30, with seven wins to Southeast's five wins.

Both teams forfeited one weight class, with Briar Kuhl getting the six free points for the Toppers at 120 pounds and Frank Kittrell getting the free pass for Southeast at 144 pounds.

Gaven Vollintine and Tytin Wells both won by decision in their matches, earning three crucial points against the Spartans. Vollintine defeated Brayden McBride 13-7 at 138 pounds, while Wells defeated Mark Hinman by six points as well, 10-4 in the 165-pound weight class.

Hillsboro's other four wins came by fall, with three coming in the first round. Seth Hubbard (157) and Colton Weiss (215) needed barely over a minute combined to win their matches, with Hubbard pinning Payton Douglas in 34 seconds and Weiss doing the same to Gary Wesley in 29 seconds.

Landon Bandy picked up his pin with 34 seconds to go in the first period of the 113-pound match, while Kaden Long was the only outlier of the four wins by fall, pinning DeAndre Cameron eight seconds into the third period at 150 pounds.

In their other match, the Toppers were able to put a little more distance between themselves and the hosts from Taylorville as they won 54-18.

Olan Lentz and Ian Anderson both got their first wins of the day at 175 and 190 pounds, respectively. Lentz picked up a win by fall over Ethan Rusher at the 2:20 mark, while Anderson out-pointed Blake Daugherty 6-2 for his win. Fontane Gifford made his first appearance of the day at 132 pounds and pinned Hayden Molohon of Taylorville at the 3:05 mark, as well.

Landon Bandy, Briar Kuhl, Tytin Wells, Colton Weiss and Gaven Vollintine were all double winners on the day, with Bandy and Weiss both collecting two pins in as many matches. Bandy scored his other pin in two minutes and seven seconds over Blaise Rogers, while Weiss got his second win by fall over Lucas Carnahan in 23 seconds.

After getting a forfeit win against Southeast, Kuhl scored a pin over Owen Durbin at 120 pounds for his second victory, while Wells got his first varsity pin, beating Josef Hamell in 63 seconds at 165 pounds. Both of Vollintine's victories came by decision as he eeked out a one-point win over Ethan Dyer at 138 pounds, 6-5.

In addition to the contested victories, Kaden Long (150) and Seth Hubbard (157) both won by forfeit for their second victories of the day, while Drake McSperritt picked up a win in an extra match, beating Aiden Schott at the 1:25 mark.

Overall, Hillsboro scored 17 wins in 25 matches, with two of their eight losses coming by forfeit at 144 pounds. There would also be double forfeits at 106 pounds in both matches, plus a double forfeit at 132 pounds against Southeast.

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, Hillsboro was back on the road to take on Jacksonville and PORTA on the Crimsons' home mats. Their first home meet of the season will be Friday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. against Carlyle and Belleville Althoff.

Nov. 28 at Taylorville
Hillsboro 36, Southeast 30
106: Double forfeit
113: Landon Bandy (H) def. Marc

Noriega (S) by fall at 1:26
120: Briar Kuhl (H) won by forfeit
126: Karson Beengenga (S) def. William Wilson (H) lost by fall at 2:06
132: Double forfeit
138: Gaven Vollintine (H) def. Brayden McBride (S) by dec. 13-7
144: Frank Kittrell (S) won by forfeit
150: Kaden Long (H) def. DeAndre Cameron (S) by fall at 4:08
157: Seth Hubbard (H) def. Payton Douglas (S) by fall at 0:34
165: Tytin Wells (H) def. Mark Hinman (S) by dec. 10-4
175: Dom Porter (S) def. Olan Lentz (H) by fall at 2:09
190: Chris Hull (S) def. Ian Anderson (H) by fall at 0:39
215: Colton Weiss (H) def. Gary Wesley (S) by fall at 0:29
285: Gary Wesley (S) def. Mason Currie (H) by fall at 1:08
Extra: Steven Crifasi (S) def. Westin Fenton (H) by dec. 7-5
Extra: Kavone Brown (S) def. Gavin Shomaker (H) by dec. 12-11
Hillsboro 54, Taylorville 18
106: Double forfeit
113: Landon Bandy (H) def. Blaise Rogers (T) by fall at 2:07
120: Briar Kuhl (H) def. Owen Durbin (T) by fall at 4:19
126: Lincoln Coffey (T) def. William Wilson (H) by fall at 4:34
132: Fontane Gifford (H) def. Hayden Molohon (T) by fall at 3:05
138: Gaven Vollintine (H) def. Ethan Dyer (T) by dec. 6-5
144: Aiden Seiler (T) won by forfeit
150: Kaden Long (H) won by forfeit
157: Seth Hubbard (H) won by forfeit
165: Tytin Wells (H) def. Josef Hamell (T) by fall at 1:03
175: Olan Lentz (H) def. Ethan Rusher (T) by fall at 2:20
190: Ian Anderson (H) def. Blake Daugherty (T) by dec. 6-2
215: Colton Weiss (H) def. Lucas Carnahan (T) by fall at 0:23
285: Colton Kala (T) def. Mason Currie (H) by fall at 0:51
Record: Hillsboro (2-0).

Panthers Take Down Rams

The Litchfield High School wrestling team picked up a victory over Shelbyville on Tuesday, Nov. 28, in a meet on the Rams' home mats.

The Panthers picked up 10 wins in the 14 matches with the Rams, including three by fall and one by major decision.

One of the pins, at 215 pounds, came in the first period as Devin Hansel won by fall with 30 seconds left in the opening frame of his match with Taven Agney.

The other two falls came in the second round as Tristan Staggs and Vincent Moore both improved on their records. The two won in nearly identical times, with Moore defeating Colin Wells at the 3:28 mark of the 113-pound match and Staggs defeating Gavan Rhodes at the 3:29 mark of the 190-pound match.

Braxton Kieffer earned the major decision victory and four points for the Panthers, defeating Kaz Fox 12-4 at 150 pounds.

Litchfield's other six wins were all by forfeit as Tyler Belusko (106), Robert McCoy (120), Creed Robinson (126), Isaiah Johnson (138), Keaton Morgan (165) and Jayden Ellinger (175) earned the free

passes and six points for the Panthers. Shelbyville also benefitted from a forfeit from the Panthers at 285 pounds, with their other three wins coming by fall.

Litchfield also wrestled Cumberland at Shelbyville. Those results will be in a future edition of *The Journal-News*. After two matches on the road, the Panthers return home at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, for their annual duals with Pinckneyville, Auburn, Roxana, Carlinville and PORTA.

Nov. 28 at Shelbyville
Litchfield 58, Shelbyville 24
106: Tyler Belusko (L) won by forfeit
113: Vincent Moore (L) def. Colin Wells (S) by fall at 3:28
120: Robert McCoy (L) won by forfeit
126: Creed Robinson (L) won by forfeit
132: Rodee Fathauer (S) def. Camron Zumwalt (L) by fall at 3:08
138: Isaiah Johnson (L) won by forfeit
144: Nate Sanders (S) def. Shay Westhoff (L) by fall at 2:12
150: Braxton Kieffer (L) def. Kaz Fox (S) by maj. dec. 12-4
157: Ryne Peavler (S) def. Clayton Hauter (L) by fall at 3:43
165: Keaton Morgan (L) won by forfeit
175: Jayden Ellinger (L) won by forfeit
190: Tristan Staggs (L) def. Gavan Rhodes (S) by fall at 3:29
215: Devin Hansel (L) def. Taven Agney (S) by fall at 1:30
285: Gaige Locke (S) won by forfeit
Records: Litchfield (3-2).

JV Toppers Get 18 Wins, 3 Podium Finishes

Before the Hillsboro High School wrestling team got their first varsity match of the season under their belts, the less experienced wrestlers on this year's roster got a chance to build their skills at the Jacksonville Junior Varsity Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 25.

The young Toppers picked up 18 wins on the day, including three podium finishes. Freshman Tytin Wells went 3-1 at 175 pounds, beating Nicholas Brown of Quincy, Elanna Hickman of Alton and Braden Monahan of Glenwood, all by pin, before falling to Martez Williams of Cahokia in the championship match.

Fellow freshman Gavin Shomaker placed fifth in the 190-pound class, losing just one of his five matches of the day. Shomaker defeated Lincoln Jones of Jacksonville by fall before losing to Chance Crissey of Auburn in round two. Shomaker bounced back in the wrestlebacks, though, beating Gavin Hop-

kins of Beardstown, Cannon Creviston of Illinois United (the co-op made up of Jacksonville Routt, the Illinois School for the Deaf and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired), and Trey Gause of Illinois United to capture fifth.

Like Shomaker, sophomore Colton Weiss also took fifth with a 4-1 record, splitting his first two matches with a pin against William Woosley of Alton and a loss to Cody Moss of Glenwood. After beating Tristan Souder of Jerseyville in his first consolation bracket match, Weiss beat Randall Hart of Auburn 5-4 in sudden victory, then pinned Zander Tate of Vandalia at the 2:20 mark to finish fifth.

"Our team got a lot of on the job learning today. Overall, it was a great day for Hillsboro wrestling as we are building the future with our young guys," Coach Garrett Young said. "They fought hard and came away with some great experience."

The Toppers will participate in another JV tournament on Dec. 9, in Jerseyville, but also have varsity meets on Friday, Dec. 1 at home against Carlyle and Althoff and on Thursday, Dec. 7, on the road at Roxana with Vandalia.

