



Interested citizens gather at a Community Heart & Soul meeting at the Mendota City Council Chambers on April 19. (Photo contributed)

Community Heart & Soul enters first phase

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Reimagine Mendota brought the Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program to the Mendota City Council.

There were planning meetings and strategic meetings to see if there would be involvement and support.

After all signs read yes, a meeting for Phase 1 of the four-phase Community Heart & Soul Program took place April 19 at the Mendota City Council Chambers.

“I was really happy with the meeting,” said Amy Brewer, who is partnering with Annie Short to direct Reimagine Mendota through the Heart & Soul Program. “It was so nice to be in a room of 36 people who all want to pull in the same direction and work together to improve



our community. Every town has small town struggles, but after the fires, I was really bummed out.

“I went to a city council meeting and (city clerk) Emily McConville had a nice speech. I was working on a different grant and she said let me hook you up with Annie because she had heard of another, which was Community Heart and Soul.

“For me, it’s made me appreciate what we have. You have to take a look and ask yourself, ‘Why do I live in Mendota?’ We’re building on what we have. It’s a positive outlook instead of negative. There are a lot of wonderful things about Mendota that we need to focus on.”

At the meeting, Community Heart & Soul coach Jason Neises, who is also the community development coordinator at the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (Iowa), asked everyone at the door to place stickers on different pie graphs to map demographics such as age, income, race, and location in Mendota.

He went back to them multiple times to help place importance on a community receiving involvement from

every piece of every pie to help strengthen community pride and community development.

Heart & Soul runs on three key aspects including, what matters most, involve everyone, and play the long game as the project helps a community through the four phases of imagine, connect, plan, and act.

“It’s really structured by the Community Heart & Soul non-profit group of what we do and in what order,” Brewer said. “Annie and I worked on writing the grant for a month. We got all of the pieces together that they require. Having Reimagine Mendota as an already established group made a huge difference.

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District 280 waives student fees for the 2023-24 school year

□ Board to issue working cash bonds

By Reporter staff

MENDOTA—Parents and students at Mendota High School will feel less of a strain on their pocketbook in the fall after the District 280 Board of Education voted to waive fees for the 2023-24 school year at its April 17 regular board meeting.

“For the fourth consecutive year, the administration is recommending waiving all registration, lab and driver’s education fees,” said Superintendent Jeff Prusator. “We believe that as long as the district can maintain financial stability, it is in the best interest of our parents to provide as much financial relief as possible. We appreciate all of the support our parents and the community have shown to MHS and feel that waiving all fees is an appropriate measure to take.”

Board President Jim Laurer added, “The board of education is very happy to offer our parents another year of waiving all fees at MHS. We understand that the beginning of the school year can be a financially stressful time for our parents and we are pleased to be able to take action to reduce some of that stress. The board of education is committed to looking out for the best interest of our parents, students and staff.”

While all fees will be waived next school year, because of an increase in the price of food products, the board voted to make a slight increase in the cost of lunch from \$2.85 per day to \$3.25 per day.

“Since the 2010-11 school

“We appreciate all of the support our parents and the community have shown to MHS and feel that waiving all fees is an appropriate measure to take.”
—Superintendent Jeff Prusator

year, the cost of lunch has only gone up \$1,” stated Prusator. “We have tried to keep the costs down, but due to inflationary costs, to break even, we needed to be a little more aggressive with our lunch fee.” Prusator said the price hike will mean a \$68 increase over the course of the school year.

In other items from the Superintendent’s Report, the board approved a resolution authorizing preliminary proceedings in connection with the issuance of General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2023, of up to \$2,500,000 of working cash fund bonds. Prusator said that action is being taken in anticipation of replacing the flat roof on the school in the next few years. He added that with the retirement of a current working cash bond, the tax rate will not increase for district taxpayers with approval of the Series 2023 bonds.

The board accepted the bid of ProVantage Paving Inc. of St. Charles not to ex-

See Dist. 280, Page A5

Lane given highest honor in Illinois for property assessment

□ Township Assessor honored for Lifetime of Service

EARLVILLE—Debra Lane, Township Assessor for the Meriden, Ophir & Troy Grove Assessment District in LaSalle County, was recently awarded the 2023 Marshall Theroux Memorial Award in recognition of her long career in property assessment, contributions to the industry, and dedication to community service. Lane received the award at the Illinois Property Assessment Institute’s 65th Annual State Conference held at the Marriott Hotel in Normal. The Theroux Award is the highest honor bestowed on a member of the Illinois property assessment industry.

Nominees for the annual Marshall Theroux Memorial Award are submitted from around Illinois. The winner is determined by the Board of Directors of the Illinois Property Assessment Institute. Lane was nominated for the award by a dozen colleagues from throughout the state.

“This Annual Award is given out by the Illinois Property Assessment Institute, by nominations from around the state of Illinois,” said Lane. “There were two new awards given out this year - one for Large Jurisdictions and one for Small Jurisdictions. I thought maybe

some year I could qualify for the Small Jurisdiction. But no, I got the highest award. I was totally surprised. I would like to thank all those who nominated me for this award.”

Lane has over 25 years of experience in property assessment. She holds the CIAO-Intermediate advanced designation from the Illinois Property Assessment Institute. She is a member of the Illinois Assessors Association Board of Directors, and a past member of the Township Officials of Illinois and Illinois Property Assessment Institute boards of directors. She has and continues to serve on numerous state-level committees on property assessment. Lane is a member of the LaSalle County Township Officials Board of Directors, a member of LaSalle County Zoning & Appeal Board, and has served as an election judge for over 30 years.

“I have interacted with Deb Lane for more than two decades. She is always helpful, knowledgeable, and supportive. Deb is highly respected and well-regarded by her peers,”

See Award, Page A5



Left to right, are Vicki Sheets, Illinois Property Assessment Institute Board of Directors Chair; John Dabrowski, Illinois Property Assessment Institute Board of Directors Vice Chair; Deb Lane, 2023 Marshall Theroux Award winner; Chesney Leafblad, Warren Township (Lake County) Chief Deputy Assessor and 2022 Theroux Award recipient. (Photo contributed)



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24/7 - We're always on at www.mendotareporter.com



LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

I hope everyone had a great spring break and enjoyed some time away from school. It was great to have students and staff back in the building this week. We now only have a little over six weeks left of school before the end of the school year!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Drew McCord,

Stella Rosales, Sharon Videz, Gannon Stemmet, Joseph Thomas, AnnaBelle Sexton and Arianna Taperia. The winners were Bentley Baxter, Abby Ocampo, Paola Arteaga and Ana Nielsen. Congratulations to all of you!

We had kindergarten registration this past week for incoming kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year. Thank

you to all of the parents who came to pick up registration packets. We ask that parents complete the online part of registration within the next week or two. If anyone has questions or trouble with the registration process, please contact our office at 539-6888. If you have a child coming to kindergarten at Blackstone this next year, and you have not picked up regis-

tration information yet, please contact our office as soon as possible so we can help you get your child registered.

We have exciting news that was shared at the District #289 school board meeting this past week. All students in District #289 will receive free breakfast and lunch starting in the 2023-2024 school year. What is even

more exciting is that this will hold true for the next four school years. We're so happy for this amazing opportunity for our students and their families!

There will be an early dismissal on Wednesday, April 26 at 11:25 for kindergarten and 11:35 for 1st grade for a teacher inservice. There will be no lunches served on this day!

U of I Extension offers free dial-gauge pressure canner testing

OTTAWA – Enjoy the freshness of produce all year long when you preserve your food safely. University of Illinois Extension will offer pressure canner gauge and seal testing at local Extension Offices. The service is free of charge and recommended annually to ensure a safe food preservation season. Bring your pressure canner lid with the dial gauge and seal attached for testing. Bring or drop off the pressure canner lid with dial gauge attached. Once the lids are checked you will be contacted for pickup. This service is FREE of charge from Illinois Extension.

Scheduled times at your local Extension Offices in Ottawa, Princeton, and Henry:

- May 11; Bureau County Office; 850 Thompson St., Princeton. 1–4:30 p.m.
- May 12; Marshall & Putnam County Office, 509 Front St., Henry. 1–4:30 p.m.
- May 15; LaSalle County Office, 1689 N. 31st Road, Ottawa. 1–4:30 p.m.

You are welcome to drop

off canner lids and gauges for checking if you cannot make the scheduled times above.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate or need more information, please contact Susan Glassman, Extension Educator, Nutrition & Wellness, University of Illinois Extension at 815-224-0889.

Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry, and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus. The Mission of University of Illinois Extension is to provide practical education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Visit our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/blmp>.

If you have questions or need more information, please call University of Illinois Extension- Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit Office at 815-224-0889.



First Lady visits Mendota
Mary Todd Lincoln aka Debra Miller stopped by the Graves-Hume Public Library on Saturday, April 22 to reminisce about her childhood, her days in Springfield, and her children as she celebrated Tad's 12th birthday. Debra Miller is a professional actress, vocalist, and voice-over talent with over 30 years of experience. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Shrimp & Brew Hullabaloo in Princeton

PRINCETON – The Princeton Rotary Club presents a fun-filled day for all ages with the 2nd Annual Shrimp & Brew Hullabaloo, set for Saturday, June 3 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., at Rotary Park.

The park will come alive with great food, cold drinks, and seven hours of live music. Rotarians will prepare and serve grilled and fried shrimp boats, and other food trucks will also be on site. Children's activities will be available between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the PHS Scholarship Fund and various community groups through the "Love Our Community" grants. For more, visit princetonshrimpfest.com or Rotary Club of Princeton, IL on Facebook.

Local nurse champions \$4 million in scholarships available to Illinois students

ROCHELLE – Pursuing a degree in nursing in Illinois? Now is the time to apply for up to \$4 million in nursing scholarships, a substantial increase over last year due to the statewide nursing shortage.

Rochelle Community Hospital (RCH) Nurse Practitioner Stephanie Crawford is championing the Nursing Education Scholarship Program, a state program providing financial assistance to qualified individuals pursuing an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing or those pursuing a certificate in practice nursing.

"Investing in the education and training of nurses is not only an investment in their future, but also in the health and wellbeing of our communities," said Crawford, who is also serving as President of the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing. "By nurturing and cultivating the talents of our future nurses, we can create a brighter, healthier future for all."

Scholarships range from one year to five years and can go up to \$10,000. Over 200 recipients received combined scholarships of \$2 million last year and the success of the program pushed it to double in size to \$4 million in scholarships this year.

As the state's population ages, the need for nurses increases, yet Illinois is facing a growing nursing shortage and deficit of nearly 15,000 registered nurses by 2025.

The \$4 million nursing scholarship program is accepting applications from March 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023. It's managed through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and can be found here: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/nursing-education-scholarship-program.html#HowToApply>

If you already have a nursing degree or are looking to pursue a new opportunity in nursing, visit <https://www.rochellehospital.com/careers/>.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Growing Up X exhibition open at the Illinois State Museum

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Museum (ISM) shines a spotlight on Generation X with the opening of its new exhibition, Growing Up X, at its downtown Springfield location.

The exhibition explores the toys, technologies and cultural touchstones surrounding Gen Xers in their childhood. Museum visitors will see items familiar to anyone who grew up in the 1970s and 1980s, from telephones with cords, record and cassette players, and an Apple IIe computer to Teddy Ruxpin and parachute pants. Additionally, they will learn

how growing up in the shadow of the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the AIDS crisis and the War on Drugs shaped Gen Xers as individuals and a generation.

For those looking to immerse themselves in the experience of “growing up X,” the exhibition offers an interactive rec room space where visitors can sit on a floral sofa, watch a movie on VHS, play a video game, or listen to a record album or cassette tape. The exhibition also includes a jukebox where visitors can dial up their favorite nostalgic tunes and interactive screens to

watch commercials and news broadcasts from the '70s and '80s.

“We’re excited about this exhibition,” said ISM Curator of History Erika Holst. “We hope Gen X feels seen by this show—that they come in and say ‘I had that!’ or ‘I remember that!’ Beyond that, we hope this sparks some great conversations between Gen Xers and their kids and parents about different experiences had by different generations growing up.”

More than 1,000 results from a public survey the Museum sent out last year

inform the exhibition with the inclusion of insights, quotes, photographs and loaned objects from Gen Xers.

“One of the challenges of doing this show is how to accurately represent the experiences of a group of people that is large, diverse and still very much alive,” Holst said. “So we went right to the source and asked Gen Xers to share their experiences in their own words, images and meaningful objects.”

A unique feature of the exhibition is a section called “A Generation of eXcel-

lence,” which looks at the Gen X high school experience through the lens of Chicago’s Robert Lindblom Technical High School (now called the Robert Lindblom Math and Science Academy). Photos, memorabilia and recollections from Lindblom alumni shed light on what it was like to attend a selective-enrollment high school for the first generation born after the civil rights movement.

Growing Up X is on display at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield through Sept. 4, 2023. Admission is free. Learn more at www.illinoisstatemuseum.org.

About the Illinois State Museum

Established in 1877, the Illinois State Museum is a dynamic institution that inspires the exploration of Illinois’ past and present to inform and enrich everyday life and promote stewardship of cultural and natural resources. Headquartered in Springfield with branch facilities in Lewistown and Lockport, ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and a proud member of the International Coalition of Sites of Science.



Storm chasing Illinois weather

MENDOTA – Nick Bartholomew of the Illinois Storm Chasers will be at the Graves-Hume Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2 in Mendota.

Bartholomew will dive into the basics of severe weather.

The discussion topics include storm chasing, local climatology, past tornadic events, severe weather, preparedness, and there will be a question and answer segment.

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

Bartholomew will host a virtual presentation on the science of severe weather at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 9 through the LaSalle Public Library.

