



Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton announced they would run for re-election in 2022. (Capitol News Illinois file photo by Jerry Nowicki)

Pritzker, Stratton announce re-election bid for 2022

By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker announced he will seek a second term, joined once again by Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton as a running mate.

In a three-minute kickoff video ending with the tagline “strong leadership in tough times,” the governor emphasized his response to the COVID-19 pandemic and contrasted himself to former U.S. President Donald Trump, with whom Pritzker frequently sparred during the height of the pandemic.

“When I ran for governor four years ago, I could not have imagined that I would end up leading the state through a global pandemic,” Pritzker said in the ad. “Look, I may not have gotten every decision right. But at every step along the way I followed the science and focused on protecting the lives and livelihoods of the people of Illinois.”

The ad shows business owners, local politicians

“Over these last three years we’ve made massive strides to move Illinois in the right direction, but we know there’s still a lot of work ahead of us.”

—Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton

and Illinoisans from across the state touting Pritzker’s pandemic response.

Another one-minute video posted to the Pritzker campaign’s YouTube channel features Stratton, the state’s first Black lieutenant governor, touting the “history” of the pair’s 2020 election to the state’s executive office.

“Over these last three years we’ve made massive strides to move Illinois in the right direction, but we

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City Council hears of proposal for extravagant artwork addition in city

□ Art piece would be of historic former Mendota Union Depot constructed in 1888

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council heard about a proposed project to add more artwork to the city and accepted a bid for the summer street maintenance program at its July 19 regular meeting.

Chris Coughlin of North Central Illinois ARTworks in Peru and Michelle Wade of Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Electric in Mendota spoke to the council about the possibility of bringing a historic mural to downtown Mendota. Wade and her husband, Gabe, plan to partner with NCI ARTworks to provide a new public art piece of the former Union Depot to emphasize the city’s railroad history and a piece that will welcome visitors and residents alike to view the mural. The proposed mural would be placed on the south side of the Triple Service building located at the corner of Monroe Street and Illinois Avenue.

The artwork would consist of hand-painted aluminum panels similar to the construction of the “Mendota Gold” piece on the silo at Northern Partners. The mural would be 127 feet wide and 50 feet tall, and would recreate a historically accurate version of the Mendota Union Depot built in 1888.

“This would be a great place to put a piece of art



If it comes to fruition, a hand-painted mural of the former Mendota Union Depot would be constructed on the south side of the Triple Service building at the corner of Illinois Avenue and Monroe Street. (Reporter photo)

and a grand piece of history that was part of the city of Mendota,” said Wade. “This is what we were founded on. It would be a majestic piece of art in the middle of our town.”

Coughlin said NCIARTworks develops public art to market the smaller communities in the three counties it represents (LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam). She said the mural would be a part of the Silo Pathways Countryside Public Art Tour, which is a tourism attraction being developed in the three counties.

“We are committed to try to make this a reality,” said Coughlin.

A public announcement and launch party will be held on Monday, Aug. 2 from 4-6 p.m. at the Breaking the Prairie Museum. Also at that time, a new informational sign will

be unveiled for “Mendota Gold.”

CAMERA UPDATE
Police Chief Greg Kellen informed the council that five more cameras have been installed in the downtown area, bringing the number of cameras in the city to 18.

ALDERMANIC REPORTS

Alderman Jay Miller presented a license addition request for a liquor license for Fridas at 714 Illinois Ave. The request was approved.

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick announced that three bids were submitted for the 2021 motor fuel tax street maintenance program, which involves the asphalt surfacing of streets. The council accepted the low bid of \$229,074.16 from Rock Road Companies of Rockford. The bid was

“This is what we were founded on. It would be a majestic piece of art in the middle of our town.”

—Michelle Wade

14.61 percent under the city engineer’s estimate.

Alderman John Hensenberger informed the council of a zoning variance request from Scott Johnson at 104 First Ave. The council agreed to the request.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, Aug. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Excitement building as SCF contestants eyeing big event

□ Twelve young ladies vying for title of Sweet Corn Queen

MENDOTA – Preparations are in full swing for this year’s Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant. Twelve contestants will grace the stage when the pageant takes place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13 on the First State stage on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota.

Here are two more contestants in the 2021 pageant.

Perris Stachlewitz will be representing the Rotary Club of Mendota in this year’s pageant. She is the daughter of Rusty and Jenny Stachlewitz of Mendota. She is five feet, 10 inches tall, and has green eyes and brown hair.

Stachlewitz graduated from Mendota High School in 2021. She was very active all four years in band, interact club, and student

council serving as president of all three her senior year. In her time at MHS, she was also a member of the tennis and basketball teams, boys’ tennis manager, tech team member, and drama club. She could also be found in the Madrigal dinner as a jester as well as the MHS choir, treble choir, jazz choir, and jazz band. In addition, she received a variety of awards her senior year including the SAR award and was the student council vice president. She also qualified as a BNC all-conference scholar-athlete, had four IHSA second division ratings, and three IHSA first division ratings.

This summer you will find her working at Quilting in the Valley where she helps with retail sales, office tasks, and

shipping merchandise. She can also be found preparing for school and she spent time in Wisconsin in June to help open a new store. Her hobbies consist of sewing, kayaking, performing arts, hiking, and swimming.

Stachlewitz has been taking classes at IVCC since July of 2019 and is still actively seeking a degree in Natural Resources with specializations in Biology, Environmental Science, and Conservation. In the future she plans to travel, work as a conservation biologist, and own many animals.

She shares that her major interest in life is wildlife conservation. She is also proud

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Two contestants in the 2021 Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant are Perris Stachlewitz, left, and Amanda Simpson. (Photo courtesy of Setchell Studio)



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Sublette tractor drive to be Aug. 4

SUBLETTE — Sublette’s annual one-day tractor drive will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 4. Line-up will be held at Sublette Centennial Park with tractors departing the park at 8 a.m. Participants may also start from Amboy City Park at 9 a.m.

Cost of the ride is \$20 per person, which includes the ride, refreshments, lunch and a picnic supper at 5 p.m. at the park in Sublette.

Local Cup and Cake will be open at 6 a.m. so participants may purchase coffee before the ride.

For more information, please contact Don Dinges at 815-713-5675.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Sweet Corn Festival T-shirts now available

MENDOTA – The 2021 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival T-shirts have arrived and are ready for purchase at the Mendota Chamber of Commerce office prior to the festival. The design for 2021 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 royal blue. The six-color screen printed design features an ear of corn centered over a vintage/distressed American background graphic. The words "CORN IN THE USA" appear across the bottom below the American flag and "74th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival" finishes off the design across the bottom. 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 cost \$10 and are

See T-SHIRT, Page A3



Sporting the 2021 Sweet Corn Festival T-shirts, front row, left to right, are Tina McPheeters, Chamber executive board; Shelby Weide, Chamber president & CEO; and Maurine Marquis, 4M Graphix. Back row, Jen Masini, executive board; Michelle Barkman, executive board; Taylor Olsen, executive board past chair; Evan Wixom, executive board; and Matt Marquis, 4M Graphix. (Reporter photo)



Back-To-School Giveaway at Graves-Hume Public Library

MENDOTA - Graves-Hume Public Library is offering families an opportunity to win a Back-To-School Giveaway. To participate, the library asks that a child borrow a minimum of one school related book from the library and return a completed activity sheet provided by the library detailing what the child is excited for in the upcoming fall 2021 school semester.

Three different prizes will be awarded. Each prize will include a backpack, blank notebook, box of crayons and a gift card to buy the remainder of needed school supplies. To pick-up a book and the activity paper, just visit the library. This event is open to all age levels; no library card is required. Giveaway prizes will be selected on Thursday, Aug. 12. All activity page entries must be returned to the library before Aug. 12.

Hitchins to celebrate 95th birthday

MENDOTA - Myrtle Hitchins of Peru, formerly of rural Mendota, will celebrate her 95th birthday on Friday, July 30. 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.

Please share a birthday wish with Myrtle as her



Myrtle Hitchins

family celebrates her 95th birthday with a card shower. Her mailing address is: Myrtle Hitchins, Liberty Estates, 110731st St., Apt. 235, Peru, IL 61354-3818.

IV Democrats to meet July 29

LA SALLE - The Illinois Valley Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 29 at the LaSalle VFW, corner of 2325 Donahue and 24th streets, LaSalle.

Discussions will focus on upcoming events. Raffle money needs to be turned in before the boat races in DePue.

Following CDC guidelines, those fully vaccinated may wear or not wear a mask. Those not vaccinated are asked to please follow masking and social distancing protocols for everyone's safety. All Democrats are welcome.



Midland States Bank celebrates reopening

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed Midland States Bank during the bank's reopening of its Mendota Branch at 609 Eighth Ave., Suite B, on July 23. Paul Dahl, banking center manager, gets ready to cut the ribbon, being held by Ambassadors Christin Atherton, left, and Lee Stocking. Beside Dahl in orange shirts are Midland employees Marissa Bonnell, Darla Cocanour and Jamie Rodriguez. In back, left to right, are Ambassadors Erin Lauer, Nancy Bogle, Chamber President/CEO Shelby Weide, Kim Kennedy, Anna Arteaga and Steve Villegas. (Reporter photo)

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LOCAL AND AREA

SWEET CORN FESTIVAL MAJOR SPONSORS

Schimmer GM

MENDOTA - Schimmer GM of Mendota will join other local businesses and industries as a major sponsor of the events of the 74th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. They will be generously co-sponsoring "Magic Matt," magician and balloon artist, Matthew Scherer.

"Magic Matt" has been amazing audiences in Chicago and the Midwest for over 30 years. He has entertained at many popular restaurants, fairs and festivals, corporate events, and at Chicago Bulls games. His 10 to 15 mini shows, will be seen throughout the day as he strolls the Festival midways Saturday, Aug. 14 downtown. His close-up magic and balloon artistry are sure to delight the



Schimmer GM is a major sponsor of this year's Sweet Corn Festival. Front row, left to right, are Elias Preciado, Tina McPheeters, Shelby Weide; back row, Jenn Masini, Chad Edwards, Nick Organ and Taylor Olsen. (Reporter photo)

young and old alike. Schimmer GM invites everyone to enjoy the many

events of Mendota's 74th Annual Sweet Corn Festival Aug. 12-15.

Starved Rock Wood Products

MENDOTA - Starved Rock Wood Products is a major sponsor of events at the 74th Annual Sweet Corn Festival.

They will help bring Chicago's premier drill team, "South Shore" to perform in the Festival Grand Parade, which steps-off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 15. After the parade, see their post parade performance in front of the Mendota Elks at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The South Shore Drill Team is well known for their amazing precision drills and unique marching style, to a heart pounding beat. The organization's purpose extends beyond entertainment. South Shore uses 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.

Starved Rock Wood Products invites to you to be on hand at the 74th Annual Sweet-corn Festival Parade.

Starved Rock is a major sponsor of this year's Sweet Corn Festival. Front row, left to right, is Shelby Weide; middle row, Jenn Masini, Tina McPheeters, Whitney Lucas; back row, Taylor Olsen and Lynn Weber. (Reporter photo)



Obituaries

Continued from Page A4

Marie Dean Booth Gowin

DUNCAN, Okla. - Marie Dean Booth Gowin, 84, formerly of Mendota, passed away peacefully surrounded by her daughter, Sherry Booth Boyer and husband, Donald Boyer, along with her hospice family on July 23, 2021 in Duncan, Okla. from complications of COPD.

Memorial arrangements are pending in Mendota at a later date.

Marie graduated from Mendota Township High School with the Class of 1956.

Dorothy W. Stouffer

LA MOILLE - Dorothy W. Stouffer, 97, of LaMoille, passed away July 25, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 30 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Arlington with Father Thaddeus Tran officiating. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery, Arlington. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, July 29 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with a Rosary at 4:15 p.m.

Dorothy was born Feb. 10, 1924 in Arlington to Henry and Mary Ann (Dougherty) Meyer. She married Kenneth Stouffer. He preceded her in death in 2007.

Survivors include her daughter, Susan (Mark) Ridge of LaMoille; two grandchildren, Kristofer Ridge and Stefanie DeLong; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; three brothers, Charlie Meyer, Joseph Meyer and Henry Meyer; and one sister, Ruth Sebbly.

Dorothy was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church. She loved being outdoors and mowing her yard. She enjoyed doing word search puzzles.

