

Staying involved no matter the age

□ Erv Safranek remains active in Paw Paw community at the age of 99

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

PAW PAW – The cliché “I’ve forgotten more than you know” doesn’t work for Erv Safranek.

Not only does he know, but he hasn’t forgotten.

Safranek, born in 1924 and turned 99 on July 21, still remembers moving to Paw Paw at age 5 in 1929 when the streets were still made of mud.

Along the way, he remembers the changes, the societal adjustments, and the charity done in the community; a lot of which involved or was accomplished by Safranek.

“It’s funny how you’re called to help people. I’m glad to be involved. Over the years I’ve seen some big changes in Paw Paw,” said Safranek, who graduated from the now defunct Paw Paw High School in 1943 in a class of 15 students. “When we moved to Paw Paw in the fall of 1929, Main Street was mud. The next year they got concrete. I remember seeing the deep ruts. The cars parked in the center of the road and cars drove next to the edge of the sidewalk; the opposite of what it is now. There were still farmers who came into town with horse and buggy.”

After being drafted in the Navy before his high school graduation, Safranek served on the seas of the North Atlantic (1943), the Mediterranean (1944), and the



At age 99, Erv Safranek continues to make an impact on the Paw Paw community. If something has happened or changed in Paw Paw, there is a good chance Safranek was involved. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

South Pacific (1945) during World War II.

He has lived in his Paw Paw home since 1958 where he and his late wife Agnes raised two boys, Gary and Craig, who live in Mendota and Paw Paw, respectively.

To this day, he has been a civic and communal servant to the community as he has been involved with the Paw Paw United Methodist Church and the Amboy Lions Club for 77 years each. He’s also helped build-

ings, landscape, organizations, businesses, and people in other ways.

“I’ve been part of a lot of things but the one that stands out the most happened four years ago,” Safranek said. “We had a young mother with four kids who got an apartment in Paw Paw. They didn’t have anything. One Saturday morning, my neighbor called me from the food pantry and said, ‘Erv, I have a single mother in town who needs food. I have to work today; can you get her and bring her?’”

“I took her that day and filled the trunk full of groceries for her and the kids. You wouldn’t believe the stories that she told me. She wasn’t married but was living with a guy in Chicago and he mistreated her. She said it wouldn’t be a week that went by that her eyes weren’t black and blue. She packed up one day and left.

“The oldest of her four children was only eight. The youngest was a baby. The kids were sleeping on the floor. The next day, I decided I was going to get the kids some beds. They didn’t have a radio, so I gave her one of my good radios, so they at least had something to listen to. I bought a couple of games like Monopoly, so they had something to do.”

See Safranek, Page A5

Dist. 280 Board reviews tentative FY24 budget

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education heard enrollment figures and budget information at its Aug. 21 regular meeting.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini reported that enrollment is at 517 students (including 18 eighth-graders enrolled in Honors Algebra I).

There are 192 students involved in fall sports. Masini presented the Athletic Committee winter sports bids and they were approved by the board.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh gave a FY23 budget summary, noting that the district completed FY23 in the black. The benefit to the district last year was in additional revenue in PPR funds from the state, additional interest earned on investments and additional ala carte sales than were projected.

The FY24 tentative/preliminary budget was presented and is publicly placed on display in the business office. The tentative budget will have adjustments made as necessary. Aughenbaugh said the board needs to make final decisions on 2023-24 capital projects, with the Building Committee meeting in September to further review and project necessary purchases and projects. She added that the tentative budget is projected to be in the black despite significant revenue reductions made by the state.

The FY24 budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.

Aughenbaugh said the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) numbers were released for districts across the state. Every district received 28.76% less in revenue in CPPRT funds. Mendota District 280 will receive \$1.2 million and this includes the reduction in CPPRT of \$492,177.

The board considered and approved to declare a 2005 Chrysler Town and Country minivan as surplus and available for sale. The vehicle has 315,000 miles.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

After a closed/executive session to discuss employment and compensation, the board took action on the following personnel items:

See Budget, Page A5

Pritzker doesn’t expect new mandates with an updated COVID-19 vaccine on horizon

By **GREG BISHOP**
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD – While the White House expects a new vaccine for the latest COVID-19 variant to come out sometime next month, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker doesn’t expect more COVID-19 mandates.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a 21.6% increase in hospital admissions in the most recent week with a 21.4% increase in COVID-19 deaths. Over the weekend, President Joe Biden said he approved a proposal for more funding from Congress for a new vaccine.

“Tentatively, I’ve not decided finally yet, but tentatively it is recommended that it will likely be recommended that everybody get it no matter what they got before,” Biden said.

Shortly after becoming president in 2021, Biden mandated businesses over a certain size to require their employees be vaccinated. That was blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court, but a mandate for health care workers was allowed to stand.

Illinois, according to the CDC, is still a low transmission state. At an unrelated event in Litchfield, Gov. J.B. Pritzker was asked if he’ll mandate a new vaccine for some state employees.



Pritzker

“The Facebook fakery about some kind of coming mandate, nobody has even talked about that. That’s not a real thing,” Pritzker said. “But what is a real thing is people need to take care of themselves and particularly those that are most vulnerable.”

Pritzker mandated COVID-19 vaccines for many positions, including school staff and college students and state employees in congregate settings, during the COVID-19 pandemic in his first term.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the Biden administration expects to recommend the updated vaccine, despite it not being available until sometime next month.

“We’re gonna continue to encourage Americans to get their updated vaccine, to stay updated on their vaccines more broadly, but also to make sure they get that RSV and to make sure they’re getting that flu shot,” Jean-Pierre said during a briefing.

Pritzker gave his understanding of the vaccine that will be available next month.

“Now you’ll be able to do it all in one shot, as I understand, there’ll be a combination of the COVID vaccine and the flu shot for people who want to do that,” Pritzker said.

Pritzker said despite what people read online, there is no discussion of bringing back certain mandates such as school closures or mask mandates as was the case more than three years ago at the onset of the pandemic.

Landers earns prestigious ISA award

□ His wife, Sarah, was bestowed the same honor in 2022

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Jeff Landers knew what the Illinois Soybean Association 20 Under 40 Award was since his wife, Sarah Landers, was part of the inaugural winners in 2022.

Although he is 40 now, when the second class was named in June, Landers was 39. Just making the cut, he was overjoyed to be recognized.

“It’s humbling to be recognized for the work I’ve done in agricultural education as well as my family’s farm since I do farm with my father Bill Landers and our farm near Earlville,” said Landers. “Agriculture is something I have a passion for, and I’ve always been involved with growing up on a farm and now operating a farm.

“It’s great to be recognized for that.”

Landers, who lives near Triumph with a Mendota address, grew up south of Earlville and east of Mendota and graduated from Serena High School.



Jeff Landers was named a 20 Under 40 award winner by the Illinois Soybean Association this summer, a year after his wife, Sarah, won the same award. (Photo contributed)

Being that he grew up on a farm and began helping with the farm work around 10 years old, he knew he wanted to study agriculture.

Landers put himself on a path to become an agriculture teacher for Mendota High School for nine years, and

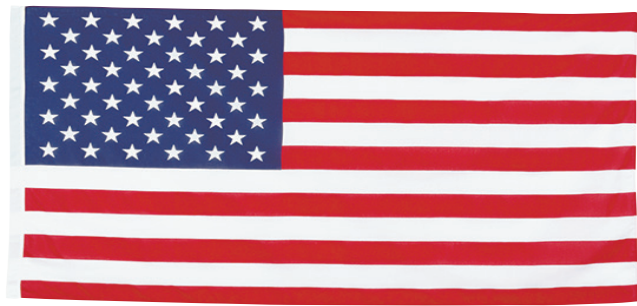
he is currently teaching at Joliet Junior College where he has been in the agriculture program for nine years.

Not only does both Jeff and Sarah work their own

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LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We have just completed our first full week back to school. We’ve had a very smooth start to the year. The students are making new friends, meeting staff, learning rules and practicing procedures. It’s great to have everyone back in the building and ready to have a fantastic year!

□□□

We have a few new staff members at Blackstone this year. They are off to a great start and are already a part of our Blackstone family. We welcome the following new staff members: Abby Fancher (speech), Ashley Bain (special education), Tanya Milus (paraprofessional) and Erin Riordan (paraprofessional). Vicki Tolley has moved from a paraprofessional to a first grade teacher this year. Welcome new staff members!

□□□

I would like to thank the many community members and businesses who have recently donated school supplies to our students in need at Blackstone. The students were so excited to receive their new supplies. We appreciate this support!

□□□

Download the Mendota #289 app from the App Store or Play Store for district and school news, events, announcements, menus, etc. Rooms is the parent-teacher chat that is fully integrated into our district app so you have one app for everything Mendota #289. Parents should expect an email invite from edurooms to gain access. We encourage all of our parents to get access to this app as it will be used on a regular basis from the district, school and teachers.

Stage 212 holding “Falsettos” auditions in September

LaSALLE—Auditions for Stage 212’s Off-Season 2024 production “Falsettos,” the hilarious, heartbreaking and utterly unique musical about family, relationships, bar mitvahs, baseball and AIDS, will be held Friday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 9 at noon at the theater, 700 First St., LaSalle. Callbacks are scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 10.

Director Reid Tomas-

son will be casting seven performers in a variety of lead and supporting roles. Auditioners should prepare cuts from two contrasting songs. Cuts should be no longer than one minute and in the style of the show. A backing track is required for the audition. Audition songs must be memorized. Reading from a screen or paper will not be allowed. An aux cord will be provided to play the

backing track.

Video submissions will be accepted until Sept. 9 at noon. No videos received after this date will be considered without prior approval. In the video submission, please include name, songs being sung, and the role being auditioned for. Video submissions should be forwarded to reidtomasson@gmail.com.

A completed audition form is required to audition.

You will need to complete a form even if you are sending in a video audition. The form, along with additional important audition information, may be found on the Stage 212 web site at stage212.org. Paper copies will not be used.

“Falsettos” contains adult content and themes. Questions may be submitted to Tomasson at reidtomasson@gmail.com. “Falsettos” will be presented Jan. 5-7, 2024.

Extraordinary LaSalle County 4-H volunteer honored

OTTAWA – Illinois 4-H volunteers empower and prepare youth for success as the program relies on its more than 6,000 volunteers to fill key leadership and mentoring roles. Chad Wilson, a 12-year volunteer in LaSalle County, was recently honored by Illinois 4-H for his selfless dedication to the University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development program.

In 2023, 53 individuals were inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame.

Illinois 4-H honors and celebrates extraordinary 4-H alumni, volunteers, and former 4-H staff. Those inducted have a history of exemplary service to 4-H or outstanding career and community achievement and were nominated by county University of Illinois Extension staff. Each

inductee receives a commemorative Hall of Fame medal and is inducted into the Illinois State Fair 4-H Alumni & Volunteer Celebration events.

“Chad has used his high energy and creative volunteer leadership skills to accomplish the goals of 4-H and the LaSalle County 4-H Shooting Sports program. He has helped to grow the 4-H Shooting Sports Program over the past 11 years in addition to securing funding for the club needs,” stated 4-H Youth development coordinator, Toni Pienta.

Illinois 4-H programs in LaSalle County reach thousands of youths each year through 4-H clubs, camps, educational programs, workshops, and conferences held in communities, schools, parks, and homes. Volunteers fill key leadership and

mentoring roles throughout the state.

“Volunteers are the heart of the Illinois 4-H Youth Development program, embodying the spirit of dedicated service that nurtures the growth of our future leaders,” says Patricia McGlaughlin, University of Illinois Extension specialist. “Their unwavering commitment and selfless contributions empower our youth to learn, thrive, and make a positive impact on their communities. Volunteers help youth find their spark and help build our next generations.”

To learn more about LaSalle County 4-H opportunities call University of Illinois Extension, LaSalle County 815-433-0707 or email Toni Pienta at fusinatt@illinois.edu.

Youth programs, U of I Extension partnership to resume at Graves-Hume Public Library



Graves-Hume Public Library

MENDOTA – The Graves-Hume Public Library is excited to announce it will be restarting youth programs in September.

There are a variety of programs for all ages available. For birth-to-2 years, there is Shake, Rattle & Read. This is the perfect program to introduce your little ones to the library with books, music, and play.

Small Fries is for children 3-to-kindergarten and involves listening to a story, crafting, and fun activities.

The library also offers LEGO Club for grades 1st through 8th. This is a great opportunity for children to be creative and build LEGOs

with their friends.

Graves-Hume is equally excited to announce Ms. Jen is the new tween/teen advisor. Tweens is for grades 5-8 and will be meeting the last Monday of the month. Watch for a new tween space at the library.

