

Solar Eclipse - April 8, 2024



**Eyes to the sky**

Northbrook Middle School sixth grade students gaze up at the sky to view the solar eclipse that passed over northern Illinois on April 8. Left, sixth-grader Cooper Klein makes sure his eclipse glasses are tight against his face to avoid exposure to the sun. People in northern Illinois experienced an estimated 94% totality. The eclipse entered the country and began moving into Southwest Texas at around 12:30 p.m. In northern Illinois, parts of it began at 12:51 p.m. with the peak time around 2:07 p.m. By 3:22 p.m., the eclipse moved out of the area. The next total solar eclipse will be on Aug. 22, 2044, and will only occur over North Dakota and Montana. The next coast-to-coast total solar eclipse spanning the lower 48 states will be Aug. 12, 2045. (Reporter photos)

**Route 251 bridge closed over Ill. River**

PERU – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that construction on the Illinois 251 bridge crossing the Illinois River in Peru was to begin April 8, weather permitting.

Work will include washing the bridge and all of the structural steel, top surface of piers and abutments, deck drains and the deck surface. The work will be during the day, with traffic being reduced to one lane and controlled by flaggers.

See Bridge, Page A5

Measure enhancing penalties against individuals who threaten libraries advances

**By CATRINA PETERSEN**  
*The Center Square*

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is spearheading legislation to enhance penalties against people who threaten libraries.

The measures are sponsored by state Rep. Anne Stava-Murray, D-Naperville, and state Sen. Laura Murphy, D-Des Plaines. House Bill 4567 heads to the House floor after passing committee.

In the Judiciary-Criminal Committee hearing, Murray said there's been a rise in threats of violence against libraries.

"We saw in the 81st District, bullet shells delivered to our library after we announced there was going



to be a drag queen bingo for high school students," said Murray. "That had to be canceled due to that."

The Downers Grove Public Library canceled an event in October 2022 after receiving a threatening letter that contained a bullet.

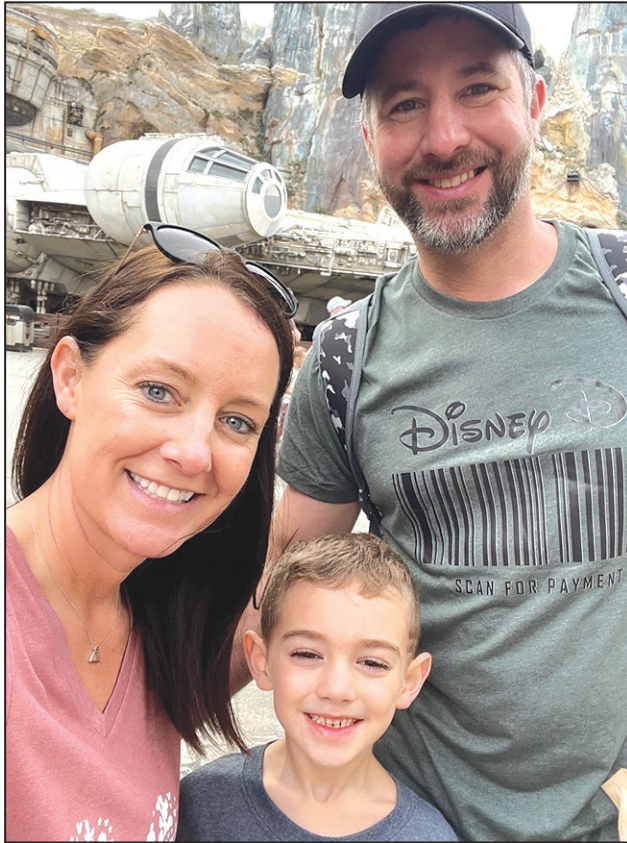
That wasn't the only reading event canceled in Illinois. After receiving "concerns," library officials at Somonauk Public Library canceled the January 2024

Brave Books reading event featuring General Michael Flynn, who served as the 24th United States National Security Advisor under the Trump administration.

Beck Nelson, a Somonauk resident, said Democratic politician Heidi Henry got campaign supporters to urge the library cancel the event.

Henry told The Center Square she received several emails from campaign supporters urging her to do something about the event. Henry said she was cordial and asked the library to host someone who "didn't try to help overthrow our government."

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The Kneebones, left to right, Megan, Grayson, and Andy will make their TV debut on Chicago Fire's Season 12, Episode 10 "The Wrong Guy" scheduled to air May 1. (Photo contributed)

Kneebone family filmed as extras on Chicago Fire

**□ Mendotans to appear in May 1 episode**

**By BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
*Staff writer*

MENDOTA – A few of Megan Kneebone's family members have been extras in TV shows filmed in Chicago.

When she saw a casting call for 5- to 10-year-old kids for the hit TV show, Chicago Fire, Kneebone decided to send in a reply for her son, Grayson.

Not only was Grayson asked to be an extra, Megan and Andy (husband and father) were allowed to be part of the experience, too.

"My mom, Kristi Carroll, and my nephew, Kaden Bertuli, have been extras before," Megan Kneebone said. "There are Facebook groups for Chicago Fire and Chicago PD you can follow that send casting calls. They put out Facebook posts letting you know what they're looking for."

"They were looking for 5- to 10-year-old kids. Grayson was asked to be on the show and since I was bringing him, they asked if I wanted to be in it. I asked if Andy could join because then we would be a family. They said that would be great and all three of us got to go. It worked out well."

The Kneebones will be portrayed as a family at a basketball game on Chicago Fire's Season 12, Episode 10 titled "The Wrong Guy" scheduled to air May 1.

They shot the show on Monday, March 25 in Chicago. The Kneebones didn't want to pull Grayson away from school for a full day, but since the basketball scene

*"It was a scene where we just had to keep watching the basketball game back and forth. They told us what team to cheer for and we had props. It is probably a two-minute scene and we had to do it about 25 times."*

– Megan Kneebone

was taking place at night, they only had to take him out of school a half-hour early.

Megan and Andy were asked to be there a half-hour earlier than Grayson, so the parents were paid \$126 each and Grayson, 7, received \$100. They received their checks on April 4.

"When we got there, we didn't have any idea what was going on. We brought three changes of clothes because you wear your own clothes," Megan Kneebone said. "They tell you yes or no and there is a dressing room to change. Some people had to change, but we didn't have to, we were fine. We wore what we normally wear. Andy had to take his hat off, but that was it."

"All we knew going into it was that the scene we were going to be part of was a basketball game scene. They bussed us from where they checked our clothes to where the filming was. We were originally told it was

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Hegeler Carus Foundation names Laura Walker new executive director

LaSALLE—"The incredible Hegeler Carus Mansion will rock with activity—drawing many thousands of visitors from the 9-million residents of metro-Chicagoland, and beyond." So declared Laura Walker, the new executive director of the nonprofit group, founded in 1995, that oversees the stupendous seven-story, 58-room, 1870s Mansion in LaSalle that is home to a trove of American history.

In announcing Walker's appointment, Hegeler Carus Foundation Chair Inga Carus stated, "With her multi-state experience in successful program development, I am confident Laura will make the Mansion a premier historic and visitor destination for the Midwest."

With bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Southern Indiana, Walker studied fine art, art history, and cultural studies. The Indiana native has worked professionally in Ocala, Fla.; Salem, Ore.; and Evansville, Ind., where, among other accomplishments, she developed community arts plans and arts districts, oversaw and expanded performing and visual arts programming.

"All of our contacts who have worked with Laura sang her praises," said foundation board member David Conterio, CEO of Hometown

National Bank. "She seems designed for successful leadership of our mansion."

The Hegeler Carus Mansion was designed in 1874 by W.W. Boyington, who also designed the iconic Water Tower in Chicago. August Fiedler, the Mansion's interior designer, became one of the most sought-after interior designers after completing his work at the Mansion.

Hegeler and Carus, the first-generation immigrants for whom the Mansion is named, hosted legendary Zen master D. T. Suzuki of Japan for 11 years at the turn of the last century. From his setting in LaSalle, Suzuki wrote many of his seminal, revered works, and introduced America and the West to Buddhism.

Paul Carus was a leader in development of the World Parliament of Religions at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, a parliament that still exists. Open Court Publishing Company, known for its philosophical and educational works, was founded in the basement of the Mansion. The Cricket Magazine Group came nearly a century later to be founded by descendants of Carus and Hegeler.

"The Mansion and its history are underdeveloped assets for our region," observed Jay McCracken, Interim Executive Director of the Ottawa Chamber of



Laura Walker has been named the executive director of the Hegeler Carus Foundation in LaSalle. (Photo contributed)

Commerce and a member of the search committee that recruited Walker. "Laura will build these assets."

"I will set a collaborative course for the mansion, in concert with the remarkably rich historical and natural resources of Starved Rock Country," said Walker. "Together we can attract even more visitors to our beautiful cities, towns and countryside."

The Hegeler Carus Mansion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2007, a prestigious designation granted by the U.S. National Park Service. The Mansion is located at 1307 Seventh St. in LaSalle. For information about tours and services of the Mansion, visit [www.hegelercarus.org](http://www.hegelercarus.org).

### Junior High Tour Day offers new insight to St. Bede Academy

PERU—St. Bede Academy is excited to host its Junior High Tour Day on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. This brand-new event is for local sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and their families who may be interested in seeing the school first-hand.

Families will be shown around the school by St. Bede Student Ambassadors, who will share their daily experience and welcome students into the building. Students will get to see all

the new renovations of the building, learn about what classes at St. Bede are like, and see a place where they belong.

Following the tours, families are also invited to the baseball and softball fields to watch as the Bruins take on the Rockridge High School Rockets. All games are subject to weather conditions.

Students can sign up at [www.st-bede.com/jr-high-tour-day](http://www.st-bede.com/jr-high-tour-day), or by calling Jon Steben, director of enrollment management, at 815-250-0279.

### Kishwaukee College Board eliminates student fees to promote transparency in college costs

MALTA—At the March 12 Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting, the Board voted to eliminate approximately \$375,000 in student course fees. This decision follows the elimination of nearly \$1 million in other student fees—student activity, technology, registration and lab/studio fees—approved by the Board in October 2023.

The Kishwaukee College Board also approved a \$5 increase to its base tuition for the 2024-2025 academic year from \$147 to \$152 per credit hour for in-district and online courses. The last tuition increase was in 2020.

A decrease in differential tuition from \$294 to \$228 per credit hour for Radiologic Technology and Registered Nursing courses was approved, aligning the program costs with other differential programs at the College.

Starting in Summer 2024, the net savings to students for these changes is an estimated \$345 per semester for a full-time student taking 15 credit hours.

"The elimination of student fees improves the transparency in the cost of attending Kishwaukee College. Budgeting for college is easier for students and their families when the cost of attendance is the price of tuition. Student fees are the unanticipated expenses that often are unknown until students see them on their bill," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.

Due to factors such as increased enrollment, expanded state support for community colleges, conservative fiscal management, and a growing equalized assessed value (EAV) for the College district, Kish can make a college education more affordable for students.

"Thanks to responsible decision-making, the financial health of our College has allowed us to make these beneficial cost savings for our students while still reducing our tax levy," said Bob Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

To learn more, visit [kish.edu](http://kish.edu).

### Teen Turf's drawdown and drive-thru chicked dinner planned Sunday, May 5

AMBOY—Teen Turf of Amboy will hold its drawdown and drive-thru chicken dinner on Sunday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chicken dinner pick-up will be in the alley at the Long Branch Saloon, 55 S. East Ave. Cost of a ticket is \$50 and includes two dinners and a chance to win cash prizes. Only 200 tickets will be sold prior to the event.

The drawdown drawing for prizes will be held on Facebook at 4 p.m. May 5. The grand prize is \$1,500.

An online auction is also planned beginning April 25 at noon until May 2 at 8 p.m. Log on to [auctioneer.com](http://auctioneer.com) to participate.

For tickets or more information, contact Eileen Piper at 815-440-8195. Tickets may also be purchased from Pam Thomas, Brian Wedekind, Barb Harrison, Mark Grossman, Shelli Bump, Amber Horner, Madison Thomas or Josh Gordon.

All proceeds will benefit Teen Turf's free programs.

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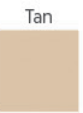
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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Thanks to donations, Lee County Sheriff's Officer K9 Henry is wearing a protective vest

DIXON — Lee County Sheriff's Officer K9 Henry will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Henry's vest is sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of K9 Hobbs, Des Moines, IA - EOW 12/12/23." Delivery is expected within eight to 10 weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,379 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made

possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lbs., and comes with a five-year warranty.

For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at [www.vik9s.org](http://www.vik9s.org), or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.



## Bureau County History Center introduces two new exhibits

PRINCETON — Two exciting new exhibits will be on the Bureau County History Center campus on the Courthouse Square in Princeton.

The Bureau County History Center is highlighting the year 1912, sponsored by Yepsen Insurance, in the Newell Bryant Museum. In addition, the Daughters of the American Revolution will open its Celebrating our Families and Patriots exhibit in the Clark Norris Museum.

What does the sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic and Bureau County have in common? Museum patrons will learn the answer at the 1912 Exhibit that will run until December.

The Titanic sank in the frigid Atlantic Ocean on the night of April 14-15, 1912. The tragic loss of more than 1,400 lives that night, the failures of the great unsinkable ocean liner, the insufficient lifeboats, all would affect legislation of ship building and sea travel in the months and years to come.

More than 700 survivors would return home and try to pick up the pieces. Many would suffer from the reverberations of that night for the rest of their lives, with some experiencing alcoholism, depression, post-traumatic stress, even suicide. Four survivors of the Nellie Becker family survived the disaster and later lived in Princeton.

With such an enormous tragedy playing a central role upon the world's stage, what was happening in Bureau County? The 1912 Exhibit looks at the photographs and stories that the lives of residents here revolved around. Newspaper stories will run the gamut from the ordinary: bids for the building of Matson Public Library were discussed and the architect's proposal for the Soldiers and Sailors Monument were accepted ahead of its projected summer 1912 build; to the criminal: three masked highwaymen rob the train in Sheffield stealing \$800 in cash and a diamond ring; to the scandalous: the front-page coverage of the divorce of the heroic doctor of the Cherry Mine disaster after his wife alleged she was the victim of domestic violence.