Nov. 25 at Jacksonville
Jacksonville JV Tournament
Hillsboro Results
120: Abraham Putnam - lost to Lincoln Coffey (Taylorville) by fall at 1:51; lost to James Files (Auburn) by fall at 0:53
120: Liam Kalar - lost to Hector Alvarado (Illinois United) by dec. 8-3; def. Zoei Willis (Alton) by fall at 0:48; lost to Wade Thompson (Vandalia) by dec. 6-1
126: William Wilson - lost to Owen Stevens (Auburn) by fall at 1:23; def. Fontane Gifford (Hillsboro) by fall at 1:27; lost to Azriel Cale (Quincy) by fall at 2:51
126: Fontane Gifford (Hillsboro) - def. Jomal Dandridge (Alton) by fall at 0:52; lost to Brody Shellabarger (Vandalia) by fall at 1:19; lost to William Wilson (Hillsboro) by fall at 1:27
150: Tucker Wilson - lost to Corbin Meyers (Vandalia) by fall over at 0:51; def. Peyton Wittman (Jerseyville) by fall at :56; def. Adan Munoz (Beardstown) by fall at 1:30; lost to Carter Tucker

(Glenwood) by fall at 1:32
165: Westin Fenton - lost to Joey Cavanaugh (Alton) by dec. 11-4; def. Clayton Muder (Quincy) by fall at 1:39; lost to LaTaveon Harley (Alton) by maj. dec. 10-0
175: Tytin Wells (2nd) - def. Nicholas Brown (Quincy) by fall at 3:41; def. E. Hickman (Alton) by fall at 3:24; def. Braden Monahan (Glenwood) by fall at 2:24; lost to Martez Williams (Cahokia) by fall at 1:38
175: Drake McSperritt - lost to Michael Branham (Glenwood) by fall at 0:40; def. Owen Martin (Vandalia) by fall at 1:13; lost to E. Hickman (Alton) by fall at 3:58
190: Gavin Shomaker (5th) - def. Lincoln Jones (Jacksonville) by fall at 3:03; lost to Chance Crissey (Auburn) by fall at 1:38; def. Gavin Hopkins (Beardstown) by fall at 1:00; def. Cannon Creviston (Illinois United) by fall at 3:59; def. Trey Gause (Illinois United) by fall at 5:02
215: Colton Weiss (5th) - def. William Woosley (Alton) by fall at 0:42; lost to Cody Moss (Glenwood) by fall at 3:03; def. Tristan Souder (Jerseyville) by fall at 2:43; def. Randall Hart (Auburn) by sudden victory 5-4; def. Zander Tate (Vandalia) by fall at 2:20
285: Mason Currie - lost to Kelvin Howard (Cahokia) by fall over at 0:31; lost to Joseph Spohrer (Glenwood) by fall at 0:38

Nokomis Boys

Continued from 1B

Drake Taylor also had six points and led Nokomis in rebounds with eight, while Kennedy DeWerff had a team-best six assists to go along with five points. Atticus Bertolino finished out the scoring, netting two points off the bench before fouling out.

Now 1-2 on the season, Nokomis will be off until the calendar turns to December. Their next game is Tuesday, Dec. 5.

They will play next at Sullivan on December 5. The Moultrie County Redskins are 4-0 on the season after

winning the Neoga Tournament and beating Windsor-Stew-Stras 49-30 on Tuesday at home.

Nov. 28 at Nokomis
Lutheran 12 8 17 ---45
Nokomis 11 8 18 13 ---50
Lutheran (45) - Aaden Hillgoss 10, Matt Hemenway 10, Torry Kistner 9, Parker Cloyd 9, Connor McCaffrey 5, Caleb Cox. Totals: 15 11-19 45.
Nokomis (50) - Reece Lohman 20, Mason Stauder 11, Saint Newman 6, Drake Taylor 6, Kennedy DeWerff 5, Atticus Bertolino 2. Totals: 20 9-15 50.
Three-point field goals: Lutheran 4 (Hillgoss 1, McCaffrey 1, Cloyd 1, Hemenway 1); Nokomis 1 (DeWerff 1).

Records: Nokomis (1-2, 1-0); Springfield Lutheran (2-3, 0-1).

Lincolnwood Boys

Continued from 1B

Lincolnwood countered with three straight threes, two from Gabe Armentrout in the left corner and one from Karson Hayes.

After another triple by Montgomery, Jonah Elvidge hit the Lancers' fourth three of the quarter, then scored on a drive to the basket to make it 28-20 in Lincolnwood's favor with 4:23 to play in the first half.

The Timberwolves went on a 5-1 run to cut the margin down to four points with three minutes to play, but Lincolnwood answered again, getting a two from Hayes and five points from Armentrout, including his third three of the quarter. Jared Klein added a free throw in the final five seconds to make it 37-25, but Gibson Dickens cut the deficit to 10 as he was fouled on a three-point attempt and hit two of the three free throws to make it 37-27 going into the break.

The momentum from the second quarter carried over to the third as Jonah Elvidge knocked down two threes before two minutes ticked off the clock, with Gabe Armentrout hitting his fourth three to make it 46-29 with 5:26 to play, giving the Lancers their largest lead.

Okaw Valley bounced back in the second half of the third quarter, though, as they out-scored the Lancers 12-4 to make it 50-41 going into the fourth.

As Lincolnwood did in the transition from the second to the third quarter, the Timberwolves carried over their momentum into the final frame. Starting with a three by Braden Montgomery, Okaw Valley began the fourth quarter on a 9-0 run, with Gibson Dickens tying the game at 50 with 4:18 to go in the game.

After neither team scored in their next possession, Brady Schmedeke broke the tie with a layup off an assist from Gabe Armentrout. Two turnovers by the Timberwolves and a Lincolnwood miss later, Jared Klein made it a four-point game with a layup, only to have Dickens get those points back a few

seconds later.

With 1:08 to play, Montgomery picked up a steal and passed ahead to teammate Chase Ceviston. The Okaw Valley junior laid in the basket to tie the game at 54-54.

Ten seconds later the Lancers regained the lead when Jonah Elvidge scored on a dribble drive to the basket, but again the Timberwolves answered, this time with a steal and score by Dickens with 22 seconds to play.

That set up the go ahead basket for the Lancers as Okaw Valley defended Elvidge's drive to the basket, with his shot going off the side of the backboard. Klein snagged the rebound and put it back up off the glass immediately to make it 58-56.

After a timeout, the Timberwolves got the ball inbound and tried to get a three off for the win, but Lincolnwood defended the play well and held on for the win.

The Lancers finished the game with five players with nine points or more, led by Jonah Elvidge with 15 and Gabe Armentrout with 14. Brady Schmedeke added in a double-double for Lincolnwood, finishing with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Karson Hayes and Jared Klein finished with nine points apiece, while Donny Daugherty added in a free throw to finish out the scoring. Klein also had four assists and eight rebounds for the Lancers, who shot 50 percent in nearly every facet of the game (21-for-41 from the field, 8-of-16 from three, 8-of-16 from the free-throw line).

The Lancers will be in Mt. Olive on Friday, Dec. 1, for a varsity-only MSM Conference game against the Wildcats at 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 28 at Bethany
Lincolnwood 14 23 13 8 ---58
Okaw Valley 14 13 14 15 ---56
Lincolnwood (58) - Jonah Elvidge 15, Gabe Armentrout 14, Brady Schmedeke 10, Jared Klein 9, Karson Hayes 9, Donny Daugherty 1. Totals: 21-41 8-16 58.
Okaw Valley (56) - Gibson Dickens 17, Braden Montgomery 16, Dylan Miller 9, Chase Creviston 7. Totals: 22-48 7-15 56.

Three-point field goals: Lincolnwood 8-16 (Armentrout 4, Elvidge 3, Hayes 1); Okaw Valley 5-15 (Montgomery 4, Dickens 1).
Records: Lincolnwood-Morrisonville (1-4); Okaw Valley (0-4).

Lincolnwood Girls Basketball

Continued from 1B

The Spartans never got closer than six in the second quarter and Lincolnwood continued to pour on the points in the third frame as they stretched out their lead to 43-21. Taylor Lush, who had five points in the first half, more than doubled her point total with six points, including a 4-for-4 performance from the foul line.

Sophie Foster and Leah Anderson also had four points in the quarter as Lincolnwood led by 22 going into

the final frame.

Coach Millburg was able to go to his bench in the fourth quarter as all 12 players on the roster saw the floor. Tori Elvidge led the team in scoring in the fourth with another 4-for-4 clip from the free-throw line, while Sophia Painter, Carly Armentrout, Taylor Lush and Lilly Terneus also scored in the fourth.

With 12 points, Lincolnwood doubled up the Spartans in the quarter and came away with a 55-27 win.

In addition to Terneus' 14 points, Taylor Lush added 13

and Leah Anderson finished with nine. Tori Elvidge also closed in on double figures with eight points, followed by Sophie Foster with four, Taryn Millburg with three and Sophia Painter and Carly Armentrout with two each.

The Lancers will need some of those points in their next game as they take on South Fork in an MSM Conference tilt in Kincaid on Nov. 30. The Ponies are 6-1 on the season with a narrow six-point loss to North Mac and a Waverly Tournament

Championship under their belts already.

Nov. 27 at Raymond
North Greene 8 7 6 6 ---27
Lincolnwood 14 13 16 12 ---55
North Greene (27) - Chelsey Castleberry 9, Layna Bushnell 6, Kierra Hurt 5, Ella Osborne 4, Larissa Heberling 3. Totals: 9-6-14 27.
Lincolnwood (55) - Lily Terneus 14, Taylor Lush 13, Leah Anderson 9, Tori Elvidge 8, Sophie Foster 4, Taryn Millburg 3, Sophia Painter 2, Carly Armentrout 2. Totals: 19 15-20 55.
Three-point field goals: North Greene 3 (Heberling 1, Hurt 1, Castleberry 1); Lincolnwood 2 (Millburg 1, L. Anderson 1).
Records: Lincolnwood (3-4); North Greene (0-5).

Nokomis Girls Basketball

Continued from 1B

The pair repeated the feat for a third time in the third quarter, but got some more help as Camryn Engelman dropped in a three, Cydney Bertolino scored two and Alivia Sabol had a free throw for an 11-point quarter.

Nokomis' first trip into

double digits kept the Comets from adding much to their lead as they scored 12 and led 43-21 going into the fourth.

The Redskins were held to just five points again in the fourth quarter, with Bertolino (2) and Sabol (3) accounting for the scoring, but Greenville only scored six as they finished off the

23-point win.

In addition to her 19 points, Katie Campbell also had five rebounds and eight steals as the Comets forced 33 Nokomis turnovers, compared to just 14 for the home team. Emma Veith added 12 points and three steals, while Shayna Henderson finished with 10 points, four steals and four assists.

