



LOCAL AND AREA



Home Show in Peru
With Spring and Summer basically here, it's time to think about home projects. Starved Rock Media held its annual Home Show on Sunday, March 10 at Senica's Oak Ridge in La Salle where attendees were able to see products and services offered by numerous companies where it was for cabinets such as Starved Rock Wood Products in Mendota, or for patios, doors, roofs, gutters, and much more. Tom Thayer, a member of the 1985 Chicago Bears Super Bowl championship team was there signing autographs. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance).

Ribbon Cutting



Allure is officially Allure
Allure of Mendota, which was formerly Heritage Health located at 1201 1st Ave. in Mendota, cut the ribbon held by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce to officially become a Mendota listed business on Friday, March 8. Members of the Allure staff and the MACC were present for the ribbon cutting. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Eric McFadden Day proclaimed by Mayor Johnson
Compton Mayor Candy Johnson, left, proclaimed March 10, 2024 as Eric McFadden Day in appreciation of Eric McFadden, 46, of Peru, who is the UPS driver for the Compton, West Brooklyn, and Paw Paw route.

Hennepin Canal March Hike

HENNEPIN – March's Friends of the Hennepin Canal hike will be from Lock 22 to Bridge 23 at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 17.
This portion of the "Hike the Hennepin" is 5.7 miles in length and has been named "The Mink". Hikers will meet at Bridge 23 at 1:30 p.m. and will be shuttled to Lock 22 to begin the hike.
Directions to Bridge 23: Take IL Rt. 6 or I-80 to Anawan, then head north on Rt. 78 to the canal. The parking area is located on the south side of the canal and the west side of Rt. 78.
Hikers do not need to be a member of the Friends of the Hennepin Canal to participate and there is no fee to join the hike. Bring a friend and dress appropriately to the weather.
For more information, contact the Friends of the Hennepin Canal at hikes@friends-hennepin-canal.org.

Next La Salle County Genealogy Guild meeting set for March 16

OTTAWA – Randy Hallock, member of the Guild, will be reviewing some new features on the Family Search website, which were revealed at the Roots Tech 2024 conference in Utah, during the La Salle County Genealogy Guild meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at 115 W. Glover Street in Ottawa.
The new features include locating unknown relatives in cemeteries and new full-text searching for historical records.
See how this new technology is being used to enhance your research, making it easier and more productive.
He will be happy to answer your questions.
Please join us and feel free to bring your laptops and research questions. Refreshments will be served.
The Guild hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Saturday, and walk-ins are available.

St. Bede to host Giving Day March 21

PERU – St. Bede will host its annual giving day campaign on Thursday, March 21, which is the Feast of St. Benedict. This is an opportunity for alumni and friends to come together, give back and make a difference for current and future Bruins.
This day of giving honors St. Benedict, the monk who founded the Benedictine rule and tradition St. Bede's monastic community continues to follow today.
All proceeds raised on this day will support The St. Bede Fund, which enhances education programs, provides tuition assistance, supports the mission of our monks and much more. This year's goal is to raise \$170,000 in a 24-hour period.

Story time at Graves-Hume

MENDOTA – Join Graves-Hume Public Library for Saturday Morning Story Time with a special guest reader on Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m. Holy Cross' Learning Lambs Preschool Teacher, Mrs. Bresley, will be at the library for a story and craft all about Puppy Love! Library programs are open to all and no library card is required. Please call 815-538-5142 to register.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

On March 5, we celebrated all of our students who completed the whole reading challenge board for Dr. Seuss Week. We had approximately 60 of our students reach this accomplishment. They were treated to a donut breakfast before school that day.

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Congratulations to the students in Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Quintana, Mrs. O'Sadnick and Mrs. Klein's classes for reaching their

trimester goal for Paw Pride certificates for great behavior. This means that all of our K/1 classrooms reached this goal and qualified for the end of trimester reward.

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We held the trimester 2 reward on March 8. All of our students enjoyed a dance party with disco lights, balloons and lots of laughs. They all had so much fun! We have set our next reward for trimester 3. Each class will

try to earn enough Paw Pride certificates for good behavior to enjoy a bounce house/ inflatables party!

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Aishah Arellano, William Bautista, Abel Sedgwick, Sophia Moore, Aria Knowlton, Cameron Brown, Amelia Thurber and Stella Rosales. The winners were Abby Gehant, Everly Bon-

nell, Melanie Montes and Laurel Dunfrund. Congratulations to all of you!

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The end of the second trimester was on March 8. Teachers are currently preparing report cards for all students. They will go home on Friday, March 15. Also on that day, it is a spirit day at Blackstone. All students and staff are encouraged to wear green for St. Patrick's Day.

Mendota's Alexis Finley performing in Augustana Symphonic Band's Midwest Tour

ROCK ISLAND—Alexis Finley, a Biochemistry major from Mendota, is one of 50 Augustana College student musicians performing in the Augustana Symphonic Band's 2024 Midwest Tour. Finley is playing the Oboe in the ensemble's five performances in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas from March 22 to March 26.

The tour kicks off Friday, March 22 at Galesburg High School, Galesburg, with performances following Saturday, March 23 at Blue Valley Southwest High School, Overland Park, Kan.; Sunday, March 24 at Washington High School in Washington, Iowa; and a final performance Tuesday, March 26 at Messiah Lutheran Church, Wauconda. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

This marks the Augustana Symphonic Band's first domestic tour since the 2020 pandemic. The band typically alternates between regional and national tours. Most recently, the band toured Japan in spring 2023.

"The Augustana Sym-

phonic Band looks forward to reestablishing the historic tradition of the yearly spring band tour," Dr. Lambrecht said. "The opportunity to share this wonderful music with various audiences throughout the greater Midwest will foster a connection with those outside of Augustana and create lifelong memories for the band members."

This year's tour will feature the following works: "Burning the Wicker Man" by Julie Giroux; "Be Thou My Vision" by David Gillingham; "Acadiana (Settings of Cajun, Creole and Zydeco Music)" by Frank Ticheli; "Three Dance Episodes from On the Town" by Leonard Bernstein; "On a Hymn Song" of Philip Bliss by David Holsinger; "The White Rose March" by John Philip Sousa; and "Dancing Fire" by Kevin Day.

The Augustana Symphonic Band, which performs music of the highest artistic quality written for the wind band, was established in 1874. In addition to touring nationally and the Japan tour, the band has performed in the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain.



Illinois State Police unveils final design of new Illinois State Police Regional Campus

JOLIET – The Illinois State Police (ISP) recently unveiled the design for the new Illinois State Police Regional Campus comprised of the Illinois State Police Forensic Laboratory and Illinois State Police Troop 3 and Zone 1 Headquarters. The buildings were designed to increase ISP's forensic testing and scientific examinations capabilities throughout Illinois, and will house Division of Patrol Troop 3 and Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 1. This campus will provide a safe, secure, and sustainable environment that supports the highest professional standards of forensic science testing and law enforcement to protect public safety.

"As ISP evolves from a traffic patrol agency created more than 100 years ago, to an agency that now combats drug, gun, and human trafficking in addition to traffic enforcement, we need the physical infrastructure that can support our work," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "Thanks to Governor JB Pritzker's administration and the General Assembly, ISP is able to move into the 21st century and advance our forensic services, patrol, and investigation capabilities to better serve Illinois communities."

A combined cam-

pus for patrol, investigations, and forensic services will enhance operational efficiencies and allow ISP to combine several work locations, reducing yearly repair and maintenance costs. The two buildings are approximately 75,000 square feet on 12 acres of land adjacent to an existing ISP building and firing range.

The new state-of-the-art laboratory will replace the current Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory built in 1964. The laboratory will include space for testing DNA, firearms, latent prints, controlled substances, footwear/tire tracks, and toxicology, along with areas for processing crime scene evidence.

The new ISP Troop 3 and Zone 1 Headquarters will house both patrol and investigations. The building will contain several offices, training rooms, interview rooms, an evidence area, and a large garage for vehicle storage and inspection work.

The project is part of the \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan and is managed by the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB). The total cost for the ISP combined campus project is estimated to be just over \$76.5 million. RADA Architects created the designs for the project, which will be put out for bid in Spring 2024.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Benjamin W. Sutton

HIAWASSEE, Ga. – Benjamin William Sutton, 73, of Hiawassee, Ga., passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024.

Visitation was from 10:30-11 a.m. March 4, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, followed by funeral services at 11 a.m. Burial was March 5, at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Ga.

Benjamin was born on April 8, 1950, in Mendota, to the late Lyle Duane and Ruth Edamae (Brown) Sutton.

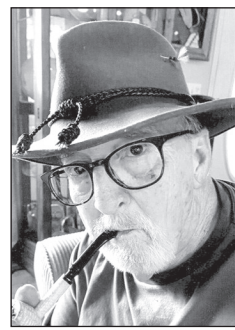
He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Sue Ann Stewart Sutton; daughters- and sons-in-law, Maureen (Aaron) Fowler and Nora Sutton (Kyle Rothenich); brother and sister-in-law, Douglas S. and Vicky Stewart; sisters, Patricia Davis, Joan Martin, and Barbara Seward; and a number of extended family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lyle and Ruth Sutton; brother, James Sutton; and grandparents, William and Mildred Guthrie Brown and Benjamin Samuel and Mary Eschen Sutton.

Ben was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Blairsville, and a member of the VFW American Legion Post 23. He was a Vietnam era US Navy veteran, a graduate of Holy Cross School and Mendota High School, Mendota. During high school, Ben was bass guitarist with The Vanguards, a regionally prominent rock band in Illinois.

Ben, known locally as “the man in the Pinto,” attended Southern Illinois University and graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York, in 1977, earning a Fellowship in 1978, during which time he instructed then student Anthony Bourdain. Throughout his career, he was a saucier at the Watergate Hotel, chef of the South Golf Club, Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colo., corporate chef for JM Family Enterprises/Southeast Toyota, Deerfield Beach, Fla., and owner/operator of both Le Bistro restaurant in Mendota and Chef Ben’s Catering and Events, Hiawassee, Ga.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to American Legion Post 23, Towns-Union Humane Society, or the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, donate.milarch.org.