The library’s partnership with University of Illinois Extension 4-H will also be continuing as those programs will resume in September also.

For more information on any of these programs, please check out the Graves-Hume Public Library Facebook page for dates and times, stop in at the library to pick up a newsletter, or call 815-538-5142.

Library programs are open to all. No library card required.

Nancy Drew at LaSalle Library

LaSALLE—Learn more about the beloved classic girl detective Nancy Drew at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28 when LaSalle Public Library virtually hosts historian, Leslie Goddard.

Ninety years ago, a plucky detective stepped out of her blue roadster and into the hearts of readers. The brainchild of publisher Edward Stratemeyer, Nancy Drew proved that a strong heroine could win huge popularity.

This program is free and open to the public. Register: <https://rb.gy/dpbx0>. For more information, please call the Library at 815-223-2341.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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ea

COOKED MAINE LOBSTERS

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ea

COOKED MAINE LOBSTER MEAL
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SWEET CORN
POTATOES
SODA OR WATER

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Live Lobsters can be picked up between **9am - 5pm** in Sullivan's Foods Meat Departments!

Cooked Lobsters and Meals can be picked up between **11am - 4pm** in Sullivan's Foods Parking Lots!

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LobsterFest 2023

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Prepaid pre-orders will be taken through TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2023

LOBSTERFEST 2023 - ORDER FORM

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	LIVE LOBSTER - \$12.99ea PLU 50101	Pick up 9am - 5pm
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	COOKED LOBSTER MEAL-\$16.99ea PLU 50103	Pick up 11am - 4pm
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Order Total:

Name:

Phone:

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	13 LIVE LOBSTER MEGA MEAL DEAL \$169.99ea PLU 50112	Pick up 9am - 5pm
	Order Total:	

Saturday, September 2 Pick-up Time:

LOCAL AND AREA

Back to school is about emergency preparedness, disaster readiness, and vital digital technology

CHICAGO — Students across Illinois are venturing back into the classroom. That’s why the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS), along with local Emergency Management Agencies, are highlighting resources and tips to help students better prepare for their return to the classroom.

Whether you have a new kindergartener or are a fifth-year super senior in college, there are helpful resources available for students of all ages to keep them safe in the classroom throughout the school year.

“School safety includes

being aware of on campus hazards, but we also need to utilize the digital resources available to us,” said Homeland Security Advisor to Governor J.B. Pritzker and IEMA-OHS Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “Safe2HelpIL is an outstanding start in providing a free resource to all students throughout the State of Illinois to help keep them safe.”

“Safe2HelpIL is designed to help school-age children who experience bullying, mental health struggles, or those who see signs of potential drug use or violence in someone else,” said Deputy Homeland Security Advisor and IEMA-OHS Deputy

Director of the Office of Homeland Security Claire Moravec.

There are several ways that students from elementary through high school can reach out to Safe2Help:

- Call 1-844-4SAFEIL (723345)
- Text SAFE2 (72332)
- Online at <https://app.safe22helpil.com/>
- Email HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com
- Download the Safe2HelpIL app (Android or iOS)

“Launched in October 2021, Safe2HelpIL is a free, information sharing platform that is available 24/7,” said IEMA-OHS School Safety Policy Ad-

visor Samantha Kanish. “In the absence of a trusted adult, students can use a free app, text/phone, or the website (Safe2HelpIL.com) to share school safety issues in a confidential environment.”

“Parents and guardians also play a crucial role in protecting students,” said Kanish. “As students head back to the classroom, be sure to include emergency preparedness in your back-to-school plans.”

Here are some planning tips for parents to consider:

- Know how your school will contact parents/guardians in the event of an evacuation
- Ensure the school has

all of your current emergency contact information on file

- Pre-authorize a friend or relative to pick up your children in an emergency
- Teach children with cell phones about ‘Text First, Talk Later.’ Short, simple text messages, such as “R U OK?,” and “I’m OK,” are more likely to get through than a phone call if phone service is disrupted during an emergency. As phone congestion eases, you can follow up with a phone call to relay more information.

For college students, a little planning will help provide extra information before and during an emergency. Almost

all colleges/universities utilize a mass notification system that alerts students via email and text messages of potential dangers, severe weather, and other threats. Encourage your college student to sign-up for such alerts which typically supplement the public alert warnings delivered across campus via loudspeakers or on public display boards.

Several colleges go one step further, providing alert messages for parents/guardians, so they also are aware of potential dangers on campus. As always, make sure your student knows the emergency plans for their dorm or apartment building.

Civil War historians to host “Hookers, Healers, and Heroines” at LaSalle Library

LaSALLE – Join LaSalle Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. when it virtually hosts historians from A Tour of Her Own in presenting “Hookers, Healers, and Heroines.”

The Civil War rocked the foundation of American daily life and changed the socio-political landscape, with the nation’s capital at its epicenter. Men went off to fight, and women found themselves in a unique position of supporting themselves. How did the women who called Washington home make it through those tumultuous times? In this presentation, hear about how the women of Washington, D.C., managed to survive not only the war, but leave an indelible mark on American history through their hard work

and perseverance in roles as far-reaching as lawyer, seamstress, spy, and the only Medal of Honor recipient. Some of the women included in the presentation are Elizabeth Keckley, Betsy Lockwood, Dr. Mary Walker, Clara Barton, Charlotte Grimke, and the Treasury Girls Scandal.

A Tour Of Her Own was founded in 2018 by licensed tour guide Kaitlin Calogera, as the first tourism company in Washington, D.C., to focus exclusively on women’s history, after seeing a lack of women’s representation in history and public spaces. She mobilized a team who collectively turned this vision into a sustainable venture.

The program is free and open to the public. Register: <https://rb.gy/rb4iy>.

LaSalle Library joins third season of Illinois Libraries Present

LaSALLE – LaSalle Public Library will be joining more than 200 other libraries in Illinois at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6 to kick off the third season of Illinois Libraries Present, a collaborative effort featuring virtual programs with bestselling and award-winning authors and esteemed speakers. The season opens with Colson Whitehead, two-time win-

ner of the Pulitzer Prize and #1 New York Times bestselling author.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries. Illinois Libraries Present is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided

by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Library at 815-223-2341. Register: https://bit.ly/ILP_ColsonWhitehead.

“100 Things to Do Before You Die in Illinois”

LaSALLE – Join LaSalle Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 6 p.m. when it hosts author Melanie Holmes for an in-person presentation about her book, “100 Things to Do Before You Die in Illinois.”

In this unique presentation, Holmes will share her favorite travel tips for day jaunts, weekend trips, and weeklong excursions around Illinois. She will also include information about “windshield travel” – locations that can be enjoyed without getting out of the car. Her book explores Illinois’ rich history that showcases places with some of the best food, arts and entertainment, parks, culture,

history and geology.

Holmes is an award-winning author of five nonfiction books. Having grown up rural, and later working 20 other adult years in downtown Chicago, she brings a balanced perspective to a state best known as the USA’s “second city.”

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Holmes will have copies of the book available to purchase after the event. The LaSalle Public Library is located at 305 Marquette, LaSalle, and is ADA compliant and welcoming. For more information, please call the Library at 815-223-2341.

Marquis Energy donates \$100,000 to Canals Connector Effort

HENNEPIN – Canal Trail Connector Inc. president Jay McCracken announced that Mark Marquis and Marquis Energy of Hennepin have contributed \$100,000 to the new connector group, a nonprofit organization formed recently to link the historic I&M Heritage and the Hennepin Canals.

“The great generosity and community spirit of the Marquis Family is well known,” declared former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood of Peoria, who is also a member of the board of the Canal Trail

Connector group.

“This contribution gives a tremendous boost to our efforts,” added LaHood, “and should stimulate public interest in progress toward our goal of closing the gap between the canals.”

According to McCracken of Hennepin, this linkage has been a goal sought for decades by Starved Rock Country communities.

The connector group is collaborating closely with the national Rails-to-Trails Conservancy of Washington,

D.C., as their 3,700-mile Great American Rail-Trail also runs across Illinois along the two canals. A recent study showed that, upon its completion, the Great American Rail-Trail will see 2.1 million annual trips and \$18.8 million in annual visitor spending along the route of Illinois alone.

The Marquis facility at Hennepin is located between the I&M and Hennepin canals. According to company CEO Mark Marquis, many of the Marquis employees enjoy walking and fishing the Hennepin Canal.

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The sign is rectangular with a dark background. On the left side, there is a vertical graphic of the American flag. To the right of the flag, the text "Sorry We're" is in a white script font, and "CLOSED" is in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below "CLOSED", the text "for Labor Day!" is in a white sans-serif font.

The Following Financial Institutions will be CLOSED September 4, in Observance of LABOR DAY

★ FINANCIAL PLUS CREDIT UNION
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Member NCUA -ESI

★ EUREKA SAVINGS BANK
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Member FDIC

★ FIRST STATE BANK
(815) 538-2265
Member FDIC

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Earl W. Barnickel

WEST BROOKLYN – Earl W. Barnickel, 98, of West Brooklyn, passed away peacefully, Aug. 24, 2023, in his home.

Funeral services were Monday, Aug. 28, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Michael Slutz officiating. Burial was in Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was Sunday, Aug. 27 from 2-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Earl was born Oct. 25, 1924, in Brooklyn Township to William and Minnie (Zinke) Barnickel. He married Marion Meisel on Aug. 30, 1947, at Ohio Lutheran Church and celebrated 75 years of marriage.

Earl is survived by his wife Marion of West Brooklyn; his five children, Linda (Tim) Hahn of Seatonville, Earl (Brenda) Barnickel of Mendota, Gale (Christina) Barnickel of Compton, Mary (Michael) Labriola of West Brooklyn and Bette (Bruce) Peterson of Carmel, Ind.; seven grandchildren, William (Cassie) Barnickel, Brian Barnickel, Walter Barnickel, Marie Barnickel, Michelle (Matt Rupright) Peterson, Danielle Peterson and David (Katie) Peterson; and one great-granddaughter, Brielle Barnickel.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Donald in 1957 at the age of 6 1/2 and his sister Irene.

Earl was a lifelong farmer in the Lee County area. He was a member of the Flying Farmers Club and still had his pilot's license. He enjoyed playing baseball and loved music and could play all kinds of musical instruments.

Memorials may be directed to Compton Fire Department or Mendota Moose Lodge. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



IVCC Board approves \$39 million budget

OGLESBY – Following a public hearing, the Illinois Valley Community College Board gave final approval Aug. 17 to a \$39 million budget, including a \$25.8 million balanced operating budget for fiscal year 2024.

At the end of July there was a 10 percent increase in credit hours for summer and a 5 percent increase in fall. Investment income continues to outpace the budget.

IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris highlighted the updates to the campus, including the completion of the Medical Assisting lab and the Nursing Simulation spaces. She also lauded student success in register nursing passage rates and pinning ceremonies in the month of July. The newly opened food bank on campus was introduced and the continuing education camps for the community continue to reach out to students in the community. The Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity grant continues to provide for updates to the facilities and curriculum for the Early Childhood Education program, which have made a positive impact in this program area.

IVCC has joined several purchasing consortia with the state of Illinois, the Illinois Community College System and other higher education institutions for the purpose of purchasing items that have already been through a bidding process by the consortia. The board approved elevator

maintenance services from ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corp., Peoria, through the National Joint Powers Alliance at an annual cost of \$32,637.

The board approved an estimated \$50,000 for fuel for the IVCC Truck Driver Training Program. Fuel is purchased at the pump and doesn't lend well to a bidding process. The college continues to use WEX, Inc. to supply fuel cards for all of their vehicles, earning a 1.05 percent credit rebate for purchases.

In other business, the board authorized:

- The renewal of the Microsoft Software Maintenance and Support Agreement in the amount of \$37,797 from Computer Discount Warehouse.

- The renewal of the Ferrilli Core System Service providing application support and maintenance for Colleague Environment for continued efficiency in managing operations, streamlining workflows and enhancing the college's ability to serve students and stakeholders in the amount of \$70,380.

- The purchase of the DarkTrace MDR solution for a three-year contract term to further increase the college's network security to act within seconds with AI Analysis and automated response for immediate threats such as ransomware, malware and unsecured devices for a total of \$73,500 over the life of the contract.

- The renewal of the CourseDog, IVCC's course and room scheduling platform including Event Scheduler, Class Scheduler and Demand Analytics paid out of the fiscal year 2024 budget in the amount of \$60,637.

- The purchase of the Trauma HAL adult simulator package, through Gaumard Simulators for Health Care Education, to enhance the learning experiences for the Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician students at a cost of \$71,540. This purchase, including a simulator with associated software, a three-year service warranty, installation and in-service training will be funded through the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce grant.