The Illinois storm chaser

has been obsessed with weather for as long as he can remember. When he was younger, he was interested in weather but was terrified when thunderstorms would roll in. As he grew older that fear turned into a burning desire to understand severe weather, and as soon as he got his license, he would go on local chases to see Mother Nature up close. In 2016, he decided to kick it up a notch and start traveling to Tornado Alley, having documented over a dozen tornadoes so far in his career.

This program will be presented virtually and is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the library at 815-223-2341.

St. Bede Academy recognizes third quarter honor roll students

PERU St. Bede Academy announced its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-23 school year. Nick McLaughlin, principal of St. Bede, recognizes those students who attained the academy’s honor roll and is proud of their accomplishments.

Seniors: Hayden Arkins, Ali Arslan, Lea Asani, Addison Bontz, John Brady, Ryan Brady, Kylie Cofoid, Kristal De La Torre, Jake Delaney, Alyssa Engels, Gianna Grivetti, Lexi Heemstra, Arianna Heersink, Callan Hueneburg, Mason Hurst, Anh Huynh, Landon Jackson, Shuxuan Li, Anna Lopez, Nathan Lough, Abigail Michels, Ryan Migliorini, Kailey Moore, Mia Morrow, Morgan Nawa, Brendan Pillion, Lily Lu Rauh Fernandez, Emily Robbins, Zoe Roebuck, Gavin Sandoval, Alyssa Schirz, Michael Shaw, Ava Stone, Anthony Taylor, Celeste Thompson, Madelyn Torrance, Alyssa Torri, Isabella Villalobos,


Macy Zeglis, Xinyi Zhai

Juniors: Aubree Acuncius, Alex Ankiewicz, Yigit Arslan, Johnna Bogatitus, Bella Boggio, Ali Bosnich, Macklin Brady, Maximus Bray, Ella Burris, Madelyne Dalton, Rubi De La Torre, Erin Dove, Tessa Dugosh, Ella Englehaupt, Evan Englehaupt, Evan Entrican, Aleah Espel, Daliayah Farris, Milana Gayan, Molly Gonzales, Georgina Guo, Isabella Hagenbuch, Gavin Hahn, Makenzie Hanson, Isaiah Hart, Katelyn Harth, Macy Hartt, Mariella Hermes, Teagan Hewitt, Kylie Hill, Nathan Husser, Jeanna Ladzinski, Henry Mertel, Ariella Mudge, Ava Mueller, Kyra Newman, Olivia Orteza, Kristina Penaverde, Isabella Pinter, Zachary Popurella, Logan Potthoff, Anna Rudenko, Kaelyn Schwemlein, Aubrey Siebert, Ryan Slingsby, Benedek Sotonyi, Reagan Stoudt, Amie Tomaszewski, Vy Tran, Amanda Wojcik, Katherine Zeller

Sophomores: Haiden Ator, Andrea Brandner, Adriana Buchanan, Qiyu Chen, Ziheng Chen, Garrett Connelly, Jordan Coventry, Trayger Davis, Lorelei Denny, Madalyn Dittmar, Ashlyn Ehm, Bailey Engels, Yibo Fan, Dominic Fonderoli, Grady Gillan, Phillip Gray, Lacey Griggs, Mirella Haskell, Halden Hueneburg, Elizabeth Huffaker, Tyler Jordan, Macy Kelly, Sadie Koehler, Jaxon Kozak, Ziqi Lin, Haiqing Mao, Greyson Marincic, Gavin Marquez, Quinn McClain, Victoria Mendez, Jake Migliorini, Grace Millington, Adeline Mitchell, Aidan Mullane, Kaden Nauman, Ryan Nawa, Kaden Newman, Thu Phan, Logan Pine-da, Mason Ross, Emma Smudzinski, Zixuan Song, Alan Spencer, Mina Trandin, Elizabeth Vanko, Beatriz Vasquez, Isabel Verucchi, Samantha Wagner, Tyler Walsh, Abraham Wiesbrock, Kefei Wu, Ruyue Zhang, Jinhao Zhao

Freshmen: Margaret

Arkins, Beckham Baker, Ava Balestri, Genavvyve Barnes, Ruyi Bian, Landon Boggio, Lily Bosnich, Noah Buck, August Burr, Drew Carboni, Chuanyang Chen, Anna Cyrocki, Emerald De La Torre, Jose De La Torre, Madeline Fabish, Gino Ferrari, Harrison Fess, Ashton Gonzales, Mae Hagenbuch, Brody Hahn, Weston Heersink, Aiden Hermes, Micah Huetteman, Shuyu Jiang, Jiarui Li, Fatima Mandujano, Breanna Martinez, Griffin May, Lili McClain, Ruby Michels, Sophia Ni, Jillian Pinter, Trajan Raffety, Xiangyi Ren, Carson Riva, Chipper Rossi, Sara Ruiz, Alyssa Savitch, Laney Senica, Emma Slingsby, Lillian Soliman, Ryan Soliman, Shujie Song, Devin Steil, Baopu Tai, Miranda Torres, Julian Villava, Xindi Wu, Hongsheng Yang, Yannis Yong, Kian Zeller, Sora Zepeda, Ruihan Zhang, Yijing Zhang, Quanbin Zhao




In Loving MEMORY

On Memorial Day, we remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us. Our time to remember will be published Wednesday, May 24th, devoted to those who are gone, but not forgotten.

JANE DOE

MAY 1, 1950 – APRIL 23, 2012

You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.



Write your own or select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute.

- We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.*
- May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.*
- Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand*
- Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.*
- The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.*
- May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.*
- May God’s angels guide you and protect you throughout time.*
- You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.*
- May God’s grace shine over you for all time.*
- May the Lord bless you with His grace and warm, loving heart.*

To remember your loved one in this special way send \$10 per listing. Your special tribute will become a lasting memorial record in the May 24th issue of The Mendota Reporter. Deadline is Thursday, May 18th at Noon.

Please publish my tribute in the special Memorial Day page on May 24.

Name of Deceased: _____

☐ Please use Verse # _____ ☐ I have included my own Verse (write below)

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Passing: _____

Signed by: _____

Your Verse: _____

The following will not be published.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____


Daytime Phone: _____

Mail to: The Mendota Reporter, 703 Illinois Ave., P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342

CLASS OF 2023 | CLASS OF 2023 | CLASS OF 2023

YOU’VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!


ATTENTION FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE CLASS OF 2023!



KONNOR MCCLAIN

Congratulations Konnor! We are so proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad, Kelly, and Pip



Submit a high quality, scannable baby photo and senior photo of your favorite graduating senior, a message with up to 15 words and a \$10 placement fee to The Mendota Reporter office at: 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota or mail to PO Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.

Emailed photos* can be sent to tgreenfield@mendotareporter.com.

Please call 815-539-9396 to arrange payment.

Deadline is 2:00PM on Tuesday, May 2.

This special feature will be published on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

Photos may be picked up at The Mendota Reporter office after the May 10 publication date or we can mail back to you in a self-addressed stamped envelope. * Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

YOU’VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY! ENTRY FORM

GRADUATE’S FIRST/LAST NAME _____

15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY): _____

Person submitting photo: _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Photos may be picked up after May 10, 2023. Entries must be received by 2:00pm on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Mail a high quality, scannable photo and payment (\$10) along with this completed form to:

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815-539-9396

Emailed photos* can be sent to tgreenfield@mendotareporter.com

REPORTER OFFICE HOURS : M-F 8AM-4PM

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

James E. Poisel

MENDOTA—James E. Poisel, 82, of Mendota, passed away Monday, April 17, 2023, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center Mendota.

Mass of Christian burial was Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Church, Mendota with Father Jeff Windy officiating. Burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota with military honors by Mendota VFW Post 4079. Visitation was Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

James was born Sept. 16, 1939, in Mendota to Orval and Audrey (Leetch) Poisel. He married Judie Jones on June 20, 1959, at Holy Cross Church, Mendota.

Jim is survived by his four daughters, Kimberly Lewis of Mendota, Sandra (Lyle) Krieser of Wisconsin, Connie (Joe) Crawford of Mendota and April Poisel of New York; eight grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; sister Sheryl (Russell) Jecklin of Rockford and his brother Dr. Richard (Deborah) Poisel of the state of Washington.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 62 years, Judie, in 2021, and his sister Teresa Marisette.

Jim graduated from Mendota High School in 1958 and served in the United States Army. He was a firefighter for the Mendota Fire Department for 20-plus years. He was an active volunteer of the Peterstown TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) and Cursillo for over 30 years. He received the Spirit of TEC award in 2021. Jim also donated handmade "Let it Shine" wall hangings and thousands of wood crosses for anyone he would cross paths with.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

David A. Ganther

ADAMS, Wis. — David A. Ganther, 67, of Adams, Wis., and formerly of Mendota, passed away April 17, 2023, in Springville, Wis.

Visitation will be held Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A service will be held at 12:30 p.m.

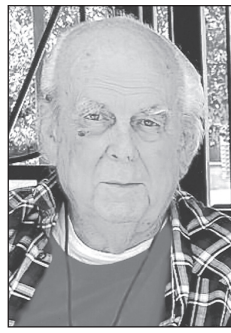
David was born Sept. 2, 1955, in Morrison to James and Maggie (Eagan) Ganther. He was married to Joyce Rapp from November 1978 to June 1995.

He is survived by his father, James Ganther; his daughter, Marie Baker; two sons, Michael Ganther and Jerry Ganther; his sister, Debra Ganther; two brothers, Ken Ganther and Tim Eagan and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

David was a 1974 graduate of Mendota High School. He liked working carpentry as a profession. He enjoyed fishing, watching motorsports racing and NASCAR was his favorite, building model cars and aircraft, muscle cars, collecting vinyl records and comic books, playing cards, darts and bowling.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Susie B. Ambler-Tracy

MENDOTA — Susie Belle Ambler-Tracy, 73, of Mendota, passed away Friday, April 21, 2023, at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rockford.

Private family only services will be held Wednesday April 26, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Vicar Anthony Windau officiating. Burial will be at Restland Cemetery, Mendota.

Susie was born June 19, 1949, in Sandwich to Maxwell and Mildred (Demry) Cronin. She married Bryan Tracy on Sept. 20, 2006, in Las Vegas.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Patricia and John Stewart of Mendota and their children Tricia Schultz, John Cody Stewart, and Kaleb Stewart of Mendota; her son and daughter-in-law, Carl and Susan Ambler of Mendota and their children Mariah Ambler and Hannah Ambler of Mendota; her husband Bryan Tracy of Mendota; great-granddaughter Jaylynn Stewart and great-grandson Jameson Norton and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, Frank Cronin, Jimmy Jo Cronin, Melvin Cronin and Kenneth Cronin; one sister, Shirley Ambler and one great-granddaughter, Emma Norton.

One of her favorite things to do was to cook for her family and friends while she enjoyed a glass of sweet iced tea. Susie absolutely loved her flowers and collecting seeds for the following year. She would take family and friends for walks through her beautiful gardens and share her wisdom with others of her hobby. Susie was known for her love of wildlife; she would feed anything that walked through her yard from birds to opossums.

Memorials may be directed to Illinois Valley Animal Rescue. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



St. Bede Academy earns College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award

PERU — St. Bede Academy has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with recognition have expanded girls' access in AP computer science courses.

More than 1,100 institutions achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science exam takers meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population during the 2021-22 school year.

In 2022, St. Bede Academy was one of 832 schools recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles (CSP).

"We're thrilled to congratulate our female AP computer science students and their teachers on this step toward gender parity in computer science education," said St. Bede Academy Principal Nick McLaughlin. "We're honored that our school earned this distinction and look forward to seeing these young women and others pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers."

"Computer science is the source code of our economy and so much of our daily lives," said Trevor Packer, College Board Head of the AP program. "In the five years since we began the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, it's been heartening to see schools like St. Bede Academy welcome so many more young women into this vital field."

The first year of AP Computer Science Principles in 2016-17 attracted more students than any other AP course debut, and participation is on the rise. In 2022, 134,651 students took the AP CSP

exam - more than triple the number of exam takers in the course's first year.

In 2022, 44,811 women took the AP CSP exam - more than three times the number who tested in 2017.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is critical to ensuring gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to driving innovation, creativity and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations was \$97,430 in May 2021. However, women represent just 24% of the five million people in computing occupations.

That's why College Board research about AP CSP is so encouraging. According to the data, female students who take AP CSP in high school are more than five times as likely to major in computer science in college, compared to female students of similar background and academic preparation who did not take CSP. The study also finds AP CSP students are nearly twice as likely to enroll in AP CSA, and that for most students, AP CSP serves as a stepping stone to other advanced AP STEM coursework.

These findings highlight the importance of schools nationwide achieving gender parity in AP computer science classrooms. Overall, female students remain underrepresented in our high school computer science classes, accounting for just 33% of AP Computer Science Principles participants and 25% of AP Computer Science A participants. Currently, 51% of the nation's high schools teach foundational computer science. The 1,105 schools that receive this year's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award serve as inspirations and models for all U.S. high schools.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

M. Eager named to Palmer Dean's List

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Madeline Eager of Mendota has been named to the fall 2022 Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, Calif.; and Port Orange, Fla.

Area students among WIU scholars

MACOMB/MOLINE — Western Illinois University has named scholar students for the Spring 2023 semester.

Among the students being recognized are Madeline Hewitt of LaMoille, elementary education, who will graduate with academic distinction, cum laude; Leah Metcalf of Ohio, anthropology department scholar, who will graduate with academic distinction, cum laude; and Noelle Jones of Amboy, human resources management, Centennial Honors College Scholar.

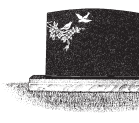
An Honors Scholar is a student in the Centennial Honors College who has completed a set of honors requirements and has achieved a grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Approximately 10 percent of graduating seniors achieve academic distinction, which is designated as Summa Cum Laude, highest academic distinction, with a minimum grade point average of 3.90; Magna Cum Laude, high academic distinction, with a GPA of 3.75-3.89; and Cum Laude, academic distinction, with a GPA between 3.60-3.74.