Patricia K. Bilkey

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – Patricia “Patty” Kay Bilkey, 80, of Bloomington, Minn., passed away on March 4, 2024. She was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandma, and friend who will be missed by all those fortunate enough to know her.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at the Church of St. Edward, 9401 Nesbitt Ave S, Bloomington, Minn. Visitation is one hour prior. For those unable to attend in person, a livestream of the service will be available at <https://stedwardschurch.org/funerals>.

Born Jan. 2, 1944, in Mendota, she was the first daughter of Martin “Marty” and Catherine Masear. Patty graduated from Mendota High School in 1962 and went on to cosmetology school to pursue her career as a hairstylist.

Patty married her husband Dave on April 27, 1968, which began their life journey of 56 years of marriage. They completed their family with three beautiful daughters Julie, Janene, and Stacy. She was a homemaker who enjoyed cooking, knitting, sewing, and hosting friends & family at their “Bilkey Resort.”

She is survived by her husband, David Bilkey; siblings, Sue Masear, Sandy (John) Whitmore, and Bill (Cole) Masear; three daughters, Julie (Jerry) Eischens, Janene (Sean) Christy, and Stacy (Zach) Perkins; seven grandchildren, Jake (Eleanor) Eischens, Sydne Eischens, Jace Eischens, Charlee Christy, Hayzl Perkins, Gunnar Christy, and Harvey Perkins; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Patty is preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Catherine Masear.

When Patty became a grandmother in 1995, she found her true passion. Patty loved being a grandma to her seven grandchildren and started many traditions with them such as their annual gingerbread night, backyard Easter egg hunts, her endless candy basket, family gatherings cooking Rip’s fried chicken and more that they plan to continue in her honor.

Memorial donations preferred to Ridgeview Waconia Hospital or NC Little Hospice to thank them for the exceptional care they took of Patty.



Ruth Ann Payne

SUGAR HILL, Ga. – Ruth Ann Payne of Sugar Hill, Ga., and formerly a resident of Schaumburg for many years, passed away Feb. 27, 2024, after a long illness.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday March 21, 2024, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette with Fr. Randy Fronek officiating. Inurnment will follow at St. Mary’s Cemetery. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Ruth Ann was born in Spring Valley, in 1941, to Floyd “Tug” and Marcella “Sally” Pry, and grew up in the small town of Sublette. She graduated from Amboy High School where she fell in love with her sweetheart, James Payne. Jim was a star athlete. They married and moved to Carthage, where Jim became a legendary football player for Carthage College, and where her three children, Kent, Krista, and Angela were born.

Ruth Ann will be dearly missed by her son Kent (Sherry) Payne of Batavia; two daughters, Krista (Steve) Feldman of Foster City, Calif., and Angela (Adam) Gallien of Sugar Hill, Ga.; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and brother, Stan (Darlene) Pry of Port St. Lucie, Fla.

After the college years, Ruth Ann and Jim raised their family in the Chicago area. Ruth Ann worked as an administrative assistant to an Illinois congressman for many years. She later worked for, and retired from, the Illinois Department of Transportation. She was actively involved in the lives of her children and grandchildren, and rarely missed their activities. Ruth Ann was a very accomplished piano player and relished in the family singing around her while playing, especially during the holidays. Ruth Ann took tremendous pride in her home. The furnishings and yard décor were stunningly designed and cared for, and the subject of great compliment. She loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She loved to travel and went on numerous trips with her children and their families.

Memorials may be directed to the donor’s choice. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Philip R. Zinke

MENDOTA – Philip Ralph Zinke, 76, of Mendota, passed away Thursday, March 7, 2024, at Loyola University Medical Hospital, Chicago.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota, with services immediately following and a flag presentation and Taps by Mendota VFW Post 4070. Private burial will be at a later date at Wisner Cemetery.

Philip was born in Mendota, the son of Albert and Caroline Zinke (both deceased) and step-son to Harry Gower (deceased). Phil married Diane (Stevenson) on May 1, 1971, at Holy Cross Church, Mendota where he was a member.

Philip is survived by his beloved wife, Diane; daughters, Jennifer (Brian) Davis of Hudson and Julie (Jeff) Hammann of Carlinville; and sister, Betty Dufour of Mendota. He is also survived by grandchildren, Matthew Davis, Elizabeth Hammann, William Davis and Grant Hammann; nieces and nephews; and sisters-in-law, Marilyn Sapp and Barb Zinke.

Phil was preceded in death by his brother Elmer Zinke and step-sister Alice Radtke.



Following graduation from Mendota High School in 1966, Phil served in the United States Navy for four years. Some of his places of operation included Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Philippines, Da Nang Harbor, Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan and back to San Diego, Calif. He was on the Iwo Jima LPH-2 as well as the USS Iowa, USS Princeton, USS Cacapon, and USS Tortuga.

Philip worked for Brown Sheet Metal and Black Bros. Co. in the welding and fabricating department and was foreman for over 25 years. He retired from Black Bros. Co. after 31 years. Phil then worked for Mendota Community Hospital and retired after 5 1/2 years. During this time Phil also ran a small engine and welding shop and made trailers. He loved woodworking and fishing. Phil rebuilt several classic Mustang cars, a 1972 El Camino, and a 1984 Chevy Silverado truck.

Having fully retired in 2010, he and his wife, Diane, of almost 53 married years, were able to travel all 50 states many times and Canada. Their favorite adventures were three Alaskan cruises, Yellowstone National Park and Teton National Park.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to Smile Train, Horizon House, LaSalle Veterans Home and Mendota Area Senior Services. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Kathy Joerger

MENDOTA – Kathy Joerger, 84, of Mendota, passed away peacefully in her home on March 8, 2024, in Mendota.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Holy Cross Church with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be from 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, in the church. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

She was born Katherine Mankowski, on Dec. 30, 1939, in LaSalle.

Kathy is survived by her husband of 60 years, Raymond “Barney,” her son, Tom, and daughter, Donna, all of Mendota.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, Laura (Siebert) and Tony Mankowski, and her brother, Tony Jr., as well as many aunts and uncles.

Kathy attended Hall High School in Spring Valley, and was a dedicated member of Holy Cross Church in Mendota.

Kathy was a dedicated homemaker, whose life centered around caring for her family. She cherished every moment she could spend with her family, embodying the true meaning of selflessness and love. Her unwavering love and dedication to her loved ones always put the needs of her family above her own. Her numerous sacrifices ensured the well-being and happiness of her family. As a woman of strong faith, she instilled in those around her the importance of family, hard work, and doing what is right. In her spare time, besides nurturing and caring for her family, Kathy enjoyed cooking and baking, especially creating sweet treats for others to enjoy.

Kathy will be deeply missed by all who knew her, and the hole left by her absence is impossible to fill. Her legacy of love and sacrifice will forever live on in the hearts of those she touched.

Memorials may be directed to masses in her name, Cure SMA (spinal muscular atrophy) or the donor’s choice. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Teacher

Continued from Page A1

than traditional learning that focuses on seat time and completion of work.

Morales was honored as a 2021 NCTE Early Career Educator of Color and has shared the journey her students have embarked on to turn pain into power through poetry both locally and nationally. Her commitment as a school board member for the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, School District #428 has allowed her to elevate the voices of justice-impacted youth. Morales has been active in education policy work at the state level around diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, most recently a champion of \$300,000 in state funding to provide professional development to in-service educators around cultural responsiveness.

She is deeply passionate about creating healing-centered spaces where Black and brown students can feel seen, heard, and, one day, be free to be their authentic selves. Her love offering toward this future is her nonprofit, (Sister) Hood of Hope, Inc., dedicated to honoring brighter futures for girls of color everywhere by empowering them through the community of sisterhood. Morales believes in education as a tool that equips young people to become change agents in their community and have a fighting chance at the life they deserve.

She is currently a doctoral candidate in diversity and equity in education at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

“Pain, Power, Purpose: The Story of Us”

Seventeen years ago, she was just a kid that didn’t want to live. Six years ago, she wasn’t sure if teaching was for her. Morales shares candid moments from both personal life and a career dedicated to working with youth furthest from justice in an alternative setting to illustrate how the love and compassion of educators can break many chains and heal unspoken wounds for our young people. Morales’ journey is living testimony of the philosophy that she seeks to impress upon her students and those who seek to know and understand them better: we can turn our pain into power and that can reveal our purpose.

Refund

Continued from Page A1

- Seamless access on mobile devices and with the IRS2Go app.
 - Notifications indicating whether the IRS needs additional information.
- How to use “Where’s My Refund?”**
- To use “Where’s My Refund?,” log on to www.irs.gov/wheres-my-refund. Taxpayers must enter their Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification number, filing status and the exact whole dollar amount of their expected refund from the original tax return for the year they’re checking.

Once the IRS acknowledges receipt of a return, refund status information is typically available within:

- 24 hours after receipt of a taxpayer’s e-filed tax year 2023 return.
- Three to four days after receipt of an e-filed tax year 2022 or 2021 return.
- Four weeks after mailing a paper return.

Taxpayers should note that the IRS updates the tool once a day, usually overnight, so there’s no need to check more often. The IRS reminds taxpayers that the fastest way to get a refund is by filing electronically and using direct deposit.

LaMoille church to hold turkey supper

LaMOILLE – The Community United Methodist Church of LaMoille will hold its annual drive-thru turkey supper on Thursday, March 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The church is located at 73 N. Main St.

The cost is \$13 per person and includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, two salads and choice of pie.

There will be no pre-supper ticket sales and no call-in orders. Those interested should just drive up and the orders will be brought to your vehicle.

IVCC hosting Women’s History Month events

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College commemorates Women’s History Month in March with a series of brown-bag discussions that feed the mind, soul and body. The month’s theme is “Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.”

On March 20 at 12:15 p.m., instructors Amanda Cook Fesperman and Kim Radek-Hall host a discussion of the meanings and interrelationship of Feminism and Fascism and a Few Further F words.

On March 21 at 12:30 p.m., the Brown Bag Lunch topic will be “Intersectionality and Impact: Notable Women in Disability History.” Staff and students will review disability rights history and share achievements and challenges by females with disabilities.

On March 28 at 12:30 p.m., instructor Kayla Greenwell launches a discussion on Afrofuturism and how women have transformed the world of science fiction writing and made their voices heard in an instrument originally designed to silence them.