Memorials may be directed to the donor's choice. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



LaSalle Co. Health Dept. conducting Health Needs Survey

OTTAWA - LaSalle County residents have the chance to identify some of the health issues they face in their communities. A new online survey allows people to rate factors that influence a healthy community, including safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, the environment and healthy living. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and responses are confidential.

The Health Department will utilize the data from the survey as they work with key community stakeholders. Many of these stakeholders are a part of the Department's Community Health Committee. This committee helps prioritize health problems in the county.

The Health Department will begin the process of bringing this committee back together early next year to begin reviewing the survey results along with other statistical data. The committee will then begin to prioritize health issues for the county as part of their IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs).

The IPLAN was devel-

Mendota H.S. bus routes announced

MENDOTA - The following are bus routes and in-town bus pickup locations for Mendota High School for the 2021-22 school year.

Bus #4 (Northbrook area)
7:30 a.m. - Augustine and 16th Street (old high school)
7:35 a.m. - Northbrook School
7:40 a.m. - 900 block of Carolyn Street
7:43 a.m. - 2006 Diana Drive
7:50 a.m. - Arrive at MHS
Bus #5 (Holy Cross area)
7:32 a.m. - Purple Park
7:42 a.m. - Indiana Avenue and Monroe Street
7:44 a.m. - Wisconsin Avenue and Burlington Street
7:50 a.m. - Arrive at MHS
Bus #13 (Blackstone area)
7:30 a.m. - Blackstone School
7:35 a.m. - 10th Avenue and Fifth Street
7:37 a.m. - 12th Avenue and Fifth Street
7:40 a.m. - Park Avenue and Burlington Street
7:43 a.m. - Park Avenue and Meriden Street
7:50 a.m. - Arrive at MHS
Bus #17 (Lincoln area)
7:35 a.m. - Lincoln School
7:37 a.m. - Fourth Avenue and 10th Street
7:39 a.m. - Fourth Avenue and Sixth

Street
7:41 a.m. - Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street
7:43 a.m. - Fourth Avenue and Second Street
7:55 a.m. - Arrive at MHS
Bus #23 (Blackstone Park and South Ninth Avenue apartment area)
7:35 a.m. - Lincoln School
7:39 a.m. - Sixth Avenue and First Street
7:42 a.m. - Ninth Avenue and First Street
7:50 a.m. - Arrive at MHS
In-town student drop-off locations
All afternoon buses will load at the front of the school. Buses will depart at 3:05 p.m.
Bus #3 - Drops off at Northbrook, Purple Park, the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Burlington Street, and the corner of Indiana Avenue and Monroe Street.
Bus #11 - Drops off at Blackstone, 205 Sandra Ave., the corner of Ninth Avenue and First Street, the corner of Sixth Avenue and First Street, and the corner of Fourth Avenue and First Street.
Bus #23 - Drops off at Lincoln School.
In the afternoon, you may not be dropped off at the same location that you were picked up. Please look at this list of afternoon, in-town student drop-off locations and find the one with the location closest to your home.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

UW-Platteville spring graduates

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. - Luke Kelly of Mendota recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in civil engineering. He was among 900 students awarded diplomas from UW-Platteville's three campuses this spring. Because of COVID-19, no ceremonies were held but will be rescheduled at a later date.

UW-Platteville is located in Southwest Wisconsin

and has branch campuses in Richland Center and Baraboo. In 2020, UW-Platteville was named best public institution in Wisconsin by Payscale.

For more information on the university, visit www.uwplatt.edu.

Iowa State dean's list announced

AMES, Iowa - Natalie Vaessen of Sublette has been named to the spring 2021 dean's list in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa

State University. The dean's list honors students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.



About the College of Human Sciences

Students in the Iowa State University College of Human Sciences prepare to work in fields that impact the health, well-being, and education of individuals throughout the lifespan to advance families, schools and communities. Scholars and practitioners in these fields work together to expand human potential and improve people's lives.

Mendota Weather July 28, 2021

opened by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and is a Community Health Assessment and Planning Process that is conducted every five years by local health jurisdictions in Illinois to be certified as a public health department. The survey can be accessed at <https://form.jotform.com/211925446264154> or by visiting the Health Department's website, www.lasallecounty.org, or their social media pages. Printed versions are also available in the Health Department lobby. The Health Department is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, please call them at (815) 433-3366.

Mendota Weather

Seven Day Forecast		In-Depth Forecast		Regional Cities					
	Wednesday Partly Cloudy High: 90 Low: 74		Thursday Isolated T-storms High: 87 Low: 62	Wednesday we will see partly cloudy skies with a near record high of 90°, humidity of 60%. South southwest wind 5 to 8 mph. The heat index for Wednesday could reach up to 98°. The record high for Wednesday is 93° set in 1935. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday night with a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 74°. Southwest wind 9 mph.	City	Wednesday	Thursday		
	Hv/Lv					Wx	Hi/Lv	Wx	
					Aurora	90/74	pc	85/62	t
					Champaign	90/74	s	91/65	t
					Chicago	90/76	pc	82/65	t
					Freeport	91/73	pc	86/60	t
					Joliet	90/74	pc	86/63	t
					Moline	93/77	pc	90/66	pc
					Peoria	92/76	pc	91/65	t
					Rockford	92/74	pc	85/61	t
					Springfield	92/75	pc	89/66	t

OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Ken Archer

NAPLES, Fla. - Ken "Artie" Archer, 71, formerly of Mendota, passed away July 22, 2021 in Naples, Fla.

A memorial service will be decided at a later date.

Artie was born Jan. 21, 1950 in Rochelle to Richard and Rita Archer.

Survivors include his longtime partner, Barb Seward; his father; one brother, Kerry Archer; two daughters, Corinne (Jason) Bock and April (Michael) Leitsuh; three nieces; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother and one sister, Kala Archer.

Ever since Artie was old enough to turn a dial on the radio, he was obsessed with two things: the Chicago Cubs and music. He graduated from Mendota High School in the spring of 1968 and after graduation, worked for over 30 years at Black Bros. Company. Throughout that time, he was a referee, umpire and had many great nights as a player and the commissioner of the Mendota men's slow pitch softball league. In his free time, he could be found sunbathing in the backyard with a Cubs game on, at a concert or sporting event, or spending time with his family at his sister's farm house. He loved supporting his grandchildren in everything they were involved in and he could always be found at their soccer games, baseball games or dance recitals. He was quick witted and could always make someone laugh, even if it was just with a look.

Artie moved to Naples in 2004 where he continued to referee and umpire until the spring of 2020. He also made a career as a deejay and brought joy to so many families on their wedding days or during their celebrations. In 2016, he achieved his lifelong dream of seeing a Chicago Cubs World Series win. He always enjoyed having an A&W rootbeer, listening to a great song, beating anyone at checkers, and eating heaping bowls of ice cream or popcorn while watching a movie. He will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Chicago Cubs charities at <https://www.mlb.com/cubs/community/cubs-charities/donate>.

Memories may be shared at the Beachwood Society's website <https://www.beachwoodsociety.com/m/obituaries/>.

Mardelle J. Larson

TULSA, Okla. - Mardelle Jean Larson, 79, of Tulsa, Okla. was received into heaven on July 16, 2021 surrounded by her loving family.

A celebration of life was held at 1 p.m. on July 19 at Fitzgerald Southwood Colonial Chapel in Tulsa.

Mardelle was born April 12, 1942 in Rowan, Iowa to Norris and Grace Larson.

Survivors include her children, Kimberly (David) Hight of Mendota, Dawn (Daniel) McGalliard of Newton, N.C., Ricky Larson of Tulsa, and John Larson of Tulsa; her son by choice, David (Lisa) Horst of Owasso, Okla.; six grandchildren, Josiah, Emily, Jeremiah and Zechariah McGalliard and Aaron and Trevor Horst; one great-granddaughter, Jewel McGalliard; and numerous other extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Mardelle was raised in Britt, Iowa and graduated from high school with the class of 1960. After graduation, she married and began her family, raising four children with commitment and devotion. She had been a real estate agent for over 25 years in the Tulsa area and enjoyed helping people find their dream homes. She loved Jesus, gardening, baking and spending time with family and friends, who benefited regularly from her devout prayer life. She was truly a woman of great faith and that was reflected in her daily life.



Mary Lou Reppin

MENDOTA - Mary Lou Reppin, 86, of Mendota, passed away July 20, 2021 at Heritage Health, Mendota.

There will be no services. Cremation rites have been accorded and private burial will be at a later date. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Mary Lou was born Oct. 3, 1934 in Mendota to Daniel and Kathryn (Andrews) Biers. She married William Reppin on July 16, 1951 in Mendota. He preceded her in death in 2001.

Survivors include her three sons, Bill (Sue) Reppin, Doug Reppin and Steve (Kathy) Reppin; three daughters, Bonnie (Donnie) Saylor, Robin (Benny) Lawson and Sandy (Duane) Jones; one brother, Danny Biers; two sisters, Sharon (Norm) Lemmer and Kathy (Kenny) Smith; 15 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one son, Gary; and one sister-in-law, Eileen Biers.

Mary Lou was a graduate of Mendota High School. She worked as an Avon lady, as a waitress for Parkway Restaurant in Mendota for several years and as a CNA at the Mendota Lutheran Home and Sunrise Nursing Home (Heritage Health). She enjoyed playing bingo and loved taking care of her children and grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to the family via Merritt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Catherine E. Radtke

MENDOTA - Catherine Elizabeth Radtke, 95, of Mendota, passed away July 23, 2021 at Heritage Health, Mendota.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on July 27 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota with Rev. Ken Gibson officiating. Burial was at Restland Memorial Gardens, Mendota. Visitation was for one hour prior to services. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota handled the arrangements.

Catherine was born Jan. 12, 1926 in West Brooklyn to Joseph and Emma (Schneider) Haub. She married Ernest "Ernie" Radtke on Feb. 12, 1945. He preceded her in death.

She and Ernie were blessed with four amazing children and their four amazing spouses who survive including Carole (Steve) Dancy of Mendota, Richard (Carol) Radtke of Bloomington, Minn., Randall (Char) Radtke of Mendota and Rodney (Sara) Radtke of Durham, N.C.; 11 wonderful grandchildren and their eight spouses; 13 great-grandchildren; two siblings, Gib (Sis) Haub and Darlene Shaw; one sister-in-law, Doris Haub; one brother-in-law, Pal Lauer; and she was "Aunt Catherine" to 46 nieces and nephews.

In heaven, she has joined her parents; her husband; two sisters, Flora Grothen and Shirley Lauer; two brothers, LeRoy and Marvin Haub; one son, Randy Radtke; and one grandson, Justin Radtke.

Catherine was a long time member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota where she was part of Bible Circles and choir. Many remember her smile from Classon's Bakery counter. If you ever sat around her table during card club or a family meal, you felt her love. Her family was blessed to have her for 95 years.

Memorials may be directed to M.A.S.S. (Mendota Area Senior Services). Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Stephen Downie

BURLESON, Texas - Stephen Downie, 75, of Burleson, Texas passed away unexpectedly on July 10, 2021.

Steve was born Sept. 17, 1945 in Evanston to Archie and Eloise Downie. He married Lee Ann Buettner.

Survivors include his wife of 29 years; one son, Cameron W. Downie; and his mother-in-law, Linda Buettner.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three siblings, Diane, Marta and Richmond; and his father-in-law, Wayne Buettner.

After graduating from high school, Steve joined the U.S. Air Force and served in Guam. He retired from the Fort Worth School District after 31 years as a diesel mechanic. He enjoyed photography, woodworking, riding his Harley and he was the family chef.



Dorathea L. Robinson

MENDOTA - Dorathea Lena Robinson, 91, died July 17, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

Cremation rites have been accorded with the Neptune Society. Per her wishes, there will be no services. Burial will be at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery at a later date.

Dorathea was born Oct. 10, 1929 in Franklin Grove to Garfield and Mabel (Engel) Fritz. She married Harold D. McCully on Oct. 18, 1947 at St. John's Lutheran Church. They divorced in 1969. She married Richard "Robbie" Robinson in Sycamore in 1973. They divorced in 2005.

Survivors include her children, Gale (Diane) McCully, Janis Johnson and Jeff McCully, all of Mendota; three grandchildren, Scot (Ashley) McCully, Jamie (Tom) Olsen and Bradley McCully, all of Mendota; two great-grandchildren, Liam and Lennon; two stepsons, John Robinson of Mendota and Richard "Ricky" Robinson of LaSalle; and two step daughters, Laurie Robertson and Terrie Robinson, both of Florida.

