

Young gymnast finds his true passion

□ Mendota native Trey Lee captures national championship in trampoline

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Trey Lee has had many interests and has been involved in as much as a schedule for a kid and a teenager allow.

The soon-to-be freshman at Mendota High School, who has home-schooled since third grade, races dirt bikes, plays other sports, is an alto and tenor saxophone player, has been introduced to 4-H and numerous other activities.

But none of them have stuck like the sport he began at 5 years old – gymnastics.

“It gave me something to do other than video games. I like doing it. It’s a lot of fun. I like gymnastics better than the other sports,” said Lee, who started gymnastics in Rochelle, went to lessons in La Salle and Peru, and has been improving his skills at Gymnastics Divine in Dixon for the last three years. “My double back (back tuck with a second rotation) is something I can actually do with ease, but I’ve had a back injury. I would like to do a rudi, a 1 ½ twist in a straight position. There is a full twist that’s a full turn straight in the air while doing a flip.”

Lee had his routines and moves mapped out close to perfection at the United States Trampoline & Tumbling Association’s (USTA) National Championships on June 13-18 at Lakeland, Fla.

The Mendota native performed on June 13-14 in three events – floor (finished fourth), double mini (second) and brought home a national championship in trampoline.

“It gave me something to do other than video games. I like doing it. It’s a lot of fun. I like gymnastics better than the other sports.”

–Trey Lee

“Most of the athletes that were at Nationals, I’ve seen before. There were a couple I haven’t competed against,” Lee said. “It sucked tumbling with my back being injured, but it was there, and I did my best. I did two warm-up passes, still competed, and earned fourth place out of six on floor. It’s fun to compete at a competition like Nationals and say I’m a national champion.”

“My coaches are great. Stephen Donnell from Illinois Valley Tumbling and Trampoline (IVTT) was with me at Nationals. He used to go to Gymnastics Divine when he was younger. He helped me a lot on the trampoline.”

Lee’s coaches at Gymnastics Divine are mother and son duo of Deb and Nick DeLancey as well as Deb’s husband Ted and Nick’s wife Cassandra.

The family team of gymnastic coaches have helped mold Lee into a national champion, but they couldn’t make Nationals because of family engagements.

Since Lee couldn’t compete without a coach, Donnell began working with the



Trey Lee of Mendota claimed the USTA national championship in the trampoline in June. (Photo contributed)

athlete and made the trip to Lakeland.

“I’ve known Trey for a couple of years, and I’ve seen him really grow and develop. I’m really impressed with how far he’s come in such a short time,” said Donnell, who is IVTT’s competition coach and the branch manager at the Mendota YMCA. “He has really grown as an athlete and he really loves the sport. He’s always wanting to push further and further.”

“The last couple of weeks leading to Nationals, getting to train with him, we had to make a few changes on his passes. He was dealing with a back injury. He handled it very well, was incredibly coachable, and came away a national champion.”

Donnell really helped Lee

in trampoline event because Lee’s normal gym doesn’t have a competition trampoline and the skill is one of Donnell’s specialties.

With the use of the Illinois Valley YMCA’s equipment and Donnell’s coaching, Lee was able to turn his trampoline skills into national championship form.

“At Illinois Valley Tumbling and Trampoline we do have a competition trampoline, and it’s been a strong program for us,” Donnell said. “There are some requirements at every level and some of the skills he had to fulfill those requirements weren’t working out very well. It wasn’t very smooth.”

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MHS music department plans trip to Disney World

□ Contributions accepted to fund trip

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – If you’re breathing and understand the English language, you’ve heard the saying, ‘It’s the most magical place on Earth.’

The saying has been used by millions of people for millions of different locations, but somehow it always links back to Disney.

The Mendota High School Music Program plans to take the Disney magic and pour all of Tinkerbell’s pixie dust into their music notes during its Spring Break music trip April 10-15, 2023 to Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

“Part of it was COVID-19 and we wanted to celebrate that we made it through the pandemic. But now it’s time to go,” said MHS Band Director Paula Baker. “Disney puts on a firework show every night and that’s what our kids deserve. There is a special spark with Disney.”

“When you’re trying to sell kids on a trip, it’s not always easy if you say, ‘We’re going to Cleveland, Ohio.’ But if you say ‘Disney World’, instantly their mind goes to magic. You add that spark of interest.”

This is the first voyage for the MHS music program since 2019 and the first trip Baker has been involved with as this fall marks her third year with the MHS band.

Baker knows about the history of Mendota’s band taking trips since the 1960s and the choir hitting the road since the 1980s and wants to keep the tradition going.

“Mendota has a pretty strong tradition of travel. They typically travel every two years as a band program and every two years as a choir program,” Baker said. “We are trying to maintain and regrow that. Part of the big transition is we’re going to maintain the every two years tradition, but we’re going to combine the band and choir together.”

See Trip, Page A4

Preparations continue for Aug. 12th Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant

□ Mendota H.S. band to provide pre-pageant entertainment

MENDOTA – Ten young women are busily preparing for this year’s Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant, which will be held on Friday, Aug. 12 beginning at 7:30 p.m. The pageant will take place on the First State Bank stage on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota.

Pre-pageant and intermission entertainment will feature the music of the Mendota High School Band, starting at 6:45 p.m.

Let’s introduce four more contestants in this year’s pageant.

The Mendota Business and Professional Women have selected Elizabeth Schillinger to represent them in this year’s pageant. She is the daughter of Jeff and

Cathy Schillinger. She has blonde hair and blue eyes, and is five feet, six inches tall.

Schillinger is a 2022 graduate of Mendota High School, where she was actively involved in several clubs and organizations. She was a four-year FFA student, and she held many leadership roles within the organization. She served as reporter, vice-president, president, and was the section treasurer. Furthermore, she earned the Senior Leadership Award and worked hard to obtain the Illinois FFA State Degree. In addition to FFA, Schillinger was a member of the band and was the trombone section leader. She also participated in show choir, Interact Club, and Academic Challenge. A

high honor student for four years, Schillinger held the office of secretary for the National Honor Society and is an Illinois State Scholar. Additionally, she received the Selbrede Physics Award and the LaSalle County Farm Bureau Scholarship.

This summer you might see Schillinger walking around corn and bean fields as a field scout for Northern Partners Coop. She scouts fields for bugs and diseases. In her spare time, she is a junior tae kwon do instructor and the owner of a pumpkin stand. She also enjoys painting, baking, reading, gardening, and tae kwon

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Candidates for the title of 2022 Sweet Corn Festival Queen, left to right, are Marisol Felix, Elizabeth Schillinger, Olivia Ross and Zoe Finley. (Photo contributed)



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LOCAL AND AREA

“Goody” Toraason retires from FSB

MENDOTA – After 46 years in the financial services industry, First State Bank wishes to announce the retirement of Goodwin (Goody) Toraason, EVP/Sr. Lending Officer. Throughout his tenure, the bank has grown from four branches to 19 through several acquisitions and new market growth. Toraason started his banking career in 1976 with the last 28 years with First State Bank. He has led and developed the Loan Department, served on the Executive team as well as the Board of Directors.

Toraason has been heavily involved in his community over the years. He was Charter President of the Illinois Valley Sunrise Rotary, served on the YMCA Board, was the President

of the IV Chamber of Commerce, a board member for St. Bede Academy, and was a Peru Catholic basketball coach for many years. He is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren, visiting family, traveling, golfing, walking and fishing.

As Toraason embarks on retirement, First State Bank salutes him for an outstanding career in the financial services industry. “I want to thank Goody for his tremendous contributions to the success and growth First State Bank has achieved during his time here. His retirement is well deserved,” stated Tim McConville, President/CEO. Toraason’s



last day with First State Bank will be Friday, July 29.

First State Bank is a \$1.4 billion community bank committed to providing value-added offerings, backed by exceptional service to the local communities it serves. It does so by providing a combination of cutting edge banking products and conveniences and also employing local professionals who take the time to get to know each customer’s banking needs on an individual basis. First State Bank has 19 locations throughout North Central Illinois. For more information, visit First State Bank’s website at firststatebank.biz.

South Shore Drill Team returns to the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival

MENDOTA – Headliners of Mendota’s Sweet Corn Festival Parade, the South Shore Drill Team, will perform in the Fest’s Grand Parade on Sunday, Aug. 14, slated to step off at 1 p.m. The electrifying group will also display their unique dancing skills during a post-parade performance at approximately 3:30 p.m. in front of the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Founded in 1980 with a handful of neighborhood children, South Shore Drill Team now serves 300 young people ages 8-21, who perform at more than 100 events annually. In addition to their unique style of march, South Shore, has a wide repertoire of dance, including classical and contemporary music, gospel, hip hop, jazz and modern dance, which are all

part of its Performing Arts Training Program.

Their mission is to use the performing arts to engage inner-city youth throughout their critical teenage years, mitigate the dangers of gangs, drugs, and violence, and guide members toward completing their education and becoming responsible citizens. Members also learn teamwork and self-discipline.

The team’s focus has always been on education. Students are required to be in good standing, their grades are monitored, and through their Education Support Program, receive tutoring if necessary. Despite the fact that the majority of members come from schools where the drop-out rate is as high as 55%, the Team sees 99% of its members graduate

with their class. Nearly all go on to college or technical school, breaking the cycle of poverty.

The South Shore Drill Team has no try-outs, everyone is welcome to join. Team members belong to the Big Guard, ages 16-24, who are the seasoned performers; the Ladies of South Shore, 40% of its members are young women; the Cadets, 12- to 15-year olds, who are members of either Cadet Rifles or Cadet Girls; American Flag Section, who have been with the team two years or more and working their way up; and Pee Wees, the team’s youngest performers, who charm audiences everywhere they go. Team members work hard and are committed to performing their very best.

Welcome to the Chamber



Power Care Rehabilitation became an official Mendota business and a member of the Mendota Chamber of Commerce as rehabilitation manager, Ellaine De Guzman (center), cut the ribbon in celebration. Joining her from the Chamber were (left to right) Jesse Arellano, Lee Stocking, Linda Hessenberger, Kelly Becker, Kelly Lewis, Emily McConville, Michelle Barkman, Luke O’Brien, Shelby Weide, Erin Lauer, and Christin Atherton.

SCF Beer garden bands announced

MENDOTA – Mendota’s annual Sweet Corn Festival weekend of fun, food and entertainment will have afternoon entertainment in the beer garden on Friday, Aug. 12 with the energetic band, ‘The Valley Katz,’ courtesy of Ken Otterbach Excavating.

They will take to the beer garden stage from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. with a rockin’ style you are sure to dig. Their style, rockabilly/rock, features covers by Elvis, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Brian Setzer and many more.

This group of very talented veteran musicians includes Gary Masters, lead singer; Rick Topolski, bass and vocals; and Pat Egan, guitar and vocals.

‘Written Warning’ will take the beer garden stage on Friday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. They are being brought to the Festival by Rosati’s & Euclid Beverage. The beer garden will be in the 800 block of Main Street.

Classic Rock ‘n Roll from the 70s & 80s with a little twist mixed with some of today’s music is ‘Written Warning’s’ trademark. Bring your dancing shoes because you will know every song. The band features Mendota graduate Steve Westerman, guitar, vocals; Chad Taylor, saxophone, vocals; Al Shupp, bass, vocals; and Tom Zawacki, drums, vocals.

‘Abbynormal’ will perform at the beer garden on

Saturday, Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m. They are being brought to the Festival by ADM Grain, G & M Distributors & Rosati’s Pizza Pub of Mendota.

From pop to classic rock to alternative to heavy to modern country, with flavors of acoustic rock and blues thrown in for fun, ‘Abbynormal’ offers something for everyone while still having a very unique and identifiable sound.