Titanic historian Peter Cook will be giving a lecture regarding the disaster including information about the Becker family. He will also present artifacts from the Titanic. His event is Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$15 for History Center members and \$18 for the general public.

In addition to the 1912 Exhibit, BCHC is delighted to be partnering with the Princeton-Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution. The exhibit, Celebrating our Families and Patriots, will be on display at the Clark Norris Museum.

Museum hours for each exhibit are as follows:

- 1912 Exhibit: Wednesdays through Saturdays; noon until 5 p.m. (last tour begins at 4:30 p.m.); 634 S. Pleasant St., Princeton.

- DAR Exhibit: Fridays and Saturdays, 1 until 5 p.m. (last tour begins at 4:30 p.m.); 109 Park Ave. West, Princeton.

Recommended admission: \$7 for adults; \$3 for children (12 and under); active-duty military personnel are welcomed free of charge.

For more information, visit [Bureauhistory.org](http://Bureauhistory.org) or call (815) 875-2184.

## Lincoln REACH Award

Lincoln School has named its February REACH Award winners. Front row, left to right, are Fianna Figueroa, Eliana Garrett, Emmanuel Quintana, Adeline Corson and Sofia Garcia. Middle row, Liam Christmann, Isaiah Orozco, Fernando Sandoval, Rodolfo Romero and Jamiyah Bragg. Back row, Lyla Pecher, Aubrey Gambrel, Olivia Lopez, Alexxa Figueroa, Jayden Saylor, Katrina Hilt and Mayra O'Campo. (Photo contributed)



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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Lois V. Molln

OHIO – Lois V. Molln, 94, of Ohio, died Sunday March 31, 2024 at Allure of Walnut.

Visitation was from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 6, 2024, at the First Lutheran Church in Ohio. Funeral services were at 3 p.m. with Pastors Jeff and Lori Whalen officiating. Burial followed at Van Orin Repose Cemetery, Van Orin. Arrangements were completed by the Garland Funeral Home in Walnut.

Lois was born on Jan. 5, 1930, in Sublette, the daughter of Fredrick and Leona (Spittler) Rempfer. She married Myron R. Molln on Nov. 20, 1949, in Mendota. He preceded her in death April 10, 2010.

Survivors include one daughter, Janice (Bob) Williams of Van Orin; two sons, David (Ann Cobane) Molln of Ohio and Kevin (Missy) Molln of Toulon; one daughter-in-law, Linda Molln of Walnut; one sister, Mary Horn Michel of Princeton; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sons, LaVerne Molln, and Gary Molln in infancy, two brothers, Eugene Rempfer and Fritz Rempfer.

Lois was a homemaker who enjoyed reading, was a good baker and loved working in her garden. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Ohio and was active in her church including the Rebecca Circle.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to Ohio Fire Department, First Lutheran Church of Ohio and Bache Chapel. Online condolences may be sent to [www.garlandfuneralhomes.com](http://www.garlandfuneralhomes.com).

## Marilyn M. Neff

MENDOTA – Marilyn M. Neff, 90, of Mendota, passed away, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Allure of Mendota.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 8, 2024, at Holy Cross Church, Mendota with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Burial was at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was April 8 from 9-10 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Marilyn was born Aug. 27, 1933, in Mendota to Gilbert and Dorothy (Frank) Spanier. She married Warren Neff in 1969 in Mendota.

Marilyn is survived by her two brothers, Robert (Pam) Spanier and Joseph (Diane) Spanier; nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Warren in 2008; her parents, Gilbert and Dorothy; her sister Bernice in 2023; and two brothers, James and John; and her sister-in-law, Joyce Spanier.

She attended Holy Cross Grade School and Mendota High School. Marilyn started her nurses training at St. Anthony De Padua in Chicago in 1954. During her nursing career she worked at the V.A. Hospital in Chicago, Manhattan Island New York V.A. Hospital, Brooklyn New York V.A. Hospital and the V.A. Hospital in Iowa City. Marilyn was a firm believer in praying the Rosary. She enjoyed traveling, fishing, bowling and reading. Warren and Marilyn enjoyed camping in upper Michigan watching the ships go through the Soo Locks. They also were avid bird watchers.

Memorials may be directed to Holy Cross Church. Online condolences may be left at [www.merrittfh.com](http://www.merrittfh.com).



## DeLois A. Gallisath

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. – DeLois (Dee) Ann Gallisath, 95, passed away on April 2, 2024, in Daytona Beach Shores, Fla., after a life well-lived.

Dee will be cremated and her ashes will be joining Jack's at the Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Fla.

Dee was born on Aug. 6, 1928, in Spring Valley, Wis., to Oliver Sebastian Hanson and Violet (Graham) McCaffrey. She married John (Jack) Gallisath on Nov. 13, 1948, in Amboy.

She is survived by her daughter, Barbara (Christopher), of Santa Barbara, Calif.; her son, David (Karen), of Odessa, Fla.; along with many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dee was preceded in death by her husband, Jack, on Sept. 1, 2004, and her daughter, Karen Jones, on Jan. 7, 2016.

Dee and Jack spent many years tending to their farm in West Brooklyn, before retiring to Florida in 1990.



## IVCC Board hires two employees to dean positions

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Community College Board on March 14 hired two veteran employees to fill new dean positions tasked with assessing and improving student performance and success.

Dr. Kathy Hart was appointed Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, a position tasked with overseeing and guiding institutional research, quality improvement, and strategic planning. Hart holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis and has been employed at IVCC since 2018.

As Dean of Student Success, Crystal Credi will develop, implement, and monitor student success strategies and coordinate related departments, including Career Services, Counseling, Retention, and Project Success. Credi holds a master's in organizational leadership and has been employed at the College since 2013 in several student support roles.

The creation of both of these positions reflects a Higher Learning Commission initiative and the College's commitment to data-informed processes and student success.

In other action, the board ended a six-year freeze on tuition by approving a modest increase and also authorized the adjustment of several course fees.

Effective this summer, students will pay \$140 per credit hour in combined tuition and universal fees, compared to \$135 per credit hour previously. The overall \$5 increase includes a \$3 increase in tuition and a \$2 increase in a technology fee. A student activities fee will remain unchanged.

IVCC's tuition had remained at \$125.60 for six years. With the increase, tuition is still lower than nine of the 11 community colleges in Illinois.

The increase is designed to keep pace with escalating post-pandemic costs and the escalating cost of technology enhancements, said President Dr. Tracy Morris.

The Board also authorized changing 73 course fees. After an annual review of 300 courses with fees, the administration had recommended increasing 62 fees, decreasing two, removing one fee, adding three new courses with fees, and eliminating five courses and their fees. Increases, when recommended, reflected rising materials costs or purchase of materials for new or revised courses.

In her monthly report, Dr. Morris:

- Congratulated the winners of annual faculty and staff awards: nursing professor Amber Robertson won the Stephen Charry

## Mendota Burn Ordinance

MENDOTA – It is unlawful to burn any materials other than small and dried quantities of branches, leaves, weeds or grass at any time. The burning of any material such as rubber, tires, leather, tar paper, old batteries or any material that emits an offensive odor when burned is unlawful within the city limits of Mendota.

Limited amounts of yard waste material may be burned provided the material is dry and does not create an offensive odor, nuisance or fire hazard due to excessive high winds. Combustible yard waste material may be kindled from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. All fires must be constantly tended by a competent person, until such fire is properly extinguished. The continued smoldering of slow-burning combustible yard waste after 4 p.m. is a nuisance and anyone kindling such a fire that will emit obnoxious odors after 4 p.m. will be considered performing an unlawful act. Burning on Sunday by commercial establishments shall be considered an unlawful act.

Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (full time faculty and counselors); Counselor Debbie Burch was selected as the Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award (part-time faculty and counselors), and Jill Wohrley, Financial Aid Reconciliation and Compliance Specialist was awarded the Connie Skerston Memorial Award for Support Staff Distinguished Service.

• Noted the addition of a freezer to the Eagles Peak Food Pantry, enabling the pantry to supply a larger variety of foods. Over the last quarter of 2023, the pantry served 213 households, including 200 children.

• Recognized organizers of Black History Month and Women's History Month activities on campus.

• Noted that 40 employees contributed to raising more than \$11,800 in the Employee Giving Campaign to benefit the IVCC Foundation and the 21st Century Scholars Society gained three new members/supporters and six honorary members, bringing the total to 51.

• Noted that adult education enrollment in GED and English as a Second Language programs stands at 278 students.

In other action, the Board:

- Authorized a three-year cash farm lease with Holly Farms of Granville for 116 acres at \$326 per acre or \$37, 817 per year, and also contracted with Holly Farms for combining and grain hauling at \$200 per acre and 35 cents per bushel.
- Authorized seeking bids for a Haas CNC Mill for the manufacturing program at an estimated cost of \$43,000.
- Supported the City of Ottawa's extensions of each of its four tax increment financing districts.

• Contracted with Sikich LLP for three years for financial auditing services.

• Updated board policies governing board meetings and Freedom of Information Act procedures.

• Learned of the appointments of Lisa Witalka, Curriculum and Course Scheduler; Sarah Trager, Dual Credit and Enrollment Coordinator; and Juan Rodriguez, IT Technical Support Analyst.

• Learned of the appointments of Kora Jones and Allison Baker as part-time dental hygiene instructors.

• Reappointed 10 non-tenured faculty: Lindsey Beetz, Dental Hygiene Instructor/Coordinator; Christian Carboni, Welding; Scott Fox, Manufacturing Technology; Jonathan Hubbell, Criminal Justice; Sara Legrenzi, Nursing; Camden Parks, Chemistry; Shannon Slaughter, Art; Jennifer Timmers, Agriculture Instructor/Coordinator; Greg Whightsil, Industrial Maintenance and Electricity, and Garrick Whitehead, Computer Networking.

• Resignations of Anthony Cox as assistant women's soccer coach and Joel Kozlick as IT support lead.

• Reflecting an honor it had created earlier for retired College Presidents, the Board established an emeritus status procedure for faculty, adjunct faculty, staff and administrators.

• Announced IVCC's nominations for Illinois Community College Trustees Association awards: SABIC of Ottawa, Business/Industry Partnership Award; employee/student Lynn Keyt of La Salle, Gregg Chadwick Student Service Scholarship, and student Gregory Williams, Lifelong Learning Award.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Extras

Continued from Page A1

outdoor and to bring hats and gloves, but probably because it was raining, they moved it indoor.”

The scene features fireman Joe Cruz, played by Joe Minoso, at a basketball game for his adopted son, Javier “Javi.”

The Kneebones were hoping to see more actors and actresses from the show, but they were happy to watch Joe since he’s been with the show all 12 seasons.

“They sat us behind two people who were the sit-in doubles for Joe. We sat two rows behind them on the bleachers at the basketball game. Since we were only two rows behind, I think we’ll definitely be in the scene,” Megan Kneebone said. “It was a scene where we just had to keep watching the basketball game back and forth. They told us what team to cheer for and we had props. It is probably a two-minute scene and we had to do it about 25 times.”

Grayson was excited about the full-table snack options and as much water as he wanted to drink.

They were told shooting the scene could take from 4:30-10:30 p.m., but they were done by 8:30 p.m. and then treated to a pizza dinner.

“Grayson was looking forward to it but got bored because they were doing the same scene over and over. Anytime they would cut to change cameras, talk to the actors or put powder on the actors, we could be on our phones, so he was OK. He had a lot of fun,” Megan said. “Andy and I watch the show, so we’re really excited to see the show. We know we may only be on it for 10 seconds, but it’s still really cool. It was crazy to see what goes into filming an episode. There were probably 100 crew members for a two-minute scene. I can’t imagine what happens during other scenes with fires, more actors, and a lot of action in them.”

“It was the first time any of us had done something like this. It was really nice that we were able to do it as a family. I was a little nervous not knowing what to expect, but everyone was easy going and really nice. A guy with the show kept coming up to us and telling us good job every time there was a break. “The only rules were no autographs, don’t talk to the actors and actresses, and no pictures.”

Megan may have snagged a few photos, but no one will ever know because posting them on Facebook would be breach of contract.

## Bridge

Continued from Page A1

The project is scheduled to wrap up in early May.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow and stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Four of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges and 762 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 3 updates on X, go to @IDOTDistrict3. View area construction details on IDOT’s traveler information map at [www.GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://www.GettingAroundIllinois.com).

## IDOT & law enforcement agencies teaming up to promote Distracted Driving Awareness Month

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is teaming up with the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local law enforcement agencies to promote Distracted Driving Awareness Month, reminding motorists to “Drop it and Drive.” Throughout April, law enforcement officers will work together to enforce texting and distracted driving laws.

“Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of crashes on our roads today,” said Steve Travia, IDOT’s Director of Highways and Chief Engineer. “During Distracted Driving Awareness Month, police will boost enforcement efforts, stopping anyone they see texting and driving. Remember: ‘U Drive. U Text. U Pay.’”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, between 2012 and 2021, approximately 32,000 lives were lost in crashes involving distracted drivers. Everyone has the potential for distracted driving crashes, but those between the ages of 16 and 24 are especially at risk. If you need to text, pull over to a safe location, or

if you have a passenger, consider appointing a designated texter. Whatever the solution, don’t text and drive.

“While driving, many of us are tempted to check our phone, just quickly, when we hear that ding of notification,” said ISP Division of Patrol Col. Chris Owen. “That quick look could cause a crash and cost you your life or the lives of others. Whatever that message is on your phone, it’s not more important than your life or the lives of others. Keep your eyes on the road and your hands on the wheel.”

To keep your attention on the road, remember these tips:

- If you are expecting a text or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location.
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone’s “Do Not Disturb” feature.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign is funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by IDOT.

## IVCC releases Popular Annual Financial Report

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College has released its 13th annual Popular Annual Financial Report, a summary of the College’s financial condition for the fiscal year that ended in June 2023.

The financial report, known as PAFR, is designed to be accessible and understood by individuals without financial backgrounds, and IVCC’s publication routinely earns awards and

praise from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its clarity and transparency.

“The PAFR presents financial information in a clear and concise format because we believe that integrity and transparency in financial reporting are essential to maintaining trust with our stakeholders. I am very proud of our dedicated Business Office staff on the work they have put into preparing this

report and we hope that you will find it to be helpful in reviewing important financial information in an easy-to-read format,” said President Dr. Tracy Morris.