DEATH NOTICES

The Mendota Reporter will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$75 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to editor@mendotareporter.com.

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LOCAL AND AREA

MHS sets meeting for special education services

MENDOTA—A meeting conducted by Mendota Twp. High School #280 will take place at 9 a.m. Friday, May 5, at Mendota Twp. High School's Board Room at 2300 W. Main St., Mendota.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you are a parent of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of Mendota Twp. High School, you are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Jeff Prusator, superintendent, at 815-539-7446.

Dist. 280

Continued from Page A1

ceed \$51,994 to seal certain areas of parking lots.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh said that eighth grade transition day for incoming freshmen will be Tuesday, May 2. Students will tour the building, eat in the cafeteria, and meet with MHS students and staff regarding school opportunities and offerings.

Aughenbaugh informed the board of important upcoming events:

- Sunday, April 30, 2 p.m. — Band and Choir Graduation Concert in the auditorium, which will also include a Show Choir performance.
- Tuesday, May 2, 8 a.m. — Scholarship and Awards Assembly
- Saturday, May 6, 5:30 p.m. — Prom Grand March and Coronation in the gym. Dinner and dance to follow at the Mendota Civic Center.
- Friday, May 12, 7:30 a.m. — Staff Appreciation and Recognition Awards Breakfast in the media center.

Aughenbaugh added that graduating seniors will have their last day of school on May 8. Mandatory graduation practice is at 1 p.m. Friday, May 12 and graduation is at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 13 in the gym.

Final exams will be May 19, 22 and 23, with the last day of student attendance on May 23.

Athletic Director Steve Hanson presented an athletic department update. The fall athletic budgets and coaching recommendations will be given at the May board meeting.

PERSONNEL

In personnel items, the board:

- Accepted the retirement notice of teacher Matt Gehm, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year;
- Accepted the retirement notice of transportation director Gary Kettleborough, effective July 31, 2023;
- Accepted the resignation of Drake O'Donnell as freshman boys' basketball coach and approved him as a volunteer in the program;
- Accepted the resignation of Brock Zinke as assistant softball coach, effective at the end of the 2023 season;
- Approved Kyle Lopez as volunteer track coach.

The next board meeting will be Monday, May 15. A reorganization meeting will start at 6 p.m. A public hearing for the working cash bonds starts at 6:15 and the regular meeting begins at 6:20.

LaSalle Co. mobile home taxes due May 1

OTTAWA — The LaSalle County mobile home tax bills are due on Monday, May 1.

Tax payment options include:

- Pay at treasurer's office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. by cash, check or credit card.
- Drive-thru drop box (open 24 hours) located in the north part of the east parking lot of the Government Complex, 707 Etna Road, Ottawa.
- Mail to the treasurer's office, P.O. Box 1560, Ottawa, IL 61350.
- Pay by phone at 1-833-975-2500 with credit card or Echeck.

A convenience fee of approximately 2.5 percent is charged by the credit card processors when paying by credit card. There is a \$1.50 per parcel fee when paying by Echeck.

The penalty for delinquency is \$25 per month up to \$100 beginning May 2, 2023. For more information, call 815-434-8219.

Community

Continued from Page A1

"I know when building community is the conversation, it's kind of lofty, vague, and soft. It comes off as, 'Everyone is going to like each other and we're all going to get along better.' That's good. It's good to build community and that's why people love a small town. You know people and it feels like you're working together. It is a process and it will take time, but I think it's a big advantage, not only economically, but for quality of life."

"What we're doing right now in Mendota hasn't been working. What we've been doing hasn't really been successful. We have the industrial park and it's hard to get businesses there. There are one or two businesses there, but there is a lot of empty space. Downtown, we have businesses, but in general it's hard to get new businesses there. It's been this way for a while. If we can come up with a plan that changes what we're doing and makes it work better, great. Maybe this isn't the perfect way to do it, but it's a plan."

"We have a problem. We need to do something. We need a plan. This is a pretty structured plan."

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in startup funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to implement the Community Heart & Soul model.

Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match.

Reimagine Mendota raised the \$10,000 through donations from Leeward Renewable Energy (\$2,000), ADM (\$1,000), Starved Rock Wood Products (\$1,000), Goldwind USA (\$750), Nightengales (\$500), and the City of Mendota (\$5,000).

The grant money is to provide leadership through Heart & Soul, trainings, meetings, attend events, host events, and get the word out about the program, community involvement, and community building.

Short has written many grants.

She has written them in different counties and in different states.

Actually, she quit her job in Wisconsin to come back to her hometown of Mendota to help it improve.

"When writing grants, one of the hardest things to do is to get people to tell their story and their perspectives," Short said. "Trying to get every voice heard is very, very difficult. I told myself, 'I'd love to see this in action,' but I didn't have a community doing it. When the fires happened, I thought it was a great project for Mendota because it will give us the framework of what is important in this community."

"That's what is going to sell investors because, although the fires are sad, we need to look like our story isn't so sad. We actually have amazing things going on in this community. And amazing people. That's what is going to tell the story that will make people want to come to Mendota and want to invest in the community."

"I love Jason's perspective of what happens when there isn't community pride. When potential business owners come here and they hear negativity like, 'You just have to go to LaSalle or Ottawa' to get stuff or do things, then why would an investor stay here when they could just go to LaSalle or Ottawa?"

"We need to change our mind set. We're small but there are a lot of amazing things here. We're just not great at promoting ourselves. I think this is a great opportunity to remind people of the great things that are here and expand."

Members of Reimagine Mendota will be attending events to help share information and answer questions. They will be at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day on April 29, Cinco De Mayo Fiesta at Community Health Partnerships (former True Hardware building) on May 5, the first Mendota Farmer's Market downtown on June 3, and Railroad Days on June 17.

If anyone would like to donate to the project or specific activities, the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation is Reimagine Mendota's fiscal sponsor.

Award

Continued from Page A1

said Uwe Rotter, Blackberry Township Assessor in Kane County.

"Multiple county and township assessors from around the state were nominated for the Theroux Award," said Josh Barnett, Executive Director of the Illinois Property Assessment Institute. "Deb's nominations came from a diverse geographic area that included Cook and the collar counties as well as areas downstate. She has a sterling reputation around Illinois as an expert in the field, a passionate leader, and strong advocate for township government. It was our pleasure to bestow the Theroux Award to such a deserving person."

About the Illinois Property Assessment Institute

The Illinois Property Assessment Institute (IPAI) is a non-profit organization established to elevate professional standards and provide educational opportunities to property assessment professionals throughout Illinois. For more than 50 years, we have been the preferred credentialing and education provider for the property assessment industry within the state of Illinois. In Illinois, individuals who desire to be elected or appointed to the position of township or county assessor are required to hold a designation (similar to a certification). The IPAI owns and confers the Certified Illinois Assessing Officer (CIAO) designation which is the primary designation used to be an elected or appointed assessor. Learn more at IPAIeducation.org.

About the Marshall Theroux Memorial Award

The Marshall Theroux Memorial Award was established in 1980 and is named after former Wheeling Township (Illinois) Assessor Marshall Theroux. Theroux was a leader in Illinois in the development of property assessment standards, practices, and education. This award annually recognizes a member of the Illinois property assessment community who demonstrates high ethical standards, professional achievement, and dedication to the service of others.

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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.

Community commitment

By Scott Reeder

Hardware stores are my guilty pleasure. No, I'm not talking about the big box monstrosities that sell gallons of milk and bags of dog food right next to the rolls of duct tape.

I like the small family-owned enterprises where the owner knows your name and the fellow back in plumbing knows exactly what part you need for a particular project.

One of my favorite Springfield stores, Noonan True Value, is getting out of the retail hardware business. The firm is going to focus on its equipment rental, barbeque grill sales and selling tools in bulk.

Businesses have to adapt to changing times. I get it. But I'll miss walking down the back aisle and buying the three 5/16ths bolts that I need instead of being forced to buy a whole box.

Reeder

But more importantly I'll miss the institutional memory. A while back, I was working on a home improvement project late in the evening. Noonan's, Ace and the other family-owned operations had already closed.

So, I drove to Menard's and walked half a mile back to their hardware section. I asked a pimply faced teenager for some 3-inch-long 1/4 inch bolts and the corresponding nuts.

When I got home and opened up the bag, I saw he had given me 1/4 inch bolts along with 1/4 inch nuts. I was furious. That size bolt takes a 7/16ths inch fastener.

Growing up on a farm, I knew what bolts and nuts went together when I was 10. But the youngster working in the hardware department didn't have a clue. The most basic rule of sales is, know what you are selling. But apparently he never was taught that.

I should have checked his work. But I'm so used to going to places like Noonan's, where the staff is knowledgeable, that I forgot that not every retailer functions with the same level of competence.

When I was growing up near Galesburg, the town had at least four family-owned hardware stores. Today, it has none. But it does have a Lowe's and a Menard's sitting on the edge of town sending profits to out-of-town corporate owners.

When I purchased a home and moved to Springfield 24 years ago, my father hollered at me the day I moved in. Why? Because I had been foolish enough to buy a couple buckets of paint from one of those big box stores.

He believed in giving money to those who gave you money.

He was a veterinarian who bought his car from the Dodge dealer who brought his dog to his practice. Our family doctor had a herd of polled Herefords under my father's care. And we only could buy milk from the local dairy that bought milk from the farmers he served.

After the tongue lashing from dad, I became a customer of Dellert's Paint Co. The store on South MacArthur Boulevard has been owned by the same family since 1943. The first time I entered the store, I handed a chip of paint to the owner, who began working there during World War II. He matched the color better than any machine.

I've been going there ever since. The service is excellent and they always address me by name. Even when we put an addition on our house, I told our contractor that all of the paint was to come from Dellert's.

Independent businesses return to the community in a variety of other ways. For example, Noonan's sells cheese on behalf of my Kiwanis club. The proceeds go to help local children.

It's difficult to imagine a national retailer setting up a refrigerator near their checkout lane so customers can spend money that is not going toward the company's bottom line but instead to a worthy cause. But Noonan's has been doing that year after year.

It's this type of community commitment that keeps me coming back. Running a small business is hard. But the benefits are great – not just to the owners and their customers – but to the community as well.

(Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.)

Mendota City Officials

MAYOR

David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive,815-538-3924

CITY CLERK

Emily McConville, 1404 Ben Mar Ave.,815-539-7459

TREASURER

Heath Davis, 912 14th Ave.,815-539-7459

FIRST WARD ALDERMEN

James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...815-538-2474

John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,815-539-9934

SECOND WARD ALDERMEN

John Holland, 902 West Lawn,815-528-5367

Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,630-841-1315

THIRD WARD ALDERMEN

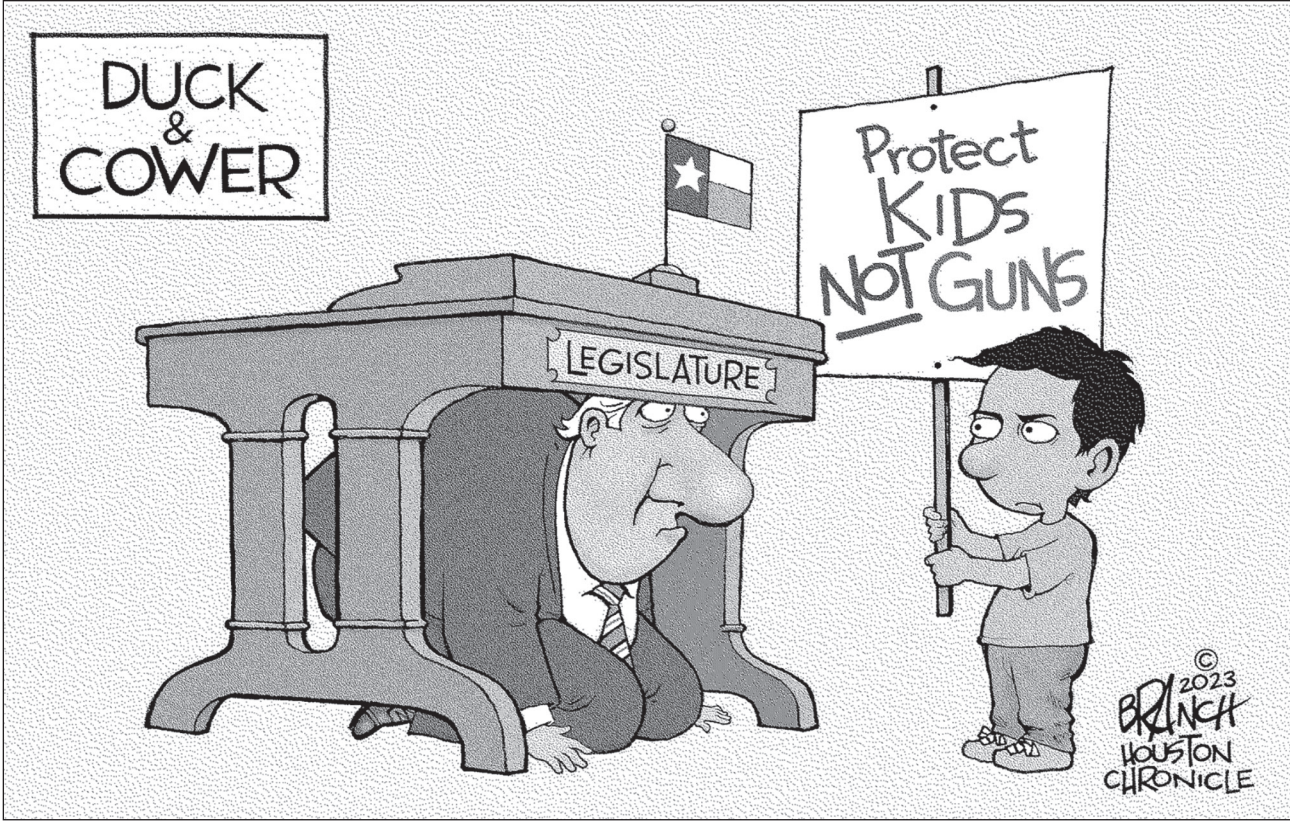
Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave.,815-538-2414

Jay Miller, 702 First Ave.,757-412-9374

FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN

Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,815-252-7243

Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,815-866-5558



Fire destroys body shop, home

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from April 29, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

That was the headline when The Mendota Reporter came out on April 27, 1983. The shop was Mendota Custom Shop, dealing in car repairs and customizing. The home was that of the shop owners, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Buland.

