



Members of the Class of 2024 fling their caps into the air after officially becoming graduates of Mendota High School at commencement on May 11 in the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

MHS grants diplomas to Class of 2024

MENDOTA—Mendota High School granted diplomas to 98 graduates of the Class of 2024 at commencement ceremonies on May 11 in the MHS gymnasium.

Students entered the gym to the playing of the processional by the MHS Band, followed by the welcome address by Principal Joe Masini.

“At the opening assembly of this school year, I challenged our students to Take Care of Business or TCB for short,” said Masini. “I cannot thank these seniors enough for their leadership in making my first year as principal so rewarding.

“But enough about me, this is about them. Sitting amongst us this afternoon are Illinois State Scholars, all-conference athletes, academic all-conference award winners, state qualifying athletes, and an Olympic Trials qualifier. The class of 2024 contains all-state musicians, State Seal of Bilingual achievers

and Area Career Center Students of the Year, just to touch on a few of their achievements.

“This dynamic group is going to go on to college, serve our country in the armed forces and go out into the workforce. In short, these students were indeed Taking Care of Business each and every day in every way. This is just the tip of the iceberg for this talented bunch of graduates.”

Next, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, student council president, spoke to her classmates, after which scholarships and awards were presented to members of the Class of 2024. Recipients were:

James Dankenbring Scholarship – Zach Mullins; First State Bank Scholarship – Bria Frey and Ava Jones; Rodolfo Escatel Castaneda Memorial Hispanic Scholarship – Roxana Ramirez; American Legion Award – Madelyn Becker and Grace Wasmer; Aaron Olsen Memorial Scholarship – Jace Baird and

Josh Figueroa;

Clara Cypreansen & Alfredo O. Jacob Scholarship – Valerie Valdes; Jason Kent Johnson Memorial Scholarship – Madelyn Becker; Morris Morgan Scholarship – Lilly Leifheit and Haden Shakespeare; OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Staff Scholarship – Ava Jones; Scott Rider Scholarship – Landon Lee; Area Career Center Students of the Year – Ryan Stevenson and Zach Mullins;

State Seal/Commendation of Bilingual – Madelyn Becker, Isaac Belmonte, Alex Contreras, Logan Dewey, Araceli Diaz, Olivia Eddy, Bria Frey, Janet Guzman, Ashley Hermosillo, Ava Jones, Lilly Leifheit, Fredy Mandujano, Brian Perez, Ana Ramirez, Natalia Salinas, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Valerie Valdes, Bianka Valdez, Grace Wasmer;

See MHS, Page A5

“Wild Bill!”

❑ Actor Willey to portray Hickok during performances in Mendota May 25 & 26

MENDOTA – Wild Bill! An afternoon with James Butler Hickok, will take place Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hume-Carnegie Museum, 901 Washington St., Mendota, in conjunction with the area’s “Wild Bill Hickok Day” celebration of this legend’s birthday.

Wild Bill! An afternoon with James Butler Hickok is actor/writer Walt Willey’s tribute to Wild West icon James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok. Willey will be performing the “Special Edition” of his one-person show – emphasizing Hickok’s time in Illinois in the Mendota, Troy Grove and Utica areas – at noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Willey, a LaSalle County native born in Ottawa who played Jackson Montgomery on the long-running daytime drama All My Children for almost 25 years, had been looking for a one-man show to take on tour.

“And here was this legend, right in my own backyard. I began to research this man’s life and I was fascinated. Even with the myth and fable surrounding him stripped away, his life is as exciting as any of the fiction written about him. And he was six-foot two, blonde and blue, so it wasn’t much of a stretch”, Willey quipped.

“This is a man who was, in his lifetime, a farmer, a teamster, a trapper, a scout, a spy, a marshal, a sheriff, a gunfighter, an actor and a gambler—and a legend in his own time. And he died at 39. In western movies, when we



see gunfighters step into the street for a showdown, it’s because Wild Bill did!”

Willey is clearly enthusiastic about his new role. Does he see some of “Wild Bill” in him?

“I guess so. There’s the obvious: LaSalle County boys who end up in the spotlight. But there’s a war inside Hickok – between the reputation and the truth, the legend and the human being, the role and the one playing it—and that last is something with which I certainly can empathize.”

Wild Bill! An afternoon with James Butler Hickok SPECIAL EDITION, “My Time in Illinois,” stars Willey as Hickok. “It’s Hickok’s life story from his own mouth. The sources I’ve used are the ones that lean on provable truth,” said Willey. “Now whether Hickok could separate his truth from legend...well, that’s part of the journey.”

The first-person narration follows Hickok’s life from his birth in 1837 and adventures in Illinois as a youth to his return to the area in 1869.

Mendota to honor fallen veterans on May 27th

MENDOTA – The Mendota Memorial Day program will be held Monday, May 27, at 10:30 a.m. at Restland Memorial Gardens, Mendota. The Veterans’ Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary and American Legion Post 540 will be participating.

These organizations welcome everyone to this service for the purpose of honoring and remembering all veterans resting on domestic or foreign soil, for their commitment and unselfish contribution to our present way of life with liberty and freedom for all.

The program schedule is as follows:

• Opening address by master of ceremonies Bill Hunt, U.S. Navy Veteran

• Presentation of Colors/ Raising of the Flag by Veterans’ Memorial Council

• National Anthem by Mendota Alumni Band

• Invocation by Jay Miller, U.S. Navy Veteran

• Guest speaker, Eva Beetz, 2023 Patriot Pen essay winner

• Theme, “How I was Inspired by America”

• Musical selection by Mendota Alumni Band

• Roll call of deceased Veterans since last Memorial Day by Harold Olsen

• Laying of the wreaths by VFW Post 4079 Auxiliary

• Firing of the volley by Veterans’ Memorial Council

• Taps by Veterans’ Memorial Council

• Benediction by Miller



Northern sky puts on a show

Bryon Walters of Mendota captured stunning images of the Aurora Borealis Northern lights on May 11 southeast of the ADM flour mill on U.S. 34 in Mendota. After patiently waiting, Walters said at 11:35 p.m., a white saucer appeared on the northern horizon. It quickly changed to a deep emerald green and then the colors and rays just exploded. “It was an incredible sight,” he said. “It only lasted 10 minutes and then it dissipated.” (Photo courtesy of Bryon Walters)

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LOCAL AND AREA

Welcome to the Chamber



Mendota Little League

The Mendota Little League is officially a member of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce. Little League Board Members present for acknowledgment of the venture are, left to right Dan Beck, Clay Coss, future MLL member Creed Cross, Chad Hochstatter, Christin Atherton, and Linda Erlenborn. (Photo contributed)



Lunch in the Park is underway

The first of many Lunch in the Park Fridays took place May 10 with the Mendota Hume-Carnegie & Historical Society hosting the initial event for 2024. The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting May 17. Most events include brats, burgers, pork chops, chips, and drinks. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



MASS' Mother's Day Tea

One of Mendota Area Senior Services most attended events didn't fall short of expectations on Friday, May 10. Many grandmothers joined the festivities and social hour with plenty to talk about. Each of the women can bring their own hats or MASS Director Rayanne Sester provides festive headwear. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

LaSalle County Genealogy Guild welcomes Jim Ridings to discuss his book on the Ottawa Tent Colony

OTTAWA – Jim Ridings will be the guest speaker at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 18 during the LaSalle County Genealogy Guild meeting at 115 W. Glover St., Ottawa.

Ridings has authored many books and will be discussing his book, "The Illustrated History of the Ottawa Tent Colony". At the turn

of the century, it was believed that fresh air, rest and a nutritional diet was the best way to treat tuberculosis patients. Since antibiotics had not been developed at that time, TB patients were kept in canvas tents, in freezing winters and blazing hot summers to combat the disease.

Ridings tells an amazing story.

Jim was born in Joliet in 1950. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with a minor in history from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He was a reporter at The Daily Times in Ottawa, The Beacon-News in Aurora and several weekly newspapers. He won more than a dozen awards for

investigative reporting at both daily newspapers from the Associated Press, United Press International, Copley Press, Illinois Press Association, Northern Illinois Newspaper Association, Illinois Department of Mental Health, Aurora Lions Club, and the SDX Society of Professional Journalists.

Ridings, who lives in Herscher with his wife Janet, has authored 32 books of Illinois history, including books about the Cherry Mine Disaster of 1909 and the Ottawa Radium Dial Girls.

The LaSalle County Genealogy Guild hours are Monday and Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

It was Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week May 6-10. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful staff to work with at Blackstone. They were recognized throughout the week in a variety of ways to show our appreciation for all they do. It amazes me the effort they put forth on a daily basis to meet the needs of all of our students. Thank you to all of our parents for all they did to make our teachers and staff feel extra special during this week. Many students brought in notes, cards, pictures or gifts for their teachers as well to show their appreciation. Our staff greatly appreciated all that was done for them throughout the week. Our community is lucky to have such fantastic teachers and support staff!

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Thank you to Mendota Headstart for visiting our

school this past week. We were able to give the incoming kindergarten students a tour of Blackstone. They also got to visit kindergarten classrooms and play on our playground. We're so excited to have you start kindergarten here in the fall.

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The Regional Office of Education recognized outstanding educators on May 2 in Ottawa. Congratulations to Mrs. Reuter and Mrs. Hanson for representing Blackstone School and District #289 at the ROE Excellence in Education Banquet!

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Maverik Bernier, Jordeany Acosta, Brody Sellers, Demi Minton, Anthony Castaneda, Remington

Sabo, Melanie Montes and Bella Holley. The winners were Stephen Giancinto, Cerenity Moss, Hadley Reinhold and Grayson Kneebone.

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Looking ahead, we will have a kindergarten registration night on Wednesday, May 22 from 6-7 p.m. at Blackstone. This event is for all incoming kindergarten students and their parents for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents should have completed the online Teacherease portion of registration before this night. We will also collect the two paper registration forms that were included in the registration folder and collect birth certificates and proof of residency forms. In addition, students and parents will get to meet our kindergarten staff on that night and see our school!

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LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota OSF works toward overcoming obstacles Hispanic population face

MENDOTA – Graciela Botello needed a new doctor.

Botello’s long-time physician was retiring, and the 77-year-old Mendota resident was looking for someone who could not only address her pulmonary fibrosis and other health issues, but who could speak her language, Spanish.

She found Maritza Estrada-O’Brien, MD, who is not only Hispanic, but quite familiar with the struggles many of her Hispanic patients experience when it comes to their well-being.

Botello previously knew Dr. Estrada-O’Brien, which made the transition easier. “For me to know her and knowing she’s Spanish is good because my English is just okay,” Botello says. “Sometimes there are words that I can’t pronounce, or I don’t understand. So, when I ask her something in Spanish, she helps me a lot. And this is good for all the Spanish people in Mendota. They feel comfortable.”

Dr. Estrada-O’Brien works at OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center in Mendota, where 26% of its 7,000 residents are Hispanic. The hospital has five Hispanic physicians and nurse practitioners, some of whom were born and raised in Mendota.

“We’re fortunate enough that we have a lot of Spanish speaking providers. I think providers who practice in a community should reflect the population in this area because we do have a higher percentage of Spanish speaking patients,” Dr. Estrada-O’Brien said. “I think that has us better equipped to take care of the population. Language barriers as simple as making a phone call to make an appointment can be challenging. Getting your results by being more understanding of your medical conditions is much harder if you don’t understand the primary language that your provider speaks. So just being able to speak even a little bit of Spanish is better for patients because they have a better understanding of their medical conditions before they become a problem.”

But a language barrier is just the tip of the iceberg.

Dr. Estrada-O’Brien is well versed in the challenges facing those of Hispanic heritage. In fact, she researched many of the issues during her residency program and has been involved in many projects regarding disparities among Hispanics since becoming a physician.

“The state of health among the Latino population depends on location, specifically in rural Illinois,” she says. “Latinos or the Hispanic population are at a disadvantage from a health equity standpoint, more so because of access and disparities in health care. It puts Latinos at higher risk for a lower health status. It’s mostly because of social determinants of health – access, quality of health care, insurance coverage, language, immigration status, all of which present obstacles with attaining health care.”

Among common health issues for the Hispanic population are diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, which can lead to heart disease, cancer and stroke. For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hispanics are 50% more likely to die from diabetes or liver disease than non-Hispanic whites. And the number of Hispanics who have died from Alzheimer’s disease has risen in the past decade. Genetics, diet, obesity and Type 2 diabetes are thought to be significant risk factors for the spike in Alzheimer’s cases.

Experts say problems arise due to a combination of factors including diet, lifestyle and genetics. And if these problems aren’t addressed early, they can cause severe complications down the road. That’s why early detection and screenings, such as cancer and bone density, are so important.

But that can be difficult, especially if a patient won’t seek care in the first place. In general, men are less likely to visit a doctor than women, but it’s a far more complex issue with Hispanic men, according to Joy Preciado, a nurse practitioner with OSF HealthCare.

“Many of the men are the head of household and they don’t want to take time off work to come in and be seen,” said Preciado, who was born and raised in Mendota. “A lot of them say they feel well, so they don’t want to come in. Unfortunately, down the line that can lead to diabetes, high blood pressure, things that can be prevented. But if they did a once-a-year checkup they could catch things before they get worse.”

Graciela Botello knows this all too well. She’s personally had family members who didn’t seek proper treatment for cancer and eventually died. Now she tries to educate friends and family about the importance of seeking medical care and practicing self-care.

“When men turn 40, they should go to the doctor to have their prostate checked and women should check their breasts at 30, because you can have cancer and sometimes it can be bad,” she says. “And if you don’t check yourself out, you can die from it.”



National Nurses Week celebrated at OSF Saint Paul
The National Nurses Week, May 6-12, in observance of the time and effort nurses put in was celebrated with a partnership of Stonecroft Village’s Angi Orozco, left, and Allure of Mendota’s Nancy Bogel bringing five gift baskets to nurses at OSF Saint Paul in Mendota. This was the first time Stonecroft and Allure came together to tribute the nurses during the national week. (Photo contributed)

Earlville Cruise Night hits the streets May 18

EARLVILLE – The 21st annual Earlville Cruise Night will take place at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18 in downtown Earlville. The event is open to all special interest cars, trucks and motorcycles. The cost to enter is \$5. NSRA safety inspections are free.