As for bright spots for the Redskins, Grace Dewerff doubled her three-point total for the season as she finished with nine points to lead her team in scoring. With her three threes on Monday, DeWerff now has six triples, having made one each against Litchfield, Pawnee and Vandalia.

She also tied for the team lead in assists with three with Natalie Brownback, who was held scoreless for the first time this year, but was second in rebounds (5) in addition to facilitating scoring for her teammates. Kinley Stolte led Nokomis

Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers
Thursday, November 30
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at Southwestern (Varsity first)
Friday, December 1
6 p.m. - Wrestling hosts Carlyle, Althoff
Saturday, December 2
9 a.m. - Freshman Girls Basketball at Pana with Greenville
3:30/5/6:30 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Carlyle Tournament

Lincolnwood Lancers
Thursday, November 30
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at South Fork (Varsity first)
Friday, December 1
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Mt. Olive (Varsity only)

Litchfield Purple Panthers
Thursday, November 30
6 p.m. - Girls Basketball hosts Staunton
Friday, December 1
6 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Lebanon
6 p.m. - Freshman Boys Basketball hosts Alton Marquette
Saturday, December 2
9 a.m. - Wrestling hosts Litchfield
Duals vs. Pinckneyville, Auburn, Roxana, Carlinville, PORTA
10:30 a.m. - Boys Basketball vs. New Berlin at Bank of Springfield Center

Get the scores when we do
twitter.com/JNSports

Chatter works so hard making her...

...tasty holiday dishes and treats!



Newspaper Fun!

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Kids: color stuff in!



Christmas

Hanukkah

Kwanzaa

plum
goose
gingerbread
mincemeat
fruitcake
ham
tamales
eggnog
Yule log
sugarplum

Read the clues to fill in these two crosswords:

Everyone will be cooking, baking, frying, frosting, decorating or at least eating their family's favorite foods for winter holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa!

1. traditional Mexican Christmas dish, popular in southwest U.S. – corn dough with spicy pork or beef filling, wrapped in corn husks before cooking – served with sauce, cream or crumbly fresh cheese
2. treat of sugar, fruits and nuts: rolled into a ball or shaped to look like a fruit or a star
3. meat glazed with honey, brown sugar, mustard and pineapple juice
4. this pie is mostly dried fruit such as raisins – used to be made of chopped meats
5. cake made with candied fruit, nuts, spices
6. treat shaped into a cookie or a house
7. bird roasted, stuffed with apples, prunes, onions and sweet chestnuts (Germany, the United Kingdom and China)
8. pudding; been around for 600 years! – made with meat, pastry and fruits
9. spongy cake rolled like a log and, when cooled, filled with cream – decorated with powdered sugar, candy mushrooms and fresh berries; Bûche de Noël
10. yolks, milk, sugar and cream drink – often spiced with cinnamon or nutmeg

Holiday Foods and Treats



Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that honors the victory the Maccabees (a Jewish group) had over their enemy. It celebrates the rededication of their Temple in Jerusalem after it had been ruined. There was only enough oil in the lamps to keep the eternal flame in the Temple burning for one day. But, the oil kept burning for eight days while fresh oil was prepared! Hanukkah is a joyful celebration of the miracle that lasted for eight days.

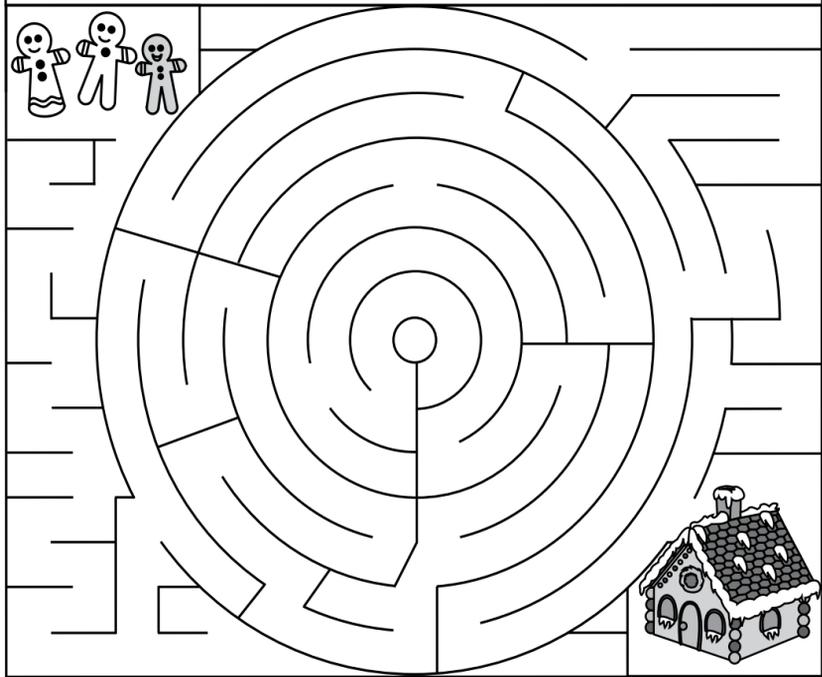
Hanukkah

soofganiot
marshmallow
latke
loukoumades
kugel

1. jelly doughnut served fresh; sugared
2. deep fried puffs dipped in honey
3. part of a cow used in traditional Jewish dishes – holiday pot roast
4. _____ Dreidels – treat made using different candies
5. made with egg noodles – can be served with vegetables or fruit
6. potato pancake fried with onions – cheeses or vegetables added

Gingerbread Journey!

Help the Gingerbread family find its way home for the holidays.



Kwanzaa is a seven-day holiday celebrated by African-Americans and people in other countries whose families are from Africa. It is a time to think about their lives, family, history and community. It is a time of lighting candles, feasting and gift-giving.



yassa chicken



Kwanzaa

peanut soup
koki
okra
sweet potatoes
jollof rice

1. used in casserole, fritters and pies
2. dish with tomato paste, peppers, onions
3. rich soup (onions, red peppers, chicken, rice)
4. fried _____ – vegetable is coated with flour, cornmeal, eggs, salt and pepper
5. main dish, flavored with citrus and cooked until crispy
6. traditional appetizer made from black-eyed peas

Sweet Holiday Treats!

Oh, sweet holiday treats! One favorite cookie is called 'pfeffernusse' – a spicy, round cookie covered with powdered sugar. Silver and gold-wrapped chocolate coins are another favorite treat.

Read the clues below to fill in the puzzle with some more favorite holiday treats:

1. hard candy stick usually colored red and white – peppermint, cinnamon or fruity flavors
2. pecans, pistachios, cashews, almonds – spiced with cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, sugars
3. sweet cake made with ginger and honey – name comes from Germany
4. colorful, sugary treat stretched flat, and then folded back and forth
5. made of sugar and almond meal – origin of this treat is believed to be the Middle East – formed into all sorts of shapes, such as fruits or cartoon characters
6. dough cut into fun shapes and frosted to look like a Christmas Tree or a snowman – can be decorated with all sorts of candy toppings



Sweet Holiday Treats

stollen
marzipan
spiced nuts
ribbon candy
candy cane
cookie

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Nokomis FFA Quizbowl Takes Third

The Nokomis FFA Quizbowl team placed third at a competitive Section 19 quizbowl competition on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Pictured above, from left to right, team members Fausto Centeno, Talon Rivers, Peyton Harrison, Reese Goodin and Katelyn Marley, as well as Section 19 FFA President Tessa Saxe.

Write Letters Of Support To Veterans

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) has launched the 2023 "Operation Rising Spirit," campaign encouraging service organizations, schools, communities and individuals to write letters of appreciation and support to veterans residing at the state veterans' homes.

"Last year, over 5,000 letters were distributed to veterans in our care, which provided an abundance of holiday cheer into the

homes," said Director Terry Prince. "We encourage volunteer groups, families and schools to participate in this kind gesture of gratitude to Illinois veterans."

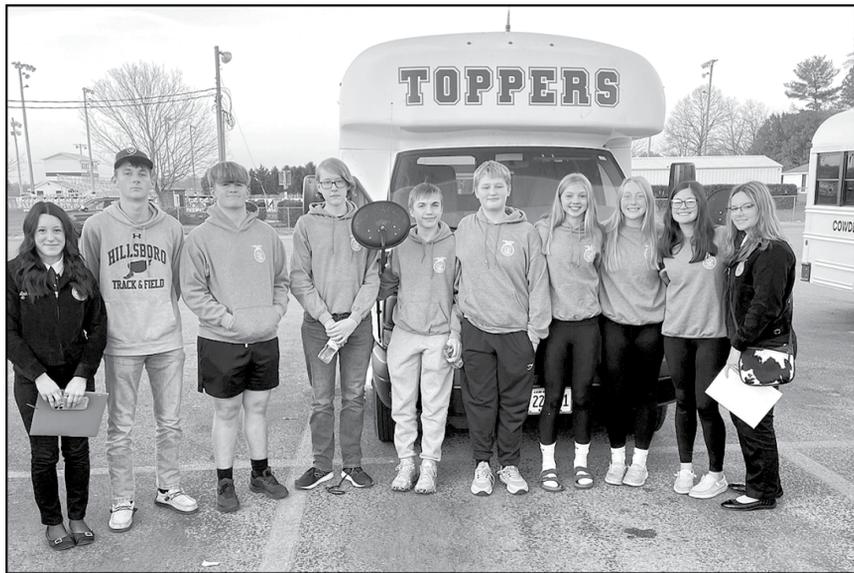
To participate, notes may be sent directly to the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. Letters will be disseminated equally to the five homes. They should be mailed to Crystal Womack, The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Of-

fice, 833 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62794-9432.

Notes may also be sent directly through the IDVA website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/services%20benefits/homes/Pages/send-a-note.aspx>

Operation Rising Spirit was launched in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to support residents who were unable to visit with family and friends.

The successful campaign encouraged veterans and facilitated their connection with the community.