All events are held in CTC 124-125 and are free and open to the public. The series is sponsored by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, SAGE (Students Advocating Gender Equality), the Golden Z Club of the Illinois Valley, and One Book One College.

IVCC awards tenure to 5 faculty members

OGLESBY – Five faculty members representing nursing, welding and mathematics were awarded tenure by the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees this month.

Department recommendations presented to the Board praised their dedication and acknowledged their contributions to the college and the community, and student endorsements underlined their unwavering advocacy.

College President Dr. Tracy Morris congratulated the faculty at a small reception recently. “The granting of tenure is a tremendous milestone for our faculty. It is a process that is rigorous, but also allows the faculty to showcase their expertise as educators and their knowledge of their field. This group of faculty has been extremely dedicated both inside and outside the classroom and we could not be more proud of each of them!” she said after the event.

Faculty members include Theresa Molln, Welding instructor; Chrissy Boughton, Nursing instructor; Cathy Lenkaitis, Nursing Laboratory instructor; Samantha Whiteaker, Nursing instructor, and Emily Morgan, Math instructor.

Molln was described in her recommendation as becoming “the very essence of what she most admired about IVCC as a student – a faculty member who cares and will invest the time a student needs.”

In paying tribute to her care and compassion, the recommendation noted she “even went as far as making sure students do not go hungry” by establishing a food cabinet in the department.

Molln currently coordinates the welding program, which she joined full time in 2021 after serving as lab assistant and part-time instructor. She earned praise for developing course content and redesigning and improving the welding lab, for her community leadership, and for using her welding talents to create keepsakes to support fundraisers, community activities and to present as gifts.

In 2021, the same year Chrissy Boughton began her full-time career at IVCC, she was nominated by students and awarded the Outstanding Part-time Faculty Award. Her association with IVCC began as a student and continued as a part-time faculty member.

is vigilant in her search for ideas and improvements.

“Students feel comfortable and supported while in the skills lab,” Dean of Health Professions Heather Seghi wrote in her recommendation. Lenkaitis organizes blood drives and food and supply drives for the area and created a “scrubs closet” in the lab to help defray clothing costs to student nurses and colleagues.

Since returning to IVCC in 2021, Samantha Whiteaker has organized charity diaper drives, flower sales and a student-led landscaping project at a women’s center and has been active with the Women’s Health and Wellness Student Group. She had been a tenured faculty member in 2013-2016 before leaving IVCC for a time.

Students admire the hard work she does inside and beyond the classroom and praise her: “You inspire me to be a better nurse and

patient advocate,” noted one. Her supervisors note she uses hands-on skills and non-traditional skills assessments, and collaborative teaching and learning techniques.

Since joining the IVCC faculty in 2021, Emily Morgan has taught developmental and college level mathematics with a student-centric approach and a passion for the subject that developed when she was a first-grader.

“She has helped me develop math skills in every possible way she can,” noted one student, while others appreciate her teaching style. “Emily’s idea is to get her students to think about the topic at hand in a new way,” supervisors noted in their recommendation, and reinforces her lessons with “a very good questioning technique and group work.”

Morgan is active in her community through civic and sporting events.



Faculty awarded tenure this spring join IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris, front left, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Gary Roberts, back left. Next to Roberts, left to right, are Cathy Lenkaitis, Emily Morgan, Theresa Molln, Samantha Whiteaker and Chrissy Boughton. (Photo contributed)



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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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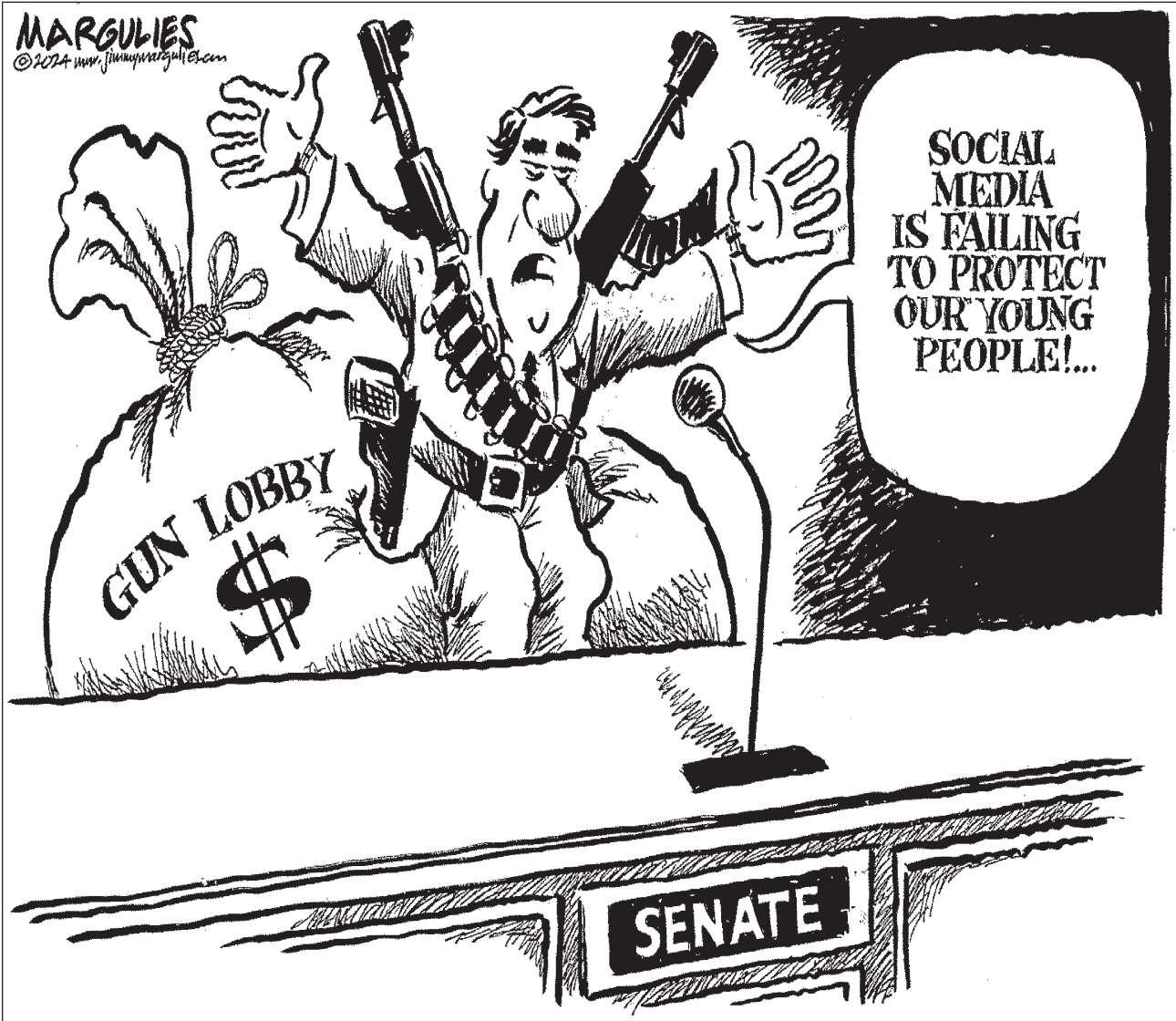
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Waldorf Five subdue colored champs

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from March 11, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

That was the headline when The Mendota Reporter appeared on March 14, 1929. The “colored champs” were the Harlem Globe Trotters and the score was a tight 35-34. The game was played March 12 in the Mendota Township High School gym, a space now occupied by the MHS auditorium. The gym had a stage because it was also used for class plays and other programs. At games, spectators filled the stage as well as bleachers along the south wall.

It was the last game of the season for the local team and they sure did their “stuff” as a closing climax.

The gym was filled “beyond standing room” and many were turned away. This was the Globe Trotters’ 98th game and at that point they had suffered only seven losses.

The Waldorf Café Five, sponsored by Barrett & Bankes, owners of the Waldorf Café, was comprised of Chuch Elsesser, Doc Lipke, Louis Spenader, Willard Merritt, Butch Klinge, Gale Clinite and Harold Lown.

Spenader sank the first basket, but had to leave the game with a bad cut on his head. He was replaced by Lipke. Then Klinge left with a bad ankle and Clinite came in. But Spenader returned after a few minutes and shot six more baskets. The contributions at the end of the game were Spenader 20, Merritt 7, Elsesser 6 and Lipke 2.

Disappointment was expressed because the Globe Trotters failed to perform many of their “legendary antics” during the game.

They did not have time to display this ability.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

With four minutes to go, the Waldorf Five was ahead 33 to 30. Pullins and Anderson scored, giving the Trotters a 34-33 lead. Chuch Elsesser then made “one of those sensational baskets” for a final 35-34 in favor of the Waldorfs.

In January this year, the Harlem Globetrotters played their 20,000th game. The event was reported in the Jan. 21, 1998 issue of the Wall Street Journal.

The game was played in Remington, Ind., a small community.

The Globetrotters arrived by bus and played in the high school gym, much as they had in Mendota in 1929.

Since the Harlem Globe Trotters had been assembled by Abe Saperstein in 1927, they had played together only two years at the time they played here. Their first game was played in Hinckley, Ill., attended by 300.

WSJ tells that the current owner of the team is a former Globetrotter, Mannie Jackson, who acquired in in 1993. There are now two touring teams, not always playing in small towns. In 1997, the team toured South Africa and played at Nelson Mandela’s birthday celebration.

A substantial part of the team’s revenue now comes from merchandise with the Harlem Globetrotter logo – T-shirts, balls, key chains.

SIDETRACK – Four of the players with the Waldorf Café Five had previously played on the Evangelical Sunday School team, which in early 1927, could boast seven

wins with no defeats. These four EES players were Gale Clinite, Chuch Elsesser, Louis Spenader and Harold Lown, who had joined the team in December 1926.

Others on the EES team were George Boisdorf, Harry Herbert, Andy Wise, Elmer Kramer, Robert Sonntag, Marion Kreider, Elmer Beitsch and Gilbert Blotch. Don Herbert managed.

In December 1929, the Waldorf Café Five opened its season under management of Dr. J.M. Turnbull, a chiropractor. Players included Louis Spenader, Harold Lown, Doc Lipke, Ed Spenader, Harold Goebel, Willard Young, Bud Wells and Frank Reichardt.

