

VOLUME 146, NUMBER 13

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

ONE DOLLAR, 25 CENTS

## A 2024 downturn in corn and soybeans is expected

Built-up reserves should give farmers a substantial cushion

#### By ZETA CROSS The Center Square

*contributor* SPRINGFIELD – After

the three most profitable years in history, Illinois corn and soybean farmers are bracing for a slowdown. Prices have tanked. Demand from China and other importers has yet to catch up. And storage bins are full of last year's unsold corn.

"Farmers know that there are more bad years than there are really good years," agriculture economist Steve Irwin of the University of Illinois said.

Put the downturn in context, he said.

"2024 to 2025 right now is looking like there will be some substantial losses, but we are coming off of a very high-profit period," Irwin said.

The reserves that have been built up over the past three years give farmers a substantial cushion, he said. Supply-demand balances for grains are not historically burdensome at this time.

"Looking six to 18 months down the road, which is what is top of mind in the market, then things are looking grimmer," Irwin said.

On the supply side, large South American crops will be hitting the markets in the next few months. Here in the United States, the acreage



According to the current projected prices for corn and soybeans next fall, both corn and soybeans in Illinois look to lose money this year, with soybeans losing far less than corn.

base for spring-planted grain crops is expected to remain large by historical standards, adding to the supply-side burden.

On the demand side, overall weakness, particularly in the demand from China, where they are having economic struggles, has hurt exports. A slowdown in the demand for meat in China has dampened the demand for imported feedstuff, Irwin said.

Demand from China "is still growing. It is just not exploding as quickly as it has for much of the last decade," Irwin said. "Supply trends have started to impact demand trends. Fundamentally, that is what happened."

According to the current projected prices for corn and soybeans next fall, both corn and soybeans in Illinois look to lose money this year, with soybeans losing far less than corn, Irwin said.

"Anybody who has farmed for any length of time knows that there is a cycle in grain prices. It is hard to predict but prices are not going to stay as high as they have been for ever," he said.

Farmers are economizing, Irwin said. Where they can, farmers

will lean toward planting

more soybean acres and less corn this spring – but only at the margins, Irwin said. Some farmers will replace corn acres with sorghum, which is a less input-intensive feed grain. Farmers will put off making large equipment purchases. And they will rein in household living expenses, Irwin said.

"Income outlook is negative for the immediate future, but things can change very fast depending on the weather," Irwin said.

A significant hot dry summer could send grain prices shooting right back up, he said.

## MHS District 280 to address health life safety repairs

#### □ Board handles personnel items

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education addressed building repair items and handled numerous personnel matters at its March 18 regular meeting.

Board member Aaron Elston reported on the Building and Grounds Committee meeting held earlier in the month. The stadium parking lot bids were reduced to \$585,000, the integrated digital system and all-call system cost is \$175,000, and the exterior and interior LED lighting solution for the stadium buildings is \$17,500. The total stadium project would be \$727,500 utilizing the Engie Amendment. Engie is a performance contracts company that also focuses on energy efficiency. The board held additional discussion regarding the stadium parking lot project. No action was taken as the stadium project is still being considered.

The committee also reviewed the 10-Year Health Life Safety Report. There are "A" priority items that must be repaired or addressed within one year and "B" priority items that must be repaired by 2027. Currently, the estimate from the architect for the unfinished "A" list items is \$1,094,500. Some of the "A" priority items include ceiling tile replacement, cracked floor tile replacement, wall block replacement, efflorescense at walls repaired/replaced and asphalt stadium work. "B" list items totaled an estimated \$56,000.

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini presented 21 early graduate requests that were approved by the board.

The IHSA fee membership was renewed for the 2024-25 school year.

Summer school teachers were recommended and hired. They include Dan Beck, English and Summer School administrator; Kevin Worhley, math and science; Marisela Cervantes, ELL paraprofessional; Aaron Sester, Brock Zinke, Tom O'Neill and Mary Stephenitch, driver's education.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

During Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh's

See MHS, Page A5



**BV PETER HANCOCK** Capitol News Illinois SPRINGFIELD-Illinois families with infants and toddlers now have access to free children's books that can be sent directly to their home, regardless of their income. Gov. JB Pritzker recently announced the official launch of the state's partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program founded by the country music legend in 1995 in her home county in east Tennessee. It now sends free books every month to nearly 3 million children in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and Ireland. "Today, I couldn't be prouder to announce that the Imagination Library is working with the state of Illinois to begin our journey to provide every child under the age of 5 an opportunity to receive a free book delivered to them every single month,"

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY IS EXPANDING STATEWIDE IN

Pritzker said at an event at the Bloomington Public Library.

Pritzker first announced in June that the state had formed a partnership with the Dollywood Foundation, Parton's philanthropic organization, after Illinois lawmakers included \$1.6 million in this year's budget to fund the state's share of the program. Other funding comes from the Dollywood Foundation and local, county-based organizations.

Since then, about 44 local programs have been

operating in the state, serving roughly 4 percent of eligible children. But Dollywood Foundation executive director Nora Briggs said the goal is to reach all of the estimated 755,000 children under age 5 in Illinois.

ILLINOIS

"We know that nothing is more basic, more essential, more foundational to a child's success in life than the ability to read," Briggs said. "The research is clear.

See Books, Page A5

#### LaSalle Veterans Home Lawmakers discuss audit of LaSalle Veterans Home outbreak that killed 36 of its residents By COLE LONGCOR census decrease at state-run veterans' homes

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD–Illinois' veterans affairs director told a legislative panel that while state-run veterans' homes have better policies in place following a COVID-19 outbreak that killed 36 residents at the LaSalle Veterans Home in 2020, understaffing remains a challenge.

"The need for long-term care will explode over the next 20 years," Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Director Terry Prince told the Legislative Audit Commission. He predicted long-term care populations would grow by 200 to 500 percent in that span.

He said while IDVA has employees who "are dedicated and devoted and willing to work overtime," the department has also let its census decrease at state-run veterans' homes to keep staff-to-patient ratios sustainable.

"It could be easy to say yeah, we're gonna fill the Quincy Veterans Home and fill it all the way up to 400 people, but you have to have the staff to do so," he said.

He said staffing remains difficult even though Illinois' "fantastic" benefits package for staff at veterans' homes is "nearly \$40,000 higher than the civilian equivalent."

As for responding to COVID-19 outbreaks, Prince said the department is in a much better place than it was in 2020. Beginning in late October that year, the LaSalle home experienced a COVID-19 outbreak that

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### **Proposing truth about** Wild Bill Hickok

#### By BRANDON LaCHANCE Staff writer

MENDOTA-There have been many books written about James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok over the years.

The Homer (Troy Grove) native has been portrayed on TV, in movies, in cartoons, and a board game. The poker term "Dead man's hand" was created because of Wild Bill and his death at a card table in 1837.

However, is this a myth or truth?

There are many stories about Hickok. But which ones are fact and which have been distorted in a long game of telephone?

Craig Crease, 71, originally from Kansas, has been interested in Hickok and finally able to tell his research's findings in a book called "The Wanderer: James Butler Hickok the American West," which is set to publish at the end of March.

"He is a complicated historical figure. There have been 21 biographies written about James Butler Hickok and his alter ego Wild Bill Hickok since 1865," Crease said. "Mine is the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Most of those were a rehash, right into the modern age, of things that have been written before. It was misinformation, bad information. Some of those are complete myths that don't have any basis in fact. Some of those are legends that have a small percentage of fact but have been stretched beyond reality.

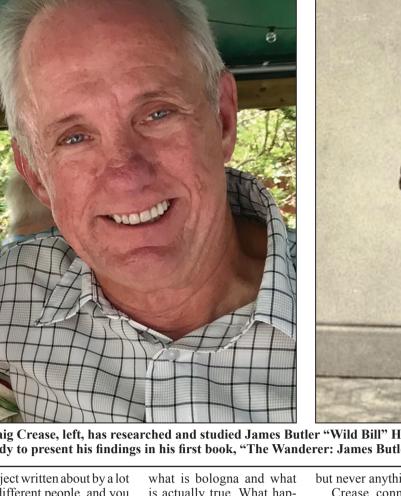
"I recognize that a lot of writings on Wild Bill are bologna. The thing about Hickok is if you strip away the myths and prove them through facts and logic that they didn't happen, his life is still amazing. It's still so representative of what people think about when they think of the old west and frontier lawmen.'

Kansas became Hickok's home after he left Illinois when he was 19.

Being born and raised in Kansas and Hickok still being a famous interesting figure so many years later, Crease absorbed Hickok and the folk lore.

"I've always been interested in people that were or are a bit off center, who are not quite what they're public persona shows them to be," said Crease, who is a retired from the insurance agency, married to Diane Crease for over 50 years, and has two children and two grandchildren. "Hickok is very much this way. Nobody who met him forgot him. What is in my book is the recollections of people from people who actually knew him or the events in his life.

"If you're going to write a non-fiction book and it's on a





Craig Crease, left, has researched and studied James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok for the last 20 years. He is now ready to present his findings in his first book, "The Wanderer: James Butler Hickok the American West."

subject written about by a lot of different people, and you think you have something new to write about, you have to get complete command of the primary and secondary sources. You have to know everything that has been written about that person and to be able to develop the judgment and find the documentation to back it up.

"Then you can judge

is actually true. What happened and what isn't true. You have to know all of the lies and all of the truths that were written. It's all there. It's a big puzzle and you have to unlock the whole thing." This work on Hickok is

Crease's first book. He had written academic

pieces on the Santa Fe Trail and the historic frontier trails,

but never anything more. Crease connected with Caxton Press, a 100-year company that began publishing west frontier books by the same family since 1923, and the book has piqued the interest of many soon-to-be readers of "The Wanderer.'

"You realize there isn't a practice run in life and if there is something you

want to do, you better do it," Crease said. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, I wrote this book in about 15 months. I wrote in about 15 months, but I've been researching James Butler Hickok for about 20 years. I felt I had something new to say about him and after doing the research, I found I did have something new to say about him and his life."

### Mendota High School students competed against eight other teams in Academic Challenge sectional competition March 11 at Eureka College

MENDOTA - Students from Mendota High School traveled to Eureka College on March 11 to participate in the Academic Challenge sectional competition.

Mendota was one of nine teams to compete in Division 700, which consists of schools with enrollments between 301 and 700. These were some of the top schools in all of central Illinois. Each team had previously advanced out of regional contests hosted by IVCC, Heartland Community College, Illinois Central College, and Lincoln Land Community College.

Downs Tri-Valley High School won the team competition, with Pleasant Plains High School and Bloomington Central Catholic High School rounding

out the top three. Mendota finished in seventh place. Individually, the following Mendota students all placed in the top 10 of their respective test categories:

- Jay Sims: 1st place Biology; 3rd place English
- Haden Shakespeare: tie-4th place Engineering

Graphics; tie-8th place Physics

Ada Krull: 7th place Biology

Anthony Kelson: 7th place Physics

Sims will advance to the state competition in April hosted by Eastern Illinois University in Charleston to compete in Biology and English.

Mendota High School District 280 congratulates these students for excelling in these very challenging tests.





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#### Iron Chef Pizza Edition

Mora, left, and Alexa smash the secret ingredient, Cheetos, onto their pizza during the Graves-Hume Public Library's Iron Chef Pizza Edition Competition. Cheetos were used on pizzas made by eight teams of three participants before given to three judges. Other pizza toppings included pepperoni, sausage, mozzarella cheese, pineapples, peppers, spinach, and more. After pizzas and candy sushi rolls (created with a mix and match on Rice Krispies Treats, Fruit Roll Ups, M&Ms, Swedish Fish, Twislers, Hershey bars, and Jelly Bellys) were created and judged, Mora and Alexa were announced the winners for their extravagant Cheeto pizza smashing and Fruit Roll Up sushi rolling skills. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



#### John Ourth Award winners

John Ourth Student Recognition Award winners have been named for the Starved Rock Region by the Illinois Principals Association. Recipients from Mendota Elementary District 289, left to right, are Brayden Piller, Lincoln School fourth grader; Paola Solorzano, Northbrook School eighth grader; Trevor Lengsfeld, Northbrook School eighth grader; and Aubrey Mathieu, Lincoln School fourth grader. These students were chosen based on good citizenship, outstanding student performance and being student leaders. District 289 is proud of their accomplishments. (Photo contributed)

### **Blackstone School Report**

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Students from Mrs. Reuter and Miss Wilhlem's classes recently had the task of creating a leprechaun trap. The students did an amazing job in designing some very creative traps to try to catch the leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day while they were gone for the weekend. They came back to school on Monday morning to find nothing but a mess that the leprechaun had left. They had a lot of fun with this project!

The students nominat-

ed for the principal award this past week included Bella Frey, Bryson Ontiveros, Maylen Vela, Leanna Rojas, Sofia Rosales, Isla Full, Ja'Nahla Moss and Lennon Mc-Cully. The winners were Dominick Cordella, Alex Perez, Ailani Pedro and Emma Oraha. Congratulations to all of you!

We held our March Paw Pride assembly March 20. Students who earned golden tickets for great behavior during the past month went into a drawing to participate in a game and to win prizes. The students enjoyed "The Shamrock Shake" game. We had lots of laughs watching students shake ping pong balls out of an empty kleenex box tied to their waist. We then drew 20 names out of the kindergarten and first grade buckets. The students chosen were very excited to have the opportunity to pick a prize. We're very proud of all of our students who earned golden tickets this past month.

Our motto at Black-

stone is "Kindness Begins With Me." For the month of March, we have students who have been helping to clean up the environment around our school. We will be doing something for IVAR in the month of April. Please check back for more information on that in the next couple of weeks.

#### 

Spring break is approaching. There will be no school for students and staff on March 29-April 7. School will resume on Monday, April 8.

# St. Bede Academy's third quarter honor roll students named for the 2023-24 school year

PERU – Nick McLaughlin, principal of St. Bede Academy in Peru, has announced St. Bede's honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Seniors: Aubree Acuncius, Alex Ankiewicz, Johnna Bogatitus, Bella Boggio, Ali Bosnich, Ella Burris, Summer Conlin, Madelyne Dalton, Rubi De La Torre, Erin Dove, Tessa Dugosh, Ella Englehaupt, Evan Englehaupt, Evan Entrican, Daliayah Farris, Seth Ferrari, Molly Gonzales, Isabella Hagenbuch, Gavin Hahn, Makenzie Hanson, Katelyn Harth, Macy Hartt, Mariella Hermes, Teagan Hewitt, Kylie Hill, Jeanna Ladzinski, Henry Mertel, Ariella Mudge, Ava Mueller, Kyra Newman, Khue Nguyen, Kristina Penaverde, Zachary Popurella, Logan Potthoff, Anna Rudenko, Hunter Savage, Kaelyn Schwemlein, Sierah Shaver, Casey Shearer, Aubrey Siebert, Ryan Slingsby, Madison Stanbary, Reagan Stoudt, Marly Tillman, Vy Tran, Amanda Wojcik, Katherine Zeller.