She was preceded in death by her husbands and two brothers, Theodore "Ted" Fritz and Russell Fritz.

Dorathea had a varied working career including employment at Westclox, Mendota Trouser Factory, Classon's Superfoods and finally working as a CNA at the Mendota Lutheran Home, Heritage Nursing Home, and for home health.

Memorials may be directed to the family.

Kathleen A. Sondgeroth

MENDOTA - Kathleen "Kathy" Ann Sondgeroth, 68, of Peru, formerly of LaMoille, entered eternal life on July 23, 2021 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. on July 28 at Holy Cross Church, Mendota with Father Gary Blake officiating. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was from 4-7 p.m. on July 27 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Kathy graced the world on March 18, 1953 in Chicago to her adoring father Jack and beloved mother Beverly. She married her loving husband Steven "Steve" Sondgeroth in July 1978.

Survivors include her husband; their children, Kyle (Sandra) Sondgeroth of Champaign, Connie (Carl) Gustafson of Huntley and Craig (Kristina) Sondgeroth of Chatham; seven grandchildren, Stryder (9), Everett (7), Grant (4), Bennett (3), Vivian (2), Charlotte (1) and Blayke (9 months); one brother, Timothy (Heather) Herrick of Elgin; and one sister, Vicki Herrick of Vernon Hills.

Kathy graduated from Glenbrook South High School in 1971 and Western Illinois University in 1975, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. During their 43 years of marriage, She and Steve raised three children, built a successful farming enterprise, traveled the world together, and were inseparable best friends. Her most important role in life was that of loving wife, mother and grandmother. She took deep pride in her family and was a constant source of love and support in all of their lives. The magnificent relationships that she cultivated with her husband, children and grandchildren were as vibrant and beautiful as Kathy herself.

As with her family, Kathy extended her warm, giving spirit to others. Her teaching career spanned from educating her own children in Sunday school to teaching in multiple public schools, retiring from the Ohio School District in 2013. Kathy served as a board member for Gateway Services, Inc., Princeton, volunteered for LaMoille athletics, and was an officer and member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization Sisterhood, Chapter BV, Mendota. She also enjoyed daily walks, exploring new places and cultures, reading and spending time with her dear, lifelong friends. The bright light of her life touched many and will continue to radiate in all those that knew her love.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to either the American Lung Association or the American Diabetes Association. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

See Obituaries online at

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See additional
OBITUARIES, Page A3

E-mail your news

Bonnie Morris
bmorris@
mendotareporter.com

Where is it...
in Mendota?

HOW TO ENTER:

If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday. One correct answer will be drawn each week.

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Warning strip above 4th avenue viaduct
Winner - Julie Schmidt

LOCAL AND AREA

Pritzker has ‘no plans’ for added mitigations; ‘local control’ is focus of new school guidelines

□ Districts ‘should’ require masks for unvaccinated students, encourage distancing

By **JERRY NOWICKI**

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—The wide availability of COVID-19 vaccines has changed the state’s approach for mitigating the virus’ spread statewide and in schools.

For school districts, that means suggested rather than required guidance, with an emphasis on local control in imposing mitigations.

For the governor’s office, that means there are “no plans” to reinstate some of the mitigation measures and economic shutdowns that were commonplace earlier in the pandemic.

“Restore Illinois mitigations that were enacted during the height of the pandemic allowed for safe and proven infection prevention measures since no vaccine was available,” a spokesperson for the governor’s office said. “Currently there is no plan to implement any additional mitigations now that there is an abundance of vaccine available and accessible across Illinois. We encourage all Illinoisans ages 12+ to get vaccinated as soon as possible.”

Previously, if a region had a positivity rate of 8 percent or higher for three days, the governor’s office and Illinois Department of Public Health had a menu of mitigations they could put in place, such as closure of indoor dining and capacity restrictions at businesses. But, because of the vaccine’s availability, those options aren’t currently on the table, even as positivity rates rise in some areas and a more contagious variant of the virus spreads.

The state’s guidance currently “recommends” face coverings in public indoor places for those who are unvaccinated, while masks are required on public transportation and in medical facilities.

The “recommended” masking guidance will be the same for schools after the state fully adopted U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance recently. Schools are also encouraged to maintain three feet of distance between each student.

“Pursuant to CDC guidance, Illinois school districts have local control over how they should work with local public health officials to determine the prevention strategies needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission and local vaccine coverage, and using screening testing to detect cases in K-12 schools,” an Illinois State Board of Education spokesperson said.

In accordance with other CDC guidelines, masks will still be required for all passengers on school buses, regardless of the school’s mask policies.

Otherwise, districts are encouraged to take a “layered” mitigation approach, accompanying masking and distancing with “screening testing, cohorting, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneez-

es, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19, and regular cleaning,” according to the CDC.

The guidance also recommends that if school administrators remove any prevention strategies based on local conditions, they should do so “one at a time and monitor closely (with adequate testing through the school and/or community) for any increases in COVID-19 cases.”

Free testing programs are available to Illinois schools through IDPH, while districts can also use federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding for screening testing as well, according to ISBE.

Operationally, ISBE has regulatory authority to reduce the recognition status of any school district exhibiting “deficiencies that present a health hazard or a danger to students or staff,” pursuant to state law, according to the spokesperson. But the state board is not invoking that authority.

“ISBE is not currently taking any recognition action against any school districts. We will continue to support school districts in aligning with the new CDC guidance,” the spokesperson said.

State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala issued a declaration requiring resumption of in-person learning this school year, provided remote instruction is made available for students under quarantine.

“All our students deserve to return safely in-person to schools this fall,” Ayala said in a news release. “With vaccination rates continually rising and unprecedented federal funding to support safe in-person learning, and mitigations such as contact tracing and increased ventilation in place in schools, we are fully confident in the safety of in-person learning this fall.”

Districts should also promote vaccination, which is “currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to the guidance.

Currently, only one of three vaccines being administered in the U.S. is approved for use in children – the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which has been approved for those 12 and older.

IDPH maintains a website that tracks county-level metrics through which schools can monitor community spread based on test positivity rates, new cases per 100,000, youth case increases and other metrics. It measures risks based on scale of minimal to moderate to substantial.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)

IVCC discusses master plan projects, ag building grant

OGLESBY—The Illinois Valley Community College board’s facilities committee met July 22 to discuss master plan projects, an ag building grant, a three-year farm lease and a proposal from the City of Oglesby for a solar farm on college land.

Master plan projects discussed included:

- Repurposing of the current Therapeutic Massage area in the upper gym into a lab for dental hygiene and dental assisting. Dental hygiene is targeted to launch in fall 2023.

- Nursing simulation lab being constructed in an open space in B Building that was formerly the site of the Math

Learning Center.

- Expansion of the biology lab into what is currently home to the Art Studio in the lower level of Building B.

- Replacement of the salt shed located near the ag storage building. The shed will be demolished and reconstructed near the maintenance building on east campus.

In other business, the committee learned:

- IVCC received a \$240,788 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for construction of an agriculture center adjacent to the storage building. The funding will be used for parking lot paving

and asphalt work.

- A request for proposals will be issued in September for a tenant to farm 149 acres. In a related note, before additional tiling is installed on the farmland, a topographic survey will be conducted this fall.

• IVCC administrators met recently with City of Oglesby representatives to discuss Oglesby’s desire to annex a piece of IVCC farmland for a solar farm. The farm would allow the city to incorporate green energy into its grid and potentially lead to educational and training opportunities for IVCC students.

The next meeting of the IVCC board is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12.

Fortune Phrase winner earns Sullivan’s card

MENDOTA—The entries are in and the winner has been selected for Week Three of The Mendota Reporter Fortune Phrase game.

As in the first two weeks, there were many correct answers, so they all went in a box and the entry submitted by Deb Simkins of Mendota was drawn out. She is the winner of a \$25 gift card from Sullivan’s Foods in Mendota.

The correct phrase was: Tons Of Hot Buttered Sweet Corn Is On the Menu.

The words were hidden in the following ads: Tons – Meyers Furniture; Of – Reporter e-Edition; Hot – Mendota Farmers Market; Buttered – Tri-County Fair (John King); Sweet – Tri-County Fair (events); Corn – Sullivan’s Foods; Is – Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce (Sweet Corn Festival); On – Eureka Savings Bank; The – Reporter classifieds; Menu – Reporter garage sales.

Check out this week’s Money Saver or Reporter for the final week of the Fortune Phrase game.

Re-election

Continued from Page A1

know there’s still a lot of work ahead of us,” Stratton said in the ad. “We’ve got to help families get through the other side of the pandemic. We’ve got to continue tackling the systemic inequalities and barriers to justice that have been present for far too long, we’ve got to build on what we’ve started, keep putting Illinois on the right track and continue moving forward together.”

The announcement comes as the state is in the middle of a broader reopening period after more than a year of economic restrictions levied by Pritzker, largely through executive order, in response to the pandemic that has killed more than 23,000 Illinoisans.

But it also comes as the state and nation are seeing a resurgence of the virus as vaccination rates stagnate and a new more contagious variant spreads.

As the numbers rise, Pritzker’s office said the governor currently has “no plan to implement any additional mitigations now that there is an abundance of vaccine

available and accessible across Illinois. We encourage all Illinoisans ages 12-plus to get vaccinated as soon as possible.”

But Pritzker, speaking at a news conference regarding infrastructure, said his administration is “always open to making changes in policy in order to keep people safe and healthy.”

“Obviously, we’ve got rising rates of infection in certain parts of the state, and decisions will be made, if those areas continue to have rising infection rates, about whether or not we need to impose some different standard for those areas,” he said, speaking of counties on the border of Missouri, which has one of the worst infection rates in the nation.

Pritzker spent \$171 million of his multi-billion dollar personal fortune during his successful election to unseat Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner in 2018. In recent weeks, the governor has been bankrolling “Blue Wave Illinois” ads on social media, emphasizing Illinois Democrats’ accomplishments such as a minimum wage increase passed in

2019 and Republicans’ unanimous opposition to the measure.

He will join a 2022 field that includes three announced Republican candidates and a number of other intriguing potential candidates.

That includes Darren Bailey, a state senator from Xenia who was an outspoken critic of the governor’s pandemic response, challenging Pritzker’s executive orders in court in a high profile case that was eventually tossed by a judge.

Paul Schimpf, an ex-state senator and former unsuccessful GOP candidate for attorney general in 2014, has also been campaigning across the state.

Gary Rabine, a Schaumburg businessman who founded the Rabine Group, an exterior services company, is also seeking the Republican nomination.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)

Pageant

Continued from Page A1

of the coat and sock drive she established in town that helps supply local organizations.

Amanda Simpson is the choice of the Mendota Fire Department for this year’s pageant. She is the daughter of Karie Simpson and Randy and Amanda Simpson.

A 2021 graduate of Ottawa High School, she was a member of the track and field and cross-country teams. She also competed in

wrestling and was a member of FFA.

Simpson will be attending Illinois Valley Community College in the fall, seeking a degree in general education and will be on the wrestling team.

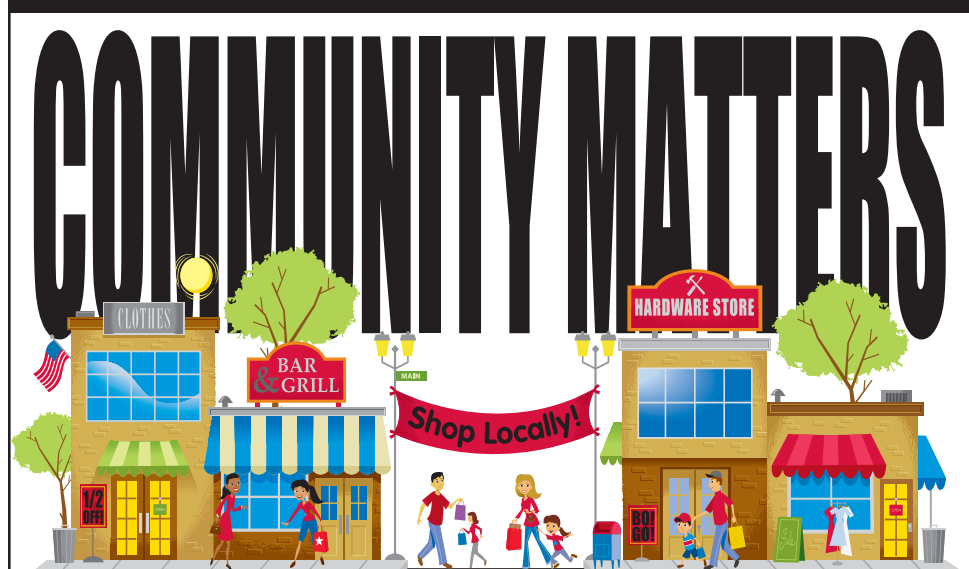
This summer you will find her working at Dunkin Donuts making coffee, cleaning, taking orders, and a variety of management tasks. She also plans to volunteer time at the PADS shelter and get ready for

school.