At a meeting with the Globe Trotters in 1930, the Trotters won, 34-20. However, in 1932, the Waldorf Café Five downed the Gilkerson Union Giants, an undefeated colored team, 23-17.

Still going strong in 1934, Al Hebel of the Mendota Bottling Co. took over sponsorship of the Waldorf Café Five, renaming the team the Coca Colas. First to play as the Coca Colas were Louis Spenader, Marty Masear, Jim Mahar, Gale Clinite, George Elsesser, Carl Forth, Bill Neuman, Wayne Whitmore and Gerald Hessenberger.

In a one-of-a-kind game played in the Mendota High School gym in 1926, George Elsesser assembled a team to play five of the Spenaders – Louis, Frank, Ed, Archie and William (Lester Spenader was in the Navy). The brothers defeated Elsesser’s team, 22-20.

When playing in Mendota, the team was styled Harlem Globe Trotters. The current style is Harlem Globetrotters.

The phenomenon of 2024 election so far

By Rich Lowry

Donald Trump obviously left office on a sour note in January 2021, written off by many opinion-makers and political professionals. Then, President Biden happened.

The most remarkable phenomenon of the 2024 election cycle so far is the rise of Trump nostalgia. It’s difficult for anyone to have a new opinion about former President Trump, who is so well-known, so in-your-face, and so polarizing. Yet, people have a new, more favorable attitude toward his presidency in retrospect, certainly compared to the current occupant of the White House.

After about 36 months of President Biden, in other words, people yearn for the halcyon Trump years.

Consider the latest CBS News poll. It found that, looking back, 46% of people consider Trump’s administration excellent or good, about 5 points higher than his average job approval when he left office. Only 33% say the same about Biden’s time in office.

Even more starkly, on the economy, 65% think the economy was good under Trump, and only 28% think it was bad. In almost a mirror image, only 38% think the economy is good under Biden and 59 think it is bad.

By the end of his term, Trump didn’t rate nearly as high. After the disruptions of the pandemic, about 51% of people approved of Trump’s handling of the economy.

According to a November 2020 Economist/YouGov poll, people were split, 42-42, on whether the economy would get better or worse under a President Biden. This was about even with Trump’s ratings -- 45% thought the economy would get better if he was re-elected, 40% worse.

In today’s context, those are numbers from another universe, and would materially improve Biden’s chances of re-election if they still held.

Of course, it was Trump’s conduct after the 2020 election that blighted his image such that it seemed hard to come back from. In January 2021, according to another Economist/YouGov poll, 55% of people thought Trump shouldn’t be allowed to run again, and 50% thought he should be removed

from office.

Now, according to CBS, 52% of people are supporting him for president, and the democracy issue is a wash. Thirty-four percent think democracy will be safe only if Biden wins and 33% only if Trump wins.

What has created the after-the-fact fondness for Trump? Most fundamentally, Joe Biden has eased his 1967 Corvette Stingray out of his garage in Wilmington, Delaware, and driven it straight into a ditch. His presidency is such a wide-ranging failure that he’d make almost any predecessor look better. In the 2020 election, Biden benefited from the question “compared to whom?” Sure, he was an undistinguished, uninteresting, aged politician, but compared to Trump he seemed like reassuring normalcy. In 2024, Trump is benefiting from the same question. Sure, he’s a radioactive figure whose presidency was unnecessarily chaotic and controversial, but compared to Biden he seems competent and effective.

Also, Trump has been a little less prominent. He’s not flying under the radar, but every social media post doesn’t create its own news cycle the way it did when he was president. This makes it easier for people to focus on what they liked rather than the latest outrage.

Finally, another way to look at it is that Trump would have won re-election in 2020 if it hadn’t been for the pandemic. Now that the pandemic is in the rear-view mirror and looks more like an event beyond the control of any officeholder, Trump is bouncing back to where he was prior to its onset -- and has improved his chances of winning election again.

None of this is to deny that Trump has vulnerabilities, and Biden still has cards to play. But it’s no small thing that Biden’s record is found wanting when matched up with that of the man who occupied the office just three years ago. Trump nostalgia, in short, is a clear and present danger to Biden’s presidency.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.
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LOCAL AND AREA

Giannoulis backs legislation for digital driver’s licenses

SPRINGFIELD – Continuing his commitment to modernize the Secretary of State’s office, Secretary Alexi Giannoulis is championing legislation to allow Illinois residents to start using digital driver’s licenses and state IDs.

Giannoulis’ backing marks the first time the Illinois Secretary of State’s office has supported such a measure, which now includes digital IDs as well as digital driver’s licenses. HB 4592 is sponsored by State Representative Kam Buckner (26th District) and State Senator Michael Hastings (19th District). If the bipartisan legislation passes, implementation could occur as early as next year.

“Smartphones have become convenient places to store everything from movie tickets, boarding passes and credit cards,” Giannoulis said. “With technological advancements and additional safeguards to make it the most secure and state-of-the-art system in the nation, we’re confident Illinoisans will soon have the option to ‘carry’ a digital version of their driver’s license



Giannoulis

or state ID.” If approved in the General Assembly, Illinois would join 12 other states that already offer digital forms of identification (including bordering states – Iowa and Missouri) while at least 18 other states are currently working toward the implementation. The legislation would not eliminate physical driver’s licenses, but instead digital IDs would act as a companion to a physical card.

“Innovation serves as the underpinning of our work to make lives better through better technology. A digital ID is a logical next step when it comes to providing proof that you’re qualified to drive and identifying yourself at stores, banks and doctor’s offices,” Buckner said. “I’m confident this legislation will ensure that the implementation of digital IDs is done in the right way to protect the privacy of all Illinoisans.”

“This initiative marks a major milestone, providing Illinois residents with touchless convenience, and businesses and law enforcement with the tools and information they require,” Hastings said. “The move to digital IDs represents a growing trend across the country as the technology has become even more fraud-resistant than physical cards. In addition, the

COVID-19 pandemic sped up the widespread adoption of contactless identification methods significantly – including digital IDs.”

New technology allows for more privacy by allowing individuals to decide what personal information they share via a contactless encrypted data exchange between their device and the reader. Digital IDs offer privacy control options that allow people to verify their age when legally purchasing alcohol, cannabis or renting a car, while hiding other personal information – like their address.

Giannoulis added that the initiative will also help reduce in-office wait times and lines at DMVs because the digital platform will allow users to make changes to their licenses and IDs remotely without having to make an in-person visit.

The proposed legislation would give the Secretary of State’s office the authority to begin the process of providing digital IDs. The office would issue an RFP and then select the vendor that is most capable of producing digital IDs in the safest way possible, ensuring that the final product meets testing requirements and the highest standards of security for Illinoisans.

OSF schedules blood drive for March 22 at Saint Paul

MENDOTA – OSF HealthCare will host a community blood drive with ImpactLife from noon to 5 p.m. Friday, March 22, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center in conference room C.

ImpactLife is the only provider of blood and blood components to OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center, OSF HealthCare Saint Clare Medical Center, OSF Center for Health in Streator and the soon-to-open OSF Saint Elizabeth - Peru. To schedule an appointment for donation, call (800) 747-5401 or schedule online at www.bloodcenter.org or via the Blood Center’s mobile app.

Blood donations are often used to help treat patients with cancer, victims

of trauma and patients undergoing major surgeries. All persons ages 17 and up (or 16, with a signed parental permission form) who weigh at least 110 lbs. and are in general good health meet the basic eligibility requirements for blood donation. For more information, call ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401, visit www.bloodcenter.org, or download the IMPACT mobile app at www.bloodcenter.org/app.

ImpactLife is a not-for-profit community organization providing blood services to 120 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin, including 12 of 15 OSF HealthCare facilities. For more information, see www.bloodcenter.org and find them @impactlifeblood on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Snapchat.

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For over 60 years Jerry’s Flower Barn has provided Mendota and the surrounding areas with their floral needs and it is with great sadness to announce that we will be closing March 15th.

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- 3. LENGTH OF SALE**
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- 4. HOW TO SET IT UP**
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- 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE**
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GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*

THURSDAY, 5 PM -
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MONDAY, 10 AM -
To appear in Wednesday’s Reporter

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

The Mendota Reporter

Call 815-539-9396 or stop in the office at 703 Illinois Ave.

Hollywood

Hollywood's not only

Calling all members of Beatles tribute bands! Oscar-winning director Sam Mendes ("American Beauty," "Skyfall" and "Spectre," among others) has

The good news is that the 69-year-old superstar is now dating 49-year old singer/actress Jewel, who divorced her rodeo-cowboy husband, Ty Murray, in 2014. Also, Costner's currently prepping to produce, direct and star in "Horizon: An American Saga." Between this and his new relationship with Jewel, maybe he'll get over dancing with wives and live in sin for a change -- it's a lot cheaper!

out on March 15. (Disney+) "Apples Never Fall" (TV-MA) -- This new mystery drama series based on Liane Moriarty's ("Big Little Lies") novel of the same name kicks off on March 14. Annette Bening portrays Joy Delaney -- wife, mother of four and co-owner of a tennis academy. Joy and her husband, Stan, are ready to enter their retirement stage, but things go awry when an injured woman knocks on their door begging for help. Shortly afterward, Joy disappears without a single trace, leaving her husband and adult children to pick up the pieces. Sam Neill ("Jurassic World") plays Stan.

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A: Despite the movie starring Denise Richards and NeNe Leakes, and having a

The other two women running for their lives in the movie are played by Kym Johnson Herjavec and Mel-yssa Ford. Ford has starred in several music videos, but is best known as a podcaster. Herjavec is best recognized for her days as a dance pro on "Dancing with the Stars," where she met her husband, Robert Herjavec, of "Shark Tank." She also co-starred in the holiday romance movie "Christmas with the Knightlys."

Erika Christensen ("Parenthood") co-stars as Detective Polaski, who was seriously injured by a serial killer at the end of the last season, and Iantha Richardson is back as Will's partner. The great cast is a big reason why the show has earned accolades from fans and critics alike. The new abbreviated season is due to last year's months-long strikes in Hollywood, but hopefully, "Will Trent" will be renewed for a third and longer season this fall.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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FIRST STATE BANK

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* In a process called rice-fish culture, Indonesian farmers introduce fish into their rice fields so the fish droppings will act as fertilizer. In turn, the fish also eat harmful insects and improve oxygen circulation, increasing crop yields by up to 10%.