The fire started when a car being driven in for repair struck cans of paint remover. The driver's foot slipped from the brake and hit the accelerator.

In moments, flames were coming through the roof of the building.

Response by the Mendota Fire Department was prompt. When the call was received at 10:43 a.m., one truck was returning from a fire call to Mendota High Rise, and rushed to the scene.

As cans of flammable liquid exploded, Troy Grove and Triumph fire departments assisted as well as some city employees and bystanders. Route 34 was closed and Mendota police as well as District 17 State Troopers re-routed traffic. Smoke from the fire could be seen 15 miles away.

An early estimate of damage was set at \$400,000. There were several antique autos in the building, part of an airplane and vehicles belonging to customers.

Ashes of the shop are being sifted through, a shovelful at a time, to make as complete an inventory of articles as possible for insurance purposes.

The injured included police officer James Nurnberg, firefighters Paul Blumhorst and Dale Cunefare, helpers Bud and Mark Erickson.

Mark was attacked by a frightened cat while removing furniture from the home and was treated for scratches.

The Buland home was only partially damaged – not destroyed – but the Bulands were waiting for insurance figures before deciding what to do about either shop or house.

Mendota Optimist Club volunteers began digging foundation for badminton courts at Lake Mendota. The first shovelful was turned on April 27, 1983.

BMX Club members were erecting restrooms at their track with materials

Backtracks & Sidetracks

supplied by Phalen Steel and Mendota Farmers Co-op. The track opened on April 24, 1983, with racers from the entire state. Both boys and girls in age categories from 6 and under to 14 and over, Beginners, Novices and Expert riders, competed.

A Boy Scout Fair on Saturday, April 30, 1983, started off with a parade led by acting mayor Jim Strouss. An Illinois State Trooper showcased the talents of a dog in K-9 Corps, trained to find drugs.

The scouts demonstrated skills they had mastered including proper packing of backpacks.

The MHS Jazz Band, directed by Robert Baile, presented a free concert in the MHS cafeteria on the evening of April 18, 1983. "Slaughter on 10th Avenue" was performed by Amy Heckert on piano and Matt Schroeder on trombone. A medley from "42nd Street" by the group was another crowd-pleaser.

Debbie Seward, former Mendota resident on the staff at Newsweek, was chosen for a three-month assignment in the Paris Bureau. Debbie had been awarded a Rotary International scholarship through Mendota Rotary in 1979.

In April 1983, Mendota financial institutions were offering a \$20 bonus with each deposit of \$10,000 or more in a 26- or 30-month certificate of deposit.

A Chamber of Commerce profile introduced Frank Schellinger, who had opened an office for Franklyn Budget Printing in his home at 1501 Meriden St. The company was located in Aurora.

Duane Bodmer and Don Bauer moved their 3-B Auto Service from Meriden Street to Sixth Street in downtown Mendota. They had purchased the building, which would provide more room for general mechanics' work.

Mendota Fruit & Produce, owned by Cindy and Gordon (J.R.) Thompson, had opened in a former gas station at the corner of Meriden Street and 13th Avenue in November 1982. It now advertised twice weekly deliveries of fresh produce from Chicago markets and a wide variety of nursery stock.

Becky Lilja opened "Hair Unlimited" in the Ben Franklin Store on April 27, 1983. She offered shampoos, sets, perms and hair-cutting for men, women and children.

The Trojan Tattler solicited opinion on a growing trend at MHS – ear-piercing by guys. An unsigned letter to the editor was published in the Tattler. "This school is very set in its ways and it is time people learned to accept change."

I think it is his ear and his choice.

As an aid to identification of children should they be lost, the Mendota Police Department made a finger-printing service available. After consulting their parents, June Swisher brought in 21 students from the pre-ed institute to take advantage of the opportunity. The program had been introduced in Mendota by Moms Are People Too.

At a city council meeting, James Strouss was reappointed acting mayor and Shirlean Langdon, the new director for the Chamber of Commerce, was introduced.

Water rates were raised 9.8 percent and Industrial Development Bonds for Wayside Press were issued in the amount of \$650,000 at 8.8 percent interest.

The Mendota Tri-County Speedway at the Tri-County Fairgrounds was scheduled to open on May 6, 1983. Its April 22 opening had been rained out.

It will feature stock cars every Friday at 7 p.m.

Racing was over a quarter-mile clay track.

Mendota Community Hospital volunteers were honored at an Auxiliary tea. Mildred Rapp, a patient at the time, was allowed to attend and receive her seven-year pin for volunteer service. Josephine Miller earned a 15-year pin.

Republicans can't run and hide on abortion

By Rich Lowry

Politicians are motivated by many things, among them power, fame, idealism, greed -- and fear.

The last of these is not to be underestimated. It is a powerful, gut-level force that can strike the most loquacious politicians dumb and make the most attention-hungry suddenly shy. It can cause officeholders or candidates to reverse field on a long-held position almost instantaneously and abase themselves however seems necessary to get to safety.

Republicans at the national level, right now, are scared. You can hear it in their silence on the issue of abortion after a district judge in Texas struck down the Food and Drug Administration approval of the abortion pill mifepristone. That decision also came immediately after Republicans lost a key race for a Supreme Court seat in Wisconsin to a progressive jurist who ran, to a large extent, on abortion.

Much of what has happened since Dobbs is what you'd expect after a longstanding national legal regime on abortion is lifted and the states are given the freedom to decide their own policies. There has been a sorting out toward a new political and policy equilibrium, with red and blue states occupying different poles of the spectrum, and purple states up for grabs.

The good news for Republicans is that there are more restrictions on abortion in place than at any time in the last 50 years, and they still took a majority in the House in last year's midterms, if smaller than expected.

In Indiana and in much of the South, Republicans have passed sweeping abortion bans and paid no discernible political price for it.

But especially in Michigan and Wisconsin, the issue has been a debacle for the party, and it has suffered notable losses elsewhere.

One lesson should be that Republicans can't just run and hide on an issue that has been of defining importance to their base and that Democrats are going to hammer them on regardless of how they try to minimize it.

Another is that outside of the Deep South, complete bans can't be defended politically, and the traditional exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother are essential.

The Michigan and Wisconsin disasters stemmed from sweeping prohibitions that no one would have written in the post-Dobbs environment. Michigan had a 1931 law still on the books, and Wisconsin's dated from 1849.

Republicans should be pushing for restrictions that go as far as a state's voters are willing to accept, and no further. This will require keen political judgment and shrewd tactics, both of which are hard to muster in the midst of a panic.

The other obvious imperative for the GOP is to try to focus attention on the extremism of the Democratic maximalist position on abortion, which is out of step with public opinion (Gallup finds that only 35% of people say abortion should be legal with no restrictions).

While the Republican record fighting ballot measures to guarantee access to abortion is dreadful in the post-Dobbs era -- they've lost everywhere -- they are going to have to do more of it. Emboldened Democrats are getting referenda on the ballot in a number of red states over the next two years. A signature battle will be a vote to write abortion rights into the state constitution in Ohio later this year. If opponents defeat the measure, it will be on the strength of arguments that the amendment will make parental consent laws impossible and go further than the pre-Dobbs abortion regime.

Make no mistake: In many places, Republicans are simply seeking to neutralize the Democratic political advantage on the issue and fight to a draw. If this is unsatisfying and discomfiting, it's still better than the pre-Dobbs context when the politics were easier, but it was impossible to get any meaningful restrictions in place.

If there's one thing that should be clear, it's that fear -- no matter how natural or visceral -- is no substitute for careful thought and considered action.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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TRI-COUNTY NEWS

New member joins Paw Paw School Board; fees increased

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw Community Unit School District 271 Board met on April 18.

Jared Penman was sworn in as a new Board member.

Representatives from RK Dixon, a Xerox business solutions company, held a Zoom conference with the Board, explaining their procedures and costs for digitalizing the District's records.

Parents and interested parties are urged to use the school website, <https://www.2paws.net/> to keep informed of current school news and messages.

The Community Forum open discussion has been set for Sept. 13, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Changes in fees for the 2023-2024 school year: lunch costs will be raised 10 cents, to \$2.35 for grades K-5, and \$2.60 for 6-8.

School registration fees will be raised to \$65 for Kindergarten, and \$85 for grades 1-8.

The inaugural Paw Paw Poker Run was granted permission to use the school as a pick-up station on July 15.

The May School Board meeting is moved to Monday, May 8 at 6 p.m.



Jared Penman was sworn in as a new member of the Paw Paw Community Unit School District 271 Board at the April 18 meeting. (Photo contributed)

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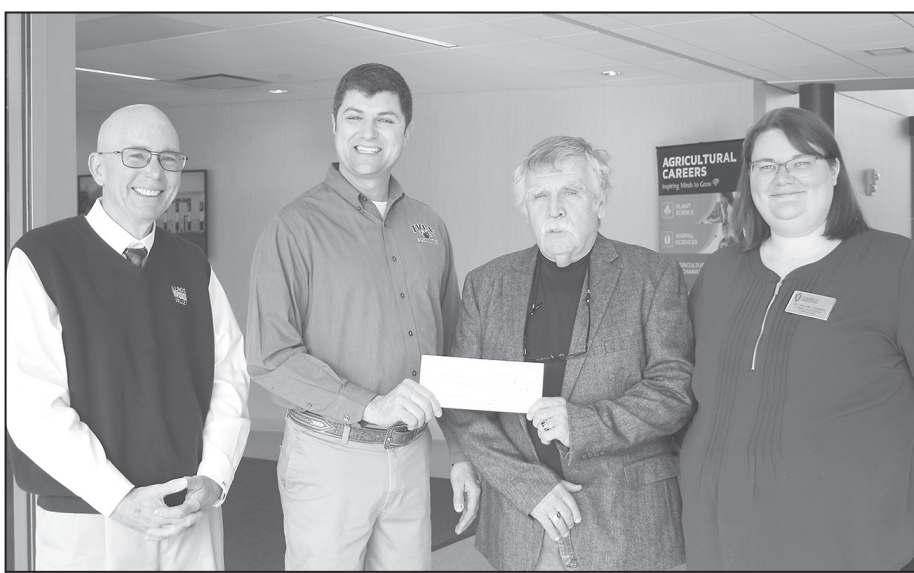
LaSalle Co. ARPA college scholarship applications available

OTTAWA – LaSalle, Marshall, & Putnam County Regional Superintendent of Schools, Christopher B. Dvorak, has announced that applications for the LaSalle County ARPA Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year are now available on the Regional Office website at: www.roe35.org. Applications may also be picked up at Regional Office of Education in the downtown courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Room 102, Ottawa. Applications for the scholarship must be completed in their entirety and must be received by 3:30 p.m. on June 16, 2023.

The LaSalle County Board is commended for providing this unique opportunity to provide scholarship opportunities to help fill shortage work areas in LaSalle County.

There are three types of scholarships available. Illinois Valley Community College will be identifying prospective students and students already enrolled to provide \$250,000 of financial assistance for school programs that are in shortage work areas for the region. These include CNA, EMT Paramedic, LPN, and RN programs. Reverse scholarships to mental health professionals that can document work in the county are also available; requirements include working for a year from time of application in the county and documentation of college debt. There is \$150,000 available for this scholarship. Lastly, \$100,000 is available to college students that may be completing a license in social work and mental health professions over the next two years or students interested in pursuing other short-term certifications or degrees in health care fields not offered at IVCC.

Scholarships will be awarded this summer with college funding beginning for the Fall Semester. Please contact Jessica Haywood at the Regional Office of Education for any questions you may have. She is available at jhaywood@roe35.org or at 815-434-0780.



Ag program donation

Daryle Wragge of Wenona recently made his second \$1,000 donation to the Illinois Valley Community College agriculture program. Wragge, center, is joined by IVCC President Jerry Corcoran, left, and ag program co-coordinators Willard Mott and Jennifer Timmers. Wragge made the gift at IVCC's Jan. 26 Agriculture Job and Internship Fair. The first-time fair exceeded expectations by attracting 17 businesses and about 50 students. (Photo contributed)



IVCC instructor recognized

Illinois Valley Community College environmental biology instructor Eric Schroeder (with students in life science lab) has been recognized by Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges, for serving 15 years as the college's chapter advisor. IVCC Dean of Natural Sciences and Business Ron Groleau said, "More than 20 years ago, Eric was hired for his commitment to excellence in the classroom. He brings this commitment to students outside the classroom as well. Eric's 15-year tenure as Phi Theta Kappa faculty advisor illustrates his passion for contributing to overall positive educational and personal experiences for students." (Photo contributed)

IVCC News Briefs

Choir concert planned May 1

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College's Choir and voice department will offer a free concert at 7 p.m. Monday, May 1 in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

The performance will include the music of J.S. Bach, Haydn, Ralph Vaughn Williams, Harry Belafonte, Andrew Lloyd Webber, John Phillips and Robert Boyd.

Music theatre selections will be heard from Newsies, Phantom of the Opera, Kismet, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Fiddler on the Roof, Jekyll & Hyde, and Hercules.

Selections include "Sweet Betsy from Pike," "Elijah and Joshua," "Turn the World Around," "California Dreamin'" and more.

Under the direction of Jenilyn Roether, the ensemble includes IVCC students, local musicians and community members. The choir is dedicated to promoting high quality choral singing.