Dash plaques and goody bags will be given to the first 200 vehicles. Vehicles will be randomly selected for a free professional photograph.


The event will also feature a DJ, food, 50/50 raffle, participant door prizes, event T-shirts and hats, and a playground for the children. There are also plenty of restaurants in town, a new grocery store and a historical society.

This is a non-profit event to benefit the Earlville Business Association and its scholarships.

For more information, contact Kevin Zollars at 815-246-9545 or Ken Zink at 815-739-9431.



Blackstone Pizza Lunch
Blackstone School honored its April Pizza Lunch winners on April 26. Attending the lunch, front row, left to right, are Cameron Brown, Noah Holley, Eleanor Myers, Sofee Gonzalez, Eduardo Villagomez and Diego Revelez. Back row, Parker Krager, Cullen Stallings, Clara Sanchez, Viviana Moreno, Sofia Ascensio and Angel Soto. (Photo contributed)



In Loving MEMORY

On Memorial Day, we remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us. Our time to remember will be published Wednesday, May 22nd, devoted to those who are gone, but not forgotten.

JANE DOE

MAY 1, 1950 - APRIL 23, 2012

You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.

Write your own or select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute.

- We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
- May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.
- Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand
- Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
- The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.
- May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
- May God’s angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
- You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
- May God’s grace shine over you for all time.
- May the Lord bless you with His grace and warm, loving heart.

To remember your loved one in this special way send **\$10 per listing**. Your special tribute will become a lasting memorial record in the May 22nd issue of **The Mendota Reporter**. **Deadline is Thursday, May 16th at Noon.**

Please publish my tribute in the special Memorial Day page on May 22.

Name of Deceased: _____

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Nora E. Mendez

CHICAGO – Nora Elia Mendez, 75, of Chicago, passed away on May 6, 2024 in her home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Holy Cross Church, Mendota, with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 17, at the Merritt Funeral Home.

Nora was born July 31, 1948, in Grafton, N.D., to Frank and Romana (Martinez) Menchaca.

Nora is survived by her son, Anthony; granddaughters, Brianna and Hailey; siblings, Frank (late), Mary (Edward), Gloria (Cris), Margot and Richard (Sherry). Loving daughter to Frank (late) and Ramona (late). Fond Aunt to many nieces and nephews.

She worked for the City of Chicago for 40 years. She had a passion for travel and loved her family. She was steadfast in her beliefs and a devout Catholic.

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

Daniel A. Vargas

MENDOTA – Daniel A. Vargas, 44, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, May 6, 2024, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

A private visitation for Daniel will be held for family and friends. Cremation rites will follow.

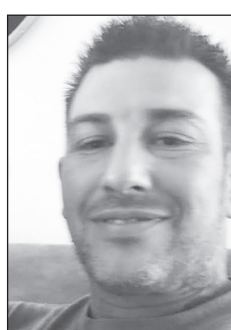
Danny was born Aug. 25, 1979, in Oak Park, to Anibal and Sharon (Kemnitz) Vargas.

Danny will be missed by his children Serina, Sophia and Elijah, and his brother Ricardo of Mendota.

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

Danny attended the Lincoln's Challenge Academy in Rantoul. He worked construction doing roofing then siding and windows. Danny enjoyed helping people from fixing a car to moving and anything else he could.

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



LaSalle Co. Farm Bureau donates to IVCC food pantry

OGLESBY – A LaSalle County Farm Bureau donation to Illinois Valley Community College's Eagles Peak Food Pantry will help keep the pantry well stocked.

When Farm Bureau directors visited several area food pantries with donations recently, retired IVCC instructor Doug Stockley returned to the familiar campus to deliver a \$400 check to IVCC Foundation Executive Director Tracy Beattie.

"This generous donation will greatly assist us in supporting our students' needs," said Dean of Student Success Crystal Credi. A refrigerator donation in December enabled Eagles Peak to add refrigerated and frozen items in 2024, and the food pantry tries to maintain a sufficient supply of them, Credi said. Canned or dried fruit, shelf-stable milk and other popular products can also be in short supply.

The food pantry is located next to the Counseling Department in CTC 202R and is available to current IVCC students and students enrolled in Illinois High School diploma courses and English as a Second Language courses. Over the last quarter of 2023, the pantry served 213 households, including 200 children.



LaSalle County Farm Bureau Director Doug Stockley, right, presents a \$400 check to IVCC Foundation Executive Director Tracy Beattie for the campus food pantry. (Photo contributed)

IVCC fundraiser geared toward centennial celebration

OGLESBY – A campaign to raise funds for Illinois Valley Community College's Foundation is geared to the College's centennial celebration and gaining speed.

Donors to the IVCC 2024 ALL IN campaign can choose from five sponsorship levels: Champion, Hero, Warrior, Supporter, or Friend of IVCC. To donate, visit <https://www.ivcc.edu/givetoivcc/>.

"Sponsorships empower students with scholarships and opportunities they need to succeed," said Tracy Beattie, Executive Director of the IVCC Foundation. In the last eight years, more than 2,000 students have been awarded scholarships worth nearly \$3 million. Another \$400,000 is expected to be awarded this year, she said.

"You can make a difference in the lives of tomorrow's leaders. Together, we transform lives and communities

through education," she added.

Sponsorships also benefit local businesses by elevating brand visibility and fostering community engagement, she said. "It cultivates invaluable connections with students, faculty and future professionals – all while championing the spirit of education and growth."

Contributors at the Champion level (\$3,000 plus) receive a business name/logo listing on the IVCC Foundation TV monitor through March 2025, are listed on a banner of contributors displayed in the lobby until next spring; recognized on the College website and traditional and social media; receive a framed Champion Supporter certificate; receive recognition and VIP seating at the Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp theme night honoring IVCC in May, and are recognized at the annual Scholarship Reception in

August and the 21st Century Scholars Society Dinner in September.

Contributors at the Hero level (\$1,500 plus) are listed on the lobby banner, recognized on the website, social and traditional media, and receive recognition and VIP seating at the baseball game and recognition at the Scholarship Reception.

Contributors to the Warrior level (\$1,000 plus) are listed on the display banner, receive recognition and VIP seating at the baseball game, and are recognized at the Scholarship Reception.

Contributors at the Supporter level (\$500 plus) are listed on the lobby banner. Donors at the Friend of IVCC level can contribute any amount.


An employee giving effort kicked off the ALL IN campaign last winter, raising nearly \$12,000. IVCC turned 100 years old April 24.

DEATH NOTICES

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

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Where is it... in Mendota?



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LOCAL AND AREA

Sublette Cruise ‘n Show scheduled for May 18th

SUBLETTE – The annual Sublette Cruise ‘n Show will be held from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 18 in downtown Sublette.

Owners of antique, classic or special interest cars, trucks and motorcycles are invited to drive to Sublette to show your vehicle.

There is no judging and no registration fee – just a night of tire-kicking and car talk. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the old vehicles.

The restaurants and mall shops will be open during the show.

IVCC buys welding system

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees on May 9 purchased a robotic welding system for the welding program.

The Board accepted the bid of Aidex Corp. of Ross-ville, Ind., at a cost of \$100,400. The purchase is funded through a grant.

The Board also renewed a lease for the University of Illinois Extension Program to use six rooms totaling 1,300 square feet in the IVCC main campus building. Annual rent will be \$18,204 and the lease extends through June 30, 2027.

In her monthly report, President Dr. Tracy Morris informed Board members:

- Upcoming events include commencement on May 18, nurse pinning ceremonies on May 18 and July 10, Adult Education Recognition on May 22, IVCC Alumni Night at the Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp game on May 31, and a theater department alumni celebration on June 29.
- Fall enrollment increased in headcount and credit hours over last fall, and summer enrollment also saw increases over a year ago in all categories: traditional

credit, dual-credit, and online courses.

- Eagles Peak usage peaked in February and April, averaged 38 visits a month in January through April, and served an average of 24 households occupied by 31 children.

The Board approved a two-year employment contract for Vice President of Business Services Kathryn Ross, and appointed Ellen Evanchick as the Director of Learning Resources. Heather Seghi and Jennifer Scheri were approved to provide interim Workforce Development support while a vacancy in that division is being filled.

The Board learned:

- Katelyn Vigers was appointed head volleyball coach.
- Nursing instructor Marjorie Francisco retires this month after 20 years
- Nursing instructor Cathy Lenkaitis was selected for an Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Educator Award. The fellowship awards 10,000 to nursing faculty for professional development, conference expenses, and continuing education. A total of 80 fellowships was awarded.

Mural to depict history of IVCC

OGLESBY – This spring, Morgan Phillips and Emily Maze will leave their mark on Illinois Valley Community College in a way neither could have predicted when they were students there.

Stroke by stroke, their brush with history emerges inside a repurposed church in tiny Rutland. The nave now holds a congregation of three and a tall wooden frame that supports an aluminum substrate on which Maze and Phillips are bringing Ray Paseka’s vision of IVCC to life.

IVCC commissioned the 10-foot-high-by-20-foot-wide mural to recognize its 100-year anniversary this year. The art will be mounted above the C-Building entrance, where separate aluminum canvases will span the wall as seamlessly as Paseka’s subject has bridged the decades from LaSalle-Peru High School to the 21st century Oglesby campus.



Artist Emily Maze touches up an iconic clock tower on an indoor mural commemorating Illinois Valley Community College’s 100 years. The community college was once housed at LaSalle-Peru High School. The mural will be installed over the C-Building entrance. (Photo contributed)

A founder of Westclox Studios in Mendota, Paseka’s public art palette includes Cherry’s coal history and Streator’s trompe l’oeil streetscape in Heritage Park. Phillips and Maze have assisted in recent projects capturing Mendota’s railroad history and Seneca’s shipbuilding, canal, and transportation past.

Their latest indoor work will be displayed in a unique gallery in full view of streams of college students, parents, alumni, high school tours, arriving freshmen, theater-goers, and campus visitors, Paseka reminds them.

“This is important stuff. It will make a lasting impression on everyone. There will be hundreds of young people walking through the corridor and this will permanently affect them,” says Paseka, who is no stranger to how public art projects impact the communities around them.

Maze and Phillips understand because they feel the power too. Maze has been fascinated with public art projects since she saw the Chicago Cows Parade. She likes the idea of “being able to see the physical product of what

you create. The community looks better and that makes me excited, which makes others excited.”

Phillips agrees. “It’s nice to see people excited and feeling better about their community. Some people don’t feel like there’s a lot out here in rural Illinois for them, but there’s more here than they think.”

They enjoy the historical insights their mural work has brought them, but learning what has been lost to time also saddens them.

Phillips grew up in IVCC’s halls, where she and her brother spent school breaks while their father, Mike, taught his geology classes. “We might have wandered farther afield than he realized,” she says. But the exploration paid off later as a student when “finding my classrooms was no problem!”

Maze’s IVCC association is more recent, but her family’s history in the Illinois Valley began even before the College’s. She recently finished a portrait of her many-greats-grandfather Maze on a giant sawblade that hangs in the company office and fuses her family past with her own present.

“She has a gift with scrap metal,” Phillips said. Maze welds the assorted odd shapes she collects into pleasing animals and other designs. She became intrigued with metalwork since working with Paseka, who enjoys many varieties of art and sculpting.

Though they dabbled in art as children, degree pursuits pushed them toward tourism and parks administration (Maze) and industrial design (Phillips). Maze still plays French horn in the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra. Phillips is seeking political office.

Weeks into the IVCC project, the mural’s principal foreground characters are nearly fleshed out. Maze and Phillips, paint-splattered from shoulder to sneaker toe, stand or kneel on a floor protectively sheathed against splashes and drips. Scaffolding has been temporarily set aside but will be used again to complete the complex background.

Maze airbrushes finishing touches on the iconic L-P High School clock tower at her old high school, pausing between bursts to examine the effects.

Phillips invites a closer

glance at one of the figures, where she has embellished a young man’s wristwatch with a tiny “Westclox Studios” on its face in a nod both to her studio and the area’s clock-making history. She also laced the modern campus setting with spring buds and foliage, relishing every moment of a full-color splurge after long immersion in vintage monochrome.

Paseka created two couples, one vintage pair comparing ideas over a typewriter with the clock tower behind them and a modern pair collaborating over laptops against a backdrop of IVCC’s ultra-modern rooftop.

Paseka studies his handiwork with satisfaction, noting how postures, props and settings animate and distinguish the eras in both halves before imagery knits them together.

“Brilliant ideas from the past affect today and ideas today owe the past,” he said. He encourages his assistants to embrace the past but move beyond it. “Artists don’t always like to branch into unusual challenges. I want them to take their skills and accelerate to a higher level and not be afraid of it.”

MHS

Continued from Page A1

High Honor Academic Graduates – Madelyn Becker, Logan Dewey, Bria Frey, Ava Jones, Lilly Leifheit, Bridget McGann, Emma Pierce, Natalia Salinas, Jay Sims, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Grace Wasmer

Following the award presentations, Madelyn Becker addressed her classmates as High Honor speaker, followed by comments from Jim Lauer, school board president. Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh provided remarks and the presentation of the Class of 2024, and then Masini read the names of the graduates as they filed across the stage to receive their diplomas from Lauer.

Senior class president Bria Frey concluded the ceremony with a speech to her classmates. The MHS band played the recessional as the new MHS alums exited the gymnasium.

