




Memorial Day Tribute






Remembering our heroes
Mendota’s Memorial Day Service was conducted in front of a large crowd at Restland Memorial Gardens on May 27. The Veterans’ Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary, American Legion Post 540 and the Mendota Alumni Band participated in the program, the purpose of which is to honor and remember 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. Bill Hunt, Navy veteran, was the master of ceremonies. Eva Beetz was guest speaker as the 2023 Patriot Pen essay winner. (Reporter photos)




B. Bresley



Q. Holland



S. Matura



L. Bokus



E. Martin

MHS students chosen to attend Boys, Girls State

MENDOTA—Five Mendota High School students will attend Boys State and Girls State this summer.

Three outstanding MHS students have been selected to attend the 87th Annual Premier Boys State held at Eastern Illinois University in June. The program, sponsored by the American Legion, is designed to teach young men about voting and the election process in a democratic society. Over 750 eleventh grade boys from around the state will attend the week-long leadership seminar.

Mendota High School students attending Boys State include Sam Matura, the son of Samuel and Jeannie Matura of Mendota, sponsored by the American Legion; Benjamin Bresley, son of John and Amanda Bresley of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Lions Club; and Quin Holland, son of Troy and Aimee Holland of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Two deserving MHS students have been selected to attend the Illini Girls State held at Eastern Illinois University in June. The program, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, is designed to teach young women to understand and appreciate their roles as United States citizens. Approximately 600 eleventh-grade girls from around the state will attend the week-long leadership seminar.

Mendota High School students attending Girls State include Lily Bokus, daughter of Mike and Kaela Bokus of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Lions Club, and Ella Martin, daughter of Jason and Lisa Martin of Mendota, sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge.

District 280 waives certain student fees for ‘24-25 school year

□ Board handles personnel matters

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education set fees and prices for the next school year at its May 20 regular meeting.

In action from Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh’s report, registration fees, lab fees, driver’s education fees and student participation fees are all waived again for the 2024-25 school year.

Chromebook insurance is \$25 and is optional to purchase for repairs.

Lunch prices were set at \$3.65 for students and \$4.40 for adults; breakfast price is \$2.25; milk price is 55 cents.

Athletic admission prices were set at \$5 for adults; \$4 for student, senior citizen, child; \$12 for adult with two or more children under the age of 18; \$60 for adult all-season ticket and \$40 for student and senior citizen all-season ticket; \$125 for football parking space.

In other items from Superintendent Aughenbaugh, the board considered and approved the local wellness policy and triennial assessment for review; approved the first reading of PRESS PLUS 114 board policy updates; and approved the FY25 consolidated district plan.

The Board reviewed the ENGIE stadium and digital solutions update. A public notice will be posted prior to the June 17 board meeting stating the district’s intention to address energy conservation and savings measures at its facilities through a guaranteed energy savings contract with the ENGIE contract amendment.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
During Principal Joe Masini’s report, Nicole Cromwell, assistant principal, presented recommendations for the 2024-25 Student Handbook. The board reviewed and approved the handbook updates pending school attorney review.

Masini presented the Athletic Committee recommendations for winter sports bids, which were approved.

Brock Zinke, athletic director, provided a presentation on the athletic program year in review.

OTHER ITEMS
The board held an executive/closed session. Upon return to open session, the board took action on the following:

- Hired summer custodial help—Jennifer Watson, adult; Elias Sumner and Marco Balcazar, students;
- Hired Enrique Guzman as second shift custodian;
- Approved the resolution assuring re-employment for the 2024-25 school year to staff on the non-certified or employee support personnel list;
- Accepted the resignation of Evan Carroll as sophomore.

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Wild Bill returns to Mendota
James Butler Hickok, also known as Wild Bill, returned to Mendota over Memorial Day weekend in the form of actor Walt Willey, who brought Wild Bill back to life in his portrayal of the Troy Grove-born Hickok. Willey presented Wild Bill!, an afternoon with James Butler Hickok, “My Time in Illinois,” during six performances at the Hume-Carnegie Museum in Mendota on May 25 and 26. Hickok was born on May 27, 1837, in Troy Grove, and spent time in Mendota before heading west where he ultimately met his demise in Deadwood, S.D., on Aug. 2, 1876. Willey, who was born in Ottawa and is best known for appearing on the ABC soap opera All My Children, tours the country with his one-man show about the legendary Wild West icon Wild Bill Hickok. (Reporter photo)



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LOCAL AND AREA



50 years in ministry
Rev. Larry Sheaves, pastor of New Covenant Assembly of God in Mendota, was honored at district council for being an ordained minister for 50 years. This is quite an achievement that few attain. Pastor Sheaves has pastored at several churches ranging from Florida to Illinois and has been pastoring in Mendota for 37 years. His wife Leah has been faithfully by his side. (Photo contributed)

OSFM announces recipients of 2024 grant program

SPRINGFIELD – The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has named the recipients of the 2024 Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$4 million was awarded to 165 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state. The program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 each for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment.

Among the fire departments receiving grants are the Sublette Fire Protection District (\$25,200) and the Leland Community Fire Protection District (\$18,442).

This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for fire departments and not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not

be able to purchase. The OSFM received 417 applications, requesting around \$9.5 million in funding for this grant period.

“We continue to see and hear about the need and understand the issues fire departments face when it comes to funding across the state. I am proud this year we were able to increase our grant funding to \$4 million, a \$2.5 million increase from last year, which has allowed us to award over 100 more departments money to purchase lifesaving tools they might not have been able to afford otherwise,” said Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera.

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts, township fire departments, and stand-alone, nonprofit ambulance service providers were eligible to apply. All fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire department applicants were required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying.



Mendota High School Class of 2024 graduates Madelyn Becker, second from left, and Valerie Valdez, fourth from left, were awarded with scholarships worth \$500 each from Taco Guzman. The Guzman crew, left to right, of Naitzy Garcia, Sandro Guzman and Rosa Guzman gave the scholarships to help them live their dreams like Sandro has with the Taco Guzman food truck. (Photo contributed)

‘I believe in dreams’ Taco Guzman fuels dreams with \$500 college scholarships to two Mendota High School Class of 2024 students

By Brandon LaChance
Staff writer

MENDOTA – At one time, the Taco Guzman food truck wasn’t imaginable. After it became a thought, it didn’t seem realistic. As a fryer it wasn’t a grill. As a grill it wasn’t a tent. The tent wasn’t a booth. The booth wasn’t what you see now, the Taco Guzman truck, designed the way owner Sandro Guzman wanted it.