Juniors: Teer Ao, Haiden Ator, Andrea Brandner, Qiyu Chen, Ziheng Chen, Garrett Connelly, Jordan Coventry, Trayger Davis, Alondra

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Delao, Lorelei Denny, Madalyn Dittmar, Bailey Engels, Avery Entrican, Yibo Fan, Grady Gillan, Phillip Gray, Mirella Haskell, Halden Hueneburg, Elizabeth Huffaker, Tyler Jordan, Yuno Kawai, Maci Kelly, Sadie Koehler, Jaxon Kozak, Lin Le, Violet Lopez, Haohongze Ma, Haiqing Mao, Greyson Marincic, Jack Maschmann, Quinn Mc-Clain, Victoria Mendez, Jake Migliorini, Grace Millington, Adeline Mitchell, Mason Moreno, Aidan Mullane, Kaden Nauman, Ryan Nawa, Kaden Newman, Huy Nguyen, Alivia Payne, Mason Ross, Emma Smudzinski, Zixuan Song, Alan Spencer, Nhi Ton, Mina Trandinh, Arthur van den Berg, Samantha Wagner, Tyler Walsh, Abraham Wiesbrock, Kefei Wu, Solomon Zhang, Jinhao Zhao.

Sophomores: Margaret Arkins, Ava Balestri, Genavyve Barnes, Landon Boggio, Lily Bosnich, Johnnie Brown, Noah Buck, August Burr, Drew Carboni, Caden Carls, Chuanyang Chen, Anna Cyrocki, Emerald De La Torre, Jose De La Torre, Simona Desai, Haoxuan Du, Madeline Fabish, Gino Ferrari, Harrison Fess, Ashton Gonzales, Mae Hagenbuch, Brody Hahn, Weston Heersink, Aiden Hermes, Zachary Husser, Isaac Kang, Breanna Martinez, Lili McClain, Ella Mudge, Sophia Ni, Jillian Pinter, Xiangyi Ren, Carson Riva, Chipper Rossi, Mark Rudenko, Alyssa Savitch, Emma Slingsby, Lillian Soliman, Ryan Soliman, Shujie Song, Devin Steil, Khoa Tran, Julian Villava, Peiwen Wu, Xindi Wu, Hongsheng Yang, Yannis Yong, Kian Zeller, Sora Zepeda, Ruihan Zhang, Yijing Zhang.

Freshmen: Faith Ankiewicz, Yesenia Avila, Caleb Barto, Chloe Brandt, Sean Brayton, Brody Burris, Calen Cass, Geno Dinges, Maegan du Preez, Kate Duncan, Kyra Finley, Grace Gahan, Eden Galvan, Cecilia Giacalone, Gavin Gillan, Raudel Hermosillo Jr., Brennen Hirst, Emma Huffaker, Yejun Jang, Lila Koehler, Ella Lamboley, Chenxuan Lin, Landon Marquez, Lucy Maus, Emma Mavity, Stuart McGunnigal, Stephanie Ni, Niko Pappas-Anniballi, Chase Riva, Olivia Ross, Ranbir Saini, Alaina Schulz, Nancy Shi, Macy Strauch, Bryce Stuepfert, Lex Tillman, Alec Tomsha, Judith Torres, Maleigha Trench, Carter Vasquez, Ariana Villava, Kerstin Williams.





San Diego St.	Duke
Dirty Dawgs	Vaessen Bros Chevrolet
Illinois	NC State
Sullivan's Foods	Farmhouse Designs
	Marquette
lowa State	First State Bank
Erbes Realty	
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North Carolina	Purdue
YMCA	Vaessen Bros Chevrolet
Alabama	Gonzaga
Alabama	Dirty Dawgs
Pizza by Marchelloni's	
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Clemson	Creighton Ramer Towing
First State Insurance	Kamer Towing
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Arizona	Tennessee

## **OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS**

#### Elizabeth J. Sondgeroth -

AUSTIN, Texas – Elizabeth Jane Wagner Sondgeroth passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Known as Bette by everyone throughout her life, she was born on July 19, 1924, to George Raymond Wagner and Anna Marie Ulrich on a dairy and potato farm outside Arnott, Wis. After her father died in a tragic farm accident, she and her mother moved to LaSalle, where her

mother's brother and two sisters lived.

Bette graduated from LaSalle-Peru High School in 1942. After graduation she worked as an ATT operator. She was married to James Emmett Sondgeroth on Jan. 17, 1947. She moved to Mendota with her husband to raise a family and was a loving mother to her four children. Because of her husband's health problems, the family moved south to Dallas, Texas in 1965. While in Dallas, she worked as a successful furniture saleswoman in a major department store retiring in 1986 to travel the USA with her husband. After her husband's death in 1994, she traveled the world with widowed friends.

She loved gardening and worked as a volunteer at the Dallas Arboretum, and she was an avid bird watcher wherever she lived. She moved to Sun City in Georgetown, Texas, in 2006 to be closer to three of her children who lived in and around Austin, Texas. In 2014 she moved with one of her children to the Hill Country about 25 miles west of Austin. In recent years, she lived in the memory unit of an assisted living facility, The Watermark at Southpark Meadows, in Austin where she passed away.

She is survived by her four children, James Sondgeroth, his wife Amelia Canales and their two children, daughter Erica and son Francisco, his wife Jordan Autry and their sons Joseph, Jacob, and Dane; Daniel Sondgeroth and his wife Mary Shaw; Nancy Sullivan, her husband Alan and her children George Jeffery Hebel and Katy Hebel; and Thomas Sondgeroth and his wife Jill Tow and their son Kosmo.

She was preceded in death by her father, mother, brothers Harlyn and Donald Wagner, her sister Doris Wagner May, and her husband of 47 years.

#### Philip D. Wood 💻

SANDWICH – Philip Dean Wood, 77, of Sandwich, passed away on Thursday, March 22, 2024, at the Pavilion on Main in Sandwich.

Funeral services will be private.

He was born on May 1, 1946, in LaSalle, the son of Albert and Edna (Amsler) Wood.

Philip was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Kratz on Dec. 7, 1968, and they spent the next 55 years happily together.

Philip is survived by his wife, Barbara Wood of Sandwich, as well as his nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Edna Wood; his two brothers and his two sisters.

Mr. Wood was a proud Veteran of the United States Army having served in Vietnam. He was formerly employed, for many years as a lineman with ComEd and worked for the past 18 years at the Stewart Spirit Farms in Sheridan.

Philip was a loving son, husband, brother and uncle who will be missed by his family and friends.

Arrangements by Nelson Funeral Homes & Crematory, www.NelsonFuneralHomes.com or 815-786-6461.

## See more obituaries on Page A8.



#### **Randy J. Morris**

MENDOTA – Randy J. Morris, 67, of Mendota, passed away March 22, 2024, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A funeral service will follow at 7 p.m. with Father Jeff Windy officiating. Cremation rites will be accorded afterward and private burial will be held at Restland Cemetery, Mendota at a later date.



Randy was born May 28, 1956, to Joseph M. and Shirley A. (Saylor) Morris at Mendota Hospital at 7:05 p.m., 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 23. 5 inches long.

Randy is survived by his son, Ryan Morris of Mendota: his mother, Shirley Morris of Mendota; his brother, Eric (fiance Laurie Brester) Morris of Mendota: a niece, Patti Imel of Naperville and nephew Steven (Kirstina) Morris of Henry and great uncle to Ashlyn, Brock and Cayden Imel and Dominik and Ariana Morris.

He was preceded in death by his father in 2013 and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Randy graduated from Mendota High School in 1974. Randy became involved in local politics and served as Third Ward alderman for three terms. He was the anchorman for trivia nights at the First United Methodist Church and Mendota Civic Center and was a devoted St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys fan. Randy was very family oriented and was considered the historian for the family, as he could always remember everyone's birthday or anniversary off the top of his head. He enjoyed music and would often listen to the Allman Brothers, Pink Floyd or almost any 70s/80s rock. He will be sadly missed by our family and friends.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services. Online condolences may be left at www.merrrittfh.com.

#### **Social Security**

#### Social Security supports small businesses

#### **Bv Mike Weitl**

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porting, please read our publication at www.ssa.gov/ pubs/EN-05-10034.pdf.

(Weitl is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)

#### **DEATH NOTICES**

The Mendota Reporter will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$100 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to editor@mendotareporter.com.

### **IVCC** holding welding registration sessions on April 16 & May 14

OGLESBY – IVCC's Welding Department is hosting welding registration sessions this spring on April 16 and May 14.

All sessions start at 5 p.m. at the Main Campus. The April 16 and May 14 sessions are in CTC 123 to register for Summer or

Fall courses. All new welding students must register for the program through a welding information session. Sign up for a session by contacting the Workforce Development Division Office at (815) 224-0233 or emailing kim\_herout@ ivcc.edu. Anyone unable to make these dates should contact Herout.

Info sessions are held just down the hall from the Admissions Department, so prospective students can register and enroll all at once.

No previous welding experience is necessary, and instructors work to find the best fit for students at whatever stage they enter the program, said Program Coordinator Theresa Molln.

IVCC's welding program is ideal for beginners who've never welded, for those with some welding background, and for industry employees who want to expand skills at their current employer, Molln said. Students receive individualized instruction in small classes and use state-of-the-art welding equipment and a large lab and fabrication area.

A flexible schedule makes it convenient to students with all types of commitments to attend, from swing shift workers to high school students. Classes are offered mornings, afternoons and evenings Monday through

Thursday. Instructors are backed by experience across varied industries.

Some local industries set flexible work schedules so employees can attend classes, or partner with IVCC to train their workers.

Welding draws people looking for good-paying jobs, farmers and others who use the skill in repair work - even artists who want to build showcases for their work. Others just enjoy the skill and its many uses, Molln said.

Graduates are welcomed into a workforce at industries such as Vactor in Streator, HCC in Mendota, Sabic in Ottawa, Marquis Energy in Hennepin and Carus in La Salle, Molln said.

Two students who graduated from the program last fall went straight to work in industry or with a pipefitters union, while a third is training for a career as an underwater welder. IVCC's district is a prime labor market for welders because its industries range from vehicle manufacturing and fabricated metal product manufacturing to machine shops, agriculture, construction and mining.

Activities happen outside the classroom too, like a spring welding competition for high school and college students, a week-long SPARK Jr. Welding Academy summer session for youths, and a campus welding club that lets students work independently on projects.

For more information on the program, contact Molln at 815-224-0630 or by email theresa\_molln@ ivcc.edu or visit https:// www.ivcc.edu/programsbyareaofstudy/welding/ index.php.

**CHOOSING A** 





process W-2s and W-2Cs.

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of staff tested positive for

the virus, which eventually

killed three dozen residents.

led to legislative hearings

and scrutiny of Gov. JB

Pritzker's administration's

response. The General As-

sembly called for an audit,

which was published in 2022.

The 12-member Legislative

Audit Commission held

its hearing to review it on

major recommendations.

including mandating testing

of staff and residents during

COVID outbreaks – defined

as two or more cases - and

delineating responsibilities

between IDVA and IDPH.

Additionally, the audit rec-

ommended the governor's

office increase oversight of

administrative staff and cre-

ate a senior home adminis-

trator position within IDVA.

that it's recognized that this

agency threw everything

at this situation as they did

during the COVID crisis,"

Anthony Vaughn told the

panel that when he arrived at

LaSalle toward the end of the

outbreak in December 2020

as the home's newly appoint-

ed interim administrator,

he found "a dedicated staff

looking to do the right thing."

scene to a "Marine Corps

unit that's just been through

ing, and they're still hurting,

but they want the leadership

to be able to move on," he

the Illinois Department of

While a 2021 report from

But he also compared the

"And they're still recover-

**IDVA Assistant Director** 

Prince said.

a big battle."

said.

"I want to make sure

The audit made three

March 20.

The deadly outbreak

#### IVCC collaborates with other colleges

### MHS

#### Continued from Page A1

report, the board approved the lease of a 37-passenger used 2023 lift bus for one year from Central State Bus Company for \$28,655. The bus will be used to transport students to and from the Area Career Center.

Discussion was held on graduation ceremony protocols. The district will continue to recommend a formal graduation ceremony for graduates.

The board discussed the recommended fee structure for the 2024-25 school year. After much discussion, additional information will be presented for an April meeting decision.

Also, the board approved the ability for summer custodial help of adults and students, and reviewed the ROE #35 five-year compliance visit report. The district was reviewed as being fully recognized by the ROE and state.

#### PERSONNEL MATTERS

The board held an executive/closed session to discuss personnel matters. Upon return to open session, the board took the following action:

• Accepted the retirement notice of Sheldon G. Bauer, effective Aug. 2, 2024.

• Renewed the contract of Kate Hagenbuch (speech language pathologist) for the 2024-24 school year.

• Approved the fouryear retirement contract and letter on behalf of Masini (principal) from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028.

• Approved the rehire and renewal of Nicole Cromwell (one-year assistant principal) and Brock Zinke (one-year athletic director).

• Hired Bryson Prusator as social studies teacher and assistant football coach for 2024-25.

• Approved to rehire the following probationary certified staff appointments for 2024-25: Brenda Carbajal, foreign language/ELL/bilingual; Tom O'Neill, P.E./health/ driver's education/counseling; Kyle Lopez, industrial arts; Nick Myers, P.E./ health; Dave Roden, social worker; James Younger, choir/co-band; Cody Zinke, math/P.E.; Liz Zinke, special education/ELL; Kyra Koskotas, special education. • Approved to rehire and grant tenure to the following certified staff for 2024-25: Paula Baker, band/IVCC dual credit; Kristi Barajas, special education/ELL; Nicole Cromwell, science; Joe Hughes, science. • Appointed Aaron Eddy as volunteer softball coach. The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Monday, April 15 at 6 p.m.

OGLESBY-Illinois Valley Community College and its neighboring community colleges will move ahead to collaborate on professional development and create a shared legislative liaison position as recommended by the College's Decennial Committee.

As part of the Local Government Efficiency Act, IVCC's ad hoc committee and other local governments across the state explored how they could collaborate to improve services and share costs.

The first collaborative effort was a series of professional development sessions on internet technology that got underway this spring. Cost-sharing will make the arrangement cost-effective for the colleges, the committee reasoned.

Meanwhile, IVCC, Kishwaukee and Sauk Valley community colleges are considering a position to be shared among the schools: an officer to monitor legislation, help the colleges interpret it, and guide their actions to remain in compliance with federal, state and local guidelines.

tive opportunities will be considered by the colleges' presidents.

"This is a great first step was met."

The completed report will upon approval by the full Board of Trustees, which

#### Books

#### Continued from Page A1

We cannot wait until kindergarten for children to have access or exposure to books. It must happen early. It must start in the home environment. And reading at home requires books."

People who are interested in enrolling their child in the program can find their local provider on the "check availability" tab located at imaginationlibrary.com. From there, applicants submit basic information including their address, their child's name and date of birth, and the parents' information.

Once a child's eligibility is approved, they will start receiving one book each month, addressed to them. Each child within an age group receives the same monthly book. Books on the distribution list are chosen by a panel of early childhood literacy experts who review potential titles for inclusion in the distribution list.

In addition to funding the Imagination Library program this year, lawmak-



begin now at the earliest ages," Pritzker said. "Illinois is well on its way to solidifying our status as the number one state in the nation to raise young children."

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.)

## Home

general found fault with IDVA's response, the auditor general's report was more critical of the state's public health department. The auditor general's office described the previous IDHS inspector general report as "flawed" for its reliance on interviews rather than documentation.

At the hearing, Scott Wahlbrink of the auditor general's office told lawmakers that the Illinois Department of Public Health was not responsive to the crisis even though officials there were repeatedly made aware "on almost a daily basis" from their counterparts at the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"IDPH did not identify and respond to the seriousness of the outbreak," Wahlbrink said. "It was the IDVA chief of staff who ultimately had to request assistance."