Jazz Ensemble to perform May 2

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College's Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo will offer a free concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 2 in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

The performance will include the music of Fred Rogers, Gordon Goodwin, Bobby Darin, Sammy Nestico, and Bryan Carter.

Selections include "Hayburner," "Won't You Be My Neighbor," "Hunting Wabbits," "Betond the Sea," "Traces," "The Neighbor from Naylor," and "My Buddy."

The Jazz Ensemble is under the direction of Brandon Czubachowski and Jazz Combo under Patrick Wilson. The ensembles include IVCC students, local and regional music educators and community members dedicated to the promotion of quality jazz literature.

Wind Ensemble concert set May 4

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College's Wind Ensemble will offer a free concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4 in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

The performance will include the music of Mark Camphouse, Julius Fucik, Ira Hearshen, Charles Ives, Richard Wagner, and John Williams.

Selections include "Heartland Sketches," "Children of the Regiment," "Reveille," "Variations on 'America,'" "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral," and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Under the direction of conductor Phil Whaley, the ensemble includes IVCC students, local and regional music educators and community members dedicated to the promotion of quality wind and percussion music.

Student Art Show open through May 5

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College's 2023 Student Art Show features works by IVCC students and artists from seven high schools including LaSalle-Peru, Fieldcrest, La Moille, Mendota, Hall, DePue and Ottawa.

Coordinated by IVCC art instructors Shannon Slaight-Brown and Rachel Olson, the exhibit will be open through Friday, May 5 outside of Room E208 and the Student Life Space.

An awards reception will be held 5-7 p.m. May 5 in the Student Life Space. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Former IVCC art instructor Karen Zielman is a guest judge.

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THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

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2t16msr

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CARDS OF THANKS

Our Spring BBQ was a huge success, and we are so thankful. We once again sold out – 700 dinners. We apologize to those who came through the line and were not able to get tickets. To our volunteers, we can't thank you enough. Without all of you, we wouldn't have made it. To our local banks and businesses who bought blocks of tickets to distribute, we appreciate you so much. Last, but not least, to our communities who support us through our fundraisers and in other ways, you are the greatest. Thank you again from the Mendota Area Senior Services staff and Board of Directors.

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST
Robert C. Rutledge, 58, of 705 1/5 Washington St., Mendota, was arrested at 3:05 p.m. April 20 on an active LaSalle County warrant for residential burglary. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY
Thomas A. Sedlacek, 30, of 1111 Washington St., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to the subject's residence for the report of a physical domestic in progress at 2:30 a.m. April 22. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
Marcos Aguilera Moreno, 44, of Spring Valley, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and I-39 at 12:05 a.m. April 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Litter campaign by IDOT urges public Think Before You Throw!

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is once again asking the public to be on the alert for crews picking up litter and to Think Before You Throw! As part of an ongoing awareness campaign, IDOT is mobilizing litter pickup operations this spring and encouraging you to be part of the solution in keeping roadsides and communities free of unnecessary trash and debris.

“As one of the largest landowners in the state, the Illinois Department of Transportation takes great pride in making sure we are keeping our state as clean and free of clutter as possible, but we need your help,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Excess garbage on highways can be easily avoided. Dispose of garbage properly. Make sure loads are properly secured and covered to keep debris and other trash from winding up on the roads. Litter has consequences: Think before you throw!”

The Think Before You Throw! initiative aims to reduce roadside litter by raising awareness of its impacts to help keep a positive impression of the Prairie State for those who reside here and the nearly 100 million tourists who visit annually.

Illinois is home to 150,000 miles of road. You can do your part to keep them clean by using bags and receptacles in your vehicle to collect and dispose of trash. Also consider reusable bags for shopping and refillable bottles for beverages to cut down on waste. Ensure trash cans have lids that attach snugly to stop garbage from being spread. Properly secure and cover loads as well with a tarp, rope, straps, and netting.

Last year, IDOT spent approximately \$26.5 million picking up litter and removing large debris. That's the equivalent of buying 143 maintenance trucks that also plow snow in winter or purchasing all of the salt IDOT spread during the past snow-and-ice season, with \$1 million left to spare. It also could pay to resurface 13 miles of interstate.

To view a short video on the impacts of litter in Illinois, visit IDOT's YouTube channel.

With the arrival of spring, IDOT forces are engaged in litter removal operations across the state, which will continue until next winter. If you encounter maintenance vehicles and workers, please slow down, move over and give them space—it's the law.

Other litter facts:

- Roadside litter causes distractions that can lead to dangerous crashes. It also requires maintenance operations that put workers in potentially hazardous situations.
- Litter kills plants and animals. And it is unsightly. No one likes litter in their community.
- Littering is illegal and subject to a fine of up to \$1,500 in Illinois. In addition to other penalties, violators may be required to maintain litter control over a portion of highway for 30 days. (415 ILCS 105/5)
- Loads must be tarped and secured, with permits required for certain cargo. Violators can face penalties that include a fine up to \$250 in Illinois. (625 ILCS 5/15-109)
- Littering is a problem that's easily controlled and preventable. Use a trash can instead.
- Remember: Think Before You Throw!

For hazardous wastes, take advantage of special collection events offered by the Illinois EPA.

The Adopt-A-Highway program aims to offset these impacts by asking community groups and organizations to help with litter removal on designated state routes. Last year, volunteers logged 750 hours while collecting more than 1,700 bags of trash. Included in the items were televisions, toys and one hand-written note apologizing for eating the last of a box of Twinkies.

To learn more about how to become a volunteer, visit the Adopt-A-Highway page to fill out an online application and “adopt” a two-mile section of highway.

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Anything that still has usability and some value.
- 2. HOW TO PRICE**
Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.
- 3. LENGTH OF SALE**
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- 4. HOW TO SET IT UP**
Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.
- 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE**
The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*

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SPORTS

MHS suffers 2 softball losses

Princeton scored in every inning and downed Mendota, 15-6, in a Three Rivers Conference softball battle on April 21 at Princeton.

The home team led 7-4 entering the bottom of the fifth when it had back-to-back four-run innings to stretch the lead.

Mendota had eight hits, paced by Ava Eddy with two singles, a double and one run batted in. Madelyn Becker delivered two singles and three RBI, while Emma Schultz singled and doubled.

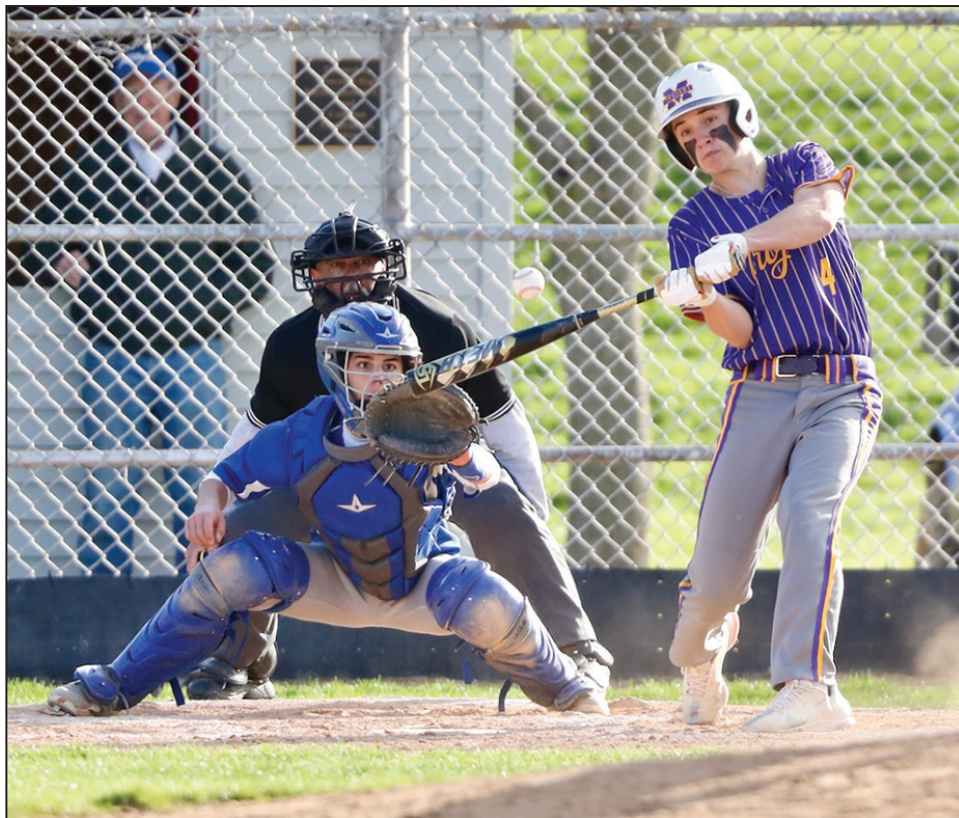
Ryleigh Sondgeroth went the distance in the circle and took the loss. She allowed 15 hits and six earned runs.

Mendota dropped a 7-3 conference decision to Newman on April 24 at Sterling.

The Lady Trojans broke on top with three runs in the opening frame, but that proved to be the only runs they could muster in the contest. Becker, who singled twice, drove in the first run for Mendota, while Schultz and Kirby Bond also had RBIs, Bond's coming on a double.

Newman tied the game with three runs in the bottom of the third and added runs over the next three innings as well to claim the win.

Sondgeroth suffered the loss, giving up 11 hits and six earned runs.



Mendota's Dominik Stamberger takes a swing at a pitch during baseball action at Princeton on April 21. (Photo courtesy of Bureau County Republican)

Princeton, Newman take out Trojans

A late-inning comeback by Mendota fell short in a 9-7 setback to Princeton in Three Rivers Conference baseball action on April 21 at the PHS field.

Mendota was down 8-2 after five innings when it plated five runs in the sixth to draw within a run of the Tigers. Princeton scored once in the bottom of the sixth and then blanked the Trojans in the top of the

seventh to escape with the victory.

The Trojans collected eight hits, led by Justin Randolph with three singles. Cale Strouss had a pair of singles, while Ryne Strouss had a double and two RBI, and Jace Baird drove in a run with a double.

Braiden Freeman gave up four hits and six runs over 2 2/3 innings to take the loss. Landon Kreiser

finished up on the hill.

Newman shutout the Trojans, 10-0, in a league contest on April 24 at Sterling.

Mendota (3-8, 1-7) managed just one hit, a single by Baird.

Baird got the start on the mound and was tagged with the loss. He went four innings before being relieved by Jacob Kelley.

IHSA Board OKs changes to officials' licensing process

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting at the IHSA office in Bloomington on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, where the Board approved two changes to the IHSA Officials licensing process.

Both changes are geared toward trying to recruit more new officials and retain officials who are currently licensed.

The first change lowers the price for officials when registering to officiate in more than one sport.

Previously, the IHSA charged \$70 for a license in a single sport, \$20 for a license in a second sport, and \$15 for any additional sport licenses beyond that.

When the IHSA begins its Officials Renewal process

for the 2023-24 school year on May 1, an individual can register for up to two licenses for \$70, and any additional license(s) will be \$10 for each additional license.

The second action aims to attract more out-of-state officials to work contests in Illinois. Under the approved changes, the cost for an officiating license for individuals who reside in a state that borders Illinois will be lowered and fall under one of two criterion:

1) If the official wants to work in the IHSA's postseason State Series, the license cost will be \$40. They will also begin one level lower than their highest level of officiating achievement in their home state

2) If the official wants to work only regular-season contests in Illinois, the li-



cense cost will be \$20 and the clinic attendance requirement will be waived.

All other IHSA officiating requirements will apply for both criterion for out-of-state officials. Nearly 300 IHSA officiating licenses have been granted to officials from border states thus far in 2022-23. Previously, the officiating license cost and requirements were the same for out-of-state officials as it was for those who reside in Illinois.

"Over the past year, the total number of IHSA officials has increased by nearly 1,000 licenses," said IHSA Associate Executive Director Kurt Gibson, who oversees the IHSA Officials Department. "We are encouraged by those gains, but also recognize that we cannot be content with them. We will continue to examine ways that we can improve the licensing process and provide greater support for the IHSA officiating community."



St. Bede to host inaugural track meet on April 27th at Heitmann Memorial Track

PERU - St. Bede Academy will host its inaugural high school track meet Thursday, April 27 on the Capt. Thomas J. Heitmann Memorial Track.

This meet will carry out the longtime dream of the 2002 St. Bede graduate whom the track is named after. Heitmann started a campaign to raise funds for a track at St. Bede before he was killed in a helicopter accident on Sept. 19, 2011, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., while serving our country as a U.S. Marine.

Heitmann, who had been a Mendota native, holds the 800M school record and was a member of the record-holding 4X800M relay team. Following his death, his family picked up the work of his campaign, which ended up going coast to coast. A total of \$450,000 was put toward the project. St. Bede Academy broke ground on the track in the spring of 2017 and it was completed that fall.

Before there ever was a track at St. Bede, members of the team, including Heitmann, trained in the school's pocked parking lot and in its stairwells and basement. Having a track at St. Bede has allowed the program to grow immensely, according to St. Bede's track coach Marty Makransky.

"Having the ability to practice pole-vault, hurdles, the long jump, high jump and triple jump in sandpits and the relay handoffs on the track – it's really changed us," Makransky said. "Our field events have really benefited by having an area to practice on. Having our own track – it's really been amazing."

The track also allowed for the first St. Bede pole-vaulter since the '80s.

Following the completion of the track, St. Bede waited for the opportunity to host a track meet. In 2020 and 2021, meets were canceled due to COVID and in 2022, a meet was canceled due to inclement weather. It will be rewarding to finally see this opportunity come to fruition.

Superintendent Eve Postula looks forward to the event. She acknowledged all those who came together to see this dream become a reality, including the St. Bede Monks, the Heitmann family, the Bedan Club, past members of the St. Bede track team, and St. Bede family and friends.