Each step of the way, he put his blood sweat, tears, and determination into his dreams.

“Taco Guzman started 10 years ago with me helping the Hispanic community. People asked me to do benefits to raise money, so I did a lot of fundraisers for the Hispanic Community,” said Sandro Guzman, who moved to Mendota in 1989. “That’s how the idea for Taco Guzman began because people were asking me, ‘Hey, why don’t you open a restaurant?’”

“Every time they asked me, it kept putting the idea into my head. Every time I was in Chicago or the suburbs, I saw a food truck and I told myself I wanted to do that. I didn’t think it was going to happen because I didn’t have the money. I asked myself, ‘How can I make it happen?’”

Guzman worked at Lube Cube full-time for 15 years. When the wheels began to roll in motion with the food truck idea, Guzman worked 90 hours a week for three years as he did both, Lube Cube and Taco Guzman.

Through his work ethic and motivation to work for himself making food for his community, the mechanic was able to put down the wrench and permanency pick

up a spatula as a cook and business owner.

Being a man who wants to help in any way he can and as a man who knows when you set your mind to something it can be accomplished, Guzman decided to award two Mendota High School Class of 2024 graduates, Valerie Valdez and Madelyn Becker, each with a \$500 college scholarship to aid them in working toward their goals.

“Through the process, I didn’t have the support. I didn’t have someone telling me, ‘Come on buddy, let’s go do it,’” Guzman said. “I’m always a person who is willing to help anyone who needs it. That’s what Taco Guzman is about, helping the community. When policemen or firefighters come for food, I don’t charge them. I’m just trying to pay back the people who watch over us 24 hours a day.”

“It makes me feel good to help the community. I want to help people who want to build their own career because I know what it takes. I want to be a person who can be support for others like I didn’t have. That’s why I decided to do the scholarships. It’s a way to say thank you to the community and help others succeed.”

“I want to help others live their dreams like I’m living mine. I believe in dreams and I know people can do it.”

With the help of his wife Rosa and daughter Maria, Guzman decided to indulge in the idea of cooking for more than his family and fundraisers on a little fryer from Walmart.

Carol Ramer nudged him to enter a taco competition during the 2018 Tri-County Fair.

He did, and he won.

“People who tried the food asked again, ‘Why don’t you have a restaurant?’ I thought

here we go again. I got my license and was doing catering, weddings, and I built myself a food truck in 2019,” Guzman said. “I had no idea what I was doing. Everything was fine, but I was determined to make my dream come true. I wanted to customize my own trailer.”

“I wanted the trailer I wanted. I needed and wanted a food truck. It was my dream to get the truck I have now. I’m still living my dream. Taco Guzman helped change my life. I was an alcoholic. I started an alcoholic anonymous group to help others stop drinking, too. Taco Guzman is my therapy. I’ve been clean for 17 years. I hope others can quit drinking.”

Now Guzman has loyal employees and helping hands in Naitzy Garcia, who gave him the idea of awarding scholarships, Karina Pantoja, Diego Raya, and more.

Watching them put in their 100 percent effort lets Guzman know he made the right move by fighting anxiety of not being able to make it or succeed, by giving multiple opportunities to eat or prepare food to his communities.

“It seems like everywhere we go, we sell out,” Guzman said. “Mendota has been great. Amboy is my second home and they support us so much. Monday is my day off but I go to the Monday Food Truck nights for both towns because I want to give back and support them.”

“I don’t have a way to pay back the communities of Mendota and Amboy for the way they’ve supported me. The scholarships are at least a small step. I believe in dreams and if I did it, I know other people can. I hope Madelyn and Valerie use them to do great things.”

“If you have a dream, get up, and go do it.”

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Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Thank you to all of the parents of incoming kindergarten students who attended our registration night on May 22. Parents were able to complete the registration process. The families were also able to meet the kindergarten teachers and take a walk around the school. If parents were unable to attend this event, please call our office at 539-6888 as soon as possible so we can help you finish registration for your child for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year.

□□□

We are excited that Blackstone will be implementing a new reading curriculum beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Because of this, we have many older materials to get rid of. This past week, our students were able to take home many books that they picked out and will get to keep at home. There could be more coming home before the end of the year. The students were excited to get the books and we hope they practice reading them over the summer!

□□□

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Gabe Dykstra, Harper DeBeck, Zoey Hensley, Maybell Godinez, Colton Boysen, Jonas Landeros,

Amyra Hawkins and Allias Francis. The winners were Matias Chapa, Lionardo Smith, Maggie Larson and Rayla Nagy.

□□□

Pattern Day was a huge hit for one of our May spirit days. The school was full of colorful and different patterns. Thanks to all who participated!

□□□

The final principal pizza lunch of the year was held on May 24th. The May winners that attended were Nathan Gonzales, Caine Quarzenski, Stephen Giacinto, Cerenity Moss, Emma Ridge, Charlotte Crotty, Matias Chapa, Lionardo Smith, Braxton Eames, Bentley Baxter, Grayson Kneebone, Hadley Reinhold, Merakim Riniker, Laken Weber, Maggie Larson and Rayla Nagy. The students had a great time celebrating their award.

□□□

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to donate chips or drinks for our end of year picnic. We had a great response and had so many people volunteer to help right away. If you signed up to donate something, we are asking to have it to Blackstone by Wednesday, May 29. We will enjoy our school-wide picnic lunch on Monday, June 3.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Mary Ellen Jennings

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Mary Ellen (West) Jennings, 74, of Punta Gorda, Fla., went to eternal rest on May 24, 2024, surrounded by family and friends in her final hours.

There will not be a funeral and she will be cremated.

She was born Aug. 16, 1949. She grew up in Mendota and graduated from Mendota High School.

She is survived by her husband, Mark, and her children, Mike Watts, Michelle Mull and Heather Clary.