Topper Greenhand Team Earns Second

On Nov. 15, the same night as the Job Interview competition, several Hillsboro High School FFA members headed to Shelbyville to attend the annual Greenhand Quiz Bowl Section 19 CDE. Because this is a Greenhand competition, only first year members are allowed to participate. Hillsboro's team included Liam Blackburn, Will Yeske, Abraham Putnum, Carson Huber, Peyton Chappelle, Delaney Adams and Sloan Bertolino.

Over the course of the evening, members worked hard to quickly answer FFA-related questions. This great contest teaches new FFA members important information about the FFA organization. In the first round, Hillsboro fell to Mulberry Grove 11-9. After that, they defeated Cowden-Herrick, South Central, Pana and then Nokomis. In the championship round, they lost a close game to Mulberry Grove. Hillsboro ended up placing second overall.

Submitted by Hillsboro FFA Reporter Milla Anderson

Vandalia Statehouse Plans Candlelight Tours

The Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, the oldest surviving capitol building in Illinois which served as the state capitol from 1836 to 1839, will host public candlelight tours from 5 to 7 p.m. the evening of Saturday, Dec. 9 as part of the site's annual Christmas open house.

The building will be illuminated by more than 150 candles and trimmed with holiday decorations. Visitors will be invited to stroll through the historic site while enjoying a cup of hot apple cider and homemade cookies donated by the Vandalia High School Okaw culinary class.

Free Christmas ornaments will be given to the first 100 families to visit the site. They will also be collect-

ing non-perishable or canned food items to donate to the local food pantry.

The event is hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which manages the site, and the Old Capitol Foundation.

The site, located at 315 W. Gallatin St., is open to the public 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, call 618-283-1161.



The Director's Hunt is a two-day pheasant and chukar hunting event, followed by a banquet. Hunters gather from across Illinois with camaraderie.

Illinois Conservation Foundation Hunt A Hit

The 2023 Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) Director's Hunt Event was successful for the ninth year in a row. State representative Wayne Rosenthal of Morrisonville joined several other hunters at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area to show support for conservation and youth education.

For conservation education, outdoor recreation and outdoor heritage opportunities. Additionally, the Pheasant Forever/Quail Forever assistance contributes to a successful event along with the volunteer dog handlers.

For more information, contact Rep. Rosenthal's office at 217-782-8071 or visit his website at repsenthal.com

"This event has been successful for nine years and continues to help the Illinois Department of Natural Resources highlight the importance of preserving conservation," said Rep. Rosenthal. "The ICF does an incredible job of fostering programs and events that are committed to youth education."

The Illinois Conservation Foundation was founded in 1995 and has partnered with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to protect and enhance the natural wonders of Illinois.

The Director's Hunt is a two-day pheasant and chukar hunting event, followed by a banquet. Hunters gather from across Illinois with camaraderie. It is one event out of many that helps raise awareness and resources

Crop Condition

There were 6.0 days suitable for field work during the week ending Nov. 26.

Statewide, the average temperature was 37.6 degrees, 1.2 degrees below normal. Precipitation averaged 0.56 inches, 0.20 inches below normal.

Topsoil moisture supply was rated 13 percent very short, 34 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supply was rated 17 percent very short, 40 percent short, 41 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

Winter wheat emerged reached 93 percent, compared to the five-year average of 90 percent. Winter wheat condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 57 percent good and 15 percent excellent.

This is the final weekly NASS Illinois Crop Progress and Condition report for 2023. Monthly reports will be released January through March, with weekly reports resuming in April 2024.

The NASS thanks all contributing reporters for their hard work this year.

Farmground For Sale

+/- 53 Acres offered in 2 Tracts, North Litchfield Township

- +/- 40 Acres Parcel ID 10-27-300-003
- +/- 13 Acres Parcel ID 10-34-100-017

Borders City of Litchfield, adjacent to the North of Ballpark Trail. Offers accepted through December 31.

Contact LFproperty1934@gmail.com for information.

CLASS A MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARMLAND ONLINE AUCTION
DEC. 13, 6PM • West of I-55, Litchfield, IL

37.706 Acres that is 100% Tillable land. The farm has an average PI rating of 130.1. This tract is part of PIN:10-29-300-008. Real Estate Taxes Estimated at \$1,249. Earnest Money: \$25,000. Legal Description: Pt NW ¼ of NW ¼ Section 29, T9N R5W, Montgomery County, IL. Great Location just West of Interstate 55 along East 1st Rd.

Seller, Mark & Marcie Hartke | Kent Aumann, Auction Manager

QUALITY MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARMLAND ONLINE AUCTION
DEC. 14, 6PM • North of Donnellson, IL

Tract #1: 60.582 Acres with approx. 58 acres tillable. The farm has an average PI rating of 119.6. This tract is part of PIN: 21-19-100-012 & 21-19-100-022. Real Estate Taxes Estimated at \$1,706. Earnest Money: \$25,000

Tract #2: 23.881 Acres with approx. 23.881 acres tillable. The farm has an average PI rating of 119.1. This tract is part of PIN: 21-19-100-012. Real Estate Taxes Estimated at \$673. Earnest Money: \$15,000

Tract #3: 24.587 Acres with approx. 24 acres tillable. The farm has an average PI rating of 112.8. This tract is part of PIN: 21-18-400-003. Real Estate Taxes Estimated at \$565. Earnest Money: \$15,000

Tract #4: 32.15 Acres with approx. 4 acres tillable. This is a recreational use or building site. Access is being granted thru an owned 30' wide area along the north of Tract #3 leading out to Buckeye Trail. PIN: 22-18-300-003. Real Estate Taxes: \$195.02. Earnest Money: \$5,000

Tract #5: 21.247 Acres with approx. 21.247 acres tillable. The farm has an average PI rating of 112.9. This tract is part of PIN: 21-18-400-003. Real Estate Taxes Estimated at \$487 Earnest Money: \$15,000

Tract #6: 16.093 Acres with approx. 16.093 acres tillable. The farm has an average PI rating of 115. This tract is part of PIN: 21-18-400-003. Real Estate Taxes Estimated at \$369. Earnest Money: \$10,000

All of the tillable land has a lease Dated July 2, 2021 between Donnellson Solar, LLC c/o National Grid Renewables Development, LLC and Mildred Balla by Daniel L. Balla, POA. Payment details and terms are detailed within the lease. A letter from July 10, 2023 updating the project, stating a projected timeline. These documents are in the attachments tab of the auction listing for your review.

Seller, Mildred E. Balla Estate, Barb Winkler, Executor | Alan Pretnar, Attorney for the Estate
Kent Aumann, Auction Manager

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The Journal-News

431 S. Main St. • P O Box 100 • Hillsboro, IL 62049-0100
Phone 217-532-3933 • FAX 217-532-3632

PUBLIC AUCTION

THURS., NOV. 30 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only rare IL license plates, records, comics, baseball cards, and more from the collection of Michael McKnight. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Preview Nov. 27, 4-6 p.m. & checkout Dec. 1, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Adam 618-267-3086, Wayne 618-920-6694, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., DEC. 7 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends with soft close for online only country farm auctions for Kenneth Eugene "Smitty" Smith, 53 Nice Ln., Fillmore. 495 lots incl. 6 tractors, farm equip., horse & flatbed trailers, hay equip., car, truck, zero turn mowers, '17 Kawasaki 4010 Mule, Amish buggies, horse tack, tools, scrap iron, JD collectibles, household, furn., appls., collectibles, etc. Register/bid at whiteauctionservice.hibid.com. Eric White, auctioneer, 217-556-2135.

THURS., DEC. 7 - 10 a.m. at 59 N. 1900 East Rd., Rosamond for the Joe & Lucy Gleespen retirement. Open house Nov. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. JD tractors, Kubota tractor, JD combine, heads, tillage & planting, semi, fork-lift, JD Ultimate riding mower, GPS & farm support items, more. Joseph Gleespen, 217-827-8100. Sullivan Auctioneers, sales rep: Justin Cooper, 217-415-3852, view full listing at www.sullivanauctioneers.com.

SUN., DEC. 10 - 6 p.m. soft close. Bidding ends for online auction for Pastrovich family at 610 Kirkham St., Litchfield. Preview Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pickup/check out Dec. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. '57 Chevy Bel-Air, '09 Yamaha Star 650 motorcycle, '97 Kawasaki & '96 Honda Fourtrax 4-wheelers, RR crossing signals, breweriana, man cave items, collectibles, furniture, tools, more. Mike Crabtrees, auctioneer, 217-473-2507, mikecrabtreeauctions.hibid.com.

WED., DEC. 13 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction of Class A Montgomery Co. farmland located West of I-55, Litchfield. 37.706 acres, 100% tillable, along East 1st Rd. Bid now at aumannauctions.com, 217-563-2523. Mark & Marcie, sellers. Kent Aumann, auction mgr. Aumann Auctions.

THURS., DEC. 14 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for Quality Montgomery Co. farmland located N. of Donnellson. Land to be sold in 6 tracts. Bid now at aumannauctions.com, 217-563-2523. Mildred E. Balla estate, seller. Kent Aumann, auction mgr. Aumann Auctions.

FRI., DEC. 15 - 10 a.m. located at 22198 E. 5th Rd., Raymond, IL 62560 for Wempen Farms retirement auction. Open house Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Newer tractors & machinery. Tractors, combine & heads, grain carts, augers, planter, seed tender, field cult., disk ripper, grain truck, flatbed trailer. Melvin Wempen, seller, 217-254-9816. Justin Cooper, 217-415-3852 & Kolby Hennessy, 217-430-1220, sales reps. Sullivan Auctioneers, www.sullivanauctioneers.com.

SAT., DEC. 16 - 9 a.m. Machinery consignment auction located ½ mi. N. of Carlinville on Rt. 4 North at Sievers Equip. Co. Contact Rick as soon as possible to bring in any ag-related items that you want to sell. See www.rickstewartauctioneer.com for the latest pictures & updates. Rick Stewart, auctioneer, 217-854-3191 or 217-473-2985.