- The purchase of furniture for one of the college's largest classrooms, D-228, from Henricksen, Peoria, funded by the Early Childhood Access Consortium grant, through the OMNIA Partners and NCPA purchasing cooperatives at a cost not to exceed \$37,620.

- Engineering design services for a salt shed through Chamlin and Associates for a cost of \$24,000.

- The appointment of Greg Whightsil as the industrial maintenance and electricity instructor effective Aug. 14.

Trustees learned:

- Of the cancellation of the women's basketball season due to a lack of players and coach resignation.

- Of Illinois Community College Board's summary feedback report to President Morris with recommendations from fiscal year 2021 for suggested incorporation into the college's ongoing reviews.

- That Admissions and Records appointed Meagan O'Boyle as administrative assistant and Karina Delgado resigned as information specialist.

- The extension of roles for Mary Beth Herron, Michelle Carboni and Nikki VanNielen in the office of Business Service and Finance for additional duties following the resignation of Matt Seaton through Sept. 28. Jim Carlson will extend his support of two days a week to transition all facility projects through Aug. 31.

- With the closure of St. Margaret's Health, IVCC will formally solicit a quote for athletic training services for the 2023-2024 academic year. Bridge services will be contracted by the former athletic trainer, Kayla Olson until a provider agreement is signed.

- To better align with the general student body code of conduct, amendments were made to the Student Athlete Code of Conduct as related to academic dishonesty.

- This summer, there were 161 graduates earning a total of 206 degrees and certificates with 18 licensed practical nurse graduates.



Milt L. Olson

Celebration of life set for M. Olson

MENDOTA – A Celebration of Life and musical tribute to Milt L. Olson will be held on Sunday, Sept. 3, from 2-5 p.m. in the floral hall at Mendota Tri-County Fairgrounds. All instruments are welcome.

Illinois environmental group seeks ban on pesticides harmful to bees

CHICAGO – An Illinois group reported toxic pesticides are causing irreversible damage to young, developing bees, putting the bee population in decline and food crops at risk.

Bees are pollinators, and scientists said without them, it would be impossible to grow many of the plants decorating gardens and putting food on American tables. Environment Illinois said while previous studies identified a number of pesticides harmful to adult honeybees, different research by Imperial College in London shows the same poisons can impair brain development in 'baby bees,' or bee larvae.

Emily Kowalski, outreach and engagement manager for Environment Illinois, said the government needs to ban the bug killers.

"We're calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the worst uses of these bee-killing pesticides," Kowalski explained. "And we're calling on major retailers, including Amazon, to stop selling these bee-killing pesticides."

Kowalski pointed out many farmers and gardeners use "neonics," pesticides capable of stunting brain development in bee larvae, damaging their neural cells and keeping them from pollination and other activities common to bees. Researchers found the number of bees found in Europe and the United States is down 30% since 2000.

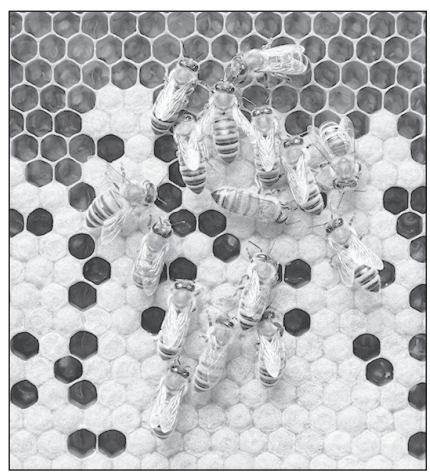
Kowalski noted environmental groups are urging more states to take action, and nine states have already restricted some of the worst

uses of neonics, but officials have yet to do the same in Illinois.

She stressed bee populations in eight other states have all but disappeared.

"Our main mission is a vision of a greener Illinois," Kowalski emphasized. "That protects places where nature can thrive, and offers us and our children a greater opportunity to live healthier, more enriching lives."

In addition to pesticides, bees are also disappearing due to the effects of climate change and the loss of habitat. She added they are asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and some state agencies to add protections for native species of bees under the Endangered Species Act.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Safranek

Continued from Page A1

Safranek only spoke about the matter to two places, the Methodist Church and the Lions Club.

He was blown away by the amount of help he was able to receive for a family in need.

"I was able to raise enough money to get two sets of bunk beds, two sets of sheets and pillowcases, two large dressers, a beautiful bedroom set for her, a platform rocker, floor lamps, and a nice TV — with a year subscription — and curtains and drapery to replace the rags that were over the windows," Safranek said. "I had over \$4,000 to buy her that stuff."

"Those kids were so excited to get those beds. They were watching us put them together. When we were done, they ran to them. I still think about how happy those kids were from time to time."

When asking Safranek to list projects he's worked on in Paw Paw, he gets shy or timid because he doesn't want to brag or act like he is the only one who has helped.

Instead, others in the Paw Paw community will do it for him because they see what he means to the village.

"My husband Ed (Despain) and I have known Erv our entire lives," said Judy Despain, who has lived in Paw Paw for 61 years and her husband even longer. "He does so much for the Lions Club and the church. He makes the potato salad for Mendota Area Senior Services. He's known as the 'Best potato salad maker there is.' His generosity is unmatched. He gives so much to the Mendota Garden Club."

"He's just an amazing man. He's 99 and is still doing all these things. He does so much for the community and if someone needs help, he's there to help them."

Safranek began \$3 break-fast every Wednesday at the church. He only wanted to charge enough for the food. Over the first three years, he gave over \$4,000 to the church.

This year, his crew and him (he can't do as much as he once did because of his age) are going to start on Sept. 6, the Wednesday after Labor Day.

The living legend owned and operated the grocery store in Paw Paw for 71 years before selling the building and business in 2000.

While running his own business, he kept up with Paw Paw's needs and wants.

"I started the flags on Main Street. I purchased all the flags and the flag poles before I turned it over to the village," Safranek said. "We shortened the sidewalk on the same side of the street that the grocery store is on to avoid parallel parking."

"I was responsible for getting the funding for the fence at Rogers Park. It keeps the kids from running directly into the street. The beautiful stone at the cemetery that reads Wyoming Cemetery and the gazebo in the other park, I'm responsible for the funding."

When Erv's father Joseph came to the states from Czechoslovakia as the son of his aunt and uncle so he could make it past border patrol and his mother Sophie came a few years later, they didn't know what kind of kid they were raising.

Joseph was proud of his son when they were building the grocery store in 1952 and one could bet high odds that both mom and dad are beaming from above as their son was, is, and forever will be a man his family, friends and an entire community depend on.

New report shows access to maternal care is becoming harder in Illinois

By TAMMIE SLOUP
FarmWeek

BLOOMINGTON — In rural areas across Illinois, 35.5% of women live more than 30 minutes from a birthing hospital compared to 3.5% of women living in urban areas.

And in 21 counties, pregnant women must travel 28.4 miles or more to the closest birthing hospital.

The data comes from a new March of Dimes report that takes a deep dive into maternal care with a state-by-state analysis.

The Aug. 1 report, "Where You Live Matters: Maternity Care Deserts and the Crisis of Access and Equity," is a new collection of reports that shows more than 5.6 million women live in counties with no or limited access to maternity care services. The research shows that for millions of women in the United States, it's more difficult to access maternity care. One of the largest analyses on maternity care access, the report offers insight into the factors that impact pregnancies in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

"A person's ability to have a healthy pregnancy and healthy birth should not be dictated by where they live and their ability to access consistent, quality care but these reports show that, today, these factors make it dangerous to be

pregnant and give birth for millions of women in the United States," said Dr. Elizabeth Cherot, March of Dimes president and chief executive officer. "Our research shows maternity care is simply not a priority in our health care system and steps must be taken to ensure all moms receive the care they need and deserve to have healthy pregnancies and strong babies. We hope the knowledge provided in these reports will serve as a catalyst for action to tackle this growing crisis."

Hospital closures and a shortage of providers are driving changes in maternity care access, especially within rural areas. Data shows that in Illinois, 34.3% of counties are defined as maternity care deserts.

Care deserts are defined as counties without obstetric providers or a hospital or birth center that offers obstetric care. Across the country, 6% of counties have less access to maternity care than they had in 2018, the first year March of Dimes issued a report on maternity care.

Mapping software calculated the average distance to the closest birthing hospital throughout Illinois to help identify areas where resources are needed to improve access to care. Overall in the U.S., women travel 9.7 miles to their nearest birthing hos-

pital, with Illinois women traveling an average of 6.8 miles. However, women living in counties with the highest travel times could travel up to 47.8 miles and 59 minutes, on average, to reach their nearest birthing hospital, and 4.6% of women in Illinois had no birthing hospital within 30 minutes.

Of the 21 counties where women must travel 28.4 miles or more to the closest birthing hospital, Hardin County in south-east Illinois (the least populous county in the state) had the highest mileage reported at 47.8 miles.

The report also looked at availability of family planning services, disparities in prenatal care, chronic health conditions and preterm birth, and policy solutions and actions.

Other nationwide findings include:

The loss of obstetric units in hospitals was responsible for decreased maternity care access in 369 counties since the 2018 report, nearly one in 10 counties across the U.S.

Seventy additional counties have been classified as maternity care deserts due to a loss of obstetric providers and obstetric units in hospitals, since the initial report in 2018.

More than 32 million reproductive-age women are vulnerable to poor health outcomes due to a lack of access to repro-

ductive health care services, like family planning clinics and skilled birth attendants.

States with the highest rates of maternity care deserts include Alaska, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The report comes during a critical time for hospitals struggling with maternity unit closures, recruitment and staffing.

Even before the pandemic, hospitals started closing maternity units across the country because of low birth volume and rising costs. According to the American Hospital Association, more than 50% of births in maternity care deserts are reimbursed by Medicaid, which have lower reimbursement rates — forcing hospitals to make cuts that leave patients without access to care. In addition, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has reported obstetrics to have one of the highest burnout rates across medical specialties, making it difficult to recruit and retain providers.

Access the full report at marchofdimes.org.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)

Award

Continued from Page A1

farm, but they help Jeff's parents Bill and Cindy Landers, and Sarah's family. Besides the three farms, they've raised children Adelynn and Kaedyn.

Joining his wife, who is also an agriculture teacher who used to teach at Amboy High School, as ISA 20 Under 40 winners in consecutive years in fun for the entire family.

"As agriculture teachers our focus has always been on putting our students in

the best place to succeed and win awards," said Jeff. "I've put a lot of focus on that. I guess it's also great to have our efforts be recognized and to win awards for the work we've done in the agriculture industry and on our farms."

The Illinois Soybean Association chose this year's 20 Under 40 selections on an array of diversity, being at the forefront of agriculture, demonstration of exemplary citizenship within their communities and serving as inspirations for their generation and the ones to come.

MPD: Always lock your vehicle

MENDOTA — Members of the Mendota Police Department would like to remind citizens of an important safety tip. Whether your vehicle is in your garage, driveway or parked on the street, always keep it locked.

Do not leave the keys in the ignition of your vehicle, even if you are only parking it for a short period of time. Do not leave purses, wallets or other valuables in your vehicle, as this attracts unwanted attention from a would-be thief.

Please assist the Mendota Police Department to help keep you and your valuables safe.

volunteers, LaSalle County Farm Bureau Foundation's Karol Vaughn.

The companies who played a large role in bringing the entertainment to the Library are as follows:

Kick-off to Summer Reading Celebration on Friday, July 7 with Ballet Folklorico De Colores Mendota's dance company, DJ Good Vybz, Taco Guzman and La Esquinita de Oro. The Library used funds from a multitude of donations to pay for all the entertainment.

Goldwind Wind Farms sponsored Language of Flowers on Monday, July 10.

Nightengales sponsored our Hugo's Elvis Tribute concert on the lawn on Friday, July 14 as well as the more adult-focused Pre-Civil War Quilts: Codes to Freedom on the Underground Railroad on Friday, July 28.

Friends of the Library sponsored Animals Around the World on Saturday, July 15.

Meriden Grain sponsored "Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles" on Friday, July 21.

Mayor Boelk & Members of City Council/City of Mendota sponsored Summer Reading Club Finale program on Saturday, July 29 with Halau Hula O Puanani in addition to overall support with program materials & snacks. Sullivan's Foods of Mendota sponsored ice cream treats at this event.

Thank you Mendota!

Emily Kofoid
Director

Carolynn Ohlendorf
Youth Services Manager

THANK YOU!