Simpson’s hobbies include wrestling and weightlifting. She also has particular interests in history and agriculture.

Her plans for the future are to fulfill her general education requirements at IVCC and proceed to becoming certified as a personal trainer. Further, she hopes to advance her education post-IVCC and achieve a degree in sports physical training.

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OPINION



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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.

Cuba's ongoing problems

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD – As demonstrators in Havana marched through the streets this month waving U.S. flags, George Ryan sat in his Kankakee home, watched the reports on television and remembered another controversy regarding the Stars and Stripes and Cuba.

In 1999, George Ryan became the first U.S. governor to visit that communist nation.

“The Cubans wanted to play the national anthem and display the U.S. flag when we got off the plane. But it didn’t happen because our State Department contacted the Cubans and demanded that they not do it,” he said during a telephone interview.

The U.S. Government has had an embargo against Cuba for about 60 years. It was established in response to the Cuban government seizing property owned by U.S. businesses. And for most of the last six decades the United States has not had formal diplomatic relations with Cuba.

President Barack Obama reestablished diplomatic relations in 2015. But most of the last 60 years, the U.S. has gone through ritualized exercises to show their displeasure with the communist regime such as not allowing the U.S. flag to be flown or the national anthem to be played to welcome visiting dignitaries.

Ryan, who served as Illinois governor from 1999 to 2003, instigated the trip to Cuba despite opposition from the State Department. As part of the negotiations between the state and federal government the official reason for the trip was transformed from a trade mission to a humanitarian outreach.

Today, Ryan, who is 87, has plenty of interest in the democracy demonstrations taking place in Cuba -- but not much optimism.

“I’m afraid they are just going to lock a whole bunch of people up in jail and really crack down on the demonstrators. I’d like to see change happen in Cuba but as long as those who were associated with the Castros (Fidel and his brother Raul) are still in charge, I don’t think it will happen.”

Ryan has been a harsh critic of Fidel Castro and his successors. But Ryan has also demanded that the U.S. trade embargo with the island nation come to an end.

“I’m convinced that the people of Illinois can be of tremendous help to the people of Cuba,” he said in 1999. “I believe our strengths in agriculture and education and medical research, as well as our state’s strong humanitarian record, will be able to ease some of the burden that’s felt daily by the families in Cuba.”

During his visit Ryan toured hospitals, laboratories and farms.

“So much of what we saw was completely fake,” he said. “We went into a classroom with a microscope on every desk. Our Cuban hosts would have us believe this was state-of-the-art. But the microscopes were quite old and were covered with plastic. When we went to the farm, the barns were still dripping with whitewash.”

Ryan, a Republican, said in recent weeks the sight of ordinary Cubans waving American flags and demanding political freedom was inspiring.

“I’m proud seeing our flag flying in the streets of Havana,” he said. Shortly after his 1999 visit to Cuba, Ryan called for making Cuba the 51st U.S. state.

A legacy of the 1999 humanitarian outreach was that cultural and athletic exchanges were established between Illinois and Cuba.

Then-state-Sen. Dan Rutherford led the first exchange when he brought a group of Illinois junior high and high school softball and baseball players to Cuba in 2001. Since then, he has established a travel business that takes Americans on tours of Cuba.

“Up until the pandemic began, I was traveling to Cuba about every six weeks. I have many friends in Cuba – waiters and waitress, drivers – who I’m in regular contact with. I don’t think most Cubans want radical political change, they want economic reforms. The reasons these demonstrations are taking place is because there has been a shortage of food, medicine and energy,” the Pontiac Republican said.

Rutherford views the recent demonstrations differently than the former governor.

“I think it is all fake,” he said. “The former person in the White House talked a lot about ‘fake news’ and I think different factions in the United States are playing up different things for their own agenda. The Cubans I talk to are more interested in economic issues rather than radical political change. The pandemic shut down the tourism industry from Europe and elsewhere in Cuba and because of that there is not enough to eat.”

Although the trade embargo allows for Cuba to buy food and medicine from the United States, Rutherford contends it is the reason Cubans are going hungry.

“Since American tourists aren’t allowed in Cuba and Cubans living in the United States can’t send money back to their relatives and because the U.S. won’t buy Cuban goods, Cuba lacks the hard currency to buy food and medicine from overseas.”

Rutherford said an odd dichotomy is that Cuba has a well-educated, literate population. And it has the best physicians in Latin America. And, yet, basic items such as aspirin can’t be found in the nation’s pharmacies.

“I think if economic reforms come to Cuba, political reforms will follow,” Rutherford said. “It’s time for the trade embargo to come to an end – it’s only hurting ordinary Cubans.”

(Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist. He works as a freelance reporter in the Springfield area. Scottreeder1965@gmail.com)



Super 8 Motel assured – 1988

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from July 30, 2003.)

By Jessica Nashold

A series of meetings in July 1988 led to annexation of 89.9 acres on the southeast corner of the U.S. 34 and Interstate 39 interchange. On July 18, all of the people interested in a 40-unit Super 8 Motel for Mendota attended a special TIF meeting. On July 21, the City Planning Commission addressed ordinances required to accomplish the proposed annexation and building permit. On July 26, a special council meeting dealt with questions raised by Bharat Patel, the motel proprietor, the Setchell family, property owners, and the city of Mendota. Final details were approved and were to be confirmed at the next regular council meeting, Aug. 2.

Mendota will have its motel.

Two new grade school board members were seated at the July 21, 1988 meeting, Cathy Lawson and Dr. Dan Doyle were urged to attend the next state convention of school boards, Nov. 28-29, during which workshops for new members were scheduled.

At a July 1988 meeting of the Graves Public Library board, it was decided to delay action on conversion to a district system. With several annexations under consideration, it was pointed out that boundaries of the acreage that would be included in the potential district should be known before the district system was put to vote.

Greg Gromann reported to the city council that quotes had been received from 11 companies interested in supplying a computer system to the city of Mendota. The field had been narrowed to three, mainly because others lacked experience in serving municipalities. The three being considered were located in Illinois, South Dakota and California.

As Tower & Waller closed the doors

Backtracks & Sidetracks

of their machine shop on July 15, 1988, they were interviewed by The Reporter's Audrey Lawrence. They had gone into business together in 1945, when Bert Waller, a tool maker at Rock Island Arsenal, arrived in Mendota to assist in the care of his wife's mother, who was also the mother of John Tower. Tower had worked with the J.D. Tower & Sons factory and at Conco. It was just at the close of World War II, and the brothers-in-law were skilled in making machine parts and repairs to keep equipment functional while new equipment was in short supply. Among their customers were implement dealers, garages and even the Del Monte plant, as well as individuals. Although business had been thriving, their location could not be made available to another shop as it was zoned "restricted industrial."

Tower & Waller would be the last.

For the first time, Mendota High participated in a passing tournament at Walnut. Coach Dean Lubbs said it afforded an opportunity for players to compare skills with team members from other communities. On July 30, 1988, 300 students from 20 high schools were to compete on eight different fields. It was the fourth year Walnut had hosted the event. Mendota was scheduled to meet Waukegan West, East Peoria, Homewood-Flossmoor and Holy Cross (River Grove).

Mendota Area Senior Services marked its 10th anniversary on July 24, 1988, with an open house in the Feik Senior Parlor from 2-4 p.m. The goal of MASS was to enable the elderly to live in their own homes as long as possible.

Bud Dinges, president, said there was no set fee for assistance provided in various ways.

Donations are suggested according to amount of work involved.

Peter Donahue called for volunteers to assist pulling weeds in the Civic Center flower bed.

The Mendota Police Department received the Silver Safety Belt award in July 1988, in recognition of its enforcement of Illinois safety belt use.

Gilbert Crane was honored for 40 years in the post office department. He received a service award pin, a letter of appreciation and an anniversary cake.

Presentation was made by Postmaster Rita Wruck and supervisor Al Stiel.

Both boys and girls from Mendota competed in Migrant Olympics in Peoria on July 15, 1988. Fifteen different families were represented among the winners in a variety of races and other sports: Escatel, Rodriguez, Nanez, Diaz, Gomez, Valdez, Martinez, Rosales, Tostado, Medina, Arteaga, Gonzalez, Roche, Garza and Botello.

Dealers and collectors from four states attended the Crossroads Trading Card Show at the Mendota Civic Center on July 24, 1988. The 50-cent admission fee entitled fans to receive an autograph from a former Cub pitcher, Milt Pappas. Others paid \$1.

Pappas gave autographs from 1-3 p.m.

Dr. David Alan Scholl joined the family practice of Drs. Stephen Schubert and William Morgan at Mendota Community Hospital in July 1988.

The Quonset, which had served businesses for years on North Main Street north of the Consortium, was demolished in July 1988.

Yes, remember the Alamo

By Rich Lowry

No one is trying to topple the Alamo quite yet, but a new revisionist book on the foundational event of Texas history partakes of the iconoclastic spirit of our time.

The book, titled "Forget the Alamo," is a harsh call for Texans, and Americans, to get over a battle deeply etched in our popular memory. According to the authors, the Texans (then the Texians) were foolish to try to defend the indefensible. Some of the defenders tried to make a run for it. Santa Anna, the Mexican general central to the story, wasn't so bad. And given the importance of slavery to the early history of Texas, the Alamo and the Texas Revolution are due an overall post-George Floyd reevaluation.

If there are legitimate disputes over the historical record, it's really not hard to understand why a badly outnumbered garrison of men who fought ferociously against a government force almost to the last man and provided a rallying cry for a rebellion that quickly swept to success occupies an outsize place in our imagination.

Especially given that two of the most famous Americans of the time, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died there.

Such an event is inevitably catnip for myth-making, but even when stripped down to its essence, the Alamo and the aftermath were truly extraordinary.

Santa Anna, president of Mexico 11 separate times, first took power as a federalist, then switched sides and became a centralizer. A new constitution squashed Mexican states that had been run largely autonomously. Santa Anna put down the ensuing revolt in the province of Zacatecas in horrifyingly brutal fashion, and then he came for Texas.

About 150 defenders holed up in the Alamo, and the rest is not just legend, but history.

Santa Anna did indeed signal that his force of more than a thousand would give no quarter.

William Barret Travis, commander of the garrison, did indeed write an immortal letter concluding, "Victory or death." He made a plea for reinforcements that never came. "If this call is neglected," he wrote, "I am determined to sustain

myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country."

Santa Anna's troops did indeed launch an early morning attack that was bloodied by the defenders, but quickly overwhelmed the fortification. Santa Anna insisted that roughly half a dozen survivors be executed, and followed up this atrocity with the murder of about 350 other captured rebels in the Goliad Massacre.

Sam Houston, his forces swelled by volunteers, did indeed tell his troops prior to the Battle of San Jacinto: "We will meet the enemy. Some of us may be killed, and must be killed. But, soldiers, remember the Alamo, the Alamo, the Alamo!" In an astonishing turnabout, the battle turned into a bloody rout of the Mexicans that secured the independence of Texas.

Who wouldn't want to make a movie of such events?

Of course, such popularizations aren't going to be academically rigorous. Pushing back, the authors of "Forget the Alamo" assail the character of Jim Bowie and William Travis, and, sure enough, you wouldn't trust them to manage your real-estate holdings. Texas at the time was a hard place, and the Mexicans and Comanche who contended for control of the territory weren't paragons, either.

The authors note the contribution of the Tejanos, native Texans of Mexican descent, and regret how it's missing from many accounts of the revolution, which is fair enough, but doesn't detract from the basic story.

They make much of how Mexico abolished slavery, whereas Texas planters depended on it. Yet Mexico tolerated slavery in Texas and had its own rigidly hierarchical economic system.

