



The Journal-News

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Hillsboro, IL 62049

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Monday, December 12, 2022



Nokomis Welcomes The Holiday Season

Nokomis welcomed the Christmas season with a parade, visits with Santa, and business open houses on Saturday, Dec. 10. The North Pole's first family—Santa Claus and the Mrs.—heard holiday wishes from good little boys and girls like Athena Jo Anderson (above), and handed out treats inside the Nokomis Public Library in an event hosted by the Nokomis Women's Club. Santa arrived in town on Nokomis Fire Department fire truck leading a parade through the heart of the city. The fire department dropped off the Clauses at the library before speeding off to a call.

At left, no, it's not an elf on the shelf, but Baylen Loafman made a striking elf of the countertop at the open house at 16 And State Mercantile. Proprietor Missi Loafman, behind the counter, helped holiday shoppers. *Journal-News Photos*



Irving Man Killed In Saturday Crash

An Irving man was pronounced dead at the scene following a one-vehicle accident on Route 16 between Irving and Witt early Saturday, Dec. 10.

Jason Stolte, 44, of Irving, was pronounced dead at 1:58 a.m. Saturday at the scene by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, according to Coroner Randy Leetham. First responders were dispatched at 1:08 a.m. to what appeared to be a one-vehicle roll-over accident on Route 16 between Witt and Irving. The Witt Fire Department responded with 10 firefighters, along with the Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service, Illinois State Police, and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. Witt fire personnel were on the scene for an hour and a half.

Fire Department Will Be Out Collecting Tonight

Make sure your non-perishable food donations are at your front door when the fire whistle sounds tonight.

Door-to-door pick-up for the annual Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Basket Program is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12, beginning when the fire whistle sounds at 6:30 p.m. To contribute, leave canned goods such as vegetables, soup, tuna, baby food, and other non-perishable items on the front porch on Monday, Dec. 12, with the front porch light on.

The holiday food baskets will be distributed to families who need them most on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Panhandle District And EMA Respond To Threat

Raymond-Panhandle School officials along with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, Illinois State Police and various law enforcement agencies from Montgomery County responded to a threat at Panhandle High School at approximately 1:40 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8.

The threat, according to a Montgomery County Sheriff's Office social media post at 3 p.m. Thursday, was due to a note found in a bathroom. "We locked down both buildings and worked closely with law enforcement officials to secure the school and investigate a threat," according to Panhandle Superintendent Aaron Hopper. "Our security plan was implemented and we were able to successfully secure the school."

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Pension Debt Up To \$139.7 Billion

by Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

Illinois' unfunded pension liability grew by \$9.8 billion, or 7.5 percent, in the fiscal year that ended June 30, due in large part to market losses in a volatile economy.

The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported Thursday that the total unfunded liability in the state's five pension funds reached a total of \$139.7 billion, leaving them with a funded ratio of just 44.1 percent.

Those numbers are based on an annual report from the state actuary, who reviews the preliminary financial data submitted by each of the five funds.

The funded ratio reflects the difference in the market value of the funds' assets and the amount of money the funds would need to immediately pay all members the full amounts of benefits they are owed for the rest of time.

Although that's an important measure of the systems' long-term financial health, it does not reflect their current ability to pay out benefits that are owed. All five of the pension funds continue to pay out benefits to eligible retirees on a timely basis.

All told, the five pension

funds had combined liabilities of \$248.8 billion June 30 and total assets of \$109.1 billion.

Of the five funds, the Illinois Teachers Retirement System, which is the state's largest pension fund, showed the strongest performance, losing only 1.2 percent of its market value. In a statement Wednesday, TRS said the median rate of return among large pension systems during the year was -7.6 percent.

The State University Retirement System lost 1.4 percent of its value. The State Employee Retirement System, Judicial Retirement System and General Assembly Retirement System all saw market value losses greater than 6 percent.

Pension systems generally receive funding from three sources — employee contributions; employer contributions; and returns on investments. The large unfunded liability in Illinois' pension funds is the result of the state failing for decades to make adequate contributions as the employer.

In 1994, then-Gov. Jim Edgar, a Republican, pushed through legislation whereby the state would gradually increase its contributions over the next 50 years until the funding ratio would reach

90 percent by 2045, a plan commonly referred to as the "Edgar Ramp."

But the state has not always met its targets under that plan. In 2005, lawmakers passed a bill allowing reduced contributions, known as "pension holidays," in times of budgetary pressure. As a result, contributions in 2006 and 2007 were roughly \$1 billion lower than the amounts required under the Edgar Ramp.

The financial crisis in 2007-2008 that led to the Great Recession also resulted in significant losses for the pension funds.

Since taking office in 2019, Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker has included full funding at the statutorily required levels in each of his budgets, and over the past two fiscal years authorized an additional \$500 million above what was required by law, bringing the total amount paid in to just under \$11 billion, including \$9.9 billion from the General Revenue Fund.

Under the 1995 law, each of the funds is required to submit a certification prior to Nov. 1 stating how much the state needs to contribute the following fiscal year.

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Walk In Bethlehem Draws Over 200

"And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was." Matthew 2:9. Although the Bible doesn't specify that there were exactly three wise men who visited baby Jesus, it does talk about the three gifts that were brought to the Savior. More than 200 local residents took a step back in time to the birth of Jesus, Dec. 10-11, at the Walk in Bethlehem at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church. From the marketplace to the stables, participants had a first-hand tour of the Christmas story. Pictured above, from the left are Phyllis Schraut, Joyce Zerrusen and Bev Howard following the star. Sponsored by churches in the Good Shepherd Parish (United Methodist churches in Hillsboro, Irving, Witt, Coffeen and Fillmore), the Walk in Bethlehem returned this year after a hiatus since 2019.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



13 Shopping Days Left Until Christmas



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Federal Deadline For REAL ID Now Extended

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the federal REAL ID deadline an additional two years, from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025.

With this extension, current standard Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports for domestic air travel until May 7, 2025.

Illinoisans interested in applying for a REAL ID are encouraged to visit *REALID.ilsos.gov* and use the interactive document checklist. This checklist is designed to help ensure REAL ID applicants gather all the documents required by the federal gov-

ernment to obtain a REAL ID before visiting a Driver Services facility. First-time REAL ID applicants are required by DHS to visit a Driver Services facility in person.

Not everyone needs a REAL ID, and in Illinois, the Secretary of State's office gives Illinoisans a choice. Illinoisans who do not fly domestically do not necessarily need a REAL ID. Additionally, a valid U.S. passport is a compliant REAL ID document; therefore, those with valid U.S. passports do not necessarily need a REAL ID.

As of Dec. 1, the Illinois Secretary of State's office has issued more than 3 million REAL IDs.



St. Louis Catholic School Presents Christmas Program

Students at St. Louis Catholic School in Nokomis presented a special "Come to Bethlehem and See: In the Name of Jesus" program on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at St. Louis Catholic Church in Nokomis. The students, in grades pre-K through eighth, enjoyed making the story of Jesus' birth the center of their program and helping the audience prepare for His arrival in a joyful way. The interactive program allowed the audience to join in singing several music selections. St. Louis Catholic School gives special thanks to the anonymous Adopt-A-Class sponsor for their continuous financial support of the music program.



Hillsboro Lions Donate To Project Snowflake

Members of the Hillsboro Lions Club made a \$750 donation to Project Snowflake during their meeting on Monday evening, Nov. 18. Project Snowflake provides warm winter clothing to families in need in the Hillsboro School District during the holiday season. Pictured above, from the left are Ed Kirby, Greg Schoen, Marci Gutierrez of Project Snowflake, Kyle Furness and Holly Leatham. Proceeds for the donation were raised through the annual Lions Club Candy Day and cookout fundraisers throughout the year. *Journal-News Photo*

Lincolnwood Threat

Continued from front page

The students were taken to the gymnasium and allowed to return to their classrooms to gather belongings for dismissal at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Raymond Harvel Fire Department assisted with traffic and access control around the

school. "We used the school reach system to alert parents as to what was going on and any additional information will need to be released will also be sent out through the school reach system," Hopper explained.

Montgomery County EMA also assisted in the response to the school.

County Native Accepted To Prestigious Institute

Samantha (Hairston) Smith, formerly of Litchfield and Hillsboro, has recently been accepted to John Jay College of Criminal Justice, one of the nation's most prestigious liberal arts institutions, in New York.

She attended Hillsboro High School for three years and graduated from Litchfield High School in May 2013. In May 2022, she earned her associate's degree in criminal justice from Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY.

An acceptance into John Jay College of Criminal Justice is no easy feat as their acceptance rate is only a mere 37 percent. Beginning in January, the county native will study in the field of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Following her studies, she will prepare to work for government agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and



Samantha Smith

FEMA.

"My passion is to help communities recover from man-made and natural disasters," Smith shared. "Most of my professors lived through and suffered the direct effects of the 9/11 attacks and Super-



Samantha (Hairston) Smith, a Montgomery County native, was recently accepted to John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

storm Sandy. Being taught by them will be an exclusive and heartfelt experience."

Although she lives and studies in the "Big Apple," she has not forgotten about her hometown roots.

"It takes a village to raise a child, and there are a handful of local members of the community who inspired me and have always advocated for me to reach my goals and dreams," said Smith. "These wonderful people kept and keep me grounded."

Smith has resided in Long

Island, NY, for seven years now, but regularly visits her family in the Hillsboro area. She married James Smith of Glendale (Queens), NY, in April 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield.

Her local family includes her parents, Samuel and Cathy Hairston, as well as CJ and Jackie Liddell of Hillsboro, the late Pastor James R. and Cecilia Hayes, Brent Chumley of Taylor Springs and Art and Kim Garland of Modesto.

Public Meetings

Nokomis City Council

Nokomis City Council will meet at 7 p.m. tonight, Monday, Dec. 12, at City Hall. Agenda items to be discussed include a city representative on the Nokomis-Witt Ambulance Board, the Nokomis Business District, sidewalk replacements and the water supply agreement between the City of Nokomis and EJ Water for the Village of Coalton.

Montgomery County Board

Members of the Montgomery County Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro. The standing committees did not meet in December, so there will be no official committee reports that night. The board will discuss liaison reports, as well as the consent agenda.

In addition, representatives from the Eco-Justice Collaborative will make a presentation to the board, providing information about the proposed carbon sequestration project.

Hillsboro School Board

A possible contract with Hurst Rosche for a building project on the Hillsboro High School campus is among agenda items when the Hillsboro School Board meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Other agenda items include adoption of the 2022 tax levy.



Epsilon Psi Sorority Gifts Presents To Local Seniors

Kate Poirot (above), one of the eight ladies in the Epsilon Psi Sorority, presented holiday gifts to the residents of Heritage Health in Litchfield during a special game of Christmas Bingo. Epsilon Psi Sorority selected Heritage Health as their holiday service project. The residents enjoyed the cheery gifts.

Illinois Pensions

Continued from front page

According to those reports, COGFA said, preliminary estimates show the required contributions for the upcom-

ing fiscal year will total \$10.9 billion, including \$9.8 billion from general revenues. Even that, however, would be far short of what it would take to cover the actual costs that

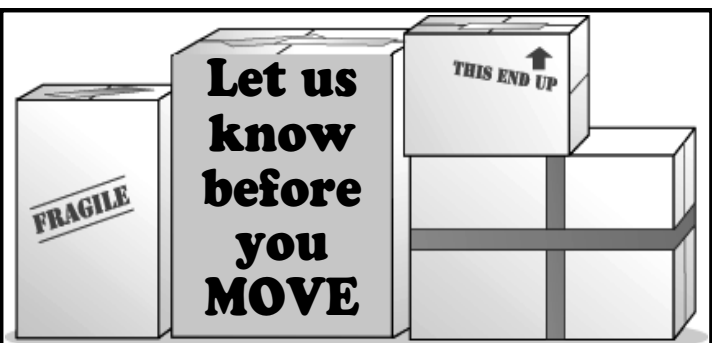
the funds will accrue during the year.

The "actuarially determined contributions" for the five funds - the amount the state would be obligated to pay, even if the systems were 100-percent funded - would be \$15.4 billion.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Nokomis Library Lapsit Focuses On Superheroes

Superheroes was the theme for the Library Lapsit program at Nokomis Public Library on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The little bitty learners in attendance read stories, colored pictures and made their own superhero masks. Library Lapsit is held every Wednesday from 10:15 to 11 a.m. at Nokomis Public Library as part of the Nokomis Hand in Hand birth-to-three program. It is open to any families in the Nokomis School District with children ages birth to three. Above, are Enzo and Myla Alcara, Allie Beaty, Maverick Taylor, Roland and Sarah Castellanos and Brittney Batty.



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Obituaries

Weather Forecast

Mon 12	43°/32°	Partly Cloudy	8%
Tue 13	47°/45°	PM Rain	94%
Wed 14	57°/30°	AM Showers	41%
Thu 15	39°/29°	Mostly Cloudy	6%
Fri 16	33°/22°	Cloudy	11%
Sat 17	28°/20°	AM Clouds/PM Sun	2%
Sun 18	32°/20°	Partly Cloudy	5%

Barbara Stewart Atkins, 75 Loved Cooking, Gardening



Barbara Jean Stewart Atkins, 75, of Litchfield, died on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at Hillsboro Area Hospital.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of service on Thursday, Dec. 15, at Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m., at the funeral home, with the Rev. Jon Magnuson, pastor of Beacon Church, officiating. Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery in Litchfield. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Stewart Atkins was born on Feb. 6, 1947, in St. Louis, MO, a daughter of William and Elsie (Milligan) Stubblefield. She married Edward Stewart on March 15, 1980, in St. Louis, MO, and he preceded her in death on April 15, 2007. Mrs. Stewart Atkins was employed by Wal Mart Stores, Inc. in St. Louis, MO, and Litchfield as a cashier and stock clerk. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed gardening and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Stewart Atkins is survived by her children, Ed (Susan) Stewart, Jr. and Jennifer (John) Atkins, both of Litchfield; brother, Kenny Stubblefield of House Springs, MO; five grandchildren, Marcus Lassiter, Matthew Lassiter, David Atkins, Elise Stewart and Andrew Stewart; and two great-grandchildren Dannielle and Weston Lassiter.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Stewart Atkins was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, William "Bry" Stubblefield; and a sister, Mary DeClue.

Memorials may be directed to Hearts United in Litchfield. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Wilda Mae Pfeifer, 87 Ties To Montgomery County



Wilda Mae Pfeifer, 87, of Luverne, MN, died peacefully on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19, at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial will take place at a later date at Mount Moriah Cemetery in rural Coffeen. Hartquist Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Pfeifer was born on March 13, 1935, in Montgomery County, to Floyd and Rhoda (Spears) Hill in their farm home. She attended Alexander Country School through the eighth grade and then completed her education at Fillmore High School. Following graduation, she attended Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.

Mrs. Pfeifer taught elementary school in several schools in Fayette County and later northern Illinois and Iowa. She spent most of her career teaching second grade and later, junior high school art class. Upon the death of her father in 1975, she resigned her teaching position at Green, IA, to become a companion and caretaker to her mother. She also did substitute teaching in Hillsboro and Ramsey.