Then chief of staff, Tony Kolbeck, was among those fired after the IDHS report on the outbreak. IDVA Director Linda Chapa LaVia was fired as well.

Pritzker, in response to the audit in 2021, said IDPH was following U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance not to visit a congregate facility and risk disease spread when a phone call would suffice.

Prince said one of his major changes has been improving communication.

"I have a direct line to Gov. Pritzker, if I need to call the governor for something," he said. "I have regular conversations with the IDPH director."

Since the outbreak, Prince said the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has made changes to prevent future outbreaks and keep residents and staff safe. Angela Simmons, IDVA senior home administrator, said that IDVA has weekly infection control

meetings to review daily tests that are reported to IDPH.

In addition to increased reporting, Simmons said the department has begun including staff from the state's five veterans' homes to develop policies for how to respond to situations ranging disease outbreaks to daily incidents.

"Our policy process right now is stronger than it ever has been," Simmons said. "We get input from the homes."

Since the outbreak there have also been major staff changes in IDPH and IDVA. Prince was appointed in April 2021, and IDVA hired a senior home administrator and an agencywide infection specialist. It is also looking to hire a medical director this year.

Rep. Amy Elik, R-Godfrey, asked Prince if the state's veterans' homes had seen "outbreaks of other infectious diseases" since IDVA overhauled some of its procedures that have served 'as sort of a test."

Prince said the veterans? homes have seen other outbreaks with better outcomes.

"I believe in my heart of hearts that the vaccine has been one of the biggest things that has made this a much different story than back in 2020," he said. "We are much better positioned."

(Jerry Nowicki contribut*ed to this report.)* 

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ers also approved Pritzker's "Smart Start Illinois" initiative that will provide \$250 million this year for

#### Continued from Page A1 sickened nearly 200 people - a whopping 85 percent of residents and 35 percent

Additional collabora-

in working together to better utilize resources and expertise and to approach new opportunities from a regional partnership approach," said IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris. "The goal of improving collaboration with other local community colleges

be sent to LaSalle County considers it in April, and the committee, having concluded its duty, was disbanded.

early childhood programs,

including expanded access

to preschool, wage support

for child care workers, early

intervention programs, and

home visiting programs.



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## OPINION



Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA ess Assoc./No. III. Newspaper Ass Tonja Greenfield, Publisher Kip Cheek, Managing Editor Brandon LaChance, News Reporter Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager Jamie Stanford, Account Executive

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writer or artist. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Reporter management or staff.

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

## Props to the high school musicals

The prop could be a backdrop of an island taverna awaiting the arrivals of three possible fathers for a soon-to-be bride.

It could be a podium set for nine nervous or confident contestants to showcase their spelling skills, or lack of, and personalities during a spelling bee.



Or the props could be in form of compliment to congratulate, praise, and thank the high school actors and actresses, singers, musicians, stagehands, production

and everyone else involved in two entertaining extra-

curricular endeavors. The taverna was installed this past weekend on the

Mendota High School auditorium's stage for MHS' production of "Mamma Mia!".

Words spelled correctly or incorrectly took place March 8-10 on the Amboy High School auditorium's stage for the musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

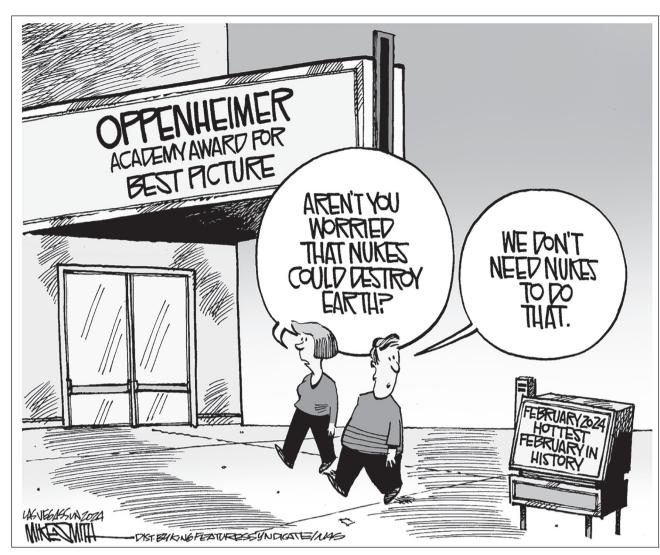
Everyone who was on stage, backstage, directing, or following, in either show, should stand up, wherever you're reading this, right now, and take another bow in acceptance of more props.

Because of schedules, I was able to attend "Mama Mia!," but I couldn't make it to a practice. The opposite occurred for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" where I sat in on a rehearsal but couldn't attend the three showtimes.

Whether it was a packed auditorium, or I was the only one in a seat, I saw the hard work, the time commitment, and the excitement to be in a musical.

Besides when it was called for from the script for their character, I didn't see a frown or hear a pout. I didn't see any signs of an I-don't-want-to-be-here attitude. When asked to repeat something or during anticipation of an upcoming tough note or pitch, there wasn't quit.

When schedules of sports, jobs, schoolwork, having fun as a teenager, and the musical overlapped, they pushed toward doing the best they could in everything they were involved in and in turn did the best they could on each stage.



## **Supporting the Kanteen – 1954**

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from March 24, 2004.)

#### By Jessica Nashold

There were five candidates for the title of Gamma Phi Circus Queen in 1954. They were Shirley Jones, Sandra Montagnoli, Barbara Long, Jean Garrity and Karen Doenier. Montagnoli was crowned and the other four became her court. The circus, which originated at Illinois State University, was presented on March 19 in the MHS gym. Admission was \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. Proceeds were to benefit the Kanteen. Arrangements for the visit had been made by the Lions Club and a few Lions members volunteered to join the Gamma Phi Circus clowns. Shirley Kilburn, a Mendota girl, enrolled at ISU, was one of the performers.

#### This was the seventh appearance in Mendota by the Gamma Phi Circus.

On March 21, 1954, a Swiss steak dinner was held at the Lions Den, also to benefit the youth center. Mothers of the Kanteen members were in charge. The committee was headed by Mrs. Lawrence Watson, assisted by Mrs. Adolph Rave and Mrs. Duane Miller.

#### The dinner netted \$240.



stocked all kinds of supplies for parties and hobbies, including kits for making model planes, trains, ships and cars. **Your hobbies - our business.** 

Holdenrid's expanded their shoe store on Jefferson Street. The grand opening was March 19-20, 1954. Tempting bargains were advertised. Also –

Free candy and suckers for the children.

\*\*\*

The Mendota Trouser Factory added "Mendota Maid" Women's Wear to its line. An ad in the March 18, 1954, issue of The Mendota Reporter urged ladies to register for prizes to be given out April 15, 16, 17, 1954.

### Winners will be notified if not present.

The MHS Trojan basketball team, coached by Lloyd Doenier, had an enviable record of 18-7-1 in 1954. Bob

Robert Anderson, Mrs. James Edwards, Mrs. Howard Foster Mrs. Gordon Johnson, Mrs. Robert Martin and Mrs. Lloyd Neuhalfen. Rehearsals were held March 22 and March 24 at 4 p.m. for children and 5 p.m. for adults.

A notice appeared in The Mendota Reporter on March 25, 1954, that beginning April 1, all law offices in Mendota would be closed on Thursdays.

#### \*\*\*

National Wildlife Week was observed March 21-27, 1954. Willard Deaner, president of the Coon, Rod and Gun Club, said the group had ordered 8,500 multi-flora roses, to be planted in April. Measures would also be taken to advance water pollution control.

Henson Smith was in charge of a director's meeting of Little League managers at the Chamber of Commerce office in March 1954. Tryouts were to be held in April and May at the ball diamond at the fairgrounds. Applications were to be distributed at the schools.

### They must be signed by parents.

Richard Milazzo, a senior at MHS, was sponsored by Mendota Woman's Club for a week of art classes at Allerton Park, in Monticello. Milazzo had charge

As a student, I thought plays and musicals were easy, being I was never in them.

Seemed like just another day after school where they sang a few lines, acted like someone they weren't, cracked a joke, shook a shoulder, and they were done.

Easy.

As an adult who realizes the amount of effort it takes to do just about anything, outside sitting on a couch, flipping through channels, and eating a bag of Ruffles, I was transfixed on watching the commitment level and the dedication pour through the students' pores more than I was concerned on whether they hit a note correctly or misplaced an arm during choreography.

In 2024 when the consensus thoughts are people don't want to work, volunteer numbers are down, and kids would rather play video games than act, sing, or play a sport, the students in the musicals were 100 percent bought in and 100 percent gravitated the audience's attention to them because of their effort.

Not easy to do by any means.

I heard people in Amboy talking about "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and when I was at a showing of "Mamma Mia!," I only saw illumination from one phone, which was to record a scene.

Absolutely incredible and much deserving of props, words. Mad props. Big props. All the props.

Thank you for putting in the time to present an entertaining night out.

Not just the students, but to the music directors, band directors, teachers, and administrators who have the challenge of putting the show together by guiding and keeping the kids together.

Big props.

### **Mendota City Officials**

#### MAYOR

David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive,	815-538-3924
CITY CLERK	
Emily McConville, 1404 Ben Mar Ave., .	815-539-7459
FIRST WARD ALDERM	EN
James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave.	.,815-538-2474
John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,	815-539-9934
SECOND WARD ALDER	MEN
John Holland, 902 West Lawn,	815-528-5367
Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,	630-841-1315
THIRD WARD ALDERM	IEN
Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave.,	815-538-2414
Jay Miller, 702 First Ave.,	
FOURTH WARD ALDERN	
Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,	815-252-7243
Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,	

Frank Archer of Ottawa, in charge of issuing drivers' licenses, gave a written exam to 33 MHS students on March 9, 1954. Two of the students failed the eye test. The 31 who passed received permits to drive a car with dual controls, accompanied by the driving instructor. Archer gave a road test to five students, but only two passed. It was remarked that the road test was "very rigid," since there had been so many vehicle accidents in recent years.

Burkes, who had operated a newsstand on Main Street for many years, added Burke's Corner Store, on March 20, 1954. There were free roses for the ladies on opening day. The Corner Store Gorman, who was reporting the games, thought that the tie game must have been due to "a mistake in the scorebook." After the first game with DePue had been recorded as a 57-57 tie, the Trojans played DePue two more times, with wins of 74-44 and 30-19.

#### \*\*\*

The Junior Woman's Club sponsored a style show in the MHS auditorium, on March 25, 1954. They called it "Spring Again." Mrs. Ira Schmidt was director, Jane Vogelsang, commentator, and Mrs. J. Marvin Smith, pianist. The garments modeled were from Westerman's, The Sport Shop, Jean's, Skogmo's and The Toddler Shop. Shoes were from Barr's and Holdenrid's. Ushers were Mrs. of all the cartoons and other drawings in the Hi-Light. He also contributed occasional nature columns called "Woodland Trails."

SIDETRACK – Milazzo is still at work and is primarily known for Christmas tree ornaments featuring local landmarks. He has also contributed paintings to fundraisers for Ducks Unlimited.

The Milwaukee bridge caught fire at 11 a.m. March 24, 1954. Water was trucked to the scene, and when it was exhausted, water was pumped from the creek by an auxiliary pump.

The pump on the old fire truck was used as well.

### **Democratic leadership send signal to left-wing base**

#### By Rich Lowry

The uncommitted voters of Michigan say "Jump," and Chuck Schumer asks "How high"?

The Senate majority leader gave an extraordinary speech flaying the democratically elected leader of an ally engaged in fighting a defensive war against a hideous terrorist enemy.

The speech calling on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to go, along with increasingly critical statements by the White House, shows that the Democrats have decided that appeasing their left-wing base in an election year is now their top consideration.

This is bad all around. As a matter of basic decency, this is not something that allies do to one another, especially not in wartime. Present unvarnished views in private? Absolutely. Try to nudge a partner toward a favored policy? Sure. But blast a friendly government in hopes that it can be toppled via a new election, just months after suffering a monstrous attack and as it is still trying to destroy a terrorist group deeply embedded in an urban environment? No.

The fact of the matter is that this is not Bibi Netanyahu's war. It is the nation of Israel's war. Netanyahu sustained political damage after the Oct. 7 attack, but his goal of prosecuting the war against Hamas to its completion is widely shared in Israel. Immediately after the attack, Israel formed a government of national unity that has pursued the war policy that Democrats now find so objectionable. If Netanyahu were to resign tomorrow, any number of things might change, but the war against Hamas would stay the same.

It is easy, sitting in Washington, D.C., and worrying about how to placate the anti-Israel uncommitted voters in the Democratic primary, to forget the shock of the massive pogrom carried out by Hamas on that infamous day in October. Israelis, though, aren't going to forget, nor should they.

It's a key tell about Schumer's intentions that his speech engendered a universally negative reaction in Israel, and Schumer -- who is no naif --must have anticipated as much. Benny Gantz, who would presumably run against Netanyahu in a future election, harshly rejected the Schumer call for a new government. So, the only place where Schumer could have any assurance of advancing his cause was here at home.

What stronger signal could there be that the Democratic leadership has heard the activist calls to rein in Israel than the previously staunch supporter of the Jewish state, Chuck Schumer, unloading on its wartime government?

Hamas has been getting devastated on the battlefield, but the turn against Israel among Democratic officials in the U.S. is a sign of the success of its longer, deeply cynical strategy. By doing everything in its power to create the predicate for more civilian casualties in Gaza, Hamas hopes to turn international opinion against Israel. So it has done in one of the two major American political parties.

If you had told many of the same Democrats criticizing Israel today that within five months of the Oct. 7 attack they would be inveighing against Israel's war against Hamas, they would have been incredulous. If you had told them they would be getting pushed around by pro-Hamas sentiment in their own party, they would have rejected the idea as impossible. If you had told them they would have been seeking a twostate solution as one of their highest post-Oct. 7 priorities, they might have considered it a smear.

Yet here we are.

On top of everything else, this isn't good domestic politics. There is still majority support for Israel. The anti-Israel turn demonstrates, yet again, that the Biden campaign is pursuing a base strategy in November. Just the last couple of days, Kamala Harris visited an abortion clinic, Joe Biden suggested there will be no executive action at the border, and Schumer -- having run it by the White House first -- delivered his Philippic.

What's fidelity to an ally compared to zeal in pursuit of an embattled president's election strategy?

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.

### **Preschool screenings set for April 9**

MENDOTA L.E.A.S.E. will be holding free preschool screenings on Tuesday, April 9 at First United Methodist Church, 100 E. Sixth St., Mendota. The screenings are for children who are 3 or 4 years old.

L.E.A.S.E. will screen key developmental areas such as motor development, speech, language, vision, hearing and general readiness. You can schedule an appointment by calling Jean at 815-433-6433.

All children must be screened to be considered for the Mendota District #289 Preschool Program. If your child has been screened by L.E.A.S.E. already, he/she does not need to be screened again. Applications for Mendota District#289 Preschool will be at the screenings. The applications and screenings will be reviewed by the preschool team, and you will be contacted as to whether your child qualifies for preschool.