A blessing of the track will take part by Abbot Michael Calhoun, OSB at 3:40 p.m., before the field events begin at approximately 4 p.m. Thursday. Schools participating in the meet include St. Bede, Earlville, Henry-Senachwine and Marquette Academy.

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SPORTS

MHS track teams kept busy in 3 invites

The Mendota boys' and girls' track team competed in the Ferris Invitational at Princeton on April 18.

The Trojans took fourth place in the team standings with 115 points. Rock Falls grabbed the top spot with 266 points.

Sebastian Carlos garnered the lone first-place finish for Mendota with a clocking of 53.58 in the 400-meter dash.

Anthony Kelson crossed the finish line second in the 1600-meter run at 4:58.15, while the 4x400 relay also took second in a time of 3:48.98. Runners were Mason Koch, Kody Chase, Kelson and Carlos.

The Lady Trojans scored 62 points and placed fifth. Rock Falls won with 270 tallies.

Mendota's best finish was by the 4x400-meter relay team, which was fourth in a time of 5:03.75. Carrying the baton were Vivian Begley, Hannah Kunz, Jessica Reel and Alexis Finley.

Ferris Invite – April 18
(Boys)

Rock Falls 266, Kewanee 249, Princeton 184, Mendota 115, Hall 84, St. Bede 50

Mendota 1st place: Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 53.58

Mendota 2nd place: Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:58.15; 4x400m relay (Mason Koch, Kody Chase, Kelson, Carlos), 3:48.98

Mendota 3rd place: 4x800m relay (Chase, Jacob Carr, Travis Mumm, Kelson), 9:35.74

Mendota 4th place: 4x200m relay (Brandon Leadley, Jose Belmonte, Aaden Castle, Corbin Furar) 1:50.39; Koch, long jump, 18-2

Mendota 5th place: Koch, 100m dash, 12.37; Johan Cortez, 110m hurdles, 20.44; Cortez, 300m hurdles, 50.27; 4x100m relay (Furar, Carlos, Leadley, Koch), 49.13; Jose Rocha, discus, 101-9

Mendota 6th place: Carlos, 100m dash, 12.38; Mumm, 800m run, 2:34.4

Mendota 7th place: Hector Gonzalez, 800m run, 2:36.31; Lucas Castillo, 300m hurdles, 54.59; Albert Harris, shot put, 36-3

Mendota 8th place: Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 15:37.5; Rocha, shot put, 34-1; Gabe Vallejo, discus, 89-9

Mendota 9th place: Anthony Seablom, triple jump, 25-4

Mendota 10th place: Diego Sandoval, 400m run, 1:07.49

(Girls)

Rock Falls 270, Princeton 214, Hall 160, St. Bede 124, Mendota 62

Mendota 4th place: 4x400m relay (Vivian Begley, Hannah Kunz, Jessica Reel, Alexis Finley), 5:03.75

Mendota 5th place: 4x100m relay (Ashley Caracheo, Grace Wasmer, Kennedy Knaff, Sofia Duarte),

1:01.13; 4x200m relay (Wasmer, Knaff, Caracheo, Duarte), 2:10.42

Mendota 6th place: Finley, 800m run, 2:57.93; Knaff, 300m hurdles, 1:02.26; Reel, triple jump, 24-5

Mendota 7th place: Reel, 400m dash, 1:14.83; Kunz, 800m run, 2:59.49; JazLynn Gambrell, discus, 66-2; Laylie Denault, long jump, 12-7

Mendota 8th place: Denault, 100m dash, 14.97; Denault, 200m dash, 36.37; Begley, 400m dash, 1:16.6

The MHS teams were part of a huge 14-team field in the Rockford Christian Invitational on April 22.

In boys' action, the Trojans scored 23 points and tied for 10th place. Decatur St. Teresa captured the top position with 136 points.

Mendota's best finish went to Carlos in third place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 55.08.

The Lady Trojans placed 10th with 12 points. Rockford Guilford won the meet with 156 points.

Kennedy Knaff was sixth in the 300-meter hurdles (1:01.43) for the best individual place for Mendota, while the 4x200 relay team also took sixth in 2:07.31.

Rockford Christian Invite – April 22
(Boys)

Decatur St. Teresa 136, Rockford Guilford 110, Rockford Christian 106, North Boone 63, Peoria Christian 61, Dakota 57, Elgin Harvest Christian Academy 34, Rockford Jefferson 33, Belvidere 32, Hinckley-Big Rock 23, Mendota 23, Winnebago 12, Home School Eagles 10, Rockford Christian Life 1

Mendota 3rd place: Carlos, 400m dash, 55.08

Mendota 4th place: Kelson, 1600m run, 4:51.73; 4x800m relay (Carr, Mumm, Chase, Kelson), 9:29.93

Mendota 6th place: Rocha, discus, 108-0

Mendota 7th place: 4x400m relay 'A' (Koch, Chase, Kelson, Carlos), 4:02.63

Mendota 8th place: Kelson, 110m hurdles, 18.75; 4x400m relay 'B' (Sandoval, Devin DeSoto, Keegen Stewart, Leadley), 4:33.9

(Girls)

Rockford Guilford 156, Rockford Christian 114.5, Belvidere 95.5, Dakota 80.5, Decatur St. Teresa 76.5, Home School Eagles 51.5, Peoria Christian 38, Elgin Harvest Christian Academy 37, North Boone 33.5, Mendota 12, Rockford Christian Life 4, Hinckley-Big Rock 2

Mendota 6th place: Knaff, 300m hurdles, 1:01.43; 4x200m relay (Ella Martin, Knaff, Wasmer, Denault) 2:07.31

Mendota 7th place: Caracheo, long

jump, 11-10

Mendota 8th place: Denault, 200m dash, 31.31; Reel, 400m dash, 1:13.66; 4x100m relay (Caracheo, Duarte, Wasmer, Denault), 1:00.05; Denault, long jump, 11-9

MHS squads participated in the Bureau Valley Invitational on April 24 at Manlius.

The Trojan scored 79 points and finished in fourth place out of six teams. Bureau Valley won with 139 points.

Kelson turned in a first-place performance in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 19.23.

The girls placed fourth with 30 points, while Bureau Valley took the top spot with 154.5.

Alexis Finley had the best finish for the Lady Trojans, earning second in the 1600-meter run at 6:54.42.

Bureau Valley Invite – April 24
(Boys)

Bureau Valley 139, Riverdale 137, Amboy-LaMoille 112, Mendota 79, St. Bede 42, Marquette 30

Mendota 1st place: Kelson, 110m hurdles, 19.23

Mendota 2nd place: Carlos, 400m dash, 53.45; 4x800m relay (Chase, Carr, Mumm, Kelson), 9:31.01; Koch, long jump, 18-3

Mendota 3rd place: Johan Cortez, 110m hurdles, 20.74; Stewart, high jump, 4-8

Mendota 4th place: Kelson 1600m run, 4:59.56; 4x100m relay (Furar, Carlos, Koch, Stewart), 49.45; 4x200m relay (Stewart, Leadley, Castle, Furar), 1:49.10; 4x400m relay (Koch, Castle, Kelson, Carlos), 3:52.85; Castillo, triple jump, 30-9.5

Mendota 5th place: Chase, 800m run, 2:19.14; Cortez, 300m hurdles, 49.67; Rocha, shot put, 35-2; Seablom, triple jump, 28-9

Mendota 6th place: Chase, 1600m run, 5:30.24; Jordan Coney, shot put, 33-5; Rocha, discus, 102-10; Robert Botello, long jump, 16-2

(Girls)

Bureau Valley 154.5, Amboy-LaMoille 131.5, St. Bede 129, Mendota 30, Marquette 29

Mendota 2nd place: Finley, 1600m run, 6:54.42

Mendota 3rd place: 4x200 relay (Martin, Knaff, Wasmer, Denault), 2:07.41; 4x400m relay (Reel, Kunz, Begley, Martin), 4:56.98

Mendota 4th place: 4x100m relay (Caracheo, Duarte, Wasmer, Denault), 59.39

Mendota 5th place: Reel, 400m dash, 1:15.02; Knaff, 300m hurdles, 57.22

Mendota 6th place: Knaff, discus, 67-0; Finley, 800m run, 2:58.59

Mendota to host 1A girls' soccer regional May 9 & 12

MENDOTA – Mendota will host the Mendota Class 1A Girls' Regional Soccer Tournament on May 9 and 12.

Two games will be played on Tuesday, May 9, with Rock Island Alleman taking on DePue at 4 p.m. and Mendota battling Princeton at 6 p.m. The two winners will meet for the regional championship at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 12.

The winner of the Mendota Regional will advance to the Hinckley-Big Rock Sectional to face the champion of the Byron Regional on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. The other sectional participants will come from the Indian Creek and Stillman Valley regionals.

Mendota Class 1A Girls' Soccer Regional
Tuesday, May 9

1 – (2) Rock Island (Alleman) vs. (9) DePue [Coop] – 4 p.m.
2 – (3) Mendota vs. (8) Princeton – 6 p.m.

Friday, May 12

3 – Winner Match 1 vs. Winner Match 2 – 4:30 p.m. (championship)

Pontiac tops MHS netters

PONTIAC – The Mendota boys' tennis team dropped an 8-1 decision at Pontiac on April 18.

Mendota's lone win went to Cameron Escatel at No. 4 singles.

April 18
Pontiac 8, Mendota 1

Singles: No. 1 - Traylor (P) def. Matt Miller (M), 6-0
No. 2 - Oakes (P) def. Dagen Setchell (M), 6-2
No. 3 - Pina (P) def. Johnny Diaz (M), 6-0
No. 4 - Cameron Escatel (M) def. Jean-Jaques (P), 6-3
No. 5 - Pelletier (P) def. Wyatt Sondgeroth (M), 6-2
No. 6 - Masching (P) def. Landon Lee (M), 6-1

Doubles: No. 1 - Oakes-Traylor (P) def. Clay Buffington-Trekker Klema (M), 6-1, 6-2
No. 2 - Pina-Jean-Jaques (P) def. Josh Sondgeroth-Ben Bresley (M), 6-1, 6-1
No. 3 - Masching-Legner (P) def. Caleb Ensor-Zach Giberson (M), 6-1, 6-1

Sweet Corn Festival Golf Scramble set for June 4

MENDOTA – The Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Golf Scramble is set for Sunday, June 4 at the Mendota Golf Club. The event is sponsored by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and a shotgun start is at 9 a.m. The cost is \$45 for one player and \$180 for a foursome, which includes skins game.

The event will feature cash prizes, 50/50 raffle, food and a cash bar. Also, Schimmer GM is sponsoring a hole-in-one contest for a cash prize.

For more information, call the Chamber at 815-539-6507 or visit it website at www.mendotachamber.com.

Cheer on your favorite player or team by attending a game!!

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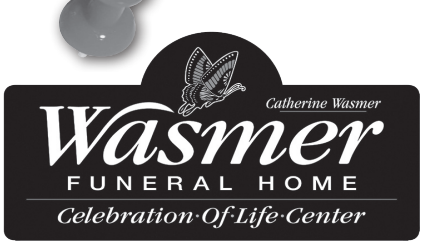
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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD--Austin Butler is taking on his first film project since his Oscar-nominated performance as Elvis Presley in "Elvis." His current project "City On Fire" will likely be a three-part franchise (if the film hits big), since it's based on a best-selling book in a trilogy by Don Winslow. The film mixes elements from three Greek tragedies-- "The Iliad," "Odyssey" and "Aeneid" -- and translates them to two contemporary criminal empires, one Irish and the other Italian, with a modern-day Helen of Troy plot.



Styles

Butler's got "Dune: Part Two" coming Nov. 3, and then "The Bikeriders" (which had a two-month shoot from October to December).

Even though Harry Styles successfully starred in "Don't Worry Darling" and "My Policeman" (in which he plays a gay policeman), he's turned down the

chance to play Prince Eric in the upcoming reboot of "The Little Mermaid."

Styles had left the boy-band One Direction to become a huge solo rock star (though his boas are a bit much), but then, he also became a full-fledged movie star.

It was bound to happen. The current reprinting of the book "Gone With the Wind" is getting a trigger warning for those who might be affected by descriptions of 19th century slavery in the Deep South. The text won't be altered in any way, but a warning gives notice of "shocking elements" and the romanticization of slavery in our history. Really? One of the greatest books ever written is a novel! When will this bull end?

"Paddington" (2014) grossed \$282.8 million, and "Paddington 2" (2017) grossed \$228 million. In July, they'll start shooting the threequel titled "Paddington in Peru" (Peru being the birthplace of the bear). While Hugh Bonneville and Ben Whishaw are returning, in addition to Julie Walters

and Peter Capaldi, there's no mention of a return from Hugh Grant, who's currently riding high with "Dungeons & Dragons."

The unstoppable Harrison Ford (who turns 81 on July 13) has two television series -- "1923" with Dame Helen Mirren (for Paramount+) and "Shrinking" with Jason Segel (for AppleTV+) -- that were both renewed for another season. Plus, he has "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" releasing soon, which also stars Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Antonio Banderas, John Rhys-Davies, Toby Jones and Mads Mikkelsen. It will have its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival (out of competition) on May 18.

The Cannes Film Festival will honor Ford at the premiere, but he'll have to interrupt shooting of "Captain America: New World Order," which won't wrap filming until June 30 and is set for a May 3, 2024 release. Ford has more energy than the Energizer Bunny ... he keeps going, and going, and going!