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6B - Thursday, November 30, 2023



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

Announcements

Notices

SANTA AND Mrs. Claus available for your special events. 618-920-6485

Employment

Clerical, Office

MID-STATE SPECIAL Education is seeking a full-time executive secretary. Candidates must have earned a high school diploma or equivalent, as well as have expertise in Microsoft Office programs, office administration experience, and excellent interpersonal, communication, organizational, and time management skills. Pay is competitive and based off of experience. To apply: visit <https://www.midstatespec.org/join-our-team/>, call or email Bobbi Fisher at 217-526-8121, ext. 244 or bobbi.fisher@mid-statespec.org.

Merchandise

Firewood

FIREWOOD, SEASONED oak, split. \$75. 217-556-5800

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. 217-825-9730, 217-710-5973

Furniture

MATTRESS SALE: Twin mattress \$159, full \$209, queen \$249, Mattress Direct across from Litchfield Walmart. 217-324-3636

Miscellaneous

LEAF BLOWERS for sale: 217-851-1411

FOR SALE: Two Barbie dolls, a collector's edition from 2000, a Millennium Princess, still in boxes. \$40 each. 217-532-3560

Services

General Services

SMALL DOG grooming. Call Jody 217-246-8256

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

Transportation

Automobiles

FOR SALE: 1991 Dodge Daytona Shelby, 83,000 miles, custom paint, 5 speed on the floor. Rare car, only 187 produced - fun too! \$2000. Call 217-710-7319 or 217-710-6384.

Police

Litchfield Police

- Jeffrey M. Holmes, 43, of Vandalia was cited for possession of a controlled substance at 1:03 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, at the 4000 block of east IL Rt. 16.
- Deven K. Boeck, 24, of Hillsboro, was jailed for possession of meth at 3 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at the intersection of IL Rt. 16 and Van Buren.
- Tonya L. Burdell, 39, of Litchfield, was jailed on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant at 11:42 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, at the intersection of Jackson and Tyler.
- Jordan T. Primo, 23, of Litchfield, was jailed on an outstanding Montgomery County warrant at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the 300 block of W. Union.
- Kimberly O. Baker, 35, of Staunton, was cited for retail theft and possession of drug paraphernalia at 1:48 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at Walmart.
- Joyce M. Manna, 57, of Harvel, was cited for theft of lost or mislaid property at 2:16 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at the 1200 block of W. Ferdon.
- Charles A. Horn, 31, of Litchfield, was jailed for domestic battery and aggravated assault at 11 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at the 1300 S. McKinley.
- Steven T. Torbeck, 45, of Vandalia, was jailed for domestic battery at 11:20 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the intersection of State and

- Union.
- Dominick A. Vargo, 22, of Litchfield, was cited for reckless conduct at 4:22 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at the 900 block of S. Van Buren.
- Joshua D. Logsdon, 36, of Litchfield, was cited for driving on a revoked license, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, no valid registration, unsafe equipment and improper towing at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, on S. Franklin St.
- Alaina M. Hood, 36, of Litchfield, was cited for two dogs running at large at 1:05 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the 300 block of E. Clark.
- Elizabeth M. Miller, 20, of Staunton, was cited operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 12:31 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the intersection of Ferdon and Adams.
- Haley B. Hatfield, 42, of Hillsboro, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 11:33 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Jefferson.
- Amber R. Brackett, 29, of Gillespie, was cited for expired registration at 8:47 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the intersection of Ryder and Jackson.
- Brandy I. Lasko, 22, of Gillespie, was cited for expired registration at 7:13 p.m., Nov. 28, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Ohren.
- Samuel M. Barylske, 25, of Benld, was cited for operating an uninsured

- motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle under suspended registration at 1:43 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Adams.
- Matthew S. Harris, 27, of Sparta, was cited for cancelled, revoked, or suspended registration at 11:54 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at the intersection of Union and Lincoln.
- Elbert H. Smith, 80, of Litchfield, was cited for expiring a stop sign and expired registration at 5:37 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, on N. Monroe.
- Blake R. Laskch, 23, of Staunton, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and improper traffic lane usage at 3:19 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Rt. 66.
- Tracey N. Watson, 36, of Hillsboro, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 7:39 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, at the intersection of Union and Adams.
- Katelyn S. Holmes, 20, of Benld, was cited for operating a motor vehicle with suspended registration at 7:39 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at the intersection of Union and Jackson.
- Charles V. Bond, 31, of Mt. Olive, was cited for transporting open alcohol or liquor as a passenger at 2:47 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at the intersection of Union and Jackson.
- Deven K. Boeck, 24,

- of Hillsboro, was cited for transporting open alcohol or liquor as a passenger at 2:47 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, at the intersection of Union and Jackson.
- Brittany K. Boykin, 32, of Wood River, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 9:10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, at the intersection of Union and Jackson.
- Kyler W. Jeffers, 37, of Raymond, was cited for expired registration at 2:42 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, on Columbian Blvd.
- Tammy J. Watson, 52, of Dupo, was cited for expired registration at 10:52 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the intersection of Tyler and Jackson.
- Caden A. White, 19, of Hillsboro, was cited for expired registration at 8:18 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at the intersection of Union and Locust.
- Justin M. Redman, was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, on W. IL Rt. 16.

- Janice. S. Pearson, 86, of Taylor Springs, was cited for speeding at 8:47 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, at Vandalia and Mechanic Street in Hillsboro.
- Tickets for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle were issued to Caleb W. Warner, 28, of Vandalia, at 11:38 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, on Vandalia Road and Kinkead in Hillsboro.
- Marshall N. Bechtel, 33, of Coffeen, was ticketed for speeding and disregarding a stop sign at 10:39 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, on Smith Road at Industrial Drive in Hillsboro.
- Tracy L. Lavender, 29, of Hillsboro, was cited for no valid registration and operating an uninsured vehicle at 8:04 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at Fairground and Big Four in Hillsboro.
- A ticket for expired registration was issued to Sarah A. Coulter, 40, of Sorento, at 6:47 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, on Seymour Avenue at Yount Drive in Hillsboro.
- Brandy L. Cole, 47, of Raymond, was cited for expired registration and driving under the influence at 12:02 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10, on School Street at 18th in Hillsboro.
- A ticket for improper lane usage was issued to Michael Raymond, 17, of Irving, at 7:52 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, on Kinkead Road at Summit Street in Hillsboro.

Hillsboro Police

- Colin R. Osborn, 21, of Nokomis, was cited for improper turn signal and driving under the influence at 2:22 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at Fairground and Vandalia Avenue in Hillsboro.
- A ticket for speeding was issued to Mason C. Williams, 20, of Sparks, NV, at 1:18 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 23, on at Vandalia and Mechanic in Hillsboro.

Title Transfers

November 20

- Charles A. Nowlan, Dean A. Nowlan POA to Janice K. Huber, Ryan W. Marley, WD, 2 Pts. SW/SE Sec. 35, East Fork Twp.
- Larry D. Keiser to Jamee Dunn, Jamee Dunn Francisco, Jamee Dunn Francisco, WD, Lot 1, Blk. 10, Pt. Lot 2, Blk. 10, Hardebeck's Subn.
- Barbara L. Caulk Tr., Lonnie E. and Barbara L. Caulk Tr. to Lane Caulk, Laura M. Caulk, Trustee's Deed, Pt. NH NE/NE Sec. 27, Irving Twp.
- Kimberly Caruthers, Ronda Codema, Vickie Dewerff, David Ellis, Scott Ellis, Lisa Mulch to Ronda Y. Codema Tr., Vesta Ellis Trust, QCD, Pt. SE/NE Sec. 36, Butler Grove Twp.

November 21

- Laura A. Bass, Jonathan T. Wells to Jonathan T. Wells, QCD, 2 Pts. SE/NW Sec. 26, Fillmore Twp.
- Litchfield Union Street Properties to Next Network, WD, Pt. WH Lot 1, Blk. 12, Litchfield Original Town.
- Litchfield State Street Properties to Next Network, WD, Pt. Lot 2, Blk. 12, Litchfield Original Town.
- Katlin Furness, Katlin Miller to Austin Furness, QCD, Lot 20, Westwood Subn.
- Karen E. Funk to Matthew Joseph Houser, QCD, Pt. SE/NE Sec. 1, North Litchfield Twp.

November 22

- Lesley D. Staley, Leslie D. Staley, Randy Staley to

- Cody A. Jackson, Kyleah B. Jackson, WD, Pt. Lot 4, Blk 15, 2 Pts. Lot 3, Blk. 15, Pierces Addn.
- RH Rentals to Brandon Hohimer, Hannah Hohimer, Corporation Deed, Pt. Lot 23, Blk. 91, Litchfield EB Subn.
- Carola Compagni Estate, John A. Compagni Exec. to John A. Compagni, Executor's Deed, Lot 48, SH Lot 47, Kettlekamps Addn., Nokomis.
- Barbara E. Marten to BEM Trust No 082646, Barbara E. Marten Tr., QCD, Pt. NW Sec. 3, North Litchfield Twp.
- Montgomery County Tr. Trust No 1505226012 to City of Litchfield, Deed, Pt. Lot 11, Blk. 2, Pt. Lot 14, Blk.

- 2, Millers Addn., Litchfield.
- Angela M. Bingenheimer Tr. Theresa M. Fuchs Tr., Earl H. Voyles Trust to Chad Millburg, Heather Millburg, Trustee's Deed, NH NE/SE Sec. 17, Pitman Twp.
- Rita A. Spoor to Janelle M. Garrison, WD, Pt. Lots 4, 5 & 6, Blk. 3, Raymond Original Town.
- Mary L. Martin to Drake Paden, Makenzie Paden, Pt. NH SE Sec. 11, Hillsboro Twp.
- Ronald L. Dewerff to Inez Dewerff Trust, Ronald L. Dewerff Tr., Trustee's Deed, NW Sec. 1, Irving Twp.
- Free online Search of Montgomery County, IL Land Records at www.montgomeryco.com/coun-tyclerk/recording/record-

search. Search, View and Print Montgomery County, IL Land Records online at www.landrecords.net at \$8.75 per search. Sign up for Property Fraud Alerts at www.propertyfraudalert.com.