### MHS to do required building maintenance

MENDOTA-As part of the Illinois State Board of Education's requirement, Mendota High School is required to have its building inspected by an architect every 10 years. This is referred to as a 10-Year Health Life Safety Survey (HLS). The main purpose of this process is to ensure that the building remains structurally safe for students, staff, and community. It is quite an extensive process and requires the teamwork and communication of several key players: architect, building/ grounds director, superintendent, regional office of education, board of education, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Frequently, the HLS requires many building items to be addressed. Some of the higher prioritized items must be completed within one year, while others may need to be addressed within a five-year period. All items found during the HLS must be completed in 10 years.

The MHS building is fairly new at 21 years old. No major items/issues were discovered. There were repair items identified. These items will be paid out of the district's Health Life Safety Fund as a result of the

5-cent tax levy, which has been levied for the past several years in anticipation of this 10year health life safety survey. In the future, MHS may need to issue Health Life Safety Bonds to pay for some of the major repairs and issues. MHS will continue to maintain a long-range facility plan to minimize any substantial one-year increases to its tax levy.

Listed are the main items that will be addressed to successfully complete the 10year HLS:

• \$500,000 - Replace old, cracked, missing VCT floor tiling with new

• \$60,000 - Replace old carpet with new • \$20,000 - Replace CMU blocks, damaged block, CMU cracks in masonry walls, and efflorescence at walls.

• Additional items include roof seams work, duct and piping insulation, asphalt and concrete work. The district's goal is to complete all work items at or below \$1 million.

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that this building will last the community for several decades. These repairs are necessary and will continue to be a top priority of the Board of Education.

### **HONOR ROLL**

## Holy Cross School -

MENDOTA-Holy Cross School in Mendota has named its third quarter honor roll and B.U.G. roll students.

8th Grade High Honors: Komen Denault, Hayley Diaz, Corbin Doll, Karson Doyle, Bear Fitzpatrick, Giselle Gonzalez, Leah Henkel, Kaylee MacDonald, Abby Magallanes, Gaby Martinez, Kamilah Preciado, Maddox Rosales, Elsie Soliman, Ross Sondgeroth, Cole Tillman

8th Grade Honors: Charlee Dankenbring, Diego Diaz, Shea Kreiser, Ashlynn Rickels, Leah Schwemlein

7th Grade High Honors: RafaelArteaga, RaegenAthEva Beetz, Joseph Cackley, Abby Delao, Elesea Denk, Cal Doyle, Quinn Eddy, Liam Jones, Catherine Moench, Kyla Muhlstadt, Yulissia Quintana

7th Grade Honors: Claire Atherton, Nora Rhynedance

6th Grade High Honors: Emme Beetz, Leo Engels, Cale Full, Linda MacDonald, Lillee Monterastelli, Camden Pawlowski, Ellye Reppin, Molly Wilson

6th Grade Honors: Blake Cyrocki

**5th Grade High Honors:** Nicole Cervantes, Eliana Escatel, Samantha Escatel, Henry Happ, Paul Hochstatter, Ming Xi Huang, Sofia Peterson, Weston Schwingle

Lemus, Brooklyn Mauch, Brooklyn Shakespeare, Ally Tillman, Jaxson Zimmerlein

5th Grade Honors: Nolan Henkel, Armani Quintana 4th Grade B.U.G. Roll:

Noah Mathesius 3rd Grade B.U.G. Roll: Daniel Escatel, McKenna Faber, Madi Hayward, Kohen Piller, Jase Reppin

2nd Grade B.U.G. Roll: Sydney Beetz

1st Grade B.U.G. Roll: Silas Belan, Arya Gann, Alexis Radnovich, Trinity Shanyfelt, Nolan Stiles

Kindergarten B.U.G. Roll: Scarlett Abel, Karter Cassidy, Ty Faber, Weston Faber, Nora Mann, Carter

## <u>fommunity Calendar</u> APRIL 2024

OCT. 1, 2023 - SEPT. 30, 2024 ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER Sponsored by M.A.S.S. Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 Our goal for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

#### APR. 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 & 29

BINGOCIZE Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10 AM Feik Lounge -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 Open to anyone in the community.

#### APR. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

TOPS CLUB Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10 AM Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 Anyone welcome.

#### APR. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

DOMINOES Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Lounge -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 All are welcome to join in the fun,

#### APR. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Wii BOWLING Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10:30 AM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 All welcome to come and enjoy the fun.

#### APR. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

EUCHRE Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM - Noon Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 All are welcome!

#### <u>APR. 3 & 17</u>

**BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS** Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM - 2 PM Feik Senior Parlo

Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Lounge -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 Open to anyone in the community.

> APR. 5 COMMUNITY BINGO Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call

(815) 539-7700 Anyone 18 and older welcome to join in the fun!

#### APR. 8 & 9

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 \$20 for AARP Members - \$25 for Non-Members. Both days are required to complete the class. Some insurance companies will give a discount on insurance if you obtain a class certificate.

#### <u>APR. 8</u>

CAREER EXPLORERS: SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AMANDA SIMPSON Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & U of I Extension 4-H 6-7 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call

(815) 538-5142 Ages: 8-12. An introduction to career paths and life skills for youth ages 8-12.

#### APR. 9 & 23 **BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD**

SUGAR CHECKS Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 11 AM - 12 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call

(815) 539-7700 Free to anyone in the community. <u>APR. 10</u>

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "RAIN=GROW" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 11 AM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142

resources or to just talk to caregivers of any age.

#### <u>APR. 16</u>

**3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION** Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library Choose 1 PM OR 6 PM FREE 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 April book: "The Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan

#### <u>APR. 18</u>

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "ANIMAL CELEBRATION" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome).

#### <u>APR. 22</u>

CAREER EXPLORERS: TOWING & RECOVERY MATT RAMER Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & U of I Extension 4-H 6-7 PM 1401 W Main St. Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 8-12. An introduction to career paths and life skills for youth ages 8-12.

#### <u>APR. 22</u>

ILLINOIS MASTER GARDNER PRESENTS: HERB GARDENING Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Learn how to select, plant and maintain herb garden so that they add beauty to your home landscape, while adding culinary and other uses.

#### <u>APR. 24</u>

SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "ANIMAL CELEBRATION" (REPEAT OF APRIL 18TH PROGRAM) Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 11 AM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome).

erton, Will Aughenbaugh,

### Northbrook School -

MENDOTA - Northbrook School in Mendota has named its honor roll students for the second trimester.

8th Grade High Honors: Mia Barringer, Abigail Botts, Olivia Corrigan, Riley Erlenborn, Dalton Gallagher, Gage Griffith, Kevin Herrera, Savannah Lenert, Trevor Lengsfeld, Anthony Martinez-Morales, Daisy Mendez-Santana, Abel Nanez, Karlee Organ, Guadalupe Sandoval, Grace Schlesinger, Collin Sheppard, Paola Solorzano, Ashtyn Stamberger, Trinitie Thompson, Parker Waldron, Rylee Woods

8th Grade Honors: Viktor Angulo, Cooper Beetz, Isaac Caracheo, Lena Cardona, Cruz Chavez, Hayden Cunefare, Zariah Escatel, Daniel Guerrero, Klaire Knaff, Joseph Muller, Isaac Murillo, Omar Nanez, Alexis Nave, Samantha Nelson, Anahi Perez, David Reyes, Mason Rich, Samantha Romano, Germain Serrano, Haylee Stevens, Fernanda Valdes

7th Grade High Honors: Mallory Beck, Brianna Betz, Lila Bielema, Kylee Bonnell, Jacqueline Bryson, Arian Chavez, Leighton Davis, Aliya Delao, Gabriela Diaz, Eliana Eames, Illan Garcia, Valeria Gomez, Joshua Granados, Callum Indigo, Eli Kaecker, Ava Mahaffey, Allison McNutt, Olivia Perryman, Samuel Reyes, Alexis Saylor, Lumen Setchell, Liam Strait, Samantha Stremlau, Laurali Thompon, Gavin Tolley, Camila Vallejo, Emerson VanHorn, Maci Winn

7th Grade Honors: Aisaac Arteaga, Candie Arteaga, Mia Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Annalee Becerra, Bella Bute, Kannon Delao, Gina Diaz, Isaac Espinoza, Bradley Fultz, Ari Gambrel, Aleeya Garcia, Vania Gomez, Delilah Karahalios, Yuliza Magallanes, Alana Melendez, Damyen Montoya, Aileen Perez, Georgia Schwaegerman, Juliana Seablom, Derrick Snvder Jr., Moxie Taylor, Cindy Valdes, Dylan Welch

6th Grade High Honors: Isaac Baltazar, Karly Beetz, Bentley Bejster, Brystol Bonnell, William Bromenschenkel, Austin Brown, Kenna Brown, Kathleen Clark, Caroline Correa, Holden Coss, Lila Coss, Aliya Eames, Taylor Erlenborn, Aliya Escatel, Bellalyn Escatel. Samantha Foltynewicz, Kendal Fromherz, Aubri Gonzalez, Dominic Gonzalez, Karter Grim, Albana Imeri, London Jones, Chloe Klein, Kathryn Loutsch, Sebastian Magallanes, Eli Martinez, Dianely Mendez-Santana, Kendra Milus, Elaina Ohlendorf, Jordan Olivarez, Charlize Pena, Viridianna Perez, Kayne Phillips, Hunter Piller, Maggie Price, Camilo Ramirez, Lyla Rodriguez, Aubrielle Rodriguez-Chism, Brooklyn Russell, Fiona Sheppard, Evelyn Sims, Victor Solorzano, Adalynn Sondgeroth, Maycie Sproston, Gavin Stamberger, Harper Stamberger, Kennie Stremlau, Raelynn Sundberg, Elyse Waldron, Wyatt Zimmerman

6th Grade Honors: Kailano Akau-Witty, Jacob Alacio, Isayanna Arreola, Brandon Benenhaley, Gracie Bloomfield, Gabriel Bronski, Jose Chavez Vidal, Janelly

Escatel, Natalia Estrada, Jayden Figueroa, Alivia Furar, Olivia Gallagher, Jerni Garcia, Jowell Garcia, Alejandro Gonzalez, Genesis Gonzalez, Ashley Guzman, Gage Hanson, Herlinda Huizar, Skyler Kenny, Tyler Kenny, Cooper Klein, Lilliana Leek, Kaylee McLain, Maddux McPheeters, Mario Membreno Perez, Kendra Mullins, Averie Nolan, Parker Ramer, Santos Salinas,

Henry Schroeder, Delaney Tucker, Armando Valdes, **Bailey Work-Sibley** 

**5th Grade High Honors:** Jake Allen, Julian Arteaga, Olympia Becker, Bradley Betz, Emiliano Casas Valle, Eliza Celis, Adam Cox, Kinsley Diaz, Brianna Escatel, Sophia Garcia, Olivia Jomant, Collin Kleckner, Kate Kleckner, Macy Mahaffey, Colton Mikulik, Isabella Ramos, Kamilah Raya, George Rhynedance VI, Nadia Rodriguez, Kenyen Scott, Kayli Seablom, Drake Silva, Lily Skjoldager, Brayden Thiele, Ruzdije Zendeli

5th Grade Honors: Antonio Arteaga II, Cruz Arteaga, Daniela Arteaga, Jaxx Bonnell, Khiel Ford, Elijah Godina, Grayson Goodlow, Sebastian Harzheim, Xaviar Hiatt, Leonardo Leek, Jesse Lopez, Camden Milus, Jenerith Navarro Mena, Mara Ohlendorf, Jocelyn Oman, Maurizio Orozco, Aaron Ortega, Tadeo Ortiz Manzo, Marley Pelka, Taylyn Piskie, Daniel Price, Arianna Quintana, Alexander Rivera, Chance Rowe, Kayne Schneider, Ayden Stallings, Angie Vazquez, Josselyne Videz Lucero, Jaxson Villegas

Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 New class being offered. Barbrie Crochet will be here to teach crochet from beginners to advanced. Bring your own crochet needles and yarn.

#### <u>APR. 4 & 18</u>

HEARING SCREENINGS Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S. 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

#### APR 4, 11, 18 & 25

POKENO Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 This game is a conbination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

#### <u>APR. 4</u>

LEGO CLUB Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 4 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: Grades 1-8. Come build LEGOs with friends.

#### APR. 4, 11, 18 & 25

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 1 PM Feik Lounge -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the comradery.

> APR. 5, 12, 19 & 26 BINGO

Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome).

#### <u>APR. 10</u>

SMALL FRIES: "HAPPY DUOS" Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 4 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142

Ages: 3 yrs to Kindergarten.

APR. 13 A BRIEF REINTRODUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICANS INTO ILLINOIS Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 11 AM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Chief White Winnebago will introduce you to the culture and history of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Discover the history and his tribal territory, settlements, names and culture and how his family was relocated to Starved Rock. You'll also have a chance to view his regalia and artifacts.

#### <u>APR. 15</u>

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 2-10 years old. Bring your stuffed toy for this story and crafting hour. Leave your stuffed friend and discover their magical mischief overnight. Pick up toy the following day.

#### <u>APR. 16</u>

CAREGIVER COUNSELING / ALTERNATIVES Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 10 AM - 12 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7700 A staff member from Alternatives for the Older Adult is available to find caregiver

#### <u>APR. 24</u>

MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S -"ROMAN HOLIDAY" 1953 Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library & M.A.S.S. 3 PM 1401 W Main St ,Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Watching: "Roman Holiday (1953)" Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.

#### <u>APR. 26</u>

**APRIL POTLUCK "SPRING &** EASTER" COMBINED Sponsored by M.A.S.S. 12 PM Feik Senior Parlor -Mendota Civic Center For more info call (815) 539-7011 Meat dish will be furnished & will be Lent acceptable. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

#### APR. 29

TWEENS: EGG DROP CONTEST! Sponsored by Graves-Hume Public Library 6 PM 1401 W Main St, Mendota For more info call (815) 538-5142 Ages: 5th-8th grades. Put your skills to the test. Don't let your egg crack! Refreshments served at 6:30 pm from Rosati's Pizza of Mendota.

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

Mendota Fire Dept. Mendota Ford, Inc. Mendota Golf Club Mendota Lions Club Mendota Moose Family Mendota Museum and Historical Society Mendota Mutual Insurance Company Mendota Police Dept. Mendota Rotary Club Mendota Township High School Mendota VFW Post 4079 Merritts Funeral Home

03252024

## **OBITUARIES**

#### Earnest L. Serr ا

WACO, Texas – On March 7, 2024, during yet another of several recent hospital visits for a variety of age-related conditions, Earnest Larue Serr, 92, finally received his long-awaited call from God to join his beloved late wife Beverly in heaven.

There will be a memorial celebration of both Ernie and Beverly Serr's lives at 11 a.m., on their anniversary, June 10, 2024, (they celebrated their

65th and last one together in 2021), at Clarion Lutheran Church, between Mendota and La Moille, after which their remains will be interred in the Clarion cemetery immediately behind the church, where they purchased a plot and marker years ago, adjacent to those unused portions of the cemetery that were the scene also of many hundreds of hours of Ernie pitching baseballs to his young son.

Ernie was born Aug 6, 1931, on a farm in Botkins, Ohio, to Otto Serr and Sophia (Metz) Serr. He was a bit of a miracle baby (or at least a surprise), as his parents were 50 and 48 at the time of his birth. Ernie was the youngest of their eight children.