* Anuptaphobia is the fear of being single forever.

* The people who falsely claimed the copyright to the "Happy Birthday to You" song made \$2 million a year for decades, until the song was ruled to be in the public domain.

* A man who had received the transplanted heart of a suicide victim married the donor's widow and took his own life in the exact same way as the donor did.

* After two thieves in England broke into a man's house and made off with his laptop, they found child abuse material on the device and took it to the police. The pedophile received a sentence of three years in prison, while the thieves were given 12 months of community service in light of their "good deed."

* During his presidency, John F. Kennedy refused to take his salary of \$150,000 per year, instead donating the entire amount to charity.

* Hundreds of people die each year from shoveling snow.

* Who says cats don't care? After one feline owner survived a series of strokes, he tried to train the animal to dial 911. While he wasn't sure at first that the attempt would pay off, after he fell from his wheelchair following a seizure, police received a silent emergency call from his home and arrived to find him incapacitated and his cat next to the phone.

* Loneliness poses a greater risk to one's health than obesity.

Thought for the Day:
"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how."
-- Friedrich Nietzsche

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Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

D	E	D	E		E	E		Y	E		H	L	E	E	
E		A	O	M	E		A	R	F	A		V	A	F	A
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						L	A	B					S	P	U

LOCAL AND AREA



Prospective students chat with faculty, counselors and students and learn about the college's resources during last fall's Explore IVCC open house. The spring open house is right around the corner, on March 20, for Illinois Valley residents looking to enroll in summer or fall courses. (Photo contributed)

IVCC plans spring open house March 20

OGLESBY – Prospective students can Explore IVCC at the spring open house on Wednesday, March 20, where they will meet current students, tour the college, talk to faculty and staff and enter a raffle for prizes.

The open house begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre, where President Dr. Tracy Morris will welcome guests and a panel of students will share their experiences.

Between 6 and 7 p.m., deans and faculty will be available to discuss majors and offer tours of labs and classrooms, counselors will be available to discuss academic programs, and student service representatives will explain their resources.

Programs represented include Early Childhood Education, EMS, Natural Sciences and Business Division, Criminal Justice, Health Professions, Geology, Business Administration, Accounting, Psychology/Sociology, Political Science/Study Abroad, Automotive

Technology, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Theater, Truck Driver Training, Workforce Development, and Welding. Services represented included Learning Resources, Special Populations, Project Success, Career Services, Ottawa Center, and Healthcare PATH Grant.

Attendance is encouraged for anyone considering enrolling this summer or next fall. The open house “is a great event for students to discover their future and see what IVCC is all about! It’s a chance for students to talk to someone in the programs they’re interested in and to get a feel for campus,” said Admissions Director Tom Quigley.

Anyone interested in attending can preregister at <https://admissions.ivcc.edu/register/explore> or they can register at the event.

Gift baskets filled with IVCC gear will be raffled, and IVCC T-shirts will be given away.

Registration opens April 10 for summer classes that begin May 20, and on April 11 for fall classes that begin Aug. 15.

Cars you can eat burn the track during IVCC’s edible car contest

OGLESBY – IVCC’s Edible Car Contest returned with a roar this year, drawing its largest audience and biggest field of contestants.

The 18th annual event on Feb. 28 brought the usual race-day jitters, last-minute spare-parts fittings, start-ing-gate adjustments, and roaring crowds. Dramas played out on a jumbo screen as cars raced to reach the finish line before their parts—grapes, oranges, cheese cubes, cookies, sausages and all kinds of other edibles—tumbled ahead of them.

Begun as a means to promote IVCC’s engineering programs, the contest challenges young designers in middle school, high school and college to create a vehicle out of edible ingredients. Entries are judged on creativity, style — even deliciousness — as well as speed. The task of judging the 48-car field fell this year to Truck Driver Training Department administrative assistant Patricia Glade and guest Laura Duberstein.

The 48-car field was the highest ever, CAD instructor and race organizer Dorene Data said. The standing-room-only crowd

of middle school, high school and college students, teachers and staff who gathered to race and cheer on classmates numbered more than 120 people, she said. La Salle, Peru, Ottawa, Spring Valley, Streator and DePue schools were represented.

Highlights of the race can be seen on IVCC’s YouTube channel, by visiting this link: <https://youtu.be/IDmPevkJeU>

Medallions and trophies were awarded in the Winners’ Circle.

The best overall winners were:

Faculty/Staff: Andrew Wiercinski, first; Dawn and Kirk Lockwood, second, and Adult Education Team, third.

Best Overall High School: Ottawa Team Candy Shop, first; Streator Rice Krispie Cruiser, second, Streator High School Team Darby, third.

Best Overall Middle School: Trinity Catholic Team Royals, first; Depue Team Car Munchers, second, and JFK Team 1, third.

IVCC Student Organization or Class: IVCC Project Success Team Sweet Success, first; IVCC Art Club Le Artist, second, and Technical Education Class

Team 2, third.

Trophies were also awarded in creativity, design and other categories:

Creativity: High School Ottawa Team Hamburger Helpers, first; JFK Team 4, second; IVCC Art Club, third.

Detail: Trinity Catholic Team Royals, first; IVCC Adult Ed, second; Technical Education Class Team 2, third.

Most Nutritious: JFK Team 3, first; JFK Team 7 Munchy Matcher, second; St. Bede Mushers, third.

Sweetest Car: Depue Middle School Star Girlz, first; Trinity Catholic Sugar Rush, second; Ottawa Candy Shop, third.

Judges’ Call: Ottawa High School BMW (Bread Motor Works), first; IVCC CHEM/STEM Club the Bark Knights, second; JFK Team 5, third.

Design: Depue Middle School Drama Queens, first; IVCC Project Success student club, second; Ottawa High School Team Sketch, third.

Speed: Depue Middle School Team Gangled, first; Ottawa High School Team ZB Motors, second; JFK Team 7 Munchy Matcher, third.

Sip-n-Shop

30+ Vendors

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10 am – 3 pm

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The Mendota High School Music Department Presents

MAMMA MIA!

Friday, March 22 7:30pm
Saturday, March 23 7:30pm
Sunday, March 24 2:30pm

In the Mendota High School Auditorium

Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera or go to the website below to get your tickets!

<https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/82093>

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

WOMAN ARRESTED
Katherine M Ketchum, 53, of 1200 Washington St., Mendota, was arrested at 5 p.m. March 4 at her residence on a Whiteside County warrant for obstructing a court order. The subject posted bond and was released with a Whiteside County court date.

TWO CHARGES
Raphael Ragland, 31, of Madison, Wis., was charged with criminal trespass to real property and obstructing identification after police officers investigated an open door to a residence in the 1100 block of Sixth Street at 2:48 a.m. March 5. Ragland was found asleep in what should have been a vacant apartment. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

THEFT
Chad A. Needs, 44, of 802 21st St., Mendota, was charged with theft at 4:18 p.m. March 5 after police officers investigated a call for service in the 1200 block of Meriden Street. The subject

was released with a LaSalle County court date.

SEVERAL CHARGES
Austin D. Switzer, 30, of 205 Sandra Ave., Apt. C3, Mendota, was charged with home invasion, battery and criminal damage to property at 10:32 p.m. March 5 after police officers were dispatched to the 200 block of Sandra Avenue for the report of a neighbor kicking in another neighbor's door and a physical altercation ensuing. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

THEFT
Aaron E. Sanchez Jimenez, 40, of 604 Sixth St., upper apt., Mendota, and Taurino E. Reyes Jimenez, 29, of 604 Sixth St., upper apt., Mendota, were charged with theft after police officers were called to Lakeside Laundry, 1313 Meriden St., for the report of a theft at 3:53 p.m. March 6. Both subjects were released with LaSalle County court dates.

Mobile home taxes mailed; due by May 1

OTTAWA – The LaSalle County mobile home tax bills were mailed on Feb. 27. The due date for the mobile home local services tax is Wednesday, May 1.

There are several payment options for the mobile home taxes.

- Pay at the Treasurer's Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. by cash, check or credit card. A convenience fee of approximately 2.5 percent is charged by the credit card processors when paying by credit card.
- Drive through drop box, located in the north part of the east parking lot at the LaSalle County Government Complex, 707 E. Etna Road, Ottawa. Open 24 hours.
- Mail to the Treasurer's Office, PO Box 1560, Ottawa, IL 61350.
- Pay by phone, 815-393-2688, with credit card or E-check. A convenience fee of approximately 2.5 percent is charged by the credit card processors when paying by credit card. There is a \$1.50 per parcel fee when paying by E-check. For assistance at paying by phone, call 1-877-932-8478 or 1-773-784-0709.
- Pay online. Go to www.lasallecountytreasurer.com. Under the payments tab, click on "Pay property tax online." A convenience fee of approximately 2.5 percent is charged by the credit card

processors when paying by credit card. There is a \$1.50 per parcel fee when paying by E-check. For assistance at paying by phone, call 1-877-932-8478 or 1-773-784-0709.

It is especially important that the mobile home local services tax be paid in a timely fashion. The penalty for delinquency is \$25 per month up to \$100 beginning May 2.

For more information, contact the Treasurer's Office at 815-434-8291, option 4.

Mendota City Ordinance

Grass clippings, etc. in streets

No person shall throw, place or leave, or cause or permit to be thrown, placed or left, any ashes, dirt, filth or rubbish, grass clippings, or foreign matter in or upon any street, alley or sidewalk of the City of Mendota.

Penalty: Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500. Imposition of any penalty for a violation of this section shall not be construed as a waiver of the right of the City to collect the cost of removal of such nuisance where it is necessary for the City to remove such nuisance.

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Thursday 4:00pm-9:00pm
Friday and Saturday 11:00am-10:00pm

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SPORTS

Might be time to donate the Fields jersey

At my first Chicago Bears game in 2021 at Soldier Field, I got a Justin Fields jersey. I was torn when it was purchased because I wanted a No. 4 Eddie Jackson jersey because, at the time, he was my favorite Bear and I thought he'd be on the team for a while.



Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

Jackson is still on the team and he seems secure even though he is a free agent after next season, 2025. However, they didn't have any Jackson jerseys left in my size at each of the three stands I went to, so instead, I went with my second option, the newly drafted 2021 No. 1 pick, the Bears' No. 1 quarterback, the No. 1 selling jersey for the Bears, again at that time, No. 1 Justin Fields.