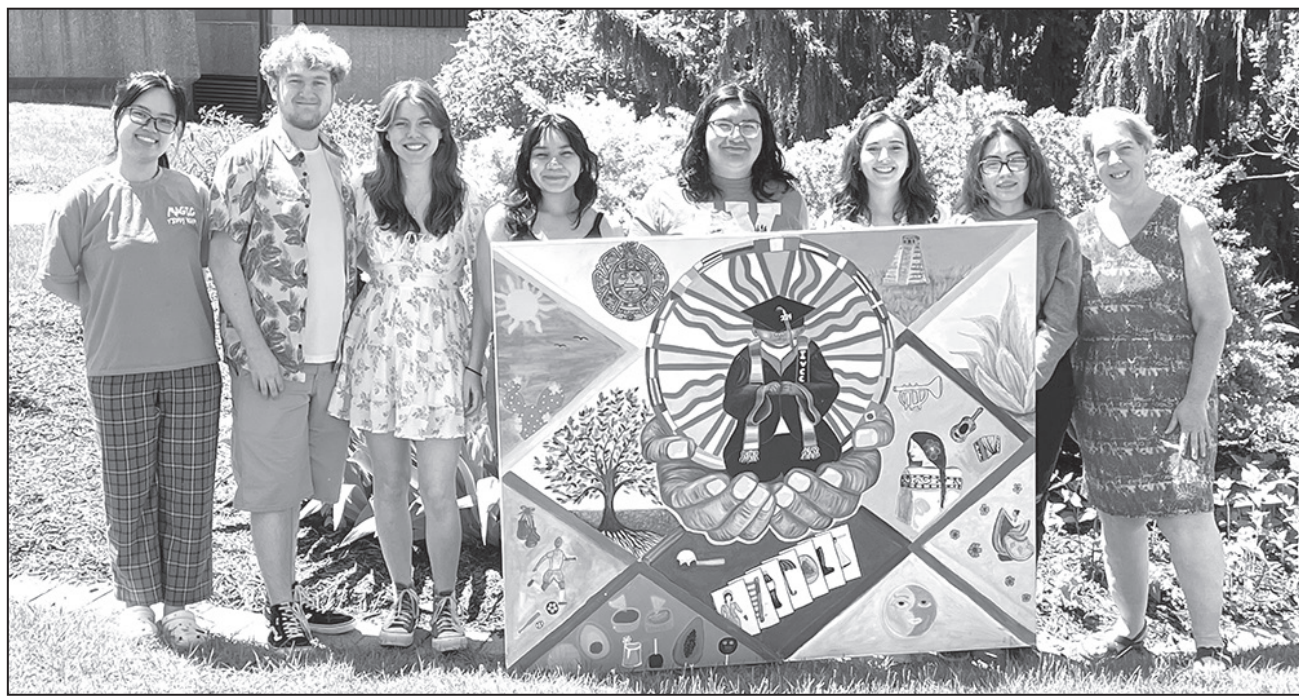
Her family is comforted in knowing that Mary is now free of pain. We made some wonderful memories together.



Edmund Robinson Jr.

MENDOTA — Edmund Robinson Jr., 70, of Mendota, passed away on Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota, is assisting the family with arrangements.



IVCC's Hispanic Leadership Team exhibits a cultural heritage mural that was completed this year and has gone on display in time for graduation. The mural is displayed in the hallway leading to a popular student gathering space, the Student Life Space. Left to right, are Emily Tran, Ashton Watkins, Emma Coss, Ariana Benitez, Jennifer Cortes, Allayna Elnicki, Azul Flores, and Lynn Keyt. (Photo contributed)

Special Memorial service on June 10 for the Serrs

LaMOILLE — Clarion Lutheran Church, between Mendota and LaMoille, is pleased to invite community members to a special worship service on Monday, June 10, dedicated to the memory of Earnest and Beverly Serr. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by interment in the Clarion cemetery and then a luncheon in the Clarion parish hall.

Earnest and Beverly Serr were well-known in the Mendota and LaMoille communities during their 35 years living in the area. Rev. Serr was the pastor at Clarion from 1965-1982, and then served as Chaplain and Administrator of The Mendota Lutheran Home from 1982-1996. Beverly was the kindergarten teacher in LaMoille for over 25 years, and she also made numerous contributions within Clarion and in the larger community. They moved to Texas in 1999 to be near their grandchildren. Beverly passed away on Nov. 17, 2021, and Ernie passed away recently, on March 7, 2024.

June 10 was selected as the date of the service because it was Earnest and Beverly's anniversary. Their son, Brian, will be leading the service. Casual attire is welcome.

Special mural placed in IVCC Student Life Space

OGLESBY — A new painting rich in symbols and colors and abundant with promise, family solidarity, and roots traced six centuries into the past will soon hang in a central Illinois Valley Community College corridor near a popular student gathering spot.

The 13-foot-by-10-foot canvas, completed by IVCC's Hispanic Leadership Team and conceived by its president, Ariana Benitez, is now on display in the hall leading to the Student Life Space for everyone passing through the area to see.

Benitez's central figure, The Graduate, wears an oversized graduation gown and is being cradled by a large pair of hands. The gown symbolizes "all the possibilities you can grow into." The hands stand for "all the hard work of our ancestors to make us what we are now," she said.

Draped over The Graduate's shoulders is a scarf in rainbow colors like a traditional serape, and behind the figure is a sunny disc featuring flags of the Latin American region. The figure's mortar board tilts over its eyes in Benitez's nod to muralist Diego Rivera's spirit of universality and timelessness.

Classmates spent the school year completing the mural, stopping in for an hour or two between classes to surround Benitez's centerpiece with scenes framed in triangles. "We did it in sections to give everybody a way to contribute. You feel what you feel and put it on canvas," she said.

Elements range from an Aztec calendar and a temple to familiar musical

instruments, a dancer, foods, national sports like soccer and boxing and familiar plants like cactus and agave. The popular game loteria is represented, as is a tree with multi-colored leaves symbolizing family. Aztec influence and traditions carry over into modern day Mexico.

The minor elements are as important as the central character and carry on the theme that "this mural only works because of the help of others," Benitez said.

Plants, foods and scenery so rooted in Hispanic cultural and physical landscape reminded Yair Santiago of when he was a child and moved with his family back to Mexico briefly. "Everything's so familiar," he says as he studies the painting and recalls how family ties made adapting to and learning about that new culture enjoyable.