Raised in a strict but loving God-fearing home, ruled over by his mother, Ernie attended grade school and high school in Botkins and then finished high school in Wapakoneta, Ohio, where his parents moved after leaving the farm. He picked up German, as it was frequently spoken in his home, and he continued speaking German to anyone who would listen throughout his life and even in his final elder care facility. He also reminded nearly everyone he knew that he went to Wapakoneta High School with Neil Armstrong, the astronaut who became the first man on the moon.

Ernie started college at Bowling Green State University (he often told of hitchhiking to and from school), but finished at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, where he played varsity baseball. He decided to go into the ministry, so he stayed at Capital after graduation to enter the Trinity Lutheran Seminary there. That decision not only set him on his career path but resulted in him meeting the love of his life, Beverly Wenzel, an Illinois farm girl who chose to attend Capital University to become a schoolteacher.

In pursuit of his seminary degree, Ernie did his internship at Grace Lutheran Church in downtown San Antonio, Texas. He married Beverly in Peru, on June 10, 1956, and, after Ernie completed his final year at seminary, they moved to Newport, R.I., where Ernie attended the Naval Chaplaincy School. He had a profound respect for the Navy as a result of two of his older brothers serving in the Navy during World War II. His dream of being a Navy chaplain was deferred, and he was put on reserve duty status, as his superiors decided he was perhaps a bit too outspoken to be an ideal fit for military life. Indeed, nobody who has ever gotten to know Ernie would regard him as a sure bet to unflinchingly follow orders and keep his opinions about those orders to himself.

Instead of military chaplaincy, God put Ernie on the path to parish ministry and he was ordained on July 28, 1957. The opportunity to be close to Beverly's family in Illinois led to Ernie's first ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Cullom, Ill., a small farming community about an hour south of Chicago. During his five years serving in Cullom, Ernie and Beverly made many lifetime friends, and welcomed a son, Brian, their only child, born on Dec. 16, 1958.

Ernie's next church was a two-point parish in the small

town of Schapville, Ill., (a sign on the gravel road leading into the community proudly proclaimed it the home of "49 people, 52 dogs"). He served there nearly three years and once again he and Beverly formed lifetime friendships over late night coffee and card games.

Ernie's third parish, where he would serve from 1965-1981, was Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion Township, a rural church between two small agriculturally-oriented towns in north central Illinois—Mendota, the self-proclaimed "Sweet Corn Capital of the World," where Brian attended school from first grade through high school; and LaMoille, where Beverly taught kindergarten for over 25 years. Again, lifelong friendships were formed both within Clarion Lutheran and the nearby communities.

In 1981, Ernie left the parish ministry and became the Chaplain and Administrator of Mendota Lutheran Home, a highly-regarded nursing home, where he served for 14 years prior to his 1995 retirement. Even in retirement he continued to serve the church, first as an interim pastor for St. Matthew Lutheran in Princeton, and later for many years as a fill-in pastor for a number of Texas hill country churches, as well as St. Paul Lutheran in Crawford. He also officiated the Nov. 13, 1993, wedding of his son to Kathy Ann George, the ceremony held in Baylor's Armstrong-Browning Library.

Ernie and Bev moved to the rural Boerne, Texas, community in 1999, shortly after becoming grandparents to their first Texas granddaughter, Grace, who was later joined by their other two granddaughters, Olivia and Sophia. Their home was a welcoming place for Brian's family for 20 years until moving to Waco in 2019, where they lived together at The Delaney senior living facility until Beverly's death on Nov. 17, 2021.

During his time in Texas, Ernie became a big fan of Baylor University sports (Brian and his wife Kathy are long-time employees of Baylor Law School). Ernie attended dozens of Baylor football and basketball games over the years. Ernie and Brian drove to Indianapolis to watch the 2005 Women's Final Four, where Baylor won its first basketball national championship. During Ernie's last days in the hospital, his doctors reported that he would not let anyone take off his Baylor Bears cap.

Ernie loved the Lord, loved his family, loved his friends (and he made them easily; he could meet someone in a foreign airport and, within 15 minutes, have exchanged mutual invitations to visit "if you are ever in - - - -"), and he loved sports and travel. He handed down his love of sports and travel to his son, who in turn sought to hand it down to Ernie's granddaughters. Ernie and Bev traveled to their 50th state when they accompanied Brian's family to Hawaii; and they made repeated trips to Europe, especially to Germany, Austria, and Slovakia, visiting relatives or good friends in all those places. Ernie and Beverly also traveled with Brian's family on multiple trips to the Pacific Northwest, Disney World, and the Texas coast.

Ernie had a quick sense of humor, and he liked to tease, never out of hostility but always out of a true and loving interest in others. He teased friend and relative, young and old, from small children to centenarians. He used humor and friendliness in pursuit of establishing those close and trusting relationships necessary to becoming an effective minister, teacher, counselor, coach, and family role model. As his health declined (and as news spread of his passing), there were many who noted the influence he had in their lives — those he ministered to in his congregations, those he worked with in nursing home administration, those he taught in catechism classes, those he counseled at critical points in their lives, those he coached in youth baseball leagues, and those he loved and supported within his extended family.

Ernie often commented about long obituaries in a way that suggested he was not a fan of them (sorry, dad — you should have stuck around a while longer and written it yourself). His "issue" with them was their tendency to treat God's blessings as personal accomplishments, thereby putting the focus too much on the person and not enough on the Lord. Ultimately, according to "Ernie-think," all earthly things and accomplishments will pass away and count for little; and in the end, either there is Christ or there is nothing.

Ernie is survived by his son, Brian Serr, and his daughter-in-law, Kathy (George) Serr, and by his beloved granddaughters, Grace Serr, Olivia Serr, and Sophia Serr. Ernie and Beverly's move to Texas meant that they were able to play a significant and influential role in their granddaughters' lives. On their visits to their grandparents' home, Ernie loved to put them in a wagon, attach the wagon to his small lawn tractor, and pull them around his yard and through the neighborhood. And he joyously watched his granddaughters' various sporting events on visits to their home. (He never forgot watching one of his granddaughters hit six three-point shots in a single game, and once loudly remarked from the bleachers that "she's the best player out there" as he watched another of his granddaughters play as a second grader on the fourth-grade volleyball team). He served as a mentor to Grace as she completed her catechism classes, took Olivia along hundreds of times when he went to town running errands, and traveled to Guangzhou, China, to welcome Sophia to the family and help with the return home.

Ernie was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly (whom he has desperately missed and longed to join in heaven since her passing); by his sisters, Leona (and husband Gilbert) Schumann, Margaret Serr (who died as a teenager), and Hulda Serr (who died as a child); and his brothers, Herman (and wife Katherine) Serr, Edison (and Rosemary) Serr, Willis (and Ruth) Serr, and Carl (and Phyllis) Serr. Though Ernie lived most of his adult life in Illinois and Texas, he always made time for his siblings' families in Ohio, attending dozens of reunions, and numerous weddings of his many nieces and nephews (and great-nieces and nephews), occasionally officiating or otherwise participating in their wedding ceremonies. He played a similar role with his Illinois nieces and nephews from Beverly's side of the family, smaller in number but closer in proximity, resulting in hundreds of family events and holidays together, during which he became a major part of their lives. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Otto Serr and Sophia (Metz) Serr; and by Beverly's parents, Harold, and Laura (Schlesinger) Wenzel, all of whom he loved and respected.

Memorials in honor of Ernie may be made to Lutheran World Relief or to Shepherd's Way (a Wichita, Kan.-based ministry dedicated to launching adults with disabilities into independent, community-engaged, and purpose-driven lives). The family would like to express thanks and appreciation to all those caregivers (especially those at The Delaney, The Blake, and Providence and Hillcrest hospitals) who provided assistance to Ernie in the last two-and-a-half years of his life.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory on Ernie's "Tribute Wall" at www.WHBfamily.com.









**ACCURATE TITLE & LICENSE** Setchell Agency, Ltd. 618 6th St. • Mendota 815-539-9311

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**Orzech Towing** Compton 815-343-8047 Sublette 815-849-5171

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srwoodproducts.com

#### LIBRARY

**Graves-Hume Public Library** 1401 W. Main St. 815-538-5142 www.graveshume.org

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**Breaking The Prairie Museum and** Country Chapel 684 8th St. 815-539-3373

#### **Hume Carnegie Museum** 901 Washington St. 815-539-3373

**Union Depot Railroad Museum** 638 Main St. 815-538-3800

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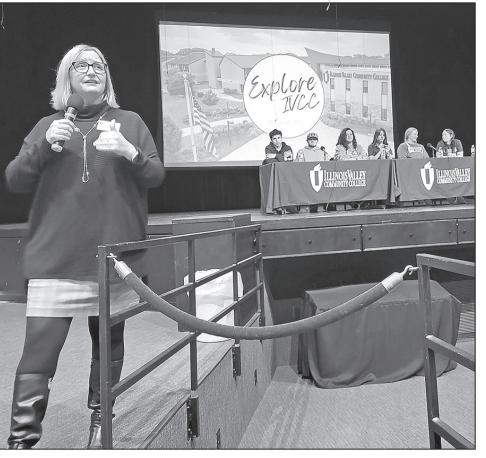
### IVCC hosts prospective students

OGLESBY – Nearly 100 prospective students and their families attended Illinois Valley Community College's Explore IVCC open house on March 20 to learn about the college's many program options, resources and financial aid, and to chat with faculty and students.

Visitors were impressed with the student panel that welcomed the crowd to campus and shared their college experiences, Director of Admissions and Records Tom Quigley said.

Priority registration opened March 26. Registration opens April 10 for summer classes that begin May 20, and on April 11 for fall classes that begin Aug. 15.

To explore the class schedule and register, visit https://ssprod.ivcc.edu/ Student/Courses. To apply, visit https://admissions.ivcc. edu/apply



IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris addresses the audience at the Explore IVCC open house March 20. The event featured a panel of students who shared their college experiences, as well as guided building tours and opportunities to talk with faculty, program coordinators, financial aid advisers and counselors to learn more about IVCC. (Photo contributed)

## IVCC implementing a new registration, payment system

OGLESBY – When class registration opens, Illinois Valley Community College students will be logging into a new registration and payment system.

On March 18, the WebAdvisor platform was discontinued and replaced with IVCC Self Service. Students won't be able to register yet, but many who want to explore course offerings and plan their summer and fall schedules will now manage those academic tasks through Self Service.

Registration dates are later than usual in anticipation of the transition, and students have been notified of the change and were reminded again this week. Old WebAdvisor links will redirect to Self Service.

Self Service is easy to use and comprehensive, said Director of Admissions and Records Tom Quigley. Its user-friendly interface is easy to navigate through registration and payment processes, viewing course offerings and managing academic profiles.

Self Service also will become the gateway to a wide range of features, including access to academic records, financial aid information, payment options, and course planning tools, he said.

Students will use their existing WebAdvisor log-in credentials, but can reset forgotten passwords on the Self Service site if necessary. They should contact IVCC's Student Help Desk if they hit any snags in migrating over to the new platform.

Priority registration opened March 26, summer registration on April 10 and fall registration on April 11.

Self Service can be accessed by either of these links: https://ssprod.ivcc.edu/Student/Courses and https://www. ivcc.edu/iamaan/ivccstudent/





It's a great time to have a Garage Sale. If you're planning to get together some of the items you no longer use around your home and set up your own sale, be sure you follow some important basic steps!

1. WHAT TO SELL

Anything that still has usability and some value.

2. HOW TO PRICE

Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.

**3. LENGTH OF SALE** 

Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.

4. HOW TO SET IT UP

Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.

### 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE

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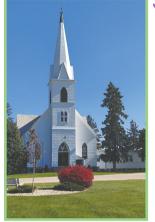




Call 815-539-9396 or stop in the office at 703 Illinois Ave.







## Lutheran Church

**398 Church Road Compton**, Illinois 815-539-6567 Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

## **Holy Week Services**

March 28, Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran with Holy Communion

March 29, Good Friday Service 7:00 pm at First Lutheran in Lee

### March 31, Easter Sunday

7:30 am Worship at Immanuel 8:30 am Easter Breakfast at Immanuel 9:30 am Easter Breakfast at First Lutheran in Lee 10:30 am Worship at First Lutheran in Lee

## Celebrating the Easter Miracle OLY WEEK SCHE

Holy Cross Church - Mendota Sts. Peter & Paul Church - Peterstown

March 28 - Holy Thursday **Holy Cross Church - Mendota** No Thursday Morning Mass - Adoration Chapel Closed 7:00p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper 8-Midnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

#### March 29 - Good Friday

Holy Cross Church - Mendota No Friday Morning Mass - Adoration Chapel Closed 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service 4:00p.m. Live Stations of the Cross & Veneration of the True Cross (Spanish) Sts. Peter & Paul Church - Peterstown

3:00p.m. Good Friday Service

#### March 30 - Holy Saturday

**Holy Cross Church - Mendota** 9:00 a.m. Blessing of Easter Food 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

#### **March 31 - Easter Sunday Mass Schedule**

**Holy Cross Church - Mendota** 



Join Us for Holy Week and Easter



will be held at: o:. Spanish Mass will be held at Noon

Sts. Peter & Paul Church - Peterstown

Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Cross Church • 1010 Jefferson St. • Mendota Fr. Peter Pilon, Pastor • Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar



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## Holy Week Services

March 24 - Palm Sunday 9 am Kids Program 10 am Brunch

March 29 - Good Friday Ecumenical Service 7 pm at Zion Methodist Church, 808 Jefferson St., Mendota

March 31 - Easter Sunday 9 am Morning Service 10 am Coffee & Fellowship

808 Jefferson St., Downtown Mendota 815-538-2186 • www.zionchurchumc.com zionumcmendota@gmail.com



#### March 24th **Palm Sunday**

9am Sunday Worship with Holy Communion 10:10am Sunday School

> March 28th **Maundy Thursday** 6:30pm Holy Communion

<u>March 29th</u> **Ecumenical Good Friday** 7:00pm Service at Zion UMC

March 31st **Resurrection Sunday** 7am & 9am Easter Service both with Holy Communion Easter Egg Hunt to follow 9am worship

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Holy Week Worship Schedule at First Presbyterian Church and Ecumencial Churches of Mendota

> Palm Sunday Services, March 24 10:00 a.m. First Presbyterian Church 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

**Good Friday** 6:30 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at Zion UMC

Easter Sunday, March 31 10:00 a.m. Worship, Covenanted Pastor Laurie Walker at First Presbyterian Church No Coffee Hour

Covenanted **Pastor Laurie** Walker

1003 5th Street Mendota 815-538-5603 Handicapped Accessible



## **THE BACK PAGE**

#### IN **MEMORIAM**

In Loving Memory of JERRY HILD SR., Who passed away five years ago, March 31, 2019. If I could write a story, it would be the greatest ever told. of a kind and loving father who had a heart of gold. I could write a million pages but still be unable to say just how much I love and miss him every single day. I will remember all he taught me. I'm hurt but won't be sad, because he'll send me down the answers and he'll always be my dad. Truly missed by, **Your Family** 

#### POLICE **BLOTTER**

#### BATTERY

Alyssa R. King, 24, of 1106 Main St., Mendota, was charged with battery after police officers were called to 607 Eighth Ave. for an assist for service at 4:59 p.m. March 22. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

#### **MAN ARRESTED**

Gonzalo Gonzalez Jr. 37, of Ladd, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue at 7:56 p.m. March 22. Also, Gonzalez was arrested on LaSalle County warrants for failure to appear on charges of driving while license revoked and suspected driving under the influence, and Will County warrants for driving while license revoked and speeding. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

#### **GARAGE SALES** & NOTICES

**GARAGE SALE** 710 Fourth Ave. Thursday, March 28 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 29 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Women's 16-18, vintage items, household, crafts, craft supplies, new personal care & cleaners. 1t13msr



#### Scholastic Bowl team honored

Northbrook Middle School celebrated Eighth Grade Night for its Scholastic Bowl team on March 18. Members of the team, left to right, are coach Angie Nondorf, Parker Waldron, Mason Rich, Abbie Botts, Dalton Gallagher, Sami Nelson and coach Emlee Dooley. (Photo contributed)



## **MPD** advises to always keep your vehicle locked

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

Do not leave the keys in the ignition of your vehicle,

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

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



#### Public Nuisance Ordinance

MENDOTA-The Mendota Police Department would like to remind home and business owners of city ordinances regarding public nuisances.