Great, soulful lead vocals of award-winning vocalist Wes Schmidt, innovative percussion by Kevin Cummings, skillful and wide-ranged guitar work by Craig Peek, with the veteran backbone of Rick Powell on bass and keyboards, and Kevin Stiles on drums, make ‘Abbynormal’ a can’t-miss act.

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LOCAL AND AREA

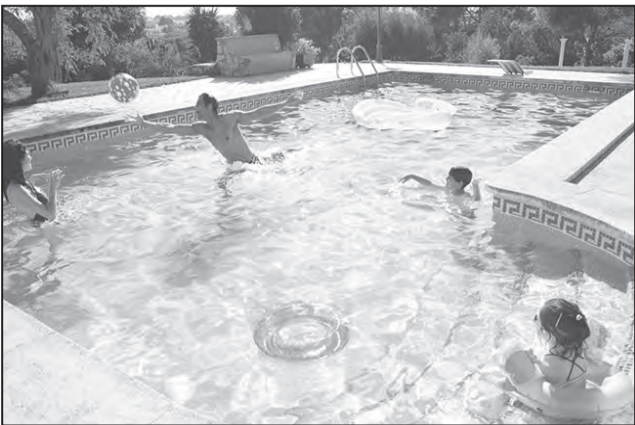
Reminder to practice water safety in and around pools

SPRINGFIELD – As the summer heat continues in Illinois, pools are a favorite destination for many to cool off. It’s important to follow all posted rules and pay attention to any children when around bodies of water. The number of pools installed in backyards drastically increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning adults need to be extra vigilant to protect any children who have access to the water. It is also essential to take proper steps to keep pools secured and restrict access to prevent injuries and drownings from occurring. “It’s important to keep all gates closed and the area around pools secure when you are not using them to prevent an accident from occurring. If you or your neighbors have children, talk to them about safety in

and around pool areas. Let them know the pool is off limits without an adult nearby,” said Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson.

According to the American Red Cross, 69% of young children who are found drowned or submerged in swimming pools were not expected to be in or at the pool. For children younger than 5, 87% of drowning fatalities happen in home pools or hot tubs.

Each day, approximately two children under 15 years old die from drowning. Children ages 1–4 have the highest drowning rates, and most happen in swimming pools. Drowning can happen anytime, particularly when children gain unsupervised access to pools. Fatal drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury death behind motor vehicle



crashes for children ages 1–14 according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Pool chemicals, like chlorine, are needed to protect swimmers’ health. However, mishandling pool chemicals can cause serious injuries. Pool chemical injuries lead to about 4,500 U.S. emergency department visits each year, and over one-third of these preventable injuries are in

children or teens.

The USA Swimming Foundation, in collaboration with the CPSC’s Pool Safety campaign, between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2019, reported at least 150 children younger than age 15 fatally drowned in swimming pools or spas, which is up by two drownings from 2018. The U.S. Swimming Foundation statistics show formal

swimming lessons reduces the likelihood of childhood drowning by 88%.

Here are some simple steps to keep children safer in and around the water:

- Install a four-sided fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate around all pools and spas.
- Check to make sure the gate is locked or closed when leaving the pool or spas.
- Keep the pool and deck clear of floats, balls, and toys after leaving the pool.
- Always ensure children swim with an adult or buddy.
- Designate an adult Water Watcher to supervise children at all times around the water. Stay off your phone, put your book down, and pay attention to whoever is in or around the water!
- Never leave a child unattended in or near water.
- Learn how to swim

and teach your child how to swim.

- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults.
 - Teach children to stay away from pool drains, pipes, and other openings to avoid entrapments.
 - Ensure any pool or spa has drain covers that comply with federal safety standards. If you are unsure, ask your pool service provider about safer drain covers.
 - If you are installing a new pool, hot tub, or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirement for these types of installations.
 - Empty or flip over inflatable pools when you are finished using them for the day.
- Take the Pool Safety Pledge by visiting: www.poolsafety.gov/pledge.

Sweet Corn Festival T-shirts available

MENDOTA – The 2022 Sweet Corn Festival T-shirts have arrived and are ready for purchase at the Mendota Chamber office prior to the Festival.

The design was created and printed by Matt Marquis of 4M Graphix in Mendota. This year’s shirt is a cotton/poly blend and is available in purple. The five-color screen printed design features a block number 75 with ears

of corn within it, the words “SweetCornFestival” appear across top, and “75th Annual Mendota 2022 embedded in the Steam Engine in the middle of the shirt.”

The major sponsors are printed in white ink on the back of the shirts.

Both youth and adult sizes are available for purchase. Youth sizes are \$15 and are available in sizes XS –YL. Adult shirts, both men’s and

women’s, are \$17, men’s 3x-5x \$20, women’s 2x \$20. Adult sizes S – 5XL are available. Ladies cut T’s are also available S - 2XL. Ladies Tank Tops can also be purchased. They will be a plum color and range in size from S – XL.

When the Festival opens on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m., the shirts will be for sale at the Festival Info Booth on Washington Street.

Hoops 3-on-3 Tournament offers four divisions

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival on Aug. 11-14, has announced the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will return to the 2022 festival.

The tournament will offer four different age divisions: ages 8-11, ages 12-14, ages

15-17, and ages 18 and older. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at Strouss Park, 1100 Meriden St. Competition begins at 9 a.m.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Office or by visiting www.sweetcornfestival.com There is a \$15 entry fee per player,

made payable to the Mendota Lions Club.

The entry deadline is Monday, Aug. 8 by 4 p.m. All players registered by Monday, Aug. will be guaranteed to receive a Sweet Corn Festival Basketball T-shirt. For more information, contact the Chamber Office at 815-539-6507.

Busiest roadside mowing period underway, planned to grow, protect pollinator habitat

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public that the busiest roadside mowing period is underway, requiring drivers to slow down, avoid all distractions and proceed with caution when encountering equipment and personnel. The heaviest mowing operations will continue until Aug. 15, a schedule that helps maximize motorist safety and protect pollinator habitat.

“As one of the state’s largest landowners, we take great responsibility in keeping our roadsides maintained during the summer as well as doing our part to protect the environment,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “But we need

the public’s cooperation. Anticipate seeing large equipment and workers during the day. Reduce your speed, drop the devices and drive extra carefully.”

During the summer, IDOT conducts two primary types of mowing. Safety mowing occurs directly adjacent to the road as needed. Maintenance mowing, which lasts for approximately six weeks starting July 1, includes areas next to culverts, ditches, traffic control devices and other structures and follows the Illinois Monarch Project Mowing Guidelines for Pollinators, protecting as much habitat and nectar resources as possible.

The mowing schedule helps to encourage pollinator activity, which assists in

the reproduction of flowers, fruits and vegetables, essential to the health of the state’s ecosystem and economy. Reducing the amount of land maintained and growing pollinator habitat also protects the endangered rusty patched bumble bee and the monarch butterfly, the official state insect of Illinois.

To view a short video about IDOT’s mowing schedules and its work with pollinators, visit IDOT’s YouTube channel.

In 2020, IDOT joined in the launch of the Illinois Monarch Action Plan as part of the Illinois Monarch Project, a collaborative effort to help ensure the survival and successful migration of monarchs by increasing and protecting habitat.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Jerroll K. Swope

COMPTON — Jerrold “Jerry” K. Swope, 76, of Compton, passed away July 22, 2022 at Heritage Health, Mendota.

Funeral services will be Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Ken Foster officiating. Burial will be in Melugin Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday, July 27 from 4-7 p.m. in the funeral home.

Jerrold was born Dec. 31, 1945 in Compton to Wendell and Elizabeth (Kehm) Swope. He was married to the mother of his children, Constance “Connie” Yenerich for 31 years and never remarried. She survives.

Jerry is survived by his daughter Michelle Borell-Morris of Compton; his son Mark Swope of West Brooklyn; sister Marilyn “Toots” Ehlers of Princeton; two brothers, Donald “Doc” Swope of Compton and



Marvin “Butch” Swope of Michigan; three grandchildren, Bryan (Andrea) Borell, Kayli Borell and Zachary Borell; and four great-grandchildren, Bradley Borell, Nicole Borell, Emersyn Borell and Wyatt Adams.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister Lavila Archer and a brother Elroy Swope.

Jerrold was a member of Mendota High School FFA. He graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1963. He was a member of Lee County Farm Bureau. He raised hogs and farmed in the West Brooklyn and Compton area. He was a deputy and detective for the Lee County Sheriff’s Department. He was owner/operator of Swope Trucking and was a Brooklyn Township Road Commissioner for 12 years. He was a member of Mendota Elks Lodge and Mendota Moose Lodge. Jerrold was one of the people that if you met him once you’d never forget him with distinctive hearty laugh. He was very well known and always had a story to tell and was a big kid at heart.

Memorials may be directed to the Compton Fire Department. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Nancy L. Roulston

TROY GROVE — Nancy Lee (Terzick) Roulston, 68, of Troy Grove, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, July 22, 2022 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

Funeral services will be Friday, July 29, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Cameron Graper officiating. Burial will be in Troy Grove Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be Thursday, July 28 from 4-7 p.m. in the funeral home.

Nancy was born April 6, 1954 in Spring Valley. She was the daughter of Jack and Joan (Staats) Terzick.

She had nine siblings, Cindy Terzick, Kenneth Terzick, Michael (Terri) Terzick, Jackie “Cookie” (Moe) Manicki, Beverly (Dennis) Baker, Karen “Susie” Terzick, Joanie (Jack) Krizer, Jim (Brenda) Savage and Debbie (John) Graper.

She is survived by her husband, Edward Paul Roulston. Nancy was blessed to have three children, Jessica (Keith) Franklin, Heather (Chad) Egler and Josh (Shelby Edgcomb) Roulston. She cherished her nine grandchildren, Lauren Stombaugh, Nolan Stombaugh, Connor Egler, Colton Egler, Kaelyn Franklin, Alyssa Franklin, Sydney Franklin, Braden Franklin and Carter Franklin. Chelsea (Tanner) Schwartzbach and Rebecca (Andrew Carter) Weide she



also considered her grandchildren. Also a great-grandchild Laine Andrew Kellen (parents Lauren Stombaugh and Erick Kellen) and Benjamin Andrew Carter (parents Rebecca Weide and Andrew Carter) who she looked at as great grandchild. Also, two pending great-grandchildren are on the way.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Kenny, Michael and Jim Terzick; and three sisters, Cindy Terzick, Jackie “Cookie” Manicki and Karen “Susie” Ryba.

She was employed in the food industry in Mendota such as Taco Bell, Hardee’s, The Kitch-Inn, Sullivan’s, and Pinks Pantry in Peru. The last eight years she worked at Mendota High School and retired from there in May of 2022.

She was a 1974 graduate of LaSalle-Peru High School. She was a member of Ax Church of LaSalle, Mendota Elks Lodge and the Women of the Moose. She enjoyed spending time with friends, bowling at the Elks and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchild. Whenever someone had a birthday she enjoyed baking cakes for everyone and anyone she knew. From tying to crocheting blankets for all the new babies to making salads and baking pies, she enjoyed bringing joy to people’s lives. She was an avid Chicago Bears, White Sox and Bulls fan.

She will be remembered for her heart of gold. That smile that would instantly bring you joy as soon as you saw her. How strong she was for herself and everyone around her. “Get over it,” she would say, “I’m fine.”

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

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Trip

Continued from Page A1

“This way, we can have more people performing and have more opportunities for performances. It’s more fun when you travel with a bigger group of people. It’s also going to get more kids involved.”

Some of the benefits of having the two sections become one outside of Mendota is they won’t be fundraising for four small trips, but one medium/large-sized trip where the students could be gone for 5-7 days every two years, gives more people the opportunity to travel, and it doesn’t hit the charge card as hard.

Once the Disney trip was announced, the MHS band and choir students have been as excited (Ok, more) than Baker and James Younger, the MHS choir director, have been to plan, organize, and make the magic happen.