On January 11, 1985, she was united in marriage to Roy Pfeifer and moved to Coffeen. At this time, she took a clerking job at a grocery store in town. Mrs. Pfeifer was active in Fillmore United Methodist Church Women's group, Royal Neighbors, Red Hat Society, Senior Citizens Club and Bunco Group. She enjoyed embroidery work, making quilts, traveling and spending time with her family.

In January 2022, Mrs. Pfeifer moved to Luverne, MN, and became a resident of the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home.

Mrs. Pfeifer is survived by her sister, Melba Boeve of Luverne, MN; sister-in-law, Opal Lawrence of Hillsboro; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband on June 17, 2004; parents; infant sister, Frances Hill; brother, Sollie Hill; aunts and uncles; three nephews; and one niece.

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

State Police Announce Results Of ACE Patrols

Illinois State Police (ISP) District #18 Commander, Captain Mark Gillock announced the results of the Alcohol Countermeasure Enforcement (ACE) patrols conducted in Montgomery, Macoupin and Jersey counties during the month of November.

There was one alcohol/drug citation issued, two occupant restraint offenses, nine registration offenses, four driver's license offenses, one insurance violation, 63 total citation/arrests and 19 total written warnings.

The ACE patrols allow the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting and taking enforcement action in response to violations associated with impaired driving and illegal transportation or consumption of alcohol or drugs.

Alcohol and drug impairment are factors in more than 30 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. There is one alcohol-related traffic fatality every 53 minutes in the United States. The ACE program allows officers to work even harder at removing dangerous DUI offenders from the road.

The ACE program is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Spencer W. Hughes, 21 Loved Four Wheelers, Music



Spencer Wayne Hughes, 21, of Litchfield, died at 8:05 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield.

Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until the time of service on Friday, Dec. 16, at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield. Funeral services will begin at 5 p.m. at the church with the Rev. Fred Kraemer, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield, officiating. Plummer Funeral Home in Litchfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

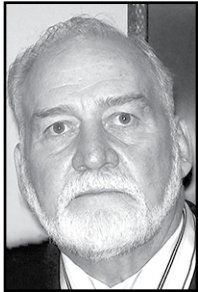
Mr. Hughes was born on June 8, 2001, in St. Louis, MO, a son of Bruce W. and Lana M. (Gould) Hughes. He enjoyed music, riding his four-wheeler, driving, taking rides, looking at muscle cars and pickup trucks, fishing and hunting and all things wolf. He was a fan of both the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team and the St. Louis Blues hockey team.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Hughes is survived by his sister, Kaytlen M. Hughes of Austin, TX; brother, Collin Hughes of Litchfield; paternal grandparents, Larry and Theresa "Terry" Hughes of Litchfield; aunt, Jenny (Brad) Ryden of Loami; cousins, Lexi and Luke Ryden of Loami; and special friend, Haley Walden.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Jim and Mary Gould.

The family suggests memorials to Williams Syndrome Association or Zion Lutheran School. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

Charles F. Hulvey, 78 Instilled Family Values



Charles F. Hulvey, 78, of Greenville, died on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, with family by his side.

Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the First Christian Church in Greenville. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Tyson Graber officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Greenville following the funeral. Assalley Funeral Homes is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hulvey was born Jan. 22, 1944, in Venice, the son of James Franklin and Ruth Jane

(Landreth) Hulvey. He married Emily Ann Worstell on March 28, 1964, in Greenville, and they enjoyed 54 years together before she preceded him in death.

After Greenville High school, he worked locally at the Star station and DeMoulin Brothers and Company manufacturing. He then moved into transportation, working first for Buske Truck service, out of Litchfield, and then for several trucking companies before retiring from Roadway.

One of the kindest souls on this planet, he was a gentle, giving man who worked tirelessly to ensure that his family had everything they needed. He faced every challenge in life with admirable strength and dignity. His passion was for his wife, who he loved dearly, and his children, and grandchildren. He taught the importance of family, instilling the deep essence of integrity. He loved spending time playing dominoes, especially with the grandchildren. He taught each child how to play, and fierce domino battles were waged. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, especially bass and blue gill. His wood carving talent has always been the most impressive. He had a feverish passion for the original old-school country music, and he knew every line from most western movies, with his favorite, by far, being John "The Duke" Wayne. He attended the First Christian Church in Greenville.

He is survived by his sons, Scott (Tammy Johnston) Hulvey of Smithboro, and Jeff K. (Ginger L.) Hulvey of Greenville; grandchildren, Ashley D. (Brian) Weder of Panama, Adam C. Hulvey of Greenville, Joshua K. (Alice M.) Hulvey of Greenville, Chelsie (Jon) Cripe of Pittsburg, and Ashley (Jason Meneeley) Rogers of Greenville; great-grandchildren, Haley (Josh Huhn) Snow, Kaleb Lurkins, Cameron Phelan, Noah Hulvey, Canaan Hulvey, Levi Hulvey, Benny Hulvey, Emma Hulvey, Sadie Brookshier, and Cynthia "Taddy" Rogers; a great-great-grandson, Jayce Huhn; and siblings, Lois Kimberlin of Nashville, TN, Jerry (Karen) Hulvey of Greenville, Dottie Powell of Keyesport, and Betty Saatkamp of Carlyle; and a sister-in-law, Helen Hulvey of Greenville.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Clarence "Bill" and James Richard Hulvey; and two sisters, Edna Briemann and Louise Lenzini.

Memorials may be given or mailed to the First Christian Church Funeral Fund, 1100 Killarney Drive, Greenville, IL 62246. Visit www.assalleyfuneralhomes.com to share memories or to offer condolences to the family.

Lee Wensch, 78 Administrative Secretary

Lee (Dodd) Wensch, 78, of Mesa, AZ, formerly of Springfield and Hillsboro, died on Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, at Bella Vista Senior Living.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday Dec. 17, Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro, with the Rev. Mike Lawton officiating. Burial will be at Oak Grove Cemetery in Hillsboro. Hough and Sons Funeral Home in Hillsboro is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mrs. Wensch was born on June 4, 1944, in Vineland, NJ, to Morris and Janet "Jan" Silverstone Dodd. She was a college administrative secretary.

She is survived by her children, Teresa Bateman of Yorkville, Carl Lindberg of Mesa, AZ, Eric Lindberg of Mesa, AZ, and Ken Lindberg of VA. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jim Wensch; and one daughter, Tammy Wensch.

Condolences can be left at www.houghfuneralhome.com.

Charles E. Graden, 76 Retired ISP Master Sergeant



Charles E. Graden, 76, known and loved by most as "Chuck," died suddenly on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, with his wife, Marinel, by his side.

Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at the First Baptist Church of Nokomis. Donnie Arndt and Lonnie Bruce will officiate. Visitation will be Thursday, Dec. 15, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Nokomis. Burial will be in the Nokomis Cemetery. Stiehl-Dawson Funeral Home in Nokomis is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Graden was born on April 15, 1946, and was a lifelong resident of Nokomis. He was born in Hillsboro to Gilbert and Louise Graden and grew up on the family farm in Audubon Township with his three older brothers, Gerald, Dennis, and Dave. He married Jean Ann Pieper in 1964 and she preceded him in death in 1967. Chuck graduated from Nokomis High School in 1964 where he played football all four years. He also broke his brother Dave's record for most solo tackles in a game. He later helped coach Nokomis football for 20 years; several of those years with his brother Dave.

In 1969, Mr. Graden proudly joined the Illinois State Police, where he spent the majority of his career at District 18 in Litchfield. He loved serving the public as a Trooper, Public Information Officer, and Juvenile Officer. He trained many troopers as a Field Training Officer and spent 17 years working the Illinois State Fairs. He retired after 30 years as a Master Sergeant.

On July 3, 1990, he married Marinel Locke, and in 1993 they moved to the Graden family farm where they spent the majority of their married life. After retirement, he farmed for 10 years, which he truly enjoyed. He never knew a stranger and he loved to tease and joke around. Mostly, he loved his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Marinel, he is survived by his children, Todd Graden and companion, Kerri Germann of Owaneco, Toni and Mark Spainhour of Arcola, Susan Graden of Nokomis, and Matthew and Karen Graden of Stanford; stepchildren, Carl DeVard III of New Orleans, LA, Joshua and Lauren DeVard of Fort Worth, TX, Sterling and Cori Anne DeVard of South Jordan, UT, Jordan DeVard and companion, Hanna Cousins of Los Angeles, CA, and Sariah DeVard of Atlanta, GA; mother-in-law, Millie Pierce of Collinsville; sister-in-laws, Irene Graden of Hillsboro, Janet Graden of Nokomis, and Shirley Locke of Collinsville; brother-in-laws, Allen Locke of East Alton, Tom Pierce of Maryville, and Phil Pierce of Baton Rouge, LA; 18 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and in 2021 his three brothers Dave, Dennis, and Gerald, respectively.

The family suggests memorial contributions to Hooah Deer Hunt for Heroes. To view the online guestbook, leave a condolence or light a virtual candle, visit stiehl-dawsonfh.com.

Thomas Archie Hogsett, 64 Enjoyed Gardening, Fishing



Thomas "Tom" Archie Hogsett, 64, of Litchfield, died at 12:14 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of service on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Plummer Funeral Home. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with the Rev. Jason Plumer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Litchfield, officiating. Interment will be at Edgewood Cemetery in Litchfield.

Mr. Hogsett was born on Dec. 3, 1958, in Litchfield, a son of William D. and Dolores "Dodie" E. (Finkey) Hogsett. He graduated from Litchfield High School with the Class of 1977.

Mr. Hogsett was employed by H.E. Nursery for many years and was his mother's caretaker during her illness. He enjoyed spending time with his friends at the lake, fishing, flower gardening, landscaping, listening to music, the companionship of his three cats, Chumley, Bella and Josie, and was a huge Chicago Bears football fan.

Mr. Hogsett is survived by his sister, Carrie (Kimbo) Halsey of Litchfield; sister-in-law, Mickey Hogsett of Litchfield; niece, Shannah Komor of Litchfield; nephews, Joshua Hogsett of Springfield, Will (Zhenya) Hogsett of Makanda, Derek (Lauren) Hogsett of Savoy and Mike Hogsett of Litchfield; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Roger Hogsett and Ronald Hogsett.

The family suggests memorials to Montgomery County PAWS Care or Litchfield Food Pantry. Condolences may be left online at www.plummerfuneralservices.com.

The Journal-News

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In Loving Memory Of

CHRIS DYER

Dec. 12, 1964 — March 26, 2008

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile, if only we could have you back for just a little while, then we would sit and talk again just like we used to do. You always meant so very much and always will, too.

The fact that you're no longer here will always cause us pain, but you're forever in our hearts until we meet again.

Happy Birthday & Merry Christmas, son.
We love you. XOXO
Love, Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Nieces and Nephews



HUMC Members Donate More Than 80 Winter Hats

Throughout the past year, Hillsboro United Methodist Church members Terri Logsdon, at left, and Melissa Wood crocheted more than 80 stocking caps to be donated to St. Joseph's Indian School this winter. As part of the ministry, Wood is looking for others in the community to help with the crochet efforts or donate spare yarn to the project. For more information, contact the Hillsboro United Methodist Church at 217-532-3734.

Journal-News Photo

Births

Shawn and Marissa (Folkerts) Ebel, of Glen Carbon, announce the birth of their daughter, Quinn Leigh Ebel, born at 3:02 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, MO. She weighed 6 lbs., 2 ozs., and measured 20.5 ins., long.

Maternal grandparents are Cindy Folkerts of Morrisonville and Kenneth Folkerts of Harvel. Paternal grandparents are Mark and Karen Ebel of Belleville.

Maternal great-grandparents are Leon and Marilyn DeBrun of Morrisonville.

Brendan Beach and Courtney Beard of Coffeen announce the birth of their son, Colt Michael Beach, born at 12:17 a.m. on Dec. 10, 2022, at HSHS St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield. He weighed 7 lbs., 3 ozs., and measured 19.5 ins. long.

Colt has one big brother, Drake, age five.



Camren's Causes Helps Nokomis Angel Tree

For the third year in a row, Camren's Causes is making the holidays brighter for families in the Nokomis area in memory of Camren Neisler. This year, Neisler's mom, Brandy Chausse, and her friends shopped for ten angels on the Nokomis Angel Tree and helped out the local food pantry as well. They have partnered with Joanna (Marley) Archibald of Capital A Creations to sell T-shirts in the past, as well as Nokomis-themed ornaments this year. Volunteers also hosted a meal fundraiser. In addition, they help out with the St. Louis School angel tree shopping day as well, which was one of Neisler's favorite things. After his death, Nicole Stauder wrote a letter to Chausse about shopping with Neisler and a pair of cowboy boots he wanted to purchase for their angel. Chausse still has the letter and plans to continue making the holidays brighter in his memory. Pictured above, from the left are Tanya Engelman, Brandy Chausse, Karen Sanders, Addie and Mindy Pearse, Kim Goldsmith and Bridget Ernst.

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Marriage Licenses

Brady Vaughn Friesland, Nokomis; Alexis Rae McDowell, Nokomis

Justin Micah Boulch, Mt. Olive; Rebecca Jean Harmon, Mt. Olive

Joseph David Hardy, Springfield; Alexis Emerson, Springfield

Rhyse Galen Bates, Edinburg; Emalee Rose Byrd, Raymond

LLCC To Swear In New Therapy Officer, Ember

Lincoln Land Community College will hold a special ceremony to swear in the LLCC Police Department's new canine officer, Ember, at 10:30 a.m. this morning, Monday, Dec. 12, at A. Lincoln Commons, located on LLCC's main campus at 5250 Shepherd Road in Springfield.

Ember is a two-year old, mixed breed, therapy and outreach dog trained by SIT Serviced Dogs in Ava. She took up residence with the LLCC PD in mid-November.

Applications Open For Green Ribbon Schools

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced a call for applications for the 2022 to 2023 Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award; the program recognizes schools, districts and higher education institutions with active programs, actions and dedication to sustainability.

"Schools that devote time, attention and resources to green initiatives play such an important role in our students' education and in their future," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "I am proud to celebrate schools that have demonstrated progress in reducing environmental impact, improving health and wellness and offering sustainability education."

The ISBE sponsors the award in partnership with the Illinois Green Alliance and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Schools that have utilized best practices in energy efficiency, water and waste management, healthy school environments and

environmental education can apply.

The Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award application and an information session video recording can be found online at www.isbe.net/Pages/Green-Ribbon.aspx. Application materials must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 9. Submission materials and questions about the awards program should be sent to greenribbon@isbe.net.

"We need green schools to support our healthy buildings, a better learning environment, and build climate and sustainability stewardship in the next generation," said Katie Kaluzny, associate director at Illinois Green Alliance.

ISBE will submit recipients of the Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Award to the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program for consideration for national recognition. The U.S. Department of Education typically announces its winners on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22.



Mailing Letters At NPL Library Lapsit Program

Mailing letters was the theme of Nokomis Public Library's Lapsit program on Wednesday, Dec. 7. The weekly Library Lapsit program is part of the Nokomis Hand in Hand birth-to-three program and held every Wednesday from 10:15 to 11 a.m. It is open to any family in the Nokomis School District with children ages birth-to-three. Above, are Roland and Sarah Castellanos.