She also encouraged individuals to reach out to the college if they have questions or need clarification. The report can be found here: [https://www.ivcc.edu/businessservices/financial-pafr/FY2023\\_PAFR.pdf](https://www.ivcc.edu/businessservices/financial-pafr/FY2023_PAFR.pdf)

## Libraries

Continued from Page A1

It was a private group who rented a community room where the private group was going to host Flynn.

“I would never threaten a librarian,” said Henry. “I would never discourage anyone from reading to children.”

Kiara Tyrrell, a library staff member, said at a highly attended library board meeting, the event was called off for fear of protests at a children’s function.

“There was no reason for fear,” said Henry.

Henry said she encouraged her campaign supporters to “leave it alone” and to not “misbehave” especially because there were kids possibly attending the event.

Henry faces state Rep. Jed Davis, R-Newark, in the general election.

“The emails [obtained by the Freedom of Information Act] say that the library director [Julie Harte] was putting the community at risk by having Flynn, 39 years of service to our country, come to our library,” said Nelson.

Harte could not be immediately reached for comment.

“This event wasn’t about politics ... it was about inspiring our children through the magic of literature,” said Beth Findley Smith, a La Salle County Board member.

Smith said “leftists” waged complaints about the event being hosted in a com-

munity room. Brave Books is a company that sells books that “celebrate families and honor traditional values.”

Murray said between July 2023 and September 2023, there were 22 known bomb threats. State Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said he understands public servants are exposed to vitriol and disparagement, but worries this bill will expose people to extreme consequences.

“I think that the kinds of threats you describe could be charged as assault under our current law,” said Guzzardi. “We are taking this quite seriously as we should but I am always cautious we might expose people to quite serious consequences.”

Under the proposed law, individuals who send two “threatening messages” by electronic media would be subject to a Class 2 felony.

HB4567 enhances penalties for individuals who make threats to not just librarians and library employees, but library buildings. Guzzardi said buildings, like movie theaters, aren’t given special treatment under the law.

“There are criminal penalties for threats to those kinds of buildings [movie theaters] but this would be enhancing the penalty for a threat to a library from the threat that we make against any traditional building to this sort of ‘special status’ that schools are given,” said Guzzardi.

Amy Williams, an attorney at the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office, said Giannoulas, who also serves as the state librarian, is proud of the bill and takes violence against libraries seriously.

“They [movie theaters and other buildings] aren’t getting targeted and libraries are,” said Williams. “We become the target of people seeking to intimidate us and scare us from doing our jobs as public servants. These threats are vile and violent and very, very scary. They know where we work and they know our names.”

Giannoulas said there’s been an escalation of violence seeking to censor and restrict information.

“This is harmful, not only to these public servants, but to our democracy as a whole. In the face of these threats, this bill highlights the commitment of our state to protecting library workers, access to information and the free exchange of ideas,” said Giannoulas.

Guzzardi said he wants the threats to stop.

“I think it’s really scary stuff but I want to caution that it’s not always the case that enhancing penalties around certain types of behavior is an effective way of making sure that behavior doesn’t happen,” said Guzzardi.

The bill will give law enforcement the tools to investigate individuals and “stop the crimes at the root,” Williams said.

## my Social Security: It’s not just for retirees

By Mike Weitz

PERU – A personal my Social Security account can be helpful in so many ways. You can benefit from its personalized tools even if you are not retired or close to retirement.

With your personal my Social Security account, you can do much of your business with us online. You rarely need to call or visit a local Social Security office once you have one.

Let’s look at some of the features offered by an account.

If you do not receive benefits, you can:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
  - Check personalized retirement benefit estimates to compare different dates or ages to begin receiving benefits.
  - Check the status of your Social Security application after you apply.
  - Get proof that you do not receive benefits.
  - Get your Social Security Statement.
- If you already receive benefits, you can:
- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
  - Get a benefit verification or proof of income letter.
  - Update your direct deposit (Social Security benefits only).
  - Update contact information (Social Security benefits only).
  - Get a Social Security tax form (1099/1042S).
  - Opt out of receiving certain notices by mail and receive them in the secure Message Center.
- Please help us spread the news! Let your family and friends know that they can create a personal my Social Security account today at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

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

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# OPINION



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


### There is such a thing as too much water

I'll tell you a true story I think is funny and you can decide if it's funny, ignorant, or factual.

Last year when I was having internal issues with my colon and diverticulitis, the gastroenterologist (thank you Google) asked if I drank too much alcohol.

### Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



I answered 5-8 drinks on a Friday and/or Saturday. She said that is too much and I am an excessive drinker, which could be borderline abuse.

There was a giggle as I thought of all the people I've watched consume more than me while I sober up to give rides home and to make sure I'm 100 percent clear the next day to officiate a basketball, volleyball, baseball, or softball game, or to talk to people for stories.

There was a cackle as I thought of younger Brandon who would have scuffed at eight drinks and said, 'Bro, step your game up.'

Then I almost went into hysterics as I thought about how much water I've been told I needed to drink two months prior when I was hospitalized for a week and had an IV feeding me everything because I couldn't eat or drink.

More water requests were summoned my way between the hospital and this gastro visit.

When the gastroenterologist said what she said about my alcohol consumption, I instantly asked, 'So, if I drink 8-10 glasses a water a day like you want me to, that's not over consumption? That's not putting too much of something in my body?'

She went flush for a second.

She looked down.

Then looked me in the eye and gave me doctor speech of how water can do no wrong, angel like, and alcohol is the devil.

Maybe laughing at her, in her face, wasn't the right call, but it was the one I made during the play on the court known as the doctor's office.

To her credit, she was professional and said what doctors will say about the benefits of water and told me I should drink water like I would alcohol and there shouldn't be any issues.

To my credit, I asked an almost out of line but completely appropriate questions in a creative, realistic way... We can't drink too much water? It can't hurt our body?

The meeting or debate ended with her telling me I'd have to have a surgery to cut out a portion of my colon if something didn't change.

I already knew this, and my diet had changed and was continuing to change. No more red meat. No more eating out. Limited sweets. If there was a flare up, go to a liquid diet and stop trying to act like nothing was happening, which I was guilty of previously.

And more water. However, not 10 glasses a day.

I'm a journalist, I looked for information to back up my argument of how drinking so much water could have negative effects.

Don't get me wrong, there is more negatives behind alcohol than water, we should all know this, but at the same time I believe you can overindulge in everything, including aqua.

From the Mayo Clinic, [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org), when you drink too much water, your kidneys can't get rid of the excess water. The sodium content of your blood becomes diluted, which is called hyponatremia and it can be life-threatening.

The Institute of Medicine recommends 3.7 liters of water a day for males, which is 15-16 cups, and 2.7 liters for females, which is 11-12 cups.

Quora.com says water excessiveness is when you chug two gallons (7.6 liters) because it can lead to overhydration or water intoxication.

I agree one or two glasses or cups of water isn't enough, but 8-10, and especially 15-16 or 11-12, is excessive and isn't doing anything but raising toilet flush tallies and the amount on the water bill.

Not to defy doctors or to risk health, I joyfully drink 5-8 glasses, more often 16.9 Fl. Oz. bottles, daily and have reaped the benefits.

The next time I saw the gastroenterologist I told her what I'd done, she ran her tests, checked for cancer (there was nothing), and she told me she's OK with the compromise of finding a happy medium with water because I didn't have to have the surgery as my colon was in better shape and would continue to be if I kept doing what I had done since I left the hospital.

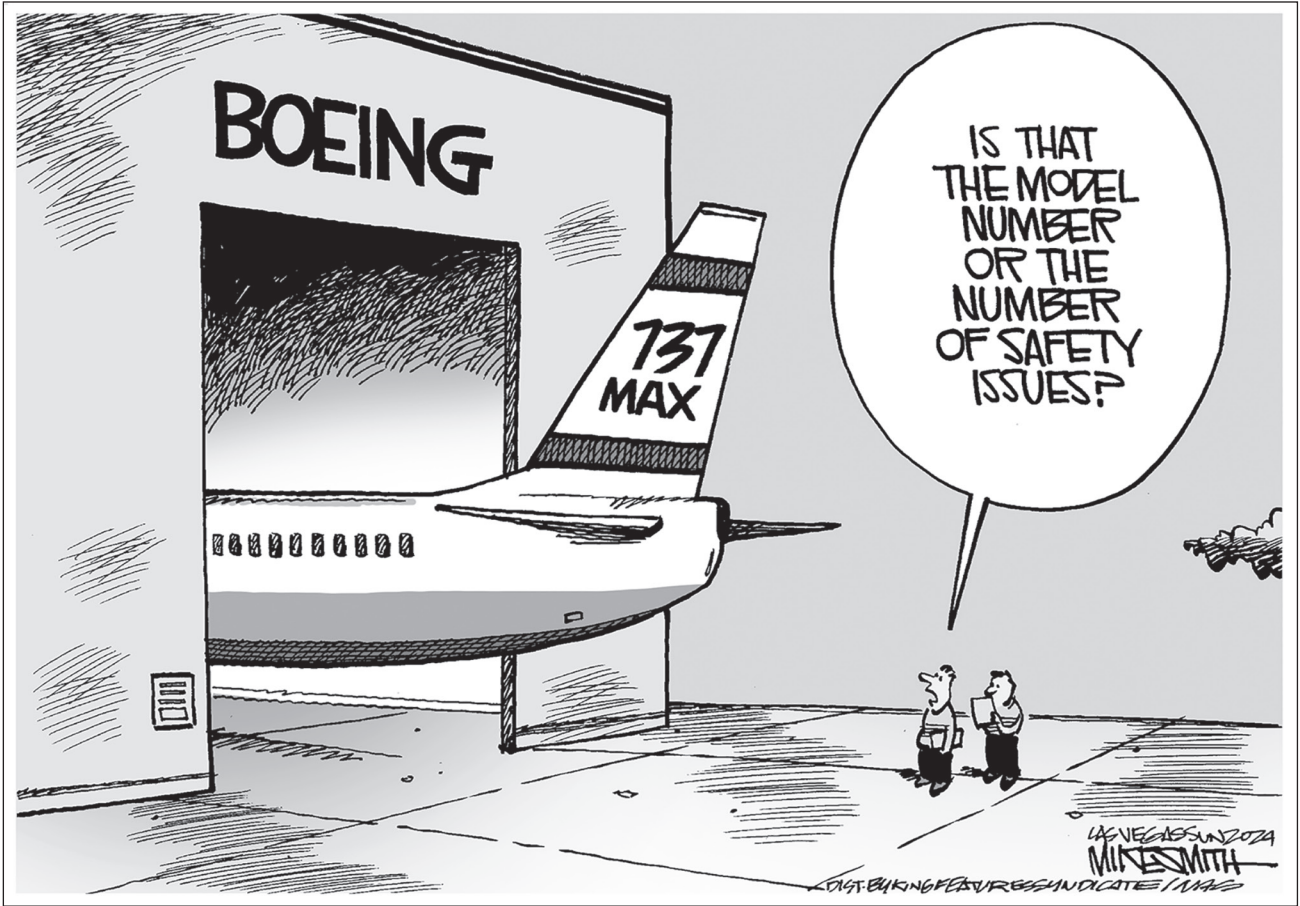
Water can be good for you.

Alcohol can be good for you.

Water can be bad for you.

Alcohol can be bad for you.

Everything can be bad in over consumption.



## K-9 drug dogs sweep MHS – 1995

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from April 13, 2005.)

**By Jessica Nashold**

An unannounced sweep of Mendota High School with six K-9 drug dogs, including Mendota's Elvis, was conducted April 5, 1995. The lockers, locker rooms and parking lots were sniffed by the canines and searched. State Police assisted the Mendota Police Department and Elvis with two dogs each from District 17 LaSalle and District 6 Pontiac. One dog from District 1 Sterling also participated. Mendota Police Chief Ken Haun conceded while the sweep could not halt the flow of drugs into the area, it might keep them out of the schools. MHS Principal Pat Halloran was happy to report that no drugs had been found during the sweep -

**Which is good**

Bill Andrews was named area supervisor for a program designed to find meaningful work for people aged 55 years and older. His area included LaSalle, Bureau and Lee counties. Salaries would be \$4.50 per hour, with an average work week of 20 to 24 hours.

**The program has National Farmers Union approval.**

An Early Bird class for Mother-to-Be was available at Mendota Community Hospital. It was directed by Carol Erwin, RN, OB, supervisor at MCH, assisted by Becky Lowers, a physical therapist. Pre-natal and post-natal exercises would be demonstrated. The class would meet on April 25, 1995, in the Auxiliary Room. Fathers-to-Be were welcome to attend.

**No pre-registration required.**

Mayor James Strouss signed a proclamation declaring April to be Alcohol Awareness Month in Mendota. The signing was witnessed by Patti Griswold, a representative of Safe Home.

Sign-ups to receive groceries at reduced prices under the SHARE program were held April 5, 1995, in the city building. Food valued at \$30 would be available to economically disadvantaged residents for \$13 plus

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

a \$1 shipping fee and two hours of community service.

**Distribution will be April 25 at the Firemen's Building.**

In April 1995, News Media Corp. announced acquisition of four weekly newspapers in California. They would operate as South County Newspapers. Bill Parsons, publisher of an NMC group in Wyoming for five years, would be in charge. It was mentioned that News Media Corp., based in Rochelle, Ill., operated 30 weeklies and small daily newspapers in Illinois, California, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and West Virginia.

**NMC is the parent company of The Mendota Reporter.**

An open house was held April 1, 1995, in the Graves-Hume Library, to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, in 1870. Horace Hume, whose gift in memory of his son, made the new library building possible, cut the first slice of the birthday cake. Kathy Berggre, director, expressed thanks to retiring library board members, Louis Elssesser, Sue Wasmer and Neal French, for their service.

**New members Kim Pohl, Helen Faulk and Virjean Haywood were seated April 10, 1995.**

A bond issue to finance improvements in Mendota elementary schools was defeated in the April 1995 election.

**No votes – 1009**

**Yes votes – 769**

Superintendent Mike Castiglia and board president Gary Campbell had not expected this outcome. A Citizens Committee had been meeting for months to work on an acceptable solution. As for voters –

**They voted their pocketbooks not their hearts.**

## Colorblindness is America's most transgressive idea

**By Rich Lowry**

Writer Coleman Hughes went on "The View" and was greeted almost as though he had shown up wearing a white hood.