The small Illinois village where Ashton Watkins grew up didn't expose him to a variety of cultures, but HLT and IVCC supplied plenty of diversity. "I always wanted to travel, and HLT helped me learn about other cultures."

"We embrace and celebrate different cultures wherever we come from," Advisor Sara Escatel acknowledged Watkins' statement. "We pass on our appreciation of our culture and make sure people are proud of where they're from."

HLT's launch less than 14 years ago opened a welcome committee and a support system for incoming students as Hispanic-language enrollment started to rise, Escatel recalled. The organization had 19 members this year.

Aseret Loveland remembers needing

the role models and peer models who emerged. "I only knew Sara. I didn't see many people who looked like me," the Project Success counselor recalled of her student years.

Many students may be first-generation college students competing with cultural expectations and not knowing how to reach their graduation or career goals, Escatel said. Benitez remembers when she started college last year feeling "super alone. It was hard to engage."

Since then, she's raised her visibility on campus and found a voice, though "I'm not outspoken and it's still a struggle," she says. Art provided an outlet and a solace, and she wants to pursue it as a career.

Through a career in art therapy, she hopes to "help people use art the way art helped me. I've been into drawing and painting for a long time, and it's still my career path, but from another direction. I want to help people and children to express themselves when words don't help."

Benitez had always wanted to create artwork for a school she attended to memorialize her time there, and now that dream has come true too. "I've done that now with friends and a community that made it all possible. We've left our mark here!"

The art doesn't yet have a title, but a brief brainstorm across the table yielded a possible one. The quote from civil rights activist Cesar Chavez -- "Si, Se Puede!" -- has become a slogan in Spanish culture, Escatel said.

It means: "Yes, it can be done."

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?

HOW TO ENTER:

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

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Community Health Partnership
Winner: Alta Stroyan

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LOCAL AND AREA



Brenda Grobe is this year’s recipient of the Conkey Family Award at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. Recognizing Grobe for the award, left to right, are OSF Saint Paul Medical Center Leadership, Heather Bomstad, Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer; Antonio Andere, Vice President, Ancillary & Support Services; Grobe, and Dawn Trompeter, President. (Photo contributed)

Grobe named Conkey Family Award winner

MENDOTA – The recipient of the 43rd Annual Conkey Family Award was announced on May 13 at OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center as part of National Health Care Week. This year’s honoree is Brenda Grobe, a dedicated hospital administrative assistant.

Grobe has devoted nearly 39 years as a Mission Partner and resides in Mendota. She was recognized by a fellow Mission Partner for embodying kindness and compassion. Whether managing the gift shop or assisting with administrative duties, she excels in every responsibility. Her thoughtful actions, such as surprise gifts and cards, mirror her commitment to the OSF Mission. Known for her warmth and helpfulness, Grobe is cherished by her friends, patients, and visitors, who often seek her out for guidance and a welcoming smile.

Established in 1982, the Conkey Family Award honors exemplary service, with its inaugural presentation in 1983.



Janelle Bieschke, a patient access associate

Bieschke chosen as Sunflower Award winner at Saint Paul

MENDOTA – OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center is excited to announce that Janelle Bieschke, a patient access associate, has received the Sunflower Award. Bieschke, who has been with OSF HealthCare for just over a year, resides in Peru.

“The Sunflower Award honors care team members outside of nursing for the exceptional care they provide to our patients, and Janelle is truly deserving,” said Heather Bomstad, vice president and chief nursing officer at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center.

Bieschke’s nomination mentioned her exceptional help in connecting to OSF MyChart. After three weeks of failed attempts to link her son’s OSF MyChart to hers, Bieschke resolved the issue and even followed up to confirm the records were updated, preventing the need for additional paperwork. This small act made a significant difference for the family.

OSF HealthCare encourages patients, family members, and fellow staff to recognize caregivers who have provided exceptional care and service by nominating them for an award to honor their dedication. For more information about the DAISY and Sunflower Awards or to submit a nomination, visit: <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/saint-paul/guest/thank-caregiver/>

Mendota man enters guilty plea to charges; sentencing is Aug. 1

MENDOTA – A Mendota man pleaded guilty to one count of child pornography and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse during a May 16 court appearance in LaSalle County court in Ottawa.

Brett W. Merritt, 55, entered a blind plea of guilty to one count of child pornography (Class 3 felony) and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse (Class 2 felonies). The court accepted the pleas and found Merritt guilty of the charges. He will appear before Judge H. Chris Ryan for sentencing on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 1 p.m.

Merritt was arrested on July 11, 2023, following the execution of two LaSalle County search warrants, one being the home of Merritt at 803 14th Ave., and the other being his place of business located at 800 Monroe St., Mendota.

His arrest followed a six-month investigation into multiple and various crimes. Mendota Police were assisted in the arrest by the Illinois Attorney General’s Forensic Computer Crimes Unit, the LaSalle County Sheriff’s Office and the LaSalle County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Merritt appeared in court on July 12, 2023, where he posted the required bond of \$75,000 and was released. He appeared for an arraignment on Aug. 3, 2023, where indictments were returned by a Grand Jury on two counts of child pornography and two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

The case was continued to Oct. 12, Dec. 21 and Feb. 29, 2024. Final pre-trial was then set for May 16 and a jury trial for May 20 when the defendant entered a blind plea.

The offense of aggravated criminal sexual abuse carries the possibility of imprisonment between three and seven years and a fine up to \$25,000. The child pornography offense carries the possibility of three to five years in prison.

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Continued from Page A1

more boys’ basketball coach and appointed Carroll as a volunteer boys’ basketball coach;

- Hired Ryan Reeder as sophomore boys’ basketball coach;
- Hired Nathan Hackenberger as freshman boys’ basketball coach;
- Accepted the resignation of Liz Zinke as Junior Class sponsor.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Monday, June 17 at 6 p.m.

Rep. Fritts to begin summer tour of district

DIXON – State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) announced his 2024 Summer Tour of District 74.

“I am excited to begin my second annual summer tour to speak with as many local constituents as possible,” said Rep. Fritts.

The tour consists of traveling office hours and coffee & conversation events held on alternating weeks from June 7 to Aug. 30. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants. Rep. Fritts will also team up with local chambers of commerce to visit and tour a local business each week in order to better understand their state needs.

Rep. Fritts continued, “I look forward to meeting with as many of my constituents as possible this summer, all while spending time at local establishments in an effort to better learn the needs and struggles of the district.”