By all means, let's be as truthful as possible about the Alamo and the Texas Revolution. But it's pointlessly destructive to tear down what deserves to be honored and to forget what -- as Sam Houston insisted so ringingly and aptly -- should be remembered.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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THE FORTUNE PHRASE

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THE FARMER'S REPORT

Rethinking methane: Animal ag viewed as part of climate solution

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

Animal agriculture and meat consumption aren't near the threat to climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as often portrayed.

In fact, the highly publicized and often criticized gas emitted by animal ag, methane, possesses qualities that could help lead the way to climate neutrality, according to Frank Mitloehner, professor and air quality specialist in the department of animal sciences at the University of California-Davis.

"I think there are some issues around climate change not accurately portrayed," Mitloehner said. "Many feel methane is the Achilles' heel of animal ag. We're about to change the narrative."

Mitloehner discussed the subject in early June in an address aimed at "Rethinking Methane" during the World Pork Expo in Des Moines.

A key point to the professor's analysis centers on atmospheric removal of methane through a chemical reaction called oxidation.

While roughly 560 teragrams (trillion grams) of methane enter the atmosphere annually, the majority, 550 teragrams, are removed via natural processes.

Meanwhile, methane has a relatively short lifespan (10 years) compared to 110 years for nitrous oxide and 1,000 years for carbon dioxide. All three greenhouse gases store solar heat when in the atmosphere.

"Methane is different than other greenhouse gases," Mitloehner said. "It's not only produced, but it's naturally destroyed. This is a fact that's often ignored."

"I'm not saying methane isn't a problem," he continued. "But, it has an atmospheric removal process you need to be aware of."

Methane is known as a flow gas due to the fact it's destroyed in the atmosphere at the same rate of emission. Carbon dioxide, by comparison, is a stock gas, meaning every time a person burns fossil fuel it remains in the atmosphere for a long period of time.

The professor also noted methane is produced through the atmosphere and via photosynthesis of plants. So, when livestock consume plants, do they technically emit new additional carbon



into the atmosphere?

"They're not producing new carbon," Mitloehner said. "It's recycled carbon (from plants) that was in the atmosphere in the form of CO₂ (carbon dioxide)."

"All the climate agreements want to keep warming from increasing," he noted. "If an industry keeps warming constant, it would satisfy the Paris Climate Accord. In fact, we're doing that today (in animal ag)."

Looking ahead, methane can actually help counter the effect of other GHGs.

"We should work on techniques and technologies to further reduce methane," Mitloehner said. "It will lessen the effect of other gases and help lead to climate neutrality."

California implemented aggressive emissions reduction strategies on farms and reduced GHG emissions by 2.2 million tons in the dairy sector since 2015, according to the air quality specialist.

The hog industry continues on a similar path of success as it doubled pork production in the U.S. in the past 50 years while using 76% less land, 25% less water and 7% less energy, according to Jen Sorenson, president of the National Pork Producers Council.

"U.S. pork producers have a great story to tell," she said. "And we're not done. We support incentives to further reduce emissions."

The pork industry lowered its carbon footprint by 7.7% in recent decades and, as of 2019, accounted for just 0.4% of total GHG emissions.

To learn more about Mitloehner's research on climate change and the role of animal ag, search and watch his videos on YouTube "Rethinking Methane" and "Eating Less Meat Won't Save the Planet. Here's Why."

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.)



Event attendees hear from Shay Foulk, a farm and ag business consultant, and Austin Omer, Illinois Farm Bureau associate director of natural resource policy, about the species of plants in the cover crop plot. (Photo by Raelynn Parmely, Illinois Farm Bureau environmental program manager)

Cover crops: The proof is in the soil

By CHRISTOPHER HEIMERMAN
For Illinois Press Association

MAGNOLIA – When asked what he farms on his land south of Toluca, Bill Leigh answered with a deadpan expression.

"Soil," he said.

Leigh cracked a smile and said, like most Illinois farmers, he raises corn and soybeans. But there was a lot of honesty in that joke. Cover crops and soil health are what drew about 50 other farmers to a Nutrient Stewardship Field Day put on by the Marshall-Putnam Farm Bureau recently at Mark Monier's farm. It was the third of nine such events this summer being conducted by Illinois Farm Bureau and numerous partners.

Shay Foulk is a farmer and farm and ag business consultant who serves on the Marshall-Putnam Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He gave a tour of 11 cover crops he planted and curated on his father-in-law's property in the spring. The planting site is one of several that will be monitored, including frequent soil testing, during a multi-year cover crop project along the Illinois River. The crops include oats, radish, cereal rye, turnip, buckwheat, winter peas, rapeseed/canola, barley, alfalfa, triticale, and wheat.

But before the crowd stepped out from under the tent provided by the IFB and into the sun, Stacy Zuber, the soil health specialist for the Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service, showed the proof of cover crops' effectiveness is already in the pudding, ... er, soil.

In one hand, she took a chunk of soil from a conventionally tilled corn and soybean field. In the other she took a

handful of soil fostered by the NRCS' tenets of soil health: maximizing living roots and biodiversity, minimizing disturbance, and maximizing soil cover.

She dropped them into two massive plastic measuring tubes filled with water, and explained that the traditional soil had little to no aggregation and, as a result, crucial nutrients couldn't pass through its pores.

As she spoke, the tubes were already doing a fine job explaining the difference, as the water holding the traditional soil turned a nearly opaque brown.

"This blocky mass is not good for us," she said, explaining that soil without aggregation and pores will cause pooling and form a crust on the surface, which leads to erosion and nutrient loss.

Zuber described soil as a vital, living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans, thanks to its billions of bacteria, fungi and other organisms.

So how do farmers get aggregate-rich, healthy soil that results in better yields, while also taking care of Mother Earth?

"It's so important that we feed our microbes a diverse diet from our cover crops," Zuber said. "If you have corn and soybeans over two years, that's all you're getting. Certain microbes want certain foods."

Andrew Margenot, an assistant professor in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois' College of ACES, followed Zuber's act by breaking down cover crops' three roles – pump, drill and shield – and said while some check all three boxes, some are specialists. For instance, radishes make terrific drills, as they break up soil compaction to improve aeration and wa-

ter infiltration. When Margenot brought up interseeding, such as multiple species of clover with the long-standing staple cereal rye, Steve Vogel, who owns and operates a fifth-generation no-till farm in Woodford County, said he's seen synergy in such combinations that result in better growth all around.

But Mark Read, who has retired from farming but still manages several properties and serves as president of the Illinois Soybean Association's District 5, said an attempt to plant cover crops on cornfields using a plane was a failed project. He said he's heard from several farmers who faced the same frustration after investing their money and time.

"You only need a couple of failures before you get rid of it," Read said, adding that he's gone back to just winter cereal rye.

Margenot said anyone who wanted to further discuss cover crops, soil and water quality, nightcrawlers, pig manure, or anything really, should talk with him after the event wrapped up.

"I'll be here all day," he said. "These discussions are exactly what need to be happening."

Lauren Lurkins, director of environmental policy at Illinois Farm Bureau, was happy with the robust dialogue among presenters and attendees at the field day.

She was equally overjoyed with the turnout, considering that spring events, hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, were restricted to 35 registrants.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.)

SIU to test electricity as a weed killer

CARBONDALE – Southern Illinois University Carbondale is collaborating on a project testing the use of electricity to control weeds in agricultural settings.

Karla Gage, associate professor of weed science and plant biology, is working with researchers Mandy Bish and Kevin Bradley from the University of Missouri on testing The Annihilator 6R30 Weed Zapper, a patented, electric weed control unit mounted to a tractor. The multistate project is funded by the North Central Soybean Research Program with support from the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, who purchased the implement, and includes researchers from Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, Kansas State University and Purdue University.

With certain weeds becoming increasingly resistant to traditional herbicide

management, farmers and agriculture researchers are taking another look at the practice of electrocuting weeds, which railroad companies used as long ago as the 1890s. Those companies, however, eventually turned to fire and eventually to herbicides, once those became available.

"Herbicide resistance is especially problematic in agriculture, and there are over 20 species in the North Central soybean production region that are confirmed as resistant to at least one herbicide site of action," Gage said. "Growers are looking for new weed control tools to use."

Two of the most problematic species in Illinois and the extended soybean production region are Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) and waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*), Gage said.

While electricity is one alternative, another option SIU researchers are exploring is called harvest weed seed control. In that method, weed seeds are managed or destroyed before they go back into the soil seedbank to germinate the following season.

SIU researchers also are exploring the use of inter-row cultivation and other non-chemical weed control methods. Keeping in line with the proposal's exploration of non-chemical weed control methods, SIU will be looking at a comparison treatment of inter-row cultivation to remove weeds.

"This will be done alone and in combination with the Weed Zapper," Gage said. "Electrocution has again become a potential tool."

In the case of The Annihilator 6R30 Weed Zapper, the equipment researchers are testing, two or more tool

bars are mounted to a tractor, with each containing an electrode. The bars contact weeds that have grown above the soybean crop canopy and electrocute them. Just 65 to 130 milliseconds of the proper amount of current can cause them to die.

Research with the Annihilator 6R30 Weed Zapper began in Missouri in 2020 with focus on weeds common to Missouri soybean producers. But many questions remain with the method and how effective it will be across geographies and weed species. The influence of a plant's specific biology – factors such as its leaf orientation, cuticle thickness and the location of its growing points – will likely impact effectiveness.

"All this may have an impact on the feasibility and effectiveness of electrocution," Gage said. "The study seeks to answer many of these questions."

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



An aerial shot from the virtual tour shows the 2,000-acre Hunter Haven Farms in Pearl City. (Photo courtesy of Illinois Farm Bureau)

'Cows are very social animals': Tech, humane treatment of herd focus of virtual dairy tour

By CHRISTOPHER HEIMERMAN
For Illinois Press Association

PEARL CITY—It's good to be a dairy cow at Hunter Haven Farms.

That was made abundantly clear during a virtual tour hosted earlier in July by the Illinois Milk Producers Association and University of Illinois Dairy Extension.

The emphasis of the tour, given by farmer Scott Brenner, was technology. In a moment we'll get to the methane biodigester that puts the 2,000-acre operation on the cutting edge.

But humane treatment of the herd is a key factor in the nearly 100 pounds of milk per day the farm gets from each of its 900-plus cows. Participant Mike Hutjens, a professor emeritus at U of I who was raised on a 313-acre dairy farm near Green Bay, Wis., asked Brenner what, exactly, he monitors on his farm.

"You can tell a lot about how a cow is feeling by just looking at her," Brenner said. "Are her ears up? How do her eyes look? Is her udder full?"

He said the simple act of keeping heifers, animals who have never given birth before, and cows, animals who have already given birth, separate reaps big dividends.

"Cows are very social animals," he said. "They have a pecking order, just like people."

Brenner said it's crucial to consistently crunch the numbers to know exactly how many heifers you need to maximize the operation, and to leverage the data and control the size of the herd and minimize the number of animals that get sold into feedlot operations.

"We're trying to get the numbers right, so there aren't many animals who don't make the team," Brenner said.

On the subject of efficiency, the farm uses an elaborate, anaerobic digester that ... well ... digests methane from manure and turns it into energy used on the farm.

Brenner spends all of 10 minutes a day with the biodigester. He compared its digesting process to that of a cow, and said its performance hinges on what the cows are eating.

"It's a flow system like a cow, and the digester has to be treated like a cow," he said. "If cows slug [down] feed and get a gut ache, that thing will get a gut ache. If you treat it as a piece of equipment, you're going to be frustrated with it."

To really drive home the comparison, the digester uses a boiler and heat coils to heat water to 101 degrees — the same



Scott Brenner, farmer at Hunter Haven Farms in Pearl City, is shown in front of the dairy farm's biodigester during a virtual tour hosted recently by the Illinois Milk Producers Association and the University of Illinois Dairy Extension. (Photo courtesy of Illinois Farm Bureau)

temperature of a healthy cow.

In addition to producing natural gas, the digester produces biodegradable, comfortable bedding for the cows, which is added every morning to the stalls. The farm sells tons of additional bedding to a neighboring dairy farm.

Exploring new solutions

The farm could explore integrating solar panels into the operation someday, but Brenner said a project proposed would cost nearly a million dollars. The farm is instead investing its resources in air flow to keep the cows comfortable and, in turn, productive. It's invested in massive tunnel fans on the end of the dairy barn, and more fans are being installed inside, with the goal of getting steady air flow up to between 7 and 9 mph.

"For us, air flow, and the animals' comfort, that's what it's all about," Brenner said. "We don't have an endless supply of money. Everybody's looking at solar, but we made this system fit us. We'll let the solar thing work its way out for us. It might be something we can get involved with, but I don't know."