“The buzz has been great. I think there is so much energy being generated by just the students alone in the sense some of them have never left the state before,” Baker said. “This is an opportunity to do that in a very safe fashion of travel. The kids will be taken care of as we’ll make sure they’re feed, clothed, and they’ll have a place to bathe. Parents can trust we’re going to take care of their kid.

“For some kids this may be the biggest trip they take for a long portion of their life. Some of them recognize that this is a big opportunity for them to grow. Maybe for some kids it’s their first time away from home, ever. It’s kind of scary for some of them, but very exciting as well as they’ve put a lot of faith and trust in our music programs.

“The kids are pumped. They’re jumping at fundraising opportunities. They’re showing up for extra rehearsals. They’re becoming leaders and organizing their own fundraisers. They’re just finding ways to engage in the spirit of getting ready for a trip.”

Baker and Younger will not only treat the students like their own trip while at Disney, they’ve already started in the planning process.

Fundraising is always a tough assignment and calls for a lot of responsibility.

For this trip, which roughly equals \$1,500 per student, a lot of the fundraising has been put in the student’s hands (with guidance and assistance of course) as the music program will run

concession stands, hold a Halloween carnival the week before Halloween, and there is a Foundation Drive.

The idea behind the carnival is to involve the community, offer a safe way to leave with bags full of candy, it’s indoor where the sometimes-gloomy October weather won’t interfere, and everyone can have fun wearing a costume.

The Foundation Drive is asking for larger donations in the sense that they’re creating a foundation of finances that we can help pay our students who are putting in extra hours with private lessons for younger kids, students who are organizing the music library, students working extra hours for the choir or the band.

Baker said they would have funds to pull and help them pay for their trip, which helps the young musicians feel they’re helping for the trip in a fair and honest way.

“The music boosters have organized where they’re going to incentivize kids working and fundraising. We are actually giving them a small hourly wage when they fundraise for us,” Baker said. “Some kids don’t have an opportunity to have a side job or their parents don’t have the means to put aside for the trip, so we offer these fundraising opportunities where they can work the concession stand.

“With that, we can pay a little bit of money toward their trip.”

While at Disney, the students will see Mickey Mouse and the rest of the iconic characters, but they will also experience a new dimension of music as they will work behind the scenes with a Disney musician on Disney songs not released to the public.

The Disney trip will also go outside of Disney as MHS will spend time at Cocoa Beach on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and Universal Studios.

Younger, a 1992 Mendota graduate who took trips to New Orleans, New York City, Toronto, and Disney World with the band, believes traveling while in high school opens up students’ eyes and ears to aspects of music they never knew existed.

“I think a musical ensemble ability is built upon the bond between its musicians. It requires trust and listening between the musicians and between the musicians and the directors,” said Younger who taught music at Blackstone and Lincoln for seven

years and Northbrook for the last seven years before accepting the MHS choir director position beginning this fall. “When you take a trip, you’re traveling together and putting students in positions where they have to communicate with each other. They have to live with each other and it’s going to create strength in the ensemble. Not just for the rest of that year but for the upcoming year.

“Another thing great about traveling is how to respond to audiences that are not your home audience. How we respond to our audience is a big part of how a musician performs. When the audience includes all of your family and friends, they’re always going to respond positively and supportively. Getting in front of an audience that’s new, let’s our young musicians have a different experience. They learn how to play to their audience. It’s a growth opportunity for them to put them out of their element.

“I see kids grow a lot with their confidence and their independence after a trip like this. They realize they can function away from home. They can be in a new place, enjoy it, and thrive.”

Younger agrees with Baker that Disney is a perfect place for the music program to restart the travels as everyone will find something they enjoy, Disney gives a lot of different opportunities in terms of different performances, venues, and clinics, and everything is available at one spot.

And once the students take the trip, enjoy, learn, and grow as musicians, they’ll bring their Disney experience right back to the ears of the community.

“I’m so grateful for the community and its support of what we do in the school with music,” Baker said. “The parents and the family members that are part of the program as well, James Younger and I are so thankful to have a supportive administration, community, and families.

“We see with this community so much growth in the fine arts department, which helps create such well-balanced students in our schools. Even people showing up to listen to our kids play and sing, we love that.”

If anyone would like to make a contribution to help fund the music department’s trip, call 815-539-7446 for more information.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Pageant

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do, and her major interests include plants, music, and science.

This fall, Schillinger plans on attending Purdue University to get a bachelor's degree in plant sciences. She plans on becoming a plant researcher and to work for a company that would contribute to the development of crops. She hopes to play a part in creating a more sustainable and better future.

The Mendota Garden Club has selected Zoe Finley as its queen candidate. She is the daughter of Adam and Carrie Finley. She is five feet, four inches tall and has brown hair and hazel green eyes.

A 2022 graduate of Mendota High School, Finley played tennis and softball for four years. She also participated in Interact Club and was a member of the band for four years. She was a high honor roll student and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Finley is working at the Olive Garden this summer as a waitress, where she is dedicated to providing excellent customer service. When she isn't working, she will be spending time poolside with her siblings and her dog. Finley also enjoys fishing, reading, yoga, gardening, cooking, traveling, scrapbooking, listening to country music, and learning about economics. In addition, she likes art, going to concerts, exploring new places, and walking her dog.

Finley will be attending Illinois Valley Community College in the fall where she plans to study marketing. While enrolled at IVCC, she will play softball for the Lady Eagles. After two years at

IVCC, she plans to transfer to a four-year university to pursue a degree in marketing.

Marisol Felix has been chosen to represent Mendota VFW Post #4079 in this year's pageant. She is the daughter of Manuel and Martina Felix. Standing five feet, seven inches tall, Felix has dark brown hair and brown eyes.

Felix graduated from Mendota High School in 2022. During her time at MHS, she was a member of the volleyball team for two years and the soccer team for four years. She was a six-semester honor roll student, and she was also awarded the Hispanic Business Ownership Scholarship as well as the Mendota Business and Professional Women's Scholarship.

This summer, Felix is working at the YMCA in Mendota as a child care program instructor. She will be assisting with the children's sports programs and providing care for the children enrolled in the programs. In the evenings, Felix likes to work out and paint, both of which she finds very relaxing. She also enjoys cooking with her mom and gardening at home. She finds documentaries about inventions and how they were created to be very intriguing. Felix, who is interested in mental and physical health, considers herself to be very patient and understanding.

In the fall, Felix will be attending Illinois Valley Community College to pursue an associate degree in science. After graduating from IVCC, she intends to transfer to a university to pursue a physical therapy degree. She is committed to

helping others to improve their lives in the future.

Olivia Ross has been selected to represent the Mendota Golf Club in the queen pageant. She is the daughter of Kirk and Kathy Ross. Standing five feet, eight inches tall, she has brown hair and blue eyes.

A 2022 graduate of Mendota High School, Ross was a member of the bowling team, the show choir, the Madrigal singers, and the All-State Chorus. She was also active in concert band and jazz band. She fulfilled a leadership role for the marching band, serving as the drum major, and she was a John Becker Memorial Award recipient. Ross is a member of both the National Honor Society, for which she acted as secretary, and the Spanish National Honor Society. In addition, she was a high honor student and an Illinois State Scholar.

This summer you might find Ross making your favorite cup of coffee at Starbucks, where she enjoys interacting with the customers. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, traveling, practicing her guitar, and taking her dogs for walks. She also likes to spend time with her family and friends. Her areas of interest include learning about music, wildlife conservation, and mental-health awareness.

Ross plans on attending the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign this fall to seek a bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis on developmental and child psychology. Her eventual goal is to earn a doctorate in developmental psychology and to practice as a child psychologist in an urban setting.



Students from a previous Ottawa Center CNA class practice CPR. The Ottawa Center will offer several CNA course sections this fall. (Photo contributed)

IVCC expands Ottawa Center fall courses

OTTAWA – Fall course offerings have been expanded at Illinois Valley Community College's Ottawa Center at 321 W. Main St.

Courses include Human Growth and Development, several sections of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Global Environment, Principles of Microeconomics, English Composition I and II, General Psychology, Marriage and

Family, and Fundamentals of Speech.

Ottawa Center's downtown location is a convenient option for students residing on the east side of the district. Parking is available in the rear of the facility, just steps from classrooms.

The Center's comprehensive services include tuition payment, registration, counseling, library pick-up and return, bookstore order

pick-up, career services, tutoring in math and writing, financial aid counseling by appointment, disability services on Tuesdays by appointment, and placement testing.

IVCC's fall semester begins Monday, Aug. 15. Visit www.ivcc.edu/ottawa-center or call Ottawa Center coordinator Jeannette Frahm at (815) 224-0800 for information.

Lee Co. conducts traffic campaign

DIXON – The Lee County Sheriff's Office made no impaired driving arrests and issued one seat belt citation during the recent Fourth of July "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" safety campaigns. Sheriff's deputies also issued the following:

Four speeding citations; one distracted driving citation; one stop sign violation citation; one uninsured motorist citation; one unlicensed driver citation; three citations for other moving violations; one wanted person arrest; eight warnings for other traffic violations

The Lee County Sheriff's Office joined forces with more than 200 other state and local law enforcement agencies to get drunk and drugged drivers off our roads, encourage seat belt use, and enforce speeding and other traffic laws. The effort featured high-visibility enforcement combined with a variety of outreach activities.

Gymnast

Continued from Page A1

"We changed some things around and changed skills on him at the last second. He handled it really well. It's always fun when you get an athlete as talented and eager as Trey. It's kind of easy to say, 'Let's do this,' 'Let's try that,' 'Have you ever thought of this.' They say, 'OK, let's do it' and that's exactly what happened with Trey the two weeks before Nationals."

Lee isn't new to big competitions.

At the 2021 Junior Olympics, the flexible teen was the double mini champion, finished second in single mini and floor, and was fifth in trampoline. He was also awarded a second-place medal for the intermediate tumbling team award.

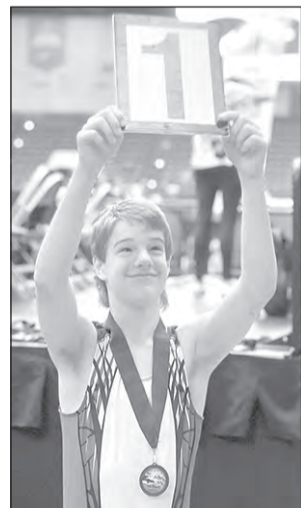
At the 2021 USTA Nationals in Rochester, Minn., Lee was second in double mini and third in floor.

Throughout the entire journey from 5 years old to a national champion, mother Julie Lee and the rest of the family have been rooting in Trey's corner.

"When he started in the very beginning, his coach at the time told me that Trey was very flexible, and gymnastics may be something you want to keep him involved with," Julie Lee said. "He never lost the interest, while his two older brothers – Noah (19) and Landon (16) – decided dirt bike racing was more interesting."

"We had the conversation when his sister (Brooke, 21) went to Iowa State University. He got to go along and be a part of their juniors (a camp for younger kids while college kids and parents tour the campus) and spent the day in their activities. They kept him busy and he got to see their gym."

"He was like, 'I could come here and do gymnastics.' I told him, 'You can go anywhere as long as the school has gymnastics.' When he said that at 8, that was pretty exciting. It was an eye opener, enlightening, for him to know that gymnastics



is not just at the places around us that he's taken to on a weekly basis. Now, he trains two days a week to improve."

Since the memorable ISU moment, Julie has seen her youngest child blossom in gymnastics.

Although he is still involved in other sports, hobbies, and interests, Julie knows Trey's flexibility, athleticism, understanding of his body, and his passion for the sport pushes gymnastics past the rest.

"He enjoys racing motorcycles, but I think gymnastics is more his niche. He still enjoys riding with his family, but gymnastics is his niche where he excels," Julie said. "As long as he doesn't go into auto pilot and focuses on the floor, I think he could do anything."