Coffer & Conversation Events

- Wednesday, June 5, 8-10 a.m. – Lincoln Way Café, 137 N. Elm St., Franklin Grove
- Wednesday, June 12, 8-10 a.m. – Shabbona Café, 114 W. Comanche Ave., Shabbona

• Thursday, June 20, 8-10 a.m. – Sunset Inn Restaurant, U.S. 30, Amboy

Traveling Office Hours

- Thursday, June 6, 11 a.m.-noon – Franklin Grove Library, 112 S. Elm St., Franklin Grove
- Thursday, June 13, 10-11 a.m. – Paw Paw Public Library, 362 Chicago Road, Paw Paw
- Thursday, July 11, 10-11:30 a.m. – Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, 800 Washington St., Mendota

LAMOILLE BUFFALO DAYS

June 7-9, 2024

THURSDAY, JUNE 8
5:00-7:00 Paint the Town(\$5)
Gurney street (behind bank)
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4-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands \$10)
Axetreme Throwing
5:30 Baby Buff Winners Announced-Allen School
6:00 Prairie Princess- Allen School (Mara 579-1833)
5K Stampede-High School (Stacy 878-6962)
8-12 Music By **WILDCARD**
Beer Tent
11:00 Egg Sandwiches
10:00 Parade Registration will be at the High School parking lot. Parade Route will go North this year on Main Street, starting at Burnett Street, ending at the Park.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10
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-stoots-Stachowiak 830-8215)
11:00 Parade-Main Street (Jeremy 343-6848/Brian 200-2899)
12:00 Adult Waterfights Registration-Sheldon Street by Park
12-4 Silent Auction
12-8 Airtime Inflatables (Wristbands \$20)
Axetreme Throwing
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 STATION** - Beer Tent
8-12 Music by **CODY CALKINS BAND** - Beer Tent
11:00 Egg Sandwiches

SUNDAY, JUNE 11
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 252-2827)
5:30 50/50 Drawing

Complete listing of events:
www.lamoillebuffalodays.org
Or call 815-878-5858

Congratulations
2024 Grand Marshalls:
Newt & Mary Lundquist and Jan Becker. In Memory of: Robert Henry and Norm Hall

Come get your buffalo burger!

OPENING DAY

Wednesday, June 5 at NOON

2024 Admission – FREE –
Compliments of Nightengale’s

Swim Hours:
Sunday – Saturday.....12p-5p
Mon-Wed-Fri Nights.....7p-9p
Adult/Handicap Swim & Parent/Toddler Swim
Sunday - Saturday10a-12p
Mon-Wed-Fri Nights.....5p-7p


Mendota Swimming Pool
1100 Meriden St. Mendota 815-539-5884

LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK
Mendota IL Swimming Pool

FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

CALL TO BOOK LESSONS OR PRIVATE PARTIES

OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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

Kip Cheek, Managing Editor
Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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

Letters to the editor should be typed or 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.

Frivolous lawsuits cost jobs, hurt economy in Illinois

By Keith Battaglia

It's time to sound the alarm on an issue that is crippling small businesses across Illinois: the overwhelming burden of financial harm caused by the cost associated with the rise in number of frivolous lawsuits in our state.

As a small business owner in McHenry County and a board member for the Associated Builders & Contractors, I have seen countless businesses close because of the costs associated with systemic lawsuit abuse.

At my mechanical and electrical contracting business, we are certainly feeling the pinch, and it's not just in our present operations but also our ability to chart growth in this tough economic environment.

Did you know that every resident of Illinois, including small business owners like me, pays a so-called "tort tax" of over \$1,800 per person annually? This staggering figure doesn't just add to our overhead operating expenses, it siphons off the resources we need to innovate for the future.

The broader impact is even worse. An independent study estimated the loss of over 146,000 jobs in the wholesale trade sector across the U.S. in 2023 tied to costs from frivolous lawsuits. Every one of those jobs lost represents lives and livelihoods directly affected by the financial strain of excessive litigation.

The stacked costs of skyrocketing insurance premiums and navigating a complex web of regulations are only making matters worse. These barriers prevent us from hiring the next talented worker or pursuing the next innovative project.

This isn't just about my company. This is much bigger than that. This is a widespread crisis impacting small businesses across our state.

We are seeing our neighboring states capitalize on our challenges. They are doing a better job attracting businesses and talent as a result. These were once the foundation of Illinois' economy but sadly those days are no longer.

We're not just losing numbers on a spreadsheet -- we're losing the very people who make our communities vibrant and robust.

It's time for Springfield to take decisive action. We need relief from these burdensome costs and regulations that do nothing but hold us back. Engaging the business community to streamline these processes is crucial.

We have the expertise and firsthand experience to pinpoint where change is most needed. All we need is for our lawmakers to listen.

We can't wait for more businesses to shut their doors or flee our state. The time for action is now. Our state, local communities, its citizens, and the fabric of our local economy depend on it.

(Keith Battaglia is owner Battaglia Industries in Cary, Illinois, and a board member of Associated Builders & Contractors -- Illinois Chapter)

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Susana A. Mendoza (D), Office of the Comptroller -- Springfield Executive Office, 325 W. Adams, Springfield, IL 62704, telephone (217) 782-6000; Records Center (800) 877-8078.



Living it up – How it was back in 1930

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from May 31, 2000.)

By Jessica Nashold

There may have been no televisions and compact discs in 1930, but there was no shortage of entertainment. On June 2, 1930, the Don Hopkins Players pitched their tent on the vacant southwest corner lot at Monroe and Illinois. They were sponsored by the Home Talent Play committee at the Elks, chaired by Al Elsesser.

On opening night, the Elks Drum Corps paraded the streets and halted at the entrance to the Hopkins tent. A talented cast presented a different play on six successive nights. A season ticket at \$1.75 would admit the bearer to each performance, or the holder could choose to take a party of six to a single show.

Advance publicity indicated an expert Hollywood cameraman would roam the streets of Mendota during the Hopkins Co. stay, taking pictures of the crowds at the show and other scenes about the city. They would be shown at the Strand the following week.

Everybody will want to see themselves in the movies.

This plan must have fallen through as there was no subsequent announcement of local scenes being shown as promised. The Hopkins Players were competing that week with a number of graduations, which undoubtedly affected attendance.