The farm finds plenty of other ways to be a good steward. Brenner and the team are constantly tinkering with their cover crops, although seeding rye in the fall, right after the harvest, is a standby.

The farm's soil contains a lot of clay, and its rolling topography means a great deal of erosion.

"We've learned a lot in the past three or four years about what cover crops work, and what won't. What works one year might not work the next. It's a very

fickle thing," Brenner said. "Anything we can do to help with soil replacement is very important to us."

Being agile with decision-making and being willing to scrap aspects of the operation are crucial to a farm's longevity.

"Maybe you just need to tear the whole thing down and build it again. We've done that here," Brenner said, citing the farm's overhaul of its breeding program, which included shipping excess heifers to a farm in southwest Kansas.

"If you'd told me I'd have cows in Johnson City, Kansas, I would have told you you're crazy," he said.

The Kansas farm features a dirt lot and a concrete feed pad, which conditions in northwest Illinois don't accommodate.

"Just because it's the way things have been done the past 25 years doesn't mean it's right," Brenner said. "You just need to take a holistic approach. There's never anything that's off the table."

Whether determining economic benchmarks or discussing succession plans, open, honest, and proactive conversations are vital.

"There are some hard questions that need to be asked and answered, and some of those conversations aren't very fun," Brenner said. "There's give and take, just like anything, but if everybody has the same goal in the end, you can make it work."

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.)

USDA is seeking new partnerships to safeguard, restore wetland ecosystems

CHAMPAIGN — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest up to \$17 million for conservation partners to help protect and restore critical wetlands on agricultural lands through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP). USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is prioritizing proposals that focus on assisting historically underserved producers conserving wetlands. Proposals from partners are due Aug. 15, 2021. Restored wetlands help to improve water quality downstream, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce impacts from flooding and provide recreational benefits.

"Our goal is to support agricultural producers in their efforts to conserve natural resources on their land," said Ivan Dozier, State Conservationist in Illinois. "Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnerships help partners and producers work together to protect wetland ecosystems on working lands."

Through WREP projects, eligible conservation partners protect, restore and enhance high-priority wetlands on agriculture lands. WREP enables effective integration of wetland

restoration on working agricultural landscapes, providing meaningful benefits to farmers and ranchers who enroll in the program and to the communities where the wetlands exist. Eligible partners include state and local governments and non-government organizations. WREP partners are required to contribute a financial or technical assistance fund match.

WREP funding is for fiscal year 2022, which begins Oct. 1, 2021.

How to Apply

Partners interested in applying should contact their NRCS state office for more information. Proposals are due by Aug. 15, 2021.

More Information

Funding will be provided through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP), part of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), a Farm Bill conservation program. Through WREP, states, local units of governments, and non-governmental collaborate with NRCS through cooperative and partnership agreements. These partners work with private landowners who voluntarily enroll eligible land into easements to protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their properties.

Kish debuts Ag Workshop Series

MALTA — Kishwaukee College's Community Education program has launched a new Agriculture Workshop Series that highlights various aspects of farming and food production.

The new series features several different classes this summer that will teach participants self-sustaining farming practices, which can be turned into entrepreneurial opportunities. Local experts will explore topics such as vegetable gardening, raising sheep, beekeeping and more. All courses will take place virtually.

"Food and farming offer a lot of opportunities for our local community," said LaCretia Konan, Dean of Workforce & Community Education. "These courses allow anyone with an interest in agriculture to take initiative and create a positive impact for themselves and their environment."

The following courses will be available in the coming weeks:

Start Your Edible Garden — Learn how to grow fruits and vegetables in your own backyard. Landscape designer and gardener Katie Powell-Lee will teach the instructor-led courses, which begin Aug. 18, Sept. 15 or Oct. 13. Additionally, a self-paced course can be started at any time. The cost is \$126.

Hobby Farming: Raising

Sheep — Learn the basics of raising sheep on a small-scale farm from instructor Nicole Spezio-DePaz. The class takes place 6-7 pm Tuesday, Aug. 3, via Zoom. The cost is \$8 per person.

Why Homegrown and Handmade — Instructor Deborah Niemann will demonstrate the benefits of having a garden, milking goats and cooking from scratch. The class takes place 6-7 pm Tuesday, Aug. 17, via Zoom. The cost is \$8 per person.

Hobby Farming: Goat Milk Soap — Jill Franke of Tin Shed Farm in Sycamore will teach the benefits of using and making your own goat milk soap. The class takes place 6-7 pm Wednesday, Aug. 18, via Zoom. The cost is \$8 per person.

The Bees and Me — Local expert Larry Kregel will provide insights on beekeeping and how to start your own colony. The class takes place 7-8 pm Wednesday, Aug. 18 via Zoom. The cost is \$8 per person.

For more information on Kishwaukee College's Agriculture Workshop Series, or to register, visit www.kish.edu/agworkshops or contact Melissa Gallagher, Director of Short-Term Training & Continuing Education, at 815-825-9466 or mgallagher1@kish.edu. Additional classes may be added to the series.

Illinois teams become advocates for food access, security

SPRINGFIELD — What does it mean to be hungry? Illinois 4-H teens are challenging experts in the fields of food access, food security, and food justice to learn how to advocate for others in their communities.

In May, 105 youth at the Illinois 4-H Food Action Summit worked with University of Illinois researchers, non-profit professionals, food advocates, and civic leaders in workshops designed to empower young people to strengthen their leadership and work to create food security

in their communities. The day-long Summit provided both educational workshops and networking opportunities.

"We hope youth walked away from this conference with an expanded vision of what is possible in the world of food systems both academically and professionally," says Mark Becker, University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development specialist in food systems. "We hope the Summit sparked ideas and empowered youth to act in their communities."

Presenters and attendees

came from across the country, as well as Puerto Rico and Brazil.

"It was very rewarding to see the youth working and taking action," says Flavio Rocha, Portuguese/English teacher at Campus Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, and summit presenter. "They are so young and already worried about their communities, which was very inspiring."

Time was also devoted to providing youth with professional networking opportunities, both with presenters and with their peers.

"It was rewarding to connect virtually, and it really gave youth the feeling of you are not alone," says Rocha. "Even if we are distant, there is this bond that teens all over the world are doing something similar to what we are doing here. Discussing and sharing ideas was so valuable."

This yearly event is part of ongoing food advocacy work done through Illinois 4-H.

COMPEER Financial provided financial support for this event, through its gifts to the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

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 Antonio Rosales, 41, of 1503 ½ Lincoln Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 14th Avenue and Lincoln Avenue at 5:14 p.m. July 19. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT
 Rene R. Garza, 29, of 907 Illinois Ave., Mendota, was charged at 1:13 a.m. July 21 with leaving the scene of an accident after an investigation into a traffic crash that occurred the night before. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
 Beth M. Kerchner, 58, of 110 15th St., Mendota, was charged with disorderly conduct after police officers responded to a call for service at Main and Eighth streets at 10:37 p.m. July 21. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST
 Steven M. Harmon, 28, of 412 15th St., Mendota, was arrested at 3 p.m. July 23 on a valid LaSalle County failure to appear warrant for obstructing/resisting a peace officer. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST
 Heather R. Vickrey, 27, of 618 ½ Main St., Mendota, was arrested at 4:42 p.m. July 23 on a valid LaSalle County failure to appear warrant for battery. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

VIOLATION OF ORDER OF PROTECTION
 John M. Weygand, 53, of 106 S. Third Ave., Apt. 3, Mendota, was charged with violation of an order of protection at 9:52 a.m. July 24. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County Jail.

DUI
 Elizabeth D. Lundquist, 41, of 309 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while under the influence after a traffic stop at Fourth Avenue and Fifth Street at 1:09 a.m. July 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

City Ordinance

Animals-Pet Waste Ordinance

- The purpose of this section is to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in the City of Mendota so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.
- Requirement for disposal. All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person.
- Exemptions. Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being used for that purpose.
- Violations and penalties. Any person(s) who is found to have violated the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and no more than \$75.

CARDS OF THANKS

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the response we received for our 75th anniversary card show. Thanks to our children, Janet, Kevin and Darryl. We are so grateful.
Harold and Darlene Meisel

The family of Dave Hof would like to thank friends and relatives for their kind expressions of sympathy on the death of our loved one. Your visit, card, telephone call or email helped us through this sad time. Your flowers brightened our day and your memorial gifts will help the food pantry and our First United Methodist Church. Special thanks to Pastor Mary Bohall for her visits and her wonderful words of comfort at his memorial service. Thank you to Paula Baker for her lovely music that enhanced the memorial service. Thanks to the Mendota VFW Post 4079 for the military honors presented at the cemetery service for Dave. We really appreciated Brett Merritt and his staff at Merritt Funeral Home for their guidance and support during this difficult time. You made our tough decisions easier.

Sign Ordinance

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

This statute was designed to keep our neighborhoods clean and free of trash and debris.



Blessing of the Bikes

Pastor Susan Presley of First Presbyterian Church in Mendota gives a special blessing to a little girl and her bicycle during the church's first Blessing of the Bikes on July 17. Thirteen bicycles, two motorcycles, two scooters, one dirt bike, one stroller, a wheelbarrow, and a puppy and their owners all received a blessing. Officers of the Mendota Police Department helped answer some questions about bicycle safety and rules and showed the children their amazing bikes with all the bells and whistles. Everyone took home a goodie bag and enjoyed a delicious snow cone. (Reporter photo by Jamie Stanford)



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Mendota's 74th Annual SWEET CORN FESTIVAL



THURSDAY, AUG. 12

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.

6-10 p.m. Carnival Midway open. The carnival Midway is open to the public. Unlimited ride special for \$25.

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

7 - 9 p.m. The Valley Katz on the First State Bank Stage.

FRIDAY, AUG. 13

10:30 a.m. Youth Division Tennis Tournament. All-day event. Tournament takes place at the Mendota High School tennis courts located at 2300 W. Main St.

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.

Noon -10:30 p.m. Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry downtown Mendota.

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

Noon-10:30 p.m. Carnival Midway open. Unlimited ride specials. Noon-4 p.m., \$25; 6-10 p.m., \$30.

2-4 p.m. & 4:30-6 p.m. The Electrixx performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We The Least with pre-pageant entertainment on the First State Bank Stage.

7:30 p.m. Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on the First State Bank Stage on Route 34 in downtown Mendota. Intermission entertainment provided by We The Least, a local Mendota fan favorite.

7:30 p.m. Beer Garden opens, featuring entertainment by Greenfield Station.

SATURDAY, AUG. 14

9 a.m. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Strouss Park. All-day event. For more information of an application, visit www.sweetcornfestival.com or contact the Mendota Chamber office at 815-539-5607.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. 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. Over 200 vendors in two locations.

10 a.m. 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. First State Bank Hospitality Tent opens for the day.

10:30 a.m. Food & Merchandise Booths open for the day. Featuring festival, ethnic and regional delights, and a variety of merchandise.

10:30 a.m. Adult division tennis tournament doubles. All-day event. Tournament takes place at the Mendota High School tennis courts located at 2300 W. Main St.

10:30 a.m. Magic Matt, performing his strolling magic and balloon artistry in downtown Mendota.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Nicodemus musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Carnival Midway open. Unlimited ride specials. Noon-4 p.m., \$25; 6-10 p.m., \$30.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Steve Cirqua musical performance on the First State Bank Stage.

Noon -2 p.m. 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. From amazing your child with their favorite animal or surprising your loved one with hearts and flowers.

Noon-3 p.m. 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.

Noon - 4 p.m. Mr. Steve performance includes music, magic,

2 p.m.

3 - 5 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

5-7 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 15

9 a.m.-5 p.m. 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. Over 200 vendors in two locations.

Noon-6 p.m. Carnival Midway open. Unlimited ride specials, 1-6 p.m., \$30.

Noon - 12:30 p.m. The Jesse White Tumblers special high-flying performance in front of the Mendota Elks Lodge on Indiana Avenue.

1 p.m. 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.

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

3:30-4 p.m. 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!

balloons and comedy all blended into wholesome family entertainment.

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.

Matt & Kat musical performance on the First State Bank Stage.

K9 Demonstration coordinated by the Mendota Police Department. Located on Indiana Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Andrew Blomquist musical performance in the First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

Beer Garden opens, featuring entertainment by Eric Chesser.