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REDSKIN REVIEW • by Hailey Engelman at Nokomis

Nokomis Plans Holiday Dress-Up Days



Happy Monday, Redskin fans! NHS students are headed into their last full week before final exams! Don't worry, that has not slowed them down in their extracurriculars!

FFA has had quite the busy week! They placed second in their dairy foods event. Multiple students placed in the top ten, including Mattie Johnson in second, Izaak Doyen in seventh, Levi German in eighth, Kinley Stolte in ninth and Andrew Suslee in tenth.

The FFA will also have a potluck Christmas party for members on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

I would like to recognize Walker Stewart, as he is a Growmark Foundation FFA Jacket Recipient in honor of Mike Builtta. He is among 25 freshmen who earn this honor and will have his FFA jacket paid for. FFA also donated some gifts to Christian Missions for the Angel Tree.

Yearbook's Walsworth representative came in this week to help out members in working on their yearbook. Don't forget to order your yearbooks before the new year when prices go up! There are QR-codes on social media that will make the process simple! Montgomery County Paws

Care is doing a collection of gently used shoes. For each pair of shoes they collect, the organization receives money to help transport and take care of animals. NHS will be joining this collection, so we ask that people donate any shoes that are in good condition to their character ed or advocacy class. The winning class with the most shoes will receive a pizza party!

Students have the opportunity to participate in the academic challenge coming up! There will be a meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13 in Mrs. Moreland's classroom.

December fun dress-up days this week will be Monday, Dec. 12 - PJ Day and Thursday, Dec. 15 - Ugly Sweaters.

Onto sports, I would first like to remind students that anyone in the student section at a boys home game will be put into a drawing for a free pizza and local gift cards to be drawn out at halftime. Come support your Redskins!

The Lady Redskins had a good week, defeating Ramsey and Carlinville to advance their record to 8-1. They will take on Pawnee and Mt. Olive this week. The junior varsity team will travel to Father McGivney as well.

The boys lost to a tough Williamsville team, but turned around to defeat North Mac. They will play Pana, Mt. Olive and Auburn this week. Good luck to both teams!



Breast Cancer Support Group Celebrates Holidays

The Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group held a Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 5, at the United Methodist Church in Hillsboro. The group shared a holiday meal complete with desserts made by the members. They played games and enjoyed the time of fellowship. The Montgomery County Breast Cancer Support Group has helped 183 women since its founding in 2009. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 6.

Pictured above, in front, from the left are Tina Hagemeyer, Diane Cerutti, Jessie Chesser, Joan Sester, Jean Shannon, Connie Pickerill, Sandra Carron, Arlene Gerdes and Denise Wingler. In the second row are Lori Speiser, Christine May, Penny Hunt, Staci Mollett, Chris Huber, Sally Lockett, Marie Germann, Helen Cearlock, Ruth Leonard, Sandy McNeil, Pam Meyer and Teresa Todt. In back are Leigh Ann Fleming, Kim Reynolds, Melinda Slightom, Tracey White, Carolyn DeWerff, Denise Gregg and Nancy Hindle.

PANTHER PRESS • by Morgan Lemon at Litchfield

Panther FCCLA To Host Holiday Food Drive



Welcome to the last full week of school this year!

Thursday students will be taking their first, second and third hour finals. Friday they will take their fourth and fifth, and the following Monday, Dec. 19, they will take their sixth and seventh hour finals. Tuesday, Dec. 20, will be set as a final makeup day. Study hard and good luck, Panthers!

This week's dress-up days are today, holiday glow-up (wear something shiny or bright); Tuesday, ugly sweater day; and Wednesday, Christmas plaid or flannel.

Seniors: please make arrangements to have your senior photo taken. Three photos are due to Mrs. Brummet by Dec. 19.

Studies: Be sure to check your schedule for next semester. Look for any errors or changes you need to make, and fill out the schedule change form Mrs. Cress sent in your email.

Litchfield High school is helping the Miss Litchfield Chamber of Commerce Queens collect winter hats and gloves donations. All donations will be distributed amongst the Litchfield School District for students who are in need, so they do not have to worry about being cold this season. A Christmas tree is set up in the hallway, if you

are able to make a donation feel free to place your donation on the Christmas tree.

FCCLA is hosting a food drive for the month of December. Collections will take place in imPACT classrooms. We will tally collections on Dec. 16. The imPACT that brings in the most food for the food drive will receive a pizza party on behalf of FCCLA.

The next P7 Bible Study will be Dec. 13 in the art room with a little Christmas flair. Join us at 7:15 a.m.

Sports

There will be a softball meeting for any girls interested in playing this year on Tuesday, Dec. 13, during imPACT, in the commons.

The scholastic bowl teams competed in the conference tournament last Saturday. Sam Horn placed fifth (varsity) for most toss-ups and Isaiah Burdell placed ninth (junior varsity) for most toss-ups. Varsity toss-up scorers were Sam Horn, Tyler Thompson, Selina Cochran, and Zach Leitschuh. Junior varsity toss up scorers were Isaiah Burdell, Melody Ellinger, Conner Favre, Jackson Mullins, Josh Bader, Carter Law, Maggie Reynolds and Jessie Zhang.

Upcoming events: Dec. 15, 16 and 19 - semester exams; Dec. 20 - early dismissal and Dec. 21 through Jan. 3 - Christmas break.

Have a great week, Panthers!



Student Council Hosts Food Drive At Nokomis

Nokomis High School's student council members recently held their "Block the Door" food drive. Students are challenged to bring in enough non-perishable food donations to "block" any teacher they choose from teaching. If the teacher receives enough items to block their door they are barred from teaching any new material or giving out tests/quizzes on a specific day, Friday, Dec. 9.

Pictured above, in front, from the left are Libby Watson, Jayde Gonet, Natalie Engelman, Emma Sneddon, Hailey Engelman, Carley King, Olivia Tosetti, Emily Cress, Rilee Waterman, Abby O'Malley, Marcie Carroll and Faith Morrison. In back are Madison DeWerff, Camryn Engelman, Grace DeWerff, Natalie Brownback, Presley Mehochko, Kinley Stolte, Cdyney Bertolino, Emma Keller, Reece Lohman, Kennedy DeWerff, Ian Keller, Reagan Jonas, Bryce Gillock, Maddux Himes and Mason Stauder.

Nativities Will Be Displayed At Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church will host a nativities exhibit from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, at the church sanctuary.

The holiday display will showcase the more than 150 Christmas nativities that have been collected by Pastors Stefan and Cynthia Munker throughout the years. All are invited to come view the free exhibition.

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church is located at 824 N. Monroe Street in Litchfield.

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Friday, December 16th

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Opinion

6A - Monday, December 12, 2022

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

Dec. 1955: Pest Foxes And Sparrows



December 1955 is a good month for the family, but not for sparrows and foxes. I can't imagine Larry taking sparrow heads to school to prove that he was controlling pests. And could there have been so many foxes that they were a danger to the community? I have no memory of this slaughter. On a cheerier note, several readers shared the location of Horseradish Road, now Horseradish Avenue in the Lake Lou / Honey Bend neighborhood. Another reader believed Silver Grove School may have been in Christian County. I really appreciate the readers who add so much to our knowledge of our county. Another interesting bit of history Grandma writes about is telephone party lines. How many of you remember having a special ring just for your telephone? How many remember the meaning of the word "pikking" in relation to the party lines? I wish you all the best holiday season, and hope you have wonderful memories of your family holidays in past years.

site of the 4-H part south of Butler. I made Connie a print dress by the same pattern like her velvet dress. She likes the very full gathered shirt. Howy came and shredded the stalks in both corn fields.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 1955—Fine day. Didn't go to church. Phone men have been on the job most of the day-testing. They were here about 2 p.m. Marian (Sammons) and I are now on the same line with Wes Burris Clinards, Hawkins, Raines, Chandler and Martins. Before we were on with Hayes, Keiths, etc. We went to Mary Lou Bondurant and Fred Johnson's wedding at 4 p.m. We didn't get there until time for the wedding as Carl had a pain in his chest about the time we were to get ready. He had another attack when he climbed the church steps. Carole was a candle lighter, and Connie was a flower girl. Each had a partner girl. We came home immediately after.

Monday, Dec. 19, 1955—6 degrees above. No rain. Too cold to wash. I took Carl to Dr. Turner Douglas. He has needed to go for three months. The doctor said his red blood count was low. That was why he staggered. The doctor gave him a shot. Said he should have two shots a week. Wayne and Hubert came at two and penned the hogs for Merle to load at four. Merle took 18 hogs to market.

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1955—Clear. Carl got the check for his hogs—16 weighed 4,585 pounds, \$9.75. Net \$417.31. This was the cheapest hogs he has sold for years. Expenses seem to be about as usual, \$29.72. Too many hogs seem to be the excuse for the low price.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 1955—Warmer. I went to Litchfield and did my Christmas shopping. I don't know why I wait until the last hour to do my shopping. I took our egg scales to the A&P house to be checked. They weigh a half ounce too heavy.

Friday, Dec. 23, 1955—Fog until 9 a.m. Warmer. Carl got his second shot for his red blood count. He hasn't had that pain in his chest since he got his first shot. I got six pounds of chuck roast and made barbecue. All but Merle here for supper. Wayne's and Merle's planned to give us an electric clock, but it didn't arrive. We gave Merle and Wayne neckties. Geraldine and Margaret, big doilies. Larry, gun shells; Linda and Connie, doll blankets; Carole, perfume; Jim, shorts; and Connie, a dress I made and Carl, a pair of trousers. Mary Nimmons sent us homemade fudge. The wheat allotment of 20.6 acres stands regardless of measurements established fences on all four sides prove it.

Saturday, Dec. 24, 1955—44 degrees. Mild. We went to Hillsboro. Both went up to the Triple A office. We proved to the office lady that our air map taken years ago said there were 20.6 acres in the field which has had an established fence on all four sides of it for years. She said they would take the air map's word for it. It will not have to be remeasured. Merle got home at four. Merle was Santa at church. Connie pulled his pant leg to tell him she wanted a bride doll. She got it.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 1955—Clear, no snow. I baked a graham cracker pie, and went to church at nine. Came home and got Carl, and we went to Wayne's for dinner. We had hen and oyster dressing, noodles, cranberry jello, etc. Wayne had made a ping pong table. I played with Linda, but was awful at it. Wayne played with her very well. Then Carl tried it. He did much better than I.

Wednesday, Dec. 28, 1955—Cloudy, no rain. I washed and wondered if the clothes would dry. I started ironing about two, but we decided to call on Henry Beckmiers, Irving. He is in a pitiful state; wants to go home when evening comes. Carl bought a bushel of apples over there, \$3.39, such good eating apples. Macintosh. Carole came to stay all night.

Thursday, Dec. 29, 1955—Colder, no rain. Carole and I visited after we had dinner until Dorothy Ward came after her. Mr. and Mrs. Hanke have twin boys, born this morning.

Saturday, Dec. 31, 1955—Clear. We went to Litchfield. Took 30 dozen eggs, Grade A .52. Carl thinks he wants an electric shaver. We tried Shwabe in Litchfield. He will not let one out for trial. Went to Pattie in Hillsboro. They will let him try one ten days. Carl wants Wayne's judgement before he buys. Carole had a slumber party. Driest December in history. St. Louis paper says they had .15 inches of rain in December. We sold \$79 worth of eggs this month.

Carole (Best) Brown of Golconda provides Journal-News readers with this glimpse of the past from her grandmother, Mary Edith (Neuport) Best, Butler farm wife. Carole may be reached at rosebudbooks@gmail.com.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1955—Wayne had a busy day, he said. He took Linda to her dentist in Springfield. He is straightening her teeth. Then later he took her to Morrisonville where she took her accordion lesson. She says she has a new teacher—a lady. Linda disliked very much to lose Mr. Gordon.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 1955—Larry, Charles Dammann and helpers killed sparrows. Larry took the heads and will take them to school as a contribution to pest control.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1955—Cold and Clear. Carl decided to go to Margaret's and paid the children \$50 for their calf which has been on pasture here all summer. The youngsters decided to sell her and use a part of the money to buy Christmas presents. I sewed up a part of Connie's red velvet dress which she will wear when she is flower girl at Mary Lou Bondurant's wedding. I am also going to try to make Carole's white formal smaller.

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1955—Warmer. An ideal day. We went to Litchfield with 45 dozen eggs, Grade A .52. After we came home, I went to Hillsboro to visit a Hillsboro Hospital Auxiliary Country Store. They surely had a big amount of everything imaginable. I got home at 12 noon, and we went to Wares Grove Community House and ate dinner. The ladies of the Wares Grove Ladies Aid were serving lunch for the fox hunters. They had killed two foxes at noon.

Thursday, Dec. 8, 1955—Not so cold. Snowed a bit near ten at night. Took quite some time to find a suitable box to put pillow cases in that I had made for Mary Lou Bondurant's shower tonight. I went with Margaret and Connie. About 30 women there. Lovely presents. My offering was about the only hand made one there. It was scrutinized closely by several of the women. I didn't hear any verdict on the work.

Friday, Dec. 9, 1955—Cold. Merle, Margaret and Connie came out for dinner. We had toasted chicken, cherry pie, etc. Carl had Merle help him put the heater in the water tank. He has turned Rabbit (the cow) dry. Carl paid Sears \$346.75 for our TV set.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 1955—I went to church and Sunday School. We didn't go anywhere. I addressed Christmas cards.

Monday, Dec. 12, 1955—I washed. Clothes froze on the line. Home Bureau had a carry in dinner at the Community House. I didn't care to go.

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1955—I am getting panicky over getting Connie's dress done. The two tiered skirt is too bulky to put one seam. Finally sewed the long skirt on to a print band and that in turn to the waist.

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1955—Clear and cold. Most mixed U.S. 1, 2, and 3 grade hogs weighing 180 to 235 pounds cashed at \$11.25 to \$11.75. A \$12 top.