It is against city ordinance to have accumulations of trash, building materials, abandoned automobiles, machinery, scrap metal, discarded tires, vehicle batteries or any other material that creates a public health hazard on your property. It is also a violation to permit weeds, grass or plants other than trees, bushes or flowers or other ornamental plants to grow to a height exceeding six inches anywhere in the city. Also, all multi-family structures, including structures that consist of both residential and commercial units, and structures which share a wall or walls with another structure, shall be kept free from infestations of insects (including but not limited to bedbugs, cockroaches and disease-carrying insects), rats or other vermin.

The city of Mendota requests anyone who is in violation of the above mentioned nuisance regulations to remove the item(s) from your property. Anyone found in violation will be subject to receiving a citation, which involves a court date and fine.

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# **THE FARMER'S REPORT**

## Illinois farmer appears in new TV show spotlighting women in ag

#### **By RHIANNON BRANCH** FarmWeek

Television series like "Yellowstone" that depict the way of life for an American farmer or rancher have tugged at the heartstrings of viewers across the country.

Now an Illinois farmer is hopeful her role in a new show will shed light on women in agriculture and spark positive change around the issues for which she brings awareness.

Brandy Renshaw and her father, Steve Williams of Alexander County, told the story of their family farm in a 30-minute pilot episode of "The Farmer's Daughter," which aired on Fox ahead of the NFL playoffs in late January. The documentary-style episode featured all aspects of Renshaw's life, from farming to "flipping" houses to running a local boutique in Anna.

Having no sons of his own, Williams welcomed his daughter's interest in the farm at the age of 13. Renshaw told FarmWeek more women are getting involved in agriculture and "The Farmer's Daughter" helps bring awareness to the movement.

"For me, the main message is that women are so strong and we can do anything," she said. "I also want to put a spotlight on the men in my life that believed in me and gave me that platform. They didn't feel like they needed to turn me into something that I wasn't. My dad just took me under his wing and never thought twice about it, even though there was so much criticism.'

Renshaw said she believes a farm shouldn't sell out just because there aren't any men in the next generation to take it over. "In high school I took shop class while all the other girls were in home economics and nursing," she said. "It all came natural to me from being on the farm with my dad."

Renshaw also wants girls to know they don't have to be a "tomboy" to be a farmer. "I'm out there in designer jeans," she said. "Even though I'm covered in filth and grease, I always have my earrings in. We're just so used to a certain stereotype, and I really want to break that." There are aspects of the show that non-farmers can relate to as well. "There is more to farming than what people think," she said. "Business is a big part of farming and I feel like that background is how I've been able to be successful with my other businesses that are featured.' As the storyline follows Renshaw's life, she aims to bring awareness to several important issues, including flood devastation from a levee break in her community and support for type 1 diabetes, an illness her own daughter battles daily on the farm. It also showcases her role as a working mom.



Brandy Renshaw enjoys working on the farm alongside her father Steve Williams. (Photo courtesy of **Brandy Renshaw)** 

"It's really hard being a mother and farming," she said. "I would be working right alongside my dad and my husband. Then I was still the one coming home and cooking and cleaning and doing all these things with my kids. We take on so much as women and I would love for that story to get out."

Perhaps the most relatable aspect of the show is Renshaw's relationship with her dad. "I am a big daddy's girl. That's really the reason I was always on the farm because that is where my dad is," Renshaw said. "But I think that the most important thing is that he was OK with it. He didn't have a problem with his daughter being in ag."

Renshaw has received positive feedback since the initial air date and said Fox received more than 100 calls with interest in the show.

"It got a 1.7 rating," she said. "Which I am told is really great, considering we only had one week to promote it." She said they are meeting with producers soon to consider a full season and plan to pitch the idea to other local networks and corporate Fox. They are also looking to partner with ag companies for sponsorships.

The pilot episode of "The Farmer's Daughter" is scheduled to air again on Feb. 17 at 9:30 p.m. on Fox23 and Hulu.

As for the future of the show, Renshaw said there are several ideas flowing, like showcasing other farmers' daughters and women in agriculture who are not afraid to get their hands dirty.

"We are very creative, very ambitious and that is why we end up in these roles" because we can think outside of the box and see the bigger picture, she said. "We are go-getters; we break the mold.'

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

## Ag education programs are growing in Illinois

#### **By HANNAH SPANGLER** FarmWeek

A grant program has helped increase number of agriculture teachers and agriculture education programs in the state.

In 2014, there were 320 agriculture programs with 386 teachers. That number grew to 386 agriculture programs with 547 teachers in the 2023-24 school year, according to data from Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE).

"To me, it tells a story about being able to reach more students in more places to learn about agriculture," said Jesse Faber, agriculture teacher and FFA adviser for Pontiac Township High School.

Faber has been teaching agriculture for 18 years and is finishing a doctorate program in ag education. His dissertation focuses on the recruitment and retention of teachers in

Illinois. He told FarmWeek, "The number of teachers and programs has been escalating over the last seven years. Right in the middle of that, the Three Circle FFA and SAE Grant started."

Through this grant program, which began in 2017, full-time ag teachers can receive pay for 400 hours outside of their usual teaching obligations. The teacher's school district pays 50% using the grant dollars and the other half is often covered by the school district or community partners.

"The most valuable piece is to be able to embed agriculture in a student's education so we can connect with young people in this industry that I love and help them become more educated consumers," Faber said. "It is crucial to allow FFA programs to grow because every student can have a place in it. I encourage everyone to support your local agriculture program."

FCAE state coordinator, Jennifer Waters, contributes ag program growth to the Three Circle Grant and an ag teacher's ability to fill home economics, industrial arts and science teacher roles.

"We have these teaching vacancies

happening, but the grant is what sweetens the pot," she said. "We can say to the district not only are we going to help you by picking up these classes that you couldn't find someone for, but we're also able to give a stipend to help pay this teacher for their extended time.'

Adding ag teachers and giving them compensation for the extra time in their jobs has had an impact on student participation. "Now the teacher is getting paid to

do the extra, so they are going to other events and other activities. Student participation is growing because of this," Waters said.

The Illinois 2023 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education Report showed an increase of almost 10,000 students since the implementation of the Three Circle Grant.

"With the increase in agriculture programs offered, there are teaching roles that do not get

filled." Waters said.

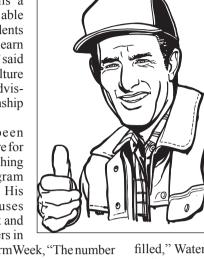
"In most cases, we're able to work with school districts so the next year we can fill the position," she said. "But I will say the Three Circle Grant has helped with retaining the teachers we have."

Faber said, "We're very thankful to FCAE for what they've done. They are wonderful researchers who are building bridges and opening up ag programs."

To fill teaching vacancies, a selection of teachers are coming from the ag industry with non-traditional licenses. FCAE offers teacher training in addition to first-year ag teachers conferences to help these teachers grow their knowledge.

FCAE provides further support to ag teachers through workshops, grant application assistance and overall advocacy. Additionally, FCAE has created a Chicagoland program adviser position to further develop agriculture programs in urban areas.

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



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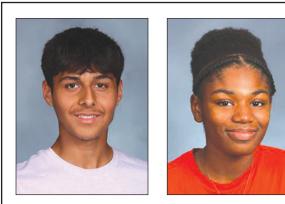
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Watch for farm implements on the roads as spring planting will begin soon!

## SPORTS



S. Carlos

M. Elam

### Mendota's Carlos, Elam compete in Illinois Top **Times championships**

BLOOMINGTON - Two Mendota High School track athletes competed in the Illinois Top Times Indoor Track and Field Championships on March 22-23 at Illinois Wesleyan University's Shirk Center in Bloomington.

Sophomore Sebastian Carlos was entered in the 400-meter dash and finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 53.12. The top time went to Patrick Hilby of Aurora Central Catholic at 49.32.

Freshman Mariyah Elam participated in the high jump and finished in sixth place with a measurement of 5-1. Aubrey Holthaus of Macomb took first place at 5-3.

The mission of the Top Times Championships is to produce a premier indoor championship for athletes and coaches that will help promote collegiate recruiting and future participation from Illinois high school athletes.

## **Trojans whip Indian Creek**

MENDOTA-Mendota pulled away from Indian Creek in the late innings for a 14-3 triumph over the Timberwolves in varsity baseball action on March 20 at the MHS field. The game was stopped in the fifth inning because of the 10-run rule.

The Trojans broke on top with three runs in the first and they added single tallies in the second and third frames. Justin Randolph swatted a solo homer for the third-inning run.

Mendota starting pitcher Braiden Freeman was dominant on the hill through three innings. He struck out the first 10 batters he faced before yielding three runs in the top of the fourth as the Timberwolves closed to within two runs (5-3). Only one of those Indian Creek runs was earned.

The Mendota offense responded with nine runs in the bottom of the fourth, and then Dane Doyle pitched a scoreless fifth to shorten the game.

Freeman got the win, giving up two hits, walking one and striking out 11.

The Trojans (3-0) banged out 11 hits, led by Izaiah Nanez with three singles, a double and four runs batted in. Randolph had a single in addition to his homer and he drove in a pair, while Cale Strouss and Owen Aughenbaugh both tripled and Doyle had two RBI.

#### IVCC's Herman earns conference coach of year honors

OGLESBY - Illinois Valley Community College's men's basketball head coach Chris Herman was named 2023-24 All-Arrowhead Conference Coach of the Year, and three of his players earned All-Conference Team honors

Conference coaches selected freshmen Wade Simms and Roderick Watson-Pearcey to the first all-conference team and freshman Qu'Amar Hobbs to the second team. The Eagles led the conference last season with a 4-2 conference record.

"It's a good feeling," Herman acknowledged the honor. "I'm very pleased."

He credited his young team for playing well against more experienced opponents on squads that were topranked in the division, and for battling back from defeats to take the next victory. "We had a good season. They played hard, and I'm proud of them!"

IVCC Athletic Director Cory Tomasson congratulated Herman, noting "this is the first time that IVCC men's basketball has won the

Arrowhead Conference and the first time an IVCC men's basketball coach has won Coach of the Year! We're really proud of how this young team came together so quickly to have such a successful year. Coach Herman and the players really earned these athletic honors."

Herman expects most of his players to return as sophomores and create a strong nucleus, coupled with promising recruits. "I'm looking forward to next season!"

Herman has been the Eagles head coach for 10 years.

### **MHS** girls get two soccer wins

The Mendota girls' soccer team notched its first win of the season with a 2-0 shutout over Rochelle on March 19 at the MHS field.

Crystal Garcia led the Lady Trojan attack with both goals, while Linnea Escatel picked up an assist.

Airana Sanchez was in goal for Mendota.

Mendota made it two in a row with a 6-3 verdict at Streator on March 20.

Garcia booted in four goals to pace the Lady Trojans. The other goals for Mendota came from Escatel and Elaina Reddin. Amaya Morales assisted on two of the goals, while Escatel, Noemi Arteaga and Litzy Celis each had one assist.

Sanchez was between the pipes and had six goalie saves.



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## **SPORTS**

## **BOWLING**

Elks 9

#### **Youth League**

Standings as of March 16 - 1. Team 3 44.5-15.5; 2. Team 2 32.5-27.5; 3. Team 1 22.5-37.5; 4. Team 4 20.5-39.5

High team game (scratch) - Team 4 271, Team 1 250, Team 3 244

High team game (hdcp) – Team 1 634, Team 4 621, Team 3 616

High team series (scratch) – Team 4 738, Team 1 699, Team 3 691

High team series (hdcp) – Team 1 1851, Team 3 1807, Team 4 1788

Boys'high game (scratch) Keegan Mauch 115, Maddox Chaon 104, Conrad Barkman 91

Boys' high game (hdcp) Conrad Barkman 238, Keegan Mauch 231, Maddox Chaon 217

Boys'high series (scratch) - Keegan Mauch 272, Maddox Chaon 268, Jaxon Stamberger 259

Boys' high series (hdcp)

- Conrad Barkman 641, Keegan Mauch 620, Maddox Chaon 607

Girls'high game (scratch) -Grace Piskie 101, Brooklyn Bejster 86, Sophia Martinez 80

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Grace Piskie 214, Brooklyn Bejster 213, Lainey Ramer 204

Girls'high series (scratch) -Grace Piskie 278, Brooklyn Bejster 236, Sophia Martinez 221

Girls' high series (hdcp) Brooklyn Bejster 617, Grace Piskie 617, Lainey Ramer 606

#### Elks 11 **Youth League**

Standings as of March 16 – 1. Team 2 42.5-17.5; 2. Team 5 40-20; 3. Team 3 38.5-21.5; 4. Team 4 30.5-29.5; 5. Team 1 12.5-47.5; 6. Team 6 0-60

High team game (scratch) – Team 5 335, Team 1 323, Team 2 272

High team game (hdcp)

– Team 5 641, Team 3 633, Team 1 626 High team series (scratch)

– Team 5 936, Team 1 910, Team 2 763

High team series (hdcp)-Team 5 1854, Team 3 1851, Team 1 1819

Boys'high game (scratch) - Parker Ramer 165, Oliver Turner 137, Gavin Stamberger 124

Boys' high game (hdcp) - Oliver Turner 236, Parker Ramer 233, Gavin Stamberger 232

Boys' high series (scratch) - Parker Ramer 390, Oliver Turner 352, Gavin Stamberger 350

Boys' high series (hdcp) Gavin Stamberger 674, Oliver Turner 649, Jaxen Daley 634

Girls' high game (scratch) - Eliana Eames 100, Brooklyn Mauch 80

Girls' high game (hdcp)-Eliana Eames 223, Brooklyn Mauch 222

Girls'high series (scratch) - Eliana Eames 257, Brooklyn Mauch 221 Girls' high series (hdcp)-Brooklyn Mauch 647, Eliana Eames 626

> **Monday Night Mixed League**

Standings as of March 18-1. Split Happens 30-20; 2. Ramer Inc. 28-22; 3. Bad Kats 26-24; 4. CM Farm 25-25; 5. Leagal Beagles 24-26; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 17 - 33

High team game (scratch) - Split Happens 733, CM Farm 683, Leagal Beagles 671

High team game (hdcp) Bad Kats 994, CM Farm 969, Split Happens 952

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2128, CM Farm 1953, Leagal Beagles 1879

High team series (hdcp) -CM Farm 2811, Split Happens 2785, Bad Kats 2779

Men's high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 257, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 214, Ed Roulston 210