Budget

Continued from Page A1

- The resignation of Allison Fox, physical education teacher, was accepted;
- Tom O'Neill was hired as PE/health/driver's education/school counselor endorsed teacher;
- The resignation of Sally Corrigan, bus driver, was accepted;
- The resignation of Miguel Bermudez, assistant girls' and boys' tennis coach and bus driver, was accepted;
- The resignation of Melissa Clark, paraprofessional, was accepted;
- Alexis Soto was hired as a paraprofessional and bus driver;
- Tom Olsen was hired as a bus driver;

- The resignation of Brock Zinke, instructional coach, was accepted;
- Dan Beck was hired as instructional coach;
- Jason Artman was hired as assistant girls' and boys' tennis coach;
- Lisa Schroeder was hired as winter/basketball cheerleading coach;
- Ryan Reeder was hired as freshman boys' basketball coach;
- Katrina Flahive (cheerleading), Brian Blumhorst (golf), Tom Corrigan (girls' and boys' tennis) and Jason Weber (football) were approved as volunteers in athletics.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Monday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our Summer Reading Club "Find Your Voice" 2023 year. We had so much fun planning our theme this year, we decided we would focus on different voices, modes of voices and literal voices. In total, we had 156 babies-adults register and 1,866 hours read. WOW!

We truly look forward to our Summer Reading Club every year and we know that without support from our community, this program wouldn't be as successful as it has been. Our whole goal is to provide the community with engaging activities and incentives to read in hopes that it helps curb the "summer slide". Children who participate in summer reading programs and read a minimum of six books over the summer score higher in reading and math when they return to school according to ireadprogram.org The children alone read a total of 516 HOURS; that is by far more than 6 books each.

With that said, we would love to thank these businesses for their commitment enabling us to provide our community with a FREE Summer Reading Club program:

American Legion Post #540, Beck Oil, Black Bros. Co., Caseys, Eureka Savings Bank, Financial Plus Credit Union, First Federal Savings Bank, First State Bank (Employee Fund!), Friends of the Library, Goldwind Wind Farm, Knights of Columbus, La Esquinita de Oro, Mauch Carpentry, McDonalds, Mendota Elks: B.P.O.E #1212, Mayor Boelk & City Council of Mendota, Meriden Grain, Nightengales, Peggy Reddick, Prairie Land Millwright, Prairie State Tractor, Rosati's Pizza Pub, Rotary Club, Subway, Sullivan's Foods, Taco Guzman, Walter Bros, Westside Family Dentistry, Ziggy's Family Room Restaurant

The companies or individuals who donated time to bring weekly programs to the youth are as follows: Ballet De Colores-Mendota's dance company, University of Illinois Extension 4-H office's Beth Dellatori, DJ Mara-Mara McDonough, Edge of Your Seat Podcast with Brandon LaChance, WGLC with Charles VanHorn, Gedraitis Family and Fluffy, Calamity Jane's Wildlife Refuge-Jane Hochstatter, Dr. Cathy Wolf with Companion Animal Centre, Therapy Dogs International's Deanna Jacobs and Hooch, Evan's Dude Ranch-Nicole Evan's family and

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OPINION



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Letters to the editor should be typed or hand-printed. They should also be brief. All letters must contain a name, address and telephone number. The editor reserves the right to publish, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

Even the heat shows societal changes

As the Industrial Era left and we moved into the Technology Era, society has changed in more ways than simply how people earn a paycheck or what type of business is or isn't in a commercial building.

Never the Last Chance



By Brandon LaChance

a farm, walking a dog, or delivering a newspaper on a 95-degree summer day.

Maybe it was because there wasn't Facebook to hash out grievances with Mother Nature.

Maybe it was because not everyone had air conditioners. When they walked outside their body didn't go into shock as they left their house, set at 62 degrees, to go outside at 95 degrees. The 32-degree difference will sucker punch anybody.

Maybe it was because a job in the industrial era meant in a 95-110-degree factory where there was only a fan and sodas that you had to drink in 15 minutes every three hours.

There wasn't such a thing as a too-hot-for-school day. Football practices were twice a day, sometimes three. They weren't being moved inside to a gym or being cut to half practices without pads.

Kids were delivering the paper on their bikes, not an elder rolling down their window on their air-conditioned car to throw the paper into the yard.

People seemed to be able to live their lives just like they did from October-April. Maybe a little sweatier. Maybe a little redder faced. Maybe they had to drink more water.

But they survived.

And the chatter was minimal. You'd hear things like, 'Oh it's a hot one' or 'We're feeling Satan today' (I heard this line fairly often as a kid), but then people got back to their sweaty activities.

Things have changed...drastically.

And I'm not the one to judge whether they've changed for the good or for the bad.

But I am the one to point them out. That's the job of a journalist in any era.

Maybe the chatter wasn't minimal but just couldn't travel as far as it can now in the technology era.

Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, Yelp, Instagram, Snap Chat, Tik Tok, YouTube, Reddit, LinkedIn, and I shouldn't have started listing because now I feel like someone who just won an award and can't remember everyone who should be thanked and then feel bad because someone was left out.

Is it crazy that the online, social, viral websites outnumber the brick and mortar businesses in your town?

But those platforms (figuratively not physically) help the people, all people, have a voice in any matter. Everyone, I mean everyone, has the right and the capability of being heard and voicing an opinion.

Who is the greatest basketball player of all-time? We no longer simply rely on ESPN or Sports Illustrated.

Why are gas prices rising? We no longer only rely on Time Magazine or New York Times.

Are the new Dolly Parton, Taylor Swift, Wilco, Nas, or James Blake albums any good? We don't use the Rolling Stone Magazine or The Source as our only sources.

Although the national references or a local resource, such as The Mendota Reporter, may have training, experience, and inside insight covering the topics, all are allowed to state what they think whether complaints, agreements or disagreements, and can take something someone else said or thought and make it their own.

The same thing goes for heat.

Although we've had a pretty mild summer in terms of 100-degree days, once the air conditioning starts chugging a little harder, and the temperature moves past 88 degrees, social media overflows with meteorologist and weather personnel.

It's usually of the complaining kind.

The games of baseball, basketball, and frisbee have moved from the courts and the yard to a video game system in the front room.

The factory jobs have moved to a keyboard and monitor in the home office.

Electric companies and electricians have perfected, supported the wiring and systems to keep ACs running in every home and business.

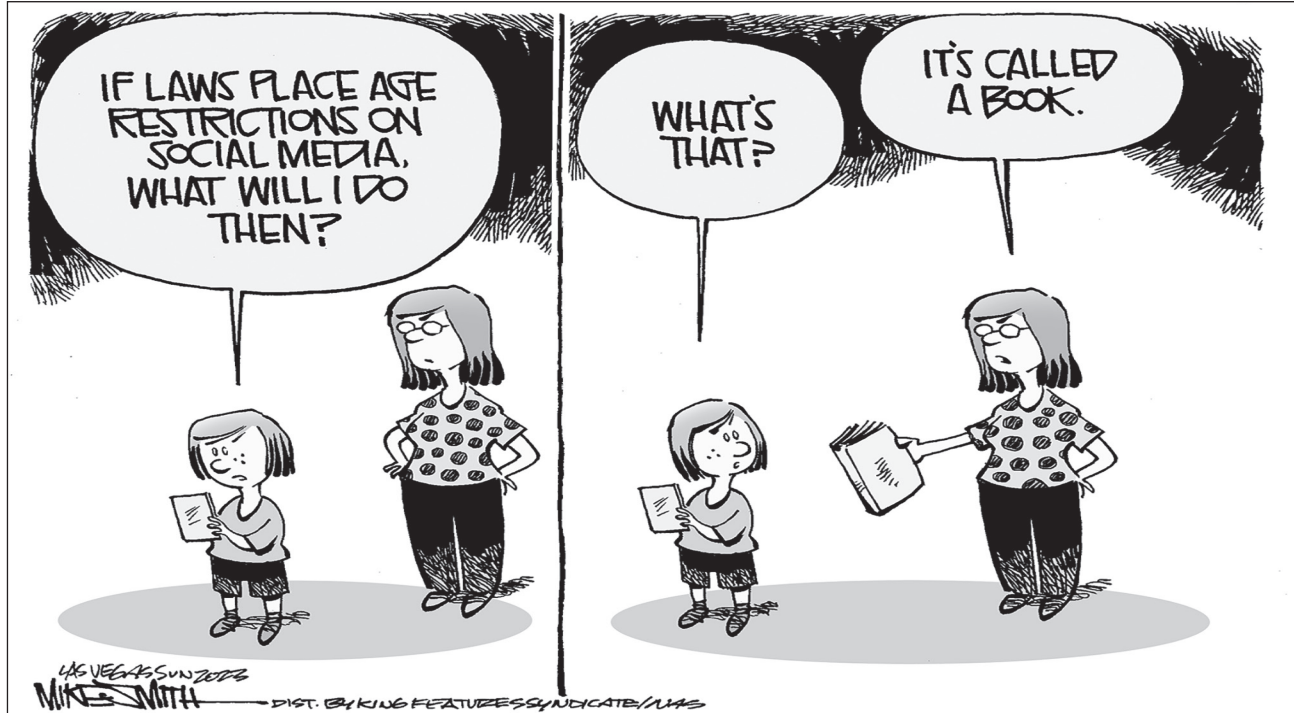
Coaches have practice plans for inside the gym and efficient drills to run if a practice is cut in half and no pads can be worn.

Kids threw newspapers all over yards anyway. Now an adult can drive directly to the mailbox or close enough to put it in the spot the reader wishes to pick up the paper without spilling their coffee.

So, when an individual complains about the heat, is he or she being a baby?

Does complaining about the heat mean we're pampered?

Or does complaining about the heat and everyone knowing we don't like it a sign of societal evolvement and everyone having a voice?



Mendota at age 17 – 1870

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Aug. 30, 2000.)

By Jessica Nashold

During part of 1870, Mendota was served by two weekly newspapers – The Mendota Bulletin and the Weekly Chronicle. Before the year was out, the two papers had joined forces as the Bulletin & Chronicle, published by Ruggles & Ford. Offices were on the second floor of the Clarkson building on the northwest corner of Illinois and Washington. The Clarkson building was razed in 1913 and replaced by the Mendota National Bank.

The Bulletin & Chronicle carried an interesting analysis of 1870 census figures. Since part of Mendota lay in Teed's addition in Troy Grove Township, the local paper made a point of including it in city summaries.

The census breakdown gave figures for head count, dwellings and number of families. The Bulletin & Chronicle compared East Side and West Side, divided, of course, by the railroad tracks. On the West Side, First Ward's 977 residents, plus Second Ward's 870, totaled 1,847. On the East Side, Third Ward's 801 residents plus Fourth Ward's 809 and the 150 residents in Teed's Addition, totaled 1,860. The population of Mendota was therefore 3,707. On the West Side there were 356 houses and on the East Side, 346.

The total population of Mendota Township was 4,590. Figures for other nearby townships were: Earl – 2,129, Meriden – 1,009, Troy Grove – 1,502, Ophir – 1,086, Dimmick – 1,222 and Waltham – 1,115.

At the annual meeting of LaSalle County Supervisors in Ottawa in 1870, an appropriation of \$4,625 was approved for a bridge over the Vermilion at LaSalle. It was stipulated that payment would not be made until the bridge was built and ready for travel.

Mention was made that the supervisors had selected a young man named Frank Hume of Mendota Township to receive a scholarship to Fulton College. His father, Robert Hume, had been killed at Fort Henry.

SIDETRACK – It would be interesting to learn where Fulton College was located, and if there is any family connection between the Humes living in Mendota Township in 1870 and HD. Hume, benefactor of Mendota since his

Backtracks & Sidetracks

arrival here in 1940.

It was also at the 1870 meeting of LaSalle County Supervisors that the sum of \$30,000 was approved for construction of a new county jail.

The C.B.&Q. released figures following the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1870. Net income had been \$2,630,204.73 on gross income of \$6,621,773.36. The Burlington maintained 603 1/4 miles of road.

An item regarding the last sale of a slave indicated it had occurred in Virginia. After bartering, the slave was sold to a farmer for 100 cabbage plants.

Reports were carried on progress in rebuilding the south side of Washington Street following the devastating fire in June 1870. Wilton Pearce was completing a brick building with "two full stories and high basement." Cooper was waiting for brick to complete a three-story building.

SIDETRACK – These buildings are still in use. The Cooper building is at 707 Washington, the Pearce building at 709 Washington. Both have had many occupants since 1870.

Kenower Wormley advertised a Coopering Establishment in connection with his butter & egg business. In addition to barrels, he constructed wooden cisterns. SIDETRACK – Ten years later, when Mendota mayors were serving one-year terms, he was mayor from 1881-82.