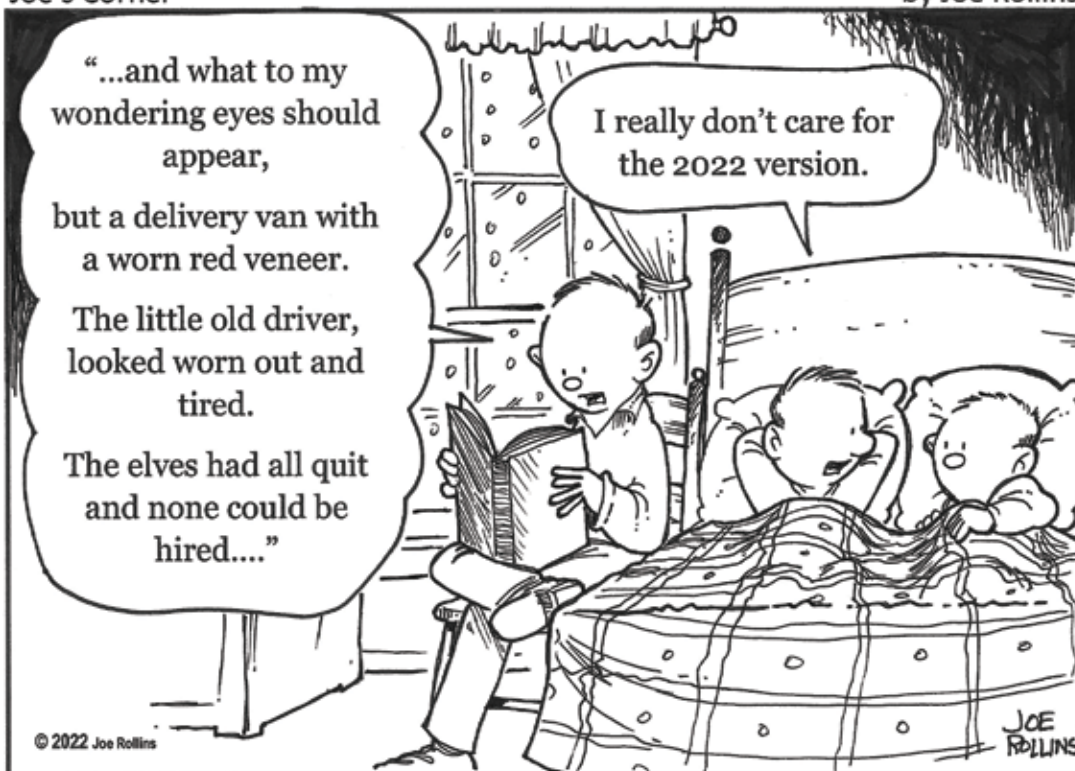
Thursday, Dec. 15, 1955—Mary (Nimmons) and I went to Harriet Busby's to our Christmas Helping Hand meeting. Some twenty there. Had a gift exchange. Marie Henry was my Sunshine Sister the past year. Hazel Martin is the one for next year. Annette Fish had my name the past year.

Friday, Dec. 16, 1955—We got ready to take the eggs to Litchfield, but the car wouldn't start. John Keith came and pulled and pushed with his truck. No go. He pushed us to Merle's. We didn't have the overdrive out far enough. Went to Sears. Bought a new battery. Got a \$5 allowance on the old one. I got Connie's red velvet dress done. She was so pleased.

Saturday, Dec. 17, 1955—Not so cold. Clear. Took the eggs to Litchfield before noon. Had 45 dozen. Grade A are .50. Stopped to see the man who is bulldozing a fence row out on north side of the future

Joe's Corner

by Joe Rollins



GUEST EDITORIAL • by John Galer, Chair of the National Newspaper Association

Big Tech Should Pay For Local News

The powers that Google and Facebook have over economic and political power in society—especially over the news industry—has caught the attention of lawmakers in Washington, DC. After a close election and many worries over the quality of public debate, many ask if social media have played a role in the misinformation that erodes our free press and plagues our democracy.

Nowhere is this power more daunting than in the social media giants' use of news organizations' reporting, which the platforms use without compensation to journalists. Google and Facebook have a duopoly of the distribution of digital news content, which drives people to the social media platforms where the owners make money. The platforms hoard critical data and use clever tactics, like reframing stories in rich previews, to keep users on their sites—siphoning off the advertising revenue that small and local publishers need.

Every hour that goes by, Google and Facebook generate millions of dollars in U.S. advertising revenue. That amount could fund dozens of local journalists. But local newspapers in many communities that are funding the people who report on fair and free elections are struggling to meet payroll.

It is time for a change, before we head into another brutal and divisive election season leading up to the 2024 elections. America needs

real, factual and independent news reporting more than ever. While national media may be treated with skepticism, research shows that local news media are generally trusted. But will they have the revenue to do the job?

Congress must take action to curb undue influence of Big Tech on the news media industry and make sure the work of local news-gatherers is fairly compensated. The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act (JCPA) aims to do just that.

The JCPA is specifically designed to make sure Google and Facebook pay for what they use. The proposed legislation would provide a temporary, limited antitrust safe harbor for small and local news publishers to collectively negotiate with Facebook and Google for fair compensation for the use of journalists' content. The policy also incentivizes and rewards publishers who invest in their journalists and newsroom personnel, awarding outlets with demonstrated investments in their staff a larger portion of the funds that result from the negotiations.

By addressing Google's and Facebook's monopoly power and ensuring more subscription and advertising dollars flow back to publishers, the JCPA not only protects and promotes quality news, but also encourages competition. Congress has made progress on this legislation. It should finish the job before the end of the year.

LETTERS to the editor

Stop Trying To Create Voting Constituents

Democrats around the country are attempting to grant voting rights to 16 and 17 year old young adults in their latest scheme to grow their constituency.

Speaking out both sides of their mouths, they also attack the second amendment right of 18-20-year-old law abiding citizens each time a young criminal uses a firearm to commit murder. Retail sporting goods stores including Dick's and Walmart refuse to sell firearms to 18-20-year-old adults after having been pressured by Democrats to violate the second amendment right of these young people who have never committed a felony crime. This is yet another example of politics masquerading as concern.

If an 18-20-year-old can't be trusted to own a firearm, why are they allowed to serve in the military? Why are young men mandated to register for the draft when they turn 18? Why can an 18-year-old buy cigarettes but not a beer until age 21? Why do we not allow a 16-year-old to buy beer and

cigarettes? Because they are immature, that's why. But 18-year-olds are considered adults and can move into their own home, therefore they should not have their constitutional right to keep and bear arms infringed upon. That's why the 26th amendment was correct to allow an 18-year-old the vote. "Old enough to fight; old enough to vote," was the cry as far back as 1943 when President Franklin Roosevelt lowered the draft age to 18.

The Democrat's Illinois SAFE-T Act will release violent defendants awaiting trial, but in the same breath, Democrats call our judicial process systemically racist and introduce HB5855 which would unconstitutionally ban commonly owned semi-automatic rifles like the AR-15 (AR stands for armalite rifle not assault rifle by the way), magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, raise the FOID card age limit to 21 among other things. The US Supreme Court and federal courts have rendered decisions on these firearms

previously in favor of citizen ownership and overturning California law, and Texas law to name but two.

Illinois lawmakers wanting to actually prevent crime should focus on locking criminals in prison, forget the social justice activism, and create a law that would mandate a 10-year prison sentence for a prohibited possessor found guilty of illegally possessing a firearm; 20-year prison for anyone convicted of possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony; 30 years in prison for anyone convicted of using a firearm during the commission of a felony; and life without parole for murder; all with no plea bargains and no day-for-day good time.

Stop trying to create voting constituents and infringing on law-abiding citizens and work together in Illinois and Congress for the good of the state and country. HB5855 should not be passed.

Billie J. Michael
Ramsey

and dangers involved. Hope to see you at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Mary Ellen DeClue
Litchfield

Attention Montgomery County residents: at the Montgomery County Board meeting on Dec. 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., there will be an informational presentation on carbon storage and carbon dioxide pipelines by Pam and

Lan Richart of Eco-Justice Collaborative.

There is considerable controversy over the safety and financial risks of carbon sequestration and CO2 pipelines. This is an opportunity to hear for yourself the facts

Considerable Controversy Over CO2 Pipelines

and dangers involved.

Hope to see you at the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Mary Ellen DeClue
Litchfield

The Journal-News welcomes letters to the editor. The guidelines follow:

- Writers may submit their letters either typed or clearly handwritten. They can be mailed to *The Journal-News* at P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro, IL 62049; faxed to 217-532-3632; dropped off at the newspaper office in Hillsboro; or emailed to thejournal-news@consolidated.net.
- All letters, including those sent by email, must contain the writer's name, address and phone number. *The Journal-News* will print only the writer's name, city and state. The phone number is used only to verify the letter's authenticity.
- Letters from residents of the local area and letters

from *Journal-News* subscribers are given top priority. Letters from outside the readership area will be considered only if the topic pertains to a local issue.

- Writers should limit letters to 300 words. While there is sometimes space to print longer letters, those of 300 words or less will take precedence over longer letters.
- Letters should be originals, not copies of letters to others. Letters that echo or restate positions presented in previously published letters will not be printed.
- Anonymous letters will not be printed.
- Letters that contain potentially libelous comments and those that attack a private individual or business will not be printed. This includes allegations of illegal actions

by an individual or group.

- Letters that present statements of fact that cannot be independently verified may not be published.
- Letters commending, endorsing or criticizing candidates for election or political parties will only be printed as paid political advertisements. They must be 300 words or less, and will not be published in the edition immediately prior to an election. Letters expressing opinion about public questions on the ballot may still run as letters to the editor.
- Prior to publication, all letters to the editor are reviewed by *The Journal-News* editorial staff, which reserves the right to edit, condense or reject any letter.



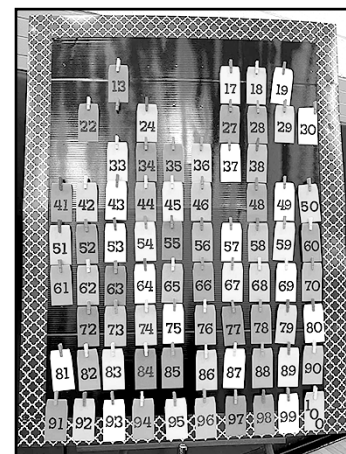
Hillsboro High Winter Concert On Wednesday

The Hillsboro High School band and choir will host their annual Winter Concert at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the high school gymnasium.

Both high school choirs and the band will perform during the concert, which will conclude with a combined piece where audience members will be invited to join in singing carols. A Cappella/Chamber Singers alumni will also be invited to join the current choir in singing "A Very Merry Fa La La."

Admission to the holiday concert is free. However, attendees will still have a chance to support the band and choir. HAMP (Hillsboro Association of Musical Parents) has created an envelope board to be displayed at upcoming concerts.

Sponsors can select a numbered envelope and make a donation in the corresponding dollar amount. There are three prizes hidden among the envelopes: a T-shirt, two reserved floor seats for the 2023 Operetta and a pass



HAMP has come up with a fun way to raise money during the choir and band's upcoming concerts. Sponsors can select a numbered envelope (above) and make a donation in the corresponding amount to win one of three prizes.

for VIP (reserved) seating at the Spring Concert; winners can choose between the high school or junior high school performance. HAMP will announce the winners after all the envelopes have been selected.

Litchfield High School Jazz Band Goes On Tour

Litchfield High School's jazz band brought back their "Jazz Band World Tour" this year, after having taken the last few years off due to the COVID virus. The band members performed holiday medleys at each of the district's elementary schools and had a blast spreading Christmas cheer to the younger students.

Kilton Funds Used For Cross Over Ministries Training

Cross Over Ministries hosted its third in a series of Trauma Informed trainings in the Cloud Room at Hillsboro Area Hospital, training specific to building a Trauma Informed Community among those who work in our justice system.

"We are grateful to the W. Darrell Kilton Trust Fund Committee for seeing the need and for providing the funds for this kind of training to happen in Montgomery County," Linda Liebscher, President of COM, said. "Without the financial support we received, we would not have been able to do as many trainings or have specific focus group trainings."

In attendance were members of the Montgomery County probation office, Cheryl Adams, Bane Ulrici and Brian Hampton; Montgomery County Public Defender Erin Mattson, EMS Supervisor Kevin Schott, Montgomery County Mental Health employees Kimber Deming and Lorie Estell, and Cross Over Advisory Council members and clergy the Rev. Cassie Sexton and Pastor Jay Martin, as well as Martin's wife, Becki. "It was a great group of very interactive people," commented Trena Hedges, facilitator and sole proprietor of Whole Hearted Counseling. "The questions they asked and the sharing they did about their



Trena Hedges and Erica Petcher were presenters at a trauma informed training hosted by Cross Over Ministries.

own trauma made the training personal and valuable. I believe they became more of a trauma informed community which is so vital in the justice system."

Early childhood trauma has been proven to be one of the primary factors in contributing to the development of adult substance use and mental health challenges. That

is why Cross Over partners with Hedges for these types of trainings.

Erica Petcher, Certified Recovery Support Specialist who is a staff member of Cross Over Ministries, shared her story of hope regained after years of struggling with substance use. She talked about her experiences while she was attending Drug Court and her

successful completion of it.

"Now I can see my kids and build relationships with them again. Simple things like ordering pizza for my son and his desire to want to be with me are blessings," Petcher stated.

The training on December 13 is the third Trauma Training that Cross Over Ministries has hosted and Hedges has facilitated in Montgomery County. There are two more planned in 2023, one in Hillsboro and one in Litchfield.

"I encourage everyone in our communities to attend," said Liebscher. "You will definitely learn how to be more trauma informed and you may discover some opportunities for trauma healing in our own life."

Cross Over Ministries, a 501(c)3, is a Christ-Centered community committed to supporting people with mental health and substance use challenges in their recovery and wellness journeys. Please visit their website, crossoverministriesnfp@gmail.com or Facebook page, [facebook.com/crossovernfp](https://www.facebook.com/crossovernfp) for more information.

Fillmore Native Pinned After Years Of Service

Fillmore native Kevin Clark was recently pinned chief in the United States Navy.

Clark has served in the military for 17 years. His assignments at sea include USS Essex at Sasebo, Japan; Individual Augmentee at Kabul, Afghanistan; USS John McCain at Yokosuka, Japan, and USS Gerald Ford at Norfolk, VA.

His ashore duties include Navy information operations command at Ft. Meade, MD, and cyber protection team at Honolulu, HI.

Clark is qualified as an enlisted surface warfare specialist and information warfare specialist.

Clark and his wife Keri have two children, Liam and Rilyn. He is the son of Joyce



Kevin Clark

and Gary Miller of Fillmore and Jim and Nancy Clark Stretator; and the grandson of Marilyn Wiggins of Vandalia, the late Earl Wiggins of Irving, Irene Clark of Nokomis and the late Joe Clark of Nokomis.

Lincolnwood Students Plan Trivia Night

Lincolnwood Junior High and High School will host a trivia night at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, at the school cafeteria. The cost is set at \$100 per ten-person team. The top three teams will receive a prize.

Several raffles will be held during the trivia night. Concessions will be available for purchase, however, attendees are allowed to bring their own food and beverages.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Lincolnwood

Student Council to help fund student field trips, dances and more.

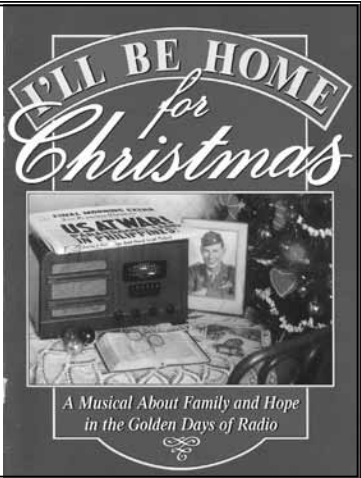
Questions can be directed to Sydney Schmidt at sschmidt@panhandleschools.com.

e-mail your ad to advertisejn@consolidated.net

The Hillsboro Free Methodist Church invites you to celebrating the season with a Broadway style musical! Set in late 1941, *I'll Be Home for Christmas* is the story of the faith of a family, and a nation on the brink of World War II, preparing to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Most of the action takes place in the main characters' home, with the choir providing music and drama as it is broadcast over the family radio. The music highlights the sounds of the '40s, including swing, lush ballads, and big band songs interspersed with reenactments of radio broadcasts during that time.

The musical will take place on **Friday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m.** and again on **Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Free Methodist Church, 1400 Seymour Ave.