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CARDS FOR SALE

Approximately 30,000 cards for sale, mostly baseball, football, basketball, and presidential candidates (2008, 2016, 2020 election). Panini, Topps, Topps Chrome, Bowman, Bowman Chrome, Donruss, Gypsy Queen, and Heritage. Many inserts, autographed, and worn jersey cards. Most are in binders or top loaders. All in perfect condition. Approximately 150 have been graded. Most are big-name players, 70s through 2023. Many rookies. May inspect anytime. Must see to appreciate. \$10,000. Call 217-827-6201.

FULL TIME CLERK - CITY OF LITCHFIELD

The City of Litchfield has an immediate opening for a full-time Clerk. Job duties focus on finance including bank reconciliation and assisting customers with utility payments. Banking, bookkeeping, or accounting experience and residency within 62056 zip code required. Starting salary \$35,000, IMRF pension, health, and life benefits. Qualified applicants should submit a completed City of Litchfield application, resumé, and a list of three professional references to Carol Burke, City Clerk, City of Litchfield, 120 E Ryder Street, Litchfield, Illinois 62056. Applications will be accepted through Friday, December 15, 2023.

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 Must have drivers license.
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 To Place Your Classified Ad

STREET DEPARTMENT JOB OPENING
 The City of Hillsboro will be accepting applications for a laborer/operator in the street department. Reporting to the department supervisor, the person filling this position will have regular day-to-day duties that include a variety of infrastructure repair and maintenance, brush removal, snow removal, etc.
 All applicants must obtain an application from the City's website, www.hillsboroilinois.net or the Hillsboro City Clerk's Office at 447 S. Main St., Hillsboro, IL between the hours of 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday. The completed application must be returned to Hillsboro City Hall by Friday, December 15, 2023 at 4 pm. For more information on the position contact Hillsboro City Hall at 217-532-5566.
Fred Butler
 Commissioner of Streets & Public Property

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Full Time Special Education Support Personnel (Aide) at Hillsboro High School
Certificate: Illinois Para Professional License* (Requires one of the following): Associates degree; 60 semester hours of college coursework; High School Diploma & ETS ParaPro test score of 460 or High School Diploma & ACT Work keys test score of 4. *(The District will assist eligible candidates in obtaining this licensure.)
Job Description: Support students identified with special needs in grades 9-12, providing academic and/or physical assistance as required. Position may include accompanying and supervising students during off-site work study.
Starting Date: January 2, 2024
Salary: Per district contract with the Hillsboro Federation of Teaching Assistants
Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patti Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont; Hillsboro, IL 62049; Email to: pheyen@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.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Student Council Advisor
Qualifications: Strong organizational skills and willingness to work with students in developing and conducting events and activities that offer leadership and community service opportunities, promote school spirit, and enable student voice
Job Description: Organize meetings, supervise activities, plan and execute Homecoming assembly and coronation, manage funds, collaborate with other groups to promote student engagement
Starting Date: Beginning 2024-25 School Year
Salary: Per HUEA Contract Schedule B
Submit Application/Resumé/Transcripts/Certificates/Letters to: Patricia Heyen, Principal; Hillsboro High School; 522 E. Tremont St.; Hillsboro, IL 62049; email: pheyen@hillsboroschools.net; Phone: 217-532-2841
Due By: December 18, 2023
 We do not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap.

VACANCY NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District #3

Position: Pre-K Teacher's Aide
Certification: Para Professional Certification or willingness to obtain the certification
Job Description: Working with Pre-kindergarten Students
Salary: To be determined by the Board of Education
Send Employee Application (available at the District's website), Resumé, Copies of Transcripts and Certificates, and 3 letters of reference to: Marci Gutierrez, Pre-K Director, Coffeen Early Childhood Center, 200 School St., Coffeen, IL 62017 or email to: mgutierrez@hillsboroschools.net. Phone (217) 532-7822
Due By: 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.

Illinois Christmas Veterans Memorial Set For Dec. 2

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host the annual Christmas Remembrance Ceremony for Illinois soldiers listed as prisoners of war or missing in action (POW/MIA) during the Vietnam War on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield.

The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m., and it's open to the public. Family and friends of soldiers will have the opportunity to hang handmade, heart-shaped ornaments with the names of loved ones on a tree near the memorial. The Black Tiger Honor Guard will serve as the color guard. The names of the POW/MIA soldiers will be read aloud, and the ceremony will also include music courtesy of the Land

of Lincoln Chorus. Visit <https://veterans.illinois.gov/memorials/vietnam-veterans-memorial>.

html to learn more about the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Oak Ridge Cemetery.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

FOR SALE: BY SEALED BIDS

2016 RAM 1500

VIN# 3C6RR7LT5GG232814

Vehicles to be sold "as is" by **First Community Bank of Hillsboro, 807 S. Main, P.O. Box 40, Hillsboro, IL, (217) 532-2030**. Sealed bids will be opened at the bank on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. First Community Bank of Hillsboro reserves the right to reject any or all bids; bids cannot be raised once opened.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on November 21, 2023, 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: WILLOW LANE SPA located at 317 W. UNION in the city of LITCHFIELD and state of IL.
Dated November 21, 2023
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
56-3T*

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on November 29, 2023, 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: CAPRI IGA HILLSBORO located at 1201 VANDALIA RD. in the city of HILLSBORO and state of IL.
Dated November 29, 2023
Sandy Leitheiser,
County Clerk
58-3T*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hillsboro Community Unit School District No. 3 Annual Financial Statement

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

Hillsboro CUSD 3 School District/Joint Agreement Name	1311 Vandalia Rd Hillsboro, IL 62049 2034 Address	217-532-2942 Telephone	8:00-4:00 Office Hours
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Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2023

	Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety	
Local Sources	1000	9,224,333	1,280,222	1,315,396	593,518	888,271	1,415,927	113,744	720,271	90,806
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	236,391	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	6,791,344	500,000	0	652,611	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	3,343,081	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues	19,595,149	1,780,222	1,315,396	1,246,129	888,271	1,415,927	113,744	720,271	90,806	
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures	16,598,242	1,495,727	1,383,519	1,402,417	912,093	1,741,935		852,406	0	
Other Sources/Uses of Funds	(69,979)	0	69,979	354,567	0	7,662,381	0	0	0	
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2022	6,793,391	235,903	89,313	243,802	435,927	1,752,060	3,590,987	1,214,067	425,089	
Other Changes in Fund Balances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023	9,720,319	520,398	91,169	442,081	412,105	9,088,433	3,704,731	1,081,932	515,895	
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023	9,972,069	520,398	91,169	442,081	412,105	9,088,433	3,704,731	1,081,932	515,895	

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Armour, Kayley A.; Armour, Kensey A.; Beckett, Rachel L.; Billingsley, Lisa K.; Buerkett, Dyke, Burge, Barry L.; Butler, Brooke A.; Cady, Mary Megan; Chumley, Brent R.; Deming, Macey R.; Donham, Karen M.; Emery, Joseph C.; Estes, Jennifer A.; Forys, Shelly A.; Fulhorst, Joshua J.; Fuselier, Maurie A.; Gould, Melissa A.; Green, Chelsey; Hanner, Kaili J.; Harmon, Ashley E.; Hiller, Pamela D.; Hollingshead, Tresa R.; Horn, Joshua L.; Huston, Winfrey Earl; Isaak, Lisa J.; Johnson, Ariel B.; Jones, Dustin T.; Jörn, Spencer N.; Koschak, Abbie J.; Liebscher, Marcia E.; Major, Lindsey A.; Malloy, Julia A.; Marsh, Melinda K.; Mathews, Mary E.; Mills, Connie D.; Moore, Audra M.; Murray, Nicki R.; Naylor, Carol K.; Newton, Hailey O.; Paden, Makenzie G.; Pesko, Brian L.; Rose, Ashley D.; Scott, Lara D.; Spaeth, Sheila M.; Spencer, Caitlin L.; Tarr, Maggie J.; Tharouniati, Eleni; Voyles, Caitlyn L.; Voyles, Scott R.; Webster, Sidney R.; Weiss, Jennifer E.; Whitworth, Patricia W.; Young, Meagan L.

Salary Range: \$25,000-\$39,999

Boehme, Brooke M.; Edwards, Brittney R.; Fair, Miranda R.; Govaia, Corbin J.; Huber, Margaret A.; Kaculi, Angela M.; Parks, Corey M.; Plum, Samuel L.; Stoecklin, Amber K.; Tarasui, Heidi C.; Thompson, Kayla A.; Tuetken, Lauryn R.

Salary Range: \$40,000-\$59,999

Alexander, Mallory Alyse; Atkins, Brian Keith; Barth, Catherine M.; Blevins, Larry D.; Brown, Carley B.; Cearlock, Jennifer C.; Cruse, III, Donald E.; Drake, Daniel D.; Eaker, Alana R.; Gonzalez, Elizabeth A.; Gruner, Amy L.; Hammann, Erin E.; Harbert, Brandi D.; Heldebrandt, Lacey L.; Hellums, Jaclyn M.; Hodo, Rachel T.; Holderread, Megan M.; Jones, Andrew J.; Keown, Carl E.; Krieg, Renae M.; Leek, Blair E.; Luckett, Alison R.; Lynch, Haley A.; Malloy, Evan D.; Martincic, Shelby B.; Mattson, David R.; McCoy, Kelby; Meade, Morgan A.; Millburg, Brittany Marie; Olroyd, Jessica L.; Paden, Stephanie D.; Polus, Lyle David; Pope, Danielle C.; Pope, Sean D.; Powell, Kelly R.; Reed, Hannah B.; Reed, Zachary A.; Reynolds, Abby C.; Rogers, Andrea N.; Satterlee, Melissa J.; Shultz, James Aaron; Stewart, Kathryn S.; Teague, Keri S.; Tester, Ann T.; Trader, Angelica L.; Wall, Amanda Nycole; Wygal, Zachary D.