Students receiving their diplomas were:

Anthony Arteaga, Ava Arteaga, Eithun Atkins, Owen Aughenbaugh, Connor Bailey, Paul Bailey, Jace Baird, Landon Bauer, Madelyn Becker, Kamdyn Becket, Isaac Belmonte, Ella Betz, Angelica Botello, Reanna Brant;

Kenny Bugarin, Lillianna Caruso, Kimberly Cedillo, Samuel Christmann, Emma Clark, Alex Contreras, Kyan Cooper, Estafania Coronel, Adam Davis, Beau Dearing, Logan Dewey, Araceli Diaz, Payton Diaz, Kylie Donovan;

Olivia Eddy, Alexa Escatel, Linnea Escatel, Henry Esparza, Logan Fahr, Angela Figueroa, Joshua Figueroa, Mariah Figueroa, Jose Frausto, Bria Frey, Jasmyn Garcia, Dean Gilbert, Vanessa Gomez-Rico, Nevaeh Gonzales;

Keith Grim, Janet Guzman, Ashley Hermosillo, Bryan Herrera, Kiara Johnson, Aubree Jones, Ava Jones, Shanel Kerchner, Kaleb Kleckner, Trekker Klema, Mason Koch, Landon Lee, Lilly Leifheit, Sylvester Lemos;

Perla Lopez, Fredy Mandujano, Bridget McGann, Arman Miranda, Javier Monica, Carlos Mora, Zach Mullins, Izaiah Nanez, Cruz Orozco, Noah Orozco, Jose Payan, Brian Perez, Jason Perez, Emma Pierce;

Ana Ramirez, Roxana Ramirez, Justin Randolph, Karly Reel, Hannah Rich, Dimitri Rodriguez, Natalia Salinas, Diego Sandoval, Luca Seibert, Dagen Setchell, Haden Shakespeare, Savanna Shamblin, Alysa Sharp, Jay Sims;

Morgan Smith, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Peter Stavropoulos, Ryan Stevenson, Cale Strouss, Jessica Terrazas, Valerie Valdes, Bianka Valdez, Naoemi Valencia-Reyes, Elisa Verkaeren, Grace Wasmer, Oceania Wear, Johnathan Wheeler, Logan Wujek.



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OPINION



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

Kip Cheek, Managing Editor
Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager

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.

A special person

Every May, women across the world are celebrated for being mothers on Mother’s Day.

Usually, for the most part, it’s for the mothers who raise and help their own children through life and all its obstacles.

Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



Sometimes, definitely more times than not, the women who guide children, who they did not conceive, are left out or forgotten. If praised, just not enough.

Let’s face it, it takes a special kind of person to not only raise their own children but then to assist others.

I’m thinking of a special woman who not only raised her own three children, but then took on the responsibility of another child. Not just a child, but a problematic teenage boy who was in and out of trouble every other day.

There wasn’t a Saturday he wasn’t in school.

There wasn’t an in-school suspension without his name on the list.

He knew the staff at the detention home, and they knew him.

Many counselors had them in their chairs, whether at school or a clinic.

During a seventh-grade dance, he was banned from all others after knocking down a kid with a swift jab and then dropping a flying elbow on his head in “Macho Man” Randy Savage style.

He was kicked out of eighth grade after punching a kid in the stomach and driving his head into a locker after a comment was made about his biological mom. The suspension led to an expulsion.

Without acceptance to public school, the teenager had to ride in a chauffeured van to a school 45 minutes away to learn, study, and take tests on a computer during alternative school hours.

After finishing the program and receiving the junior high diploma, it wasn’t long before he was back in the correctional system as the kid joined an older family member he looked at as a role model to steal. The list of stolen property was long, and so was the sentence in juvenile prison as he went to three different institutions throughout the state during his time.

By time he got out of prison, his freshman year had come and gone.

Thankfully, he took tests and was picked on by others in jumpsuits because he studied, but he was allowed back in public school as a sophomore, and although there were a few rough patches, he was able to graduate and was accepted into four different colleges.

There were adult pains with a summer in county jail eight hours after freshman year in college ended, DUIs and alcoholic behavior, messy relationship breakups, job firings and quitting, and a car accident.

Throughout everything, absolutely everything described above and way beyond, this woman was there.

She talked to him. Told him he was wrong. Gave him examples of what could have been done different or different ways he could have thought about certain situations or actions. Let him know there were different options or paths than the ones he was taking.

There was always a seat at the table for him.

There was always a seat in the car for a fun trip, vacation, or just to ride around.

There was always the warm, welcome embrace of a hug or smile to let him know things would be alright if he wanted them to be.

He always knew he was loved.

He joined the National Guard. He graduated college. He began his journalism career in February 2005 and it hasn’t stopped since. He has won eight writing awards. He has been a public speaker for both his career and to young kids to not make the same mistakes he has. He officiates baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball games to give back to the kids, community, and sports.

The now 30-something man is part of community nonprofit organizations and for-profit associations which help the community grow.

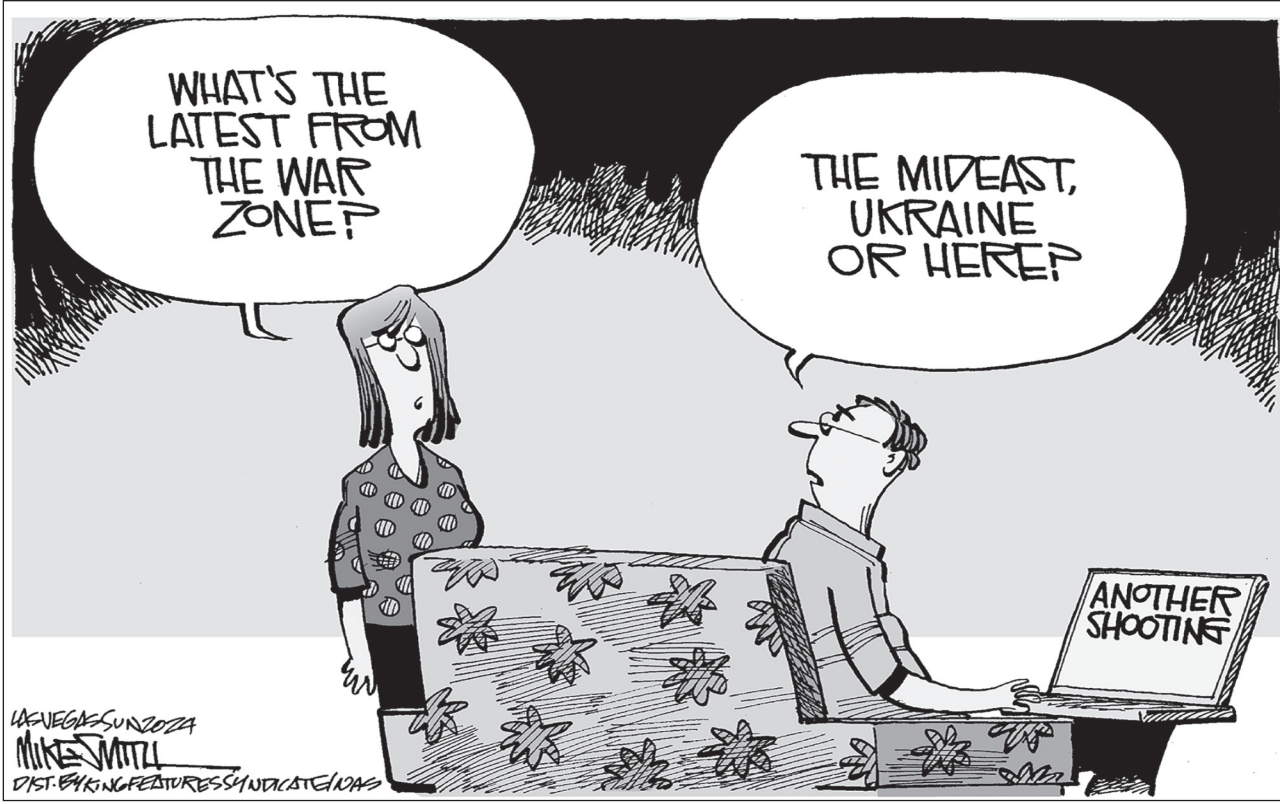
And although it takes something inside an individual to push past demons and to change surroundings and associates, they can’t do it without support.

That someone to make them realize they matter, and they can do good things.

From that 12-year-old pain in the butt to the grown man who is determined to do all the good he can in any way possible, thank you. The biggest thank you EVER.

I could never be in the place I am or do the things I’m doing if it wasn’t for you.

Happy Mother’s Day



Classon’s & other groceries – 1939-54

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from May 14, 1997.)

By Jessica Nashold

On Aug. 10, 1939, The Mendota Reporter announced that Mr. and Mrs. Leo Classon of Sheridan had purchased the King grocery on East Sixth Street. For Mrs. Classon, the former Virginia Ferguson, it was coming home to the community where she had been born and raised.

There was no shortage of grocery stores in Mendota in 1939. Competition for the Classons included another grocery on the east side, North Star Grocery. There were three chain groceries – Kroger’s, A & P and National Tea. On Main Street, there were Moller & Sauer and Mildred’s. On Washington Street there were the OK Market operated by Charles Montagnoli and Elsesser’s Super Service. Frank & Harry Schmitz’s Royal Blue Grocery faced Jefferson while Truckbrod’s Locker and Kobusch’s Mendota Food Market faced Illinois.

In 1939, groceries sold six-bottle cartons of Coca Cola for 25 cents plus deposit. Grocery orders were written down on small pads with a carbon copy and clerks did the addition. Sometimes they were paid in cash. Very often the order would go on a spindle as customers took advantage of credit extended by the grocers.

In the summer of 1940, all grocers, with the exception of three in the downtown area, agreed to close on Thursday afternoon. So the Classons probably had Thursday afternoon off.

That fall, the military draft was inaugurated although were not yet at war. In Mendota, 581 registered in the draft.

John Woods began selling groceries in early 1941 I, the Phillips 66 gas station on 13th Avenue north of Washington Street.

With the declaration of war in December 1941, grocery stores were among the first businesses to be affected. Sugar rationing began in May 1942, followed by coffee rationing in November. Housewives were urged to strain fat and grease and take it to their meat market in tin cans. They would be paid 5 cents per pound.

More than a ton of grease has been salvaged here.

When family reunions were announced in the paper there was a new provision.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Bring your own sugar.

In January 1942, M.J. Edwards opened a grocery store on Sixth Street, east of 13th Avenue, but closed it “for the duration” in March 1943.

All applicants for ration books in February 1943 were required to declare any canned and bottle goods they had on their shelves. Registration was in Lincoln School gym and school was closed while 5,000 came in to secure rations. That same month there was a severe shortage of meat.

Patrons had to take the kind of meat they could get, not necessarily what they would have liked.

In April 1943, all eating and drinking establishments were required to file their menus and price lists with the War Price Rationing Board. Point values were assigned to meat, fat (including butter), fish and cheese. These points went into effect June 6, 1943.

That summer, Truckenbrod built an addition to their locker.

On July 29, 1943, came welcome news.

Beginning today, coffee is no longer rationed.

A minimum wage was set for workers in the canned fruit and vegetable industry – 40 cents per hour. Corn was canned in Mendota.

A sales tax was imposed on food in 1944 and since fractions of a cent were involved, grocers were obliged to secure a supply of tokens.

The one point tokens will be needed to make change under the new system.

On Dec. 16, 1944, John Woods opened a second grocery store on the store on Sixth Street vacated by Mr. Edwards. He put Mrs. Arthur Meyer in charge while maintain the grocery in the Phillips 66 station as well.

On Feb. 3, 1945, Classons bought the Schmitz Royal Blue grocery and Virginia continued in charge of the Sixth Street store until the lease expired in August.

Truckenbrods bought Lipke’s lot

adjoining the locker and later expanded again.

With the end of the war, V-E Day was celebrated in May and V-J Day in August. But rationing did not go away overnight. Returning servicemen were told they could obtain ration books though the local office managed by Mrs. Victor Schuhler.

The end of sugar rationing is not in sight.

Richard Edwards opened a grocery store at 205 Fourth Ave. in January 1947. He advertised hours from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. seven days a week.

An ad in The Reporter in 1951 indicated “one of the best grocery stores in town” was for sale. This proved to be Mildred’s Grocery at 618 Main St. operated by Mildred Stoldorf. It was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Girsch in November 1951 and was renamed Girsch Pantry.

During that year, the Gallagher subdivision near Lake Mendota was annexed to the city and in November 1951, Block I was designated a business block.

The Woods grocery became Walker’s Food Shop, conducted by Ralph Walker. Then in 1952, Henry Sauer sold his grocery on Main Street to George Schuetz, who had been in his employ for five years.

In the summer of 1953, Classons announced their plan to build a supermarket in the Gallagher subdivision to open the following year. They closed their Royal Blue store downtown on Aug. 22, 1953, and in October, John Walked moved his furniture and floor covering business there.

While awaiting the completion of their new store, the Classsons found time for special store-related instruction – for example, the Argus training course in meats.

The new store was ready in April 1954. It faced Meriden Street and was also accessible from Lakeshore Drive. A grand opening was held Sunday, April 4, attended by 4,000 former and future customers. On Monday, April 5, Classon’s Royal Blue Supermarket opened for business.

Its subsequent history was covered in the April 30, 1997, issue of The Reporter, including sale of the business to Gene and Carolyn Politsch in 1972, and the recent transfer to Thompson Food Basket, a chain of 11 supermarkets.

Biden suffers collapse in his standing

By Rich Lowry

President Joe Biden has suffered a collapse in his standing generally, but, fundamentally, it’s because so few people think he’s doing a good job that he’s in such a perilous state.

Other than that, it’s going great.

It’s hard to exaggerate how abysmal Biden’s polling has been lately.

No incumbent president should ever want to be near 43% in a head-to-head ballot test. Yet here is Joe Biden at 43% in the latest CNN poll, 43% in the latest Morning Consult poll, 43% in the latest Economist/YouGov poll, and 43% in the latest Harvard/Harris poll. (NB: Biden ticked up to 48 when Harvard/Harris pushed respondents to choose between Trump and Biden, and the Economist/YouGov poll had RFK Jr. in the mix.)

Detect a trend? (There are other polls that have Biden a little higher.) It’s no mystery why Biden’s polling is at crisis levels.