There will be a dessert reception both evenings and it's all **FREE!**



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Fruit Cake in Christmas Tin \$22.95 Cupcakes \$7.95/6 pack

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Christmas Dessert Tray (2dz) - \$23.95
(Goopy Butter, Cheesecake, Cake Bars, & Brownie Bites)
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Xmas Morning Continental Breakfast Tray (10 pieces) \$19.95
(Danish, Cinn. Rolls, Muffins, Bagels, Cream Cheese, Butter, & Jam)

CATERING—Advance Orders Required
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Roast Turkey Breast, Turkey Gravy*, Cranberry Apple Cider Glazed Ham*, Homemade Stuffing*, Party Mashed Potatoes*, Green Bean Casserole*, Sweet Potato Casserole*, Macaroni & Cheese*, Cheesy Hash Brown Casserole*, Cran-Orange Relish, & Cranberry, Cheddar, Bacon, Pecan Cheese Ball*

*These items are also available by advance order for pick-up 12/17-12/18

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Raymond Grade School fourth graders Jaylee and Paislee Krager donated \$500 to the Lincolnwood High School girls basketball program from the proceeds of selling orange Lancer bracelets earlier this year before the Lady Lancers' game on Dec. 5. Pictured with the girls, from the left, are Head Coach Justin Millburg, and senior players Haelee Damm, Amanda Seelbach and Avery Pope.

Krager Girls Donate To Lady Lancer Basketball

Prior to the start of the Lincolnwood girls basketball game on Monday, Dec. 5, Raymond Grade School fourth graders Jaylee and Paislee Krager donated \$500 to the team from the proceeds of their sales of orange Lancer bracelets earlier this year.

The girls, daughters of Steven and Jessica Krager of Raymond, sold the bracelets for \$2 apiece. Sponsors also purchased bracelets for all Raymond Grade School students in second through sixth

grades, with the bracelets handed out on the last day of school. Those sponsors include Amy Crist, Tara Gilpin, Krager Construction, Jessica Krager, Stephanie Mears, Dana Morris, Joey and Susan Olson and Tammy Redka.

In appreciation for their donation, the senior members of the Lincolnwood girls basketball team, Haelee Damm, Amanda Seelbach and Avery Pope, presented the future Lady Lancers with T-shirts.

Amateur Radio Holiday Party Set For Dec. 14

The Montgomery County Amateur Radio club Christmas Party will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Tobias Public House in Hillsboro at the Hillsboro Country Club beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the meal at 6 p.m.

Beginning Jan. 1, "Winterheat" is a month-long amateur radio simplex event with a goal and purpose for amateur radio operators to make as many contacts as possible over a month long period of time using only designated simplex frequencies. More information can

be found at <https://www.hamactive.com/WH23/index.php>.

The Montgomery County AREC will have their next regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Chalmers House in Hillsboro at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in Amateur radio is welcome.

The Montgomery County AREC meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Everyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Judy Reynolds at 217-259-5650.

TASC Offers Free Movie On Dec. 23

Eisentraut Theatres and TASC (The Autism Support Connection) are partnering to host a sensory-friendly film at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Hillsboro at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23.

The feature will be the newly released animated film "Puss n Boots: The Last Wish."

TASC will cover the cost of admission for this event, which is open to families affected by autism and other related disorders. In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable environment, the auditorium lights will be left on during the movie and the sound will be turned down lower. Audience members are also welcomed to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing, and the usual "silence" policy is not enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Families are also invited to bring their own gluten-free or casein-free snacks. Popcorn and drinks are available for purchase.

For additional information, email tascilinois@gmail.com or contact Lynn Sellers at 217-556-9535 or Kim Draper at 217-710-3598. Check out "Sensory Friendly" at www.bestmovie-deal.com.

Regional Office Announces Alt. School Dismissals

The Regional Office of Education has announced upcoming school dismissals for the ROE #3 Alternative programs in Litchfield, Vandalia and Effingham.

There will be no classes starting Wednesday, Dec. 21, through Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of Christmas break. School will not be in session on Tuesday, Jan. 3, for a teacher's institute. Classes will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Questions can be directed to Laura Benhoff at 618-283-9311, Kristin Charlesworth at 217-408-2185 or Amber Kidd at 217-342-2865.

www.thejournal-news.net



Families Enjoy Charlie Brown Christmas

"It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who's under it." Local families enjoyed taking part in A Charlie Brown Christmas at the Litchfield Public Library on Friday evening, Dec. 9. The Peanuts gang was featured in a variety of games and crafts stations, where youngsters of all ages could paint a Christmas tree, create Snoopy's doghouse and even play Bingo and bowling. They also offered a backdrop for family Christmas photos. Pictured above, sisters Reese and Reagan Steinmann of Litchfield work on Snoopy Christmas necklaces during the program.

Journal-News/Mary Herschelmann



'Tis' The Season For Fun Family Nights

Litchfield School District's PTO and Title #1 program teamed up to host "Tis the Season," a holiday event on Thursday, Dec. 1, at the District Office. Elementary age students were invited to decorate cookies, make gingerbread houses, read Christmas stories with the high school volunteers and take family pictures at the photo booth. A very special guest, Santa Claus, was in attendance with his helper. More than 260 people showed up for the festive family night.



HSHS St. Francis Hosts Living Nativity

Wise men, shepherds, and angels gathered round the holy family of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus during the drive-through living nativity on the HSHS St. Francis Hospital campus in Litchfield on Thursday, Dec. 8. Those who attended also received free hot cocoa kits and Christmas activity bags for children.

Journal-News Photo

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 New book celebrates the Hillsboro community and the effect of local journalism

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 Hope and Transformation Among America's Community Newspapers
 by Dave Hoekstra

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Author Dave Hoekstra interviews the people trying to keep the lights on at community newspapers across the country amid buyouts, declining revenues, fake news, and a pandemic. The book is not an account of the death of local journalism, but rather a celebration of the community ties, perseverance, and empathy that's demonstrated in community newspapers from Hillsboro to Charleston, SC, to Marfa, TX.

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County Teams Tip Off At T. Todt Shootout

The Fourth Annual Terry Todt Shootout versus Cancer, held this year at Hillsboro High School, ended with a memorable battle between county rivals Litchfield and Lincolnwood, with Lincolnwood grabbing a come-from-behind 58-54 victory. The 6:30 game saw Hillsboro's girls sweep to a 51-17 win over the Litchfield Purple Panthers when the visitors suffered through a poor shooting night. The girls' win made it a clean sweep for Topper Teams as the boys gained a 67-62 win over a small but scrappy East Alton Wood River team.

Hillsboro vs. EAWR

The Oilers used a variety of zone defenses, including at least two varieties of 1-2-2 ball pressure looks against the taller but less experienced Toppers. Initially that strategy posed two problems for Hillsboro; leading scorer Will Christian had to be more of a ball handler than scorer, and the Toppers faced few zone teams in the early going. 6' guard Seth Slayden was effective in his defensive role, but he also used his quickness to lead EAWR with 27 points, including 11 in the first quarter when the visitors outscored the hosts 23-18.

Christian, though, continued with the hot hand he displayed at Pana; his 10 first quarter points, combined with 6 from Nathan Schaake and a game-opening basket from Blaze Helton, kept Hillsboro close. Troubling, though, were two offensive rebound baskets by Slayden, who was inches shorter than the Hillsboro bigs, to end the quarter.

Hillsboro limited Slayden to four field goals over the last three quarters, but two



Lincolnwood's Taylor Lush draws a crowd of Gillespie defenders during the Lady Lancers' game at the T. Todt Shootout in Hillsboro on Saturday, Dec. 10. The Lincolnwood and Gillespie girls kicked off a day full of basketball in remembrance of the late Terry Todt, with proceeds from the event going to the Montgomery County Cancer Association. For more on the Lincolnwood/Gillespie game, see 3B.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

of them were threes. He did make 8 of 10 free throws during that time frame, though, but the Topper defense stepped up over the middle 16 minutes, limiting EAWR to 20 points then.

By the end of Quarter Three, thanks to points inside from Helton (seven in the

second quarter) and Nathan Matoush outside (two threes in the third period), the Toppers were ahead 48-43. That set the stage for the last eight minutes.

The Oilers fell behind by eight as Christian made two free throws (his six of six performances from the line

in the game were as crucial as his other 20 points), but then EAWR tallied the next six points to trail by two with 5:40 to play.

The Toppers held on, though; Christian had a key basket at the four minute mark; as the Oilers pressured outward in hopes of forcing turnovers, Mitch Lowe was open for shots underneath, and Helton passed well to collect assists. The visitors never gave up, but the Toppers wouldn't crumble as the narrow win snapped a three game losing streak.

Hillsboro next plays Mulberry Grove in the St. Elmo Tournament tomorrow, Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Hillsboro vs. Litchfield

The Hillsboro girls' program, undoubtedly helped by early-season competition in top flight tournaments in the area, had little trouble while running away from their Litchfield counterparts following the boys' game. The Lady Toppers received three field goals from Alex Frailey and two from Layne Rupert while jumping to a 12-4 first quarter lead; those two were in double figures by game's end with 12 and 19 points respectively.

Laura Boston's 7 points were high for the visitors; because the Toppers have a deeper bench with interchangeable players, the Purple had few answers against a sturdy defense always keyed by good defensive tactics. Litchfield had quarters of 4, 4, 5, and 4 points; the Toppers had 12 in each of the first three quarters before finishing with 15 in the last quarter that became running clock time early in the period. Addy Lowe had six of her eight in that period.

Continued on 3B



Three days after defeating Staunton 35-17 in the sectional final in Vandalia, the Hillsboro Lady Dragons found themselves just one win away from an IESA state championship. Pictured with their sectional title, in front, from the left are Mikenna McSperritt, Karsyn Greenwood, Amya Greenwood and Peyton Christian. In the back are Kendall Peterson, Delaney Adams, Peyton Chappellear and Albany Kindernay, with Coach Kenny White.

Lady Dragons One Win Away From State Title

The Hillsboro Junior High eighth grade girls basketball team is just one win away from an IESA state championship after picking up two victories at the tournament on Saturday, Dec. 10, in Germantown Hills.

The Lady Dragons made it to state by virtue of their 35-17 win over Staunton on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Vandalia Sectional. This was Hillsboro's second win over the Terriers, having beaten them 45-23 earlier in the year.

Three days later, Hillsboro started out the day with a 30-19 victory over Robinson Nuttall that pushed them into the state semifinal later

that day.

Hillsboro got the bulk of their lead in the first quarter as they outscored the Raiders 14-4. Robinson got the upper hand in the next two quarters, but were only able to shave three points off the lead as Hillsboro led 22-15 going into the fourth.

The Dragons doubled up Robinson in the final frame, 8-4, to punch their ticket to the semifinals with the 11-point win. Amaya Greenwood led all scorers with 16 points, while Delaney Adams added six and Albany Kindernay and Peyton Christian chipped in four apiece for Hillsboro.

Continued on 3B



The Nokomis Junior High eighth grade girls' basketball team, pictured here after their 44-31 sectional win over Hardin Calhoun, will play for third place in the IESA Class 8-2A State Finals on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. in Havana. In the front are Carsyn Bertolino, Emily Harston, Kara Beaty, Hannah Tarter, Quincee Riebe and Lily Broers. In the back are Coach Sean Hendrickson, Maliah Harris, Alivia Sabol, Makenzie Mehochko, Cloey Dirks, Fallon Knodle, Kendree Dean and Coach Beth King.

James Ryan/NokoPhoto

Another Tourney, Another Trophy For Nokomis Junior High Girls

Just a week after bringing the school's fourth IESA girls basketball state trophy home, the Nokomis Junior High Lady Braves will add a fifth state trophy to the case.

Like the seventh graders did in their tournament, the Nokomis eighth grade Lady Braves will play for third place at the IESA Class 8-2A State Finals on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. against a familiar foe, the Bombers of Brownstown.

The Lady Braves made it to state by virtue of their 44-31 win over Hardin Calhoun on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Central A&M Sectional. The win improved Nokomis' record to 23-4 going into the state tournament, with their only losses coming against

Gillespie (by 5), Taylorville (by 6) and Hillsboro (by 18 the first time and three the second time).

Both Hillsboro and Taylorville were regional champions, with the Dragons beating Gillespie in the regional championship. Hillsboro also won their sectional on Wednesday over Staunton, while Taylorville came up just four points short, 36-32, against Danville North Ridge.

For their state opener, the Lady Braves drew Colfax Ridgeway in the opening game and defeated the Mustangs 38-29. Nokomis outscored their opponents in three of the four quarters, with a 13-13 third quarter the only exception.

After a 7-4 first quarter,

Nokomis led 16-12 at halftime. Following the dead-even third quarter, the Braves closed out the game with a 9-4 quarter and a nine-point win.

Makenzie Mehochko and Alivia Sabol both reached double figures for Nokomis, scoring 16 and 14 respectively. Cloey Dirks added five points, while Hannah Tarter, the leading scorer in the seventh grade tournament for Nokomis, added three.

The win over Colfax Ridgeway put Nokomis in the semifinal against Mt. Sterling Brown County. The Hornets would get some early momentum with a 16-5 first quarter and carried that through for a 44-28 win.

Continued on 3B

7th Grade Braves Fourth At State

A special season came to an end for the Nokomis Junior High seventh grade girls' basketball team on Thursday, Dec. 8, as the Lady Braves finished fourth overall at the IESA Class 7-2A State Finals.

The Lady Braves hung with Heyworth for a half, matching them point for point in the first and trailing by just one, 8-7, at halftime. The difference maker turned out to be the third quarter as the Hornets outscored Nokomis 6-0 in the frame.

The Braves' offense got back on track in the fourth, scoring six points, but they were unable to gain any ground on Heyworth, who won 21-13.

Hannah Tarter had 10 points for Nokomis in the

game, upping her tournament total to 31 points in three games. Brooklyn Marley added two points against the Hornets, while Kara Beaty added a free throw.

Thursday's result gave Nokomis a record of 24-6 for the season and marked the fourth time Nokomis had brought home a trophy from the IESA girls' basketball state tourney. The other three times were all with eight grade teams, meaning the 2022 squad broke new ground as seventh graders.

But trophy season is far from done for the Lady Braves. The eighth graders will play for third as well on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. in Havana, with several seventh graders also on that squad.

IESA Class 7-3A Girls State Tournament

at Paris High School

First Round - December 3

• Liberty 31, Altamont 19

• Nokomis 35, Riverdale Washington 20

• Heyworth 26, Glasford Illinois Bluffs 14

• Havana 22, Paris Crestwood 20

Semifinals - December 3

• Liberty 36, Nokomis 19

• Havana 26, Heyworth 8

Thursday, December 8

Third: Heyworth 21, Nokomis 13

Championship: Havana 41, Liberty 23

Final Records: Altamont (20-7),

Riverdale Washington (14-3),

Glasford Illinois Bluffs (19-4),

Paris Crestwood (22-1); Nokomis (24-6); Heyworth (24-2); Liberty (27-2); Havana (28-0).

Nokomis Tournament Scoring:

Hannah Tarter 31; Brooklyn Marley 13, Carsyn Bertolino 12,

Kara Beaty 6, Quincee Riebe 2,

Emily Harston 2, Lily Broers 1.



