

United Way helps make author's visit possible

By **RANDY HARRISON**

Daily News

Local elementary and middle school students will have a chance to learn about writing from a nationally-known author during a three-day visit here.

Jordan Sonnenblick will conduct writers' workshops and make presentations to local students at Lincoln Trail College Tuesday, April 30 through Thursday, May 2.

Sonnenblick, 49, is the author of 11 books for children and young adults, including *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*, *Zen and the Art of Faking It* and *Falling Over Sideways*.

He taught English in New Jersey for 11 years and became an author after realizing one of his students was struggling with her younger brother having cancer. He wanted to recommend a book to help her, but unable to find one that fit the situation, he decided to write his own.

Sonnenblick's visit begins with a large group presentation to Nuttall Middle School students in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater at LTC beginning at 9 a.m. April 30. He will follow that with writers' workshops with seventh and eighth graders and fifth and sixth graders from Robinson.

On May 1, he will speak to third, fourth and fifth-graders from Hutsonville Elementary School, Palestine Grade School, Oblong Elementary School and New Hebron Christian School at 8:45 a.m.

A presentation to Lincoln Elementary School third, fourth and fifth-graders will follow at 10:15 a.m.

Another writers' workshop is planned for the afternoon.

On May 2, Sonnenblick will make a presentation to sixth,

at 9 a.m.

A writers' workshop follows and a small group session with 40 Hutsonville, Palestine, Oblong and Robinson high school students is planned for 1 p.m.

The United Way of Crawford County is making it possible for Crawford County students to meet and listen to Sonnenblick. The Lincoln Trail College Foundation has donated a



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Sonnenblick book to each student in grades three through eight throughout Crawford County.

The planning committee for the event consists of LTC Foundation Executive Director Rod Harmon, LTC Librarian Vicky Bonelli, Hutsonville Unit 1 district librarian Michelle Goodwine, New Hebron language arts teacher Katie Daner, Oblong Elementary School language arts teacher Alicia Haberlin, Palestine Unit 3 district librarian Marcy Adams, Robinson High School Librarian Janet Jenkins, Lincoln Elementary School Librarian Holly