Men's high game (hdcp) - Matt Ramer 283, Ed Roulston 282, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 252

Men's high series (scratch) - Matt Ramer 686, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 620, Mike Smith 610

Men's high series (hdcp) - Matt Ramer 764, Mike Smith 742, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 734

Women's high game (scratch) - Gail Sessler 246, Jessica Robinson 235, Emily Thomas 173

Women's high game (hdcp) – Gail Sessler 305, Jessica Robinson 288, Kim Smith 247

Women's high series (scratch) - Jessica Robinson 643, Gail Sessler 588, Sarah Westphal 488

Women's high series (hdcp) – Jessica Robinson 802, Gail Sessler 765, Sarah Westphal 725

> Wednesday Night **Men's League** Standings as of March

20 - 1. O'Donnell Excavating 65-39; 2. Mendota Monument 56-48; 3. Novak Farms 53-51; 4. JJ&L Carpentry 51-53; 5. First State Bank 49-55; 6. Black Bros. 37-67

High team game (scratch) - Mendota Monument 1051, First State Bank 1019, JJ&L Carpentry 997

High team game (hdcp) - First State Bank 1141, Mendota Monument 1123, O'Donnell Excavating 1118

High team series (scratch)-Mendota Monument 3087, JJ&L Carpentry 2905, Novak Farms 2837

High team series (hdcp) Mendota Monument 3303, O'Donnell Excavating 3282, JJ&L Carpentry 3208

High individual game (scratch) – Chris Eller 259, Tim Dessing 257, Mark Wixom 247

High individual series (scratch) – Chris Eller 718, Joe Dimmig 693, Drake O'Donnell 690

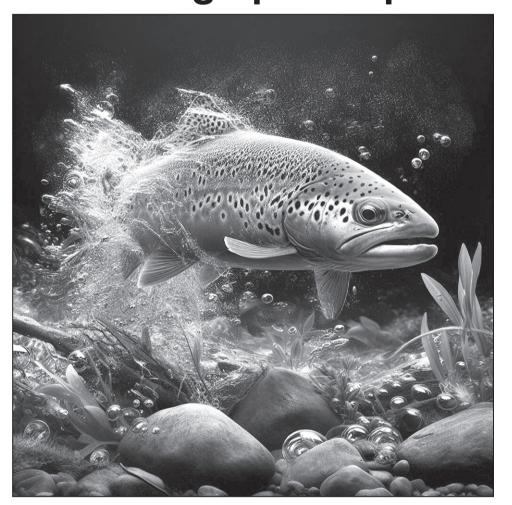
#### The Great Outdoors

Illinois trout fishing opens April 6

SPRINGFIELD - The 2024 Illinois spring trout fishing season will open Saturday, April 6 at 58 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites – the spring catch-and-release fishing season – will open Saturday, March 23. No trout may be kept during the catch-andrelease period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 6. The daily harvest limit for each angler is five trout.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program receives funding support by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permit ted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout will be stocked for the fall trout season, which begins in October. For the 2024 spring trout season, no trout may be taken from any stocked sites between March 15 and the season opening at 5 a.m. April 6. Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations. For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites are open for trout



## Shooting complex in Sparta to host world event through 2036

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) have signed a contract extension that clears the way for the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta to host the ATA Grand American through 2036.

'I'm thrilled we were able to extend this contract for another decade," said IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie. "The ATA Grand is a premier event and an important economic driver for Randolph County and southern Illinois. It's a privilege to host the Grand at the World Shooting Complex, and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the ATA.'

The Grand American, the largest and oldest shooting event of its kind, features more than 20 events and attracts more than 5,000 competitors and spectators from across the globe annually. The event, which was first hosted at the World Shooting Complex in 2006, has an estimated economic impact of \$25 million to \$30 million annually.

"I have been involved with every Grand American at Sparta, and I have been ATA executive director over the event since 2012," said Lynn Gipson, executive director of the ATA. "We look forward to the continuation of our wonderful relationship with IDNR for many more years as we work together to promote this event and this tremendous facility." The 2024 Grand American is set for July 31 to Aug. 10. More than 4 million targets will be thrown during the event. The World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta is part of the IDNR family of sites. IDNR named Skip Klinger executive director of the complex in December. He was president and CEO of Palmyra Sportsmen for 32 years and executive director of the Pennsylvania State Shotgunning Association for two years. Klinger said he is excited to lead the World Shooting Complex, a site he's been to many times during his professional career, including visits for past Grand events. "The ATA Grand is an incredibly important competition in the world of trapshooters, and people come from all over the country and the world to participate and watch," Klinger said. "My team and I are already making plans to ensure the 2024 Grand is the best one so far." The 1,600-acre World Shooting Complex is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday each week. Activities include trap and skeet shooting, sporting clays, and other sporting activities. The site also features more than 1,000 campsites and fishing opportunities.

catch-and-release season and not all sites open at 5 a.m. opening day.

The spring trout season offers opportunities for families to get outdoors and enjoy fishing. Resources are available online for taking youth fishing. All anglers, including those who intend to release fish caught before April 6, must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp unless they are younger than 16, blind or disabled,

or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Fishing licenses and trout stamps can be purchased by using a credit card online. Visit ifishillinois.org for more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities.

Among the 2024 Illinois spring trout locations are:

• Bureau County - Hennepin Canal Parkway

• Kendall County – Big

Lake, Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area

• LaSalle County-Illinois and Michigan Canal Lock 14, LaSalle; Lake Mendota, Mendota

• Ogle County – Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park \*\*

• Whiteside County -Centennial Park Pond, Rock Falls

(\*\* Denotes sites open for catch-and-release early spring season fishing)

## Make the most of a day at the lake

Water becomes the center of attention when the temperature climbs because of the cooling relief it can provide. Making a day of splashing through sprinklers, swimming laps in a pool or horsing around with friends at a waterpark is part of the warm-weather experience.

Those who do not live close to the coast often turn to other bodies of water to cool off and chill out. Lakes can be great places to spend warm afternoons and evenings. Discover how to make time at the lake even more fun with these ideas.

#### Fishing

Cast your line right into the lake and take a shot at catching some fish. Bass, trout, perch, and pike may be interested in the bait hanging off of your hook. Be sure to check local fish and game ordinances to see if you need a license for fishing for the season, as well as the recreational size limits, possession limits and fishing seasons if you plan on keeping your catch.

### Water sports and lakes of-

Water sports

ten go hand-in-hand. Certain water activities are easier on the calm waters of a lake than in the waves and swells of an ocean — particularly for beginners. Canoes and kayaks are one- or two-passenger vessels that can be launched from just about anywhere. They make areas of the lake explorable that may not be accessible to large boats. Plus they require no fuel other than the power of rowing. If you prefer more speed, personal watercraft like jet skis may be used on lakes in certain areas. Waterskiing or wakeboarding behind powerboats are some additional options for thrill-seekers.

#### Tubing

Although tubing is often enjoyed on rivers where the rapids carry people along from a starting point to the end, those who desire a more relaxing day may opt for tubing on a lake.

Days at the lake can be memorable ways to spend summer vacations.







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## **NIE FUN PAGE**





THIS SEASON IS A NOTABLE PERIOD FOR ANIMAL BIRTHS.

ANSWER: SPRING



### What's the Difference?

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





Answers: I. Missing tea kettle 2. Extra vase 3. Cat on counter 4. Left cabinet is wood



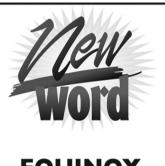




• **1806**: CONSTRUCTION IS AUTHORIZED ON THE GREAT NATIONAL PIKE, BECOMING THE UNITED STATES' FIRST FEDERAL HIGHWAY.

• **1927:** SUNBEAM 1000HP BREAKS THE LAND SPEED RECORD AT DAYTONA BEACH.

• **1973:** THE LAST UNITED STATES COMBAT SOLDI-ERS LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM.



a date when day and night are almost of equal length

ENGLISH: Bud

**SPANISH:** Capullo

**ITALIAN:** Bocciolo

FRENCH: Bourgeon

**GERMAN:** Knospe

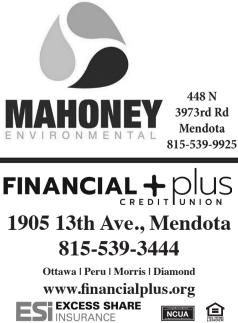


MANY EARLY SPRINGTIME FLOWERS ARE BULBS, INCLUDING CROCUSES, HYACINTHS AND SNOWDROPS.

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: ASPARAGUS

## **NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION SPONSORS**





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## **ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **Celebrity Extra**

#### By Dana Jackson

Q: When is "Virgin River" coming back? Will there be another season? I've seen all of the episodes and hope it returns. -- M.C.

A: Filming has already begun for season six of the Netflix series "Virgin River," but don't expect to see it on your screen for a while, possibly not until 2025. Showrunner Patrick Sean Smith confirmed at Netflix's Tudum event that Mel (Alexandra Breckenridge) and Jack (Martin Henderson) "will advance on their path to parenthood while also turning Lilly's farm into their ultimate dream home."

Smith further hinted that in the new season, viewers will "be surprised by some returning favorites from the past" and also get introduced to a new character -- Mel's biological father, played by actor John Allen Nelson ("Crazy Ex-Girlfriend").

Q: Is there going to be another season of "Heartland"? I was so sad when Ty died in the ending chapter and wondered if Amy found love again. -- **T.A.** 

A: I'm assuming that you're watching "Heartland" via Netflix because only

Strange

**But True** 

\* Residents of the Galapa-

gos island of Floreana use a

barrel of disorganized mail in

place of a formal postal sys-

tem. Tourists are responsible

for sorting through the mail

and grabbing any parcels

they can deliver on the way

\* In curling, good sports-

manship and politeness are

essential. Congratulating

opponents on plays and ab-

staining from trash talk are

part of what's known as the

Harrison Schmitt was aller-

\* Apollo 17 astronaut

\* According to the re-

cord-holder for tallest waffle

stack, Guinness World Re-

to their destination.

"Spirit of Curling."

gic to moon dust.

By Lucie Winborne

seasons 1-15 are currently available to watch on the streaming service. Fortunately, the Canadian series is on season 17 on the CBC network, but here in the United States, you'll have to wait a bit.

While no official statement has been released, there are reliable sources on the internet saving that season 16 will most likely be available on Netflix beginning in September, possibly earlier. This is because another streaming service, called UP Faith & Family, has first dibs on the show here in the U.S.. Once their customers have had enough time to watch season 16, Netflix viewers will then have their chance, likely starting this September, as mentioned above.

If you can't wait that long, visit UPFaithandFamily. com and learn how you can subscribe to the streaming platform, which calls itself 'the leading streaming service for uplifting entertainment." They offer a monthly subscription plan for just \$5.99 month, but as always, be sure to read the fine print.

Q: What is the latest on Richard Simmons? He hasn't been seen in years, and now there's a rumor that he died. But fortunately, it was just a rumor, right? -- E.C.

A: American fitness personality Richard Simmons, now age 75, has been reclusive for about a decade now. There were rumors that he was being held against his will, but in 2022, he issued a statement to the New York Post that he was happy and healthy. Recently, however, he worried his fans again when he posted a message on X (formerly Twitter) that he was dying. He went on to explain, "The truth is we all are dying."

He went on to give some tips on eating better, getting enough sleep and exercising. Several hours later, he posted again to apologize for the confusion and clarify that he isn't dying anytime soon. He said he simply wanted to remind everyone to embrace every day that they have.

You can follow Simmons on his official page on X: @ TheWeightSaint.

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

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9. GENERAL KNOWL-

10. ANATONY: What is the

EDGE: What is the name of

Helen Keller's teacher, who

taught the blind and deaf girl

#### Trivia Test • 1. GEOGRAPHY: Where against which disease? are the Seychelles islands

located? 2. TELEVISION: In which sitcom is the catchphrase "Hello,

Newman" used often? 3. FOOD & DRINK: What is a cornichon?

4. HISTORY: According to a WWII government slogan, what should citizens do after they "Keep calm ..."

5. MOVIES: What is the name of John Wayne's character in "True Grit"?

6. LANGUAGE: The Latin word "genu" refers to which part of the human body?

7. U.S. STATES: How many states begin with the letter "R"?

8. MEDICAL: The first vaccine was created to protect

ACROSS Weighing device

6 Sitar tunes 11 Fearful 12 Using the Internet

smallest organ in the human body? Answers 1. Indian Ocean.

how to communicate?

- 2. "Seinfeld."
- 3. A small pickle. 4. "... and carry on."
- 5. Rooster Cogburn.
- 6. The knee.
- 7. One: Rhode Island.
- 8. Smallpox. 9. Anne Sullivan.
- 10. Pineal gland.
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#### By Tony Rizzo HOLLYWOOD -- I won-

der if Al Pacino's upcoming memoir, "Sonny Boy," will include his recent incident at the Oscars? Apparently, minutes before he took the stage, the producers told Pacino not to read the list of 10 Best Picture nominees. It was such a last-minute decision that they didn't even tell host Jimmy Kimmel they'd decided to do so. Pacino was his usual scattered self, and Kimmel remarked, "I guess he's never watched an awards show before. It seems everyone in America knows the rhythm of how it's supposed to go!"

Pacino admitted, "It was not my intention to omit them, rather a choice by the producers not to have them said again." The 83-year-old actor has been nominated nine times for an Oscar and won in 1993 for "Scent of a Woman."

"I wrote 'Sonny Boy' to express what I've seen and been through in my life," Pacino confessed. "It's been an incredibly personal and revealing experience to reflect on this journey and what

Kingdom" (PG-13) -- Is it

the end of Jason Momoa's

"Aquaman"? In December

2023, Momoa told "Enter-

tainment Tonight" that if the

four years after the events

of the first movie. Now a

married family man, Arthur

splits his life between the

land and sea, while Black

Manta still seeks revenge in

the shadows. When he learns

of Manta's plans, Arthur

breaks Orm, his half-brother,

out of prison to join him in the

fight against Manta. Amber

Heard, Yahya Abdul-Mateen

II and Nicole Kidman reprise

their roles from the first film.

acting allowed me to do and the worlds it has opened up." \*\*\*

Hollywood



Best Actor winner Cillian Murphy ("Oppenheimer") has already completed Stone his next

film -- "Small Things like These" with Emily Watson. It premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in February.

Best Actress winner Emma Stone is going from "Poor Things" to "Kinds of Kindness," a contemporary anthology film that consists of three different stories set in the United States. Jesse Plemons and Willem Dafoe will co-star, with the three stars playing a different role in each of the three stories.

Best Supporting Actor winner Robert Downey Jr. ("Oppenheimer") is one of the producers of the upcoming HBO historical black-comedy television series "The Sympathizer."

He will also appear in the miniseries in several antagonist roles. \*\*\*

37-year-old Da'Vine Joy Randolph, who starred on Broadway in "Ghost: The Musical" (in the role that gave Whoopi Goldberg an Oscar), has two films in the can after her recent Oscar win: "Shadow Force" with Kerry Washington and "Bride Hard" with Rebel

Chlumsky and Stephen

Dorff.

Wilson, Justin Hartley, Anna

Christopher Nolan took home more than one Oscar for Best Director and Best Picture. His pay for directing "Oppenheimer" was just south of \$100 million, from the combination of his salary, back-end compensation from the billion-dollar box-office grosses, and the bonus from winning two Oscars. His next project looks to be his screenplay for a film based on the 1960s TV series "The Prisoner," which starred Patrick McGoohan.