"I've been asked by friends and family if he will take it to another level. We were told by Nick DeLancey that he has the potential to be an elite athlete and right now is the time for him to make that focus and make that choice."

"Landon has been very supportive when need be. He does take Trey to the gym when I can't due to work. He does an amazing job there. Brooke has been supportive, and Noah has been to a couple of meets. He thinks it's cool and can't believe what Trey can do."

"I send Noah videos and he says, 'That's not my brother.' Nope, he just has a costume on. I think they're all pretty impressed."

The boy's father, Kevin Lee, is also involved and supports their activities including Trey's gymnastic adventures.

"I've known Trey for a couple of years, and I've seen him really grow and develop. I'm really impressed with how far he's come in such a short time."

—Steve Donnell

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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA Ill. Press Assoc./No. Ill. Newspaper Assoc.

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Letters to the editor should be typed or handprinted. 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.

A different cuisine in Iceland

By Scott Reeder

“If you eat horsemeat, Daddy, I’m going to throw-up right in front of you.”

So decreed my 14-year-old daughter this month as we sat across from one another in a restaurant in Iceland.

I’d never tasted horseflesh before. But over the years I’ve written quite a bit about the debate in the Illinois General Assembly on whether to outlaw horse slaughter. Fifteen years ago, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed the legislation ending the practice.

I’ve long been curious: “What exactly does horsemeat taste like?”

I grew up on a hog farm. My father was a farmer and a livestock veterinarian. And I showed cattle at fairs, knowing that eventually they would end up on someone’s dinner plate. And mind you, those calves were companions. They came when they were called, loved to be petted and were taught to walk beside me better than any dog I’ve ever taken on a leash.

I can remember eating steaks at the dinner table with my folks and my dad would ask for the platter of meat by saying, “Pass Charlie over here, would you please?” Yep, our food had names.

When you are a farmer, you live close to what you eat.

The waitress who stood over me in the Icelandic restaurant cooed, “You have to try horse, sir. It is three times more tender than beef and it tastes so good.”

At this point, my three daughters were eyeing me suspiciously. And my wife and sister-in-law wouldn’t make eye contact. I picked up the menu and pointed to an item on the menu and gave the server a nod. She smirked.

“What did you order, Daddy?”

“I ordered a tenderloin.”

When covering the Illinois horse slaughter debate, I was perplexed. At the time, state Rep. Bob Molaro said horses should be protected because they are beautiful. (So are deer but you’ll find plenty of venison in area freezers.)

For that matter, sheep look adorable, but I enjoy lamb chops.

With the swipe of Blagojevich’s pen in 2007, 40 people at the DeKalb slaughterhouse lost their jobs and the market for old or otherwise unwanted horses dried up in the Prairie State. Unfortunately, many horses suffered in the wake of the passage of this law.

Owners quit paying their stable rent, leaving stable owners with the unwanted animals. Irresponsible farmers allowed unwanted horses to wander away.

Shortly after the law passed, Riverton farmer Randy Krone adopted an elderly horse found wandering in Sangamon County. The owner said he didn’t want it anymore.

“Of course, the responsible thing to do if you are horse owner is to make sure the animal is put down humanely. But not everyone is responsible. When the slaughter plant closed in Illinois an affordable option was eliminated. Some people just allowed their horse to wander away. There were reports of people letting horses loose in Shawnee National Forest.”

For a veterinarian to euthanize a horse, the cost is about \$175, an Illinois equine practitioner said. And then it can cost an additional \$200 for a backhoe operator to bury the carcass. If cremation services are sought it can cost another \$400.

Even a few years ago, when the United States had three horse slaughterhouses (one in Illinois and two in Texas) none of the meat was for domestic human consumption. Some was used for dog food and the remainder was exported to Europe and Japan where horse meat is routinely eaten.

When legislation forced those plants to close, more American horses were shipped to Mexico and Canada for slaughter.

The Illinois law is an example of legislation grounded not in public policy but in sentiment. The bill passed because of a cultural taboo. American workers lost their jobs and mostly elderly horses had longer rides to foreign abattoirs. Others remained behind and suffered from abandonment.

Sitting in the Icelandic restaurant waiting for my meal, I didn’t know what to expect.

Whenever I travel overseas, I like to try cuisine not readily available at home. In the Caribbean I ate goat. (Loved it.) In Latin America I ate tripe, a stew made from cattle stomachs. (It was offal.)

My dad would give a little anatomy lesson with each spoonful, telling where in the digestive track each morsel originated.

Growing up, he taught us not to exhibit prejudices against foods because of their origins. He brought this lesson home when I’d help him castrate cattle. The testicles would be taken back to the house, battered up and fried for dinner. We’d dine on something only an hour or two earlier we’d seen hanging on the backside of a bull. (I never had a problem with the origins of “mountain oysters,” just with their taste.)

So, what would horsemeat be like? I was anxious to find out.

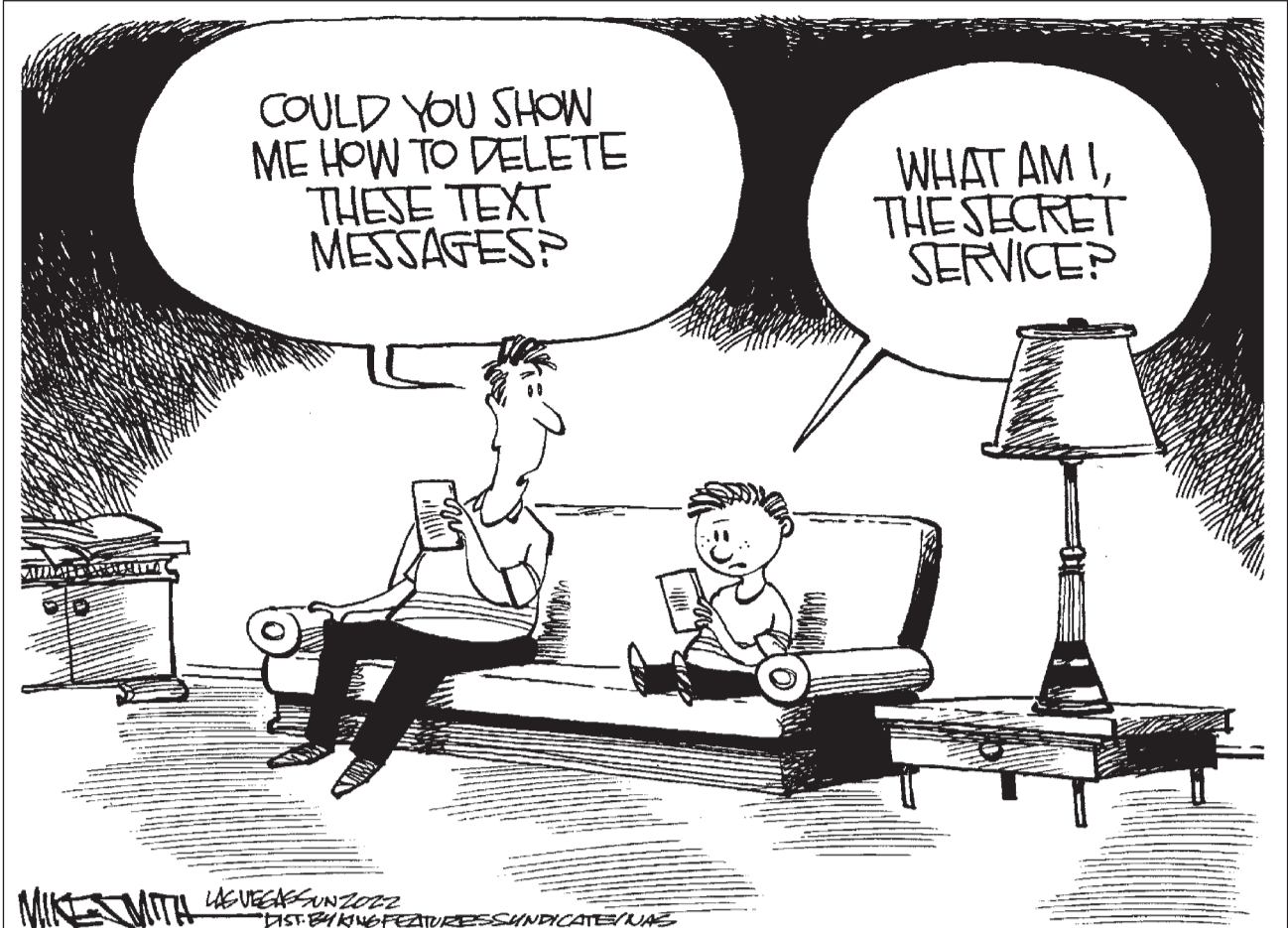
The server came out and placed the plate before me and announced, “Here’s your ‘beef’ tenderloin sir.” She didn’t wink when she said “beef,” but with the inflection of her voice she might as well have.

So how was it? It was fabulous – one of the best cuts of meat I’ve ever tasted. It was more tender than any steak I’ve eaten. And the flavor, while similar to beef, was sweeter and just a bit gamier.

A couple of days after that delicious meal, I was riding horses with my family in the backcountry of Iceland. The trail boss rode beside me and remarked, “You seem to have a special bond with your horse.”

I couldn’t help but smile and think, “Yes I do, don’t believe the neigsayers.”

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



CB&Q readies new freight house – 1899

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from July 28, 1999.)

By Jessica Nashold

A hundred years ago, the new CB&Q freight house was nearing completion. For some reason, dirt “fill” was needed and temporary tracks were laid to bring dirt to the site. It was loaded at Princeton by machinery and brought to Mendota where a “force of men” unloaded and conveyed the dirt in wheelbarrows to the places where needed. They expected to fill it to a depth of five feet.

Louis Waldorf was preparing to let the contract for a new store and office building on the southwest corner of Illinois and Jefferson. Veit Schneider planned to build, facing Illinois Avenue, on the lot adjoining Waldorf’s to the south. In order to keep the fronts of the two buildings “harmonious,” Waldorf’s architect volunteered to draw up plans for the Schneider building without charge.

Mendota’s new filter beds were completed and the bills paid. An accounting of the entire sewer project was published:

Sewerage in city - \$17,398

Extension - \$2,547

Land for Filter Beds - \$3,425

Filter Beds - \$9,382

Engineer - \$850

TOTAL - \$33,602

On the evening of July 17, 1899, city officials, accompanied by several citizens, chartered a bus and drove to the filter beds to view the work. They were quite satisfied. The Sun & Mendota Bulletin added –

Contractors Barry & Welsch have the thanks of the taxpayers for their acceptable work.

On July 19, 1899, 192 tickets were sold to carry passengers from Mendota to Glen Park for the annual picnic of Odd Fellow and Woodmen lodges. There was barely standing room and at Earlville, 200 additional passengers could not be accommodated.

The train came back for them later.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

It was observed that the next time there was an excursion, the Burlington would do well to send more coaches.

A new building to accommodate cancer and “other” patients was opened at the county asylum. It was a two-story brick, 30x30, and cost \$3,594

T&H Colwell had the contract.

Crops showed great promise in July 1899. Corn was declared “safe,” even if there was no more rain. If this proved to be a bumper crop, it would be the fourth one in a row.

This is indeed a wonderful country.

The grocery clerks of Mendota had been trying to get stores to close at seven o’clock in the evening, but several of the owners would not consent.

They must have a reason.

Mrs. St. Clair, charged with keeping a disorderly house, pleaded guilty to allowing fighting and sparring matches on her premises and paid a \$25 fine.

On her promise “to be good” hereafter, other charges were dismissed.

The entire front of the Meisenbach building on the northwest corner of Sixth and Main streets had been torn out and was being rebuilt

The whole store will be remodeled.