On Memorial Day night, there was a Battle of the Bands at Puritan Park. Buddy Fisher, "The Joy Boy," and His Fisherman alternated with Cliff Peterson & His Buckeyes. Both were MCA bands. Admission was 50 cents and dancing \$1 per couple (probably for the evening).

At Puritan, the swimming pool opened with Rufus Dewitz, MHS football coach, and his wife, Frances, in charge.

On Memorial Day night at Kakusha, Snell's band was featured and on June 1 it was Chapin's Illinois Band.

At Pleasure Park in Troy Grove, music was provided by Eddie Bieser's band.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

The Reporter asked, in Farm News, who had tenanted the same farm for the longest period of time. One contender was George Fuelner who had farmed the William Schaller farm for 23 years.

He takes as much pride in this place as if it was his own.

The annual meeting of cemetery lot owners found everything in satisfactory shape. Lot owners not covered by Perpetual Care were to be assessed \$2 per lot per year for maintenance. Officers were: Bernard Katzwinkel, president; R.N. Crawford, secretary-treasurer; Dana Miller, F.R. Bailey and D.A. Tower, trustees.

Clement Bauer of LaMoille, dealer in farm implements, advertised two all-day demonstrations. On June 2, 1930, he would be at the L.C. Bauer farm five miles west of Mendota. On June 3, he would be at the Ray L. Swisher farm, two miles east of Mendota. The Rumley Do-All Tractor with Tower Surface Cultivator would be put through their paces.

Alderman Harry Ossman, third war, was pleased to see the council vote for a cement walk from the southeast corner to the northwest corner of Blackstone Park. At some future time he hoped to see a second walk from the southwest corner to the northeast corner, with a drinking fountain at the intersection.

For the present he is satisfied.

A new bus service, Blue Motor Coach Lines, offered two daily trips to Rockford and to Peoria, morning and evening. At Peoria, passengers could connect with a bus for St. Louis and points south and west. At Rockford, they could connect for Madison and other points in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Stops in

Mendota were at the Hotel Faber on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Main streets, now a vacant lot.

Among fashion notes from the Della Allen Shop was news of costume jewelry made from sour milk. The material was called Prystal. Items valued at \$3 were being offered for 98 cents.

The Rev. James A. Wilson was released from the LaSalle County jail in Ottawa on bail pending outcome of an appeal. He had been there from Jan. 30, 1930, until May 22, and was now able to join his family in Chicago.

However, his woes continued to mount. On May 27, he and his wife were en route to Mendota in their Ford coupe when the reverend attempted to pass a sedan east of Earlville. Six or eight school children were aboard. That car was being driven by Gus Guelde. Just as Wilson attempted the pass, the car driven by Guelde swerved across the centerline. Wilson turned off the pavement and two wheels sank in the soft dirt. As he attempted to regain the road, the car overturned.

At the Dan Carney farm nearby, the Carneys could hear breaking glass and Carney rushed to the spot on foot while his wife followed in the Carney car. The Wilsons were pulled from the wreckage. Mrs. Wilson suffered cuts and bruises. Rev. Wilson had a broken collarbone. Mrs. Carney drove the Wilsons to Harris Hospital, while Mr. Carney was able to drive the damaged coupe to Mendota.

The Wilsons telephoned their daughter in Chicago to come and get them. In a weird coincidence, at the very spot where their accident had occurred, the daughter also lost control and tipped over as well. Luckily, there was no injury to the daughter or damage to her car.

The final word on Wilson's coupe was that every glass "except one" was broken.

The body is twisted and in bad shape.

When The Reporter came out on June 5, 1930, the Wilsons were still recuperating at the Harris Hospital.

Harrison Butker is right about men and women

By Rich Lowry

To judge by the internet reaction, Kansas City Chiefs place-kicker Harrison Butker is guilty of a dreaded double-dink -- a missed field-goal attempt that embarrassingly hits both uprights -- with his commencement address the other day.

The NFL has distanced itself from Butker's unadorned socially conservative speech at Benedictine College, a Catholic school in Kansas. He's accused, meanwhile, of potentially driving women away from the NFL and, even worse, perhaps offending Taylor Swift by quoting one of her lyrics.

The first thing to say about this is that Butker is a traditionalist Catholic who gave a speech to traditionalist Catholic students graduating from a traditionalist Catholic school. Should we be surprised he sounded like a traditionalist Catholic?

He wasn't going to endorse abortion or pride month or transgenderism. And if you're not a Catholic (I'm not), his views on priests and the power of the Latin Mass are going to leave you cold, for a simple reason -- they aren't for us.

Complaining about the intensely Catholic subject matter of his address is a little like listening to the keynote at a philately convention and being shocked that it's all about stamp collecting.

Of course, the substance of Butker's talk was much more serious, and he had important, indisputably correct things to say about men and women.

His line that has drawn the most fire was directed at the graduating women: "Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world, but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world."

Butker was surely making a sociologically true statement about the women of Benedictine. If he had been talking at Vassar, he might have couched his remarks differently. Still, his observation has a more general applicability.

According to an analysis of public-opinion surveys by the Institute for Family Studies, "Strong majorities of mothers under 55 agree that housework is as fulfilling as employment. Depending on the year and the survey you prefer to cite,

between 53% and 79% of mothers had this view." Yes, some mothers find employment outside the home more fulfilling, but many stay-at-home mothers "see the work they are doing as valuable, important and satisfying."

It should be OK for someone to occasionally give voice to their perspective. No one walked out when Butker delivered these lines; in fact, he got applause. And he wasn't being callous -- he broke down when talking about his own wife embracing "her vocation as a wife and as a mother."

He had advice for the men in his audience, too, telling them to be "unapologetic in your masculinity," and to "never settle for what is easy." What's the counter to Butker's advice? That men should be defensive about their masculinity and always take the easy way out? That they should spend more time smoking pot and playing video games?

"As men," he continued, "we set the tone of the culture, and when that is absent, disorder, dysfunction and chaos set in. This absence of men in the home is what plays a large role in the violence we see all around the nation." What Butker said is strongly supported by the research, as fatherlessness is associated with child poverty and reduced educational attainment, increased idleness and more jail time among young men.