And if I do say, it looks good on me. The Bears' blue brings out the best of my brown, green, hazel, gray – depends on which day and what mood you find me at – eyes. Who doesn't like having a No. 1 on their chest? Who doesn't like wearing a jersey for the player who is labeled as the future or the savior or the guy who can change a team's projectory if he pans out? Here's a better question. Who doesn't like to have the jersey of the guy who was labeled with positivity and optimism, but because of his play on the field and movements made by the team's administration hasn't come close to any of the hype, potential or helping the Bears win games? Answer: Me.

I'm still a Fields guy and think he could be good, he could win some games, he could get the Bears to the top of the NFC North even though the Green Bay Packers manage to be the Green Bay Packers no matter who is on the team, the Detroit Lions are trying to rally some great seasons together to overshadow their lousy legacy, and the Minnesota Vikings are taking their rotation of being a bad team for 3-4 years before they're once again a good team and toward the top of the division and the conference, although the transition will be faster with the receiving corps in Minnesota.

He shows signs. Fields can run, he has a strong arm, and the game seems to be slowing down for him. Fields also misses wide-open receivers ad runs into coverage instead of away from it.

On the other side, coach Mike Eberflus and an array of offensive coordinators can't figure out how to use him. I say an array because three years into his career, Fields has had a new OC for each new campaign.

Administration can't put an offensive line in front of him to make sure Fields isn't pummeled every game. There was a defensive fire sale unloading Khalil Mack, Roquan Smith, and Akiem Hicks for younger, inexperienced, lower salaried players.

Offensively, running backs can't stay healthy or on the field to give him options and before DJ Moore came to the team via trade before the 2023-24 season, Darnell Mooney was Fields' go-to receiver, who is a No. 3 or No. 4 receiver on a team with talent.

So, all of the issues are not Fields. Defensive, other positions, different coaches, different schemes, and different philosophies are not on Justin Fields.

However, when those aspects of a football team are happening and the QB doesn't change the culture or show a quantum leap in ability and ticks in the win column in a few short years, they're the scapegoat, they take the blame, and eventually are gone.

Unfortunately for my jersey, because I don't want to wear uniforms of players no longer connected to the logo next to their name come Sundays from August-February, if Fields is ousted because the Bears have the No. 1 draft pick for the 2024 NFL Draft on April 25-27, it will be time to donate the jersey.

Whether I send it in a care package across the seas to a different country, sell it in a garage sale (\$2 at a garage sale is donating compared to what I paid for it), or bring it to the Nightengales, Salvation Army or Lily Pads, it isn't going to be in my closet anymore.

So if you see me wearing the Fields jersey in the spring or the summer and I'm sweating as I stand in one place because it's too hot to wear, you'll know why.

I have to get my use out of the jersey before Justin Fields and the Chicago Bears part ways.

Nanez shuts down Amboy

□ MHS senior fires 1-hitter in 10-0 season-opening victory

MENDOTA – It was a solid start to the 2024 baseball season for the Mendota Trojans as they cruised to a 10-0 victory over Amboy in a non-conference game on March 11 at the MHS field. A three-run bottom of the sixth stopped the game via the 10-run rule.

The Trojans put up two runs each in the second and third innings, and then three runs each in the fourth and sixth frames to complete the scoring.

Izaiah Nanez was masterful on the mound for Mendota, giving up just one hit and striking out nine in the route-going performance. He did not issue a walk.

The Trojans banged out nine hits off of three Amboy pitchers. Justin Randolph led the attack with two home runs and four runs batted in. He clouted a solo homer in the third inning and walloped a three-run shot in the fourth.

Jace Baird (single, triple) and Cale Strouss (single, double) also had two hits for Mendota.

Brody Christoffersen started on the hill for Amboy and absorbed the loss. A Landon Montavon single was Amboy's only safety on the day.



Mendota pitcher Izaiah Nanez gets ready to fire a pitch to an Amboy batter during the Trojans' 10-0 win in the season-opener on March 11 at the MHS diamond. (Reporter photo)

MHS girls beaten by Amboy in '24 opener

MENDOTA—Amboy spoiled the season-opener for the Mendota softball team as it downed the Lady Trojans, 16-4, in a non-conference contest on March 11 at the MHS field. The game was halted after six innings by the 10-run rule.

Amboy scored in all but one inning, tallying multiple times in four of the six frames. The Lady Clippers pushed across five runs in the top of the sixth to go ahead by double-digits.

Mendota managed single runs in four of the six innings against winning pitcher Ellie McLaughlin. Madelyn Becker, Kirby Bond and Talia White had singles for the Lady Trojans.

Ava Eddy was in the circle for Mendota and suffered the loss.

McLaughlin aided her own cause at the plate with a single, double, triple and four runs batted in. Tyrah Vaessen added three singles for Amboy.

Elam grabs pair of firsts at First Chance Invite

STERLING – The Mendota girls' and boys' track teams opened the season at the First Chance Indoor Invitational on March 9 at the Westwood Complex in Sterling. Freeport, Galesburg, Rock Falls and Sterling joined Mendota in the meet. No team scores were kept.



Elam

In the girls' competition, Mendota freshman Mariyah Elam picked up two first-place finishes. She claimed the 60-meter hurdles in a time of 10.2 seconds, while she captured the high jump with a leap of 5-4.

The Lady Trojans also got a second-place finish in the high jump from freshman Harlow Foltyniewicz with a measurement of 4-6.

In the boys' meet, Mendota's highest place was turned in by Sebastian Carlos,

who finished third in the 400-meter dash with a clocking of 53.91.

Girls' Results

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, 60m hurdles, 10.2; Elam, high jump, 5-4

Mendota 2nd place: Harlow Foltyniewicz, high jump, 4-6

Mendota 3rd place: 4x800m relay (Briza Cervantes, Hannah Kunz, Emily Banks, Eden Pecher), 13:34.36; Elam, triple jump, 29-6

Mendota 4th place: 4x200m varsity relay (Ella Martin, Kennedy Knaff, Grace Wasmer, Laylie Denault), 2:04.52; 4x200m F-S relay (Aby Buettner, Elam, Reushawna Durr, Foltyniewicz), 2:08.9

Mendota 6th place: 4x400m relay (Denault, Knaff, Martin, Wasmer), 5:09.35; Lexie Cocanour, high jump, 4-6

Mendota 7th place: Pecher, triple jump, 22-9

Mendota 8th place: Christonah Brown, triple jump, 21-5

Mendota 10th place: Kunz, 800m run, 3:10.39; Emily Sondgeroth, shot put, 24-4

Boys' Results

Mendota 3rd place: Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 53.91

Mendota 4th place: 4x800m relay (Berat Imeri, Hector Gonzalez, Carlos Toribio, Gavin Stevenson), 10:36.91; 4x200m F-S relay (Jayden Lesley, Gael Garcia, Robert Botello, Javi Hernandez), 1:48.55

Mendota 6th place: 4x200m varsity relay (Aaden Castle, Brandon Leadley, Anthony Seablom, Mason Koch), 1:46.44; 4x400m relay (Koch, Castle, Anthony Kelson, Carlos), 3:55.59

Mendota 7th place: Koch, long jump, 17-6

Mendota 8th place: Imeri, 800m run, 2:28.8; Jamal Lesley, high jump, 5-2

Mendota High School Spring Sports Schedules

Girls' Soccer

March 16 – Orion – 11:00
March 18 – at Streator – 4:30
March 19 – Rochelle – 4:30
March 22 – at Ottawa – 4:30
March 23 – Plano – 11:00
March 25 – LaSalle-Peru – 4:30
March 26 – Coal City – 4:30
April 4 – DePue – 4:30
April 6 – at Princeton Tourney – 9:00
April 8 – at Monmouth-Roseville – 4:30
April 9 – Princeton – 4:30
April 13 – at Genoa-K. Tourney – 9:00
April 15 – at Hinckley-Big Rock – 4:30
April 17 – at Indian Creek – 4:30
April 20 – at Oregon – 10:00
April 22 – Stillman Valley – 4:30
April 24 – at Winnebago – 4:30
April 29 – Genoa-Kingston – 4:30
May 1 – Dixon – 4:30
May 7-15 – Regional

Varsity Baseball

March 11 – Amboy – 4:30
March 13 – Rock Falls – 4:30
March 14 – at Indian Creek – 4:30
March 18 – at Plano – 4:30
March 22 – Sherrard – 4:30
March 25 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
March 28 – Bureau Valley – 4:30
April 1 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4:30
April 2 – at Putnam County – 4:30
April 3 – Somonauk – 4:30
April 5 – Morrison – 4:30
April 9 – at Hall – 4:30
April 11 – Hall – 4:30
April 13 – at Riverdale – 10:00
April 15 – at Princeton – 4:30
April 18 – Princeton – 4:30
April 19 – Orion – 4:30
April 22 – Newman – 4:30
April 23 – Hinckley-Big Rock – 4:30
April 25 – at Newman – 4:30
April 26 – at Rockridge – 4:30
April 30 – Ottawa – 4:30
May 1 – Sterling – 4:30
May 3 – at Erie – 4:30
May 6 – Kewanee – 4:30
May 7 – at Sandwich – 4:30
May 9 – at Kewanee – 4:30
May 13-18 – Regional

Sophomore Baseball

March 13 – at Rock Falls – 4:30

March 18 – Plano – 4:30
March 22 – at Sherrard – 4:30
March 25 – Bureau Valley – 4:30
March 28 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
April 1 – LaSalle-Peru – 4:30
April 5 – at Morrison – 4:30
April 9 – Hall – 4:30
April 11 – at Hall – 4:30
April 13 – Riverdale – 10:00
April 15 – Princeton – 4:30
April 18 – at Princeton – 4:30
April 19 – at Orion – 4:30
April 22 – at Newman – 4:30
April 25 – Newman – 4:30
April 26 – Rockridge – 4:30
April 29 – Earlville – 4:30
May 1 – Sterling – 4:30
May 3 – Erie – 4:30
May 6 – at Kewanee – 4:30
May 9 – Kewanee – 4:30