An incumbent president’s level of support in a reelection bid is typically tethered closely to his job approval. It’s hard to get much more than a couple of points above it. Biden’s job approval is at 40% in the RealClearPolitics polling average and at 39.3 in the 538 polling average.

The CNN poll has Biden’s job approval right there at 40%, where it’s held steady for about a year, with 60% disapproving. The Harvard/Harris has his approval rating a little higher at 44%, even though he’s at 43% in the ballot test.

It’s not just that Biden’s job approval is low; he’s trailing Trump on the rather crucial metric of who was or is a successful president.

According to the CNN poll, 55% of the public now considers the Trump presidency a success and 44% look at it as a failure. Biden, in contrast, is upside down. Only 39% say his presidency has been a success, while 61% say it’s been a failure.

People may have all sorts of expectations for presidents

-- that they not get indicted, that they not post on TruthSocial in ALL CAPS, that they accept the results of elections, etc., etc. -- but the most important one, surely, is that they succeed at the job.

Being considered a failed president is not, needless to say, a status consistent with winning reelection.

Of course, the economy is the biggest anchor on Biden. His numbers there are in the tank. CNN has his approval on the economy at 34% and inflation at 29%. The Economist/YouGov poll found the same thing -- 39% approval on the economy and 29% on prices.

In a normal election, these numbers simply wouldn’t be survivable. But with two extremely well-known, unpopular candidates, this is not a normal race.

Trump’s history and personal radioactivity give Biden a lot of material to work with. And it’s a boon to him that his opponent is locked down in a courtroom several days a week.

The problem for Biden is that many of the attacks on Trump -- especially those based on his legal prosecutions -- feel besides the point compared to the bigger questions in the race. Are more people going to care that Trump has been convicted of felonious bookkeeping related to a payment to a porn star eight years ago or that they think he can do a better job handling inflation?

And there’s more bad news for Biden: Besides disapproving of his job performance and his economy, people don’t particularly like him, don’t think he’s a strong leader, and don’t think he’s fit to be president.

If all that represents trouble for the incumbent, the biggest problem, again, is that he’s failing at his job. The most direct way for Joe Biden to improve his chances in November would be to become a good president -- although it’s unfair to place such unrealistic expectations on him at this juncture in his presidency and career.

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



Lab coat donation

Students in Illinois Valley Community College's microbiology class sport new lab coats presented to the college recently by SABIC Innovative Plastics of Ottawa. The company donated 50 coats for use in science labs to protect from spills, splashes or contact with chemicals or substances. One of the largest employers in the community college district, SABIC manufactures plastics for automotive and consumer goods, business equipment and the building construction industry. (Photo contributed)

Area students place in IVCC welding competition

OGLESBY – Thirty young welders competed in the Second Annual Welding Competition hosted by Illinois Valley Community College and the American Welding Society (AWS) on April 13.

Students from high school and college were challenged to test their skills in various welding techniques to win prizes, including one \$500 cash prize, two \$1,000 scholarships from AWS, and other awards such as welding helmets and gear. The competition drew 11 college competitors and 20 high school

competitors.

Event sponsors included Vactor Manufacturing, Carus, Valley Fabrication Inc, On Site Repair Services, HCC, Inc., Constellation and Trademark Services. Vactor representatives were available to share industry knowledge and business insights with the students.

The results are as follows:

High School Shielded Metal Arc Welding -- Niles Tremper, LaSalle, first; Kenneth Mullins, Sublette, second; Erik Amaral, Henry, third; Zach

Wehr, Henry, fourth; Keaton Yedinak, Blackstone, fifth.

College SMAW -- Brady Wawerski, Ottawa, first; Gino Fascetta, Ottawa, second; Kevin Pinter, Mendota, third.

College Gas Metal Arc Welding -- Javier Montes, Cornell, first; Kevin Pinter, Mendota, second; Gino Fascetta, Ottawa, third.

A video of the competition has just been released. Here's where you can view it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-BVpVAuOoI&t=1s>

"Countryman Strong" benefit set for May 18th at Moose

MENDOTA – A benefit for Dan Countryman, "Countryman Strong," will be held on Saturday, May 18 beginning at 3 p.m. at the Mendota Moose, 211 E. 12th St.

Dinner will be served from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12 years. Children 5 and under are free.

The benefit will include food, music, auction, raf-

fles and 50/50s. There will be a prize raffle for a half hog.

For more information or to donate to the raffles and auction, contact Vi at 815-577-1490 or Esther at 815-218-5101.

Deposits can be made directly to Eureka Savings Bank, Dan Countryman Benefit, 1300 13th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342.

HCC donates new welder to Mendota High School

MENDOTA – HCC, Inc., of Mendota showed it is growing the skill of welding by donating a brand new three process Lincoln Power MIG 210 Multi-Process Welder to Mendota High School.

HCC, Inc., is honored to work with the high school faculty and students to assist their journey in obtaining skills and working toward the goal of being career-ready. HCC, Inc., is a big contributor every year to the Career and Technical Education program at MHS with generous steel coupons and equipment donations, and the MHS administration is grateful to have such a generous company in the community.

Burn Pit hours

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

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

1 p.m.

- Friday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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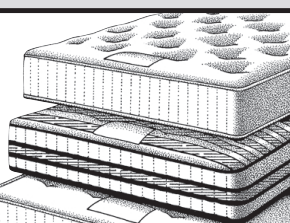
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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD-- Shocking news! Martin Scorsese's planning a biopic of Frank Sinatra ... with blue-eyed Leonardo DiCaprio as "Old Blue Eyes!" Even more startling is that he wants Jennifer Lawrence to play the screen goddess Ava Gardner. It'll take a lot more than makeup and intense acting to transform both of them into two Hollywood legends we all remember only too well!

The times that I encountered and photographed Sinatra, he wrote the script for everything happening around him. The night I spent with Gardner on the set of "Earthquake" in 1974, she was every inch an iconic movie star because she truly believed it until the day she died. Her awe-striking presence made you believe it, too. In 2004, DiCaprio played Howard Hughes in "The Aviator," but Hughes' fame was a whole different ball game than playing Frank Sinatra with all of his complex facets. ***

If you've seen a trailer online showing Henry Cav-

ill as James Bond (with an American accent, no less), you're looking at a fake AI video. Cavill had no knowledge or input in the video, but his people believe that his overzealous fans, who've been campaigning on his behalf to be cast as 007, took matters into their own capable hands.

Frankly, Cavill, at 41, is already too old. James Bond is supposed to be 37 years old, and the next film won't be out for at least two years. After the dismal box-office takes of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (2015) and "Argylle" (2024), the former Superman is an unlikely choice. Still, the "fake" video pulled in 2.3 million viewers. ***

Academy-Award-winning actor Eddie Redmayne received mixed reviews in the Broadway production of "Cabaret" for his portrayal of the Emcee (played by Joel Grey on Broadway and in the film). Unsuspecting audiences are led into an alley, past garbage cans to a dimly lit lounge, where greeters offer free shots of cherry

schnapps. This is followed by 75 minutes of nightclub ambiance in various bars en route to the theater that has been transformed into the actual Kit Kat Club, where the show begins.

Even though Redmayne won the prestigious Laurence Olivier Award (one of seven wins for the show), a New York Times critic wrote, "This all seemed like throat-clearing to me.... The only relevant purpose I can see for this conceptual doodling, however well carried out, is to give the fifth Broadway incarnation of the 1966 show a distinctive profile."

But the critic for Entertainment Weekly was totally glowing about the show, calling it the hottest ticket on Broadway right now and "an unforgettable, immersive experience that lures audiences in with visions of sweet, sweet hedonism before bowling them over with a harrowing, unflinching tale." See it and decide for yourself if life is a "Cabaret" or a cabernet!

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Couch Theater

"American Fiction" (R) -- This comedy-drama film led by Jeffrey Wright went on to snag the Best Adapted Screenplay award at the last Oscars, receiving five nominations in total. Wright plays Monk Ellison, an African American writer and professor based in Los Angeles. His novels, although acclaimed by fellow academics, do not generate enough money for his publishers, so they urge him to make his book "more Black." So, Monk submits a stereotypical novel to his publishers as a joke, but when it brings him commercial success, he's forced to become the very idea of what he hates the most -- an inauthentic writer who panders to the wrong community. Co-starring Tracee Ellis Ross, Issa Rae and Sterling K. Brown, "American Fiction" premieres May 14. (Amazon Prime Video)

"He Went That Way" (R) -- "Saltburn's" Jacob Elordi takes on another psychologically tense film, but this time, it's his character who has murderous intentions. Inspired by real events that occurred with serial killer Larry Lee Raney, this crime

drama picks up right as animal trainer Jim Goodwin (Zachary Quinto) picks up hitchhiker Bobby Falls (Elordi). While Bobby doesn't appear to be menacing at first, Jim quickly learns that Bobby has a thirst for killing in cold blood. Besides creating beautifully rustic scenes in the desert and getting great close-ups of Elordi, the film mostly received criticism due to its lackluster story. See for yourself when it premieres on May 17! (Hulu)

"Dark Matter" (TV-MA) -- This new sci-fi series starring Joel Edgerton ("The Great Gatsby") and Jennifer Connelly ("Top Gun: Maverick") has just hit streaming services with its first two episodes. Edgerton plays physicist Jason Dessen, an ordinary family man who suddenly gets abducted while walking home one night. When he wakes up, Jason finds himself in a completely different reality than the one he calls home. In this new reality, he finds out that he is the creator of "The Box" -- a large vessel that holds many alternate versions of Jason Dessen. Realizing that he was abducted by an alternate

version of himself, Jason fights to get himself home before the alternate version of himself harms his family. Look out for new episodes every Wednesday. (May 8, Apple TV+)

In Case You Missed It
"Wine Country" (R) -- This Netflix original was Amy Poehler's feature directorial debut, and she signed on her gang of "Saturday Night Live" actress friends to help tell her first story on the big screen. Starring Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Rachel Dratch, Ana Gasteyer and Tina Fey (among others), the film follows a group of six friends who go on a trip to Napa Valley for a 50th birthday celebration. Although lots of excitement is in the air, all six women are secretly suffering with their own issues that eventually bubble up to the surface after days of drinking in Napa's hills. So, make sure to grab your favorite wine and call up your besties to watch this movie full of witty and relatable moments! Out now. (Netflix)

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Is it true that Bella Hadid has quit modeling? Is she still recovering from Lyme disease? -- **S.E.**

A: When Bella Hadid first appeared on "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" alongside her mother, Yolanda, and sister, Gigi, she was riding horses, not modeling. She didn't seem interested in following her mother's footsteps on the runway, but within a few short years, she and her sister were considered modern-day supermodels and fodder for the tabloids.

Hadid

The girl who loved horses is reemerging now. Hadid has taken a break from modeling and calls Fort Worth, Texas, her new home. She's been dating cowboy and horse trainer Adan Banuelos since the two were seen together last October, and he's gotten her back into riding. Hadid placed third in a riding competition back in January, according to a post on his Instagram page.

This past August, Hadid opened up about her health struggles on an Instagram post and shared that she was "finally

healthy" after getting diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2012. ***

Q: Is it true that Tracy Morgan is returning to "Saturday Night Live" as part of the cast again? -- **K.S.**

A: Tracy Morgan spent seven years as a cast member on "Saturday Night Live," but he has no plans to return in that capacity. He has returned to host twice so far and will no doubt host again someday.

Morgan starred in his self-titled sitcom "The Tracy Morgan Show," but it was canceled after one season. He made a much bigger splash playing a hilarious parody of himself in the Tina Fey sitcom "30 Rock." He later went on to star in another successful series "The Last O.G." for four seasons.

You'll likely see him hosting "SNL" to promote his new sitcom "Crutch" when it begins airing on Paramount+. "Crutch" is a spin-off of the hit CBS sitcom "The Neighborhood." Morgan has guest-starred on that show before and played Calvin's (Cedric the Entertainer) wealthy brother, Curtis, but he'll be playing a completely different character on "Crutch."

According to the official logline, Crutch is Cedric's cousin, "a Harlem widower

whose empty nest plans are put on hold after his millennial son and free-spirited daughter move back home." Production on "Crutch" will begin later this year with an official premiere date to be announced. ***

Q: Whatever happened to the show "Deadliest Catch"? I know that a couple of people who were originally on it have passed away. Is it even coming back? -- **T.A.**

A: "Deadliest Catch," a documentary-reality show about the perilous world of crabbing on the high seas, premiered in 2005 on the Discovery Channel. Tragedy has struck the show numerous times in the form of natural causes, overdoses, and accidents involving the ships and their equipment. Despite all the hardship and heartbreak, the show is going on its 20th season this summer.

According to Entertainment Weekly, fan-favorite captains Sig Hansen, Keith Colburn and Wild Bill Wichrowski are all returning and will be competing in a derby-style race to reach a \$1 million quota.

Season 20 of "Deadliest Catch" premieres on Tuesday, June 11, at 8 p.m. ET on Discovery and will be available to stream on Max soon afterward.

• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European country has the largest population?
2. TELEVISION: Which sitcom features a character named Ron Swanson?
3. SCIENCE: What are the three layers of the Earth?
4. MOVIES: Which 2001 movie has a famous "bend and snap" scene?
5. MONEY: What is a modern U.S. penny made of mostly?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a common name for an animal in the Leporidae family?
7. LITERATURE: Which children's book contains the line, "Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast"?
8. ANATOMY: Where is the pinna located in the human body?
9. HISTORY: Who was the fourth president of the United States?
10. BUSINESS: What did Amazon sell exclusively when it started business in 1994?