An offended columnist at The Kansas City Star hammered Butker, saying the kicker insisted on "belittling the human value of others." But the kicker spoke of the importance of speaking and acting "in charity," and the columnist admitted that when he has discussed these matters with Butker in the past, "he's been remarkably respectful when I've expressed a contrasting view."

That sounds like someone who isn't a hater, but who has deeply grounded views and who believes -- for good reason -- that if he doesn't speak the truth, few others in his position will.

The verdict regarding Butker's address should be -- good from 55 yards.

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

Potawatomi Nation land transfer in DeKalb County advances in Illinois House

Concerns remain over Potawatomi plans for the area

By **PETER HANCOCK**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — A bill that would help the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation expand their newly established reservation in DeKalb County advanced out of a state House committee last week, despite concerns about the tribe's long-term plans for the property.

House Bill 4718 would authorize the state to hand over what is now Shabbona Lake and State Park to the tribe for \$1. It also allows the tribe and the Department of Natural Resources to enter into a land management agreement under which the land would remain open to the public for recreational use for an unspecified period.

The bill is part of a larger effort by the Potawatomi to reclaim land that many historians and legal experts now agree was illegally taken from them in the mid-19th century. Since then, the tribe has been headquartered in northeast Kansas, but it has spent much of the last 20 years trying to reestablish a reservation on land it once owned in Illinois.

Those efforts came to fruition in April when the U.S. Department of the Interior agreed to place into trust 130 acres the tribe had purchased in DeKalb County, making it the only federally recognized tribal land in Illinois.

The proposed transfer of Shabbona Lake and State Park would add greatly to the acreage the tribe has acquired so far, and that land presumably would become eligible for inclusion in the new reservation. But some homeowners in the area who've become accustomed to living next to a state park say they're nervous about the kind of changes their new tribal neighbors could bring to the area.

"A casino. I mean obviously, we've all had that conversation," Becky Oest, whose family owns a home on property adjacent to the newly designated reservation, told the House Executive Committee.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi currently operate a hotel and casino complex on their reservation just north of Topeka, Kan. But tribal chairman Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick assured the House committee the tribe has no such plans for the property in Illinois.

"That has not been our intention," Rupnick said. "Thirty years ago, when there was no gaming in Illinois, we definitely pushed in that direction. Today, we're just trying to make sure that we get the land secure."

Rupnick insisted the tribe's immediate plans are to work with IDNR to keep the property open for public recreation. But some Republicans on the committee questioned why, if the bill becomes law, the state should continue to pay for operation of park land that it would no longer own.

The bill passed out of the committee on an 8-4 partisan vote. It now awaits final action in the House and Senate.

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



MENDOTA

FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAYS 8am - Noon

MAIN STREET

(815) 252-9605

06012022



KIDS FISHING RODEO

Kids ages 3-15 are welcome. Every child wins a prize, and receives a hot dog, chips and a drink for lunch.

Sunday, June 9th
Lake Mendota

Registration
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Fishing
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

EARLVILLE LIONS FEST 2024
FRI JUNE 7th - begins @ 3PM until 11:30PM
SAT JUNE 8th - begins @ 12 NOON until 12 Midnight
DOWNTOWN EARLVILLE @ DODGE PARK - 200 S. Ottawa Street

SAT JUNE 8th - 4:30 to 7pm - LIONS PORK CHOP DINNER catered by "5B's" of Waterman
\$16 dinner includes: 2 pork chops, applesauce, baked beans, cole slaw, dinner roll, butter

BEER GARDEN - BOTH FRIDAY 7th AND SAT 8th: large-sized beer garden serving beer, seltzers, water + soda's / Budweiser Beer Wagon - all available for purchase - bring your lawn chairs, room for dancing. No outside beverages or coolers will be allowed into the park - wristbands needed for entry into beer garden area - AGE 21+ for entry into beer garden / large stage area with 4 bands in the evenings on FRI & SAT / 3 large 20x40 tents for the public to enjoy

2 BANDS ON FRIDAY:
• 4PM - 7PM - JESSIE'S GIRL
• 8PM - 11PM - SNAPSHOT

2 BANDS ON SATURDAY:
• 4:30PM - 7:30PM - JEFF MANFREDINI - solo artist
• 8PM until 12 midnight - FREE BEER AND CHICKEN BAND

BEER GARDEN HOURS:
• FRIDAY JUNE 7th - 3PM - 11:30PM
• SATURDAY JUNE 8th - 12 noon - 12 midnight

SAT JUNE 8th - EARLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI PORKCHOP DINNER @ 4:30PM
(tent, tables, & chairs will be provided for classes ending in "4"), FOLLOWED BY THE 1ST EVER PRESENTATION OF THE EARLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME CEREMONY @ 6PM!

*Earlville Business Association is sponsoring a BAGS TOURNAMENT on FRI night

*LITTLE MISS & LITTLE MR. EARLVILLE CONTEST - on SATURDAY @ 12 noon on the stage at Dodge Park

*KIDS FACE PAINTING - SATURDAY 1PM until 4PM / 50/50 raffle tickets available all day FRI & SAT

*FOOD VENDORS: 5 B's on SAT 4:30-7pm / The Dirty Bird Chicken on FRI 4-8pm / OTHER FOOD VENDORS: Taco's Guzman, Stray Dawgs, Oh Pickles, Presbyterian Church Lemon Shake-Ups and more / Get your Queen of Hearts tickets @ The Lounge Bar in downtown Earlville / 50/50 drawing on SAT night / Community Church Service SUN @ 10:30am @ Dodge Park / possible Parade SUN 9th @ Noon

05222024

LELAND TOWN AND COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS

4TH ANNUAL

DALE KIDD MEMORIAL CAR SHOW

VENDORS WILL BE PRESENT

\$20 REGISTRATION FEE PER CAR

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH, 2024

RAILROAD ST, LELAND IL 60531

STARTS AT 10AM

AWARDS PRESENTED AT 3PM

REGISTRATION COMPLETED THE DAY OF THE SHOW



JRD

Janko Realty & Development

Janko Realty currently has **1, 2 and 3 bedroom and studio units** available for rent in Mendota.

Please check out our available rentals and applications online at **www.jankorealty.propertyware.com** or call **815-830-4422**.