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Couch Theater

"Peter Pan & Wendy" (PG)-- The live-action adaptation of Walt Disney's 1953 "Peter Pan" hits Disney's streaming platform on April 28! Alexander Molony portrays "the boy who wouldn't grow up" in his very first film debut, while Ever Anderson ("Black Widow") nabbed the role of Wendy. Those who love Peter Pan's story know that an adventure to Neverland would never be complete without characters like the Lost Boys, Tiger Lily and, of course, Captain Hook -- who is played by an almost unrecognizable Jude Law. Whether the film will be received well by audiences remains to be seen, as many fans are sounding off about the live-action remakes Disney continues to shovel out to no avail. Maybe it's time to mix it up? (Disney+)

"Love & Death" (TV-MA) -- Candy Montgomery is a Texan housewife who has always craved more out of life than the ordinary woman. So, she decides to take a risk and start having an affair with another married townie named Allan. They vow not to let their spouses find out, going to great lengths to cov-

er up their rendezvousing. That is, until one day, when news rings out over town about the gruesome death of Allan's wife, Betty. Now, as the investigation surrounding Betty's murder begins, Candy must deal with the repercussions of her affair and the accusations that she was the one who committed this monstrous act. Elizabeth Olsen ("WandaVision") and Jesse Plemons ("The Power of the Dog") star in this mini-series based on a true story. The first episode premieres April 27. (HBO Max)

"Citadel" (TV-16+) -- Spy series have been on a roll lately, with shows like "The Night Agent" and "Liaison" getting cranked out by streaming services. "Citadel," executive produced by the Russo Brothers, is one of the latest of these suspenseful series that could prove to be quite successful for Prime Video. Starring Richard Madden ("Game of Thrones") and Priyanka Chopra Jonas ("Quantico"), the show follows Mason Kane, a spy suffering from amnesia after a huge explosion. From the explosion, he solely remembers Nadia

(Chopra Jonas), who he finds has also lost her memory. So, the two partner up together to remember their past, the spies they once were and the secret espionage organization they were in, called Citadel. Premieres April 28. (Prime Video)

"Clock" (TV-MA) -- Ella has never wanted children, and her husband stands beside her on that. But she starts feeling an increasingly high pressure from the world around her to have kids. Thus, Ella decides to enroll in a clinical trial at a biotech firm to see if she can get her biological clock to start ticking. At the trial, she gets administered a hormone paired with behavioral therapy, as well as the option for an implant. As a result of these experimental procedures, Ella's perception of life gets darkly twisted, filling her with a dreadful sense of paranoia and borderline madness. This sci-fi/horror flick premiering April 28 stars Dianna Agron ("Glee") and Melora Hardin ("The Office"). (Hulu)

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I saw that Betty Gilpin has a new show. Whatever happened to the one on Netflix where she played a wrestler? Did it get canceled? -- **H.E.**

A: "GLOW," starring Alison Brie and Betty Gilpin as two friends who become professional women wrestlers in order to pay the bills, was one of those shows canceled too soon. It lasted for three seasons on Netflix and was renewed for a fourth, which was ultimately canceled before filming, reportedly due to COVID restrictions.

The premise is based on the syndicated show "Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling," aka "GLOW," which aired on cable TV in the 1980s. It was a combination of athletic wrestling and over-the-top comedic characters. Netflix's "GLOW" received high praise from critics and the professional wrestling community.

Gilpin's newest project is headlining her own series -- "Mrs. Davis," on the Peacock streaming app. It's a sci-fi drama with an unusual plot about a nun who takes on a powerful form of artificial intelligence, in what Peacock

is billing as "an exploration of faith versus technology." The series' first four episodes became available on April 20, followed by new episodes every Thursday.

Q: What was the name of the 1970s sitcom about a waitress who dated a doctor? I remember it starred the actor from the movie "Airplane!" It's one of my earliest TV memories as a kid, but I've never seen it in reruns. -- **N.M.**

A: You're thinking of "Angie," which ran for two seasons on ABC from 1979 to 1980. It was produced by Garry Marshall ("Happy Days") and starred Donna Pescow and Robert Hays as a coffee shop waitress and pediatrician who fall in love. Future "Everybody Loves Raymond" star Doris Roberts played Angie's mother.

Before getting her own show, Pescow was best known for playing Annette in "Saturday Night Fever" and later for her daytime soap roles on "All My Children" and "General Hospital." Her most recent credit is an episode of Hulu's "Welcome to Chippendales."

Actor Robert Hays is now

75 years old and has had a long career in Hollywood. His first movie role was the hilarious classic "Airplane!" in 1980, but prior to that, he guest-starred on multiple primetime shows before landing "Angie." His last role in a major production was playing Capt. Bob Wilson in the TV movie "Sharknado 2: The Second One," in 2014.

Q: Is Trisha Yearwood going to record a new album anytime soon? I love her cooking show, but miss her as a singer. -- **W.W.**

A: Country singer Trisha Yearwood's last studio album was "Every Girl" in 2019. It included collaborations with her husband -- singer Garth Brooks -- and Kelly Clarkson. Yearwood decided to pursue her other passion, cooking, a decade ago with her own series, "Trisha's Southern Kitchen," on the Food Network, which won a Daytime Emmy Award a year later.

Yearwood's next solo project remains up in the air, but she will be one of the featured singers on her husband's upcoming album "Duets" later this year.

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• Trivia Test •

1. MOVIES: Which movie gave actor Tom Hanks his first Oscar?
2. SCIENCE: Apollo astronauts reported that the Moon smelled like what substance?
3. GEOGRAPHY: How many stars are on the Australian flag?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president killed a man who insulted him in a duel?
5. MUSIC: Which pop group produced the hit song "God Only Knows"?
6. TELEVISION: "The Brady Bunch" features how many blended family members?
7. LANGUAGE: What is the official language of the United States?
8. U.S. STATES: What is the state capital of Rhode Island?
9. ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system that is not named after a god or goddess?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is a cheese connoisseur called?

Answers

1. "Philadelphia."
1. Burnt gunpowder.
3. Six.
4. Andrew Jackson. In 1806 he shot and killed Charles Dickinson in a duel.
5. The Beach Boys.
6. Eight: six children and two parents.
7. None -- the United States doesn't have an official language.
8. Providence.
9. Earth.
10. A tuophile.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Chantreuse Edith
- 5 Links org.
- 8 Too
- 12 Kotb of "Today"
- 13 Filch
- 14 500 sheets
- 15 Rat --
- 16 Eternally
- 18 Large gong
- 20 Try to hear better, maybe
- 21 Author Bagnold
- 23 Nabokov novel
- 24 Symbol of stability
- 28 La Scala solo
- 31 -- tai (cocktail)
- 32 Van Gogh venue
- 34 Mafia boss
- 35 Hostels
- 37 Vespers
- 39 Secret agent
- 41 Ms. Brockovich
- 42 Ceremony
- 45 Slanted type
- 49 The whole crowd
- 51 Actress Fisher
- 52 Lure
- 53 Some coll. degrees

DOWN

- 1 Excellent, in slang
- 2 Speck
- 3 Leading man?
- 4 Plump up
- 5 Opening night
- 6 State VIP
- 7 Genesis shepherd
- 8 Fleet
- 9 "Mona Lisa" painter
- 10 Rani's wrap
- 11 Portent
- 17 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 19 "Puppy Love" singer
- 22 Look (into)
- 24 Brit. record label
- 25 Moving vehicle
- 26 Genius
- 27 Most skeptical
- 29 Charged bit
- 30 "Life of Pi" director Lee
- 33 Tizzy
- 36 Gushes forth
- 38 Slowpokes
- 40 "Rah!"
- 42 Ms. McEntire
- 43 Infamous tsar
- 44 High tennis shots
- 46 Aspiring atty.'s exam
- 47 "Would -- to you?"
- 48 Shopper's aid
- 50 Scot's refusal

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

8			3				9	
		7		6			4	
	5			2	7			
6		9		8			7	
		1		5			3	
	4		2			6		
		2			9			5
1				3			2	
	9		4			1		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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8	7	1	2	9	4	6	5
9	2	6	5	8	4	7	1
5	4	8	6	1	7	2	9
1	8	9	3	6	2	5	7
6	3	4	7	5	9	1	8
7	5	2	8	7	1	6	3
8	9	7	1	2	6	3	5
4	1	3	9	8	5	7	2
2	6	5	7	4	7	4	8

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Pixar required its entire staff to take a graduate-level ichthyology (the branch of zoology that studies fish) class to help improve the authenticity of "Finding Nemo."

* Television inventor Philo Farnsworth got the idea for how the medium would work when he was just 14 -- and while plowing potatoes. He built the first working prototype seven years later, but died at 64 in relative obscurity due to a series of legal battles.

* A 20-year-old gallon of McDonald's McJordan BBQ Sauce sold for \$10,000 simply because it had Michael Jordan's name on it.

* A lobster's brain is located in its throat, its nervous system in its abdomen, its teeth in its stomach, and its kidneys in its head! It also hears using its legs, tastes with its feet, and tends to favor one front limb, meaning it can be right-clawed or left-clawed.

* After the Comstock Laws banned birth control in 1873, the makers of Trojan condoms found a way around that restriction by selling the prophylactics as a protection against STDs.

* Queen is the only band in which each member individually wrote more than one No. 1 hit.

* In North Korea, anyone who cuts down trees or starts a forest fire in protected areas could face the death penalty.

* When Joseph Stalin's first wife died, he said: "This creature softened my heart of stone. She died, and with her died my last warm feelings for humanity." He would go on to execute her brother, her sister and her cousin.

* No one actually "won" the war of 1812.

* Chicago was raised over 4 feet with screw jacks in the 19th century in order to install the U.S.'s first sewer system.

Thought for the Day: "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation." -- Herman Melville

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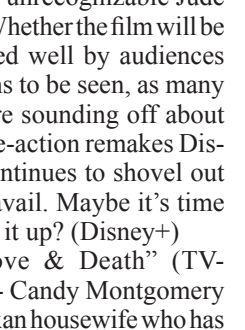
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C	I	V	I	T	I	T	V	I	T	I
N	I	R	E	A	D	S				
G	N	O	S	N	E	A	B	S	N	N
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A	I	R	A	V	E	K	N	E	A	B
V	A	D	A	D	I	N	E			
N	I	N	A	V	E	T	I	N	A	V
E	O	M	A	R	E	A	V			
M	E	A	O	M	A	O	A			
A	L	S	O	P	G	A	F			

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Happy 21st
Birthday
Michelle!



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Mom, Dad,
Billie & Susie

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What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A
and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Missing helmet by catcher 2. Missing
"S" on hat 3. Plane in sky 4. Ball on the ground

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1607:** THE VIRGINIA COMPANY COLONISTS MAKE LANDFALL AT CAPE HENRY.
- **1803:** THOUSANDS OF METEOR FRAGMENTS FALL FROM THE SKIES OF L'AIGLE, FRANCE.
- **1962:** THE BRITISH SPACE PROGRAMME LAUNCHES ITS FIRST SATELLITE, THE ARIEL 1.

New Word

FORWARD

attacking player
in various sports

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Net

SPANISH: Red

ITALIAN: Rete

FRENCH: Filet

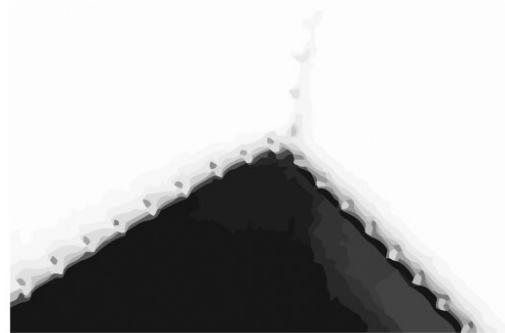
GERMAN: Netz

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ANSWER: SOCCER BALL

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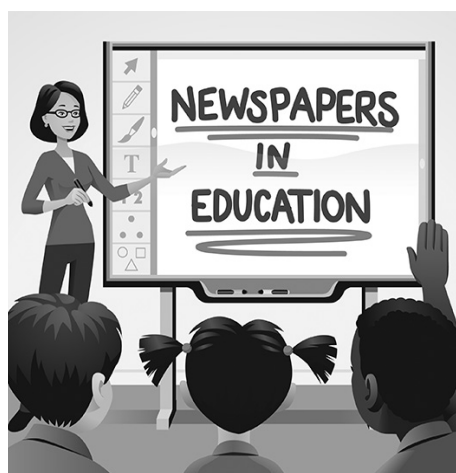
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PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LASALLE COUNTY,
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS
IN THE)
MATTER)
OF THE)
ESTATE)
OF)
KEVIN R.)
) FOLTYNEWICZ,)
) Deceased.)
Case No.: 23 PR 71
CLAIMS NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of KEVIN R. FOLTYNEWICZ, of Peru, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 31, 2023 to HOLLY A. CHRISTMAN, 162 E. U.S. Hwy. 52, Mendota, IL 61342, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Executor is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAZ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2022.
Greg Vaccaro
Circuit Clerk-LaSalle County Courthouse
119 W. Madison St.,
Ottawa, IL 61350
David M. Kaleel
Attorney for Executor
806 Jefferson St
Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-5616
kaleel5@frontier.com
Legal No. 0406 (4/12, 4/19, 4/26 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF
THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LA SALLE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF)Case
John G.)No
Stephenitch,)2023
Deceased)PR-72
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of John G. Stephenitch of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 5, 2023 to Teresa Dorsey of 2103 Diana Drive, Mendota, IL 61342 and Kathleen Sheridan, of 773 N. 39th Road, Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before

October 20, 2023. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Legal No. 0408 (4/19, 4/26 & 5/3 2023)

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Dr. Linnea Person
No. 0410
(April 19, 26 and May 3, 2023)

NOTICE
Tillman Infrastructure, LLC is proposing to build a 195-foot **Monopole Tower** (199-ft w/ appurtenances) located at 406 Plaza Drive, Mendota, IL 61342. Structure coordinates are: (N41-32-41.20/W89-08-05.09). No lighting is anticipated. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR Form 854) file number is **A1242326**. Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the file number. The FCC requires interested parties to file requests for Environmental Review online. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website.
No. 0411
(April 26, 2023)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND RIGHT TO FILE PETITION AND HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Resolution adopted on April 17, 2023, the President and the Members of the Board of Education of the Mendota Township High School District Number 280, LaSalle, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois (the "District"), intends and determines to issue bonds in the aggregate amount of up to \$2,500,000 for the purpose of creating or increasing a Working Cash Fund for such District, and it is the intention of such Members of the Board of Education to avail itself 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 such bonds for the purpose of creating or increasing such Working Cash Fund. This Working Cash Fund is to be maintained, administered, and operated in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code and shall be used for the purpose of enabling the District to have in its treasury at all times sufficient money to meet demands thereon for ordinary and necessary expenditures for cor-

porate purposes. The Working Cash Fund is to be used to provide monies with which to meet ordinary and necessary disbursements for salaries and other school purposes in anticipation of the collection of taxes lawfully levied for educational, operations, building and maintenance or transportation purposes (and further transfers to authorized funds) and such Working Cash Fund is to be reimbursed to the extent of funds so advanced when such taxes have been collected.