Hughes, a soft-spoken black intellectual who is a political independent, was talking about his new book, "The End of Race Politics: Arguments for a Colorblind America."

Once upon a time, colorblindness was an uncontroversial idea. It was considered a core American ideal and worth aspiring to, even if we were failing to live up to it. In recent decades, though, it has run into a buzz-saw of opposition. It clashes with the Left's near-theological commitment to racial preferences, especially on college campuses, and with fashionable new forms of left-wing racialism.

So it is naive, out-of-date, and, worse, even a tool of oppression used by sneaky racists to hide their malignant designs in lofty rhetoric. This was the attitude of co-host Sunny Hostin when Hughes showed up on set. She declared that colorblindness has been "co-opted" by conservatives and that the widely respected Hughes is a "charlatan." For the offense, mind you, of arguing that people should be treated equally regardless of their race.

Thoughtless even by the standards of a panelist of "The View," Hostin was easily outmatched by Hughes, who pushed back without getting flustered or raising his voice. He even won occasional applause from the studio audience for ideas that still, despite all that has been done to belittle them, have strong common-sense appeal in America.

As Coleman notes in his book, a devotion to colorblindness runs through some of the most honored writers and activists in American history, the likes of Frederick Douglass, Wendell Phillips, Zora Neale Hurston, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and, of course, Martin Luther King Jr.

The Left always wants to retroactively enlist MLK for woke racial causes and thinking, but Hughes convincingly locates the great civil rights leader firmly within the colorblind tradition.

In a statement that might now earn him an unfriendly

reception on college campuses (or on the set of "The View"), King maintained, "Black supremacy is as dangerous as white supremacy, and God is not interested merely in the freedom of black men and brown men and yellow men. God is interested in the freedom of the whole human race."

Such a majestic belief in what unites us as persons and Americans can only scandalize today's so-called "anti-racists," whom Hughes deems, more accurately, "neo-racists." They have much in common with the white supremacists that they array themselves against. "They both deny our common humanity," Hughes writes. "They both deny that all races are created equal. They both agree that some races are superior to others, and they both agree that not all people deserve to be treated equally in society."

The neo-racist project is nonetheless ascendant in America's elite institutions, and a narrative of racial conflict has gained more traction in recent years. Hughes attributes the sense of worsening race relations since 2013 to the rise of social media and the accelerated spread of racially charged false stories and myths. We've talked, and clicked, our way into believing we are in a state of racial crisis.

The neo-racists fan the dissension by attributing any racial disparity in America to racism and ignoring the influence of demographics, geography and especially culture. They disregard, or disparage, all the indicators of racial progress, which are inconvenient to their simplistic condemnations of American society as fundamentally and irredeemably racist.

For Hughes, the alternatives are "a grim world in which whites and non-white eternally swap the roles of the oppressor and the oppressed," or a world where we "recommit ourselves to the principles that motivated the civil rights movement." This wouldn't seem a difficult choice. Yet, the very notion of colorblindness is now anathema to much of progressive America. Sunny Hostin is sadly representative in her reflexive hostility to the belief that we should -- and can -- treat one another without regard to race. So much the worse for her.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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## LaSalle County Board

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** Is Alison Sweeney going to be starring in anymore of those cookie mystery movies on Hallmark? I read all the books, so I know there's a possibility of more movies. -- **H.S.**



Sweeney

**A:** Apparently, there are 30 Hannah Swensen Mystery novels written by Joanne Fluke, and Alison Sweeney ("Days of Our Lives") has starred in nine adaptations of them for Hallmark. "One Bad Apple," her most recent movie, holds a special place in Sweeney's heart because she also adapted the screenplay from Fluke's book "Apple Turnover Murder." She told TVLine that she watched YouTube videos, read about how authors allocate their time and dedicated herself to writing 10 pages a day. There was also the matter of replacing her frequent co-star Cameron Mathison ("All My Children"), who had recently inked a multipicture deal with Hallmark's competitor, Great American Media. In comes Victor Webster -- with whom

Sweeney has worked before on another Hallmark movie, "The Wedding Veil Journey" -- to play a new character, prosecutor Chad Norton.

"One Bad Apple: A Hannah Swensen Mystery" premiered on the Hallmark Mystery channel on April 5.

**Q:** Is it true that they're making a movie -- not a documentary -- about Michael Jackson? Who is playing him? -- **K.K.**

**A:** Yes, there is a movie in the works about the late King of Pop called "Michael," which is being directed by Antoine Fuqua and stars recent Oscar nominee Colman Domingo as M.J.'s father, Joe Jackson. Jaafar Jackson, son of Jermaine Jackson, has been cast in the role of his late uncle. The all-star cast also includes Miles Teller as entertainment lawyer John Branca, Nia Long as matriarch Katherine Jackson, and Larenz Tate as Berry Gordy. According to Entertainment Weekly, the film will follow the life and career of Michael Jackson from his "early days as a member of family group the Jackson 5 through to his successes as a solo artist." It will also trace his "triumphs and tragedies

as it examines both his personal struggles and his most iconic performances."

Fuqua said that he's been "blown away" by Jaafar's resemblance to his uncle: "Sounds like him, dances like him, sings. It's really uncanny."

"Michael" has a projected release date of April 2025.

**Q:** When is "The Real Housewives of Orange County" returning, and is Vicki Gunvalson coming back? -- **N.N.**

**A:** Original cast member Vicki Gunvalson won't be returning to the main squad for the 18th season of "RHOC" this summer. But she reportedly accepted an offer to return in the limited "guest" capacity status, like she agreed to last season.

There will be another "friend" returning who is also a familiar face. Alexis Bellino, who was a regular cast member from seasons five through eight, was seen filming with a couple of the ladies a few months ago. She'll bring plenty of drama to the show, since she's now dating Shannon Beador's ex-beau, John Janssen.

You can check BravoTV.com for all the latest news.

## • Trivia Test •

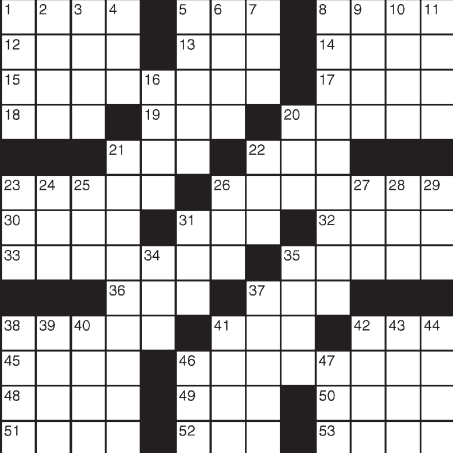
1. GEOGRAPHY: The island of Ibiza belongs with which European country?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of flamingos called?
3. MOVIES: What is the name of the island terrorized by a shark in "Jaws"?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state capital has the highest elevation in the United States?
5. ANATOMY: Where is the corpus callosum located?
6. LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are"?
7. TELEVISION: Which 1970s TV show had a spinoff hit with "Laverne & Shirley"?
8. MATH: How many sides

- does a dodecagon have?
9. ASTRONOMY: Which one of the planets in our solar system has the Great Red Spot?
  10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president ended the military draft?
- Answers
1. Spain.
  2. A flamboyance.
  3. Amity Island.
  4. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
  5. In the brain. It connects the two hemispheres of the brain.
  6. Maurice Sendak.
  7. "Happy Days."
  8. 12.
  9. Jupiter.
  10. Richard Nixon.
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Flair
- 5 Enterprise letters
- 8 Stuffing herb
- 12 Taunt
- 13 Aussie hopper
- 14 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
- 15 Home of the Packers
- 17 Compared to
- 18 Congeal
- 19 Sturdy tree
- 20 Spassky's game
- 21 -- Manuel Miranda
- 22 Huge
- 23 Bottom
- 26 Fear-stricken
- 30 "E Pluribus --"
- 31 Blue hue
- 32 Lighten
- 33 Arty area
- 35 Hinder
- 36 Sailor
- 37 Soda container
- 38 Norwegian inlet
- 41 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 42 Right angle
- 45 Actress
- 46 Chinese brew
- 48 Diminutive suffix



- 49 Mosquito barrier
- 50 Cupid's alias
- 51 Thames town
- 52 Multipurpose truck
- 53 Compass point
- Job" actor
- 9 Tennis champ
- Arthur
- 10 Transcript stats
- 11 Eternities
- 16 Dark film genre
- 20 Spy org.
- 21 Color named for a fruit
- 22 Journalist
- Nellie
- 23 Gist
- 24 Year in Spain
- 25 "Gee, ya think?"
- 26 Alias abbr.
- 27 Yoga pad
- 28 Jargon suffix
- 29 Aachen article
- 31 Bro or sis
- 34 '60s chic
- 35 Challenge
- 37 El Greco's birthplace
- 38 Gratis
- 39 Joan of rock
- 40 Aware of
- 41 Author Harte
- 42 To be, in
- 43 Some July babies
- 44 Endure
- 46 Wildebeest
- 47 Up-to-date

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- The search for 007 is over. Everyone guessed Tom Hardy, Henry Cavill, Idris Elba, and even this year's Best Actor Oscar winner, Cillian Murphy, but it's Brit-born Aaron Taylor-Johnson who will be Bond ... James Bond! However, producer Barbara Broccoli, who is overseeing the screenplay, confessed that "filming is at least two years away."

Johnson has previously starred in "Kick-Ass" (2010) and "Avengers: Age of Ultron" (2015), among others. In addition, he has completed the reboot film of the TV series "The Fall Guy," opposite Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt (releasing May 3). He has also completed the superhero film "Kraven the Hunter" with Ariana DeBose and Russell Crowe (out on Aug. 30), as well as "Nosferatu" with Bill Skarsgård ("It" as Count Orlok, Nicholas Hoult, Lily-Rose Depp and Willem Dafoe.



Taylor-Johnson

Pay no attention to social media posts advertising that Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson will team up for a remake of "Overboard" (1987), which starred Hudson's mother, Goldie Hawn, and Kurt Russell. It was already successfully rebooted in 2018 with Anna Faris and Eugenio Derbez. McConaughey actually just wrapped "The Rivals of Amziah King" (ironically with Russell), while Hudson just completed the thriller "Shell" with Elisabeth Moss.

The legendary producing/directing team of Roger Corman (97), Brad Krevoy (68) and Joe Dante (77) are recreating "Little Shop of Halloween Horrors," with Dante directing and Corman and Krevoy producing. Among these three names, they've made titles such as "The Masque of the Red Death," "Death Race 2000," "Piranha," "The Raven," "Gremlins" and the original "The Little Shop of Horrors" (1966), with Jack Nicholson. Chris Evans, Taron Egerton and Scarlett Johansson were attached to the project back

in 2020, but it became a pandemic casualty.

The FBI's finally returned Judy Garland's ruby slippers from "The Wizard of Oz," which were stolen from the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Their owner, Michael Shaw, originally bought them from an MGM costumer and loaned them to the museum in 2005. The thief, 76-year-old Terry Jon Martin, broke into the museum during the first week. Due to his poor health, he's been sentenced to hospice care. These ruby slippers have been deemed in the best condition of the existing seven pairs and were held for years while the trial pended.

Imagine owning the number-one memorabilia article in the world and not having it for 20 years! Maybe Shaw felt that the ruby slippers are too hot to handle because he's now turned them over to Heritage Auctions in Dallas. The organization is sending the slippers on a whirlwind tour around the world, and on their return, they will be sold to the highest bidder, which could bring in a lot more than their estimated value of \$3.5 million.

## Couch Theater

"The Zone of Interest" (PG-13) -- After taking home Best International Feature Film and Best Sound at this year's Oscars, Jonathan Glazer's historical drama is out now on streaming for viewers to watch at home. Taking place in 1943 during World War II, the film follows commandant Rudolf Hoss and his family, who live alongside the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. While the Hosses enjoy their tranquil life in their beautiful home, the sound of furnaces and gunshots can be heard just beyond their garden wall, and camp prisoners tend to their household chores. Christian Friedel ("Babylon Berlin") and Sandra Huller ("Anatomy of a Fall") lead this chilling film. (Max)

"Sugar" (TV-MA) -- In this new mystery-drama series, Irish actor Colin Farrell ("The Banshees of Inisherin") dons an American accent to become John Sugar, a private investigator in Los Angeles. Known for his razor-sharp instincts, great sense of style and

blue Corvette, Sugar gets put on a case regarding the disappearance of Olivia Siegel, the granddaughter of a Hollywood producer. But when Sugar starts inching his way closer to the truth of Olivia's disappearance, more and more people try to throw him off the case. The first two episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Friday. (Apple TV+)

"Fallout" (TV-MA) -- Based on the role-playing video game of the same name, this apocalyptic drama series takes place 219 years after nuclear technology destroyed what we know as Earth. The war led humans to take shelter in underground bunkers known as "Vaults" in order to survive. But a Vault dweller named Lucy finally decides to leave her bunker to find out what the world has come to in the past two centuries. Finding herself in a post-apocalyptic version of Los Angeles, Lucy encounters mutants, bandits and all kinds of destructive technology in the remnants of our old world. Ella

Purnell ("Star Trek: Prodigy") and Walton Goggins ("Invincible") lead this action-packed, eight-episode series premiering April 11. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Vanderpump Villa" (TV-MA) -- Lisa Vanderpump couldn't get enough of the smashing success of her show "Vanderpump Rules," which took the internet by storm last summer when the show was rocked with a cheating scandal called "Scandoval." The British restaurateur has decided to start a new unscripted show, which follows her carefully picked staff at the Chateau Rosabelle in France. The staff work in varied positions, like chefs, servers, housekeepers and mixologists, and get the ultimate experience by enjoying everything the French countryside has to offer. Don't think that just because they're in a luxury villa, there won't be any drama -- if anything, Vanderpump truly thrives off it! The first four episodes are out now. (Hulu)

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Love, Joey



\* While death by guillotine might seem like an ancient ritual, the practice was still in use in France up until 1977 -- when the original "Star Wars" was in theaters.

\* Sleeping through summer is called estivation.

\* The Museum of Bad Art in Somerville, Massachusetts, is pretty much exactly what it sounds like -- a collection of really bad art! But then again, who's to judge?