The schedule of events for the 74th annual Sweet Corn Festival is brought to you by the following sponsors:

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- James Franco's reputation for working tirelessly on many projects was well-known. But that all halted in 2017, when two female students, in an acting class he taught, accused him of coercing them to perform explicit sex scenes on camera. A court awarded them and class-action members who filed against Franco \$2,235,000. The two actresses divided \$1,341,000, and a fund was started for the other class-action members.

While Franco paid, he hasn't formally admitted that anything inappropriate happened. "The Long Home," produced, directed and starring Franco, with Josh Hutcherson, Timothy Hutton, Courtney Love, Ashton Kutcher and Josh Harnett, has sat in limbo since 2017, presumably waiting for this verdict. Now Great Point Media, which owns the rights to the film, is desperately looking for a distributor.

Matt Damon has been quietly stacking films for release to theaters. The first, the crime-drama "Stillwater," with Abigail Breslin, arrives July 30; "The Last

Duel," produced and directed by Ridley Scott, and written by Damon with Ben Affleck and Nicole Holofcener, stars Damon and Jodie Comer and is set for Oct. 25. He's currently working with Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Christian Bale and Chris Pratt in "Thor: Love and Thunder." Damon also is executive producer of "Green Beret's Guide to Surviving the Apocalypse," which he's wanted to do since volunteering in Haiti in 2009.



K. Gillan

Now that patrons are returning to theaters, they'll be watching three top actresses from yesterday, today and tomorrow: Two-time Oscar winner Jane Fonda (for "Klute," 1971, and "Coming Home," 1978), at 83, is not slowing down. She's working with Lily Tomlin on the long-delayed seventh season of "Grace and Frankie" (shut down by the pandemic in January) and lending her voice with Whoopi Goldberg for the Apple TV 3D computer-animated comedy "Luck."

Two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett ("The Aviator," 2004, and "Blue Jasmine," 2014) is awaiting the release of director Guillermo del Toro's "Nightmare Alley," co-starring Bradley Cooper and Willem Dafoe, due Dec. 3, and the Netflix black-comedy "Don't Look Up," with Jennifer Lawrence, Leonardo DiCaprio, Meryl Streep and Timothee Chalamet. She's just wrapped the sci-fi comedy "Borderlands," with Kevin Hart, Jamie Lee Curtis and Jack Black, for Lionsgate.

And rising fast is Karen Gillan, who was Amy Pond in the "Doctor Who" series (2008 and 2010-2013). Fans know the 33-year-old native of Inverness, Scotland, as "Nebula" in "The Guardians of the Universe" franchise, "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" (and its sequel), with Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black and Nick Jonas, and she gets top billing in the Judd Apatow Netflix comedy "The Bubble," above David Duchovny, Leslie Mann and Fred Armisen. To think it only took her 12 years to become an overnight sensation!

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Couch Theater

By Rachel Rose

"Dragging the Classics: The Brady Bunch" -- When producers randomly pull actor names and potential situations out of a hat and mash them together, here is the result. Three original cast members of the classic 1970s sitcom teamed up with drag queens from "RuPaul's Drag Race" to precisely re-create a "Brady Bunch" episode. Yes, it's corny. Yes, the actors are long in the tooth to be playing teenagers, and their acting is a little stiff. But for lifelong "Bunch" fans, this is guilty pleasure. Costumes are accurate, set design is perfect, and drag queens Kylie Sonique Love and Kandy Muse provide hilarious yet sincere perspectives to playing Jan and Cindy Brady. (Paramount+)

"The Artist" (PG-13) -- New this week to Hulu's current offerings is the 2012 Academy Award-winner for Best Picture. Starring Jean Dujardin and Berenice Bejo, this French comedy-drama is

a tribute to the magic of the silent-film era of Hollywood. Set from 1927-1932, the plot revolves around an older silent-film star who has a chance meeting with an up-and-coming starlet whose career he then helps propel. Filmed in black-and-white, and largely silent except for the musical score, "The Artist" also won Oscars for costume design and original score. It is a throwback to an almost forgotten style of movie, and a welcome change from the modern. (Hulu)

"Fresh Fried and Crispy" -- Food critic Daym Drops visits eight cities across the U.S. to highlight unique and decadent fried foods. Focusing less on the recipes and more on the final dishes, the show uses a lot of slow-motion effects and up-close camera angles to draw out the indulgence of that first incredible bite. It's so visually enticing, you'll find yourself desperately craving a mile-high Maryland blue

crab sandwich or a San Diego-style cast iron-fried ribeye steak. (Netflix)

"Jolt" (R) -- There's something very satisfying about watching a female character with a rage "problem" act on her impulses against overbearing and generally annoying men. In "Jolt," Kate Beckinsale stars as Lindy, a bouncer with a neurological affliction that affects her impulse control. Self-administered electric shocks help to maintain her temper, until tragedy hits. When her love interest in murdered, Lindy is the prime suspect and must deal with the detectives trying to nail her for the crime (Bobby Cannavale and Laverne Cox), while simultaneously hunting for the real killer. An Amazon Studios original, the cast is rounded out with Susan Sarandon and the man who makes every movie better, Stanley Tucci. (Prime Video)

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I've always been fascinated with the "Lost City of Atlantis." Wasn't there a TV show back in the 1960s about it? My daughter thinks I'm remembering the show for kids with the frog people and dinosaurs, but I've assured her that's not it! -- **H.B.**

A: This question is bringing back such great childhood memories. The Sleestaks were big-eyed humanoids featured in "Land of the Lost," a Saturday morning children's show produced by Sid and Marty Krofft. It debuted in 1974 and starred Wesley Eure, Kathy Coleman (the blond girl with Cindy Brady pigtails) and Spencer Milligan.

Tell your daughter that the show you fondly remember is "Man From Atlantis." It ran from 1977-78 and starred Patrick Duffy (who later played Bobby Ewing on "Dallas") as the shirtless sole survivor of that legendary lost island.

You might be interested in a new documentary that just premiered on the Discovery Channel. "Hunting Atlantis," with expert Stel Pavlou and volcanologist Jess Phoenix, takes you on a journey across the world testing the theory that the Lost City of Atlantis is not as ancient as once believed. Their fascinating exploits

take them to the Black Sea, a mysterious Greek island and unexplored archeological sites along Croatia.

Q: When will the new season of "The Witcher" be on Netflix? I'm assuming there's going to be a second season since it was so darn good. -- **T.A.**

A: You're in luck -- the sophomore season of "The Witcher," starring Henry Cavill and his long blond tresses, will premiere Dec. 21. Just as in the first, the second installment will feature just eight episodes about monster hunter Geralt of Rivia (Cavill), sorceress Yennefer (Anya Chalotra) and princess Ciri (Freya Allan). The plot will be based mostly on the third novel in The Witcher Saga titled "Blood of Elves," by author Andrzej Sapkowski.

"The Witcher" isn't just limited to one series. There's a popular video game series, an upcoming anime feature film, a prequel series and the global virtual celebration called WitcherCon (visit WitcherCon.com).



H. Cavill

Q: Whatever happened to the much-younger woman that Jerry Seinfeld dated at the height of his sitcom fame? I forgot her name, but I believe she designed swimsuits? -- **R.R.**

A: In the early 1990s, 38-year-old comedian Jerry Seinfeld met 17-year-old Shoshanna Lonstein (now Shoshanna Gruss) in Central Park. They reportedly were just friends until Shoshanna turned 18 soon after. She says they eventually broke up because she was homesick and tired of being a tabloid target.

In 1998, she debuted her fashion line with a focus on dresses and later added swimwear to her collection. She's been extremely successful ever since. You can see for yourself at Shoshanna.com, which includes a list of stores that carry her womenswear.

As for her personal life, Shoshanna is now 46 and has three children with her ex-spouse, Joshua Gruss. Jerry, who has been married to his wife, Jessica, since 1999, also has three children.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFW5, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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• Trivia Test •

1. LITERATURE: In which novel did the character Sherlock Holmes first appear?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Area 51 located in the United States?
3. SCIENCE: How long does it take for light from the sun to reach Earth?
4. ENTERTAINERS: Which actor and comedian's original name was Joseph Levitch?
5. GAMES: What is the sum of all numbers on a roulette wheel?
6. AD SLOGANS: What product was advertised with the slogan "Let your fingers do the walking...?"
7. FOOD & DRINK: What grain is used to make sake?
8. U.S. STATES: Which state has used the slogan "Heart of Dixie" on its license plates?

9. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Greek god of time?
10. GAMES: How many players are on each side in a polo game?

Answers

1. "A Study in Scarlet"
2. Nevada
3. About 8 minutes, 20 seconds
4. Jerry Lewis
5. 666
6. Yellow Pages
7. Rice
8. Alabama
9. Chronos
10. Four

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mattress option
- 5 NASCAR advertiser
- 8 Wild guess
- 12 Supervisor
- 14 "Yes --?"
- 15 Accidentally
- 16 Late July babies
- 17 Since Jan. 1
- 18 12-year-olds, e.g.
- 20 Bjorn Borg, for one
- 23 Salon request
- 24 Actress Elisabeth
- 25 Act of contrition
- 28 Knight's address
- 29 Punctuality
- 30 Fez, e.g.
- 32 Woo
- 34 City district
- 35 BMW rival
- 36 Follows
- 37 Mississippi city
- 40 Venus, to Serena
- 41 Mine, in Montreal
- 42 Astaire specialty
- 47 Scepters
- 48 Valuable volume

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- 49 Make a sweater
- 50 "Rah!"
- 51 Not busy
- 10 Soon, poetically
- 11 Employer
- 13 Fill fully
- 19 Fay of "King Kong"
- 20 Snake's warning
- 21 Spinning sound
- 22 Modern money
- 23 Joe of "GoodFellas"
- 25 Talking heads' opinions
- 26 Spiced tea
- 27 British noble
- 29 Ersatz
- 31 Pro Bowl stats
- 33 Zedong follower
- 34 Sushi condiment
- 36 Ocean motion
- 37 Fir coat
- 38 " -- a roll!"
- 39 California city
- 40 Agile
- 43 Motorist's org.
- 44 Silent assent (Abbr.)
- 46 Scrape (out)

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		2		4		1
	7		5		3	
1				6		7

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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"There's something beautiful about keeping certain aspects of your life hidden. Maybe people and clouds are beautiful because you can't see everything." -- Kamenashi Kazuya

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T	O	I	A	A	I	N	K
K	O	O	B	E	A	H	S
C	E	N	V	D	A	V	I
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D	R	A	W	E	C	N	W
I	T	A	W	A	S	U	N
C	O	N	V	N	E	P	E
M	R	E	P	E	D	E	M
S	N	E	E	M	L	O	I
S	O	E	T	E	C	N	A
O	N	O	E	C	N	S	H
S	T	A	B	S	T	A	B

Solution time: 22 mins.
Answers

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LOCAL AND AREA

3-on-3 hoop tournament part of Sweet Corn Fest

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the 74th Annual Sweet Corn Festival, which will be held Aug. 12-15, has announced the addition of the 2021 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. The Mendota Optimist Club will sponsor the tournament.

The tournament will offer four different age divisions: ages 8-12, ages 13-14, ages 15-17, and ages 18 and older, playing on Saturday, Aug. 14. Divisions will begin competing at 9 a.m. at the basketball courts located at Strouss Park, 1100 Meriden St., Mendota.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, Mendota YMCA or by visiting www.sweetcorn-festival.com. There is a \$15



entry fee per player, made payable to the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce.

The entry deadline is Monday, Aug. 9 at 4 p.m. All players registered by Monday, Aug. 2 will be guaranteed to receive a Sweet Corn Festival Basketball T-shirt.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at (815) 539-6507.

IVCC answering demand for CAD careers

OGLESBY – Robust demand for Computer Aided Design technicians has led to opportunities for Illinois Valley Community College students entering an exciting and challenging career featuring 3D modeling this fall.

“The need for drafters, sometimes called detailers, designers or CAD technicians, has intensified,” said IVCC CAD instructor and program coordinator Dorene Data.

“Our graduates are easily employed locally,” she noted, adding, “Most employers are having a hard time filling these positions.”

Data recommends students start with Computer Aided Drafting I-AutoCAD (CAD1200-01), 10 a.m. to 11:50 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Aug. 18 or an online version (CAD1200-100).

Additional offerings include Computer Aided Design I which includes 3D modeling and 3D printing.

CAD 2200-01 meets 1 to 1:50 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Aug. 18. There are no prerequisites for the beginning drafting or design courses.