An excursion train from Mendota to Fort Hayes, Kan., was scheduled to leave Mendota at noon on Sept. 20, 1870. Tickets were \$38.50 for a 1,400-mile round trip. The big attraction at Fort Hayes was a buffalo hunt.

Dr. J.A. Hoffman advertised his Electro-Medical & Hygienic Institute in the old seminary building on 13th Avenue. He also had an office on Washington Street and advertised himself as a homeopathist.

Dr. E.J. Edwards, with offices near the Methodist church on Sixth Avenue, attempted to shield himself from night calls by stating "no professional visits (except absolute) from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m."

SIDETRACK – Apparently "absolute" was an 1870 term for "emergency."

As election time neared, there was a concerted effort by advocates of temperance to selection candidates supporting Prohibition. B.F. DeMerritt was chairman of a group scheduled to meet in LaSalle and nominate candidates for the offices of sheriff and coroner of LaSalle County.

John Foulk leased his farm six miles north of Mendota and gave advance notice of a sale scheduled for Oct. 6, 1870. He listed horses, cattle, hogs and "farming utensils of all kinds."

In 1870, the J.D. Tower Planing Mill on the East Side advertised school desks among other products they manufactured. The Tower firm was later identified with manufacture of the Tower Cultivator and other farm implements.

Shettel & Rupert conducted a planing mill on Sixth Street, west of the tracks. Croquet sets – mallets and balls – were one of their features.

In 1870, Western Cottage Organs were being advertised by Tewksbury, Carpenter & Co. In advertising that began running May 26, 1870, they featured their Patent Harmonic Attachment, Improved Double Acting Bellows, Improved Knee Swell and Improved Vox Humana Tremelo.

No prices were quoted.

A baseball team of "juveniles" called itself the Red Breeches. They challenged businessmen of Mendota to a game. Apparently not many businessmen were free to play at game time, so a "Picked Nine" represented them. The Red Breeches rolled up a gratifying 50 to 12 win.

Market prices in 1870 distinguished between corn (shelled, sound and dry), corn (ear 70 pound) and red corn. Shelled was 52 cents, ear was 50 cents and red was 48 cents. Oats were 39 cents per bushel.

The GOP race is not quite as over as it looks

By Rich Lowry

If it "got late early" in the old majestic Yankee Stadium with its long shadows, as the famous Yogi Berra quote had it, it's gotten late before about the fourth inning in the Republican presidential race.

In 2016, Donald Trump loved to pump out the results of unreliable online polls that showed him trouncing his competitors by ridiculous margins.

Now, he doesn't need to bother with the shoddy polls; he can do the same thing with blue-chip media polls. The new national CBS poll has him leading second-place Ron DeSantis by 46 points, 62-16. The latest Fox News poll had a more modest 37-point Trump lead. (Vivek Ramaswamy is third in both surveys, at 7% and 11% respectively.)

It's sometimes said that Trump is the de facto incumbent in the race, and indeed these are the kind of numbers you'd expect of a sitting president who is sweeping marginal opponents to the side as he secures his party's renomination.

The top-line results aren't that different from the primacy race -- such as it is -- on the Democratic side. The Fox poll has Joe Biden beating Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. 64 to 17, with Marianne Williamson at 9.

Is there a mercy rule in presidential politics?

Trump could be forgiven for looking at his opponents and seeing: a highly touted governor whose campaign has steadily sunk in national polls as he's shed staff and fired a campaign manager; a young, smooth-talking entrepreneur who isn't a threat to him but is helpfully soaking up some share of the non-Trump vote; a sunny senator who has made some gains but certainly hasn't broken out; a former vice president who is hated by MAGA (for all the wrong reasons); a former governor who is a gifted political pugilist but is unpopular in the party; and a bunch of others whose names he doesn't necessarily need to know.

What's not to like?

Even if one of the candidates surges and sweeps up all

the current non-Trump vote, there's simply not enough of it to get to 50 right now. No wonder Trump is talking as if the race is over, the Trump super PAC is running spots hitting Biden, and Trump says there's no need for him to show up at the Republican debates.

The cockiness could well be justified, but a sense of inevitability can be a two-edged sword. On the one hand, it disheartens the opposition and communicates strength; on the other, it can fade into a high-handed sense of taking the voters for granted.

And Trump still has to win Iowa, where his support is a little softer. After all the talk of having the election stolen from him in 2020 and the chest-beating about his dominance now, a defeat there -- in a clean process overseen by fellow Republicans -- would be a stinging setback that might change the dynamic everywhere else.

The new NBC News/Des Moines Register poll has Trump at 42%, with DeSantis at 19% and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott at 9%. That's a substantial lead, but both DeSantis and Scott have large portions of the electorate saying they are their second choice or that they are actively considering them. Both also have high favorable ratings comparable to Trump's.

In the portion of the survey conducted prior to the Georgia indictment, his lead was 38 -- 20 over DeSantis -- again, sizable, but not nearly enough to say he has this thing put away, not in the middle of August.

Iowa can break late. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, who won Iowa in 2012, didn't really start moving until late December. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who won four years earlier, started his upward march around November. If someone is going to replicate this kind of climb, the big upward move may still be months away.

So it looks late out there, no doubt, and has for some time, but it's not over.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

IDPH reports first Illinois West Nile virus death of '23

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced the first Illinois human West Nile virus (WNV)-related death in 2023.



Testing by CDC confirmed the case was WNV-related. The individual, who was in their 90s and lived in suburban Cook County, had an onset of symptoms of WNV in early August and died soon after. IDPH is also reporting 11 non-fatal cases of WNV confirmed to date this year.

"We are sad to report the first death of the year from West Nile virus in Illinois," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "This death and the 11 additional cases are a stark reminder that West Nile virus poses a serious risk, especially to older people and those with weakened immune systems. While the weather is warm and mosquitoes are breeding, we should all take precautions to 'Fight the Bite'. Please protect yourself and your loved ones by reducing exposures, repelling insects with clothing and repellants, and reporting locations at high risk for producing mosquitoes."

Of the 12 human cases, seven were reported from Cook County, including two in Chicago. To date, Kane, Macon, Madison, Will and Woodford counties have each reported one human WNV case.

The first WNV-related death in Illinois in 2022 also had an onset of symptoms in early August. There were seven deaths from WNV confirmed in the state in 2022 and an additional 26 non-fatal cases reported (although human cases are underreported). The youngest person to report a case of West Nile virus in Illinois last year was 26 years old, while the median age of human cases was 64.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a Culex mosquito, commonly called a typical mosquito, which has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms of WNV include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. Four out of five people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms. However, in rare cases, severe illness can occur, including brain infections such as meningitis or encephalitis and paralysis or even death. People older than 50 and immunocompromised individuals are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

There is no specific treatment for WNV nor is there a vaccine at present, therefore it is critically important people minimize their risk of acquiring the virus.

IDPH encourages the public to Fight the Bite and take steps to prevent WNV by practicing the three "R's" – reduce, repel, and report:

- **REDUCE** – make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.

- **REPEL** – when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535 according to label instructions. The CDC does not recommend use of products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol on children under 3 years old. Consult a physician before using repellents on children under 3.

- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

Last year, 44 counties in Illinois reported positive WNV mosquitoes, birds, humans and/or horses. So far in 2023, there have been 1,817 positive mosquito batches and 13 positive birds from 42 counties.

This year, the first mosquito batch to test positive for WNV was reported May 30 in Evanston.

Surveillance for West Nile virus in Illinois involves reporting and investigation of individuals with West Nile virus symptoms and clinical laboratory testing. Environmental surveillance includes laboratory testing on mosquito batches, dead birds, as well as testing sick horses. People who observe a sick or dying bird should contact their local health department, which can determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

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Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2023

SEPT. 1, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29

BINGOCIZE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 1

COMMUNITY BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Everyone welcome. Will have guest callers, snacks and cash prize awarded for the final cover-all.

*Please note change of day and time.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26

Wii **BOWLING**
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26

EUCHRE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
\$3 paid at beginning. Cash prizes awarded at end of play.
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26

CASUAL CARDS & CONVERSATION
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
Let's try something different - bring your friends and enjoy card games such as Rummy, Hearts, Kings in the Corner or Euchre. Your choice. Enjoy the day with cards and conversation.
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 6

SMALL FRIES - "ABC AND 123"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages 3 to kindergarten. Call to register.

SEPT. 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28

EXERCISES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
8 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 17 & 21

HEARING CLINIC

Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.

9:30 AM - 1 PM
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Please contact Kelly with Sterling Hearing at (815) 626-3220. Batteries available at M.A.S.S. office.

SEPT. 7, 14, 21 & 28

STRESS BUSTERS CLASS FOR CAREGIVERS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM - 11:30 AM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Please preregister by calling office for this informative 9-week class to help caregivers dealing with stress in their role as a caregiver.

SEPT. 7, 14, 21 & 28

POKENO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM

Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 7, 14, 21 & 28

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

If you like to knit, crochet, cross stitch, etc., bring your crafting items & join the others.

SEPT. 7

LEGO CLUB

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Ages 1st thru 8th grades. Come build LEGOs with friends. Call to register.

SEPT. 7

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ: "ABC AND 123"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Ages birth thru 2 years (siblings welcome). Call to register.

SEPT. 8, 15, 22 & 29

BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 11, 18 & 26

DOMINOES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 11

4-H AT THE LIBRARY WITH UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION "BINARY CODE JEWELRY"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages 8-18. Registration required. Call to register.

SEPT. 12 & 26

BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

SEPT. 12

3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
1 PM & 6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

September's Book: "A House in the Sky" by Amanda Lindhout

SEPT. 13

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ: "ABC AND 123"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
11 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Ages birth thru 2 years (siblings welcome). Call to register. *Repeat of Sept. 7 program

SEPT. 13

SHOPPING TO PERU

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

\$12 - Please call office to set up transportation.

SEPT. 19

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY MINUTES: RACE TO SAVE THE RMS TITANIC...A NEW TAKE ON THE TITANIC
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6:30 PM
1401 W. Main St., Mendota Author, William Hazelgrove, reveals the real life heroism and incompetence that shaped the story of that fateful night. Hazelgrove will describe the incredible, untold story that shows no one should have died on the night the Titanic sank.

SEPT. 19

CAREGIVERS COUNSELING WITH ALTERNATIVES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM - 12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Erin Hanna available to council caregivers.

SEPT. 21

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ: "HISPANIC HERITAGE"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Ages birth thru 2 years (siblings welcome). Call to register.

SEPT. 22

POTLUCK

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM

Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Please bring a dish to pass and your place setting and utensils.

SEPT. 23

MASS COOKOUT AT SULLIVAN'S
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

11 AM to 2 PM

Feik Parlor -
Sullivan's Foods in Mendota
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Please come out and enjoy our staff and get a sandwich or two.

SEPT. 26

ZOOM - COOKING CLASS "HEALTHY CHARCUTERIE BOARD"
Sponsored by M.A.S.S. / University of IL

2:30 PM

For more info call
(815) 539-7700

May watch at M.A.S.S. or contact us for link to watch at home.

SEPT. 26

TWEENS: "PUZZLE ART"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Ages 5th thru 8th grade. Puzzle Art. Refreshments served at 7PM.

SEPT. 27

SHOPPING TO OTTAWA
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

\$12 - Please call office to set up transportation.

SEPT. 27

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ: "HISPANIC HERITAGE"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
11 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Ages birth thru 2 years (siblings welcome). Call to register.

SEPT. 27

MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "GRAN TORINO"
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library & M.A.S.S.
3 PM

1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

September we will be watching "Gran Torino." Snacks and beverages will be provided by Mendota Area Senior Services. All are welcome to attend. No registration.

The Community Calendar Is Brought To You By Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce & The Mendota Reporter. These are some of the local businesses who belong to your Chamber of Commerce:

Davis Family Health
DeLong's Auto Body
Diaz Grocery and Tacos
Dimond Bros. Insurance
Edward Jones
Ekana Nursery & Landscaping
El Rey Del Taco
El Zarape Mexican/American Restaurant
Elite Welding & Service

TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Sublette Village Board approves six motions

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE — The Aug. 14 Sublette Village Board meeting saw a little bit of everything including six motions being approved.

The motion was made by Village Trustee Bob Bulfer to approve a temporary liquor license for Sublette 365 during the village event, Hops & Harmony, on Sept. 2 at the Sublette Centennial Park. Trustee Rick Klaser seconded, and trustees Julie Kessel, Larry Ellis, and Scott Hanson approved.

Bulfer made a motion to approve waiving the bidding and soliciting of prices for companies to complete water tower inspection and cleaning. Ellis seconded; all approved.