\* The American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5 handbook classifies caffeine withdrawal as a mental disorder.

\* Humans invented booze before the wheel.

\* When swallowed by toads, bombardier beetles project hot, noxious chemicals from their anuses, which sometimes forces the predators to puke the beetle back up.

\* The town of Baarle straddles the Dutch-Belgian border. In some places, the official borderline cuts through houses and cafes.

\* There are approximately 200 feral cats roaming the grounds of Disneyland, where they help control the park's rodent population. All of them are spayed or neutered, and park staff provide them with both extra food and medical care.

\* The second-half kickoff in Super Bowl I had to be done twice, as NBC didn't cut back from a commercial break in time to catch the first one on camera.

\* In Japan, instead of a "Man in the Moon," people see a "Rabbit in the Moon."

\* Sometimes it snows on Mars, but the flakes are made out of carbon dioxide, not water.

\* After the band OutKast sang "Shake it like a Polaroid picture," Polaroid released a statement warning that "shaking or waving can actually damage the image."

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Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword





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# SOCIAL NEWS

## IVCC art show features work of high school & college artists

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College’s annual Spring Art Show for high school and college artists is underway, and the halls outside the Humanities and Fine Arts Division office are overflowing with sketches, photographs, illustrations and sculptures.

The display is open to the public and runs through Friday, April 12, culminating that evening with an awards reception for artists and their families at 5 p.m. in the Student Life Space. Refreshments will be served, and tours of the Art Department provided.

The event showcases work by students from 10 area high schools and the College, said art instructor Shannon Slight-Brown, who combined what had been separate shows into one larger gallery.

Her goal is to encourage young artists and reveal the area’s abundance of talent. “Art is flourishing on campus and in the Illinois

Valley, and this is a great way to show it,” Slight-Brown said.

Submissions will be judged and awarded best-in-show in high school and college divisions. Students also have a chance to be awarded scholarships to study at IVCC as well as IVCC and art gear. A new \$1,000 scholarship is available to a current or incoming freshman majoring in art and attending full time, and a full-year tuition waiver also is available to an incoming freshman.

“We also have a fun award that allows the audience to participate in choosing their favorite artwork from the entire show,” Slight-Brown said. “This award is called the People’s Choice Award, and you can locate the golden submission box across from the Division office.”

Joining Slight-Brown as a show judge will be painter and art instructor Josh Niles of Galesburg.

## Ottawa Art League to display work at Westclox building

PERU – NCI ARTworks will host an opening reception for the Ottawa Art League group show from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 12 in the historic Westclox building in Peru. The opening reception is free and all are welcome.

The Ottawa Art League (OAL) is a not-for-profit organization that offers artists an opportunity to share their skills and experiences in all forms of art with people of similar interests in the Illinois Valley. The OAL meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Open Space Gallery on Madison Street in downtown Ottawa. OAL offers programs that encourage artists to enhance their art skills. Membership

is not necessary to attend meetings. This year’s group show at the NCI ARTworks Gallery includes new, exciting artists as well as traditional local favorites.

The work of numerous top-notch local artists will be on exhibit and available for purchase at the NCI ARTworks Gallery beginning April 12, and running through the first week of May. Ranging from watercolorists and fabric artists to metal, glass, and ceramic sculptors, the work of Ottawa Art League artists from LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties will be showcased at the gallery and available for purchase on the night of the opening reception and throughout the month.

For a complete list and biography of the artists whose works will be on exhibit, visit [www.nciartworks.com](http://www.nciartworks.com). This is a unique opportunity to view so many talented artists—many of whom are award-winners—in the same gallery at the same time exhibiting their work.

## DAR chapter hears program on literacy

MENDOTA – The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met March 9 at the LaSalle Public Library. The program was given by Carrie Danekas on literacy. She stated IVCC provides several programs including GED classes and training for adults to help them advance in their jobs.

Members heard about a Kansas DAR member who upon meeting someone whom she recognizes as a veteran by his hat, presents him with a pin and thanks him for his service. She met Wayne Keim who had served two terms in Army and one in Navy. He had earned five medals for his service but had never received them. She helped start the process by contacting his US Senator and helping him fill out forms. He received his medals two months later.

They also learned of Native American woman, Sarah Winnemucca of the Numa tribe. Her autobiography ‘Life Among the Piutes’ was the first English narrative by a Native American woman. Bev Richardson reported on women in sports from ancient Greek runners and African wrestlers to the Victorian days when it was thought too strenuous for women. Title IX let women once again be active in competitive sports. During the Patriot minute, members learned more about Casimir Pulaski, a Polish count who served and died serving the Patriot cause. He is known as the “Father of the American Cavalry” and is buried in Savannah, GA.

Also in reports was Sibil Ludington, known as the “female Paul Revere.” On April 26, 1777, this 16-year-old girl rode over 40 miles

in a rain storm to warn of British troop movements in Putnam County, N.Y.

The chapter voted to make donations to the Illinois Veterans’ Home and to the state conference ‘We Are Family’ fund, to help with expenses. The chapter donated 56 calendars to the Lincoln, Ill., women’s prison. The Wreaths Across America program placed 2 million wreaths on veterans’ graves this past winter.

The updated Fort du Rocher web page be viewed at <http://www.fortdurocher-chaptersdar.com>.

The chapter’s next meeting will be 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Illinois Veterans’ Home, 1015 O’Conor Ave., LaSalle. The scheduled program will be on citizenship. Any woman over 18 years of age whose lineage traces back to a Revolutionary War patriot, who wishes to learn more about Daughters of the American Revolution is invited to attend the next meeting or go online to [dar.org](http://dar.org).



## NIU Steelband to play April 21 concert

DeKALB – The Northern Illinois University Steelband program presents its spring 2024 concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 21.

The event will be held at Boutell Memorial Concert Hall in NIU’s Music Building and will feature the world renowned NIU Steelband (Liam Teague, director), All-University Steelband (Jalen Charles and K-Lee Blackwell, directors), Community School of the Arts (CSA) Steelband (Yuko Asada, director), and the NIU Steelpan Studio.

The steelbands will collaborate a phenomenal group of guest artists.

The fantastic duo of Reggie and Mardra Thomas (vocalist) will once again

grace the steelband audience with their brilliance. Professor Reggie Thomas is the current coordinator of the internationally recognized NIU Jazz Studies program and director of the acclaimed NIU Jazz Orchestra. Reggie is retiring at the end of the spring academic semester.

Sixteen-year-old DeKalb High School student Jaden Teague-Núñez recently won the 2024 Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Young Artists Concerto Competition on the steelpan, and will make his NIU Steelband debut as guest piano soloist on George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue. This year commemorates the 100th anniversary of this brilliant

composition, and the NIU Steelband will premiere steelpan alum Avery Attz’s arrangement of it with Thomas Bough, professor of music, conductor of NIU’s Wind Ensemble and director of athletic bands, at the helm.

Under the direction of Miranda Cordes, Dimensions Dance Academy, one of DeKalb’s premiere dance companies, will make their return to the NIU Steelband concert, as will the DeKalb High School Steelband led by Steve Lundin, DHS director of bands.

Tickets for the NIU Steelband Spring Concert are available for purchase in advance at <https://niumusic.universitytickets.com/w/event.aspx?id=1708>.

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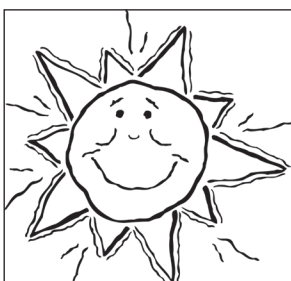
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# THE BACK PAGE

## POLICE BLOTTER

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED**  
Darryl L. Rissman, 39, of 4082 E. Fourth Road, Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue at 12:53 a.m. April 3. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DOMESTIC BATTERY**  
Angelo G. Quintana, 19, of 506 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery at 9:45 a.m. April 6 after an investigation by Mendota police. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Reyes M. Godina, 42, of 916 Main St., Mendota, was arrested at 4:39 p.m. April 5 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear on the charge of failure to report address change/employment as a registered sex offender. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED**  
Arthuro N. Fabila, 42, of 607 Ninth Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at 12th Street and Fourth Avenue at 12:57 a.m. April 6. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DUI**  
Pablo Soto, 52, of Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after police officers responded to the McDonald's restaurant at 1501 13th Ave. for a disturbance at 6:53 p.m. April 6. The subject

was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE**  
Raul R. Falcon, 38, of 1503 ½ Lincoln Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 12th Street and Stroble Avenue at 9:21 p.m. April 6. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Rene R. Garza, 32, of 907 Illinois Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Eighth Street and Sixth Avenue at 10:46

p.m. April 7. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**WARRANT ARREST, TRAFFIC CITATION**  
Meri K. Baucom, 54, of 506 12th St., Mendota, was arrested at 11 a.m. April 8 on a LaSalle County failure to appear warrant for retail theft after police officers responded to a call for service in the 500 block of 12th Street. Also, Baucom was charged with no valid Illinois driver's license. The subject was given a LaSalle County court date for the traffic violation and was transported to the LaSalle County jail for the warrant arrest to appear before a judge.

## CARDS OF THANKS

In memory of Philip Zinke, we wish to thank the doctors, nurses, family, friends and neighbors for their many acts of kindness, prayers and memorials. Thank you to Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota VFW Post 4079 and Ziggy's Restaurant for everything you did to make the funeral special for our family. May God bless all of you, and keep you safe.

**Diane, Jennifer & Julie & family**

**GARAGE SALE/NOTICE DEADLINES**  
• Thursday 3 p.m. to appear in Monday's Money Saver.  
• Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

## Blood drive held April 2

MENDOTA – The American Red Cross held a blood drive on April 2 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. There were 56 good units collected. There were 43 whole blood donations and 13 power red donations.

Daniel Price was a first-time donor. Multi-gallon donors were Ellyn Schoenholz-one gallon; Holly Christman, Barbara Boyle, Aaron Elston and Bev Todd with two gallons each; Ronald Wilkening-four gallons; Matthew Crew-nine gallons; Sandra Gann-15 gallons; Verona Whitmore-24 gallons. Congratulations on these milestones.

Volunteers for the day

were Paddy Schwemlein, Margy Frey, Sandy Schroeder, Lori Schlesinger, Kathy Pierce, Peg Mathesius Cerveny and Lori Simonton. Mendota Subway donated sandwiches for the luncheon and Black Brothers Co. sponsored the egg salad sandwiches, BBQ, and chips for the drive. Desserts were provided by Marlene Simonton, Paddy Schwemlein, Leann O'Brien, Margy Frey and Lori Simonton.

The next bloodmobile will be held on Tuesday, May 28, at the Mendota Moose Family Center. If you would like to make an appointment or have questions, please call Lori at 815-866-3582.

## DINING & entertainment guide

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Reports:	9,478
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Cash:	\$259,077,753.61
Shares:	810,861

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Number of Paid Claims:	240,705
Cash and Share Value Returned:	\$173,003,634.03

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# HOME IMPROVEMENT



Spring marks a great time to assess a home's exterior, namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come.

## Signs it's time to repair or replace your deck

Spring is a season of rejuvenation that compels millions across the globe to quit hibernating and get back to enjoying the great outdoors. Spring also marks a great time to assess a home's exterior, namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come.

Assessing a deck after winter can be eye-opening. Harsh winter weather can take its toll on a deck, and the following are some telltale signs that a deck could be in need of repair or replacement.

- Wobbly underfoot and in hand: Wobbly planks and railings are one sign of a deteriorating deck homeowners won't recognize as they hide from winter weather indoors. But these tend to reveal themselves rather quickly when examining a deck after winter. Wobbly planks in the middle of the deck can be inconvenient, but wobbly steps and railings can be dangerous. According to the home improvement resource Angi, wobbly railings can be a byproduct of rot. A local decking professional can assess the extent of the rot in railings and elsewhere and determine the best course of action. If the rot is isolated to an area or two, a simple repair may be all that's necessary. Extensive rot may require a full replacement of the existing deck.

- Faded paint: Many homeowners paint their wood decks, and that paint will not last forever. Faded paint can turn an otherwise

lovely deck into an eyesore, and paint can fade over the winter. Thankfully, a local painter can address a faded deck and may recommend some additional strategies to safeguard the deck against fading next winter and beyond.

- Holes in the wood: Many a homeowner has encountered curious-looking holes in their deck. This could be a sign of insect infestation. Termites, carpenter ants and carpenter bees are among the various types of insects that can bore holes through wood. Homeowners who notice holes throughout their deck are urged to call a deck professional and/or pest control firm to assess the holes and offer a solution. Though small issues may be addressed with repairs, a deck littered with holes caused by insects may need a full replacement.

- Rust: Wood decks may be made of wood, but they can still exhibit signs of rust, namely in the nails and metal connectors that hold the deck together. If screws have rusted to the point where they are no longer holding the deck together, a full-scale replacement could be in the cards, as the deck could have substantial structural damage. Like other issues that can reveal themselves during a springtime inspection of the deck, rust necessitates a thorough examination by an experienced decking professional.

Many people do not use their decks during winter, which only underscores the significance of a full deck inspection in spring.

## How DIY can be bad for homeowners' bottom lines

Homeowners know it can be tempting to go the do-it-yourself (DIY) route when starting a home improvement project. Home repairs and renovations can be costly, and the notion of saving money on such projects compels many homeowners to try their hand at home improvements. However, the DIY approach can be costly as well, and if things go awry, homeowners may end up with empty pockets and unfinished projects.

Online tutorials and advertisements for home improvement retailers can make DIY seem like a snap. However, there are potential pitfalls to consider that could make the ostensibly less expensive DIY route far more detrimental to the bottom line than homeowners may recognize.

- Permits: Permits ensure work is done in accordance with local codes, which are designed to ensure the safety of residents and their neighbors. Licensed contractors know which permits are necessary for projects they're hired to work on, and many even procure permits for their clients (homeowners are urged to read estimates and contracts to determine who will be responsible for acquiring the appropriate permits). DIYers may not know about local permits, and therefore go ahead with projects without procuring any. That can be harmful in the short- and long-term. In the short-term, a failure to procure the appropriate permits can make a home less safe and potentially lead to costly fines and necessitate a complete do-over of the project. In the long-term,



There are potential pitfalls to consider that could make the ostensibly less expensive DIY route far more detrimental to the bottom line than homeowners may recognize.

homeowners who did not secure the appropriate permits may not be given a certificate of occupancy (CO) when putting their homes on the market, which can make it very difficult to sell the home.