For the fourth time in school history, the Nokomis Junior High girls' basketball team earned a trophy from the IESA State Finals as the seventh grade Lady Braves took fourth on Thursday, Dec. 8. In front from the left, are Joelle Jackson, Quincee Riebe, Kara Beaty, Hannah Tarter, Addi Cress and Avery West. In the back row are Jeremy Mehochko, Kennedy Aumann, Emily Harston, Lily Broers, Carsyn Bertolino, Kendree Dean, Brooklyn Marley, Paige Sulee, Nina Johnson, Coach Beth King and Coach Sean Hendrickson.

James Ryan/Noko Photo

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Sports Calendar

Hillsboro Hiltoppers
Monday, December 12
 6 p.m. - Girls Basketball hosts Litchfield (varsity first)
Tuesday, December 13
 6 p.m. - Wrestling at Litchfield with Mt. Zion
 6 p.m. - Freshman Girls Basketball hosts Pawnee
 6:15 p.m. - Boys Basketball vs. Mulberry Grove at St. Elmo Tournament

Litchfield Purple Panthers
Monday, December 12
 6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at Hillsboro (varsity first)
 6 p.m. - F/JV Boys Basketball at Lincolnwood
Tuesday, December 13
 5 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Highland
 6 p.m. - Wrestling hosts Hillsboro, Mt. Zion

Nokomis Redskins
Tuesday, December 13
 5 p.m. - Boys Basketball hosts Panagon Valley (F/JV/V)
 6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at Pawnee (varsity first)

Lincolnwood Lancers
Monday, December 12
 6 p.m. - Girls Basketball at Sangamon Valley (varsity first)
 6 p.m. - F/JV Boys Basketball hosts Litchfield
Tuesday, December 13
 6 p.m. - Boys Basketball at Gillespie
 6 p.m. - Girls Basketball hosts Greenfield-Northwestern

Get the scores when we do at www.twitter.com/JNsports

Lady Hiltoppers Win Two After Layoff

It may have been their first game in a week and a half, but the Hillsboro girls basketball team didn't look rusty on Wednesday, Dec. 7, as they defeated Alton Marquette 46-35 on the Explorers' home court.

More than half of the Toppers' points came from the post as Addy Lowe and Alex Frailey led Hillsboro with 14 and 10 points respectively. Six of those 24 points came in the opening quarter, when Hillsboro took a 14-6 lead after eight minutes. Sierra Compton also had three points in the quarter, while Tatum Christian hit one of her two threes on the night.

Christian's other three came in the next frame as Hillsboro continued to build on their lead. Five other Hillsboro players scored in the frame, led by Layne Rupert's four points in the quarter. At the end of the second, Hillsboro had another 14 points and a 28-11 halftime lead.

Marquette began to find their spark on offense in the second half, benefitting from a 8-for-10 performance from the free-throw line and seven points from both Nia Ballinger and Livy Kratschmer.

In response, Hillsboro leaned on Lowe and Frailey. Lowe scored six of Hillsboro's 10 points in the third quarter to keep Marquette within reach, then added four more in the fourth quarter, giving the sophomore forward a season-best 14.

Frailey, who had two of the remaining four points in the third (Layne Rupert had the other two), complimented Lowe with four points of her own in the fourth.

The Explorers outscored Hillsboro 11-10 and 13-8 in the final two quarters, but that was far from enough to make up the deficit from the first half as Hillsboro came away with a 11-point win, their third of the season.

In addition to the two in double figures, Layne Rupert and Tatum Christian had six each and Sierra Compton added four. Kenadie Carlock, Sophia Blankenship and Meagan White rounded out the scoring with two points each.

Carlinville
 On Thursday, Dec. 8, Hillsboro put on a defensive clinic in Carlinville as the Lady Hiltoppers picked up their first South Central Conference win of the season by the score of 50-17.

The Toppers held Carlinville to just six field goals in the game, only two of which came in the first half when

the Cavies were limited to just five points.

Layne Rupert outscored the Cavies in the first half in the opening eight minutes as the senior guard put up seven points to lead Hillsboro to a 12-3 first quarter lead. Rupert tacked on four more points in the second quarter as the Toppers upped the lead to 23-5 by halftime.

The Cavies had more success on the offensive end in the second half, scoring seven in the third and five in the fourth. Hillsboro still added to their lead, though, spreading out 12 points in the third and 15 points in the fourth between seven players. Both Rupert and Alex Frailey had four apiece in the third, while Addy Lowe led the Toppers in the fourth with eight points.

Layne Rupert matched Carlinville in scoring with 17 points and added in six rebounds, three assists and a team-high four steals.

Addy Lowe added 10 points and seven rebounds off the bench, while Alex Frailey finished with nine points and a team-high eight boards. Sierra Compton and Meagan White added in five points apiece, with Kamryn Langston and Ella Greenwood rounding out

the scoring with two points each. Kenadie Carlock also had three assists for the Toppers, matching Compton and Rupert for the team lead.

The Toppers will host Litchfield on Monday, Dec. 12, in their second SCC game of the season.

December 7 at Alton
 Hillsboro 14 14 10 8 ---46
 Marquette 6 5 11 13 ---35
Hillsboro (46) - Addy Lowe 14, Alex Frailey 10, Tatum Christian 6, Layne Rupert 6, Sierra Compton 4, Kenadie Carlock 2, Sophia Blankenship 2, Meagan White 2. **Totals:** 20 4-10 46.
Marquette (35) - Haley Rodgers 11, Nia Ballinger 9, Livy Kratschmer 7, Allie Weiner 6, Payton Patterson 2. **Totals:** 11 10-12 35.
Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 2 (Christian 2); Marquette 3 (Rodgers 1, Ballinger 1, Kratschmer 1). **Records:** Hillsboro (3-5); Marquette (5-3).

Dec. 8 at Carlinville
 Hillsboro 12 11 12 15 ---50
 Carlinville 3 2 7 5 ---17
Hillsboro (50) - Layne Rupert 17, Addy Lowe 10, Alex Frailey 9, Sierra Compton 5, Meagan White 5, Kamryn Langston 2, Ella Greenwood 2. **Totals:** 18-59 13-18 50.
Carlinville (17) - Isabella Tiburzi 8, Jordyn Loveless 7, Hannah Gibson 2. **Totals:** 6 3-7 17.
Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 1-5 (Rupert 1); Carlinville 2 (Tiburzi 2). **Records:** Hillsboro (4-5, 1-0); Carlinville (1-6, 0-2).

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Lady Panthers Battle Injuries, Illness, Vandals

Due to injuries and illness within the Lady Panther camp, the Litchfield roster did not allow for a junior varsity game on Dec. 8 so the varsity conference match-up between the host school and Vandalia took center stage.

Unfortunately the outcome of the second look at Coach Michelle's McNary's 6-3 Lady Vandals ended virtually the same as their first encounter when the two teams met on Nov. 22 during the 23rd Annual Litchfield Thanksgiving Tournament, when the Vandals sealed a third place berth with a commanding win.

Bella Austin and Anna Forbes combined for 38 points against Litchfield in the Nov. 22 win and the Austin/Forbes marquee in Thursday's night's game read Austin 20 and Forbes 19 as the sophomore/senior duo led the Lady Vandals to a 55-23 win.

Austin just happens to lead the team in points per game (16.7), rebounding (6.5), assists (4.7) and steals (2.9) and Forbes is right behind her averaging 15.3 points per game and 6.2 rebounds per contest. She also lends 2.2 assists and 2 steals per game.

Litchfield just didn't have the answer for the Vandals as they scored the majority of their points within close range. However, Austin did not hesitate to step away from the paint as she knocked down two three-point field goals in the second quarter after pouring in eight points in the first period when the Vandals outscored the Panthers 10-2. Senior Megan Lupton dropped in



Litchfield's Emma Walch dives for a loose ball in the second quarter of the Purple Panthers' game against Vandalia on Thursday, Dec. 8. Walch scored a team-best nine points in the Panthers' 55-23 loss to the Vandals.

Journal-News/Kyle Herschelmann

Vandalia's other three-pointer in the third quarter.

Vandalia's 20 second quarter points all but put the game out of reach for Litchfield as they scored often and at will. Austin had eight points in the period while Forbes chipped in six and Katie Eckhardt and Megan Lupton had four and two points respectively. Laura Boston (4) and Emma Walch (2) accounted for Litchfield's

six second quarter points and the Panthers went to the locker room saddled with a 22-point deficit.

Litchfield's offense awakened in the third quarter with 11 points and the emergence of Emma Walch putting points on the board for the Panthers was a welcome sight as she buried a trey and added another four hustle points.

Hailey Rentz and Boston also scored in the period but the Vandals countered with 16 points and the continuous clock was implemented with four minutes left in the contest. The Vandals closed the game out with numerous substitutions.

Due to illness, Coach Rob

Corso did not have the services of his 5'8" sophomore starter, Gina Painter, and bench players Emma Diveley and Chloe Law, the latter of whom is nursing an injury. Freshman Kalie Kircher was inserted in the starting lineup and although she did not score, she jumped in for five rebounds and two assists. The Litchfield scoring was limited to three players, Emma Walch with nine, Boston with eight and Rentz with six.

Litchfield converted 11-of-39 shots from the floor and went 1-for-6 from three-point land. They grabbed 10 offensive and 19 defensive rebounds, recorded three blocks, 11 assists and nine steals, with Elise Walch stepping in the passing lane for three picks while Hailey Rentz and Emma Walch had two apiece.

Hailey Rentz led the team with 11 rebounds and Elise Walch pulled down seven. Emma Walch finished the game as the scoring leader with nine points. In addition to the 5'11" senior forward had three rebounds, two steals, a block and an assist. Turnovers were once again a part of the equation as Litchfield's missteps reached double digits.

Vandalia bagged 20 two-point field goals, three treys, and went 6-of-10 from the charity stripe. Leading rebounders for the Vandals were Forbes with six and Austin and Katie Eckhardt with five apiece. Eckhardt also chipped in six points.

Dec. 8 at Litchfield
 Vandalia 10 20 16 9 ---55
 Litchfield 2 6 11 4 ---23
Vandalia (55) - Bella Austin 20, Anna Forbes 19, Katie Eckhardt 6, Megan Lupton 5, Lauren Johnson 2, Olive Whitehead 2, Alexi Hartlieb 1. **Totals:** 23 6-10 55.
Litchfield (23) - Emma Walch 9, Laura Boston 8, Hailey Rentz 6. **Totals:** 11 0-0 23.
Three-point field goals: Vandalia 3 (Bella Austin 2, Megan Lupton 1); Litchfield 1 (Elise Walch 1). **Records:** Vandalia (6-3, 2-0); Litchfield (1-8, 0-2).

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Court Begins DV Committee

The Illinois Supreme Court announced the creation of the Supreme Court Committee on Domestic Violence.

“The Supreme Court wants to know how our state courts can better serve the needs of survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking,” Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis said. “Changing technology, the upcoming SAFE-T Act and other legislative changes necessitate the need for a committee dedicated to these issues.”

The committee is tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on matters affecting domestic violence, human trafficking, and the court system. Members will review, analyze, and examine the impact of legislation and case law as it relates to domestic violence and human trafficking and the court process.

The Chair of the Committee will be 17th Circuit Associate Judge Jennifer J. Clifford, Presiding Judge of Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Court, for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2025.

• Christy L. Compton, 36, of Irving, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of aggravated assault of a peace officer on Friday, Nov. 18, and was sentenced to 30 months in prison with a credit of 241 days served, fined, plus court costs. Misdemeanor charges of resisting a peace officer filed in December 2020 and battery filed in March 2021, and felony charges of possession of meth filed in April 2021 and criminal damage to government property filed in December 2021 were dismissed.

• Michael L. Ettling, 29, of Hillsboro, pleaded guilty to criminal damage to property on Thursday, Nov. 17, and was sentenced to restitution and fined. A misdemeanor charge of cruelty to animals filed in December 2020 was dismissed.

• Jacob R. Floyd, 24, of Taylorville, pleaded guilty to an amended felony charge of aggravated criminal sexual abuse on Friday, Nov. 4, and was sentenced to four years of probation, 180 days in jail with a credit of 213 days served, fined \$200, plus court costs. A felony charge of predatory criminal sexual assault was dismissed.

• Skye A. Halleman, 27, of Pana, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of meth on Thursday, Nov. 17, and was sentenced to two years of probation, 12 days in jail with a credit of six days served, drug and alcohol treatment, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• A felony charge of theft and a misdemeanor charge of retail theft filed in October 2019, as well as an additional felony charge of theft filed in January 2021 against Tara M. Hancock, 30, of Litchfield, were dismissed on Monday, Nov. 7.

• Kylee M. Hardt, 19, of Witt, pleaded guilty to theft on Thursday, Nov. 10, and was fined \$75, plus court costs.

• An order of “nolle prosequi” was entered on Wednesday, Nov. 9, in a felony charge of manufacturing ecstasy pills filed on Sept. 23 against Omar T. Harris, 28, of Springfield.

• Shelby F. Heintz, 30, of Witt, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of criminal trespass to a residence on Wednesday, Nov. 2, and was sentenced to two years of probation, 180 das in jail with a credit of 180 days served, 30 hours of public service, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Felony charges from September 2018 of possession of meth, theft and retail theft against Billy L. Jones, 61, of Pocahontas, were dismissed on Monday, Nov. 7.

• Cory J. Krager, 34, of Farmersville, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of meth on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and was sentenced to two years of probation, two days in jail with a credit of one day served, 30 hours of public service, drug treatment, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Brian S. Laird, 38, of Litchfield, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of manufacturing or delivering or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and was sentenced to two years of conditional discharge, two days in jail with a credit of one day served, fined \$75, plus court costs. An additional felony charge of manufacturing or delivering or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance, as well as a felony charge of possession of meth, were dismissed.

Jessica N. Maurer, 28, of Benld, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of meth on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and was sentenced to two years of probation, four days in jail with a credit of two days served, drug treatment, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Brett A. Miller, 25, of Thayer, current inmate, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of meth on Thursday, Nov. 17, and was sentenced to three years in prison with a credit of 95 days served, one year of mandatory supervised release, fined \$75, plus court costs. An additional felony charge of possession of meth, as well as misdemeanor charges of obstructing identification and possession of drug paraphernalia, were dismissed.

• Morris E. Miller, 62, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of unlawful possession or use of a firearm by a felon on Monday, Nov. 7, and was sentenced to two years in prison with a credit of 144 days served, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Shania M. Mitchell, 23, of Standard City, pleaded guilty to a felony of possession of meth on Thursday, Nov. 10, and was sentenced to six days in jail with a credit of three days served, drug and alcohol treatment, 24 months of probation, 30 hours of public service, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Jamie R. Olmsted, 42, of Hillsboro, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of meth on Monday, Nov. 7, and was sentenced to 42 days in jail with a credit of 21 days served, drug treatment, 24 months of probation, fined \$75, plus court costs. Two additional felony charges of possession of meth, as well as a felony charge of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, were dismissed.

• An order of “nolle prosequi” was entered on Thursday, Nov. 10, in a felony charge of criminal sexual abuse of a child filed in March 2021 against Matthew P. Peper, 21, of Farmersville.