Hanson made a motion to approve a contractor to clean and inspect the water tower, interior and exterior. The cost will be \$7,300 for the interior and \$7,300 for the exterior, equaling a total price of \$14,600. The village's budget for the project is \$12,000. Ellis and Klaser seconded; all approved.

Kessel approved to solicit prices for repair or replace work to curb stops and/or water services. Bulfer seconded; all approved.

Kessel also made a motion to approve water and garbage billing costs for gWorks, which bought out UB Max, to run through TEST Inc. The contract for the program will run for four years and includes costs per month and for installation. The one-time installation price is \$1,080, the first-year costs \$1,380, the second year will be \$1,421.40, third year \$1,464, and the fourth year will be \$1,507.92. The total price tag for the four-year water and garbage program will be \$6,853.32. Klaser seconded; all approved.

Kessel's third and fourth motions at the meeting were on the Village Message Board. She made a motion for the committee to spend no more than \$500 on having the board repairs appraised. The second board motion was for the committee to make a decision on whether or not to repair the Village Message Board after prices for the board were gathered. Hanson said he contacted the Watch Fire Company, closest branch is in Rockford, about coming to look at the board. Sending an appraiser would cost \$400-500 to look at the board. The message board has been installed for 12 ½ years. Parts for the board will be discontinued after 15 years. There was a \$1,000 donation made by the Sublette Business Association. Hanson seconded; all approved.

After motions and approvals took place, the meeting was open for concerns to be made.

Former Sublette Mayor Michael Vaessen voiced his concern about the village's snow shovel removal program downtown. He owns a building, which is rented to a tenant. The tenant doesn't want to pay for the shoveling because of complaints with the service. Vaessen doesn't think the property owner should have to pay for the service.

During the meeting, it was discussed the village will discuss cancelling the service and having tenants or property owners shovel their own snow. Vaessen agreed that this would solve the problem. However, the board would have to make motions and the topic would have to be approved but it couldn't be done at the Aug. 14 meeting.

Sublette Village lawyer, Dana Considine, later told the board that the city ordinance states paying for shoveling snow removal, which is done by Rick's

Lawn Service, is the responsibility of the property owner.

Another concern was addressed by Linda Klaser as she spoke on the village's property not being properly kept. She pointed out problems she sees with the Ellice Dinges Center including a drop between the doorway and the sidewalk at the EDC front door, unsealed blacktop, parking lot in bad shape, issues with the toilet and the door not staying closed at the Rt. 52 park restroom facilities, and picnic tables needing to be replaced.

President of the Board John Stenzel directed the matter to Ellis, who is in charge of village property, the EDC, and parks, in order to come up with a plan to look into the issues Klaser addressed.

In other meeting news, the annual Tractor Drive was canceled in honor of Dennis Dallam, who passed away after being involved with the drive for many years.

Ordinance violations on three properties were discussed.

The Tim Bonnell residence, 202 W. 1st St., has been making payments on the ordinances, \$3,500 in total, but didn't make his Aug. 4 payment. The judge could hold in contempt.

Hector Velazquez at 108 W. 3rd St. hasn't been found as complaints toward the property began in March 2015 and ordinance fees have reached \$8,000. Sublette paid \$450 for a demolition appraiser to look at the house, which gave a figure of \$119,000.

However, Hector's cousin has been making repairs to the home as broken windows have been replaced and siding redone. Since there have been improvements and actual work done to the property, the board decided to wait on any further rulings.

Busy September set for Sublette

SUBLETTE — The month of September will not be a quiet month in the Village of Sublette as five events will take place in the month.

The fun starts on Sept. 2 when Hops & Harmony takes over Sublette Centennial Park.

Hops & Harmony will start with beer tasting from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. featuring a variety of brews from different breweries, and music by Adam & Mike, a duo from Byron.

Shane Profitt, whose debut single "How it Oughta Be" is currently No. 20 on the country charts, will perform at 8 p.m.

The headliner, Drew Parker, will begin at roughly 9:30 p.m. Parker has tallied over 50 million global streams, is going on tour with Luke Combs in 2024, and has written No. 1 songs such as Luke Combs and Brooks & Dunn's "1, 2 Many." Tickets for the over-21 event can be purchased in advance at www.sublette365.com (\$30 beer tasting and the party pit and \$20 party pit concert tickets) or at the door for an additional \$5.

A free-will donation is asked of those who bring their own chair to the free-of-charge general admis-

sion area during the concert.

All proceeds will benefit the community of Sublette.

Also, on Sept. 2 is the Vendors & Craft Fair at Grace Fellowship Church in Sublette.

The fair featuring a bake sale and craft vendors will run noon-4 p.m.

The annual Pullin in the Park will be on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Centennial Park. Check in for the tractor and truck pull is at 8 a.m. and the pull begins at 11 a.m.

There will be food vendors and activities for kids such as games and a bounce house. The entry fee is \$20, and pullers must be 16 to pull. Admission is \$10 while 12-under is free.

The Country Car Show will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 on Rt. 52 across from Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet.

All makes of antique, classic and special interest cars, trucks, motorcycles are welcome. There will be no judging.

Tractors will be the main display for the Antique Power Days on Saturday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 25 at Mendota Hills Campground located three miles northwest of Sublette on Rt. 52.

The show will run 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota's Tri-County Fair celebrates 150th Anniversary

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – In 1873 LaSalle, Lee, and Bureau counties came together to form the Tri-County Fair.

Although there have been years where a fair didn't happen on the fairgrounds located on 1st Ave. in Mendota because of wars or pandemics, the fair has maintained end of summer, beginning of fall fun for 150 years.

For the 150th anniversary in 2023, all activities and Tri-County Fair storied events have moved up a day as the fair will start Thursday, Aug. 31 and end Sunday, Sept. 3.

"We are going to kick off with the rodeo on Thursday and fireworks afterward. Our hope is to make it end with a big bang on Sunday night instead of on Monday, Labor Day, this year with fireworks and activities,"

said Tri-County Fair Secretary Carol Ramer. "This is in consideration to parents that want to get their kids home on Monday night at a decent hour so they can go to school on Tuesday morning.

"Having been to the first demolition derbies that were held here in the late 1960s, I know I didn't get home until 2 a.m. in 1969. Getting out of bed to go to fifth grade classes was not the most fun time in the world."

Fairs have always put an emphasis on kids and family fun.

The Tri-County Fair is no different and is even offering family friendly pricing as arm bands for the Kids Fun Zone are \$10 a day or \$20 for the entire weekend, and grandstand showcases are \$10.

"We're going to have the Kids Fun Zone. It's going to be a fenced off area with

games, bounce houses, and other activities. I don't know a fair or carnival that you can go to in which you can actually afford to put the kids in a play area and enjoy it, which it should be," Ramer said. "Even our main events such as the demolition derby, rodeo, and truck and tractor pull are extremely cheap compared to a lot of places.

"Also, it's a free gate, so it doesn't cost to enter the fair grounds and it's only \$10 to sit in the grandstand. We're trying to keep it fair and friendly to the families."

There will also be the exhibits often associated with the Tri-County Fair as there will be crafters, individuals and businesses often seen at the Mendota Farmer's Market, and a flea market with a variety of options.

The Tri-County Fair Board – which consists of president Matt Ramer, vice

president Eric Rebholz, secretary Carol Ramer, treasurer Michelle Beaty, James Carlson, Kim Cleary, AJ Fultz, Austin Lipe, Mindy Matney, James Nurnberg, Peggy Younglove, Tyler Sebby, Dylan Davis, Dria Kuntz, Ken Merschman, and Tom Meinhardt – hopes to see you at the fairgrounds enjoying family time with all of the activities and events offered to you at the Tri-County Fair.

**From the Mendota Reporter,
Enjoy the Tri-County Fair!**



The Mendota Lions will be cooking corn dogs starting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31 through Saturday, Sept. 2, then starting at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 3.



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The first Tri-County Fair featuring LaSalle, Lee, and Bureau counties was 150 years ago in 1873. The grandstands have been filled many times including in 1987. (photo contributed)

Mendota's Tri-County Fair

Thursday, August 31

4 p.m. – Gates open

4-9 p.m. – Kids Fun Zone

6.m.-last call – Beer gardens with DJ David Fox

7 p.m. – T&C Rodeo and fireworks

Friday, September 1

4 p.m. – Gates open

4-9 p.m. – Kids Fun Zone

5 p.m.-last call – Beer gardens with DJ Rusty Loomis

7 p.m. – ISP Truck/Tractor Pulls

Saturday, September 2

Noon – Gates open

Noon-10 p.m. – Kids Fun Zone

1 p.m.-last call – Beer gardens

6 p.m. – Mega X Motocross

Sunday, September 3

Noon – Gates open

Noon-10 p.m. – Kids Fun Zone

1-5 p.m. – Celebration of life for Milt Olsen at Floral Hall

1 p.m.-last call – Beer gardens, music by

Tailgate Confessions (photo below)

5 p.m. – Demolition Derby

9 p.m. – Fireworks



**Enjoy the
Tri-County Fair!**



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LOCAL AND AREA



A hazardous waste collection event will be held at the DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport, 2200 Pleasant St., DeKalb, on Saturday, Sept 9.

EPA sets hazardous waste collection event for DeKalb

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim has announced upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) one-day collection locations for the Fall of 2023. These collection events are co-sponsored by units of local government and provide residents the free opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover hazardous products commonly found in homes.

One of the collection sites is the DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport, 2200 Pleasant St., DeKalb, to be held on Saturday, Sept 9. To register for this event, go to <https://dekalbcountyhealthdeptrecycling.as.me/schedule.php>. For more information on this event, log on to recycle@dekalbcounty.org or call 815-748-2408.

“Illinois EPA’s one-day Household Hazardous Waste collection events provide opportunities for residents to safely get rid of unused and unwanted chemicals and other hazardous products often found in homes,” said Director Kim. “We continue to see great attendance at collection locations throughout Illinois, showing the ongoing need for these important events. We thank our local partners for helping make each one of them possible.”

One-day collections are open to all Illinois residents and operate from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the event. Pre-registration is required for all Fall 2023 collection events. Residents participating are encouraged to bring chemical cleaners, oil-based paints, thinners, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, weed killers, insecticides, and pesticides, old or outdated medication, and similar hazardous household products. Fluorescent discharge lamps may also be brought to the collections. Items not accepted include latex paint, explosives, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, and business wastes.

- For safe transport of HHW, residents are asked to:
- Pack HHW items in a disposable box to avoid spilling during transport.
 - Keep like chemicals together and separate unlike chemicals.
 - Secure lids and make sure containers are not leaking.
 - Place box(es) of HHW in the empty trunk or storage compartment of your vehicle, away from passengers during transport.
 - Remain in vehicle at



Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14) recently held a Fire Chief Summit in Oglesby with emergency responders across Illinois’ 14th District. (Photo contributed)

Rep. Underwood hosts summit with area emergency responders

OGLESBY—Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14) held a Fire Chief Summit in Oglesby with emergency responders across Illinois’ 14th District for a conversation about their needs and to share information on tools and key federal programs to support their departments.

The summit included workshops with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture to help emergency responders learn more about funding opportunities and how to access additional federal resources.

“The closure of St. Margaret’s health care facilities around our region has brought a big burden on the first responders in our community,” said Underwood. “I’ve had many conversations with local lead-

ers this year on this issue, but I knew that we had to get our emergency responders together in one room to hear directly from them about what they’re seeing. During our Fire Chief Summit, I learned more about the unique challenges they’re facing and we had a productive conversation about all of the ways our office and federal agencies can help fire departments apply for and receive federal funding. Our first responders in the 14th District are heroes, and I want them to know that we’re here to support them every step of the way.”

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Underwood secured \$23.9 billion for FEMA in the FY22

“Our first responders in the 14th District are heroes, and I want them to know that we’re here to support them every step of the way.”

Rep. Lauren Underwood

government funding package, a \$2.19 billion increase from FY21. This included \$720 million for firefighter grant programs.

She helped secure a combined \$649,630 for the Mendota, Shabbona, and Aurora fire departments through Assistance to Firefighters Grants this year. Underwood is also working to relieve the strain on rural emergency services and first responders in the wake of the closures

of St. Margaret’s hospitals in Peru and Spring Valley. Underwood announced \$713,849 in funding from FEMA’s Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program to help the Ottawa Fire Department hire additional firefighters. Additionally, Underwood is working to secure \$1 million in federal funding for a new ambulance and fire station in northern Ottawa.

