

Altamont School Board Holds May Meeting

BY MARK HOSKINS
The Altamont Community Unit School District #10 Board of Education met on Monday, May 11 for their monthly meeting. With several items of new business on the agenda, the board approved a bid to build a new track shed at Altamont Grade School.

The approved bid is from RC Buildings in the amount of \$175,371. The shed will be built on the south side of the property at AGS, replacing the existing old shed which will be torn down this summer. No timetable for the new shed construction to be completed was announced. In personnel moves, the

board accepted the retirement notice for custodian Randy Arnold, effect August 1, 2026. The board approved Doris Zerrusen as a volunteer assistant for high school girls basketball. The board also accepted the resignation of Lindsay VanBlaricum as the junior high softball coach. The district will have a

new Ag teacher for next school year as Josie Strauch was approved by the board for employment in the position. Strauch was a 2021 graduate of St. Elmo High School and a recent graduate of Murray State University. She will take over the Ag program following the resignation of current teacher

Alex Walden. In other new business, the board approved the 2027 Senior Trip which will once again head to Washington D.C. Three separate FMLA leave requests for approved for district employees. A discussion about transportation fleet upgrades was had. Specifically the board

discussed their options for used activity bus purchases. No action was taken, but the district would like to have a new activity bus for the start of the 2026-27 school year. The next Altamont School Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 8 at 7 p.m. with a budget hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Musical Talent on Full Display at Spring Concert



High school choir



Junior high band



High school band

BY MARK HOSKINS

The Altamont community was treated to some wonderful music last Tuesday as the ACHS gym was packed for the spring concert. This concert featured the 6th grade band, the junior high band, and the high school band.

The concert opened up with the 6th grade band performing "Meet the Band".

The junior high band performed next, playing three songs. First they played "Linus and Lucy" and followed that with "Latin Fire". The percussionists then used some unique items to perform "Junkyard Jam" which included drumming on milk

crates, trash cans, and five gallon buckets.

The high school chorus performed next with "Today's hope" accompanied by Karen Wakefield on the piano. Next they performed an arrangement of songs from The Phantom of the Opera.

The high school band then performed three numbers, starting with "John Williams in Concert" which featured multiple familiar numbers from Star Wars. The high school band then played "Salvation is Created", and "Aladdin".

Sara Berg directed the bands and the high school chorus.



ACHS Drama Club Receives Donation

The ACHS drama club recently received a generous donation in the memory of Steve Daugherty. The drama club performed "12 Incompetent Jurors" earlier this spring.

"Pie in the Sky" Program Coming to Ballard Nature Center

Ballard Nature Center will be hosting a "Pie in the Sky" family program on Thursday, May 28. The program will take place at 10 a.m.

The public is invited to

attend this program and listen to a story and learn about cherry trees and birds that eat cherries. The program will feature a craft and have games for the whole family.

The program is free but registration is required. Registration can be done via phone, email, or Facebook message.

ALIS 8th Grade Graduation Held

Altamont Lutheran Interparish School held 8th grade graduation on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Graduates were Jameson Arend, Eli Bowman, Olivia Bowman, Audrey Burgess,

Colton Everett, Henry Grasher, Addison Koch, Preston Kroening, Konnor Robison, Liam Schnarre, Aubrey Scholes, Blaire Suckow, Mary Tappendorf, Aubree Willenborg, Nolan

Winter, Reagan Winter. The valedictorians were: Olivia Bowman, Preston Kroening, Reagan Winter. The salutatorian was Jameson Arend.

Illinois Extension to Offer Free Training for School Nutrition Staff This Summer

This summer, Illinois Extension will hold a professional development Learning Institute in Vandalia that will be open to all Illinois school foodservice staff. The training will offer six hours of USDA Professional Standards credit at no charge. An Illinois State Board of Education representative will also provide updates and have a Q&A session.

Topics covered will include:
• Food Allergies and School Nutrition Programs
• Nutrition, Physical Activity and Academic Success
• Meal Presentation and Marketing to Boost Participation
• Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Food Safety Plans

School meals must adhere to USDA requirements for food groups and nutritional value. To make sure they have the knowledge and skills to provide meals that

meet these standards, school foodservice staff must complete annual professional development.

Since 2016, University of Illinois Extension has partnered with the Illinois State Board of Education to meet this need through the ABCs of School Nutrition program.

The ABCs of School Nutrition Learning Institute will be held on Monday, July 27 at Regional Office of Education#3 in Vandalia, IL. Individual pre-registration is required as space is limited. Lunch and light refreshments will be provided. To register, visit go.illinois.edu/roe3

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate or have questions, please contact Michelle Fombelle at mfombell@illinois.edu

About Extension: University of Illinois Extension develops educational programs, extends knowledge, and builds partnerships to

support people, communities, and their environments as part of the state's land-grant institution. Extension serves as the leading public outreach effort for University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences in all 102 Illinois counties through a network of 27 multicounty units and over 700 staff statewide. Extension's mission is responsive to eight strategic priorities — community, economy, environment, food and agriculture, health, partnerships, technology and discovery, and workforce excellence — that are served through six program areas — 4-H youth development, agriculture and agribusiness, community and economic development, family and consumer science, integrated health disparities, and natural resources, environment, and energy.

Several Locals Named to President's List at SNHU

Several local residents were recently honored for their academic success at Southern New Hampshire University by being named to the SNHU President's List for the spring term which runs from January to May.

From Vandalia, both Erika Nolan and Alisha Dunn received this honor. From Altamont, Samantha Goers was named to the President's List.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point

average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU

offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Keyesport Student Earns Academic Honors at SEMO

Madison Kahl of Keyesport, Ill., has been named to the spring 2026 Dean's List at Southeast Missouri State University for undergraduate academic achieve-

ment. Students named to the Dean's List earned at least a 3.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and completed at least 12 hours of standard

graded credit during the semester. Honorees received no grade below a B and no failing grades in enrolled credit/no credit or pass/fail courses.

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