Salary Range: \$60,000-\$89,999

Anderson, Jennifer Lee; Andrews, Kristy Lynn; Atkins, Deborah Diane; Baker, Kathy Dianne; Bauman, Melanie A.; Brauns, Gayla D.; Brown, Dacia K.; Burke, Jason L.; Clark, Florence J.; Coleman, Beth V.; Connor, Amber N.; Coziar, John B.; Cunningham, Benjamin David; Daniels, Shannon L.; Deluka, Kristine L.; Duff, Aaron S.; Duff, Jamie L.; Durbin, Andrea R.; Eddington, Dawn M.; Gallion, Noah J.; Garmon, Mark E.; Gorowski, Brooke A.; Gutierrez, Marci A.; Hacke, Amy R.; Harnetiaux, Elizabeth M.; Harrison, Jamie L.; Hernandez, Patricia J.; Hilgert, Katie Jo; Hires, Kari Anne; Hoehn, Kelly M.; Hoffman, Mollie M.; Huber, Laura-Lee; Jörn, Marcy J.; Kindernay, Elise M.; Kloss, Karla D.; Knodle, Amy S.; Kumlin, Andrea Jeanne; Lemons, Amy B.; Lessman, Laura B.; Lipe, Blake A.; Lomppez, Lisa L.; Lunz, Thomas S.; Manasco, Amy M.; McBrain, Hope E.; McBrain, Kyle W.; Miller, Ann L.; Morford, Alycia K.; Morford, Tim P.; Olson, Heidi L.; Reed, Joseph W.; Reeves, Michelle L.; Rench, Laura A.; Rivas, Lynn A.; Schwartzkopf, Paula M.; Smith, Gina Marie; Speraneo, Lisa Gail; Stewart, Brent M.; Tuetken, Bret A.; Vangiesen, Donald E.; Vanmiddendorp, Sarah A.; Vaughn, Matthew R.; Waters, Rebecca L.; Wilson, Sara J.; Zimmerman, Emily A.

Salary Range: \$90,000 and over

Frailey, Zachary K.; Heyen, Patricia J.; Powell, David E.; Stritzel, Andrew J.

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Adams, Delaney N.; Altevogt, Tiffany S.; Armbruster, Melinda J.; Balla, Michelle L.; Bartony, Eva L.; Beasley, Patsy J.; Bell, Lisa M.; Boehler, Joseph V.; Bolton, Carla L.; Brewer, Jill Renee; Burke, Matthew S.; Butler, Cathy L.; Byers, Brenda K.; Cady, Elizabeth A.; Cameron, Jessica N.; Cameron, Lexy N.; Camp, Kennah M.; Carter, Marci J.; Chambers, Abby Jo D.; Chappelle, Jessica L.; Chappelle, Jill M.; Christian, Brandi L.; Christian, Coral M.; Christian, Jade D.; Cibrario, Dominic J.; Clark, Torrence G.; Clayton, Son K.; Cline, Natasha R.; Collins, Charles L.; Compton, Lynda L.; Connor, Jeremy J.; Conway, Barbara; Cruthis, Adreane M.; Cunningham, Amanda K.; Currie, Gina R.; Currie, Kyleigh J.; Davis, Elizabeth A.; Davis, Hannah E.; Devore, Madison R.; DeWerff, Rachelle L.; Dowding, Emma K.; Dugan, Katrice A.; Edrington, Christina M.; Eisentraut, Samantha J.; Ellinger, Deborah S.; Epley, Cathy J.

Everett, Deanna S.; Fath, Roger; Fenton, Paula M.; Fleming, Erica B.; Forsee, Natalie A.; Graves, Autumn A.; Gray, Bruce W.; Groom, Veronica L.; Guinn, Pamela K.; Harrell, Kelly S.; Harrell, Tracey R.; Harrison, Brittini N.; Harston, Andrea S.; Hayes, Kenneth G.; Hefley, Lisa M.; Hemken, Audrey K.; Holbert, Jaime E.; Hollo, Madison M.; Holman, Christopher J.; Holtschulte, Michelle A.; Horn, Tina R.; Huber, Krista J.; Irvin, Susan A.; Jachino, Terri L.; Jackson, Lauren C.; Jett, Angel R.; Jewell, Ashley N.; Johnson, Meagan N.; Jones, Amy L.; Keller, Sophia R.; Kimbro, Lacy J.; Kuhl, Mercedes E.; Kuhl, Vidalia E.; Lang, Elena E.; Lang, Frederick L.; Lang, Theresa A.; Leible, Kimberli L.; Lentz, Caren A.; Lessman, Alexis J.; Lessman, Heather Rae; Lewey, Cassidy M.; Lindsay, Rebekka N.; Lippard, Peggy L.; Lippard, Stanley B.; Loucks, Paul J.; Loucks, Tracy Dawn; Luckett, James H.; Maass, Elizabeth A.; Martincic, Sandra K.; Matthews, Beth A.; McLaughlin, Nicholas C.; McVeigh, Allison M.; Melton, Karen L.; Miller, Emily A.; Miller, Michael G.; Mizera, Hailey L.; Moler, Jerry L.; Mollet, Christy L.; Moore, Cassidy S.; Moore, Samantha L.; Morford, Rylee A.; Morris, Kathy L.; Mullen, Kelly L.; Muntz, Jeffrey K.; Murphy, Michael P.; Nalley, Tyten D.; Newingham, Bailey N.; Niehaus, Carey L.; Notter, Jolene A.; Ondesko, Becky A.; Page, Shawne D.; Passariello, Kellea J.; Pavolka, Tessa S.; Pier, April E.; Plunkett, Heather L.; Porter, Sarah A.; Price, Sarah L.; Putnam, Gage M.; Rau, Georgia P.; Redman, Nancy A.; Reed, William R.; Rhodes, Rhonda K.; Roach, Jillian M.; Rovey, Shawna Lee; Rupert, Madelyn M.; Schmedeke, Kayden E.; Sellers, Sophia I.; Settles, Laetitia H.; Sherer, Chloe M.; Sherer, Janine K.; Slightom, Julie M.; Sloop, William R.; Snider, Ranae Suzanne; Spinner, Tammy L.; Stolte, Elaine G.; Swick, Nancy L.; Thacker, Pamela K.; Thacker, Stacy M.; Thompson, Timothy N.; Toberman, Dennis W.; Trader, Melissa A.; Trimble, Ray C.; Trumbull, Erica L.; Tuetken, Kevin D.; Tun, Aye H.; Voyles, Marsha M.; Vunetich, Charles C.; Vunetich, Halle R.; Waldriff, Rhudith O.; Walther, Lauribeth; Waters, Julie C.; White, Bridgett Lynn; White, Kenneth W.; Wilkinson, Lynn Marie; Williams, Marian K.; Willman, Macy L.; Wiltshire, Kevin R.; Winkler, Barbara S.; Woodruff, Kim A.; Wrachford, Fay David; Wright, Carissa M.; Young, Garrett S.

Salary Range: \$25,000-\$39,999

Beeler, Debra K.; Bowman, Martha J.; Ferrill, Christina K.; Freeman, Dianna L.; Furness, Jessica L.; Gifford, Delva J.; Govaia, Monte E.; Graham, Jennifer L.; Greenwood, Heather L.; Hanner, Kaydi J.; Hanner, Tammy J.; Hough, Drew A.; Johnsey, Catherine M.; Kenny, Kelly Lee; Kirchner, Terrisa G.; Kuhns, Gwendolyn E.; Malloy, Blake E.; Marsee, Patti E.; Martin, Megan P.; Morris, Keith M.; Osborn, Robin R.; Perkins, Brittany L.; Redding, Douglas A.; Redman, Amy K.; Redman, Brian D.; Reynolds, Nancy J.; Rhodes, Zachary E.; Richardson, Lindsay M.; Robinson, Kaitlin R.; Sanders, Kelby E.; Schmitt, Evelyn N.; Snoddy, Ridge W.

Salary Range: \$40,000-\$59,999

Adams, Earl Wayne; Duncan, Danny A.; Funk, Jennifer J.; Govaia, Kaitlin M.; Gregory, Kristin M.; Homa, Elizabeth A.; Huber, Douglas J.; Jörn, Dennis K.; Kurfiss, Larry D.; Kurfiss, Lynn D.; Maretta, Meghan E.; McSpertit, Kendra M.; Moore, James H.; Moore, Mary Jo; Moore, Trina M.; Osborn, Jon C.; Pesko, Laura A.; Putnam, Nicholas Lee; Putnam, Stephanie D.; Reynolds, Bobbi J.; Reynolds, Sheri J.; Roemelin, Jr., James L.; Shelton, Aimee L.; Slightom, Larry A.; Thomas, Stephanie J.; Traylor, Stephen S.; White, Jeremy S.; Wilkinson, Janet S.; Wolf, Nathan L.