Varsity Softball

March 11 – Amboy – 4:30
March 14 – at Indian Creek – 4:30
March 18 – Plano – 4:30
March 22 – Sherrard – 4:30
March 25 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
March 28 – Bureau Valley – 4:30
April 2 – at Putnam County – 4:30
April 3 – Somonauk – 4:30
April 5 – Morrison – 4:30
April 9 – at Hall – 4:30
April 10 – Newark – 4:30
April 11 – Hall – 4:30
April 12 – at Riverdale – 4:30
April 15 – at Princeton – 4:30
April 18 – Princeton – 4:30
April 19 – Orion – 4:30
April 22 – Newman – 4:30
April 25 – at Newman – 4:30
April 26 – at Rockridge – 4:30
April 30 – Ottawa – 4:30
May 3 – at Erie – 4:30
May 6 – Kewanee – 4:30
May 8 – at Sandwich – 4:30
May 9 – at Kewanee – 4:30
May 13-18 – Regional

Boys' Tennis

March 28 – Dixon – 4:00
April 3 – at Streator – 4:00
April 8 – at Sterling – 4:00
April 10 – at Yorkville – 4:00
April 12 – Pontiac – 4:30

April 13 – at L-P JV Invite – 8:30
April 18 – Geneseo – 4:00
April 20 – at Princeton Invite – 9:00
April 20 – at Coal City JV Quad – 8:00
April 23 – at Dixon – 4:00
April 25 – Princeton – 4:30
April 27 – at Rochelle Tourney – 8:30
April 30 – Rock. Lutheran, Rock. Christian – 4:00
May 2 – at LaSalle-Peru – 4:30
May 6 – at Rochelle – 4:00
May 8 – Morris – 4:00
May 9 – at Coal City – 4:00
May 10 – Mendota Tournament – 1:00
May 13 – at Ottawa – 4:00
May 14 – at Newman – 4:00
May 17-18 – Sectional

Girls' Track

March 9 – at Sterling – 9:00
March 12 – at Sycamore – 4:00
March 28 – at Kewanee – 4:30
April 6 – Don Gooden Invite – 10:00
April 8 – at Chillicothe IVC F-S – 4:00
April 11 – at Rock Falls – 4:30
April 13 – at Hall Invite – 10:00
April 15 – at Princeton – 4:30
April 20 – at Rockford Christian – 10:00
April 22 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
April 26 – Mendota Co-Ed – 4:00
May 2 – TRAC Meet @ Mendota – 4:00
May 6 – IV Meet @ Ottawa – 4:30
May 9 – Sectional

Boys' Track

March 9 – at Sterling – 9:00
March 13 – at Sycamore – 4:00
March 28 – at Kewanee – 4:30
April 2 – at Kewanee – 4:00
April 6 – Don Gooden Invite – 10:00
April 8 – at Chillicothe IVC F-S – 4:00
April 11 – at Rock Falls – 4:30
April 13 – at Hall Morris Invite – 10:00
April 15 – at Princeton – 4:30
April 20 – at Rockford Christian – 10:00
April 22 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
April 24 – at Genoa-K. JV Invite – 4:15
April 26 – Mendota Co-Ed – 4:00
April 30 – Tri-Meet @ L-P – 4:30
May 3 – at Winnebago – 4:15
May 6 – IV Meet @ Ottawa – 4:30
May 10 – TRAC Meet @ Rockridge – 4:00
May 16 – Sectional

MHS wrestler Serrano earns all-conference recognition

MENDOTA – Angil Serrano of Mendota was the lone representative for Three Rivers Conference all-conference wrestling honors for the 2023-24.

Serrano, a junior, was an honorable mention selection in the 285-pound weight class. He posted an 18-10 record during the season.

FIRST TEAM

106 – Augustus Swanson, Princeton; 113 – Tharren Jacobs, Riverdale; 120 – Dean Wainwright, Riverdale; 126 – Thomas Sowards, Rockridge; 132 – Jude Finch, Rockridge; Brady Grennan, Newman; 138 – Ace Christiansen, Princeton; Briar Ivey, Newman; 144 – Carter Rude, Newman; 150 – Blake Smith, Riverdale; Karder White, Morrison; 157 – Daniel Kelly, Newman; 165 – Ryan Lower, Rockridge; 175 – Zac Bradley, Riverdale; 190 – Maddux Anderson, Orion; 215 – Alejandro Duarte, Kewanee;

285 – Cade Odell, Princeton

SECOND TEAM

106 – Bawi Thang, Monmouth-Roseville; 113 – Kingston Peterson, Kewanee; 120 – Kaleb Sovey, Orion; 126 – Zhyler Hansen, Newman; 138 – Kolton Kruse, Riverdale; 144 – Wyatt Goossens, Erie-Prophetstown; 150 – Mason Anderson, Orion; 157 – Preston Arkels, Princeton; 165 – Casey Etheridge, Princeton; 175 – Jamal Lasenby, Kewanee; 190 – John Weakley, Sherrard; 215 – Aiden Fisher, Orion; 285 – Caleb Reymer, Erie-Prophetstown

HONORABLE MENTION

106 – Tyler Olson, Orion; Ben Porter, Riverdale; 113 – Colton Bock, Rockridge; 126 – Kamden White, Morrison; Cole Perkins, Orion; Kayden Gibson, Princeton; Blake Pender, Sherrard; 132 – Jacob Gibson, Erie-Prophetstown; Caleb Modglin,

See Serrano, Page B2

SPORTS

Illinois walleye anglers and fisheries biologists teaming up for 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois anglers who chase walleye, sauger or saugeye are invited to participate in the virtual Midwest Walleye Challenge in 2024. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has teamed up with other states, provinces, and developers and researchers at Anglers Atlas to launch this year's competition.

Information gathered through the competition will assist Illinois in providing anglers with important data and add to biologists' knowledge of various waterbodies.

"Competitions like this are incredibly valuable to our understanding of the Illinois fishery," said Kevin Irons, assistant chief of the IDNR fisheries division. "And not to worry, anglers - we'll never know the exact location of your favorite secret fishing spot. Our biologists will only see information about the water body."

The Midwest Walleye Challenge uses the mobile app MyCatch to record the length of each fish caught. Anglers take a picture of the fish on a measuring device using the app, and once the fish is reviewed by the catch team and meets the rules, it appears on a live leaderboard where anglers can see who is in the lead.

Anglers can go online at <https://www.anglersatlas.com/event/770/2024-illinois-midwest-walleye-challenge-2024> to view the rules and sign up to participate.

"We're excited to bring



this new Walleye tournament format to other states across the Midwest and into Canada," said Sean Simmons, founder and president of MyCatch. "We have shown this novel approach to fisheries management can work in Iowa, and now we want to see if it will work in other locations as well."

There are two categories of participant: a \$25 entry fee category for which cash prizes and non-cash prizes will be awarded, and a free category for which anglers can compete for non-cash prizes. Anglers may notice some unusual prize categories, as the award structure is designed to address the data requirements of fisheries biologists. This includes:

- "Tough luck" prizes for those who don't catch anything. This is important data, as it allows biologists to know about locations with zero catches.

- "Most waterbodies fished" prizes to help collect data on as wide of a range of walleye fisheries as possible.

- As with most tournaments, there also are prizes for longest fish caught.

- Finally, there is a range of random-draw prizes so that anyone who catches a walleye has a chance at winning a prize regardless of its size. This provides anglers an incentive to report all walleye caught and helps ensure a representative sampling of the walleye fishery.

BOWLING

Elks 9 Youth League

Standings as of March 2 – 1. Team 3 37.5-14.5; 2. Team 2 32.5-19.5; 3. Team 1 18-34; 4. Team 4 16-36

High team game (scratch) – Team 3 278, Team 2 274, Team 1 253

High team game (hdcp) – Team 2 665, Team 3 656, Team 1 639

High team series (scratch) – Team 3 790, Team 2 775, Team 4 719

High team series (hdcp) – Team 2 1948, Team 3 1924, Team 1 1869

Boys' high game (scratch) – Maddox Chaon 106, Jace Ganther 100, Parker Krager 95

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Conrad Barkman 239, Jace Ganther 232, Maddox Chaon & Parker Krager 219

Boys' high series (scratch) – Jace Ganther 284, Maddox Chaon 266, Parker Krager 253

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Conrad Barkman 687, Jace Ganther 680, Parker Krager 625

Girls' high game (scratch) – Grace Piskie 122, Brooklyn Bejster 105, Lainey Ramer 103

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 245, Grace Piskie 237, Brooklyn Bejster 235

Girls' high series (scratch) – Grace Piskie 299, Lainey Ramer 284, Ady Law 236

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Lainey Ramer 710, Grace Piskie 644, Ady Law 623

High team game (hdcp) – Team 2 625, Team 4 625, Team 5 607

High team series (scratch) – Team 5 849, Team 1 847, Team 4 793

High team series (hdcp) – Team 4 1837, Team 2 1825, Team 3 1775

Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 159, Bentley Bejster 135, Oliver Turner 113

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Bentley Bejster 234, Parker Ramer 227, Lincoln Daley 219

Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 409, Bentley Bejster 356, Oliver Turner 289

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Bentley Bejster 653, Jaxen Daley 635, Lincoln Daley 614

Girls' high game (scratch) – Eliana Eames 118

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Eliana Eames 245

Girls' high series (scratch) – Eliana Eames 304

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Eliana Eames 685

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of March 4 – 1. Ramer Inc. 22-18; 2. Leagal Beagles 22-18; 3. Bad Kats 22-18; 4. Split Happens 21-19; 5. CM Farm 18-22; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 15-25

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 767, Leagal Beagles 685, Ramer Inc. 650

High team game (hdcp) – Split Happens 990, Leagal Beagles 964, Sports-N-Stuff 955

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2195, Leagal Beagles 1886, Ramer Inc. 1813

High team series (hdcp) – Split Happens 2864, Leagal Beagles 2723, Bad Kats 2672

Men's high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 253, Bob Thomas 228, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 223

Men's high game (hdcp) – Matt Ramer 280, Bob Thomas 279, Mike Smith 263

Men's high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 649, Bob Thomas 597, Mike Smith 589

Men's high series (hdcp) – Bob Thomas 750, Matt Ramer 730, Mike Smith 727

Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 214, Gail Sessler 211, Emily Thomas 192