- Ancillary costs: The ancillary costs of DIY are not often noted in online tutorials. However, such costs can dramatically increase the amount of money DIYers shell out in order to complete projects on their own. Ancillary costs include but are not limited to the price of tools and equipment; disposal fees for materials that will need to be discarded; and the cost of permits. These costs are often included in estimates provided by contractors, but they're easily overlooked by novice DIYers.

- Repairs: Even experienced contractors make mistakes, so DIYers, particularly novices, can anticipate making a few errors along the way. Minor

mistakes may not prove too costly, but more significant mishaps can quickly negate any cost savings associated with DIY renovations. The cost to fix DIY mistakes varies depending on the project, but a 2019 survey from Porch.com found that the average DIY mistake cost homeowners \$310 and added five and a half hours to the overall time spent to complete a project. It's worth noting the Porch.com survey was conducted prior to the dramatic increase in materials costs related to inflation in recent years. So it's reasonable to assume that fixing DIY mistakes in 2024 could end up costing considerably more than a few hundred dollars.

Before diving in to DIY, homeowners may want to consider the real costs associated with forgoing professional experience in the potentially misplaced hopes of saving a few dollars.

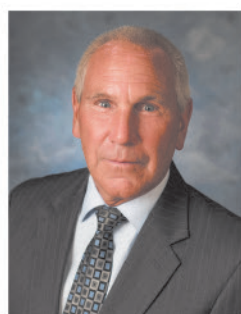
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# HOME IMPROVEMENT



## Call JULIE before you begin to dig

April is Safe Digging Month in Illinois, and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding citizens they can help reduce utility outages and accidents by calling 811. With temperatures starting to rise, this annual proclamation is a reminder to all professional excavators and homeowners to call 811 to safely locate and mark utility lines before starting a digging project.

“With the days getting longer and warmer, digging season is upon us. Whether you plan to install a new mailbox or start a home addition, be sure to call 811 to have nearby utility lines marked for free before you dig,” said ICC Chairman Doug Scott. “Hitting a utility line can not only causes service outages, but potentially lead to injury or death.”

Illinois law requires all homeowners and professional excavators to call JULIE,

the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators, at the statewide number 811 before digging at least 48 hours or two working days prior to starting excavation. The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call, and locate requests have a 28-day life. JULIE has been protecting Illinoisans for 50 years.

Underground utility line can be unintentionally damaged by those who fail to request the lines be located and marked before digging. Homeowners and excavators may also face penalties for not making the 811 call, and utilities may be cited or fined for failing to mark lines in a timely manner.

The ICC is responsible for enforcement of the Illinois Underground Utilities Facilities Damage Prevent Act, referred to as the Illinois One-Call or JULIE law. In 2023, ICC Staff issued 127 warnings and 709 citations for safe digging violations, resulting in \$4,104,255 in penalties assessed.

For more information, visit the ICC’s website at IllinoisCommerceCommission.org, or JULIE’s website at JULIEBeforeYouDig.org.

## 5 simple spring safety tips for your home

(BPT) - Refreshing your home in the spring is about more than organizing closets and cleaning floors. As winter melts away and warmer weather returns, proactively checking your home’s systems will help keep it running efficiently while remaining a comfortable and safe space for you and your loved ones.

### Upgrade fire and CO safety solutions

While you’re ticking through your list of spring maintenance to-do’s, don’t forget about the smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Proper smoke and CO alarm placement, regular maintenance and alarm replacement are essential to keeping your family safe. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that alarms be installed on every level of the home, including the basement, as well as in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Alarms should be tested regularly, and if the device is battery-powered, batteries should be changed at least every six months.

To make maintaining your smoke and CO alarms easier, upgrade to a 2-in-1 smoke and carbon monoxide alarm. A 10-year sealed battery alarm eliminates battery replacement and late-night battery chirps for a decade. Easy to install, 10-year alarms come equipped with a mounting bracket and installation kit - making safety simple for you and your family.

### Check for winter wear and tear.

Winter’s extreme tem-



While you’re ticking through your list of spring maintenance to-do’s, don’t forget about the smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.

peratures can take a toll on the outside of your home and its appliances. Examine the outside of your house and roof to check for fallen branches or debris that could block gutters or downspouts and cause a drainage problem. Inspect the driveway and sidewalks for new potholes or cracks that may have developed in the cold, and ensure all exterior lights are working properly.

### Tune-up your cooling system

When the weather gets milder, schedule a professional maintenance service to ensure that your heating,

ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are operating optimally and won’t quit after the first heat wave. If you don’t already have one, upgrade to a smart thermostat, which allows you to adjust your temperature from anywhere and set different temperature schedules for various times of the day. ENERGY STAR certified thermostats can provide comfort when you’re home, and energy savings when away.

### Change your air filters

Over a long winter, your heating system’s air filters naturally accumulate dust and other airborne particles, which can clog your air filter, impact indoor air quality and affect system performance. Regularly replacing your air filters is a great way to help maintain indoor air quality and support a comfortable environment for your family. Clean air filters also allow for better air flow, reducing the stress on your home’s HVAC system and promoting energy efficiency.

### Secure windows and doors

Warmer weather often breeds more home break-ins as burglars like when windows are open at night or garage doors are open during yardwork. But you can help lower the threat by hardening the target. Walk around outside of your home to inspect doors and windows for working locks and be mindful not to leave valuables in sight. If you have cars parked in your driveway, keep them locked and garage door openers should be tucked away.

To help protect what matters most and learn more fire safety tips, visit FirstAlert.com. For assistance with HVAC or home security assessments, contact your local professional service.

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# HOME IMPROVEMENT



One of the more popular ways to turn a home into one's own personal retreat is to upgrade the bathroom. A renovated bathroom can completely transform how individuals feel about their homes.

## Features to consider for a relaxation-themed bathroom remodel

Homeowners want to view their homes as a respite from all that goes on outside their doors. Indeed, turning a home into a residents-only retreat can ensure everyone looks forward to walking through the front the door at the end of the day.

One of the more popular ways to turn a home into one's own personal retreat is to upgrade the bathroom. A renovated bathroom can completely transform how individuals feel about their homes. The following are some features to consider when remodeling a bathroom with relaxation in mind.

- **Open shower:** An open shower is a visually stunning addition to any bathroom. Such showers give a bathroom a more open look, thanks in part to the fact that these modern features do not feature a door or require the use of a shower curtain. The result is a clean look that many people associate with a luxury hotel. When speaking with a

contractor about an open shower install, homeowners can ask about a half-wall to safeguard against water splashing out of the shower. In addition, a heat lamp can help ensure residents stay warm until they're ready to leave the bathroom.

- **Heated features:** Additional features to keep everyone calm and warm can be considered when upgrading the bathroom. Radiant flooring can ensure everyone's toes remain toasty, and the installation of such a feature can eliminate the need for floor mats and bath mats that some homeowners may not like. Commit further to the heat theme with a heated towel rack, which is another feature associated with luxury hotels that can be just as enjoyable at home.

- **Soaking tub:** An open shower creates an instant feeling of luxury, but few things are more suggestive of relaxation than a soaking tub. A long day at school or the office or a day when winter winds are howling outside is made

much better with a good a soak. The National Kitchen & Bath Association notes that luxury bathrooms featuring soaking tubs are wildly popular, and that vaunted status is undoubtedly due to the relaxing benefits of a good soak.

- **Skylight:** Even if the goal of a luxury bathroom is to leave the outside world outside, allowing some natural light inside is a great way to add a little extra calm to the room. Floor-to-ceiling windows may seem appealing in brochures or advertisements, but such features do not create the sense of privacy many people prefer in their bathrooms. One or two skylights can create that sense of privacy and still allow for natural light to enter the room, making this an option that provides the best of both worlds.

These features and more can help homeowners transform their bathrooms into luxurious, relaxing respites from the outside world.

## How to recognize when it's time to replace your windows

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all while providing features the homeowner desires.

For those wondering when to replace windows, two of the premiere window manufacturers, offer these guidelines.

- **Difficulty opening and closing windows.** A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.

- **There's apparent window damage.** Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice has gone awry with an errant throw, windows may require replacement.

- **Drafts in the window are common.** If heating and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.

- **Dated windows are present in the home.** Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.

- **Outdoor noises are noticed quite readily.** Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.

- **Fading indoors is noted.** Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency.

Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage.



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**ATTENTION**

The following **City of Mendota Ordinances** may be helpful to citizens planning their home & yard improvements & maintenance this spring & summer:

**BUILDING PERMIT:** The Building and Zoning office is located in the City Clerk's Office. Building permits are required for all new buildings and when changing the footprint of a building. Permits are also required for fences, decks, roofs, pools, solar energy systems, as well as certain water, sewer, and electrical projects. Please check with the City Clerk's office (815-539-7459) for required permits before beginning construction. Required permits must be obtained, purchased, and displayed before any work can begin.

**BURNING:** Only small amounts of yard waste may be burned Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 10am-4pm. The Mendota Burn Pit is located at 1203 S. 7th Ave. The burn pit is available Monday 3pm-6pm, Tuesday 10am-1pm, closed on Wednesday, Thursday 10am-1pm, Friday 10am-1pm & Saturday 10am-1pm  
Closed on Sunday

**GRASS:** When mowing, it is illegal to throw grass clippings into the street. It is a potential storm sewer blockage problem. It is also a violation to have grass growing 6 inches or higher.

**ANIMALS:** Every owner of a dog or cat is required to pay a license fee of \$5.00 before May 31st. The license will be issued upon providing evidence that the animal is immunized against rabies. After May 31st, a \$10.00 late fee will be added to the license fee. Persons with new dogs or cats acquired during the fiscal year or those persons new to the community will be eligible for the \$5.00 basic fee.

**WATER BILLS:** Water Bills are mailed on the first day of each month, and are due on the 15th. Automatic debits can be arranged; call the City Clerk's office.

**PET WASTE:** All pet owners/keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person. Any owner/keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt while such animal is being used for that purpose. Any person(s) who is found to have violated the provisions of the ordinance shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and no more than \$75.

**GARAGE SALES:** Permits are not required at this time.

For more information on City Ordinances, please contact the Mendota City Clerk's Office at 800 Washington St., Mendota  
**815-539-7459**

**Dave Boelk, Mayor**  
800 Washington St.  
815-539-7459  
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# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## 7 reasons to upgrade to electric and induction cooking appliances

(StatePoint) Cooking with gas? Industry experts say there are many reasons to consider retiring your gas-powered appliances.

To help you understand what your kitchen may be missing, Melissa Haber, the vice president of EuroChef USA, offers seven reasons why your next home upgrade should include making the swap to electric or induction cooking.

1. You're health- and eco-conscious. Gas appliances at home are associated with an increased risk of asthma and other illnesses, particularly in children, as they emit harmful air pollutants like nitrogen dioxide and methane, even when they're not in use. The same pollutants are also harmful to the environment, contributing to air quality issues and climate change. In fact, national annual emissions from gas cooktops are equivalent to the emissions transmitted from half a million cars.

2. They're easy to maintain. Compared to the metal grates of a conventional gas stove, the flat surface of an electric or induction cooktop is nearly effortless to clean. A damp dish rag and soap works for most cleanup sessions. For more involved messes, a little vinegar goes a long way.

3. They offer safety benefits. With no open flame, electric appliances lower the risk of burns or fires, particularly those with safety features such as "power on" lights and residual heat warnings that inform users when the surface is still hot. Induction cooking also has safety benefits, since only the cooking vessel is directly heated and the surface of the cooktop itself does not retain or give off heat.

4. You value precision. Induction cooking is faster and more efficient than cooking with gas. High-end induction ranges combine elegant design with modern



Whether you want to prioritize your family's health and safety, or you simply want to embrace the convenience of modern cooking technology, electric and induction appliances can be a game changer in your kitchen.

cooking features, are a good example of how accurate temperature control allows you to prepare meals like a professional in the comfort of home.

5. Making changes can be feasible. Installing a gas hookup can be costly, time-consuming and involve inspections. The installation process for electric appliances on the other hand is easier

and less expensive. Not able to replace your gas appliances with electric? Investing in a range hood is a sensible solution that can cut your appliance's air pollution by about half.

6. You'll be ahead of the curve. A growing number of cities and municipalities are banning new gas hookups for appliances to reduce air pollution and help fight

climate change. Making the switch to electric or induction can help you get ahead of the regulatory curve.

7. New options are being introduced. With sales of electric appliances on the rise, a few select manufacturers have taken note, and to meet customer demand, have recently introduced additional options offering style and sought-after features.

"As more consumers have come to realize the value and advantages of

electric and induction cooking, it became important to us to offer them the same versatility and style they might expect with traditional gas-powered cooking appliances," says Haber.

Whether you want to prioritize your family's health and safety, or you simply want to embrace the convenience of modern cooking technology, electric and induction appliances can be a game changer in your kitchen.

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### 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

The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

### GARAGE SALE DEADLINES\*

**THURSDAY, 3 PM -**

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**MONDAY, 10 AM -**

**To appear in Wednesday's Reporter**

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



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# SPORTS



Mendota's Aby Buettner clears a hurdle during the 100-meter hurdles event in the Don Gooden Invitational on April 6 at the MHS stadium. Teammate Eden Pecher, right, also competed in the event. (Reporter photos)

## El Paso-Gridley claims Gooden Invite titles

MENDOTA – El Paso-Gridley came away with team titles for the boys and the girls in the Mendota Don Gooden Invitational track meet on April 6 at the MHS athletic stadium. Only track events were held due to wet conditions in the field event areas.

In the boys' meet, El Paso-Gridley accumulated 109 points to easily outdistance second-place Sandwich, which scored 83 points. Mendota finished tied for 12th place with 11 points.

The Trojans' best finish on the day was turned in by Sebastian Carlos, who took third place in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.73.

In the girls' meet, El Paso-Gridley piled up 89 points to top the field, while Kewanee Wethersfield was second with 72 points. Mendota took 10th place with eight points.

Hannah Kunz had the

highest finish for the Lady Trojans with a sixth-place showing in the 800-meter run in a time of 2:54.07.