Salary Range: \$60,000 And Over

Butler, Frederick Eugene; Butler, Laura M.; Gregg, Adam M.; Perkins, Shawn

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500, EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

A & D Electrical Supply \$16,782.14; ACE Hardware \$5,359.39; AEC \$4,108.50; AEP Energy \$57,505.04; Ameren Illinois \$319,802.16; American AED \$3,210.00; American Fidelity Assurance Company \$110,056.00; Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. \$7,998.96; Anthony Supply Company, Inc. \$4,469.33; Aramark Uniform Services, Inc. \$11,901.27; Ashley Christ Photography \$3,278.50; Bill's Rt. 66 Truck & Auto Repair \$3,657.72; Blackboard, Inc. \$7,083.08; Blue Cross Blue Shield \$1,656,468.24; Brian Atkins \$2,623.30; Bruce Unterbrink Construction \$580,973.41; BSN Sports \$27,502.28; Bulte Company, Inc. \$9,995.00; Bushue Human Resources, Inc. \$9,240.00; Capital One Bank \$31,142.53; Carolina Biological Supply Co. \$3,355.41; CDW Government, Inc. \$12,750.60; Central States Bus Sales \$16,694.63; CIMA Energy \$46,144.84; Computer Techniques, Inc. \$46,367.36; Contact Paper Group,

Inc. \$40,320.00; Copy Kats Printing \$4,517.43; Cornerstone/Chrismont RSSP \$395,352.70; Creative Entourage \$7,458.62; Creative Flair \$2,731.25; Culbertson Heating & Cooling, Inc. \$8,749.00; Curriculum Associates, Inc. \$35,250.00; Daikin TMI, Inc. \$212,181.31; Dan Heise Plumbing & Heating \$28,763.44; DC Waste & Recycling, Inc. \$30,767.44; DeLage Landen Public Finance \$46,184.60; Decker Equipment \$18,374.84; Delaurent Construction Co., Inc. \$69,570.96; Dell Computers \$189,793.20; Dreambox Learning \$22,660.00; Duraedge Products, Inc. \$6,722.59; Edpuzzle \$4,165.00 ESGI \$3,736.00; Fick Supply Service, Inc. \$4,230.00; First Community Bank \$78,010.49; Follett School Solutions, Inc. \$3,779.91; Frontline Technologies Group LLC \$8,529.59; Gardner L & M Glass, Inc. \$41,800.70; Garella Pest Services \$5,760.00; Gatekeeper Systems USA, Inc. \$8,392.42; Global Technical Systems, Inc. \$7,230.99; Goodheart-Willcox \$2,911.48; Greenhouse Megastore \$6,280.00; Health Alliance \$8,332.25; Heart Technologies, Inc. \$38,535.77; Heartland Turf Farms \$2,868.30; Heidy Lafleut \$6,000.00; Hiller's Sheet Metal \$61,598.44; Hillsboro, City of \$30,700.86; Hillsboro High School \$23,224.00; Hillsboro Hospital \$10,621.02; Hillsboro Jr. High School \$3,650.00; Hillsboro Rental & Paint \$5,932.01; Hillyard \$4,833.04; Hope E. McBrain \$2,795.06; HUDL \$13,000.00; Huels Oil Company \$48,570.18; Huron Consulting \$31,080.00; Hurst-Rosche, Inc. \$488,869.66; IASB \$11,598.00; ILL Department of Revenue \$574,074.37; ILL Municipal Retirement Fund \$703,554.15; ILL State Disbursement Unit \$9,924.00; Illinois Department of Unemployment \$4,158.00; Illinois Federation of Teachers \$82,742.40; Illinois Music Educators \$2,890.00; Illinois Principals Association \$2,561.51; ILMO \$3,808.26; Incident IQ \$6,550.00; Interstate Billing Service, Inc. \$13,999.70; Intrado Interactive Services Corp. \$3,509.99; Invesco Investment Services \$214,103.24; IXL Learning \$7,045.00; Jade Bumgarner \$5,250.00; Jagosh Tree Service \$3,250.00; John Deere Financial \$10,308.14; Journal Printing Co., Inc. \$7,073.65; Journal Publications \$9,449.05; Journeyed.com, Inc. \$8,740.00; KAMI \$3,000.00; Kohl Wholesale \$187,004.53; Kone, Inc. \$9,522.10; Laborers' Local 773 \$5,605.81; Lawson Products, Inc. \$4,291.33; Lincoln Prairie BHC \$5,050.00; Local Union #1084 \$13,467.45; M&M Service Company \$106,369.20; M. J. Kellner Company \$143,882.37; Marco \$6,619.44; Marco Technologies, LLC \$77,799.64; Mark's Plumbing Parts \$16,614.97; McGraw-Hill \$13,643.31; McKay Auto Parts \$10,813.24; Menards \$10,909.73; Meridian Student Planners \$3,752.10; Mid-Illinois Concrete, Inc. \$7,296.25; Mid-State Special Education \$618,068.19; Mid-West Truckers Assn., Inc. \$3,598.50; Milanos Catering \$2,684.65; Miller, Tracy, Braun, Funk & Miller \$16,904.10; Morgan Roll-Ing Flags \$8,809.93; N2Y \$3,327.06; National Bank (EFTPS) \$1,835,179.27; Navigate 360, LLC \$10,894.00; NCPERS Group Life Ins. \$6,058.60; Nokomis School Unit #22 \$82,012.98; O'Reilly Auto, Inc. \$3,059.46; OKAW Area Center \$100,232.00; Pearson \$13,500.00; Pioneer Athletics \$15,098.08; Pioneer Manufacturing Company \$6,542.66; Powerschool \$9,287.26; Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. \$67,414.80; Quadiant Finance USA, Inc. \$4,500.00; Quality Flooring Company, Inc. \$7,287.76; R Factor \$10,300.00; R.P. Lumber \$84,495.02; R. D. McMillen \$64,921.64; Refreshment Services Pepsi \$6,520.17; Regional Office of Education #3 \$5,360.33; Reliastar Life Insurance Company \$11,598.96; Richey Athletics \$35,855.00; Ron's Produce Company \$18,217.20; Rt. 66 Truck Repair, Inc. \$10,504.25; Scheffel Boyle \$17,250.00; Scholastic Classroom Magazines \$9,169.10; Scholastic Risk Management Services \$152,215.00; School Specialty, Inc. \$31,220.44; Schutt \$7,717.56; Screencastify \$5,564.00; SDI Innovations \$3,941.44; Sergeant Laboratories, Inc. \$9,704.78; Seward Masonry \$21,237.67; Sherwin Williams Co. \$7,109.42; Skyward \$39,404.50; Snap-On Equipment \$8,478.25; Spears Title Company \$18,182.88; Star Insurance Company \$113,669.00; Swing City Music \$4,805.15; Taylorville Comm. Credit Union \$7,947.44; Teachers' Health Insurance \$138,458.70; Teachers' Retirement System \$5,220.21; Teachers' Retirement System \$904,959.17; Texas Life Insurance \$10,096.64; The Crane Agency \$7,633.00; The Graphic Edge \$4,517.28; Tri County Tractor \$10,900.00; Triad Industrial Supply Corp. \$6,335.11; Triple A Asbestos Services, Inc. \$20,595.00; UMB Bank NA \$378,625.00; Unity School Bus Parts \$4,887.40; Utilitra \$36,980.92; Valley Athletic \$4,456.00; Vandalia Electric Motor Srv., Inc. \$2,531.23; Verizon Wireless \$7,412.15; Vogel Plumbing, Inc. \$8,995.10; Wareham's Security \$6,746.75; West Sand & Trucking \$4,625.60; William V. MacGill & Co. \$2,847.33; Worth Township Trustees of Schools \$11,687.50; XELLO \$8,751.00; Zeptive, Inc. \$6,553.00



24 Chevy Blazer EV RS B10512 NOW ONLY \$60,215	24 Chevy Blazer EV RS B10505 NOW ONLY \$60,710	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10461 NOW ONLY \$32,990
24 Chevy Equinox RS B10500 NOW ONLY \$32,990	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10511 NOW ONLY \$33,490	24 Chevy Equinox RS B10501 NOW ONLY \$33,490
24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10429 NOW ONLY \$55,338	24 Chevy Silverado 1500 RST B10492 NOW ONLY \$55,410	23 Chevy Tahoe High Country B10450 NOW ONLY \$79,990
24 Chevy Trailblazer LT B10478 NOW ONLY \$25,290	23 Chevy Trailblazer LT B10495 NOW ONLY \$26,290	23 Chevy Trailblazer RS B10460 NOW ONLY \$27,900
23 GMC Acadia SLE B10474 NOW ONLY \$39,190	23 GMC Acadia SLT B10458 NOW ONLY \$44,190	23 GMC Acadia SLT B10439 NOW ONLY \$44,990
23 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT B10356 NOW ONLY \$64,990	24 GMC Sierra 2500HD Denali Ultimate B10518 NOW ONLY \$95,535	24 GMC Terrain SLT B10475 NOW ONLY \$34,990
24 GMC Terrain SLT AWD B10476 NOW ONLY \$36,385	24 GMC Terrain AT4 AWD B10491 NOW ONLY \$38,990	



Lutherans Provide Bingo At MNRC

Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro provided an afternoon of Bingo for residents at Montgomery Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Taylor Springs on Wednesday, Nov. 29. Church volunteers also provided prizes and snacks for participants. In addition to volunteers Sandra Moody and Donna Wille in the photo, also volunteering were St. Paul's members Charles Moody, Kay Neely, Merle Imler, Karen Hamilton, Gerry Rhoades, Pastor Stefan Munker and organizer Mary Martin.

Journal-News Photo



Residents Meet State Senator McClure

Montgomery County residents had the opportunity to meet with Illinois State Senator Steve McClure at a state-sponsored open house event on Monday, Nov. 13. McClure was elected as state senator representing the 54th district in November of 2022, and has opened a full-time office in Litchfield at 410 N. Monroe St. Pictured above, McClure meets with one of the many locals who stopped by the event.

Journal-News/Isaiah Atkins



CEO Team Learns About Law Profession

Attorney Trent West hosted Montgomery CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) students on Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Nokomis office of Glenn and West. West shared his background and gave the team valuable perspectives on a variety of topics, from marketing to employee management and more. He emphasized the importance of knowing your strengths and weaknesses and always making sure that you have good people to work with. Pictured above, from the left are Attorney Trent West, Landon Reinke, Griffen Hughes, Ryan Vollintine, Mason Stauder, Mitchell Lowe, Cooper Law and Michael Ginos.



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¹1.9% APR for 36 months. Monthly payment is \$28.60 for every \$1,000 you finance. Example down payment: 13.6%. Must finance with GM Financial. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 12/4/23.



Pictured above are members of the winning class in the recent LLCC food drive. From the left, Charity Griggs and Debra Wilkie of CEFS, Adrienne Frazier, LLCC-Litchfield education services representative, Josh Bader, Selina Cochran, Maggie Reynolds, Drake Gasperson, Alyssa Lohman and Sofia Ray, LLCC students and Jessie Blackburn, LLCC-Litchfield director.

LLCC Students Hold Fall Food Drive

The Lincoln Land Community College - Litchfield Student Club sponsored a Thanksgiving food drive from Nov. 6 to 17 in which students and faculty collected more than 200 non-perishable food items. These items were donated to the CEFSEconomic Opportunity Corporation in Montgomery County. Classes competed to collect the most items for the drive and win a pizza party. First Year Experience taught by Jessie Blackburn was honored as the class with the most donations.