Answers

1. Russia.
2. "Parks and Recreation."
3. Crust, mantle and core.
4. "Legally Blonde."
5. Zinc.
6. Rabbit or hare.
7. "Alice in Wonderland."
8. Ear.
9. James Madison.
10. Books.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Reddish brown
- 5 \$ dispenser
- 8 Cries of aversion
- 12 Spiced tea
- 13 Goat's plaint
- 14 Entreaty
- 15 Mystique
- 16 Blue Angels events
- 18 Australian red wine
- 20 Fedora feature
- 21 Medicinal plant
- 23 PC key
- 24 Schubert compositions
- 28 "Monopoly" cubes

- 31 Misery
- 32 Barbs
- 34 "Science Friday" network
- 35 Adjoining
- 37 Sweeten
- 39 Rocker
- 41 Minnesota
- 42 Penniless one
- 45 Fearsome fly
- 49 Relaxing time on the slopes
- 51 Equitable
- 52 "Understood"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18				19		20				
21					22		23			
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35				36		37		38		
39				40		41				
42	43				44		45		46	47
48					50					
52					53			54		
55					56			57		

- 53 Lucy's TV pal
- 54 Forearm bone
- 55 Minus
- 56 Season opener?
- 57 Some July babies
- 7 Painter
- 8 Chagall
- 9 Supported
- 10 Acting smug
- 11 Postpaid enc.
- 12 Mexican Mrs.
- 13 Sleep like
- 14 Invitation notation
- 15 Treble clef
- 16 Lines
- 17 Bristle
- 18 Caviar base
- 19 Fabric features
- 20 Calming drug
- 29 Tax pro
- 30 Mess up
- 33 Bygone jets
- 36 Prairie homes
- 38 Of service
- 40 — Moines
- 42 Beach bucket
- 43 Church area
- 44 Invitation notation
- 46 Story
- 47 China (Pref.)
- 48 Historic periods
- 50 White wine cocktail

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Football player Ronaldinho Gaucho lost a \$750,000 deal with Coca-Cola simply by taking a sip from a Pepsi.

* Some farmers started feeding their pigs waste products from the marijuana industry, such as plant stems, leaves and roots, saying it boosted the animals' appetites so they would bulk up to 30 pounds heavier than normal, also that it had the effect of making the meat taste "more savory."

* The fastest any human has ever traveled was during the re-entry of the Apollo 10 module, at a maximum speed of 24,830 miles per hour, or 7 miles per second.

* If you can convince yourself that you slept well last night, even though you didn't, your brain will be tricked into thinking you aren't tired. It's called "placebo sleep."

* When an astronaut working on the International Space Station needed a tool he didn't have, NASA came to the rescue by designing one with computer software and emailing the file to him. He then used a 3D printer to create the first object ever designed on Earth but made in space.

* Studies show that the human brain remains half-awake when sleeping in a new environment for the first time.

* Just before WWII, the U.S. created the Logan Bar, a chocolate bar that deliberately tasted "a little better than a boiled potato," as an emergency ration to prevent soldiers from snacking on it outside of emergency situations.

* Too much grape soda will make your poop turn blue.

* A shopping mall in China offers "husband storage" pods, where wives and girlfriends can leave their partners while they shop. Each pod is equipped with a TV, a gaming console and a leather massage chair.

S	O	L	T	E	P	H	S	S	E	L
A	N	T	A	I	A	I	E	E	I	S
R	I	A	I	K	I	S	S	E	R	A
T	S	E	T	S	T	E	P	E	R	A
S	I	V	E	F	A	I	D	E	L	E
A	G	A	U	S	O	D	D	X	E	N
R	A	N	S	E	I	G	E	I	O	M
C	I	E	S	G	N	O	S	S	T	R
L	V	E	O	L	V	E				
S	E	V	E	R	O	Z	A	V	I	H
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S	P	L	E	A	M	A	V	I	A	H
S	H	S	U	G	H	A	T	M	A	S

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

**HAPPY 21st
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LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota High School recognizes students at annual awards assembly

MENDOTA—Mendota High School held its Awards Assembly on May 2. Award recipients are as follows:

Rotary Club Scholarship—Madelyn Becker; BPW Scholarship/Nightingale's—Madelyn Becker, Ava Jones, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Lilly Leifheit, Grace Wasmer, Bria Frey; Ben Bokus Memorial Scholarship—Madelyn Becker; DLA Architect Scholarship—Madelyn Becker; Lions Club Scholarship—Nellie Kerchner, Landon Lee; Robert Cooper Award—Ryleigh Sondgeroth; Hanson Family Scholarship—Madelyn Becker, Izaiah Nanez; Kunz Engineering—Haden Shakespeare; Kenney Contracting Scholarship—Landon Lee; Mendota Fire Department—Dagen Setcell; MGCWA Scholarship—Izaiah Nanez; Jody Herman Smith Memorial Award—Haden Shakespeare; Klein Family Memorial Ag Scholarship—Landon Lee; Tacos Guzman Scholarship—Valerie Valdes, Madelyn Becker; Illinois Valley Hispanic Partnership Council Scholarship—Naoemi Valencia-Reyes, Valerie Valdes; Financial Plus Credit Union Scholarship—Ava Jones; MEA Scholarship—Valerie Valdes;

Greg Frey Memorial Award—Diego Sandoval; Dean Lubbs Award—Justin Randolph; Gerald Wood Award—Izaiah Nanez, Grace Wasmer; Kilmartin 3-Sport/4-Year Award—Owen Aughen-

baugh, Jace Baird, Cale Strouss, Grace Wasmer; English Award—Jay Sims; Math Award—Madelyn Becker;

Science Award—Lilly Leifheit; Selbrede Physics Award—Anthony Kelson; Consumer Science Scholar Award—Alexa Escatel; Consumer Science Citizenship Award—Beau Dearing; Science Technology Support Team—Haden Shakespeare, Kyan Cooper; Student Council Scholarship—Ryleigh Sondgeroth;

Spanish Heritage Award—Natalia Salinas; Spanish Non-Heritage Award—Madelyn Becker; Sousa Award—Trekker Klema; Arion Award—Trekker Klema; Becker Award—Ella Lewis; George Diehl Scholarship—Landon Lee; Elizabeth Schillinger; Sublette Toy Show Scholarship—Landon Lee; Bohn-Nielsen Scholarship—Madelyn Becker; Karen Fischer Scholarship—Bria Frey; Dr. Musick Scholarship—Ava Jones; Don Stephenitch Award—Shanel Kerchner; Ashley Scholarship—Logan Dewey; Don Whitmore Award—Landon Bauer; 927 Scholarship—Zach Mullins; Booster Club Scholarship—Madelyn Becker, Cale Strouss; Jim O'Neil Award—Beau Dearing; DAR Award—Madelyn Becker; SAR Award—Bria Frey; Teacher of the Year—Matt Gehm; Hispanic Business Owners' Association Scholarships—Juan's Auto Body, Correa Heating & Cooling and Pita

Rey Enterprise LLC, Natalia Salinas; Thermal Heating & Cooling and Pita Rey Enterprise LLC, Valerie Valdes; Sahuallo Auto Repair and Pita Rey Enterprise LLC, Bianca Valdez; O & R Truck and Trailer Repair and Pita Rey Enterprise LLC, Ashley Hermosillo; Diaz Grocery, Jerry's Bar and Pita Rey Enterprise LLC, Cruz Orozco; Nina's Mexican Market and Pita Rey Enterprise LLC, Naoemi Valencia-Reyes

Academic Challenge Team—Madelyn Becker, Lily Bokus, Gracie Botts, Laylie Denault, Logan Dewey, Kylie Donovan, Bria Frey, Quin Holland, Spencer Kain, Anthony Kelson, Nellier Kerchner, Elaina Koch, Ada Krull, Hannah Kunz, Ella Lewis, Samuel Matura, Emma Pierce, Owen Schroeder, Haden Shakespeare, Kaley Siemer, Jay Sims, Aden Tillman, Grace Wasmer

Biliteracy Awards—Noemi Arteaga, Madelyn Becker, Araceli Diaz, Olivia Eddy, Bria Frey, Janet Guzman, Ashley Hermosillo, Ava Jones, Fredy Mandujano, Brian Perez, Ana Ramirez, Natalia Salinas, Bianca Valdez, Grace Wasmer, Valerie Valdes; Commendation—Isaac Belmonte, Alex Contreras, Logan Dewey, Lilly Leifheit, Ryleigh Sondgeroth;

Illinois State Scholars—Madelyn Becker, Logan Dewey, Bria Frey, Ava Jones, Lilly Leifheit, Bridget McGann, Emma Pierce, Natalia Salinas, Jenah Sims, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Grace Wasmer

Sen. Rezin calls for the preservation of Starved Rock State Park's name

SPRINGFIELD—In light of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) public confirmation that the Department may be open to a possible name change of the famous Starved Rock State Park, Illinois Senate Deputy Republican Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) has filed a resolution in support of keeping the park's current name.



Rezin

"While I recognize desires to create open dialogue on issues such as naming parks and places after Indigenous peoples and their legends, I believe that this well-intended but misguided proposal will result in more harm than good," said Sen. Rezin. "The Starved Rock name has become a treasured part of the local community's identity and brand. There are far too many people who rely on the park's na-

tionally recognized name for their livelihoods."

Senate Resolution 956 advocates for the preservation of the state park's historic name. It notes the importance that the Starved Rock name has on the local community and acknowledges the concerns of residents and businesses regarding the potential renaming of the state park. Finally, it encourages open dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities, to address concerns and explore ways to honor the park's heritage while respecting diverse perspectives.

"It is vital that we honor the important history of Starved Rock State Park," said Sen. Rezin. "I truly believe that there is a path to accomplish that goal in a way that preserves the park's iconic name while respecting the heritage of Indigenous people."

The Resolution was filed in the Illinois Senate on April 30 and is currently awaiting assignment.

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SPORTS

Mendota's Elam takes first in three events at sectional

□ Freshman to participate in IHSA state meet May 16-18

ROCHELLE – Mariyah Elam has been stellar all season for the Mendota High School girls' track team, and she was again when it counted the most.

The MHS freshman claimed first place in three events in the Rochelle Class 2A Girls' Track & Field Sectional on May 8, thus earning a trip to the IHSA State Track & Field Meet. Elam claimed the top spot in the 100-meter hurdles, the high jump and the triple jump.

Her time in the hurdles was 15.91, just barely out-tracing second-place Katie Kostro of Aurora Rosary, who was clocked in 15.92.

In the high jump, Elam had a winning height of 5-4.5. Second place went to Addison Vicary of Plano at 5-2.5.

Elam capped off her trifecta of first-place finishes in the triple jump with a measurement of 35-8.75 to easily outdistance second-place Eloina Montesinos of Plano, who turned in a distance of 34-10.5.

"Mariyah has been an exceptional athlete to work with all season," said Mendota coach Joe Hughes. "Mariyah has been able to exceed our expectations and even her own expectations in high jump this year. We knew about her high jump abilities from her eighth-grade year when she placed fourth at state. All of her other skills were a wonderful surprise."

The Lady Trojans' next best finish in the sectional was by the 4x200-meter relay team, which was sixth in a time of 1:54.16. Running for MHS were Elam, Grace Wasmer, Laylie Denault and Aby Buettner.



M. Elam

"Our 4x200 team had a decent chance of advancing out of the sectional as a team," said Hughes. "We ran a PR (personal record) even with a couple of shaky handoffs and finished sixth."

Mendota placed 10th in the team standings with 33 points. Sterling won the sectional title with 97.5 points while Aurora Rosary and Freeport were a distant second with 73 points apiece.

"Our team as a whole did about as much as I could have asked from them at the sectional meet," added Hughes.

The IHSA State Track & Field Meet will be held Thursday, May 16 through Saturday, May 18 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Heading into the state meet, Elam and fellow freshman Aubrey Holthaus of Macomb are tied for the best sectional high jump in the state at 5-4.5.

May 8 – Rochelle Sectional

Sterling 97.5, Aurora Rosary 73, Freeport 73, Aurora Central Catholic 53, Sycamore 52.5, Genoa-Kingston 43, Rock Falls 42, Byron 37, Dixon 36, Mendota 33, Sandwich 33, Plano 32.5, Rochelle 32, Galena 27, Stillman Valley 26.5, IMSA 11

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, 100m hurdles, 15.91; Elam, high jump, 5-4.5; Elam, triple jump, 35-8.75

Mendota 6th place: 4x200m relay (Grace Wasmer, Elam, Laylie Denault, Aby Buettner), 1:54.16

Mendota 9th place: Buettner, 300m hurdles, 52.89; Buettner, long jump, 15-4.25

Mendota 10th place: Harlow Foltyniewicz, high jump, 4-6.75

Girls' soccer team falls in regional

OREGON – The Mendota girls' soccer team had its season come to an end after a 5-1 loss to Aurora Central Catholic in the opening round of the Oregon Class 1A Regional on May 11 at Oregon. The Lady Trojans closed the season with a 12-7-1 record.

Crystal Garcia scored the lone goal for Mendota.

"Overall we had a successful season," said MHS coach Nick Myers. "It didn't end the way we would have liked or gone as far as we would have liked but looking back on the season as a whole it was a very successful season. The girls were able to finish 12-7 overall, which is our best record since going 14-5 in 2012."

"The improvements were

very noticeable for anyone that followed us this year. The girls started to buy in at the beginning of the season and continued to get better and better. Having such a young team I think helped in lots of cases as they were coachable and then they saw the results on the field, which motivated them to keep getting better. With a young team like this gaining knowledge of the sport and certain situations within the games/sport is very important.

"We took a lot of practice time this season to go over quite a few things that are important and will help us develop further going into next year. Some of the girls played indoor soccer in the winter leading up to the

season, which helped also. Just getting touches on the ball and being in live game situations even before the season helped us.

"My hope is that a good chunk of our team stays active over the summer, whether that's playing club soccer or just being involved in other sports here at MHS. We continue to push our girls to train in the offseason whether it's conditioning or weightlifting. A lot of them take our strength and conditioning class at MHS, which keeps them active and gets them stronger as well. I hope after a successful season that the girls use that as motivation to take the next step and really want to win a regional and advance to sectionals next spring."