**Gooden Invite – April 6 (boys)**

**El Paso-Gridley 109, Sandwich 83, Harvard 41.5, Amboy 34, Kewanee Wethersfield 33, Bureau Valley 30.5, Hall 30, Princeton 27, Somonauk 27, Newark 20, Fieldcrest 15, Mendota 11, Hinckley-Big Rock 11**

**Mendota 3rd place:** Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 52.73

**Mendota 6th place:** 4x400m relay (Mason Koch, Aaden Castle, Anthony Kelson, Carlos), 3:51.38

**Mendota 8th place:** Kelson, 1600m run, 5:12.74; 4x800m relay (Hector Gonzalez, Berat Imeri, Spencer Kain, Carlos Toribio), 10:34.31

**(girls)**

**El Paso-Gridley 89, Ke-**



Mendota's Brandon Leadley, left, takes the handoff of the baton from Sebastian Carlos during the 4x100-meter relay in the Don Gooden Invitational on April 6 at the MHS stadium.

**wanee Wethersfield 72, Bureau Valley 69, Newark 69, Sandwich 67, Amboy 32, Princeton 22, Fieldcrest 19, Harvard 15, Mendota 8, Somonauk 4, Ashton-Franklin Center 2**

**Mendota 6th place:** Hannah Kunz, 800m run, 2:54.07

**Mendota 8th place:** Aby

Buettner, 100m hurdles, 20.08; Laylie Denault, 300m hurdles, 57.63; 4x100m relay (Ella Martin, Kennedy Knaff, Buettner, Denault), 56.81; 4x400m relay (Knaff, Martin, Kunz, Denault), 4:54.18; 4x800m relay (Briza Cervantes, Emily Banks, Eden Pecher, Kara Miars), 14:06.18

## F-S track teams perform well in IVC Invitational

CHILLICOTHE – The Mendota boys' and girls' track teams competed against five other schools in the Chillicothe IVC Co-ed Invitational on April 8.

The Lady Trojans finished third in the team standings with 99 points, behind Metamora (155) and Dunlap (125).

Mendota had five first-place finishes. Mariyah Elam took the top spot in three events – the 200-meter dash (27.85), the 100-meter hurdles (16.79) and the high jump (5-1.75). Emily Sondgeroth swept the weight events, claiming first in the shot put (25-3.25) and discus (63-4.75).

In the boys' competition, Mendota was fifth overall with 52.5 points. Metamora grabbed top honors with 185.5 points.

The Trojans' best finish was fourth place in five events. Individual fourths went to Jayden Lesley in the 100-meter dash (12.37), Sebastian Carlos in the 200-meter dash (24.05), Spencer Kain in the 3200-meter run (12:11.36) and Gael Garcia in the long jump (17-1.5). The 4x200 relay team also placed fourth in a time of 1:45.73. Runners were Robert Botello, Jayden Lesley, Bailey Ryan and Jamal Lesley.

**IVC Invite - April 8 (girls)**

**Metamora 155, Dunlap 125, Mendota 99, Peoria Richwoods 80, Princeton 76, IVC 38**

**Mendota 1st place:** Mari-

yah Elam, 200m dash, 27.85; Elam, 100m hurdles, 16.79; Elam, high jump, 5-1.75; Emily Sondgeroth, shot put, 25-3.25; Sondgeroth, discus, 63-4.75

**Mendota 2nd place:** Elam, triple jump, 32-7

**Mendota 3rd place:** Briza Cervantes, 1600m run, 6:28.54

**Mendota 4th place:** 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Reushawna Durr, Alexa Carlos, Aby Buettner), 59.22; 4x200m relay (Foltyniewicz, Carlos, Eden Pecher, Buettner), 2:06.69; 4x400m relay (Pecher, Kara Miars, Lexi Cocanour, Carlos), 5:37; Elaina Koch, discus, 52-2

**Mendota 5th place:** Buettner, 100m hurdles, 19.77

**Mendota 6th place:** Buettner, long jump, 13-1

**(boys)**

**Metamora 185.5, Peoria Richwoods 139, Dunlap 95, IVC 68, Mendota 52.5, Princeton 51**

**Mendota 4th place:** Jayden Lesley, 100m dash, 12.37; Sebastian Carlos, 200m dash, 24.05; Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 12:11.36; Gael Garcia, long jump, 17-1.5; 4x200m relay (Robert Botello, Jayden Lesley, Bailey Ryan, Jamal Lesley), 1:45.73

**Mendota 5th place:** 4x100m relay (Jayden Lesley, Aaden Castle, Javi Hernandez, Jamal Lesley), 50.46; 4x400m relay (Garcia, Hector Gonzalez, Castle, Ryan), 4:17.49; Botello, triple jump, 34-6.25

## Girls blank Monmouth-R.

MONMOUTH – The Mendota varsity girls' soccer team shut down Monmouth-Roseville, 3-0, on April 8 at Monmouth.

The Lady Trojans improved their record to 5-4. Crystal Garcia led the attack with two goals, while Sienna Gonzalez booted home the other goal. Kim Cedillo and Sophia Orozco picked up assists.

Ariana Sanchez was in goal and posted the shutout for Mendota, stopping six shots on goal and a penalty kick save toward the end of the game.

## BOWLING

### Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of March 27 – 1. O'Donnell Excavating 68-40; 2. Mendota Monument 57-51; 3. Novak Farms 54-53; 4. JJ&L Carpentry 52-52; 5. First State Bank 52-56; 6. Black Bros. 40-68

High team game (scratch) – First State Bank 1033, O'Donnell Excavating 1027, Mendota Monument 1015

High team game (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 1218, First State Bank 1156, Mendota Monument 1086

High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 2958, First State Bank 2873, JJ&L Carpentry 2856

High team series (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 3326, First State Bank 3242, Mendota Monument 3171

High individual game (scratch) – Joe Dimmig 289, Nate Bradford 265, Barry Sutton 255

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 758, Joe Dimmig 703, Drake O'Donnell 690

### Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of April 1 – 1. Split Happens 38-22; 2. Ramer Inc. 33-27; 3. Leagal Beagles 33-27; 4. CM Farm 30-30; 5. Bad Kats 28-32; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 18-42

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 823, Leagal Beagles 787, CM Farm 743

High team game (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 1066, Split Happens 1040, CM Farm 1029

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2400, CM Farm 1997, Ramer Inc. 1967

High team series (hdcp) – Split Happens 3051, CM Farm 2855, Ramer Inc. 2825

Men's high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 279, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 267, Raul Diaz Jr. 256

Men's high game (hdcp) – Raul Diaz Jr. 316, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 305, Matt Ramer 304

Men's high series (scratch) – Raul Diaz Jr. 689, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 681, Matt Ramer 662

Men's high series (hdcp) – Raul Diaz Jr. 869, Sonny Sterchi Jr. 795, Ed Roulston 752

Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 213, Kim Smith 209, Emily Thomas 204

Women's high game (hdcp) – Kim Smith 296, Audrey Holocker 269, Dria Kuntz & Jessica Robinson 263

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 561, Emily Thomas 553, Gail Sessler 547

Women's high series (hdcp) – Kim Smith 763, Dria Kuntz 729, Emily Thomas 727

## Mendota netters fall in two opening meets

The Mendota boys' tennis team opened the new season with a 3-2 setback to Dixon on March 28 at the MHS courts.

Mendota's wins came in both singles matches with Cameron Escatel and Dagen Setchell defeating their Dixon opponents.

**March 28**

**Dixon 3, Mendota 2**

**Singles:** No. 1 - Cameron Escatel (M) def. Lindenmeyer (D), 6-3, 6-1; No. 2 - Dagen Setchell (M) def. Farster (D), 6-0, 6-1

**Doubles:** No. 1 – Elbzour-Miller (D) def. Ben Bresley-Wyatt Sondgeroth (M), 6-2, 6-2; No. 2 - Winters-Herwig (D) def. Trekker

Klema-Harlan Gallagher (M), 6-0, 6-2; No. 3 - Gigras-McGrail (D) def. Landon Lee-Trey Lee (M), 6-1, 6-3

\*\*\*

The Trojans were blanked by Sterling, 5-0, on April 8 at Sterling.

**April 8 Sterling 5, Mendota 0**

**Singles:** No. 1 - Peterson

(S) def. Escatel (M), 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 – Diaz (S) def. Setchell (M), 4-6, 6-4, 1-0 (12)

**Doubles:** No. 1 - Zaragoza-Boyle (S) def. Bresley-Klema (M), 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 – (Y) Alkhalaf-J. Alkhalaf (S) def. Sondgeroth-Gallagher (M), 6-2, 6-0; No. 3 - Staats-Guererro (S) def. L. Lee-T. Lee (M), 6-3, 6-3

## Mendota's M. Kaleel sinks ninth career hole-in-one on March 26th in Florida

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. – Mendota native Mitch Kaleel, 94, sank his ninth career hole-in-one Tuesday, March 26, in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Kaleel, who lives in St. Lucie during the winter, began golfing 70 years ago and accomplished the feat

of hitting a hole-in-one for the first time when he was 24. Last golf season, he hit his eighth hole-in-one. "I love the game," Kaleel said in an interview with a Florida TV station, Channel 5 WPTV. "We're outside and it's just fun."



## IDPH issues updated sport fish consumption advisories

❑ "Do Not Eat" advisory issued for Franklin Creek State Natural Area in Lee County

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has issued its updated consumption advisories for sport fish caught in Illinois waters. The advisories are based on routine testing conducted by the Illinois Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program, which was updated last fall to include testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), sometimes referred to as "forever chemicals."

The expanded testing has this year resulted in advisories for nine bodies of water this year. A Do Not Eat advisory has been issued for all fish in Franklin Creek in Lee County, and associated ponds in the Franklin Creek State Natural Area, due to high levels of PFAS.

The updated advisories also recommend limited consumption of certain fish from several other Illinois waterways because of PFAS levels. Certain fish taken from Lake Zurich, Crab Orchard Lake, and Wolf Lake should only be consumed once per month. One meal per week advisories

were issued for certain species in Lake Michigan, Waukegan North Harbor, Sycamore Lake, Midlothian Reservoir, and Chicago River. More information about PFAS can be found in the Illinois PFAS Advisories Fact Sheet.

"Fishing in Illinois waters is a great recreational activity that often leads to delicious meals," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "To make sure each of those catches are safe and healthy, please visit our Fish Advisory Map to get the most up to date information on Illinois's consumption advisories."

In addition to PFAS, the fish consumption advisories also address the presence of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and methylmercury. As part of a continuing trend of declining PCB levels around the state, PCB advisories were relaxed for certain species in Lake Michigan and Midlothian Reservoir, and removed for certain species in Lake Michigan, Crab Orchard Lake, Midlothian Reservoir, Sangamon River, and Illinois River.

IDPH issued more restrictive meth-

ylmercury advisories for certain species in the Ohio River and the Little Wabash River watershed. Site-specific advisories were removed from Midlothian Reservoir and Lake Zurich.

In addition to this year's site-specific updates, a statewide methylmercury advisory remains in place for all Illinois waters. The advisory cautions those who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant, and children less than 15 years of age to eat no more than one meal per week of predatory fish (e.g., bass, walleye, salmon).




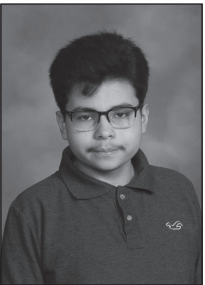






















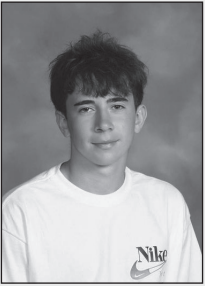







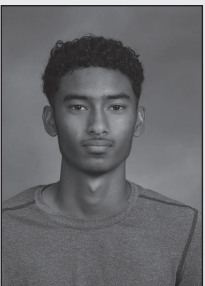






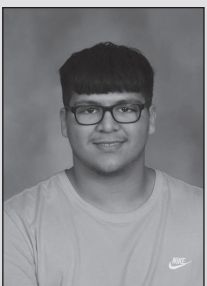









IDPH maintains an interactive Fish Advisory Map that includes consumption advisories for more than 100 publicly accessible bodies of water across the state. While there is no known immediate health hazard from eating contaminated fish from any Illinois water body, there are concerns about effects of long-term exposure to PCBs, PFAS, and methylmercury in fish. More information can be found at Fish Advisories (illinois.gov).