The dedication of Northern Illinois Normal School at DeKalb was scheduled for Sept. 21-23, 1899. It was promised that “everybody” would be there for a very elaborate affair in which leading educators of the state would participate.

Although no longer front-page news,

bulletins from the Philippines continued to arrive. The Transport Morgan City came in from Manila with 473 sick, wounded and disabled troops of the First Nebraska, North Dakota, Kansas and Iowa regiments. The Transport Tartar sailed for Manila with part of the 19th Infantry and \$1,300,000 in coin for payment of the army in the Philippines.

John Eckart sold P.J. Amphar a J.I. Case threshing outfit, the largest built. It had a 44” cylinder and 66” separator. The railroad could hardly get a car wide enough to deliver it.

A \$5 reward was offered for the arrest and conviction of trespassers on Blackstone School grounds at night where vandalism had been taking place.

One Tuesday in July 1899, running horses owned by Claude Powell and Charles Westgate were raced in a match west of Mendota at \$10 a side. There were two heats and Westgate won both of them.

There was quite a crowd present to witness the contest.

It was on July 1, 1899 that the first Greater American Colonial Exposition opened in Omaha. It occupied 200 acres and featured impressive buildings. In the Horticulture Exhibit, there were displays from the Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands.

Although crediting Mendota with the best water and sewerage systems of any town its size, local critics were not satisfied with the roads.

It has the worst streets of ant town its size in the country.

When the rains made them muddy, the streets were cut up into ruts. The sun came out and baked the ruts “like brick.”

The street committee should get the grader out again this year.

The first katydid of the season made its appearance and readers were reminded that if “the old adage” proved to be true, frost could be expected on Aug. 28.

The most self-destructive force in the world

By Rich Lowry

Without a doubt, the climate-obsessed green movement is the most stupidly self-destructive force in the world today, leaving a trail of irrationality and folly wherever it goes.

Consider its recent record of destroying the country of Sri Lanka, making Western Europe needlessly vulnerable to Vladimir Putin’s energy blackmail and stoking higher energy prices in the U.S. that have contributed to the fastest decline in real wages in 40 years.

The greens are rapidly making up ground on the socialists as the modern world’s foremost economic and social saboteurs (and, of course, the two now work hand in hand).

If a hostile actor were to consider the best way to harm a society from within, it would unquestionably be to increase the sway of climate alarmists and other environmentalists who believe it is their righteous duty to make it harder and more expensive to power a modern economy, as well as to build and grow things.

They seek to throw the gears into reverse on the millennia-long human quest for cheaper, more abundant and more reliable sources of energy, while putting new obstacles in the way of other human endeavor.

Since they are fired by a quasi-religious vision of an existential climate crisis on the verge of ending Planet Earth, they reject cost-benefit analysis, not to mention basic realism. The resulting wreckage is all around us.

Sri Lanka achieved one of the highest ESG, or Environmental, Social and Governance, scores in the world and destroyed its economy in the process. The country banned chemical fertilizers in April 2021 as it hurtled toward becoming the world’s first all-organic country. It proved one small step ahead for environmental pieties and a giant leap backward for Sri Lankan farmers. A large proportion of land went dormant, and production of rice, tea and other crops dropped precipitously. The resulting economic calamity has led to the collapse of the government.

This is basically the Green New Deal in miniature.

Sri Lanka is a small island nation in the Indian Ocean;

Germany is a powerhouse in the middle of continental Europe. But the green disease doesn’t discriminate on the basis of size or wealth.

For years, Germany pursued a policy of making itself dependent on Russian oil and (especially) gas, while congratulating itself on its great environmental virtue as it closed down nuclear power plants and ramped up renewable sources. Berlin can’t say it wasn’t warned of the risks of this approach. Such is the faddish grip of climate orthodoxy that it blew past all the blinking red lights. Sure enough, now Russia may well cut off the supply of gas this winter, at the same time that renewables have proved not ready for prime time (they are too intermittent, among other technical problems that won’t be solved anytime soon).

In its wisdom, Germany decided to shut down the source of energy that is clean, reliable and doesn’t require dependence on an authoritarian state hostile to the West -- namely, nuclear power. It fell prey to the environmental left’s superstitious hostility to nuclear. Even now, Germany is going ahead with shuttering its last three plants. It is turning again to coal to try to fill the gap this winter, underlining its disastrous mistake in prematurely eschewing such proven sources of energy in the first place.

Here in the U.S., of course, Biden pledged to “end fossil fuel” back in 2019, a promise -- given our prodigious reserves of oil, gas and coal -- that would make almost as much sense as Russia or Saudi Arabia pledging to do the same. Even as inflation, with energy prices leading the way, destroys Biden’s presidency, he and his supporters are determined to pursue a climate agenda that will drive up costs and create inefficiencies at home while doing next to nothing to affect global temperatures.

It makes no sense, but for the greens, that’s never been a particularly important criterion.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Sweet Corn Festival Sponsors



The City of Mendota is sponsoring 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival necessities such as marketing brochures and portable toilets. City Clerk Emily McConville, white shirt, joins Mendota Chamber of Commerce officials, left to right, Jennifer Masini, Tina McPheeters, Shelby Weide, Michelle Barkman, Evan Wixom and Marion Quintana.



Nightengales Thrift Shop is sponsoring the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest. Members of Nightengales and the Mendota Chamber of Commerce celebrate the event. Left to right, are Maria Valle, Evan Wixom, Shelby Weide, Michelle Barkman, Dr. Mary Chinn, Jennifer Masini, Nancy Champlin, Kim Abel and Rosa Villa.



Triple Service Inc. owner Michelle Wade, third from left, joins the Mendota Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the company's sponsorship of the Spring Valley Municipal Band during the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. Chamber officials, left to right, include Marion Quintana, Shelby Weide, Evan Wixom and Jennifer Masini.



First State Bank president Tim McConville and chief marketing officer Jan Phalen, center, celebrate FSB's sponsorship of the First State Stage for the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival with Mendota Chamber of Commerce officials, left to right, Jennifer Masini, Shelby Weide, Michelle Barkman, Marion Quintana, Evan Wixom and Tina McPheeters.



Northern Partners Cooperative staff mingles with the Mendota Chamber of Commerce to honor the company sponsoring the Golden Knights during the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival.



Rosati's Pizza is a sponsor of the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival's beer garden. In honor of the sponsorship, Rosati's manager Anthony Loveless, black shirt, smiles with Mendota Chamber of Commerce officials, left to right, Evan Wixom, Michelle Barkman, Shelby Weide, Marion Quintana and Jennifer Masini.



Mauch Carpentry is a proud sponsor of the Jesse White Tumblers during the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. Dave and Wanda Mauch, center, along with their grandchildren Keegan and Brooklyn Mauch, celebrate with the Mendota Chamber of Commerce members, left to right, Marion Quintana, Evan Wixom, Tina McPheeters, Shelby Weide, Jennifer Masini and Michelle Barkman.



Midland States Bank is a proud sponsor of 3-D Sound and the Jesse White Tumblers for the 2022 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. Kim Craven, in white, makes it official via photograph with Mendota Chamber of Commerce officials, left to right, Jennifer Masini, Evan Wixom, Shelby Weide, Marion Quintana and Michelle Barkman.

Nicodemus & Hunter playing FSB Hospitality Tent Aug. 13

MENDOTA – The two-man band, Nicodemus & Hunter, will perform in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 during Mendota's 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival.

Nicodemus & Hunter play rockin' hits from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and today.

The group features Mendotan Nick Swisher on guitar, vocals and drums and Hunter who plays guitar and base. They are a truly unique two-man band since Nicodemus plays guitar and drums at the same time and Hunter plays base and guitar together simultaneously.

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John's debut radio single, "Tonight Tonight," earned him his first Top 40 hit and was heard by millions of NFL fans and used to highlight CBS network's Thursday night football throughout the 2014 season.

In late 2017, King released the single "I Still Pick Up" from his latest project. The song debuted Top 5 on the Apple Music Hot Chart and was voted Top 10 on the CMT countdown.

King's 2019 single, "Try Saying Goodbye" pulls from his storytelling prowess. It has already garnered more than 18 million streams and 30 major market radio adds including Atlanta, Boston and Seattle.

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September 4	Gates Open at Noon John King Concert at 7 PM
September 5	Entry Release 9-11 AM Demolition Derby at 3 PM

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LOCAL AND AREA

Sweet Corn Festival entertainment

De Colores Mexican Folk Dance

MENDOTA – De Colores, a youth Mexican Folk Dance group from Mendota, will be entertaining at the Sweet Corn Festival at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 on the First State Bank Stage.

This group of young people will introduce culture and heritage by celebrating their background through dance and art. De Colores is a non-profit group formed of volunteer parents and 25 dancers.

Joining De Colores in their performance will be Ballet Folklorico Xanharati who are from Wisconsin. The mission of this youth group is to preserve culture and art through dance, in addition to encouraging its members to appreciate their identity.

The Acoustix

MENDOTA – “The Acoustix” will be some of the great entertainment to be enjoyed at Mendota’s 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival. They will have four free performances in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent – Friday, Aug. 12 from 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 14 from noon-2 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.

“The Acoustix,” Iggy Campos and John Kolat, is an acoustic guitar duo from Sandwich. Both sing and play the guitar. Their genre is a mix of good old classic rock-n-roll, pop country, and fun sing along. They have been inspired and influenced by many top performers such as The Eagles, The Beatles, Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jimmy Buffet, Garth Brooks, John Fogerty, Bob Segar, Eric Clapton Marshall Tucker, and The Rolling Stones to name just a few.

John Piontek

MENDOTA – Local entertainer John Piontek will be playing music from The Beatles, America, and Tom Petty plus more from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 12 at Mendota’s Annual Sweet Corn Festival.

Piontek has played in such area bands as Longshot, Big Kids and Justus to name a few. He is currently playing in a band 3 Day Weekend along with doing solo performances.

What a great way to spend your lunch hour, sampling some of the tasty treats that the Sweet Corn Festival has to offer and relaxing in the First State Bank Kasasa Hospitality Tent listening to John Piontek perform some of the great hits of the past.

Wild Style Design Company

MENDOTA – The creative and talented Wild Style Design Company will be at Mendota’s 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival on Saturday, Aug. 13 from noon-3 p.m. at the corner of Washington Street and Indiana Avenue.

Wild Style Design was launched in 2012, as the next generation in face and body art in Central Illinois. They do not only do face painting for children and adults but create professional make-up eye designs for women as well as put on library/school/day camp programs. They will bring their bold style and new, exciting designs for those attending the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival to enjoy. The group uses FDA approved face and body paint designed to last on your skin, but to wash off easily with soap and water. They have a passion for their work – creating beautiful designs, flowers, animals and fun for everyone.

The Jesse White Tumblers

MENDOTA – The Jesse White Tumblers will be back in Mendota to help celebrate the 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival on Sunday, Aug. 14. Festival-goers are always excited to see these extraordinary athletes perform their high-flying moves.

The Tumblers will of course be in the Festival Grand Parade, which steps off at 1 p.m., but don’t miss their special pre-parade performance at noon in front of the Mendota Elks Lodge.

The Tumblers were founded in 1959 by Illinois athlete and politician Jesse White. They are frequently seen during half-time shows for the NBA, NFL and MLB. They have appeared in movies, in the presidential inaugural parades for Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and have traveled internationally to perform. The Jesse White Tumblers make over 1,500 appearances each year throughout the country and the world.

White, who is still one of the coaches, and can sometimes be seen accompanying his team to Mendota, created the group for children residing in Chicago’s inner-city housing projects. It serves as a juvenile delinquency prevention program. Members are required to abide by White’s rules, which include staying in school, maintaining a C average in academic classwork, and staying away from gangs and drugs. Since the team’s inception, over 10,000 children, ages 6 and up have participated in the program.