• Tony L. Renfro, 54, of Donnellson, pleaded guilty to battery on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and was sentenced to 40 days in jail, fined \$75, plus court costs. Two misdemeanor charges of battery and two misdemeanor charges of resisting a peace officer were dismissed.

• Charges from December 2020 of domestic battery against Breann A. Schaaff, 27, of Mt. Olive, were dismissed on Monday, Nov. 7.

• Justin R. Sellers, 36, of Hillsboro, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of theft on Thursday, Nov. 17, and was sentenced to 22 days in jail with a credit of 11 days served, 30 hours of public service, two years of probation, fined \$75, plus court costs. A felony charge of residential burglary and misdemeanor charges of criminal trespass to a building, battery and possession of drug paraphernalia were all dismissed.

• Erin K. Tomlin, 41, of Springfield, pleaded guilty to electronic harassment on Monday, Nov. 7, and was sentenced to four days in jail with a credit of two days served, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Gary W. Wells, 35, of Girard, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of meth on Monday, Nov. 7, and was sentenced to 24 months of probation, six days in jail with a credit of three days served, drug treatment, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• Jorda L. Claro, 36, of Carlinville, faces a felony charge of theft on Sunday, Nov. 20.

• Katie R. Cole, 35, of Nokomis, faces a felony charge of methamphetamine trafficking on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

• Sydney I. Crowe, 21, of Litchfield, faces a felony charge of possession of meth on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

• Michael L. Engelhart, 52, of Nokomis, faces a felony charge of aggravated criminal sexual abuse on Monday, Aug. 1.

• Aaron M. Groetecke, 24, of Taylor Springs, faces felony charges of meth delivery and possession of meth on Sunday, Nov. 27.

• Curtis R. McCormick, 38, of Litchfield, faces a felony charge of possession of meth on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

• Shelby R. Morgan, 27, of Mt. Olive, faces felony charges of meth delivery and possession of meth on Sunday, Nov. 27.

• Angela R. Lesiewicz, 44, of Donnellson, was charged with criminal damage to property on Sunday, Nov. 27.

• Charles D. Beiermann, 39, of Litchfield, was charged with domestic battery on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

• Michael W. Summers, 33, of Irving, was charged with domestic battery on Sunday, Nov. 27.

• Christopher M. Patrick, 44, of Hillsboro, was charged with driving under the influence and was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to reduce speed on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

• Camdin J. Morris, 22, of Raymond, was cited for a deer hunting permit violation on Sunday, Nov. 20.

• Felony charges from July 2021 of possession of meth against Molly J. Brown, 40, of Litchfield, were dismissed on Monday, Nov. 21.

• A felony charge of arson and a misdemeanor charge of battery from 2020 against Jeffery H. Chenoweth, 38, of Nokomis, were dismissed on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

• Shannon N. Corwin, 37, of Virden, pleaded guilty to a felony of meth delivery on Monday, Nov. 21, and was sentenced to 50 days in jail with a credit of 25 days served, two years of probation, drug and alcohol treatment, fined \$3,705, plus court costs. A felony charge of possession of meth was dismissed.

• Alex J. Cunningham, 26, of Farmersville, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and was sentenced to five years in prison with a credit of 191 days served, one year of mandatory supervised release, fined \$75, plus court costs. Felony charges of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon and home invasion were dismissed.

• Two felony charges from July 2022 of violation of the sex offender registry against Joshua L. Ernst, 33, of Hillsboro, were dismissed on Monday, Nov. 21.

• An order of “nolle prosequi” was entered on Tuesday, Nov. 29, in a felony charge of bringing alcohol in a penal institution and a misdemeanor charge of aggravated assault filed on Oct. 23 against Blake W. Helfrich Gress, 25, of Litchfield.

• An order of “nolle prosequi” was entered on Thursday, Dec. 1, in a misdemeanor charge of carrying or possession of a firearm filed in December 2021 against David J. Hirschl, 40, of Hillsboro.

• Johnathan C. Joiner, 43, of Greenville, current inmate,

pleaded guilty to a felony charge of aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon on Monday, Nov. 21, and was sentenced to one year in prison with a credit of 131 days served, one year of mandatory supervised release, fined \$75, plus court costs. Two felony charges of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon, as well as a misdemeanor charge of driving on a revoked license, were dismissed.

• Brittany N. Kampmann, 32, of Panama, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of meth delivery on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and was sentenced to four years in prison with a credit of 71 days served, one year of mandatory supervised release, fined \$75, plus court costs. Two felony charges of meth delivery, three felony charges of possession of meth and a misdemeanor charge of unlawful possession of a firearm without a valid FOID were all dismissed.

• Kohdy L. Lyerla, 28, of Nokomis, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of unlawful possession of a vehicle on Thursday, Dec. 1, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail with a credit of 166 days served, 36 months of probation, drug and alcohol treatment, fined, plus court costs.

• Kelli S. Maass, 52, of Ohlman, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of aggravated driving under the influence on Monday, Nov. 21, and was sentenced to ten days in jail with a credit of seven days served, three days of home confinement, 30 months of probation, drug and alcohol treatment, fined \$1,000, plus court costs. An additional felony charge of aggravated driving under the influence, as well as two misdemeanor charges of retail theft, were dismissed.

• Christina N. Pinkerton, 40, of Litchfield, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of meth delivery on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and was sentenced to five years in prison with a credit of 75 days served, one year of mandatory supervised release, fined \$75, plus court costs. Two felony charges of possession of meth, as well as felony charges of meth delivery and unlawful possession of a controlled substance and a misdemeanor charge of criminal trespass to land, were dismissed.

• Felony charges from June 2021 of violation of the sex offender registry against Robert W. Quance, 55, of Witt, were dismissed on Monday, Nov. 21.

• An order of “nolle prosequi” was entered on Monday, Nov. 21, in felony charges of aggravated domestic battery and domestic battery filed on July 17 against Eric M. Root, 40, of Witt, current inmate.

• An order of “nolle prosequi” was entered on Tuesday, Nov. 22, in a misdemeanor charge of consumption of liquor by a minor filed in November 2021 against Simon P. Whitehead, 19, of Litchfield.

• Latondra B. Wilmot, 52, of Springfield, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of retail theft on Monday, Nov. 21, and was sentenced to 60 days in jail with a credit of 30 days served, two years of conditional discharge, fined \$75, plus court costs.

• William R. Wyle, 43, of Litchfield, current inmate, pleaded guilty to an amended felony charge of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and was sentenced to three years in prison with a credit of 261 days served, one year of mandatory supervised release, fined \$75, plus court costs.

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Lincolnwood FFA Completes Angel Tree Shopping

Members of the Lincolnwood High School FFA Chapter completed their Angel Tree shopping on Wednesday, Dec. 7. Over 50 FFA members participated in the special shopping trip to gather Christmas gifts for children in need this holiday season.



Nokomis High School student Walker Stewart (above) was one of 25 FFA members in the state of Illinois to receive a GROWMARK Foundation FFA jacket.

Walker Stewart Selected As FFA Jacket Recipient

Walker Stewart, a member of the Nokomis High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) Chapter, was the recipient of a GROWMARK Foundation FFA jacket.

The special jackets are distributed yearly in honor of Mike Builta, the vice-president and long-time employee of GROWMARK. Builta was an active FFA member and a lifelong supporter of agricultural education before his unexpected death in April 2019.

Accidents

Overturns Trailer

A Mason man was treated by Litchfield EMS following a one-vehicle accident at 2:33 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, in South Litchfield Township.

Paul S. Ruffner, 66, of Mason, was southbound on West County Line Road, just south of North 13 Avenue, in a truck pulling a trailer hauling a John Deere tractor. Ruffner lost control of his truck and drove off the east side of the roadway into the ditch.

Deer Collision

A deer entered the roadway and collided with a vehicle driven by Braydon Ryker, 16, of Litchfield, while the driver and his passenger were eastbound on East Union Street in Litchfield at 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.

His vehicle sustained front end damage and was towed from the scene by Brian's Towing in Litchfield.

Deer Accident

Billie J. Jostes, 79, of Nokomis, was traveling on Hillside Avenue in Nokomis at 11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, when she struck a deer that entered the roadway.

Her vehicle sustained passenger side damage.

Deer Collision

A deer entered the road and collided with a vehicle driven by Teresa A. Frazier, 64, of Taylorville, while the driver was southbound on Taylorville Road, near 4th Street, in Wenonah at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Her vehicle sustained front end damage.

Deer Accident

Kristin K. Pollman, 52, of Oconee, was westbound on Oconee Avenue, one mile west of East 27th Road, in Audubon Township at 7:35 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, when she struck a deer that had entered the roadway.

Her vehicle sustained front end damage and was towed from the scene.



From the left, Robert Coleman, Brian Niemann, Dennis Hand and Jay Niemann represented Montgomery County at the 2022 Illinois Agricultural Association's annual meeting Dec. 3-6 in Chicago.

Local Members Attend IAA Meeting

The 2022 Illinois Agricultural Association Annual Meeting was held Dec. 3-6 in Chicago. Illinois Farm Bureau members from throughout the state gathered to debate policy, celebrate agriculture, and network with colleagues and friends.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau was well represented at the meeting's Delegate Session on Dec. 3. Robert Coleman, Brian Niemann, Dennis Hand and Jay Niemann served as voting delegates at the event. Kenny Folkerts served as a voting alternate for the county.

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Manager, Katie Wilson, was recognized during the meeting's Awards Ceremony for earning the "Certified Manager" designation. The FBCM (Farm Bureau Certified Manager) designation recognizes county Farm Bureau managers for professional achievement and leadership.

The FBCM program was started in 1993, and is based on service to Farm Bureau and agriculture. To receive the designation, Farm Bureau managers must complete a series of six exams which assess expertise in finance, legal, membership, organization and structure, office



Montgomery County Farm Bureau Manager Katie Wilson was recognized at the meeting for earning the "Certified Manager" designation.

administration and public policy/issue management.

Another highlight of the meeting was the release of a documentary titled "Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story." IFB Annual Meeting attendees viewed a 15-minute excerpt from the hour-long documentary, which follows the Ganschow family of Bureau County to illustrate how three generations of farmers

approach sustainability. Their efforts are representative of the farmer spirit and collaboration required to achieve the goals of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, which involves the work of countless Illinois Farm Bureau members implementing solutions on their farms. The full documentary can be viewed online at youtube.com/ILFarmBureauIFB.

Public Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2022TX25 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVICES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPT. OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ILLINOIS PUBLIC AID FIELD CONSULTANT, ILLINOIS DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT. OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY TREASURER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATES ATTORNEY AND CITY OF LITCHFIELD, CITY OF HILLSBORO, CITY OF NOKOMIS, VILLAGE OF FILLMORE, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:

Table with 4 columns: Parcel Number, Owners/Parties Interested, Cert Number, Street Or Common Address. Lists various parcels and their owners.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON OCTOBER 26, 2020, FOR GENERAL TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2019 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES MAY 16, 2023. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE SAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PARCELS BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON JUNE 6, 2023 AT 11:00 AM (COURTROOM 2), SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE MAY 16, 2023, IS/IS NOT MONTGOMERY COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: #1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, HILLSBORO, IL 62049 TELEPHONE: (217) 532-9530

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY - IN PROBATE IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RANDY F. KATZMAREK, DECEASED. NO. 22-PR-57 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Randy F. Katzmarek of Irving, IL 62049. Letters of office were issued on November 10, 2022 to Anna M. Lyle, whose attorney is Andrew Billington, Attorney at Law, 510 Hillsboro St., Taylor Springs, IL 62089.

Notice is given to unknown heirs, legatees and devisees that an order was entered by the court on November 10, 2022 appointing Anna M. Lyle as Administrator of the Estate of Randy F.

Katzmarek. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Hillsboro, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first date of issuance of letters and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

/s/Andrew Billington Andrew Billington #6316880 Attorney at Law 510 Hillsboro St. P.O. Box 310 Taylor Springs, IL 62089 217-532-9298 abillington@alanpretnar.com 59-3Tm

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Witt will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 5:45 p.m., at City Hall, located at 106A W Broadway, Witt, IL 62094 to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Tim Taylor, Mayor, 106A W. Broadway, Witt, IL 62094 or at (217) 594-2814 no later than December 15, 2022. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

On or about January 19, 2023, the City of Witt intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State CDBG program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: Construction of approximately 3,100 lineal feet of 8" Sanitary Sewer Main, lining approximately 10,500 lineal feet of existing 8" Sanitary Sewer, new manholes, manhole lining, and all related costs in the City of Witt, Montgomery

County. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$1,500,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons is \$1,210,050.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of December 12, 2022 at the office of the City of Witt, 106A W. Broadway, Witt, IL 62094 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to Tim Taylor, Mayor, 106A W. Broadway, Witt, IL 62094 no later than December 20, 2022 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the City of Witt and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Tim Taylor, Mayor, (217) 594-2814, or write to City Hall, 106A W. Broadway, Witt, IL 62094.

Tim Taylor, Mayor City of Witt 61-1T

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 2, 2022, 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 per-

sons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: E&M PARR CATTLE located at 18323 IL RTE 185 in the city of COFFEEN and state of IL.

Dated December 2, 2022 Sandy Leitheiser, County Clerk 59-3Tm*



THURS., DEC. 15 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only auction for the estate of Timothy & Carlene Cruthis. Register/bid at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview & pickup at 707 Sunnyside Ave., Sorrento. Preview: Dec. 12, 4-6 p.m. Auction: Dec. 16, 4-6 p.m. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

THURS., DEC. 15 - 6 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Fayette Co. land auction, 79.37 acres, corner of 3100 North, 400 East Rd., Ramsey, North Hurricane Twp. 79.37 acres timber w/9 acres tillable. Bid at aumauction.com, 217-563-2523. Jaros Family, seller.

SAT., DEC. 17 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online only Peterson sale of Muscle Cars, Hot Wheels, Dub City, Slot Cars, Comics, Magazines, Posters, Totes, More. Bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Preview Dec. 15, 4-6 p.m. Checkout Dec. 18, 4-6 p.m. Both at Bond Co. Fairgrounds, 608 Ridge Ave., Greenville. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

SAT., DEC. 17 - 9 a.m. Machinery consignment auction at Sievers Equip. Co., 1/2 mi. N of Carlinville on Rt. 4 N. Now taking consignments for farm machinery, farm related items & farm closeouts until noon of Dec. 16. If you want to consign, call Rick as soon as possible. Visit our website for pics & updates, www.rickstewartauctioneer.com. Rick Stewart, auctioneer, 217-854-3191 or 217-473-2985.

THURS., DEC. 29 - 7 p.m. Bidding ends for online auction of 29 +/- acres of farmland w/small pond & bldg. site at XXX Elevator Rd., New Douglas. Bid now at mollettauctions.hibid.com. Mollett Auction Service, LLC, Wayne 618-920-6694, Adam 618-267-3086, auctionzip.com Auctioneer #23925, mollettauctions.com, FB Mollett Auction Service.

Don't Miss The Auction! Clip & Save This Directory.

Panthers Fend Off Topper Comeback Bid

by Ron Deabenderfer

The chant "Topper Pride" with which Hillsboro teams traditionally break pre-game huddles rang true in the Pana gym Friday, Dec. 9, when Hillsboro once again played a triple header; at least it was evident in the last half of the varsity game when Hiltoppers battled back from a 24-11 first quarter deficit to take the lead, albeit briefly, late in the fourth quarter before losing 71-69.