IVCC offers a basic, 12-credit CAD certificate, larger certificates in specified fields such as architecture or electrical and an associate’s that covers most engineering fields.

“Another appealing program is our 3+1 with Northern Illinois University where a student completes three years at IVCC and one online through NIU and earns a bachelor’s in Industrial Technology,” Data said.

Classes are offered in face-to-face, online and blended formats and the CAD software is free to download and work on at home.

Technicians can expect career growth within a company.

“They will work hand-in-hand with engineers in



CAD instructor Dorene Data shows the capabilities of one of the industrial-grade 3D printers used in her program. (Photo contributed)

many fields,” Data predicted. “Although their main job might be technical drawing, they usually become an integral part of a company’s design team. They often have many other duties besides drafting.”

Engineers, manufacturing personnel, electricians and welders also benefit from CAD.

Drafters use software to convert engineering and architectural designs into technical drawings; most specialize in architectural, civil, electrical, or mechanical drafting and use technical drawings to help design everything from microchips to skyscrapers.

For information, email Dorene_data@ivcc.edu.

QB Club golf outing set for Aug. 6

MENDOTA – Mendota Quarterback Club will be sponsoring a public fundraising event on Friday, Aug. 6 at the Mendota Golf Course. Each year, the Club donates thousands of dollars to both the Mendota High School and Mendota Youth Football programs, and would appreciate your support. This event is entirely open to the public.

Join the Quarterback Club for its 20th Annual QB Club Golf Outing at the Mendota Golf Course. Cost is \$100 per person with steak dinner included. The four-person scramble starts with sign-in and lunch at 11:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 1 p.m., with dinner to follow at 5:30 p.m. If you choose not to golf, the steak dinner is available for \$20 per person.

There will be course games on various holes such as closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc. It is sure to be a fun time for golfers of all skills.

Entry forms are available online at www.mendotaqbclub.com; The Mendota QB Club Facebook page: [facebook.com/MendotaQbClub](https://www.facebook.com/MendotaQbClub) or the Mendota Golf Course. Come join in for a great time and to support your local Mendota Trojans.

IVCC offering EMS courses beginning on August 18

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College has openings in their Emergency Medical Services courses this fall beginning Wednesday, Aug. 18.

The Emergency Medical Responder course provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide immediate emergency medical care for life-threatening conditions until the arrival of other emergency medical services.

Police, firemen, industry, public service individuals and others who may be present at the scene of any medical condition will benefit from this course. Upon completion, students will meet

the requirements for formal recognition by the State as a First Responder.

EMT Basic prepares students for the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Medical Technician. Hands-on training in emergency medical care and equipment is provided. Students must be 18 years of age. Upon completion of the class with a final grade of 76 percent or above, students are eligible to take the National Registry Certification Exam.

Paramedic I covers advanced emergency care of the sick or injured person following the National Department of Transportation Guidelines and is

approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Areas of instruction includes Introduction to Paramedicine, pathophysiology, medication administration, advanced airway management, patient assessment, obstetrical and cardiac emergencies.

Students must be an EMT or Intermediate, Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider and have a high school diploma or GED. Concurrent enrollment in Paramedic Practicum I is required.

For information, contact Nick Fish at (815) 224-0267 or nick_fish@ivcc.edu. Register at www.ivcc.edu/register or call (815) 224-0447.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Facing your giants

We all go through hard times in this life and have issues we need to deal with. While it's not easy to face challenges or things that have caused pain, it can actually help us if we let God use them to do a good work in us.

James 1:12 (NIV) says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

This verse is talking about how going through difficult times and resisting temptation to do wrong tests and tries us, revealing our true character. It prepares us to pass our "tests" so

we can be promoted and move forward in God's plans for us.

It's time to stop running from things that are hard, that we're avoiding or putting off because we just don't want to confront them. I'm talking about issues like debt, an addiction, poor health due to bad habits, unhealthy relationships, messes caused by bad choices that have led you to live in self-pity... or anything else that is making you feel guilty, frustrated and weary.

Maybe you've been living with a broken heart—an emotional wound—that's been bleeding for way too long. Perhaps you have an anger issue, bitterness,

or insecurity that causes you to be easily offended and hard to get along with.

Whatever your "issues" are, they are not just hang-ups, weaknesses or things you have to live with. They are giants coming against you in your walk with Christ. And as a believer in Jesus, you don't have to live with any giant—you are a giant killer!

Confront Your Giants

In 1 Samuel 17, we read about David, the shepherd boy who conquered Goliath, the Philistine giant who was oppressing the Israelite army. David's brothers were soldiers, and his father sent him to the battlefield to take provisions to them. When he heard about Goliath, David asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (v. 26).

It bothered David that these Israelite men of God were standing around, letting Goliath intimidate them, so he said, "I'll fight him!" But King Saul didn't think he could defeat the giant.

So David told Saul how he had killed the lion and the bear when they came after his sheep. Then he said, "This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God!" (v. 36).

You've probably heard the story: he took his slingshot and five smooth stones, "ran quickly to-



ward the battle line" (v. 48), and killed Goliath. David used what he had and ran toward the battle—not away from it. God blessed him and made him a giant killer, and He wants to do the same thing for you!

Learn the Best Strategy for Battle

The first step in confronting your giants is making the decision that you won't live with them any longer but you will trust God to help you do what you need to do to be free of them. Your attitude should be: I am a giant killer, and I'm not running from my problems anymore. I'm going to take responsibility for the messes I've made and stop making excuses to avoid them. I'm trusting God to show me what I need to do, and by His grace, I'll do it!

Remember that we are partners with God—we have a part to do and He has a part. He won't do our part, and we can't do His part. When we do what we can do, He will always do what we cannot do. But we have

to be willing to obey His direction, doing what He shows us to do.

The next step is to study the Word; look up every scripture in the Bible that addresses the issue and meditate on each one. Write them down and put them places where you'll see them often. Pray and ask God to help you apply His Truth to your life. It can also help to read books about the subject, and if you need it, get professional help, like counseling.

As you spend time with God, praying and studying Scripture, He will work in your heart, healing your wounds, strengthening your faith, and showing you how to move forward to overcome your giants.

The truth is, you don't have to live defeated, with a broken heart and emotional pain. Make your mind up today: "I'm not going to stay stuck in the past and give up my future because of something that hurt me. I can't go back and undo it, but I can go forward in Christ. I will be healed

because Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. I am a giant killer!"

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-teaching CD series Don't Panic, This Is Just a Test. 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 130 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and HOW TO AGE WITHOUT GETTING OLD (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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Public Notice is hereby given that on July 13, 2021 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Blunt Hair Lounge, LLC located at 927 Clinton Street Ottawa, IL. 61350.
Dated: July 13, 2021.
Rebekah Pearson Applicant.
No. 0702
(July 21, 28 and Aug. 4, 2021)

PUBLIC NOTICE
LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
(ESTATE)
OF)Case
Marjorie A.)No.
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Deceased)P 145
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Marjorie A. Sondgeroth of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 29, 2021 to Thomas Corrigan of 1400 Guiles

Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342 and Daryl Sondgeroth of 169 N. 39th Road, Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 31, 2022. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
No. 0703 (July 21, 28, Aug. 4, 2021)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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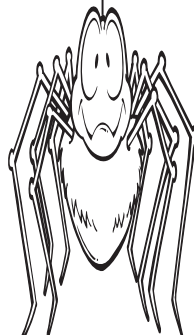


203 HELP WANTED

School Crossing Guard

The city of Mendota is looking to fill a vacancy for a school crossing guard for the 2021-22 school year. This person will need to be responsible, dependable and safety-conscious since their main priority will be making sure children safely cross the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street. The prospective candidate will need to be available from 7:30-8 a.m. and 2:50-3:20 p.m., and any other days during the school year where an early dismissal is necessary. The prospective candidate will also need to perform this duty in all types of weather conditions. This position receives a compensation of equal bi-weekly salary payments throughout the school year. The total amount of compensation is \$7,128.17. This position will start on Aug. 25, 2021 and continue through the 2021-22 school year. Training and any equipment needed will be provided by the city of Mendota. If you are interested in this position, applications can be picked up at the Mendota Police Department, 607 Eighth Ave., Mendota, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Brick 2-Story near downtown needs TLC...	REDUCED	\$75,000
2 Story, Vinyl /Sided 3Bdr. Home.....	SOLD	\$75,000
4 Bdr, Vinyl Sided on Quarter Acre Lot.....	SOLD	\$84,000
3-Bdr, 1.5 Story Home on Nice Corner Lot....	PENDING	\$85,000
Westside 3 Bdr, 2 Bath, 2-Story	SOLD	\$94,900
Nice 3 Bdr. Ranch w/attached Garage.....	SOLD	\$110,000
Country Living on 2 Acre Parcel near Ohio.....	SOLD	\$139,900
Westside, 1800 Sq Ft Ranch on Corner Lot.....	SOLD	\$149,900
Beautiful Updated 3 Bdr Victorian.....	PENDING	\$154,900
4-Bdr Bi-Level in Northbrook Subd.....	SOLD	\$179,900
2300 sq.ft. Brick Ranch w/2car Attached Garage....	SOLD	\$180,000
Brick 2-Story on 4.47 A. w/2-Pole Blds.....	SOLD	CALL!
Unique 2-Story Custom Build Home on 3-Lots.....	PENDING	CALL!

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5 Acre Building Lot in Country Subdivision...	PENDING	CALL!
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1012 Wisconsin
Ave., Mendota
\$89,000

2-3 bedroom 1 1/2 story home on corner lot. Nice neighborhood. Spacious 1 + garage. Large bedroom upstairs. Updated bathroom on main floor. Call for a showing.

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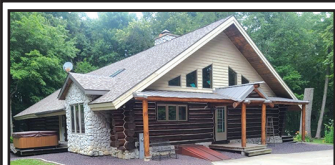
1314 Monroe St.,
Mendota
\$177,000

Very nice ranch home with updates. Excellent location. Basement partially finished with second bath. 3 bedroom, Spacious kitchen. 2 car attached garage, Screened in back porch with patio. Garden shed. Call for all the amenities.



MLS#11037821
306 S. East St.,
Earlville
\$99,000

Nice 3 bedroom home with large eat in sunny kitchen. Large deck on back and a closed in front porch. Affordable. Can close quickly. Call McConville Realty.



247 Knox Road, Mendota \$370,000
Have you always wanted a cabin in the woods to remind you of the Northwoods? Then this beautiful log home is for you. The owner hand-picked and built this log home using trees from WI for their dream home. Pride of ownership shines throughout. Features include 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, double sided stone fireplace, spiral staircase to loft room with pool table for enjoying family time. Loft overlooks the dining, kitchen and living room. Sit outside by the fire pit and listen to nature or relax in the hot tub.



2513 Woods St., West Brooklyn \$230,000
AS CLOSE TO BEING IN THE COUNTRY WITHOUT BEING IN THE COUNTRY! Picture yourself sitting on the front porch of this lovely home enjoying the breeze, or entertaining on the beautiful back landscaped patio, or in the loft area above the garage! The 3 car detached garage has a concrete floor, central air n heat, shop area with work bench, cable & internet available and cabinets.



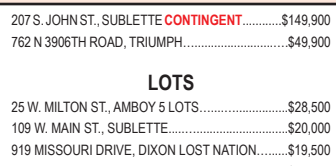
402 W. Santee St., Sublette \$179,000
This beautiful 1 1/2 story home is all ready for you to move into! Features include: cathedral ceilings, loft area, gas fireplace, 3 bedrooms, laundry on main floor, two full baths, GFA, central air, full basement, Back deck to entertain on, 2 car garage attached, corner lot!



117 W Hawley St., Amboy \$139,900
This home is located on a large corner lot. Dinette/kitchen opens to deck and back yard. There are 3 bedrooms, (1) is a loft area overlooking living room, 1.5 baths, kitchen with pantry and dishwasher, office area leads to garage, large living room with high ceiling, first floor laundry and 3 car garage! Don't just drive by, call today for a showing!



525 Mazy Road, Amboy \$104,000
This modular home is located on 2ac mol and features 2 bedrooms, 1 bath/laundry, living room, kitchen, fenced in back yard, deck, 2 car attached garage and outdoor shed. Great location! Call for your private showing today! SELLER TO FIND/ CLOSE ON HOME OF THEIR CHOICE!



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762 N 3906TH ROAD, TRIUMPH.....\$49,900

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109 W. MAIN ST., SUBLETTE.....\$20,000
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