Lica Lorraine

MENDOTA – Visitors to Mendota’s 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival will be treated to the timeless and very creative designs and the sparkling personality of balloon twister Lica Lorraine. Performances are scheduled for noon-2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13.

Lica will amaze children with their favorite animal or surprise people of all ages with hearts and flowers. She can create it all.

You will find Lica at the Intersection of Washington Street and 8th Avenue downtown, delighting all with her talents.

Mr. Steve

MENDOTA – The contagious laugh, impish grin and childlike enthusiasm of Mr. Steve will have everyone laughing at the antics of his musical comedy show. Steve Lundquist of Rockford, alias “Mr. Steve,” is a favorite of the Sweet Corn Festival and he will perform his fast-paced innovative show at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at the corner of Illinois Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Mr. Steve has over 25 years’ experience, which has taken him all over the United States and Africa. He is an accomplished recording artist and has authored a children’s book.

Steve Cerqua

MENDOTA – Steve Cerqua has been performing in the Illinois Valley for the past 27 years. He will be appearing at Mendota’s 75th Sweet Corn Festival on Saturday, Aug. 13 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the First State Bank Kasasa Hospitality Tent.

Cerqua will be covering some great blues legends such as Big Bill Broonzy and Robert Johnson. You may also hear some Eric Clapton hits from this talented vocalist and guitarist.

96th birthday card shower planned for M. Hitchins

PERU – Myrtle Hitchins of Peru, formerly of rural Mendota, will be celebrating her 96th birthday on Saturday, July 30, 2022. Myrtle Harriett Setchell was born July 30, 1926, in Mendota to her parents, Clifford and Ethel Setchell.

Myrtle married Joseph Wayne Hitchins of Mendota on April 2, 1949. They raised four children, Nancy Luke of Hoopeston; Stanley (Leslie) Hitchins of Bloomington; Joseph (Debbie) Hitchins of Eureka; and Gary (Cathy) Hitchins of Peru. Myrtle has 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

It would be fabulous for any friend or relative in the



area to share a birthday greeting with Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandma Myrtle Hitchins.

Her mailing address is: Myrtle Hitchins, Liberty Estates, Apt. 235, 1107 31st St., Peru, IL 61354-3818.

Man arrested for burglary to vehicle

MENDOTA – Robert A. Bugiye, 59, of 812 Main St., Mendota, was charged with burglary to a motor vehicle (class 3 felony) and criminal trespass to a motor vehicle (class A misdemeanor) at 7 a.m. July 22.

Bugiye was arrested following an investigation in which he was reported just minutes earlier to have entered a motor vehicle near the intersection of 11th Street and Sixth Avenue without the consent or knowledge of the owner of the vehicle.

The subject, who was out on bond after just recently being released from the LaSalle County jail for the offense of burglary is once again remanded at the LaSalle County jail awaiting a bond hearing.

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THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

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Aug. 4 & 5
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Jewelry sale, book sale & bake sale.
2t30msr

GARAGE SALE

911 16th St.,
Mendota
Thursday, July 28
2-6 p.m.
Friday, July 29
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, July 30
8 a.m.-noon
Miscellaneous items.
1t30msr

HUGE GARAGE SALE

31239 Old Chicago Road
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Thursday, July 28
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Saturday, July 30
7 a.m.-noon
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women's, men's, junior,
boys more. Also, ground
beef for sale/\$5 pound.
1t30r

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you for all the beautiful cards and loving greetings on my 90th birthday. God bless.
Ida Bergmark

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST

Raven M. Watson, 29, of 1110 Fifth St., Mendota, was arrested at 3:10 p.m. July 19 on a valid arrest warrant for failure to appear/theft control device. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

Burn pit hours

MENDOTA—Incinerator (burn pit) hours for the city of Mendota are as follows:

- Monday – 3-6 p.m.
- Tuesday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Friday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The incinerator is located south of Mendota near the sewage treatment plant.

Illinois acreage shift toward soybeans would be the first in nearly 40 years

By **DANIEL GRANT**
FarmWeek

BLOOMINGTON – Illinois appears well positioned to maintain its recent run as the top soybean producing state in the nation.

While soybean plantings fell more than 2 million acres short of expectations in USDA's June 30 acreage report nationwide, the Ag Department raised soybean plantings by 200,000 acres in Illinois compared to the March estimate.

The current projections place Illinois plantings at 11.2 million acres of soybeans, up 600,000 from last year when it produced 672.6 million bushels—the most of any state in the nation. USDA estimates Illinois farmers planted 10.7 million acres of corn this season, down 300,000 from last year.

"If realized, it would be the first time since 1983

that soybean acres would be greater than corn acres in Illinois," said Illinois state statistician Mark Schleusener.

It not only would buck a longtime state trend, but the acreage shift in Illinois was the opposite of the national trend. The U.S. soybean planting estimate declined 2.6 million acres from March to June to just 88.3 million acres. The national corn acreage estimate increased 400,000 acres to 89.9 million last month.

University of Illinois Extension ag economists Scott Irwin and Joe Janzen discussed the shift during a recent webinar hosted by farmdoc.

"With soybeans we had some delayed planting and less-than-ideal conditions this spring," Irwin said. "When push came to shove, farmers in the U.S. faded toward corn and away from soybeans."



"Illinois stood out as increasing soybean acres (from the March intentions to the June planted acreage reports) as did Kentucky."

Overall, the total of U.S. principal crop acreage decreased from 317.4 million in March to 316.3 million in June, which helps explain the soybean acreage decline outside of Illinois.

"It's not that the acreage pie shrunk. We moved a bit more than 1 million acres from principal crops into prevented plant," Irwin said. "That's primarily in North Dakota and to a lesser

extent South Dakota and Minnesota."

Estimates suggest prevented plant acreage could grow from 4.2 million acres last year to 5.3 million nationwide this season. However, the first official data on prevented plant area won't be available until August.

Meanwhile, after a spring buildup, crop prices continued a downward trend following the June 30 report and the Independence Day holiday.

"We've seen some of the high price action drop off," Janzen said.

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3. LENGTH OF SALE

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4. HOW TO SET IT UP

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5. HOW TO ADVERTISE

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GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*

THURSDAY, 5 PM-

to appear in Monday's Money Saver

MONDAY, 10 AM -

To appear in Wednesday's Reporter

* On a week with a holiday, deadlines may change. Please call to verify.



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Mendota's 75th Annual SWEET CORN FESTIVAL



THURSDAY, AUG. 11

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. A Special Afternoon for Special Kids. The carnival will be open for a private armband for anyone with special needs and their immediate family. Call the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce at 815-539-6507 for details.

5 - 7 p.m. The Acoustix performing in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6-10 p.m. Carnival Midway open. The carnival Midway is open to the public. Thursday night Unlimited Ride special for \$30.

6-10 p.m. Food & Merchandise Booths open. Featuring festival, ethnic and regional delights.

7 p.m. Spring Valley Municipal Band performance on the First State Bank Stage. Sponsored by Triple Service Plumbing, Heating and Cooling.

FRIDAY, AUG. 12

All Day Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry downtown Mendota. Sponsored by Comcast.

10:30 a.m. - 11 p.m. Food & Merchandise Booths open. Featuring festival, ethnic and regional delights, and a variety of merchandise. First State Bank Hospitality Tent opens for opens for the day.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dallas Stamberger will be playing a mix of 50s, 60s, blues & country music in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by Edward D. Jones.

Noon-10:30 p.m. Carnival Midway open. Unlimited ride specials. Noon-4 p.m., \$30; 6-10 p.m., \$35.

2 - 4 p.m. The Acoustix musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by Eureka Savings Bank.

2 - 4 p.m. The Acoustix musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by Kurt Bruno - State Farm Insurance.

6:45 - 7:15 p.m. Mendota High School Band with pre-pageant entertainment on the First State Bank Stage. Sponsored by Eureka Savings Bank.

7:30 p.m. Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on the First State Bank Stage on Route 34 in downtown Mendota. Intermission entertainment by the Mendota High School Band. Sponsored by Eureka Savings Bank.

7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Beer Garden opens, featuring entertainment from Written Warning. Sponsored by Rosati's and Euclid Beverage Co.

SATURDAY, AUG. 13

11 a.m. Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry downtown Mendota. Sponsored by Schminner GM.

9 a.m.

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

10 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Noon - 10:30 p.m.

Noon - 2 p.m.

Noon-3 p.m.

Noon/2p.m./ 4 p.m.

2 p.m.

2:30- 4:30 p.m.

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

5 - 7 p.m.

7 p.m.

Bags Tournament takes place in the Beer Garden Area located on Main St. For more information or an application visit www.sweetcornfestival.com or contact the Mendota Chamber Office. Sponsored by RSG Millwright.

Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Located at Veterans Park on Route 34 in downtown Mendota and the Mendota Elks Lodge parking lot at Indiana Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Mini-Royalty Pageant on the First State Bank Stage in downtown Mendota. —Young girls and boys competing to wear the crown of Mini King & Queen of Mendota's Annual Sweet Corn Festival. Sponsored by Plano Molding Company/Pure Fishing.

Food & Merchandise Booths open for the day. Featuring festival, ethnic and regional delights, and a variety of merchandise.

Nicodemus musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by Prairie Street Tractor.

Steve Cirqua musical performance on the First State Bank Stage. Sponsored by The Chalet Sports Bar.

Carnival Midway open. Unlimited ride specials. Noon-4 p.m., \$30; 6-10 p.m., \$35.

Lica Lorraine will enchant people of all ages with her timeless balloon designs and sparkly personality, at the intersection of Washington Street and Eighth Avenue. Sponsored by Central Bank.

Free Face Painting professional artists will be available to transform you into your favorite animal or superhero for the day. Near the corner of Washington Street and Indiana Avenue. Sponsored by Advance Drainage Systems (ADS)

Mr. Steve performance includes music, magic, balloons and comedy all blended into wholesome family entertainment. At the corner of Illinois Ave. and Jefferson St. Sponsored by McDonalds.

Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest. All categories of food must be made with sweet corn and prepared in advance. Judging at 2 p.m. at Mendota Elks Lodge. Entry forms available at Mendota Chamber office. Sponsored by Nightengale's Thrift Shop.

Musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent

Silvertone Junction musical performance on the First State Bank Stage. Sponsored by Dr. Tara VanDeWyngeard OC PC.

The Valley Katz musical performance on in the Beer Garden. Sponsored by Ken Otterbach Excavating

Andrew Blomquist musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by Mendota Mutual Insurance.

De Colores, a youth Mexican Folk dance group will

7:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.

8 - 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 14

All Day

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Noon-6 p.m.

Noon - 2 p.m.

Noon - 12:30 p.m.

1 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m.

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

3:30-4 p.m.

introduce culture and heritage by celebrating their background by performing Northern Region, Jalisco & Costa de Nayarit dances on the First State Bank stage on Rt. 34. Sponsored by Expressions Salon.

Abbynormal musical performance in the Beer Garden. Sponsored by ADM and G&M Distributors.

Mariachi Real Tecalitlan, a live 6 member mariachi band will perform on the First State Bank Stage. Sponsored by the El Rey Del Taco, El Zarape, Tacos Guzman, Taco Madre, Uncle Joe's, Diaz Grocery Store.

Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry downtown Mendota. Sponsored by HCC.

Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Located at Veterans Park on Route 34 in downtown Mendota and the Mendota Elks Lodge parking lot at Indiana Avenue and Jefferson Street.

First State Bank Hospitality Tent opens.

Food & Merchandise Booths open for the day. Featuring festival, ethnic and regional delights, and a variety of merchandise.

The Acoustix musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by First Federal Savings Bank.

Carnival Midway open. Unlimited ride specials, 1-6 p.m., \$35.