# HONOR ROLL

## Best Of MHS

9 Week  
Progress Report  
Junior Class

 Fernando Arteaga	 Noemi Arteaga	 Samantha Ascensio	 Marco Balcazar	 Makenzie Bean	 Ava Beetz	 Shelby Bentley	 Lily Bokus
 Kirby Bond	 Ryn Booth	 Ashley Caracheo	 Katelyn Cook	 Jaxon Cooper	 Ella Coss	 Ava Eddy	 Gavin Elston
 Alessandra Enriquez	 Cameron Escatel	 Braiden Freeman	 Crystal Garcia	 Natalie Hanaman	 Claire Hanson	 Lidia Hernandez	 Lauren Holland
 Quin Holland	 Andrianna Karahalios	 Cameron Kelly	 Anthony Kelson	 Kennedy Knaff	 Dessa Komitas	 Cameron Kordick	 Brandon Leadley
 Lupita Maldonado	 Ella Martin	 Samuel Matura	 Korinne Miars	 Travis Mumm	 Sophia Pappas	 Isabela Rosales	 Lissette Sandoval Rios
 Maybrianna Schultz	 Angilberto Serrano	 Kaley Siemer	 Wyatt Sondgeroth	 Madison Sproston	 Mike Thornhill Jr.	 Lea Turner	 Erick Vasquez
 Faith Villegas	 Jillian Younger						

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# HONOR ROLL

**Seniors:** Jace Baird, Landon Bauer, Madelyn Becker, Samuel Christmann, Emerson Clark, Kyan Cooper, Logan Dewey, Araceli Diaz, Kylie Donovan, Alexa Escatel, Bria Frey, Jasmyn Garcia, Bryan Herrera, Aubree Jones, Ava Jones, Nellie Kerchner, Trekker Klema, Mason Koch, Landon Lee, Lilly Leifheit, Zach Mullins, Izaiah Nanez, Brian Perez, Emma Pierce, Ana Ramirez, Roxana Ramirez, Hannah Rich, Dimitri Rodriguez, Natalia Salinas, Diego Sandoval, Dagen Setchell, Haden Shakespeare, Savanna Shamblin, Jay Sims, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Peter Stavropoulos, Ryan Stevenson, Cale Strouss, Bianka Valdez, Naoemi Valencia-Reyes, Elsie Verkaeren, Grace Wasmer

**Sophomores:** Addy Allensworth, Maren Atherton, Alex Beetz, Keegan Beetz, Ruby Bielema, Kate Biers, John Biggs, Gracie Botts, Lucie Brandner, Christionah Brown, Sebastian Carlos, Janae Carr, Stephanie Casas, Geovana Castaneda, Milianna Castaneda, Aaden Castle, Litzy Celis, Johan Cortez, Airam Cuevas, Aimee Dejonghe, Laylie Denault, Sara Diaz, Dane Doyle, Caeleb Ensor, Gavin Evans, Corbin Furar, Marcella Futrell, Harlan Gallagher, Vivian George, Sofia Gomez, Hector Gonzalez, Sienna Gonzalez, Anthony Guerrero, Samara Hernandez, Alexander Holland, Chase Johnson, Addi Jones, Grady Jones, Brody Kaecker, Spencer Kain, Hannah Kunz, Aubrey Land, Reese Lane, Trey Lee, Jahaira Leiva, Santiago Lemos, Ella Lewis, Hannah Mann, Peri Manning, Amaya Morales, Kooper Novak, Luis Nunez, Ramiro Palacios, Zoey Polk, Lily Prentiss, Luis Ramirez, Elaina Reddin, Jessica Reel, Mauricio Salinas, Ariana Sanchez, Kristol Sandoval Rios, Nick Sheridan, Leah Stamberger, Aidyn Stevens, Cara Stewart, Joseph Stewart, Aden Tillman, Sydney Tolley, Carlos Toribio, Anna Valdes, Yuliana Valdes, Giselle Vallejo, Chloe Walzer, Talia White, Madison Work McLain

**Freshmen:** Karla Ascensio, Brooklyn Baxa, Drew Becker, Ivan Botello, Aby Buettner, Alexa Carlos, Melanie Carlos, Cesar Casas, Briza Cervantes, Evelyn Cervantes, Miley Chavez, Monse Chavez, Ava Christmann, Lexi Cocanour, Jayden Coffey, Jenna Coffey, Julisa Coronel, Emma Corrigan, Michelle Cuevas, Emily Diaz, Reushawna Durr, Arihanna Figueroa, Gianni Figueroa, Karen Flores, Harlow Foltyniewicz, Carrie Ford, Karissa Freeman, Caleb Ganther, Alyna Guerra, Benoni Hernandez, Berat Imeri, Celah Jackson, Phoenix Johnson, Jayleen Jordan, Layla Karahalios, Delila Kent, Cole Kleckner, Elaina Koch, Abbie Kreiser, Ada Krull, Dawson McPheeters, Alexys Melendez, Kara Miars, Madilyn Muller, Makenzie Mumm, Sophia Orozco, Eden Pecher, Addison Perryman, Daniel Pierce, Ale Roman, Favian Romero, Brianna Russell, Bailey Ryan, Owen Schroeder, Faith Solis, Emily Sondgeroth, Parker Stavropoulos, Gavin Stevenson, Kathryn Strouss, Karson Sundberg, Cayden Taliani, Aaron Venegas, Cam Wasmer, Miranda Wheeler, Stormie Whildin, James Whitmore, Ryder Woods

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# RELIGION

## The #1 key to having peace

Peace is an amazing gift God offers us. I know what it's like to live without peace—upset most of the time, anxious, fearful, and worried. It's miserable! Since I've discovered how to live with God's peace, I will do anything I need to do to have it.

We have to understand the value of peace if we're going to have it. Because if you think it's really no big deal to lose your temper, worry, be stressed-out or upset all the time, you won't do what you need to do to live with peace.

I think it's interesting that one of the last things Jesus told His disciples before His crucifixion was about peace. John 14:27 (AMP) says,

"Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. [Let My perfect peace calm you in every circumstance and give you courage and strength for every challenge.]"

In John 20:19, "Peace to you!" is the first thing Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection. Verse 21 says, "Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you....'" Notice the word "again." He must have wanted them to realize how important it was to maintain their peace.

Take a moment to think about how much peace you have. Do you worry, get upset or feel

stressed-out often? Many people do...but that's not the way God wants us to live. A lot of Christians pray for God to give them peace, but they need to realize that as believers in Christ, they already have His peace. We need to pray for God to help us learn how to walk in peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 (AMP) says: "Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]."

We can learn a lot about how to pray powerful, effective prayers by studying Scripture. Instead of praying for peace, notice that in Philippians the apostle Paul is encouraging believers to trust God in every circumstance so they can have His peace as they go through challenges.

If we don't have peace and we want it, we have to be ready to make some changes. The world around us probably isn't going to change, so we need to change our approach to life. We need



to make a conscious decision to trust God in every area of our lives, every day. We're called believers, and that's what we're supposed to do: Believe God! When we trust Him, we enter His rest and can enjoy our lives.

Years ago, I remember when God helped me to learn this lesson as I studied James 4. In verses 1-4, we see what causes quarrels, strife and discontentment. Verse 2 (NLT) says, "You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it."

Wow! This is basically saying, "You want something, so you strive to get it your way or make it happen on your own, but it doesn't work. If you would just ask Me, I would help you." It's important to point out here that God won't just

give us anything we ask for. He loves us and wants what's best for us, and when we ask for things that are in His plan and purpose for us, He will give them to us.

I used to think I wanted a lot of things that ended up making me miserable after I managed to get them. But once I started giving up my will and asking God to do what He wants to do in my life, I experienced peace and contentment that I'd never known before.

It was so freeing for me to give up trying to run my own life and instead focus on seeking God and trusting Him to give me what He wants me to have. Psalm 37:4 (AMP) says, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart."

I want to strongly encourage you today to purposely choose to seek God and delight yourself in Him before anyone or anything else in your life. He is the Source of love, joy and peace. And you'll

live in peace as you live 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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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

**Where are the AUCTIONS?**

**See Page A5!**

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Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,  
and Hector Diaz, Deacons

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

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Weekend Mass  
Confession

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PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass  
Confession

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

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

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

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

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

April 14 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

ZION UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace  
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United  
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

UNITED PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH

4401 State Route 251  
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

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Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY  
Sunday school  
Worship

WEDNESDAY  
Prayer Service

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org  
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Sunday School  
Worship

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CHURCH

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

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
Sunday School  
Worship  
Evening Service

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.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

So why do you worry about clothing?  
Consider the lilies of the field,  
how they grow: they neither toil  
nor spin; and yet I say to you  
that even Solomon in all his glory  
was not arrayed like one of these.

MATTHEW 6:28,29

Detail of "Yuri (yama yuri)"  
by Shodo Kanawazaki (1853)

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1003 5th St.  
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Website: fpcmendota.com  
Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following  
children's message

Fellowship 11 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live  
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www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

April 14 - 9 a.m. Second Sunday breakfast



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Church . . . That in everything He  
might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell  
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

April 17 - 6:30 p.m. Creation Care Corp  
at Immanuel

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



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ZION EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion)

4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

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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: fbfcchurch20817@gmail.com

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our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 3 Corinthians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Who was praised for his beauty "from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head"? Absalom, Elisha, Pekah, Tola

3. What camp saw 185,000 of its soldiers slaughtered by an angel of the Lord? Assyrian, Midianite, Philistine, Persian

4. From Genesis 1:30, what is the first color mentioned in the Bible? Purple, Red, Green, Yellow

5. Which city's wall fell down flat at the shout of Joshua's army? Tarsus, Jericho, Corinth, Sardis

6. From 2 Kings, who became king of Judah at age 8? Abijam, Rehoboam, Marcus, Josiah

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Absalom, 3) Assyrian, 4) Green, 5) Jericho, 6) Josiah

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

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Faith graphic with a cross and the word 'Faith' in a script font.



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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 Bos-  
ton/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,  
IL 61350, in Courtroom  
#300.  
No. 0313  
(March 27, April 3 and  
10, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE  
THIRTEENTH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
LASALLE COUNTY,  
OTTAWA, IL  
PROBATE DIVISION  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
PEARL L. DONNELLY,  
DECEASED.  
NO. 2024-PR-56

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to cred-  
itors of the death of  
Pearl L. Donnelly, of  
Peru, Illinois. Letters  
of Office were issued  
on March 22, 2024, to  
Cathy Galetti of Phoe-  
nix, Arizona, as INDE-  
PENDENT EXECU-  
TOR, whose Attorneys  
of record are SCHWE-  
ICKERT GANASSIN  
KRZAK RUNDIO, LLP,  
2101 MARQUETTE  
ROAD, PERU, IL  
61354.  
Claims against the es-  
tate may be e-filed in  
the Office of the Circuit  
Clerk, Probate Division,  
LaSalle County Court-  
house, 119 W. Madison  
St., Ottawa, IL 61350,  
or with the Representa-  
tive, or both, within 6  
months from the date of  
the first publication of  
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notice is personally  
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a creditor of the above  
estate, the claim must  
be filed in the above  
entitled cause within 3  
months from the date  
of mailing or delivery,  
whichever is later. Any  
claims not filed within  
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Copies of a claim filed  
with the Clerk must be  
mailed or delivered to  
the Representative and  
to the Attorney within 10  
days after it has been  
filed.

The estate will be ad-  
ministered without court  
supervision, unless  
under Section 5/28-4  
of the Probate Act (Ill.  
Compiled Stat. 1992,  
Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4)  
any interested person  
terminates indepen-  
dent administration at  
any time by mailing or  
delivering a petition to  
terminate to the Circuit  
Clerk.

Claims against the es-  
tate may be filed with  
the Office of the Circuit  
Clerk, Probate Division,  
LaSalle County Court-  
house, 119 W. Madison  
St., Ottawa, IL 61350 or  
with the representative,  
or both, or, if mailing  
or delivery of a notice  
from the representative  
is required by Section  
5/18-3 of the Probate  
Act, the date stated in  
that notice. Any claims  
not filed on or before 6  
months from the first

publication of this no-  
tice are barred.  
Dated: March 26, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro  
LaSalle County Circuit  
Clerk  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
No. 0401  
(April 3, 10 and 17,  
2024)

## NOTICE FOR PUBLI- CATION

No: 2020-JA-50  
TO: Kjersten Minkler,  
and other interest-  
ed parties, and to All  
Whom It May Concern:  
Take notice that on the  
20th 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 Thor Cam-  
eron, a minor', and that  
in the Criminal Justice  
Center Courtroom 210  
at Ottawa on the 1st  
day of May, 2024, at the  
hour of 1:30 p.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 au-  
thority in this proceed-  
ing to take from you the  
custody and guard-  
ianship of the minor, to  
terminate your parental  
rights and to appoint a  
guardian with power to  
consent to adoption.  
You may lose all paren-  
tal rights to your child.  
If the petition requests  
the termination of your  
parental rights and the  
appointment of a guard-  
ian with power to con-  
sent 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 un-  
able 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 peti-  
tion, the allegations of  
the petition may stand  
admitted as against you  
and an order or judge-  
ment entered.  
Dated March 27, 2024  
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk  
No. 0404  
(April 3, 10 and 17,  
2024)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
LASALLE COUNTY  
Request of DENISE  
MARIE SMARIO, an  
Adult  
Case Number 24MR30  
There will be a court  
date on my Request to  
change my name from  
Denise Marie Smario to  
the new name of Hope  
Paulee Mario  
The court date will be  
held on May 20, 2024  
at 9:30 a.m. at 119 W.  
Madison, Ottawa, IL, in  
Courtroom #204.  
No. 0405  
(April 3, 10 and 17,  
2024)

## 301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY:  
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Signs, Milk Bottles &  
Local Advertising, Oak  
Icebox, Iron Door Stop  
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Call Dick Harms at  
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dickharms@hotmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
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LASALLE COUNTY  
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Courtroom #204.  
No. 0405  
(April 3, 10 and 17,  
2024)

## 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  
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and the Federal Trade  
Commission.

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services for which it is  
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issued a permit. Your  
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parent or guardian to  
verify the validity of the  
license of any facility  
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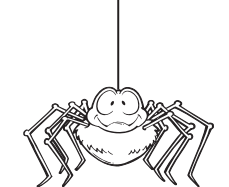
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## 203 HELP WANTED

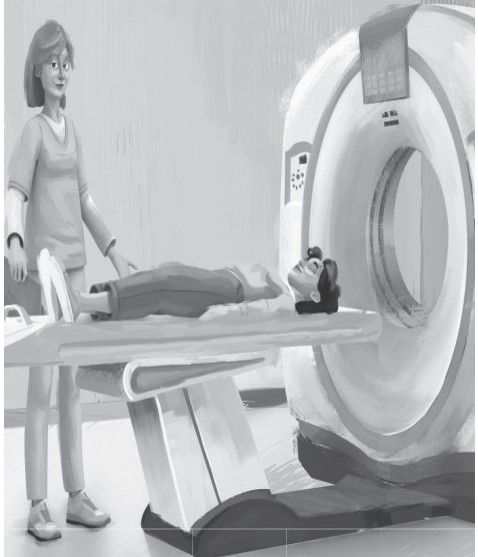
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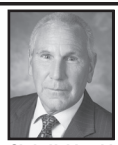

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# SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS & TORNADOS

**The Season  
is Here.  
Be Prepared.**



## BEFORE A TORNADO

- Make sure all family members know the tornado safe location in your home
- Store an emergency kit in your safe location
- Identify where to go if you are at work or school
- Make a family communications plan

## IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUTSIDE IN A STORM...

There is **NO** safe place outside during a thunderstorm but these actions may slightly reduce your risk of being struck by lightning.

- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top
  - Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects
  - Stay away from water, wet items, and metal objects
- Note: A tent or open air building like a picnic shelter will **NOT** protect you from lightning.



## Before a Flood

- Learn whether your home, school or place of work is at risk of flooding
- Find alternate routes to important locations
  - Make a family communications plan
- If evacuation orders are issued in advance, follow them

**The sponsors on this page  
urge you to prepare for the  
upcoming storm season.**

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