Notice is hereby further given that if a petition signed by 428 or more of registered voters of the District, being equal to 10% or more of the registered voters of the District, is submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Education of the District (the "Secretary") within 30 days of publication of this notice, asking that the question of the issuance of the Bonds as authorized by the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code be submitted to referendum, then the question of the issuance of the Bonds shall be submitted to the electors of the District at the general primary to be held on the 19th day of March, 2024, unless there are no voters scheduled to cast votes for any candidates for nomination for, election to or retention in public office, in which case the Proposition shall be submitted to the electors of the District at the general election to be held on the 5th day of November, 2024. If no petition is filed with the Secretary within said 30day period, then this Resolution shall be in full force and effect and the Bonds shall be authorized to be issued. A petition form is available at the principal office of the District, located at 2300 West Main Street, Mendota, Illinois.

/s/ Jim Sundberg
Secretary, Board of Education

BINA Notice
The President and the Members of the Board of Education of Mendota Township High School District Number 280, LaSalle, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois will hold a public hearing on May 15, 2023 at 6:15 p.m. The hearing will be held in the High School District Office located at 2300 West Main Street, in Mendota, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 for the purpose of creating or increasing the District's Working Cash Fund.
By: Jim Sundberg Title: Secretary, Board of Education
No. 0412
(April 26, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION NO: 2018-JA-09

TO: D'Wayne Chandler, Unkown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 20th day of April, 2023 a petition to terminate your parental rights 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 Jaxyn Minkler, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 5th day of July, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination 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 April 20, 2023.
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0413
(April 26, 2023)

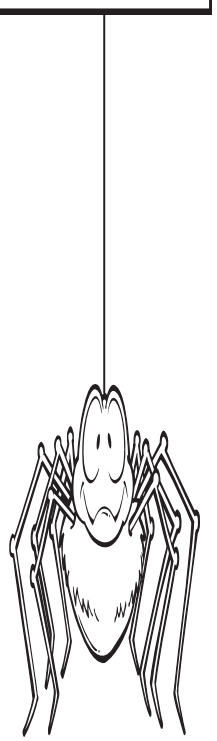
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on or about June 9, 2023, it is the intention of Meriden Township to enter the cemetery grounds located NW corner/SW quarter, Sec.6-36-2 (commonly known as Four Mile Grove Cemetery) Meriden Township, LaSalle County, Illinois and cause the grounds to be cleared or recent storm damage. If the owner of said property or legally responsible cemetery authority has objection to Meriden Township's intended cleanup plan, please provide written notification to Meriden Township, PO Box 536, Earlville, IL. 60518, prior to the Township's entry, demonstrating the ownership or authority to control or manage the cemetery and declining the Township authorization to enter the property.

Dated: April 21, 2023
Carol J. Dilbeck
Meriden Township Clerk
No. 0414
(April 26, 2023)

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WITH US



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WHATEVER
JUST
DON'T
TEXT
AND

STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.

Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words - one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TRIUMPH • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • PAW PAW • LELAND • OHIO

101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2020 Chevy Equinox LT FWD



2020 Chevy Equinox LT FWD Midnight Edition, GM Certified, 1-owner, Local Trade, Leather, Heated Seats, Touchscreen Radio, Black & More!

\$24,900

2020 Chevy Tahoe LS, 4 WD, Silver.....	\$37,900	2019 Chevy Blazer RS AWD, Loaded, 33K Miles, White,	\$39,900
2020 Chevy Equinox LT, Midnight Edition, FWD, Leather, 36K Miles, Black ..	\$24,900		

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, Long Box, LT, 4x4, 101K Miles, Red.....	\$37,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LT, 99K Miles, Silver.....	\$28,900
2019 Chevy Suburban 4x4 LTZ, Loaded, 112K Miles, Brown.....	\$41,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD Premier, Loaded, Red, 92K Miles.....	\$18,900
2019 Chevrolet K-1500 Crew, LT 4x4, 85K Miles, White.....	\$31,900	2016 Chevy K10 Dble Cab, 4x4 Z71, Mdnt. Edt., Leather, 48K Miles, White.....	\$29,900
2019 Chevy 1500 Dbl Cab RST, 4WD, Z71, Gray.....	\$28,900	2016 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LT, Leather, 126K Miles, White	\$25,900

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CHEVROLET

509 HOUSES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOMS with garage. Franklin Grove area. No pets. 815-456-2453. (05-03-2023)

515 GARAGES FOR RENT

Mendota MULTIPLE
Garages for Rent
815-539-3747

INFORMATION

Office Hours:
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
Phone:
815-539-9396
Fax:
815-539-7862
Email:
jgriffith@mendotareporter.com
Address:
703 Illinois Ave., Mendota
Mail:
P.O. Box 300
Mendota IL 61342-0300

DEADLINES:

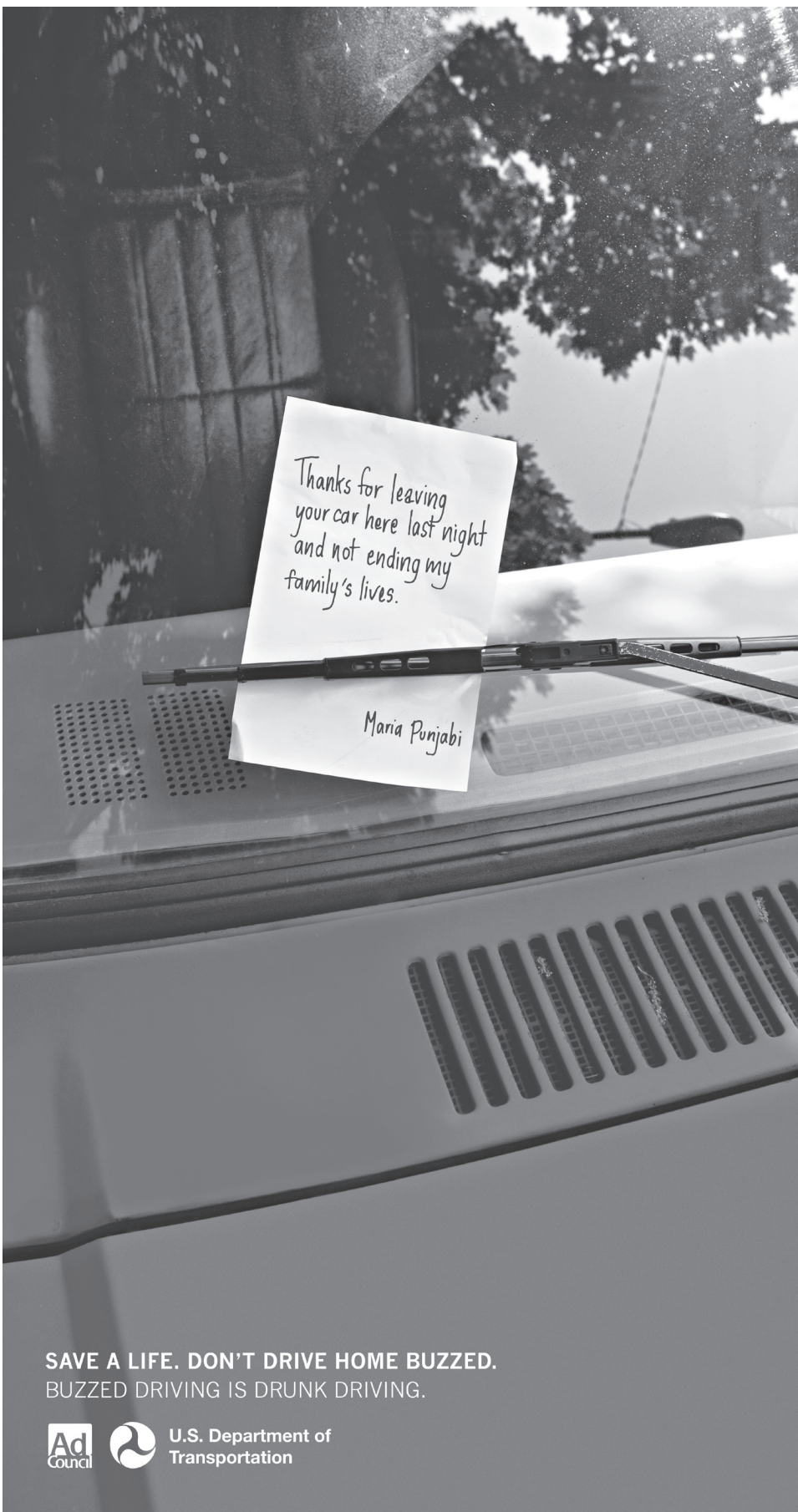
- Mondays at 10 a.m. to start in Wednesday Mendota Reporter
- Thursdays at 4 p.m. to start in Monday Money Saver

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 6 print publications and on 6 high-traffic newspaper websites:
• Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$15.99 for garage sale ads.

DISCLAIMER:

If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.



SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED.
BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.



U.S. Department of
Transportation

“EVERY MORNING MY HUMAN SHAVES OFF HIS FACE FUR, HE’S FUNNY LIKE THAT.”

-TUCK
adopted 05-04-11

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET

adopt
theshelterpetproject.org

REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

FEATURE HOME



909 Greenridge Ave., Earlville

\$135,000

MLS# 11742763 Loads of opportunity here! Currently used as a sewing center/consignment shop (consigners would stay) Very spacious with 2 half baths and a kitchen. Call McConville Realty for all the amenities.

McConville Realty & Auctioneering

612 S. Main St., Mendota

815-539-5673

McConville
REALTY & AUCTIONEERING

Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker

612 S. Main St., Mendota, IL

815-539-5673

E-mail: office@mcconvillerealty.com

mcconvillerealtymendota@gmail.com

Website: www.mcconvillerealty.com

Call one of our Agents to set up your private showing.

Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker
815-910-5673

Marty McConville, Broker 815-200-2233

Richard McConville, Broker 815-539-5673

Sharon Kimrey, Broker 815-343-3600

Melody Nanzer, Broker 815-228-2842



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Helping people find homes since 1983.

815-539-3811



1316 Lakewood Plaza

Rte. 251 N. • Mendota

Gloria Cogdal, Designated Managing Broker

Sally Corrigan, Broker - 815-830-8101



Rebecca McPheeters,
Designated Managing Broker



Town & Country
Realty

607 Sixth St.

Mendota

(815) 539-6635

www.tcrealtysales.net

Evening Phone Numbers

Becky McPheeters, Designated

Managing Broker 708-220-3338

Rita Lilja 815-539-92555

Jami Bauer 815-993-7751

Lori Munson 815-228-4852

CONTIGENT



621 S. Grant St South,
Earlville, IL \$109,900.

NEW LISTING. MLS# 1175475
Nice move in ready 2 bedroom home on a .69 acre lot inside the city. Well established older home neighborhood. Hardwood floors in some of the rooms and fresh paint throughout. Call McConville for a showing.



NEW LISTING!!!!!!

100 N. PERU STREET TROY GROVE
BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY WITH 20X48
STRUCTURE READY TO COMPLETE
FOR YOUR HOME! NEW SEPTIC, 200'
FT WELL, AND 200 AMP SERVICE!



PENDING!!!

1005 WASHINGTON STREET
MENDOTA
NICE 2 UNIT!

2 BUILDING LOTS!!!



408 5TH AVENUE MENDOTA \$18,000



15 ABBALLEE WAY MENDOTA
\$24,900

Inventory is LOW!
NOW is the Time to Sell!
We Have Buyers!

HIRE AN EXPERT!
GET THE BUZZ ON THE REAL ESTATE MARKET!



NEW LISTING!

WELCOME HOME! THIS IS IT! ENJOY LIVING IN THIS LARGE 2000 SQ FT HOME NEAR DOWNTOWN PERU. HOME FEATURES 4 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, 2 CAR GARAGE, FENCED IN BACKYARD, DECK AND SO MUCH MORE! ON THE FIRST FLOOR YOU'LL HAVE AMPLE SPACE WITH LIVING AREAS, FIREPLACE AND DINING SPACE. ENJOY ENTERTAINING IN THE LARGE KITCHEN WITH SS APPLIANCES. AT THE BACK DOOR YOU'LL FIND THE LAUNDRY AREA WITH LOTS OF STORAGE AREAS. BUT WAIT...THERE IS A FIRST FLOOR BEDROOM AND A FULL BATHROOM! HEAD ON UP THE CARPETED STAIRCASE TO THE 3 LARGE BEDROOMS AND FULL BATHROOM, LOTS OF LARGE CLOSET SPACES WITH SOME SHELVING AND BUILT INS. DON'T WAIT TO THIS ONE, IT WON'T LAST LONG! CALL US TODAY FOR YOUR PRIVATE SHOWING!

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS

WE CAN LET YOU KNOW THE
MARKET VALUE OF YOUR HOME.

JOE MCCONVILLE	815-910-5673
SHARON KIMREY	815-343-3600
MARTY MCCONVILLE	815-200-2233
MELODY NANZER	815-228-2842