Four Northbrook Middle School track team members qualified for this weekend's IESA State Meet after participating in the sectional on May 10. Left to right, are Rylee Woods, Axel Ruiz, Lupita Sandoval and Jeniah Francis. (Photo contributed)

Northbrook sending four track members to IESA state meet

GENOA – Northbrook Middle School's track team competed in the IESA Class 3A Sectional at Genoa-Kingston on May 10. Four of Northbrook's student-athletes qualified for the IESA State Track Meet to be held May 17-18 in East Peoria.

Seventh grader Jeniah Francis participated in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the high jump. She finished first in the high jump and was second in both running events.

Axel Ruiz, a seventh grader, ran to a first-place finish in the 400-meter dash to qualify for state.

Two eighth graders also

will make the trip to the state meet. Rylee Woods took first place in the high jump and Lupita Sandoval placed second in the discus.

"Jeniah has been going crazy all season. She has taken first or second in the 100, 200, and the high jump all season long. She just has fun with it," said coach Heather Friedlein.

Friedlein said Sandoval has been focused on going to state in shot and discus, and threw state qualifying marks early in the season.

"She knew going into the sectional exactly who the competition was," noted Friedlein. "She has been trying to advance her technique

and her spin all season long. She's one of the most focused on her craft on our team."

Friedlein added that Woods went into the sectional as the number one seed in the high jump and Ruiz has been improving his time in the 400 at almost every meet.

"All four of the athletes going to state have been competing all season long for the state tournament," added Friedlein. "State has been on the plate for them since the first or second meet of the season. All of them put in the work and I'm really excited to see what they can do at state with tough competition to push them."

Trojans survive regional opener

MENDOTA – Mendota survived a late comeback by Oregon to post a 7-4 victory over the Hawks in the opening round of the Sterling Newman Class 2A Regional Baseball Tournament during a play-in game on May 13 at the MHS diamond.

The Trojans (12-8) will meet Newman in the semifinals on Thursday, May 16 at Sterling. First pitch is at 4:30 p.m. The other semifinal game will pit Rock Falls against Pecatonica on May 17, with the semifinal winners to meet for the regional title at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18.

Oregon scored a run in the first and the game remained 1-0 until the bottom of the fourth when the Trojans struck for five runs. Mendota got sacrifice fly RBIs from Evan

McPheeters and Justin Randolph and an RBI single by Cale Strouss. The other two runs scored on an error and a wild pitch.

Staked to the 5-1 lead, Mendota starting pitcher Izaiah Nanez switched places with shortstop Braiden Freeman in the fifth. Oregon struck for three runs off of Freeman and had the bases loaded with one out when Nanez retook the mound. He struck out the next batter on three pitches and then picked off a Hawk baserunner at first to end the threat.

Mendota added single runs in the fifth and sixth innings, getting a sacrifice bunt RBI by Josh Figueroa and an infield ground ball RBI by Nanez.

Nanez earned the victory, allowing six hits, one earned run, walking one and fanning seven.

All eight of Mendota's hits were singles, with Owen Aughenbaugh picking up a pair of safeties.



Nanez

MHS girls place 3rd in Illinois Valley meet

□ Mendota boys take 5th in team standings

OTTAWA – The Mendota Lady Trojans finished in third place out of eight teams in the Illinois Valley Track Invitational on May 6 at Ottawa.

Mendota scored 70 points to place behind champion LaSalle-Peru (207) and Ottawa (81).

The Lady Trojans took first place in two events. Mariyah Elam continued her domination in the high jump by claiming the event with a height of 5-3. The other top finish went to the 4x200-meter relay team in a time of 1:55.26. Competitors were Grace Wasmer, Aby Buettner, Laylie Denault and Elam.

Four second-place finishes – two each by Elam and Buettner – helped solidify Mendota's position in the team standings.

The Mendota boys took fifth place with 54 points. Ottawa (119) edged Streator (116) for the team title.

The Trojans were led by Sebastian Carlos and Anthony Kelson with first-place finishes. Carlos captured the 400-meter dash in a time of 52.58 and Kelson claimed the 1600-meter run in 4:59.64.

May 6 – Illinois Valley Invite (girls)

LaSalle-Peru 207, Ottawa 81, Mendota 70, Streator 47, Marquette 46, St. Bede 43, Hall 41, Putnam County 7

Mendota 1st place: Mariyah Elam, high jump, 5-3; 4x200m relay (Grace Wasmer, Aby Buettner, Laylie Denault, Elam), 1:55.26

Mendota 2nd place: Elam, 100m hurdles, 16.13; Buettner, 300m hurdles, 52.87; Elam, triple jump,

33-2.75; Buettner, long jump, 14-6

Mendota 3rd place: 4x800m relay (Hannah Kunz, Briza Cervantes, Emily Banks, Kara Miars), 13:08.18

Mendota 4th place: 4x100m relay (Harlow Foltyniewicz, Reushawna Durr, Chloe Walzer, Alexa Carlos), 1:00.50

Mendota 5th place: Eden Pecher, 100m hurdles, 19.74; 4x400m relay (Elaina Koch, Carlos, Kunz, Dessa Komitas), 5:40.88; Foltyniewicz, high jump, 4-5

Mendota 6th place: Banks, 1600m run, 8:13.22; Pecher, triple jump, 25-8.25

(boys)
Ottawa 119, Streator 116, LaSalle-Peru 100, Hall 75, Mendota 54, Marquette 38, Putnam County 34, St. Bede 16

Mendota 1st place: Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 52.58; Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:59.64

Mendota 2nd place: 4x800m relay (Berat Imeri, Hector Gonzalez, Carlos Toribio, Spencer Kain), 9:58.74; Mason Koch, long jump, 18-4.75

Mendota 3rd place: Carlos, 200m dash, 23.61; Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:50.53

Mendota 4th place: 4x400m relay (Aaden Castle, Anthony Seablom, Kelson, Carlos), 3:56.75

Mendota 5th place: Kelson, 110m hurdles, 18.71

Mendota 6th place: 4x100m relay (Koch, Castle, Jayden Lesley, Carlos), 48.79; 4x200m relay (Castle, Robert Botello, Seablom, Jayden Lesley), 1:43.68



Northbrook track hosts SRC Meet

Northbrook School hosted the Starved Rock Conference Track Meet on May 6. The seventh grade girls won the conference championship and the eighth grade girls tied with Bureau Valley for the conference title. Northbrook's seventh grade boys finished in third place overall, while the eighth grade boys placed fourth. Members of the conference champion girls' teams, front row, left to right, are Tatj Rucker, Bella Bute, Aliya Delao, Laurali Thompson, Delilah Karahalios, Bezzali Cadenas, Klaire Knaff and Savannah Lenert. Second row, Vania Gomez, Camila Vallejo, Lumen Setchell, Yuliza Magallanes, Zariah Escatel, Karlee Organ, Lupita Sandoval, Rylee Woods, Riley Erlenborn and Livi Perryman. Back row, Alexis Nave, Allison McNutt, Sam Stremlau, Sam Tunk, Mallory Beck, Lexie Saylor, Hayden Cedillo, Mia Barringer and Jeniah Francis. Not pictured: Valeria Gomez, Janell Olguin. (Photo contributed)

Princeton grabs title of Tom Corrigan Tennis Invitational

MENDOTA – Morris blanked Mendota, 5-0, in varsity tennis action on May 8 at the Mendota courts.

Morris 5, Mendota 0

Singles: No. 1 – Barth (Mo) def. Cameron Escatel (M) 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 – Olvera (Mo) def. Ryder Woods (M) 6-1, 6-1

Doubles: No. 1 – Ahearn-Philips (Mo) def. Ben Bresley-Wyatt Sondgeroth (M), 6-3, 6-1; No. 2 – Lindenborn-McConnell (Mo) def. Dagen Setchell-Trekker Klema (M), 7-6 (5), 6-4; No. 3 – Cleek-Zarbock (Mo) def. Harlan Gallagher-Alex Holland (M), 6-1, 6-2

Mendota hosted the Tom Corrigan Invitational on May 10. Princeton won the tournament with 10 points. Mendota finished with two points.

May 10 – Corrigan Invite

Princeton 10, Newman 8, Pontiac 7, Rockford Lutheran 6, Coal City 6, Streator 5, Rockford Christian 4, Mendota 2

Singles

No. 1 – Ramirez (CC) def. Escatel (M), 10-9 (6); Escatel (M) def. Minick (S), 10-3; Partington (SN) Escatel (M), 6-3, 6-3

No. 2 – Johnson (RL) def. Woods (M), 10-8; Downs (SN) def. Woods (M), 10-7; Sims (P) def. Woods (M), 6-0, 6-0

Doubles

No. 1 – Beck-Christensen (S) def. W. Sondgeroth-Bresley (M), 6-0, 6-4; McVey-Sterba (CC) def. W. Sondgeroth-Bresley (M), 8-5; Subramanian-Aulner (RL) def. W. Sondgeroth-Bresley (M), 10-7

No. 2 – Baker-Gallik (S) def. Setchell-Klema (M), 10-8; Thompson-Hart (CC) def. Setchell-Klema (M), 7-6 (5), 6-4; Setchell-Klema (M) def. Raj-Heinisch (RC), 8-2

SPORTS

Trojans take down three opponents

Mendota got superb pitching and timely hitting to post a 5-1 win over Kewanee in a Three Rivers Conference varsity baseball contest on May 6 at the MHS field.

The Trojans took a 1-0 lead in the first on a sacrifice fly by Justin Randolph.

Mendota doubled its lead in the fourth. Randolph singled and came around to score on a double by Izaiah Nanez.

Kewanee finally got on the board with its lone tally in the top of the sixth before Mendota padded its lead with three runs in the bottom of the inning.

Braiden Freeman scored on a wild pitch, while Cale Strouss and Brody Hartt delivered back-to-back RBI singles.

Nanez went the distance on the mound for his sixth complete game of the season. He permitted one unearned run on three hits, walking none and striking out eight.

Strouss and Freeman supplied two hits apiece in Mendota's seven-hit attack.

The Trojans scored in six of the seven innings to outlast Sandwich, 13-9, in a nonconference battle on May 7 at Sandwich.

Mendota scored four runs in the first and third innings to take a 9-2 lead before Sandwich plated four runs in the bottom of the third to draw to within three. The Trojans built their lead to 12-6 in the fifth and hung on for the win.

Mendota collected 10 hits off of three Indian pitchers. Strouss (two singles), Nanez (single, double, two RBI), Freeman (single, double), Evan McPheeters (two singles, three RBI) and Jack Gillespie (single, double) had two hits apiece for the winners.

Freeman worked the first four innings on the hill and got the win. He allowed five hits, four earned runs, walked three and fanned three. Strouss and Owen Aughenbaugh finished up on the mound.

Kewanee rallied for a 7-3 triumph over the Trojans on May 9 at Kewanee. Mendota concluded conference play at 4-6.

The Trojans took a 2-0 lead in the first as Freeman and Hartt had back-to-back RBI singles.

Kewanee scored one run in the third and two in the fourth to grab a 3-2 lead, but Mendota got an RBI single by Nanez to square things up in the fifth.

The tie was short-lived, however, as the Boilers plated four runs in the bottom of the fifth to seal the win.

Mendota had six hits in the game, with Nanez collecting a pair of singles.

Dane Doyle got the call on the hill for the Trojans and worked into the fifth before being relieved by Randolph. Doyle allowed five hits, three earned runs, walked six and struck out three.

The Trojans were an 8-3 winner at Polo in a non-conference tilt on May 10. It was the regular season finale for Mendota, which entered post-season play with an 11-8 record.

Mendota rushed out to a 5-0 lead in the third inning, pushing across four runs in the third on RBI singles by Freeman and Hartt. The other two runs came in on wild pitches.

Polo got on the board with two tallied in the bottom of the frame, but Mendota scored three of the final four runs in the game to secure the victory.

Randolph blasted a solo homer in the fifth inning, his fifth long ball of the season, then in the sixth, Freeman doubled home Doyle, who led off the inning with a two-bagger, and then Strouss, who had singled, eventually stole home.

Mendota picked up nine hits in the contest, with Strouss, Freeman and Hartt getting two apiece.

McPheeters got the start on the mound and picked up the victory. He gave up three three hits, two runs, fanned four and did not issue a walk. Aughenbaugh pitched the next three frames and Josh Figueroa finished up.

S. Carlos races to 3rd place finish in 400 at TRAC meet

EDGINGTON – Bureau Valley took first-place honors in the Three Rivers Conference Boys' Track & Field Meet held on May 10 at Rockridge High School in Edgington. The Storm scored 81 points to nip Kewanee by a point. The Trojans were last in the team standings with 17 points.

Mendota's best finish on the day went to Sebastian Carlos, who was third in the 400-meter dash with a time of 51.82.

May 10 – TRAC Meet

Bureau Valley 81, Kewanee 80, Morrison 75.5, Monmouth-Roseville 71, Riverdale 70, Princeton 67, Erie-Prophetstown 56, Newman 55, Rockridge 44, Sherrard 37, Hall 29, Orion 19.5, Mendota 17

Mendota 3rd place: Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 51.82

Mendota 4th place: Anthony Kelson, 1600m run, 4:48.7

Mendota 6th place: Carlos, 200m dash, 23.86

Mendota 7th place: Kelson, 110m hurdles, 18.3

Mendota 8th place: Mason Koch, long jump, 18-4.75

MHS girls drop regional opener

BYRON – The Mendota varsity softball team had its season come to a close after a 15-1 loss at Byron in a play-in game of the Oregon Class 2A Regional on May 13.

Mendota managed only one hit, a single by Kirby Bond, and scored its lone run

in the second to make it a 2-1 game. Byron added single runs in the second and third innings, and then erupted for 11 runs in the fourth to put the game away.

Ava Eddy took the loss in the circle for Mendota. Byron had 10 hits.

Kewanee tops Lady Trojans twice

Mendota closed out the regular season softball campaign with two losses to Kewanee in Three Rivers Conference play.

The Lady Trojans hosted Kewanee on May 6 and the Boilmakers claimed an 18-0 win. The game was called after four innings because of the 10-run rule.