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

BATTERY

Alex A. Perez, 31, of 209 17th St., Mendota, was charged with battery at 6:16 p.m. Aug. 22 after police officers investigated an incident that allegedly occurred in the 200 block of Sandra Avenue. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Prohibited Parking

MENDOTA – The City of Mendota reminds citizens that Chapter 41.49 of the Mendota Municipal Code in regard to Prohibited Parking reads as follows:

- Parking is prohibited along both sides of First Avenue for the entire length of the avenue.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Sixth Avenue from Second Street to Fifth Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Main Street from Sixth Street to Washington Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the south side of Washington Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Iowa Street.
- Parking is prohibited on both sides (north and south) of Washington Street from Iowa Street to U.S. Route 251.

MHS student awarded with Academic Honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs

MENDOTA – A student from Mendota High School earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. These programs celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students are an opportunity for students to share their strong academic achievements with colleges and scholarship programs that are seeking to recruit diverse talent.

Mendota High School is proud to report that Madelyn Becker, daughter of Pat and Kelly Becker, earned the National Rural and Small Town Award (NRSTA) award.

"We're thrilled to celebrate our students and recognize them for the great work they've been doing. We're proud of their strong academic performance in the classroom and on College Board assessments like the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and AP® exams,"



M. Becker

said MHS Principal Joe Masini. "There's so much that makes our students unique, and receiving this honor reinforces this as an asset for their future."

The criteria for eligible students include:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program or earned a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade.
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.

Eligible students are invited to apply on BigFuture during their sophomore or junior year and are awarded at the start of the next school year in time to share their achievements in high school as they plan for the future. At the same time, colleges and organizations using College Board's Student Search Service™ can connect directly with awardees during the recruitment process.

Sign Ordinance

MENDOTA – The city of Mendota reminds you that it is unlawful under city ordinance 42.34 to hang, lean, or place any advertising materials on any street lamp, post, telephone or electric light pole within the city limits of Mendota. This includes garage sale notices.

This statute was designed to keep our neighborhoods clean and free of trash and debris. The city of Mendota officials ask for your cooperation in this matter.

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SPORTS



Mendota running back Wyatt Ossman tries to break loose from the grip of Morrison's Camden Pruis on Aug. 25 at Morrison. (Reporter photo)

Morrison blanks Trojans in opener, 54-0

MORRISON – The new football season certainly started off with a bang for Mendota. Unfortunately for the Trojans, it was their opponent, Morrison, shooting off all the fireworks.

The Mustangs scored a touchdown on the first offensive play of the game and they didn't let up over the remainder of the first half in cruising to a 54-0 victory over the Trojans in a Three Rivers Conference crossover game on Aug. 25 at Morrison.

After the initial touchdown just 11 seconds into the contest, Morrison was able to find the end zone four more times in the first stanza to open up a 34-0 lead.

The Mustangs tacked on two more scores in the second period to take a 47-0 lead at intermission and result in a running clock for the entire second half.

A short kickoff by Mendota to begin the game gave Morrison the ball at its own 45-yard line, and on the first play from scrimmage, fullback Carson Strating took a handoff and bolted 55 yards to the end zone to get things started for the Mustangs. The extra-point kick was no good.

On Mendota's first offensive series of the season, the Trojans' first play was a 50-yard pass completion from Justin Randolph to Rhett Watson, who gathered in the ball after it was tipped by a Mustang defender. The Trojans were able to advance the ball 5 yards to the Morrison 5-yard line, but the drive stalled out there and the Mustangs took over on downs.

On Morrison's second series, it took just over two minutes for it to get back into the end zone. Wide receiver

Next for the Trojans

Opponent: Friday, Sept. 1 vs. Orion at MHS field. Kickoff at 7 p.m.

Last year: Did not play.

Last week: Orion won its season-opener, 20-14, over Hall. Charger quarterback Kale Filler hooked up with receiver Jake Banbridge on touchdown passes of 22 and 48 yards, while Kaden Edmunds ran in the other Orion score. The Charger defense gave up 226 total yards to the Red Devils.

Daeshaun McQueen took a short out pass from quarterback Colton Bielema and the speedy wide-out was able to outrun Mendota defenders 66 yards to pay dirt. After another failed extra-point kick, the Mustangs owned a 12-0 lead.

The margin quickly swelled to 20 when Morrison's Chase Newman picked off a Randolph pass and returned it 40 yards to the end zone at the 7:04 mark of the first frame. Strating ran for the two-point conversion.

The Mustang defense forced a punt on Mendota's next series, and another big play resulted in Morrison's fourth touchdown of the quarter. This time it was Brady Anderson doing the honors as the sophomore halfback galloped for a 78-yard touchdown followed by a Newman two-point run to make it 28-0 with 5:02 left in the first.

Morrison added one more touchdown before the conclusion of the quarter on a

35-yard TD run by Newman. The point-after kick was no good.

The Mustangs vaulted over the magical 40-point mark with two more scores in the second quarter. After a Mendota fake punt went awry resulting in Braiden Freeman being tackled at his own 39-yard line, Morrison was quickly back in the end zone on a 40-yard TD run by Anderson. The extra-point kick failed.

With just 1:42 left before the half, the Mustangs made it 47-0 on a Camden Pruis 10-yard run and a successful PAT kick by McQueen.

Morrison finished off the scoring on a 30-yard touchdown run by Reynolds Reavy with 3:41 left in the third period. McQueen added the extra-point kick.

Mendota's closest pene-

tration of the second half was to the Morrison 19-yard line in the fourth quarter.

Three Rivers East Division Football Standings		
	TR	QA
Princeton	0-0	1-0
Bureau Valley	0-0	1-0
Newman	0-0	1-0
Kewanee	0-0	1-0
Mendota	0-0	0-1
Hall	0-0	0-1

Friday, Aug. 25

Morrison 54, Mendota 0

Princeton 40, Monmouth-R. 0

Kewanee 28, Sherrard 21

Bureau Valley 26, Erie-P. 7

Orion 20, Hall 14

Newman 12, Rockridge 7

Friday, Sept. 1

Orion at Mendota

Erie-P. at Kewanee

Monmouth-R. at Bureau V.

Morrison at Princeton

Riverdale at Hall

Sherrard at Newman



Mendota defenders Wyatt Ossman, left, and Rhett Watson team up for a tackle on Morrison running back Chase Newman on Aug. 25 at Morrison. (Reporter photo)

Spikers take down Amboy

MENDOTA – The Mendota Spikers began the new season by splitting their first two matches.

The Spikers hosted Putnam County on Aug. 22 and the visitors came away with a 25-14, 26-24 triumph.

Laylie Denault, Grace Wasmer and Reanna Brant had two kills apiece for MHS. Lilly Leifheit led with nine digs and Madelyn Becker topped the team with seven assists. Ryleigh Sondgeroth added six digs.

Mendota cruised to a 25-12, 25-21 victory over Amboy on Aug. 24 at the MHS gym.

Brant was a force at the net with six kills and two blocks, while Kirby Bond had five kills and Wasmer added four. Also contributing to the win were Leifheit with 22 digs and three ace serves, Becker with 18 assists and Ana Ramirez with 10 digs.

Morrison rolls over FS gridders, 46-0

MENDOTA – Morrison posted a 46-0 win over Mendota in freshman-sophomore football action on Aug. 28 at the MHS field.

Morrison tallied two touchdowns in the first quarter to grab a 12-0 lead, then found the end zone four times in the second stanza to take a 40-0 halftime advantage. The final touchdown of the half was a 34-yard interception return as time expired.

Morrison also chalked up a first-half touchdown on a 53-yard punt return.

The Mustangs wrapped up the scoring with a fourth-quarter TD as the second half was played with a running clock.

Mendota ran 22 offensive plays for a minus 4 yards. Morrison had 28 plays from scrimmage and gained 222 yards. The Mustangs had 188 yards on the ground.

Trojans roll to Oregon Soccer Tourney crown

□ MHS claims title for 3rd straight year

OREGON – For the third straight year, the Mendota Trojans are the kings of the Oregon Soccer Classic after posting four wins and a tie to claim the tournament title.

The Trojans started off the tournament with a 0-0 tie against Woodstock on Aug. 25. Mateo Goy had four goalie saves for Mendota.

In the second contest on day one, Mendota claimed a 1-0 forfeit victory over Hinkley-Big Rock, which did not show up for the game.

Day two got off to a great start for the Trojans as they blanked the host Hawks, 7-0, in the first of three games on Aug. 26.

Johan Cortez starred for Mendota with four goals and one assist. Isaac Diaz rammed home a pair of goals and had an assist, while David Casas found the net for the team's other goal. Also picking up as-

sists were Logan Dewey, Cesar Casas and Danny Garcia.

Goy had one save.

Mendota faced off against Riverdale in the second game and posted another shutout, 8-0.

Cameron Kelly and Bryan Herrera led the charge for the Trojans with two goals apiece. Collecting one goal each were Diaz, David Casas, Cesar Casas and Ramiro Palacios. Assisting the scoring were Cortez, Danny Garcia, Mauricio Salinas and Kaleb Kleckner.

Mendota met Richmond-Burton in the championship game and the Trojans prevailed, 2-1.

Diaz tallied the game-winning goal for Mendota with seven minutes left. The other goal went to Kleckner, who also added an assist.

Goy stopped six shots on goal for the Trojans (5-0-1).



Natalia Salinas of Mendota finished first at number two singles in the Sterling Newman Tennis Tournament. (Photo contributed)



Mariah Figueroa, left, and Lauren Holland took second place at number one doubles in the Sterling Newman Tennis Tournament. (Photo contributed)

MHS netterstake 2nd in Newman Tourney

□ N. Salinas captures No. 2 singles title

STERLING – The Mendota Lady Trojans had a fine showing in the Sterling Newman Tournament as they placed second out of eight teams on Aug. 26 in Sterling. Rockford Lutheran landed in first place, while teams finishing behind Mendota were Newman, St. Bede, Belvidere, Princeton, Kewanee and Galesburg.

Mendota's Natalia Salinas took first-place honors at number two singles, while Mariah Figueroa and Lauren Holland teamed up to finish in second place at number one doubles.

Aug. 26 – Newman Tourney
Rockford Lutheran 9, Mendota 9, Newman 6, St. Bede 6, Belvidere 5, Princeton 4, Kewanee 3, Galesburg 3

No. 1 Singles: Merkel (Pr) def. Ella Lewis (M), 6-4, 6-3; Lewis (Me) def. McLaughlin

(Ga), 6-2, 6-4; Lewis (Me) def. Ardis (Ne), 6-2, 6-1

No. 2 Singles: Natalia Salinas (Me) def. Minton (Ke), 6-2, 6-2; Salinas (Me) def. King (Be), 6-2, 7-5; Salinas (Me) def. Burger (Ne), 6-3, 6-1

No. 1 Doubles: Lauren Holland-Mariah Figueroa (Me) def. Niemiec-Quintero (Be), 5-6, 7-6 (10-6); Holland-Figueroa (Me) def. Schneider-Fisher (Pr), 4-6, 6-2 (10-6); de Guzman-Hillman (RL) def. Holland-Figueroa (Me), 6-3, 6-1

No. 2 Doubles: Sjosstrom-Wilhelm (RL) def. Leah Stamberger-Kylie Goldblatt (Me), 7-6, 6-2; Stamberger-Goldblatt (Me) def. Ladzinski-Smudzinski (SB), 6-2, 6-3; Stamberger-Goldblatt (Me) def. Kammer-Goodale (Pr), 6-3, 6-7 (10-4)

• Trojan Yardstick •					
MORRISON 54, MENDOTA 0					
Mendota	0	0	0	0	- 0
Morrison	34	13	7	0	- 54
SCORING SUMMARY					
MO - Strating 55 run (kick failed), 11:49 1Q					
MO - McQueen 66 pass from Bielema (kick failed), 7:23 1Q					
MO - Newman 40 interception return (Strating run), 7:04 1Q					
MO - Anderson 78 run (Newman run), 5:02 1Q					
MO - Newman 35 run (kick failed), 1:42 1Q					
MO - Anderson 40 run (kick failed), 10:08 2Q					
MO - Pruis 10 run (McQueen kick), 1:25 2Q					
MO - Reavy 30 run (McQueen kick), 3:41 3Q					
	ME		MO		
First Downs	9		18		
Rushes-Yards	20-40		34-420		
Passing Yards	134		66		
Passes	8-28-1		1-1-0		
Fumbles-Lost	0-0		0-0		
Punts-Avg	3-32		0-0		
Penalties-Yards	4-50		3-35		
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS					
Rushing – MENDOTA: Ossman 4-18, Randolph 1-10, Sandoval 4-10, Furar 10-6, Freeman 1-(minus 4); MORRISON: Anderson 4-124, Strating 6-112, Reavy 4-58, Newman 4-51, Alvarado 3-26, Milder 6-21, Helms 2-12, Pruis 1-10.					
Passing – MENDOTA: Randolph 8-28-1-134; MORRISON: Bielema 1-1-0-66.					
Receiving – MENDOTA: Watson 2-54, Beetzy 1-45, Freeman 3-22, Ossman 1-12, Furar 1-1; MORRISON: McQueen 1-66.					