Lica Lorraine will enchant people of all ages with her timeless balloon designs and sparkly personality, at the intersection of Washington Street and Eighth Avenue. Sponsored by Mendota Area YMCA

The Jesse White Tumblers special high-flying performance in front of the Mendota Elks Lodge on Indiana Avenue. Sponsored by Mendota Agri Products and Mauch Carpentry.

Sweet Corn Festival Grand Parade. Featuring floats, bands, antique & classic vehicles, Shriners and more! Special highlights include The Jesse White Tumblers and The South Shore Drill Team.

Free Sweet Corn! Served at the intersection of Illinois Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Entertainment and music at the intersection of Illinois Ave. and Jefferson St. Sponsored by Midland States Bank.

The Acoustix musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent. Sponsored by Kaleel Law Office.

The South Shore Drill Team will perform in front of the Mendota Elks Lodge on Indiana Avenue. You have watched them in the parade, don't miss this very special performance! Sponsored by Black Bros. Co., Financial Plus Credit Union, Prescott Brothers Inc., Starved Rock Wood Products.

The schedule of events for the 75th annual Sweet Corn Festival is brought to you by the following sponsors:

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Has Reese Witherspoon met her match? She'll co-star with Will Ferrell



C. Evans

in a film so secretive that not only has the plot been kept secret, but the title as well! Witherspoon also got word her series "The Morning Show" has been renewed for season 3 and her rom-com "Your Place or Mine" opposite Ashton Kutcher is awaiting release. Meanwhile, in addition to "Barbie" (releasing July 2023), Will Ferrell has a Christmas musical "Spirited," with Ryan Reynolds and Oscar-winner Octavia Spencer, in the works.

Captain America meets Mary Poppins! Chris Evans ("Captain America" in 12 Marvel films) will star alongside Emily Blunt (of "Mary Poppins Returns" and "A Quiet Place" movies) in "Pain Hustlers" -- a movie

about a high-school dropout who lands a job with a failing pharmaceutical startup in Florida. Evans also can be seen on-screen July 15 in Netflix's "The Gray Man," with Ryan Gosling, and has the Apple TV+ rom-com "Ghosted," with Ana de Armas and Adrien Brody, coming soon. Emily Blunt has "Oppenheimer" in theaters July 2023.

Zoe Kravitz (Lenny's little girl) will make her directing debut with MGM's "Pussy Island." She's assembled a cast of seasoned pros, with Channing Tatum, Christian Slater, Geena Davis, Kyle MacLachlan, Simon Rex and Haley Joel Osment. It follows an LA cocktail waitress who sets her sights on Tatum's character. Tatum's "Lost City," with Sandra Bullock, did really well, earning \$191 million.

Looks like Taron Egerton will pick up where Hugh Jackman left off with Wolverine. The "Rocketman" Oscar nominee (for playing

Elton John) is no stranger to action films after "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (2016) and "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" (2017). His six-part Apple TV+ series "Black Bird" dropped July 8. Funny that he should shadow Hugh Jackman, who was Wolverine and then became a music man in "The Music Man" on Broadway.

At a party in the home of Larry Block, publisher of the online newspaper WEHOville, Ben Savage of "Boy Meets World" (1993-2000) announced his candidacy for the West Hollywood City Council. Just another actor going into politics? Not quite. Savage received a degree in political science from Stanford University and interned for U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter. At 41, he's lived in West Hollywood for 10 years and wants to make it a better place to live. Maybe the only way we can change West Hollywood is to unleash a Savage onto it!

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Couch Theater

"The Gray Man" (PG-13) -- A new film has arrived from the Russo Brothers, who were the directors of four films within the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This action movie stars Ryan Gosling as Sierra Six -- a black ops mercenary who has uncovered dangerous secrets within the CIA. Because of this, the CIA Group Chief sends spies to assassinate him, with one of Six's former colleagues, the bloodthirsty Lloyd Hansen (Chris Evans), spearheading the mission, and Six is forced to go on the run. Ana de Armas, Rege-Jean Page ("Bridgerton") and Billy Bob Thornton are just some of the stars you might recognize along the way. (Netflix)

"Topside" (NR) -- In this heart-wrenching drama film, a mother named Nikki (Celine Held) raises her 5-year-old daughter, Little (Zhaila Farmer), in the subway tunnels of New York City. Nikki, who's an addict, realizes Little deserves a better life, but when the authorities arrive in the tunnels to take Little, Nikki refuses to give

her up. Instead, she takes Little to the "topside" (what Little calls the world outside of her very small one in the tunnels). Their options run out quickly, and by accident, Little gets separated from her mother, leaving them both lost in the topside without each other. (Hulu)

"Honor Society" (NR) -- Honor (Angourie Rice) has had her future planned out since freshman year of high school. With one college in mind -- the top college in the world -- Honor has been brown-nosing her guidance counselor, Mr. Calvin, ever since she found out that he has connections with the college's admissions staff. Mr. Calvin tells Honor that she is just one of four students that he's thinking of recommending, but only one out of the three students, Michael (Gaten Matarazzo), poses a true threat. So, Honor makes it her mission to get Michael to fall for her and, in the process, tank his grades. Thinking it unlikely that an overachiever such as herself would fail, Honor might

finally find herself without all the answers and unravel her dreams for someone unexpected. Out on streaming July 29. (Paramount+)

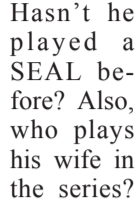
"Black Bird" (TV-MA) -- Drug dealer Jimmy Keene (Taron Egerton) thinks his luck has run out when he receives a 10-year prison sentence. The FBI, however, decides to offer Jimmy his freedom for a simple tradeoff: Go undercover in a maximum-security prison specializing in the criminally insane and befriend a suspected serial killer. The suspect's conviction is in the process of getting appealed, and the FBI refuses to let the suspect walk away from his alleged crimes that caused the deaths of more than a dozen women. If Jimmy can properly infiltrate this killer's mind and pull a confession out of him, he can walk out free ... but only if. The first four episodes of this limited series are out now. This is also the late Ray Liotta's last TV project. (Apple TV+)

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: We're really enjoying the Navy SEALs drama "The Terminal List" with Chris Pratt. Hasn't he played a SEAL before? Also, who plays his wife in the series?



R. Keough

A: Chris Pratt is one of America's busiest actors. He's starred in the hit Marvel "Guardians of the Galaxy" films as well as in the "Jurassic Park/World" franchise, but one of his favorite genres has to be military action stories. He first played a Navy SEAL in the 2013 movie "Zero Dark Thirty," which was based on the killing of Osama Bin Laden.

According to "Military Times," for the role, Pratt "shadowed Jared Shaw, a real Navy SEAL, whom he now counts as one of his 'very best' friends" -- and who also was a groomsman in Pratt's wedding to Katherine Schwarzenegger.

The Amazon series "The Terminal List" is based on a series of books by Jack Carr. Pratt plays a Navy SEAL named James Reece "whose platoon is ambushed in a

covert operation." Upon returning home, Reece begins to doubt his recollection of the tragic event. Authenticity is important to Pratt. According to "Military Times," he "enlisted former special ops as technical advisors for the show," including his pal Shaw.

Riley Keough plays Lauren Reece, the supportive wife of Jack. She's been acting for more than a decade, but is probably best known as Elvis Presley's granddaughter. Her parents are Lisa Marie Presley and Danny Keough. For more Hollywood royalty on the show, keep an eye out for Pratt's brother-in-law Patrick Schwarzenegger, who plays Donny Mitchell in the series. Patrick is the son of action star Arnold Schwarzenegger and Kennedy family descendant Maria Shriver.

Q: Is the actor who plays Officer Leaphorn in the AMC drama "Dark Winds" the same actor who played another police officer in "Longmire"? That was one of my favorite shows.

A: Good eye! Yes, that's actor Zahn McClarnon starring in the new AMC detective series "Dark Winds." He played the chief of police of the Cheyenne Reservation

on the A&E series "Longmire" and later went on to play Akecheta on the HBO series "Westworld," before landing a starring role on "Dark Winds."

In 2017, the actor suffered a fall in his home, incurring a head injury devastating enough to land him in the ICU. Fortunately, he recovered, and his career continues to flourish. "Dark Winds" is co-produced by Robert Redford and based on a series of books by Tony Hillerman. It's about two Navajo tribal police officers in the 1970s, played by McClarnon and Kiowa Gordon ("Roswell, New Mexico").

Q: When is "La Brea" coming back? I'm sure it was renewed since it was a big hit, but when can we look forward to new episodes?

-- G.G.

A: Season two of the breakout hit NBC series "La Brea" premieres Sept. 27 at 9 p.m. ET. It stars Natalie Zea ("Justified") as a mother who is thrust back in time to 10,000 B.C. after a sinkhole opens up in Los Angeles. According to TVLine.com, joining the cast is Jonno Roberts ("Wrecked") as a "brilliant scientist and businessman who just might be trying to save the world."

• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest island in Canada?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the bully neighbor boy in Disney's "Toy Story"?
3. LANGUAGE: What is a cruciverbalist?
4. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom character calls his son-in-law "Meathead"?
5. HISTORY: What is the Danegeld, a tax levied in Anglo-Saxon England from the ninth through 11th centuries?
6. MUSIC: Which pop music band was the first to appear on children's lunchboxes?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is linked to the teddy bear?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How big are baby kangaroos when they're born?
9. FAMOUS QUOTES: Which 19th-century author and philosopher

- once said, "One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter?"
10. AD SLOGANS: Which product's advertising slogan is "Obey your thirst"?
- Answers
1. Baffin Island.
 2. Sid.
 3. Someone who designs or enjoys solving crossword puzzles.
 4. Archie Bunker, "All in the Family."
 5. The tax receipts were used to buy off Viking invaders and provide for defense.
 6. The Beatles.
 7. Theodore Roosevelt. It was invented in his honor after he refused to kill a bear on a hunting trip.
 8. About 1 inch.
 9. Henry David Thoreau.
 10. Sprite.

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Sharp turn
 - 4 Help a crook
 - 8 Feudal slave
 - 12 -- bind
 - 13 Put on
 - 14 Tow
 - 15 Up to
 - 16 Taj Mahal city
 - 17 Canadian gas brand
 - 18 Gorgonzola, for one
 - 21 Hairy Addams cousin
 - 22 Bit of advice
 - 23 Forgeries
 - 26 Clear the deck?
 - 27 Melancholy
 - 30 Incursion
 - 31 Ruin the veneer
 - 32 Robust
 - 33 Thanksgiving veggie
 - 34 Prom rental
 - 35 Washer phase
 - 36 Droop
 - 37 Abysmal
 - 38 Brunch entree
 - 45 Heap
 - 46 Roll call reply
 - 47 Literary collection
 - 48 On the briny

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- 49 Hurler
- 50 Book-spine abbr.
- 51 " -- the Knife"
- 52 Tiny amounts
- 53 Request
- uct
- 8 Bo Peep's charges
- 9 Lighten
- 10 Senator
- Feingold
- 11 Drifting ice
- 19 Fibbed
- 20 Trendy
- 23 Saute
- 24 Bond rating
- 25 Kipling lad
- 26 Upper limit
- 27 Pouch
- 28 100 percent
- 29 Scottish river
- 31 Hood's photo
- 32 Jekyll's bad side
- 34 -- chi
- 35 Caravan mammals
- 36 Sly one
- 37 Yawning, maybe
- 38 Pesky email
- 39 Tower city
- 40 Sir Guinness
- 41 Wife of Zeus
- 42 Volcanic flow
- 43 Eve's grandson
- 44 Chat

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* The Psychotria elata flower, also affectionately known as the "hot lips plant," which grows in the rainforests of Central and South America, resembles a puckering mouth covered in lipstick.