Kewanee scored in every inning, including seven runs each in the second and third frames.

Mendota did not have a hit in the contest.

Ella Coss was Mendota's starting pitcher. Just five of the runs she allowed were earned as the Lady Trojans committed eight errors.

Mendota traveled to Kewanee on May 9 and the Boilmakers won again by the 10-run rule, 13-3.

Kewanee opened the scoring with a four-run

first. Mendota got on the board with two runs in the third and one in the fourth, but the home team tallied nine runs over the final three innings.

Kirby Bond (two singles, double) had three of Mendota's seven hits. Abbie Kreiser added a double, while Sydney Tolley singled and drove in a run.

Ava Eddy got the start in the circle for Mendota and was tagged with the loss.

Area seventh and eighth grade athletes compete at state track meet

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

EAST PEORIA – Holy Cross Catholic School in Mendota, Allen Junior High School in LaMoille, and Earlville Junior High all had plenty to celebrate after the conclusion of the IESA Class 1A State Meet on Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 at EastSide Centre in East Peoria.

Komen Denault, an eighth grader at Holy Cross, finished second in the boys' pole vault with a vault of 2.66 meters, while seventh grader Leo Engels competed in the boys' pole vault prelims.

Seventh grader Eva Beetz finished ninth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:07.49 and she competed in the long jump prelims.

"I've been the track coach at Holy Cross for two months. Coming in, I didn't know what to expect," said Holy Cross coach Thomas Makransky, who graduated from St. Bede in 2023 after qualifying for the 2023 IHSA Class 1A State Meet. "There were only 13 kids on the team. Having three athletes advance to the state meet is amazing. I had a lot of fun this season and I think they did also."

"It was the first year Holy Cross had pole vaulters. Holy Cross doesn't have anywhere to practice pole vault, so we went to St. Bede and practiced. Leo and Komen learned quickly and enjoyed the pole vault."

"As a seventh grader Eva did a great job and was excited for her events all season."

LaMoille brought two individual athletes to the state meet in eighth graders Gage Spangler in the boys' discus (third place, 37.46 meters) and shot put (15th place, 11.08 meters) and Olivea Glasper, in the girls' shot put (sixth place, 9.07 meters) and 100-meter dash (eighth place, 18.06), as well as the girls 4x1 relay of Alexis Flanagan, the only seventh grader, and eighth graders Kijah Lucas, Jena Monroe, and Glasper (fourth place, 55.18).

"From the get-go when we first started practice, they knew what they wanted to do. They set their goals high, and they wanted

to go to state," said Kenny Shrimplin, who coaches LaMoille track with his wife Staci Shrimplin. "We took the 4x1 relay to state last year. We knew we had speed again this year and we knew going to state and placing well was possible. We worked on handoffs, and they've been nailing them all season. It has been a fun season."

"Olivea made it to state last year in shot put. I knew she was the best thrower in the county and in the area. We started workouts in February. She was bound and determined. So was Gage. His main goal was to make it in both shot and discuss. He is a coach's dream because he would go home, research, and then ask me if he could borrow a shot put to throw at home. He would come to practice the next day and show me what he worked on."

"It was amazing to have two throwers, because that doesn't happen often, and a relay team represent LaMoille. Staci and I are proud."

Earlville had three 13th-place finishes as eighth grader Audrey Scherer was 13th in both the girls' shot put (8.47 meters) and discus (25.26 meters), and seventh grader Daniel Hoffman was 13th in the boys' shot put with a throw of 8.44 meters.

Also for Earlville, seventh grader Darik Farley was 14th in the 200-meter dash (26.99) and he competed in the 100 dash prelims with a time of 13.66.

"When you crack the egg of going to state, other kids see it and they want to make it. They set goals that are pretty high," Earlville coach Brandon Skolek said, who graduated from Ottawa High School in 2010. "As I get experience, I can see a kid like Daniel who is a great athlete and put him in different events to secure a spot at the track meet. He is a runner but hurt his leg. Instead of having him miss a chance to go to state, I put the strong kid in the shot put for sectionals. He has only thrown twice, sectional and state, which is pretty impressive."

"It's cool to be able to give them an opportunity. They go down there and see the other athletes and they want to compete."

New Spiker volleyball coach to conduct camp July 9-12 at Mendota HS

MENDOTA – A Mendota Volleyball Camp will be held July 9-12 at Mendota High School. More information about the camp can be found on the teamreach app.



Sophomore and varsity campers will meet from 8-10 a.m. The teachreach code is Spikerscamp. Incoming freshmen will meet from 10 a.m.-noon. The teamreach code is Spikerscamp. Junior high campers will meet from 1-3 p.m. The teamreach code is Campmgs.

Information for Mendota High School team tryouts and summer leagues is also available on the teamreach app. For freshman, the code is Spikerfresh; for sophomores the code is Spikersophs; and for varsity the code is Spikervarsity.

Boys' hoop camp set June 10-13 at MHS

MENDOTA – The Mendota Trojans Boys' Basketball Camp will be held June 10-13 at Mendota High School.

Campers in third through fifth grade will meet from 9:30-10:45 a.m. and campers in sixth through eighth grade will meet from 10:45 a.m.-noon.

The camp is \$50 per camper (\$35 for each additional family member). Camp shirts are only guaranteed to those whose forms are turned in by Monday, June 6.

Forms are available at Mendota High School. For more information, call Steve Wasmer at 815-993-5428.

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June 7-9, 2024

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6:00 Prairie Princess- Allen School
(Mara 579-1833)
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(Stacy 878-6962)
8-12 Music By **WILDCARD**
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8:00 Tractor Show (Munro 303-1960)
10:00 Food/Beer Tent Opens
10:15 Bed Race Registration
10:30 Bed Race Begins
Parade Registration – HS Parking Lot
10-4 Vendor Fair (Tammy Mc-
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11:00 Parade-Main Street
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12:00 Adult Waterfights Registration-
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12 -4 Silent Auction
12-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands
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12:30 Kiddie Tractor Pull-Park
1:00 Adult WaterFights Begins
1-3 Kids Fun fair
1-5 Cedar Creek Ranch Petting
Zoo with Pony Ride (included in
wristband)
2:30-4:30 Foam Party -
included in wristband)
3-7 Music By **GREENFIELD STA-
TION** - Beer Tent
8-12 Music by **CODY CALKINS
BAND** - Beer Tent
11:00 Egg Sandwiches

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

9:00-10:30 Churches of
LaMoille Service Park Pavilion Guest
Speaker: Wayne Antusas
10:00 Biscuits and Gravy (food tent)
10:30 Sign Up Bags Tournament -
Beer Tent
11:00 Food/Beer Tent Opens
Bags Tournament begins
Kiddie Waterfights Registration
– Sheldon Street
11:30 Kiddie WaterFights begins
12-4 Axetreme Throwing
1-6 Music by **BURN N BUSH** -
Beer Tent
2:00 Live Auction – Beer Tent (Lori
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5:30 50/50 Drawing

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The Mendota Reporter



RELIGION

Take a step into your destiny

When it comes to running their race and fulfilling the dreams that God has placed in their hearts, I believe a lot of Christians are stuck in the starting blocks. They aren't sure how a situation is going to turn out or exactly what they should do...so they do nothing.

Instead of running the race that God has set out for them (Hebrews 12:1), they are letting worry and anxiety keep them frozen at the starting line.

You see, God has an

amazing plan for your life and so many good things in store for you... if you are willing to take a step.

God wants you to participate in the miracle He is doing in your life. If you think that you're going to wake up one day and supernaturally be at the finish line, you're going to be disappointed. It doesn't work that way.

In our relationship with God, each one of us is given the great opportunity to walk out our faith. Just as Adam and Eve walked with

God in the cool of the garden, or just as the disciples walked with Jesus on the roads of Galilee, we are called to walk with the Lord on a daily basis.

But in order to walk, you have to do something—you have to take the steps that God leads you to take. Every day, God is encouraging you to go—to step out, commit your plans to God, and trust that He can help you be all that you can be, just like it says in Psalm 37:5 (NKJV): Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

But many times, because we aren't sure of all the steps, we don't even take the first one. We're waiting for God to tell us how the next five years of our lives are going to work out, and God is telling us what to do today.

I've learned in my relationship with God that He doesn't always give me the entire plan—He usually just gives me the next step. God keeps secrets and hides things from us so we will walk in faith and continue seeking Him. He always reveals what we need to know at the right time.

Your dream may be to have a ministry that reaches the world, but



God is asking you to take step one—share the Gospel with your neighbor across the street.

You may be praying that God will give you your own business, but God is asking you to take step one—show up for work on time and be faithful at the job you have now.

You may be trying to figure out how to lose a certain amount of weight, but God wants you to take step one—exercise for 20 minutes today.

We have a tendency to get so wrapped up in the destination that we never even begin the journey! So, what is God asking you to do today? Faith is always active—always. It is not passive. Faith requires that you move forward into what God is telling you to do.

Sometimes people say to me, “Joyce, because I’m not one hundred percent sure what God is saying

to me, I’m afraid I’m going to take the wrong step.”

I understand this concern, but did you spot a certain word in there? “Afraid.” It is not the will of God for fear to rule in any area of your life—especially your walk with Him. Don’t be afraid to take a step because you think it will be the wrong one. God sees your heart. He knows that you are trying to please Him and live in obedience to His Word.

He is not a cruel, angry God who is going to punish you if you take a misstep along the way. He sees your heart is right and you are trying to take a step toward His plan for your life...and He is going to bless you for your desire to walk in your destiny.

So, take a step—God is waiting for you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource

Living on Purpose for a Purpose. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

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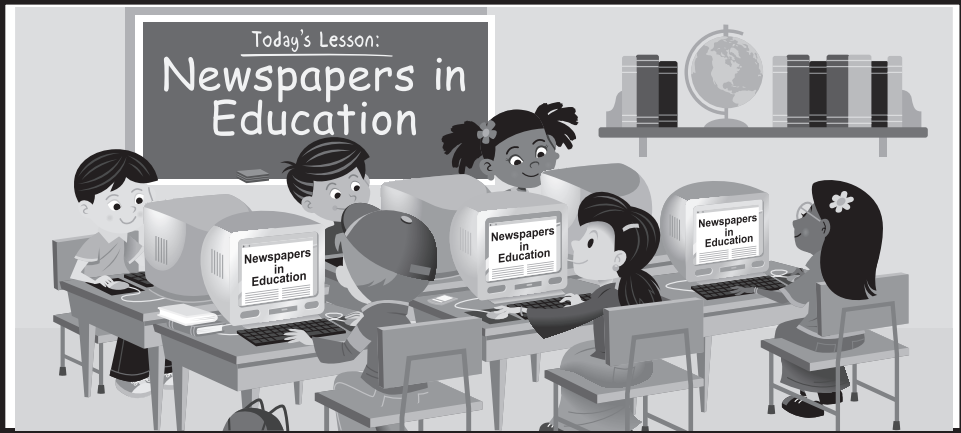
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ularly described as Unit No. 00780, Use Period Number(s) 32, Phase 1 NEILBERTO RIVERA and SHERRIE CHRISTINE FREEMAN, 5744 NW CAHABA ST, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34986, according to the Deed dated September 28, 2001 and recorded under File No. 2001-30860, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 12, 2001, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00780, Use Period Number(s) 32, Phase 1 SHAIRA ROCK, 187 N LARCH AVE, ELMHURST, IL 60126, according to the Deed dated January 25, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013-03269, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 15, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00190, Use Period Number(s) 23, Phase 1 JANETTE SANCHEZ and JAYCEE ESTEVES, 301 ARISTOCRAT DR, BOLINGBROOK, IL 60490, according to the Deed dated June 02, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013-13241, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 20, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00300, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 1 IRENE SANTANA, 911 LYNNWOOD CT, SHOREWOOD, IL 60404, according to the Deed dated May 04, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014-09387, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on May 21, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0004E, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 1 PETER G SANTUCCI and CHRISTINA A PETERSON, 5470 WHITETAIL PKWY, YORKVILLE, IL 60560, according to the Deed dated January 29, 2006 and recorded under File No. 2016-18384, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on March 02, 2006, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0073E, Use Period Number(s) 05, Phase 1 KIMBERLY SCHOEWE and SHAWN SCHOEWE, 1854 STOCKTON DR, HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169, according to the Deed dated September 14, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013-22312, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 03, 2013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0100E, Use Period Number(s) 08, Phase 2 MARY L SHERFIELD and RAYMOND SHERFIELD, 1773 W GOLDEN HILLS DR, PERU, IN 46970, according to the Deed dated June 25, 2010 and recorded under File No. 2010-24022, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 10, 2010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0043, Use Period Number(s) 15, Phase 1 NIVETTE SMART and ROBERT CORDY, 1807 WALTON LN SE, SMYRNA, GA 30080

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according to the Deed dated December 05, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014-25017, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on December 26, 2014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00200, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 1
BENJAMIN S SMITH and KYRA W SMITH, CMR 480 BOX 2989, APO, AE 09128, according to the Deed dated September 28, 2007 and recorded under File No. 2007-25779, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 24, 2007, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0055E, Use Period Number(s) 37, Phase 1
BENJAMIN S SMITH and KYRA W SMITH, 2101 W DEKLE AVE, TAMPA, FL 33606, according to the Deed dated September 28, 2007 and recorded under File No. 2007-25779, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 24, 2007, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0055E, Use Period Number(s) 37, Phase 1
CHRISTOPHER SPRINGBORN and MICHELLE SPRINGBORN, 4202 VERDE VIS, GEORGETOWN, TX 78628, according to the Deed dated September 30, 2011 and recorded under File No. 2011-21579, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 20, 2011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0402, Use Period Number(s) 28, Phase 6
CHRISTOPHER SPRINGBORN and MICHELLE SPRINGBORN, 800 WOLF RANCH PKWY APT 9100, GEORGETOWN, TX 78628, according to the Deed dated September 30, 2011 and recorded under File No. 2011-21579, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 20, 2011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0402, Use Period Number(s) 28, Phase 6
DENNIS K STOLL AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, 1093 2300TH AVE, CHESTNUT, IL 62518, according to the Deed dated February 07, 2008 and recorded under File No. 2008-07302, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on April 03, 2008, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0078E, Use Period Number(s) 42, Phase 1
ROBERT W STRASSER and KATHY L STRASSER, 304 LINCOLN BLVD, NORTH PEKIN, IL 61554, according to the Deed dated January 18, 1998 and recorded under File No. 1999-25288, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 24, 1999, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0015E, Use Period Number(s) 11, Phase 1
ROBERT W STRASSER and KATHY L STRASSER, 13945 WAGNER DR, BLOOMINGTON, IL 61705, according to the Deed dated January 18, 1998 and recorded under File