SPORTS

IDNR announces key dates and information for 2023-2024 waterfowl season

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is reminding waterfowl hunters of key dates and other information regarding the 2023-2024 waterfowl seasons.

Season update

This is the third year of a five-year waterfowl season plan that was developed in 2020. Early Canada goose and teal hunting will kick off statewide in all zones, with seasons opening Sept. 1 and Sept. 9 respectively.

In the north and central zones, the daily bag limit for Canada geese during the September portion of the season is five birds, with 15 in possession. In the south-central and south zones, the daily bag limit for Canada geese during the September portion of the season is two birds, with six in possession. The daily bag limit for teal is six for all teal species combined, with a possession limit of 18.

Additionally, rail season (sora and Virginia only) will be open statewide in all zones from Sept. 9 until Nov. 17, with a daily bag limit of 25 and possession limit of 75. Snipe season will be open statewide in all zones from Sept. 9 to Dec. 24, with a daily bag limit of 8 and possession limit of 24.

As temperatures fall and migration proceeds, Illinois will open the regular duck, Canada goose, and snow goose seasons on Oct. 21 in the north zone, Oct. 28 in the central zone, Nov. 11 in the south-central zone, and Dec. 2 in the south zone.

White-fronted goose (specklebelly) seasons will open Oct. 23 in the north zone, Nov. 5 in the central zone, and on the same dates as duck season in the south-central (Nov. 11) and south (Dec. 2) zones.

The daily limit is six ducks of any species; however, daily limit can consist of no more than four mallards (of which no more than two can be hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two canvasbacks, two black ducks, one pintail and one mottled duck.

Scaup (bluebills) will have a daily limit of two for the first 45 days of the season in each zone and one for the last 15 days of the season in each zone.

The daily bag limit of mergansers is five, only two of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three times the daily bag limit (18 and 15, respectively) by species and sex.

During the regular season, Canada goose daily

limits will be three with a possession limit of nine. White-fronted goose daily bag limits will be two with a possession limit of six. The snow goose daily bag limit is 20 birds, with no possession limit, during the regular hunting season.

The spring Light Goose Conservation Order will open Jan. 19 in the north zone and Feb. 1 in the central, south-central, and south zones, ending April 30 in all zones. There is no daily bag or possession limit on snow, blue, and Ross' geese during the spring conservation order.

Duck and goose permit lotteries currently open

The first lottery for the public duck and goose hunting area permits is open through Aug. 31. The second lottery will be open Sept. 1-15, with the third lottery application period open Sept. 16-28. For more information or to apply, visit <https://dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/onlinepermitapplication.html>

Additional details on waterfowl seasons can be found in the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2023-2024, available online at <https://dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/hunttrapdigest.html>.

The Illinois waterfowl



hunting zone maps and anticipated season dates for the 2021-2025 seasons are available online at <https://bit.ly/ILwaterfowlzones>.

Note that sunrise and sunset times are not included in the Hunting and Trapping Digest again this year. Hunters should refer to their preferred weather application or website for local sunrise and sunset information.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) reminder

In coordination with other state and federal agencies, IDNR continues to monitor for outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of HPAI that was observed in Illinois during spring 2022. Similar mortality events may occur as waterfowl arrive in Illinois from northern breeding grounds during the fall migration.

IDNR reminds waterfowl hunters to take precautions and thoroughly cook game meat to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit. Avoid handling sick or dead waterfowl found in the field. Do not allow dogs and other pets to consume waterfowl that died from unknown causes. Further guidance for hunters can be found at https://bit.ly/USDA_HPAI.



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2023 HOME SCHEDULE

 **SEP. 9**
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

 **SEP. 23**
TULSA

 **OCT. 14**
OHIO

 **OCT. 21**
EASTERN MICHIGAN

 **NOV. 7**
BALL STATE

 **NOV. 14**
WESTERN MICHIGAN

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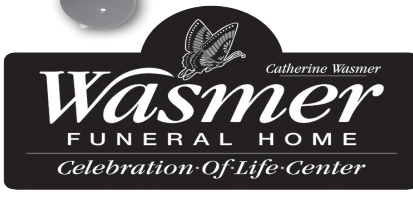
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LOCAL AND AREA

Leave your worries behind

In today's society, worry is truly an epidemic. Maybe even worse is that many people don't really see it as a problem. It's become normal for us to worry about the future, our children, our jobs, or even world events—it's kind of a sign that we care. But what so many people don't know about worry is that it's a form of fear.

Regardless of the situation—whether it's something we view as "big" or "small"—God doesn't want us to worry. He wants us to place our trust in Him.

In fact, not trusting God to take care of the various situations in our lives is the cause of worry. Faith and trust are the exact opposite of worry and fear. Too often we trust our own abilities,

believing that we can figure out how to take care of our own problems. However, we eventually learn one way or another that trying to take care of everything ourselves is too big of a task!

I want to share a scripture that has been life-changing for me. Look at Proverbs 3:5-6 (AMP):

"Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]."

I used to really be a "thinker." If there was a problem to be solved, I

could think about it over and over and try to find a solution until I had myself worried, confused, and worn-out. I was leaning on my "own insight and understanding"—I was worrying about my problems instead of trusting God to take care of them.

I can tell you from experience that we won't have all of the answers to life's problems. Truthfully, God never meant for us to carry the burden!

So, what do we do when we're worried, frustrated, stressed-out, and don't know what to do? God's Word tells us:

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God [set aside self-righteous pride], so that He may exalt you [to a place of honor in His service] at the appropriate time, casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]" (1 Peter 5:6-7 AMP).

We should "cast our cares" on Him...because He cares for us! In the dictionary, the word cast means "to pitch or to throw." God wants us to pitch or throw our cares and worries onto Him and allow Him to carry the weight of them.

You should have seen me in the early years of my marriage to Dave. I not only worried a lot, but I was good at it. I wasn't used to living in God's peace like I do now. For me, "normal" was always being upset or worried. If there wasn't



a problem, I could find a problem.

I can vividly picture myself sitting at my kitchen table, pouring over our bills again and again. Meanwhile, Dave was on the living room floor, playing with the kids and allowing them to put curlers in his hair.

I'd yell, "Dave, how can you be goofing around at a time like this? Why don't you come and help me with these bills?"

Dave would respond, "Joyce, we've been over those bills a thousand times. We're doing our part—we're being responsible, we've prayed, and we're being a blessing by giving to others. Now we just need to cast our care and trust God. I refuse to sit there and worry with you."

Well, I didn't like that at all—I wanted Dave to worry and agonize with me! However, Dave was doing what the Bible tells us to do. He was casting his care on the Lord and releasing the weight of the burden onto Him.

You see, I always wanted to "know." If I didn't, I felt unsettled and upset. However, we don't always have to know what God is going

to do or when He's going to do it. All we really need to know is that God has a plan and He is in control. We can rest in the truth that at the right time, God will execute His plan.

Now, this doesn't mean we don't take care of our responsibility and do what we can. My husband often says, "Cast your care but not your responsibility." We each have a part: Our part is to do our best—to do everything we can do. But then God's part is to make up the difference and do what we can't do. God can't do our part, and we can't do His part!

As long as we try to do everything ourselves, God will let us. He won't take care of our problems and worries until we choose to give them to Him. Either we're going to do it or God's going to do it—but both of us aren't going to do it!

I want you to take a moment and think. Is there a situation you are "working on" right now? Is there a person you're trying to change? Are you anxious about the unknowns of next week or next year? Are you upset and worried about things you can't do anything about?

If so, remember that instead of making yourself miserable trying to figure everything out on your own, God wants you to place your trust in Him and enter into His rest, totally abandoning yourself to His care.

After all, He knew about your problems before they ever existed, and He already has a plan to help you as you place your trust in Him.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's five-part teaching resource The Cause and Cure for Worry. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A7!

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Mendota Township High School Board of Education
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Mendota Township High School #280 Board of Education, in the County of LaSalle, State of Illinois, that tentative budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection in the Business Office of Mendota High School, 2300 West Main Street, Mendota, Illinois after 7:30 am., on the 22nd day of August, 2023. Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 6:00 pm., on the 25th day of September 2023, at Mendota High School, Board Room, 2300 W. Main Street, Mendota, IL. Dated this 21st day of August, 2023. School board of School District Number280, in the County of LaSalle, State of Illinois. Megan Faber, Secretary, Board of Education No. 0812 (Aug. 30, 2023)

NOTICE

Notice of Intention of La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois to Issue \$600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds
Public Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of August, 2023, the Board of Education (the "Board") of La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois (the "District"), adopted a resolution declaring its intention and determination to issue bonds in the aggregate amount of \$600,000 for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, and it is the intention of the Board to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, and all laws amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, and to issue said bonds for the purpose of increasing said Working Cash Fund. Said Working Cash Fund is to be maintained in accordance with the provisions of said Article and shall be used for the purpose of enabling the District to have in its treasury at all time sufficient money to meet demands thereon for expenditures for corporate purposes. A petition may be filed with the Secretary of the Board (the "Secretary") within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice, signed by not less than 118 voters of the District, said number of voters being equal to ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the District, requesting that the proposition to issue said bonds be authorized by the provisions of said Article 20 be submitted to the voters of the District. If such petition is filed with the Secretary within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice, an election on the proposition to issue said bonds shall be held prior to said election date pursuant to the provisions of Section 2A-1.4 of the Election Code of the State of Illinois, as amended. If

no such petition is filed within said thirty (30) day period, then the District shall thereafter be authorized to issue said bonds for the purpose hereinabove provided. By order of the Board of Education of La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois. Dated this 17th day of August, 2023. Robin Lovegren, Secretary, Board of Education, LaMoille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois Chris Leffelman, President, Board of Education, LaMoille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois to Sell \$600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds Public Notice is Hereby Given that La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 21st day of September, 2023, at 7:00 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the La Moille High School Library, 801 South Main Street, La Moille, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$600,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. By order of the President of the Board of Education of La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois. Dated the 17th day of August, 2023. Robin Lovegren Secretary, Board of Education, La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois No. 0814 (Aug. 30, 2023)

NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education of La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois to Sell \$600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds Public Notice is Hereby Given that La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 21st day of September, 2023, at 7:00 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the La Moille High School Library, 801 South Main Street, La Moille, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$600,000 for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. By order of the President of the Board of Education of La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois. Dated the 17th day of August, 2023. Robin Lovegren Secretary, Board of Education, La Moille Community Unit School District Number 303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois No. 0814 (Aug. 30, 2023)

NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JA-44
TO: Davey Johnathan Thrift, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern: Take notice that on the 24th day of August, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Davey Thrift, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 27th day of September, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose

all parental rights to the child. You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause, against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered Dated August 25, 2023 Greg Vaccaro, Clerk No. 0815 (Aug. 30, 2023)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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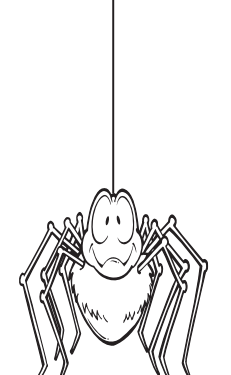
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2020 Chevy K-1500 Double Cab, 4x4 Z71, 36K Miles, Black.....\$35,900	2018 Chevy Equinox Premier, FWD, 67K Miles, Black.....\$21,900
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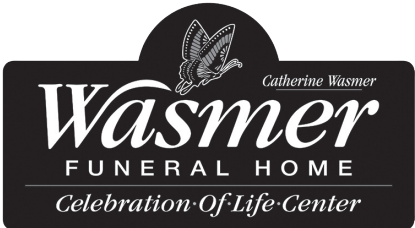
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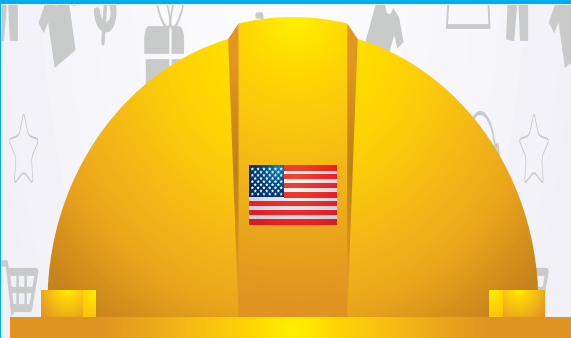
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