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### Couch Theater

Hunter. King and Lerman premiere March 28. (Hulu)

"Palm Royale" (TV-MA) -- In this period-comedy miniseries based on "Mr. & Mrs. American Pie" by Juliet McDaniel, Kristen Wiig ("Wonder Woman 1984") takes on the role of Maxine Simmons. Maxine is a woman desperate to join high-society life in 1969 Palm Springs, California, after getting dumped by her husband and social circle. She sets her sights on the Palm Royale, an exclusive club whose elite members are dripping with glamour and vanity. But if she truly wants to get to the top of the Palm Royale, Maxine must sacri-

fice parts of herself to become the person she wishes to be. The series co-stars Ricky Martin ("The Assassination of Gianna Versace"), Laura Dern ("Big Little Lies") and the legendary Carol Burnett. The first three episodes are out now! (Apple TV+)

"Road House" (R) -- Almost 35 years after the 1989 film "Road House" starring Patrick Swayze and Sam Elliot released, a reimagining starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Conor McGregor has made its way to streaming. Gyllenhaal takes on the lead role as Dalton, a former UFC fighter who gets hired to work as a bouncer at a roadhouse in the Florida Keys. The joint attracts a great number of rowdy customers, but none are a match for Dalton's fists. However, when news of Dalton's immaculate butt-kicking hits the ears of Ben Brandt (Billy Magnussen), the heir of a criminal empire, Ben will stop at nothing to shut Dalton and the roadhouse down. For anyone who loves nonstop action, this one's for you! Out now. (Prime Video) (c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## "Aquaman and the Lost

respectively portray Halina and Addy Kurc, two siblings in a Jewish family of seven who live in Poland at the start of World War II. The large family inevitably gets separated as the war carries on, taking them far away from home and spreading them across continents. Amid the tragic circumstances they're forced to endure, the Kurc family is determined to keep their resilience and reunite with each other once the war ends. The first three episodes

audience loves the sequel, "there's a possibility" of a third film getting greenlit. But after negative reviews and the film only making \$434 million against a budget of \$215 million, it doesn't look too good. In the sequel, Momoa stars as Arthur Curry

cords has a 40-page document defining what a waffle is. (Frankly, we think we could have managed it in just 30.) \* Alaska is simultane-

ously the westernmost and easternmost state.

\* High schools and universities in New Zealand are allowed to keep up to a pound of uranium on the premises for educational purposes.

\* Marie Curie's notebooks are still radioactive.

\* In 2010, rock band Nickelback approached Dark Horse Brewery about having their beer featured in a video, which would have provided great exposure for the small Michigan company. They declined, however, as "none of us at the brewery really care for the band.'

\* The German version of the term "Average Joe" is Otto Normalverbraucher, which translates to "Otto normal consumer."

\*An ordinance in Gainesville, GA, states that everyone must eat fried chicken, "a culinary delicacy sacred to this municipality, this county, this state, the Southland and this republic," with their hands. The tongue-in-cheek law began as a publicity stunt aimed at getting folks to think of Gainesville as the fried chicken capital of the world.

\* Polar bears gain more than 400 pounds during pregnancy.



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by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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Out now. (Max) "We Were the Lucky

Ones" (TV-MA) -- After starring in the 2022 film "Bullet Train" together, Joey King and Logan Lerman reunite to lead this new eight-episode series based on the historical novel written by Georgia



## **Breaking up with worry**

Worrying is a natural response in many situations, and I've wasted many days getting caught up in it. I thought that was a normal way to live. But through the years, God has helped me end my relationship with worry. And He did it with the help of my husband, Dave.

Every time I have come to him with a problem, Dave has had only one thing to say: "Cast your care." But I didn't always want to hear this when I was feeling frustrated and upset—but it's exactly what the Bible tells us to do.

First Peter 5:7 says to cast, "all your cares [all

your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]" (AMP).

In the dictionary, the word cast means "to pitch or to throw." I think that description says a lot because if you're going to end your relationship with worry, then you're going to have to get aggressive about it.

For example, we don't haveto acceptevery thought that comes into our head. We can cast out the wrong ones and let the right ones take root. And I find that my whole outlook changes as I say simple prayers: "God, I believe You're working in my life, and I'm expecting something good to happen today."

I'm not saying we should ignore our problems, wishing they'd just go away. We need to see them for what they are, but we can't let them keep us from choosing a hopeful, positive attitude that says, "I believe God is in control!"

I like this saying: "Worry sees the problem. Faith sees the God who can handle the problem."

The question is, do your problems know where they stand in relationship to God in your life?

I'm reminded of the story of Abraham, who at 100 years of age, believed God would give Him a son and make him the father of many nations. He chose to look beyond his circumstances and believe God. I'm absolutely amazed by that!

The Bible says that God can "do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). So, no matter what our circumstances look like, we just need to keep our eyes on God.

Typically, when we have a problem, God will do one of two things. He'll either remove the problem or He'll give us the ability to get through it with a positive attitude.

I've found that as I've grown in my relationship with God, I've become more comfortable leaving that choice up to God. Because if He leads me



through something I really don't want to go through, then I know for sure He has a purpose in mind.

AsachildIexperienced years of sexual and emotional abuse, which was absolutely tormenting. The amazing thing is, everything God has done in my life through that horrible situation-all of the healing and restoration-has prepared me to do what He's called me to do today. I didn't always understand why things were happening the way they did at the time, but I learned how to walk by faith and trust God's goodness even when my circumstances didn't make sense to me.

It's absolutely wonderful when we can feel completely comfortable not knowing the "why" behind what's happening in our lives.

Proverbs3:5-6(AMPC) says, "Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth...." We don't always have to know what God is going to do or when He's going to do it. All we really need to know is that God has a plan and He is in control. We can rest in the truth that at the right time, God will execute His plan.

In fact, there may be something happening in your life right now that you just don't understand, and it's causing you to worry. Instead, you can choose to say, "I don't understand this, and it hurts right now, but I believe God is going to work it out."

If you've already wasted a lot of your time worrying, I encourage you to break up with worry. Instead of giving way to anxious emotions, you can do what God has urged me to do all these years: Cast your care. In time, God's good plan will be revealed.

Romans 8:28 (AMPC) says, "We know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose."

Not everything that happens is good. But it can

all work out for if you'll keep loving God and pursuing His will for your life. There's nothing God can't turn around if you'll put your trust in Him!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource How to Attack Anxiety. 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 OVERCOM-ING EVERY PROB-LEM (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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Weekend Mass Confession

STS. PETER AND PAUL, PETERSTOWN Weekend Mass Confession

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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 28 - 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service March 29 - Good Friday. 9 a.m.-noon Bake Sale at First State Bank lobby; 6 p.m. Choir practice (all welcome); 7 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday service at Zion United Methodist Church March 31 - Easter Sunday

#### **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.

#### 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.

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WEDNESDAY **Prayer Service** 

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Larry Sheaves, Pastor

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**Sunday School** Worship **Evening Service**  **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 || a.m. Available on Facebook Live **Facebook page** 

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

March 28 - Maundy Thursday March 29 - 6:30 p.m. Good Friday worship at Zion UMC March 30 - 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt March 31 - Easter Sunday



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Dave Manion Jim McDowell Wayne Shuman

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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

#### **FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

208 W. South St., **Troy Grove Pastor Brian Hamiel** 

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info **E-mail:** fbfchurch20817@gmail.com

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist to glorify God through the equipping of His saints, teaching of His Word and raising of His name. We would love to have you join us to worship and learn about our risen Savior."

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



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



lf 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."

#### **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN 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.

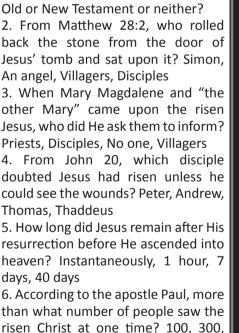
#### AROCA AROCA

#### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. JAMES 1: 5,6 🔬

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Website: www.ilccompton.org E-mail: immanuellutheran compton@live.com "Living in God's Grace as a 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 28 - 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at Immanuel March 29 - 7 p.m. Good Friday Service at First, Lee March 30 - 8 a.m. Volunteer at N.I.C.E. March 31 - 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Immanuel; 8:30 a.m. Easter breakfast at Immanuel; 9:30 a.m. Easter breakfast at First, Lee; 10:30 a.m. Easter Service at First, Lee Online "devotional service" videos continue every Sunday at facebook.com/ilccompton and YouTube. Check our website and Facebook page for more information.



500, 1,000 ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) An angel, 3) Disciples, 4) Thomas (called Didymus), 5) 40 days (Acts 1:3), 6) 500 (1 Cor 15:3-8)

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#### 

The Merchants on this page urge you to attend a house of worship this week.

EUREKA SAVINGS BANK 1300 13th Ave., Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-5656

FIRST STATE BANK 706 Washington St., Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 538-2265

MENDOTA MONUMENT CO. 606 Main St, Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-7276

MERRITT FUNERAL HOME 800 Monroe St., Mendota, III. Phone (815) 539-7211



TRIPLE SERVICE, INC. 801 Monroe, Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-3828

WASMER FUNERAL HOME 2112 W. Main St., Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-8500

ZIGGIE'S RESTAURANT Rte. 34 East, Mendota, Ill. Phone (815) 539-5060



#### MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • LELAND

203

#### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

#### 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)

#### NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on February 29. 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Hermosillo Lawn Care located at 408 17th Street Mendota, IL. 61342. Dated: February 29, 2024. Rigoberto Hermosillo Applicant.

No. 0305 (March 20, 27 and April 3, 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 LESLIE SHANNON SMITH Case Number 24MR20

take from you the custody and guardianship of

adoption, you may lose IL 61350, in Courtroom com all parental rights to the child.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for

you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgement entered. Dated March 14, 2024 Greg Vacarro, Clerk

No. 0307 (March 20, 27 and April 4, 2024)

> NOTICE NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2020-JA-55 TO: Jazmin Casey-Wiggins and other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern: Take notice that on the 14th day of March, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Malaysia Wiggins, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 24th day of

April, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to

#300. No. 0313 (March 27, April 3 and 10, 2024)

307

#### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** 

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

#### 113 FINANCIAL

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

#### 119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS In

Reference Required. since business

**HELP WANTED** MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

#### 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

#### 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT



#### **MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS MENDOTA HIGH** HELP 210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, II. 61342 SCHOOL is accepting WANTED Available: applications for a full-time 2nd shift custodian starting May, 28, Call 2024. Duties include daily cleaning ADAM 815-830-4422 Janko Realty of classroom & other areas. Send resume, letter of interest, and reference by April 8, 2024 to: Andy Knowlton, 2300 W. Main Street, Mendota, IL 61342 or email: aknowlton@ mendotahs.org 03252024 203 HELP WANTED

511

**STORAGE UNITS** 

Prime Solutions Inc. 815-690-4025 | Primesolutions1@hotmail.com Full Remodeling • Services & Repairs • New Additions

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All in the Classifieds!

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from LESLIE SHAN-NON SMITH to the new name of WYATT ASH-ER SMITH The court date will be held on May 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 300, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa. IL. No. 0306

(March 20, 27 and April 3, 2024)

#### NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION No: 2020-JA-55

TO: Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 14th day of March, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Malaysia Wiggins, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 24th day of April, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with

power to consent to

the minor to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to

adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for

you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgement entered. Dated March 14, 2024

No. 0308 (March 20, 27 and April 4, 2024)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, LASALLE COUNTY Request of Dantonette Toby Boston/Wallace Case Number 2024MR000023 Filed March 22, 2024 There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Dantonette Toby Boston/Wallace to the new name of Islah Abu Bakr The court date will be held on May 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa,

1999, weekly mowing, bushes, spring clean up and much more. Fully Insured, Free Estimates, Call Jeremy Furman, 815-761-9619. Please leave message and I will return call ASAP.

#### 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause published be to advertisement any soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

Greg Vacarro, Clerk 301 ANTIQUES WANTED TO BUY:

> Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting ... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.

> > com

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.



#### 601 **VEHICLES FOR SALE**



.\$21.900 2023 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab LT, Lthr, 4x4, Z71, 2020 C Long Box 6 1/2 ft, 41K Miles, Red......\$44,900 White. .\$24,900 2020 Chevy Equinox LT, AWD, 2.0 LTR., ..\$21,900 2020 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 64K Miles, 2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 42K Miles, ...\$22,900 Silver.. \$18,900 2021 GMC Sierra K-1500, SLT, Crew Cab, 2019 Chevy Blazer, 2LT, AWD, 69K Miles, . \$43,900

2021 Chevrolet K-1500 Crew Cab, 4x4, LT, 23K Miles, Red..... . \$38.900

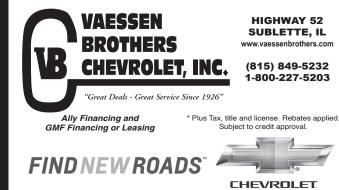
4x4, 36K Miles, White.....

#### **QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS**

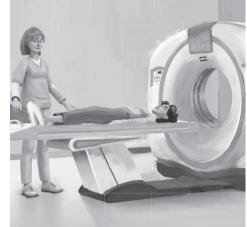
2021 Chevy K-1500 Custom 4x4 4cyl Turbo, 90K 2017 Chevy K-1500 Crew LT, 4x4 66K Miles, ...\$27,900 Maroon... ..\$28,900

2019 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew Cab, LT, 4x4, 2016 GMC K-2500, Crew Cab, Denali, 4x4, ...\$28,900 Sunroof, Diesel, 76K Miles, Black......\$44,900 Leather, 87K Miles, Gray....

2018 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 36K Miles, .\$18.900



Quitting smoking was hard. Screening for lung cancer is easy.



Get SavedByTheScan.org



If you love them enough to suck the snot out of their nose at 4 a.m., then surely you'll check to make sure they're in the right car seat.

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

#### The Mendota Reporter • B9





ESTATE SHIWCASE TURE HIME Н

**McConville** 

Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker 612 S. Main St., Mendota, IL



mcconvillerealtymendota@gmail.com Website: www.mcconvillerealty.com Call one of our Agents to set up your private showing. Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker 815-910-5673

Marty McConville, Broker 815-200-2233 Sharon Kimrey, Broker 815-343-3600 Melody Nanzer, Broker 815-228-2842 Peri McConville, Broker 815-910-5337





DREAMING OF OWNING A 5 ACRE COUNTRY PROPERTY ON A BLACKTOP ROAD, CLOSE

IEW LISTING! DREAMING OF OWNING A 5 ACRE COUNTRY PROPERTY ON A BLACKTOF HOAD, GEOG TO TOWN?? THIS PROPERTY MAY BE THE ONE!! NEW ROOF 2023, HOME IS 4 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, NEEDS REPAIRS. LARGE POLE BUILDING WITH ELECTRICAL, 2 CAR DETACHED GARAGE, EMPTY LP TANK. CREATE YOUR DREAM HOME!! THE PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD AS IS . THIS ONE WILL NOT LAST LONG!

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Town & Cour

## Town & Country Realtv

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Evening Phone Numbers Becky McPheeters, Designated Managing Broker 708-220-3338 Jami Bauer 815-993-7751 Lori Munson 815-228-4852

## HAPPY EASTER

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WHEN IT'S **TO MAKE** 



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