Women's high game (hdcp) – Kim Smith 275, Gail Sessler 271, Jessica Robinson 268

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 563, Gail Sessler 546, Emily Thomas 537

Women's high series (hdcp) – Kim Smith 750, Gail Sessler 726, Jessica Robinson 725

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of March 6 – 1. Mendota Monument 23-17; 2. O'Donnell Excavating 23-17; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 22-18; 4. Novak Farms 20-20; 5. First State Bank 19-21; 6. Black Bros. 13-27

High team game (scratch) – JJ&L Carpentry 1024, Mendota Monument 1015, First State Bank 1005

High team game (hdcp) – First State Bank 1133, JJ&L Carpentry 1128, Novak Farms 1096

High team series (scratch) – First State Bank 2930, Mendota Monument 2837, JJ&L Carpentry 2835

High team series (hdcp) – First State Bank 3314, JJ&L Carpentry 3147, Novak Farms 3105

High individual game (scratch) – Beau Wixom 267, Luke Ross 254, Chris Eller 251

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 649, Beau Wixom 642, Tom Dessing & Matt Novak 622

Serrano

Continued from Page B1

Morrison; 138 – Ben Taylor, Kewanee; Camden Pruis, Morrison; 144 – Levi Milder, Morrison; 150 – Tristan Hovey, Erie-Prophetstown; 157 – Gabe Ortiz-Mora,

Monmouth-Roseville; 165 – Brady Anderson, Morrison; 175 – Nolan Loete, Orion; 190 – Jackson Hawkins, Kewanee; Alex Gandarilla, Monmouth-Roseville; 215 – Ian Morris, Princeton; 285 – Angil Serrano, Mendota

(Final standings: Orion 11-0, Newman 9-2, Riverdale 7-2, Kewanee 7-4, Morrison 6-5, Rockridge 6-5, Princeton 6-2, Sherrard 5-6, Erie-Prophetstown 4-5, Mendota 2-8, Monmouth-Roseville 2-8)

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Bearing good fruit when hard times come

The Bible talks about bearing good fruit and how that is God’s purpose for our lives. For example, in John 15:5, Jesus says, “I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing” (AMP). And Psalm 1:3 (AMP) says that the person who follows God’s ways is “like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].”

When we understand what it means to bear

good fruit, then we can fulfill our destiny as ambassadors of Christ in this world (2 Corinthians 5:20). There are two ways this happens: by working with the Holy Spirit to develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23), and by displaying that fruit as we help others.

Many people want the “fruit” of more money, more opportunities in their career, more material possessions, or to be more well known. It’s certainly not wrong to have these things. But these things alone won’t fulfill us or make us permanently happy and peaceful.

We need to go deeper than that! The good fruit God wants us to have in

our lives is peace, joy and mental and emotional stability when the storms of life come. And the Bible teaches that we can grow to the point where we are so deeply planted in the love of Christ that when the storms of life come, we still bear good fruit (Psalm 1:1-3 and Ephesians 3:16-19)!

The real fruit of Christianity is seen in your life when you can bear good fruit when hard times come—and we all have difficulties in life. It may be an unexpected illness, the stress of financial debt, or being betrayed by someone you thought you could trust. God wants us to be peaceful under pressure and have a good attitude in the midst of pain because when others see us behaving differently, they’ll want to know why we can be that way and want to have what we have, too!

Colossians 3:12-15 (AMP) gives us a detailed list of genuine, acceptable Christian behavior, and it should be our goal to live this way every day. Verse 12 says that “as God’s chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself],” we should “put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has



the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper.”

Now, I want to say here that we can’t just live this way in our own strength, without God. I remember when I would decide in the morning: “I’m going to be nice to everyone today!” and I succeeded while I was home alone. But when the people came home, that’s when I had trouble with my attitude.

I had to pray for God to help me put on the right attitude and mindset so I could treat others with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, “which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper.” I had to put my faith in God to give me His grace—His strength to do what I could never do in my own effort—believing that He would do it because of who I am in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21).

These verses in Colossians should be our number one goal as believers in Christ. As new creations in Christ, saved by faith, we have a desire to do good things. And as we grow in our relationship with Him, we learn new ways to act and respond to others.

I know from personal experience that this is not always easy. It won’t always feel good to obey God and you may have to sacrifice something to do it. But when we choose to trust God and do what He tells us to do no matter how we feel about it, what we think about it, or what others think we should do, then we’ll have the amazing life Jesus died for us to have!

We don’t have to settle for anything less than God’s best for us. Make a decision today to trust God to change you and help you do what’s right in every situation. Remember John 15:16 (AMP), which says He

has chosen you and “appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would grow and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting” at all times of your life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource *Busy Going Nowhere*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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See Page A5!

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Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,
and Hector Diaz, Deacons

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

Weekday Mass
Weekend Mass
Confession

STS. PETER AND PAUL,
PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass
Confession

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

100 E. Sixth St.
(815) 538-5587

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
9 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Worship

In-person & on Facebook at:
Mendota First United
Methodist Church

March 17 - 9 a.m. Sunday School;
9:30 a.m. Worship

ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Preschool - 6th grade
in fellowship hall during worship service
(Parking lot worship available on 90.9 FM
during Sunday services)

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



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

4401 State Route 251
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com
www.mendotaupc.org

SUNDAY: Christian Education-10 a.m.
Worship - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Midweek Bible Study - 7 p.m.

VICTORY BAPTIST
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"Faithful & Effective"

505 W. 7th Ave.
(815) 539-9081

Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY
Sunday school
Worship

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rt. 251 at Lake Mendota
P.O. Box 54

Phone (815) 539-7107 (church)
(815) 871-5702 (pastor)

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org
www.facebook.com/NCAOG

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blessed hope."

Sunday School
Worship

MENDOTA BIBLE
CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of
Mendota
(815) 538-6876

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School
Worship
Evening Service

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CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.
(815) 539-5626

Pastor Elise Rothfusz

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:
9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person
and online via YouTube
Find us on Facebook

NOTE: Please contact your
individual church regarding
online services or for other
church-related information.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For as Jonah was three days and three
nights in the belly of the great fish, so
will the Son of Man be three days and
three nights in the heart of the earth.
The men of Nineveh will rise up in the
judgment with this generation and
condemn it, because they repented at
the preaching of Jonah; and indeed
a greater than Jonah is here.

MATTHEW 12: 40-41

Detail of 16th-century woodblock engraving

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com
Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following
children's message
Fellowship 11 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live
Facebook page
www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

March 15 - Hands of Hope pickup
March 19 - 11 a.m. Fill eggs
March 20 - Newsletter deadline



CHRIST'S CHURCH

"He is the Head of the Body, the
Church . . . That in everything He
might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

1107 Main St.
(815) 993-2462

Dave Manion Jim McDowell
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Builders 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.
Men's Ministry
Ladies & Mens Bible Study
Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational
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Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger
(815) 539-6567

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Website: www.ilccompton.org
E-mail: immanuelutheran
compton@live.com

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Neighbor to the World"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship at First

March 13 - 5:30 p.m. Lenten meal
at First; 6:30 p.m. Mid-week Lenten
service at First
March 16 - 8 a.m. Volunteer at
N.I.C.E.

Online "devotional service" videos continue
every Sunday at
facebook.com/ilccompton and
YouTube. Check our website and Facebook
page for more information.



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ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion)

4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille

(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
following children's message

FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available)

Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

TROY GROVE

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FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,
Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info
E-mail: fbfcchurch20817@gmail.com

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our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Isaiah (KJV) in
the Old or New Testament or
neither?

2. From Genesis 3, who made
clothes for Adam and Eve out
of skins? Adam, Eve, The Lord,
Serpent

3. What did Jesus say His
followers would never walk in?
Fear, Solitude, Darkness, Shame

4. Lamentations 3 speaks of the
wormwood and the ...? Fire, Gall,
Fence, Fig

5. Who had a vision of a lion
having eagle's wings? John the
Baptist, Peter, Herod, Daniel

6. From 2 Samuel 20, who killed
Amasa? Joab, Sheba, Abishai,
Bichri

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) The Lord,
3) Darkness, 4) Gall, 5) Daniel, 6)
Joab

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you to attend a
house of worship
this week.

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Phone (815) 539-7211

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 9 am, a meeting conducted by Mendota Community Consolidated School District #289 will take place at the District #289 Education Center Boardroom, 1806 Guiles Ave, Mendota IL 61342. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who will attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are a parent of a home school or a non-public student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of Mendota District #289, you are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Mr. K. Bradley Cox, Superintendent, at 815-539-7631.
No. 0303
(March 13, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATION
NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Adult Name Change) IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, LASALLE COUNTY
Request of CHARLES JAMES CONSIDINE
Case Number 2024 MR 21
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from CHARLES JAMES CONSIDINE to the new name of CHARLES WILLIAM HELMIG, V
The court date will be held on May 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 204, LaSalle County Courthouse, via video conference.
No. 0304
(March 13, 20 and 27, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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301 ANTIQUES

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2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4WD, Z71, 37K Miles, Blue.....	\$45,900	2020 Chevy Equinox LT, AWD, 2.0 LTR., 63K Miles, Silver.....	\$21,900
2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 42K Miles, Black.....	\$22,900	2020 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 64K Miles, Silver.....	\$18,900
2021 GMC Sierra K-1500, SLT, Crew Cab, 4x4, 36K Miles, White.....	\$43,900	2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LT 4x4, 59K Miles, White.....	\$32,900
2021 Chevrolet K-1500 Crew Cab, 4x4, LT, 23K Miles, Red.....	\$38,900		

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2020 Chevy K-2500 Regular Cab 4x4 WT, 6.6 gas, 109K miles, White.....	\$29,900	2016 GMC K-2500, Crew Cab, Denali, 4x4, Sunroof, Diesel, 76K Miles, Black.....	\$44,900
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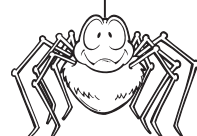
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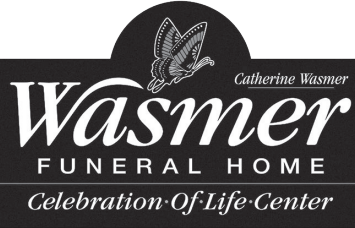
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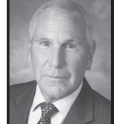
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