* After losing a drunken poker bet in 2009, a New Zealand man had his name legally changed to "Full Metal Havok More Sexy N Intelligent Than Spock And All The Superheroes Combined With Frostnova." After five years, the new moniker was finally approved by the government, and all 99 characters are on his passport.

* In Oklahoma, it is illegal to wear boots to bed (but shoes are OK).

* According to a 2014 survey by the Christian retailer LifeWay, 7% of Christian Americans pray for a parking spot.

* In 1956, four men on a boat off the coast of Cornwall threw explosives at a shark to kill it, or at least scare it away from divers, but the plan partially backfired, killing two of the men and injuring the others when the shark headed for them instead with an explosive device on its back.

* "Ouijazilla," in Salem, Massachusetts, holds the unofficial title of the "World's Largest Ouija Board" at 3,168 square feet and approximately 9,000 lbs.

* Charlie Daniels objected to the use of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" in the Guitar Hero III video game because it was possible for the player to lose to a devil-like character, which "perverted" his song.

* No matter what it might feel like, to the contrary, when you're suffering from one, the majority of microbiologists say viruses are not actually alive, as they produce no energy and can only reproduce when inside a living creature.

Thought for the Day: "It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out, it's the pebble in your shoe." -- Muhammad Ali

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

— promsorgy kury

Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!



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LOCAL AND AREA

Be happier than you've ever been!

One of the greatest lessons I've learned is that you can't be both selfish and happy. I know this is true through my own personal experience, but more importantly, the Bible has some things to say about the attitude we should have about "self."

For example, love is not selfish. In the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition, 1 Corinthians 13:5 says, "... Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking...." In 1 Corinthians 15:31, the apostle Paul said, "...I die daily [I face death every day and die to self]" (AMPC), which basically means he was

not self-seeking but instead focused on doing what God called him to do with his life.

There are also scriptures that teach us the importance of having self-control. Galatians 5:23 lists self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, and 2 Timothy 1:7 says that in Christ, we have a spirit "of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control." If you've lived very long, you realize that not being selfish requires self-control, because we're all born with a human nature that is selfish. Think about how babies act; they are only concerned with what they

need and usually cry when they don't get their way.

Thankfully, when we experience new life in Christ, we die to sin. Romans 6:11 (AMPC) says, "Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus." But even though we die to sin, sin does not die. That's why we have to continually make the decision over and over again to choose to do the right thing on purpose. And we have what it takes, in Christ, to do what's right—whether we feel like it or not.

Discover Your True Destiny

As Christians, we're destined to be molded into the image of Jesus Christ (see Romans 8:29). Jesus is the greatest example of what it means to love others and not live a selfish life. First John 3:16 (NIV) says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

This scripture shows us that Jesus gave everything when He demonstrated His love for us. And we are to follow His example. The truth is, loving others is not always easy, and it always costs us something—time, money, convenience, etc. But through our relationship with Him, we can find the strength and ability to love others, even when it seems to cost more than we think we can give. God is faithful to give us His love, grace and wisdom to reach



out and be a blessing to others. And when we do, we end up receiving more joy and peace than we had before.

Now it's important to understand that God doesn't expect you to take this to such an extreme that you don't take care of yourself. We need to use wisdom so we can be healthy emotionally, mentally and physically while we're helping others. In following Jesus' example, remember to make your relationship with God your number one priority and do what He puts in your heart to do.

Get the Right Mindset

The world is full of lonely, hurting people who are hungry for the love of God and the hope that is only found in Jesus. I want to encourage you to get rid of a "What about me?" mindset and instead pray, "God, show me someone who needs a blessing. Show me someone I can help."

I used to be self-centered and focused on getting my way all the time. And I was miserable! But now I am happier than I've ever been because I don't

spend all my time thinking about what I want, what I think and how I feel. The truth is, you can't be happy if the center of your life is you!

We all have room to grow in our relationship with God, and learning how to reach out to others is a big part of that process. Selfishness and always trying to meet your own needs puts you in a position of weakness. But the more you trust God to meet your needs, the more you'll be free to help others...and the happier you'll be.

Imagine how different the world would be if everyone would just do one nice thing to help someone else every day. It can be so simple to put a smile on someone's face. Give a compliment, give something away, take the time to listen, open a door for someone, let someone go before you in line at the store...the list could go on and on.

Make it your business to regularly reach out to people around you, encouraging them and meeting their needs as you are able to do it. Be determined each day to do at least one thing for

someone else that makes their life better. Trust me—you'll discover that serving God by loving others is the most wonderful, exciting thing you can do!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource *Ways to Increase Your Happiness*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

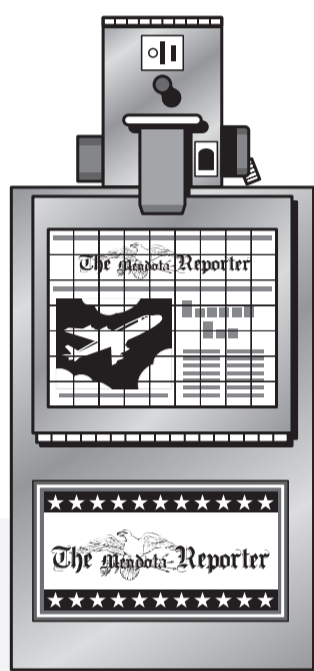
Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 135 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *THE POWER OF THANK YOU* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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9:30 a.m. Worship

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July 31 - 9:30 a.m. Worship - in-person
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Aug. 1 - 9 a.m.-3:50 p.m. District
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jbrace8459@gmail.com

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Facebook: Mendota Zion United
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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during Sunday services)

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.
FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;
If I can push one needless cloud away
And help men live as children
of the King:
If I can lend someone a helping hand
Or warm a place where friendship
needs to be;
If I can build a bridge where
fences stand
And light a lamp that other men
might see;
If I can open doors of hope this day
By letting someone know that
others care;
If I can speak in words that seem
to say:
I know the heavy burdens that
you bear.
If I can guide a pilgrim on his way
Or pause to bid him stay for food
and rest;
If I can do these, Father, this I pray:
"O let me do them with my very best."

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July 31 - 10 a.m. Worship;
11 a.m. Fellowship
Laurie Walker, preacher

Facebook page
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July 31 - 8:30 a.m. Outdoor worship

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BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Zimri in the Old or
New Testament or neither?
2. From Proverbs 20, the beauty
of old men is the gray head, while
the glory of young men is their ...?
Imagination, Strength, Discretion,
Instruction
3. Which king of Tyre supplied logs
to Solomon to build the Lord's
temple? Neco, Hehu, Rezin, Hiram
4. According to Jesus in Matthew
6, moth and rust destroy what
on earth? Repentance, Thorns,
Treasures, Demons
5. Where did Jacob and Laban part
company as found in Genesis 31?
Tel Dan, Mizpah, Paphos, Lustra
6. What was the name of David's
father? Obed, Samuel, Jesse,
Ahitub
ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Strength;
3) Hiram; 4) Treasures; 5) Mizpah;
6) Jesse

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The Mendota Reporter

REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

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ERBES Realty LLC

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 www.erbres-realty.com

Lori Erbes, GRI
 Designated Managing Broker

Abigail Vaessen, Broker 815-508-9715

Marcia Kosowski, Broker 815-582-2381

203 E. McKenney St., Dixon
 \$202,999

Beautiful home inside and out. Completely updated 3 bedroom with beautiful woodwork and hardwood floors, living room with window seat, built in cabinet, wood-burning fireplace, bonus room to relax and enjoy or entertain in, 1.5 bath 2 story home on double lot. Enjoy the large yard with white picket fence, storage shed and 2 car insulated garage. Property also includes 1 car detached garage. Updates to home: 2016 are: plumbing, electrical, furnace with April air humidifier and has 4 more yrs parts covered, ac unit, kitchen redone, floors redone, first floor bath redone and gutters. 2017-fireplace insert, 2018-landscaping, 2019-metal roof to garage, first floor windows (except one in porch area), water softener.

221 N Mason Ave., Amboy \$149,900

Beautiful family home that has been used for a business. Zoned residential. Gorgeous hardwood floors, with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath front enclosed area for entertaining, kitchen with an island and oak cupboards, refrigerator is negotiable, dishwasher, water softener, central air/furnace, furnace(2021), main floor laundry, central vac needs a new hose, large living room, office with 1/2 bath. The French doors lead to porch and office area. The back deck over looks the extra lot, in the back yard is grape vine, dog run, amazing circle drive and lots of parking, a 2.5 car detached garage that's heated with a big workshop area.

4 W. Division St., Amboy \$125,000

Great 1900 sq ft building on approximately 1/2 acre, that can be used for storage, office, or store front. There is blacktop for parking in front and grassy area in back for storage or conversion to more parking. This property is being sold AS IS.

804 W. Prairieview St., Sublette \$265,000

CALLING ALL INVESTORS! This property is located on a high traffic count and high visibility Road! Great opportunity to start your own business! Paved area for parking. Used to be a trailer sales. Parcel 19-22-09-300-008 is vacant commercial land .077, and 19-22-09-402-006 is improved commercial with 1.62 Ac of land. Wick building 30x88 used for storage with 3 season porch and deck with durability roof, Misc. building 24x34 with garage area, old septic, natural gas and bath room! Great for storage. Both buildings sold as is. Office building 36x46 with two overhead doors, storage area, 250 gal propane tank, 3 ton air conditioner, bath room, desks included and a septic.

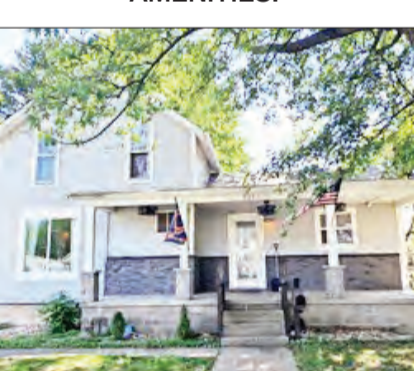
27858 2600 East St., Van Orin \$64,400

Ranch style home with curb appeal. Why Rent when you can own! This open living/dining area, kitchen, 2 bedroom, one bath home comes with all appliances and is ready to move into. Features an attached garage that can be converted into a family room/master bedroom. There is a car port for parking, shed in back for all your storage. Call today for a showing!



408 12th St., Mendota
\$129,900

WAIT TIL YOU SEE THIS UNIQUE HOME WITH 6 BEDROOMS 3 FULL BATHS. 1/2 BATH IN BASEMENT. OPEN STAIRWAY, DECK ON THE BACK OF HOME. LARGE NEWER 2 CAR GARAGE. NICE LOCATION. FRESHLY PAINTED AND SOME NEW FLOORING READY TO MOVE INTO. CALL MCCONVILLE FOR ALL THE AMENITIES.



907 3rd Ave., Mendota
MLS#11441976

\$139,900

MOVE RIGHT INTO THIS 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME. REHABBED 3 YRS. AGO. OPEN FLOOR PLAN. 1ST FLOOR BEDROOM, FIRST FLOOR LAUNDRY. APPLIANCES STAY. UNIQUE CEILING FANS AND LIGHTING ADDS TO DECOR. WOODEN DECK. ALLEY ACCESS. NEW ROOF, NEWER FURNACE. CALL FOR ALL THE AMENITIES. MCCONVILLE REALTY 815 539-5673.

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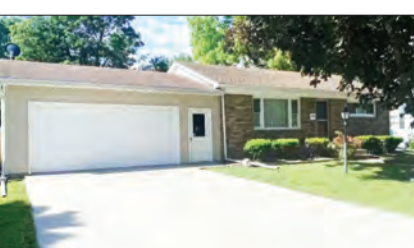
\$140,000



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\$29,900



605 2nd St., Mendota

Great 2 Bedroom brick ranch with 2 car garage

\$125,000



WANT THE BUZZ ON YOUR REAL ESTATE PROPERTY

CALL US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE COMPARATIVE MARKET ANALYSIS