The Toppers entered the contest having lost two in a row after beginning the season 3-1. Junior guard Jace Stewart spent the week on crutches after an injury suffered early against Pinckneyville. Another major contributor, a senior, sat out the game for an infraction at the end of the loss to Lincolnwood on Tuesday night. That meant one senior, Will Christian; two juniors, Mitchell Lowe and Dylan Lessman, and two sophomores, Nathan Schaahe and Nathan Matoush, started and then earned most of the playing time against the quick, athletic Panthers.

The home team made matters worse for the visitors when Devon Peebles scored 15 of his game high 36 points in the first quarter; he swished three treys while Ace Armstrong added one as the Panther assault as the basket had to be disheartening for Hillsboro.

The IHSA sent a representative, Jim Allen, to award the team a plaque commemorating Pana's entry into 1,500 wins as a Program Club; in the early going the Panthers lived up to that award's implications. It was 12-0 before Christian scored his first three pointer (of the six he would make). When the lead was 17-7 with 2:28 left in Quarter One, Peebles already had 13 points. Armstrong's layup at the buzzer meant Pana was ahead by 13; a lesser-spirited team than the young Toppers might have melted then.

Instead Hillsboro rallied to hold the Panther edge at 13 during the second quarter. Both Max Lynch (the Panther's very versatile quarterback for the past two football seasons) and Peebles had five, while only Christian (8) and Lowe (6) scored for the Toppers. Christian had two threes, though they were nearer the basket than others would be in the last half.

The tenure of the game changed when the teams returned from halftime. Matoush, Schaahe, and Lowe rotated defensively on Peebles. Though he still scored the majority of the Panther points, he also missed more than he did in the early going; Schaahe and Lowe battled big Brant Bowker to pull down rebounds at the defensive end. Bowker, though, had two big putback baskets in the last quarter.

Matoush came of age as a scorer in the third quarter.

Behind his hot hand, (two threes bracketing two in-close field goals plus an old fashioned three), the Toppers rallied. Lessman's lay-up and free throw—his first varsity points—and eight points from Lowe forged a 53-53 tie after three quarters. It was by far the most productive quarter the Toppers have played this season.

The excitement wasn't over; Christian saw to that. Pana came back, but for a while the Toppers were their equal. A Christian three cut the Panther advantage to one, 66-65. Confusion occurred when Pana coach Adam Metzger chased the referee down the floor to call a time out; he and Topper coach Corbin Govaia were close enough to shake hands before play was stopped. Crowd noise was deafening.

Peebles made two free throws—68-65. After a time out, a Topper young one missed a would-have-tied-it three with 9.1 seconds left. Fouled, Lynch made two free throws. With time running out and his team down five, Christian completed his night by nailing a three-quarters of the court shot to account for the final score, 71-69. It was a morale boost to play so well in the second half, though.

In the first game of the evening, Tony White had eleven of Hillsboro's 13 points vs. a bigger, stronger Pana team who downed the youngest Toppers 46-13; Pana was ahead 30-2 at the half. Two of the players were involved in another school activity Friday night, so only seven Toppers dressed. Tony Stephens was the most productive Panther with 17 points.

The junior varsity—with two of their starters in their first game of the season starting in the varsity game—lost 60-9. Clayton Rufus had five of Hillsboro's points while Jackson Tuetken had four.

The varsity defeated East Alton Wood River in the Terry Todt Shootout in Hillsboro the next day; the next time a triple header occurs comes on Friday, Dec. 16, when Vandalia comes to Hillsboro. The freshman start at 5 p.m. Meanwhile, it'll be varsity only in the St. Elmo Tournament this week.

December 9 at Pana
Hillsboro 11 14 28 16---69
Pana 24 14 15 18---71

Hillsboro (69) - Will Christian 28, Mitchell Lowe 16, Nathan Matoush 16, Nathan Schaahe 6, Dylan Lessman 3.

Pana (71) - Devon Peebles 36, Max Lynch 13, Brant Bowker 9, Ace Armstrong 7, Matthew McFarland 4, Parker Rout 2.

Three-point field goals: Hillsboro 8 (Christian 6, Matoush 2); Pana 7 (Peebles 4, Lynch 2, Armstrong 1).

Records: Hillsboro (3-4, 0-1); Pana (3-2, 1-0).

Junior Varsity

Pana JV 18 20 18 4---60

Hillsboro 4 2 3 0---9

Hillsboro JV (9) - Clayton Rufus 5, Jackson Tuetken 4.

Freshmen

Hillsboro FR 2 0 6 5---13

Pana FR 21 11 10 4---46

Hillsboro FR (13) - Tony White 11, Colton Weiss 2.

Comets Hand Purple Panthers First Loss



Sandwiched between a pair of Greenville Comets, Litchfield's Clayton Bishop vies for a rebound during the Panthers' 41-34 loss to the Comets on Friday, Dec. 9.

Bill Walker/Walker Photography

After a flawless start to their season Litchfield would tip off their South Central Conference schedule on Friday night, Dec. 9, in Greenville. While Litchfield entered their conference season with a 5-0 record the host Comets entered the contest with a solo win.

The Purple Panthers jumped out early in the contest with a 20-8 lead, but the Comets would outscore them 33-14 in the final two and a half quarters. The finish by the Comets would give Greenville a 41-34 victory.

Throughout the first quarter and a half the Purple Panthers were in the driver's seat in this contest. Litchfield was able to create opportunities on the offensive side of the court, creating non-contested shots and allowing them to take a quick 9-2 lead in the opening quarter.

Litchfield got four early points from Keenan Powell and a big three from A.J. Odle, who appeared to be in rhythm and set for a big night. Odle connected on his second three-pointer of the quarter which would allow Litchfield to hold a 14-4 lead late in the first quarter. The Comets would get a late basket to narrow Litchfield's lead to 14-6 as the opening quarter came to a close.

In the second frame the Purple Panthers continued their attack from the opening minutes. Litchfield increased their lead to 20-8, forcing the Comets to take a timeout midway through the second quarter. The timeout might have been a spark for the Comets as they would finish the half on a 9-2 run that narrowed Litchfield's lead to 22-17 at the half.

Even though Litchfield controlled the scoreboard at the half the Comets played a relaxed game and appeared to control the tempo in the contest.

In the first five games for Litchfield, the Purple Panthers were able to force their opponents offense to play in

a chaotic style, forcing turnovers and bad shot selections. In this contest, the Comets did not allow Litchfield's defense to force them to play too fast. Litchfield's defense, though, did limit the Comets to longer shots as nearly half of their shots were from behind the arc, going 2-for-12 from behind the three-point line. Litchfield on the other hand would shoot 18 of their 24 shots from inside the arc.

After putting in six points apiece in the first quarter A.J. Odle and Keenan Powell would be held scoreless in the second frame. Carson Saathoff and Martavious Jones filled the scoring void as Saathoff connected on four points while Jones connected on two points. Gavin Thimsen would be the only Purple Panther to score in both quarters as he would end the half with four points.

Throughout the second

half one could sense the tide turning in the contest as the Comets continued to circle the Purple Panthers, looking for the best time to strike. Greenville took the opportunity to strike in the beginning minutes of the third quarter.

The Comets used the first three minutes to take over the lead as they outscored Litchfield 8-0 to make it 25-22.

Keenan Powell would end Litchfield's scoreless streak as he put in his sixth point of the contest with under five minutes to play in the quarter. Powell's basket would bring Litchfield to within one point of the Comets' lead and spark Litchfield's offense.

Along with Powell, Carson Saathoff helped Litchfield regain the lead late in the quarter at 30-29, but the Comets got a late free throw to tie the contest at 30 points apiece after three quarters.

The Comets would make a

statement in the final frame as they held the Purple Panthers to only four points in the quarter. Litchfield, who entered the contest outscoring their opponents on average of 11-5, would have that role twisted in this contest as the Comets would outscore Litchfield 11-4 in the final frame.

Keenan Powell and Tate Dobrinich claimed the four points for Litchfield as Greenville picked up the 41-34 victory. The loss was the first of the year for Litchfield as they would drop to 5-1 overall and 0-1 in the South Central Conference, while Greenville improved to 2-4 overall and 1-0 in the conference.

Litchfield struggle in the second half to put points on the board as they shot 44% from inside the arc in the first half, but saw that percentage drop to 27 percent in the second half.

The Comets on the other hand found ways to get easy or uncontested shots in the second half, making 54 percent of their shots from inside the paint. The Comets would get most of their points in the second half from inside the paint as they would put in 43% of their shots from inside the paint in the second half compared to 31 percent in the first half.

Keenan Powell led the way for Litchfield in the scoring column with 11 points, followed by Carson Saathoff's nine points.

The Panther JV and freshman teams will play on Monday, Dec. 12, with the varsity's next contest Tuesday, Dec. 13, in Highland.

December 9 at Greenville
Litchfield 14 8 8 4---34
Greenville 6 11 13 11---41

Litchfield (34) - Keenan Powell 11, Carson Saathoff 9, A.J. Odle 6, Gavin Thimsen 4, Martavious Jones 2, Tate Dobrinich 2. **Totals:** 15 2-8 3-4.

Greenville (41) - Tyson Ackerman 15, Kaleb Gardner 12, Landen Moss 12, Hudson Alstat 2. **Totals:** 13 13-22 41.

Three-point field goals: Litchfield 2 (Odle 2); Greenville 2 (Gardner 1, Moss 1).

Records: Litchfield (5-1, 0-1); Greenville (2-4, 1-0).

Lancers Come Back From The Brink...Again

If nothing else, fans of Lincolnwood boys basketball have gotten their moneys worth from the Lancers so far this season. Sandwiched in between two close victories over Hillsboro and Litchfield, the Lancers pulled out a 42-41 win over Okaw Valley on Friday, Dec. 9, to move over .500 for the season.

So far this year, Lincolnwood's five wins have included a three-point win over Meridian that was won on a three by Braden Whalen, a three-point win over Hillsboro where the Lancers came back from a five-point deficit in the final two minutes and a four-point win over Litchfield the day after the Okaw Valley victory that saw Lincolnwood rally back from a double-digit deficit in the third quarter.

The Okaw Valley win was just as impressive as the aforementioned conquests as Lincolnwood trailed by seven with two minutes to play against the Timberwolves. Early on, though, the game's outcome was very much up in the air as the two teams were tied at seven after one, with Okaw Valley leading 18-17 at halftime.

Lincolnwood regained the lead in the third quarter and were up three with two and a half minutes to play. But Braden Montgomery hit a three and the Timberwolves outscored Lincolnwood 9-0 from that point on to take a 29-23 lead, with the final nail being a fadeaway jumper at the buzzer from Hudson Ruppert.

The Lancers had a chance to cut into that lead twice, but missed the front end of a 1-and-1 opportunity from the

free-throw line. Foul shooting woes plagued Lincolnwood all night as they were 11-for-23 from the charity stripe.

Braden Whalen scored first for the Lancers in the fourth, but the two teams seemed content to trade points for much of the final frame. With two minutes left, Brett Lybarger found the bottom of the net on a short jumper and Okaw Valley led 40-33.

Running out of time, Lincolnwood scored quickly on a layup by Jonah Elvidge, but fouled Braden Montgomery on the next possession. Montgomery made one of his two free throws to make it 41-35 and the score stayed that way for the next 30 seconds as Okaw Valley kept the Lancers from getting to the hoop.

Needing at least six points in 71 seconds to force overtime, Lincolnwood got the ball into Whalen's hands and the Morrisonville senior drained a three when Brady Schmedeke's screen gave him enough time to get a shot off with 1:11 to play.

Two misses by the Timberwolves and a Lincolnwood turnover ate 30 more seconds off the clock, but Whalen cut the lead to one with 41.6 to play when he got to the rim, was fouled and made both ensuing free throws. He'd have another chance from the charity stripe 10 seconds later when Jonah Elvidge stole the ball and fed Whalen, but two misses momentarily left the score at 41-40 in Okaw Valley's favor.

On the second miss, the ball found its way into the hands of Lincolnwood's Kennedy Cook, who passed to Whalen on the baseline. The senior guard cut

through traffic and his layup not only gave him 23 points for the game, but it gave the Lancers their first lead since the 2:30 mark of the third quarter.

Okaw Valley had 24 seconds to retake the lead or tie things up and took a timeout to set up a play. Hudson Ruppert, who led the Timberwolves with 15 points, narrowly missed the go-ahead basket, but a scrum on the rebound resulted in a jump ball in the visitors' favor.

Ruppert got another shot after the break, but heavy pressure by the Lincolnwood defense forced Okaw Valley to take another timeout to avoid a turnover with 0.8 seconds left. Trying to get the ball in close to the hoop, the Timberwolves threw a high lob toward the right side of the net, which Whalen snagged out of mid-air to clinch the Lancers' third straight win.

Whalen finished the game with 23 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter. The senior guard also had four blocks and six steals as he gutted the Lancers to the win.

Jonah Elvidge added in nine points for Lincolnwood and was followed by Brady Schmedeke with four and Zake Guzman and Karson Hayes with three each. While their free throw shooting suffered, the Lancers were better from the field, going 11-for-21 from inside the arc and 3-for-11 behind it.

Lincolnwood was slightly better from the free-throw line in the win over Litchfield going 12-for-19. They will try to continue that upward trend at Gillespie on Tuesday, Dec. 13, with the JV game set for

6 p.m. The JV and freshman teams also play on Monday, Dec. 12, against Litchfield, with the freshmen kicking things off at 10 a.m.

The Lancers also learned on Sunday, Dec. 11, that they will be the ninth seed in the 16-team Waverly Holiday Tournament. Under a normal tournament format, that means Lincolnwood would play the sixth seed, but not so in Waverly. Instead, the Lancers have a rematch with New Berlin, who beat them 54-33 at the Gene Bergschneider Turkey Tournament in New Berlin in the first game of the year.

In addition to New Berlin earning the top seed, Routt was seeded second, followed by Auburn, West Central, South County, Greenfield-Northwestern, Triopia, North Mac, Lincolnwood, Athens, Tri-City, Carrollton, Lutheran, Pawnee, Edinburg and North Greene.

The opening game of the tournament is at 9 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 26, with the winner of the New Berlin/Lincolnwood game moving on to play the winner of the South County/Lutheran tilt the next day at 10 a.m.

December 9 at Raymond
Okaw Valley 7 11 11 12---41
Lincolnwood 7 10 6 19---42

Okaw Valley (41) - Hudson Ruppert 15, Gibson Dickens 9, Braden Montgomery 9, Dylan Miller 6, Brett Lybarger 2. **Totals:** 15 8-15 41.

Lincolnwood (42) - Braden Whalen 23, Jonah Elvidge 9, Brady Schmedeke 4, Zake Guzman 3, Karson Hayes 3. **Totals:** 14 11-23 42.

Three-point field goals: Okaw Valley 3 (Montgomery 2, Dickens 1); Lincolnwood 3 (Elvidge 9, Whalen 1, Hayes 1).

Records: Lincolnwood (4-3); Okaw Valley (2-5).

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