No. 1999-25288, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 24, 1999, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0015E, Use Period Number(s) 11, Phase 1
ROBERT A. TSIKRET-SIS and LINDA HEINZ, 215 N ONECA ST, TONICA, IL 61370, according to the Deed dated January 30, 2005 and recorded under File No. 2005-04380, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 24, 2005, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 02040, Use Period Number(s) 07, Phase 4
ROBERT A. TSIKRET-SIS and LINDA HEINZ, PO BOX 61, TONICA, IL 61370, according to the Deed dated January 30, 2005 and recorded under File No. 2005-04380, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on February 24, 2005, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 02040, Use Period Number(s) 07, Phase 4
TERRY VENABLE, 1414 DOUGLAS DR, JACKSON, MO 63755, according to the Deed dated September 27, 2008 and recorded under File No. 2008-24988, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 07, 2008, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0369, Use Period Number(s) 38, Phase 3
MARTIN D. WALLACE, 3060 N RIDGECREST UNIT 159, MESA, AZ 85207, according to the Deed dated February 09, 2002 and recorded under File No. 2005-32707, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on March 01, 2002, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0077E, Use Period Number(s) 04, Phase 1
CHARLES WILLIAMS and SHIRLEY H WILLIAMS, 3244 CHESTNUT DR, FLOSMOOR, IL 60422, according to the Deed dated July 04, 2010 and recorded under File No. 2010-14848, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 20, 2010, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0281, Use Period Number(s) 26, Phase 4
DOROTHY WILLIAMS-HAMMOCK, 1108 CHARLESTON LN, SAVANNAH, TX 76227, according to the Deed dated December 12, 2004 and recorded under File No. 2005-00372, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on January 06, 2005, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00150, Use Period Number(s) 47, Phase 1
TANYA ELIZABETH WRIGHT and JOSHUA LEE WRIGHT, 808 PIER ST, AUBREY, TX 76227, according to the Deed dated September 24, 2011 and recorded under File No. 2016-18582, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 20, 2011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0086E, Use

Period Number(s) 03, Phase 2
HOLLY E ZAEHRINGER and STEPHEN C ZAEHRINGER, 722 TURTLEBACK RD UNIT 102E, MESQUITE, NV 89027, according to the Deed dated October 03, 2005 and recorded under File No. 2005-30996, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 22, 2005, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0216, Use Period Number(s) 21, Phase 4
TERMS OF SALE: At the time and location noted above, the timeshare estates listed above will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash. The timeshare estates will be sold in individual lots unless there are no individual bidders, in which case, they may be sold as a group. In the event the managing entity lienholder or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the managing entity lienholder or its authorized agent may offset against the purchase price of the timeshare estate(s) an amount equal to all or a portion of the amount due under the managing entity lien(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction.
Managing entity lien holder: Holiday Inn Club Vacations Incorporated, A Delaware Corporation
By: Julie Sabon-Van Dyke, Assistant Secretary
No. 0501 (May 05, 15 and 22, 2024)

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 23, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as J & G Maintenance Services located at 1022 W. Main Street, Apt. A Ottawa, IL. 61350.
Dated: April 23, 2024.
John Schutzius & Gerald Schutzius Applicants.
No. 0502 (May 1, 8 and 15, 2024)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)

Elaine R. Cain,)
Case No. 2024-PR-79 Deceased)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Elaine R. Cain of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 24, 2024 to Kenneth Doran of 1715 Char Lu Drive, Mendota, IL 61342, as Independent Executor, whose Attorneys of record are Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.
Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to 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 the above periods are barred.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider.
Visit <https://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider.
If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.
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 administered 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 independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, 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 notice are barred.
No. 0504 (May 05, 15 and 22, 2024)

NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JD-37
TO: Walter Hood, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 7th day of May, 2024 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Keiana Hood, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 18th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.
Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.
Greg Vacarro, Clerk
Dated May 7, 2024
No. 0505 (May 15, 2024)

NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing
The City of Mendota Plan Commission will hold a public hearing at 5:15 P.M. on Monday, June 3rd, 2024 in the City Council Chambers at 607 8th Avenue, Mendota, Illinois. The agenda includes:
1. Consider amending the certain sections of the Mendota Municipal Code. Specifically:
a. Section 17.1 – Fences;
b. Section 47 – Building

Inspector; and
c. Section 51 – Certificates of Occupancy all within Chapter 340 – ZONING of the Mendota Municipal Code.
Copies of the proposed amendments are on file and available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office located at 800 Washington Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342.
No. 0506 (May 15, 2024)

NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JA-11, 2023-JA-12
TO: Ronald Carter, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 10th day of March, 2024 a petition 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 Raelyn Carter and Ronald Carter, minors', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 24th day of July, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.
You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you.
Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.
Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand, admitted as against you and an order or judgement entered.
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
Dated May 7, 2024
No. 0507 (May 15, 2024)

NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JV-01
TO: Amber Heilman, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 7th day of May, 2024 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Penelope Heilman, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 18th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.
Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show

cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgement entered.
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
Dated May 8, 2024
No. 0508 (May 15, 2024)

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 30, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as RK Midwest Vintage located at 15 N. 46th Road Mendota, IL. 61342.
Dated: April 30, 2024.
Amanda Reiersen & Kevin Kerekes Applicants.
No. 0509 (May 15, 22 and 29, 2024)

NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing
Ophir Township Town Budget
Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Town purposes, Ophir Township, LaSalle County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025 is available for public inspection at the Triumph Community Building, 3907 E. 752nd Road, Triumph Illinois. A public hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024 at the Triumph Community Building.
Bill Pakenham
Ophir Township Clerk
No. 0510 (May 15, 2024)

NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing
Ophir Township Road and Bridge Budget
Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Road purposes, Ophir Township, LaSalle County, Illinois for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025 is available for public inspection at the Triumph Community Building, 3907 E. 752nd Road Triumph Illinois. A public hearing on the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday June 10, 2024 at the Triumph Community Building.
Bill Pakenham
Ophir Township Clerk
No. 0511 (May 15, 2024)

NOTICE

Ophir Township regular monthly meeting dates for fiscal 2024-2025 will be held on the second Monday of the month, April through October at 7:00 p.m. and November through March at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Ophir Community Building at 3907 E. 752nd Road in Triumph.
Bill Pakenham
Ophir Township Clerk
No. 0512 (May 15, 2024)

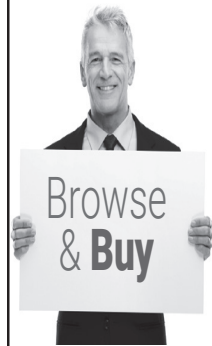
NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
)
) WILLIS D. VIETZ,)
) Deceased.)
)
)
Case No.: 24 PR 89
CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of WILLIS D. VIETZ, of Mendota, Illi-

nois.
Letters of Office were issued on May 9, 2024 to WAYNE F. VIETZ, 639 N. 4050TH Rd., Mendota, IL 61342, and whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342.
Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Executor is required, the date stated in that Notice.
Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider.
If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.
Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of Court. Dated this 9th day of May, 2024.
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Self-motivated individuals can send a resume including employment history to: City of Mendota, 800 Washington St., Mendota, IL 61342. Resumes must be received by **Friday, May 31, 2024**. No phone calls please. E.O.E.

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LAWN & GARDEN



The maintenance required to keep a plant healthy and looking good is a key consideration when designing a landscape.

Tips to pick the right plants for your landscape

Each year, gardening enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of spring. Spring is a great season to plant new flowers, plants, grasses, and trees, making it a popular time of year to spend sunny days out in the yard.

Veteran gardeners may know their landscapes well and be able to pick the right plants on their own. Novices may need a little help as they look to give their landscapes a whole new look. The following are some helpful tips to help homeowners pick the right plants for their landscapes.

- Conduct a site evaluation. A colorful landscape featuring an array of plants and flowers can be eye-catching and add curb appeal to a property. However, where plants will be planted is a significant variable that must be considered before homeowners choose what to plant. The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst notes that site evaluation is the first step when picking plants. A number of factors must be evaluated, including light availability; water availability; exposure to the elements, including wind and extreme temperatures; and competition from existing vegetation, among other things. Document these variables prior to picking plants. For example, take note of the area you plan to plant to see if it is full sun or partial shade, and then pick plants whose growing conditions align with those you observe.

- Look at more than looks. Aesthetic appeal might be what homeowners most desire from their landscapes, but that appeal is only achieved when the right plants are chosen for a space. If the wrong plants are chosen, they're unlikely to thrive or they could threaten existing vegetation, thus compromising the overall appeal of the property. Native plants can often handle local weather conditions, so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal. If jaw-dropping aesthetic appeal is your top priority, speak with a local landscaping professional about which natives can provide that without compromising surrounding vegetation.

- Consider maintenance prior to planting. Maintenance is another variable gardeners must consider. Newly planted trees may require substantial watering until they've fully established their roots, and some homeowners may not have time for that. In addition, certain plants may require a considerable amount of pruning in order to create and maintain the look homeowners desire. Individuals must be willing to invest the time and effort necessary to maintain new plantings that require such diligence. If not, look for plants that don't require much maintenance while keeping in mind that even low-maintenance plants still require some effort and attention.

- Consider local wildlife. If your lawn is routinely visited by local wildlife, then look for plants that won't look like a meal to these welcome, if uninvited, guests. For example, if you routinely see deer lounging around in your backyard, look for deer-resistant plants. This is a good way to protect your investment, of both time and money, and ensure minimal wildlife traffic through your newly landscaped yard.

Spring gardens are awe-inspiring, especially when homeowners embrace various strategies for successful planting.

Brighten any space with containers of summer-flowering bulbs

By Melinda Myers

Add unexpected beauty to your patio, deck, or balcony with summer-blooming bulbs. You may have grown elephant ears, lilies, dahlias, gladiolus, and caladiums in your garden, but did you know they also thrive in containers? Some summer bulbs grow even better in pots than they do in the garden. These include the exotic-looking flowers of Abyssinian gladiolus, calla lilies, pineapple lilies, and spider lilies.

One of the reasons these bulbs perform so well in containers is that you can be sure they get warm soil, consistent water, and plenty of nutrients. Taller plants like gladiolus, lilies, dahlias, cannas, and elephant ears are the perfect thrillers for large containers. Their bold foliage and extravagant blooms are sure to steal the show. Just plant the bulbs in spring along with your other annuals. As temperatures rise, these heat-loving bulbs will begin to fill in and soon burst into bloom providing added texture and color from late summer through fall.

You may find that summer-blooming bulbs like the pineapple lily (*Eucomis*), calla lily, and fragrant *Hymenocallis* perform better in their own containers because there is no competition with other plants for space, nutrients, and moisture. Before the bulbs begin flowering, their foliage provides an attractive backdrop for other container plants that bloom earlier in the season. Once flowering begins, you can move the pots front and center to fully enjoy the show. In cold climates, growing in containers also makes it easier to overwinter the bulbs. Just move the pots indoors to a cool, dark location until it's time to replant the next spring.

Combine plants of different sizes and shapes to create visual excitement. Containers filled with tall plants such as gladiolus, cannas, tall varieties of dahlias, and large elephant ears provide striking vertical accents. Shorter plants like caladiums, pineapple lily, and triplet lily (*Brodiaea*) can be positioned in front

of the larger pots. Add a few planters filled with your favorite annuals to keep the color going all season long.

Many summer-blooming bulbs are wonderfully fragrant. Growing these plants on a patio, deck, or balcony, ensures you won't miss out on their delightful perfume. Late summer evenings are even sweeter when you are surrounded by containers filled with Oriental lilies, spider lilies, and *acidanthera*.

Small bulbs can grow into enormous plants, so choosing the right size container is important if you want your summer bulbs to reach their full potential. Longfield Gardens provides helpful tips in its Best Summer Bulbs for Containers article (www.longfield-gardens.com).

Most mid-sized dahlias will grow well in a five-gallon container. Dahlias that get to be more than 3 feet tall need a larger pot as well as sturdy stakes for extra support. Cannas and elephant ears are thirsty plants and can develop a very large root system in just a few short months. For these tropical beauties, the bigger the pot, the better!

Extend the bloom time for gladiolus and its cousin, Abyssinian gladiolus, by planting the bulbs in batches about two weeks apart. Both of these summer bulbs have sword-like foliage that provides vertical interest while you wait for the beautiful blooms. If you like cut flowers, grow a few extra pots of gladiolus so you can include them in summer arrangements.

Calla lilies are easy to grow in pots, even for gardeners in cool climates. Choose from a rainbow of beautiful flower colors, from white and yellow, to peach, red, and nearly black. The blossoms last for a month or more, and the lush foliage stays attractive all season long.

Extend the season into early fall with the exotic-looking flowers of *Nerine bowdenii*. Plant three or more bulbs per container and look forward to fragrant, candy-pink blossoms in September.



Let the unique flowers of pineapple lily (*Eucomis*) shine by growing them in their own container. The long-lasting flowers feature a green topknot that makes them resemble a pineapple. As with nerines, callas, and other non-hardy summer bulbs, *Eucomis* can be overwintered indoors and replanted in spring.

The possibilities are many. No matter which summer bulbs you choose, growing them in containers is a sure way to add pizzazz to your patio, deck, balcony, or entryway.

(Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.)

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