03062023

Community Calendar

JUNE 2024

OCT. 1, 2023 - SEPT. 30, 2024

ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

Feik Senior Parlor -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Our goal for Fiscal Year 2024

is \$1000. Please help us

reach our goal. Drop off cans

at the northeast back door of

the Civic Center.

JUNE 1

THE HISTORY OF THE

BURLINGTON RAILROAD IN

MENDOTA

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

11 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

Historian Leo Phillipp will

be here to discuss why

Mendota was so important

for the railroad. By exploring

the forgotten services and

functions of the railroad, we

gain insight into a bygone era

when the rhythmic chug of

locomotives and the clatter of

tracks were integral parts of

everyday life.

JUNE 3, 7, 17, 21, 24 & 28

BINGOCIZE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM

Feik Lounge -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Open to anyone in the

community.

JUNE 3, 10, 17 & 24

TOPS CLUB

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Anyone welcome.

JUNE 3, 10, 17 & 24

DOMINOES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

All are welcome to join in the fun.

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25

EUCHRE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

All are welcome!

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25

Wii BOWLING

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

All welcome to come and

enjoy the fun.

JUNE 5, 19 & 26

BEGINNING CROCHET

CLASS

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM - 2 PM

Feik Senior Parlor -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

New class being offered.

Barbie Crochet will be here to

teach crochet from beginners

to advanced. Bring your own

crochet hooks and yarn.

JUNE 6 & 20

HEARING SCREENINGS

Sponsored by Civic Center &

M.A.S.S.

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Hearing aid batteries available

at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring

in old batteries to recycle.

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27

POKENO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

12 PM (Noon)

Feik Senior Parlor -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

This game is a combination of

Bingo & Poker. Pennies are

used, so bring your penny

jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more

information @815-539-7700

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Bring your needlework or

crafts to work on or just come

for the comradery.

JUNE 7

LUNCH IN THE PARK

Sponsored by Mendota

Rotary Club

11 AM - 1:30 PM

Veteran's Park

For more info call

(815) 539-7743

Menu: Hot dog lunch, Brat

lunch, Burger lunch, Pork

Chop lunch, Pulled Pork

lunch. Lunches include

sandwich, chips, drink and

dessert treat. Ala Carte menu

available. Proceeds benefits

youth in the community.

JUNE 2

COMMUNITY BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Anyone 18 and older welcome

to join the fun!

JUNE 7, 21 & 28

BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Lounge -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700

Open to anyone in the

community.

JUNE 14

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

8 AM - 3 PM

Feik Lounge -

Mendota Civic Center

For more info call

(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

Donations accepted beginning

Monday, June 10th. "Bargain" Fill

a Bag for \$3 starting at 1 PM.

JUNE 17

SUMMER READING

REGISTRATION BEGINS

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

10 AM

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

Join us as Graves-Hume

Public Library district hosts

'Read, Renew, Repeat.' We've

teamed-up with iREAD to

bring you a fun summer full of

free programs for every age!

JUNE 18

3RD TUESDAY BOOK

DISCUSSION

Sponsored by Graves-Hume

Public Library

Choose

1 PM OR 6 PM

FREE

1401 W Main St, Mendota

For more info call

(815) 538-5142

In June, we are reading and

discussing: "The Devil in the

White City" by Erik Larson.

Please stop by the library

to pick up a book for the

discussion.

JUNE 18

CAREGIVER COUNSELING /

ALTERNATIVES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

10 AM - 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor -

Mendota Civic Center

LOCAL AND AREA



The 2024 Lee County Fair & 4-H Show is July 25-28 at the Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Road, Amboy.

Lee County Fair expands Open Show

AMBOY – The 2024 Lee County Fair & 4-H Show is July 25-28 at the Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Road, Amboy. The four-day event is a throwback to the old-time county fair with petting zoo, pony rides, midway of games, bounce houses, a barrel train, axe throwing and the County Fair Speedway.

The Lee County Fair Association is now accepting entries for the 2024 Jr. Show and expanded Open Show.

The Open Show now includes departments in cooking/baking, floral arrangement, gardening, fibers (quilting and sewing), photography and art.

"We were so happy with the number of entries at last year's fair, the committee decided to increase the opportunities for people to be involved," said Katie Pratt, secretary.

The Open Show includes non-livestock projects and is open to any resident from any county of any age. 4-H members and Jr. Show participants may enter the open show with projects not already entered in the 4-H show or Jr. Show. Entries must be submitted by July 1. Fee per entry is \$2.00 with a limit of two entries per class.

In the flower arrangement and photogra-

phy departments, classes are separated for entries from professional (businesses) and amateur participants.

"We'd love to see our local floral shops and photographers show off their best work in a fun competition, and earn bragging rights until next year's fair," said Pratt.

All rules, details and entry information can be found at www.leecountyfairgrounds.com under Lee Co. Open Show.

The Jr. Show is open to youth ages 8 to 20, as of Sept. 1, 2023. Project departments include all livestock and small animals, as well as visual arts, mechanical sciences and crops. Visual arts projects can be any art project created using paper, fiber, metal, mixed media, cake decorating, natural materials, etc. Mechanical sciences projects include model rocketry, electricity projects, woodworking and computer work. Youth need not be 4-H members to participate. Visit www.leecountyfairgrounds.com to find the online entry form and department and class descriptions. Entries are due July 1.

A full fair schedule and more information about other great fair activities and events is posted at www.leecountyfairgrounds.com or like "Lee Co. Fair & 4-H Show" on Facebook or Instagram for the latest information.

Rabid bats found in state; IDPH issues warning

CHICAGO – With the weather warming up, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is warning the public to beware of wild animals that may carry rabies, especially bats, as they become more active this time of year. The warning follows the discovery since May 10 of the first two rabid bats of 2024 in the state in Cook and Will counties, IDPH said. The bats were recovered inside two homes in those counties and subsequently tested positive for rabies.

"Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "It is important that Illinois residents know how to prevent rabies exposure to protect themselves and their loved ones. Bats are the most common carriers of the rabies virus in Illinois but not the only carrier. Illinois residents should stay away from bats and any wild, unfamiliar, or stray animal, as well as any animal that appears to be sick. Groups of bats can move into people's homes and that underscores the importance of knowing the ways of keeping bats out of your home."

Public health officials stress that if a bat is found inside a home, it is important to try and cover it with a container and contact animal control so it can be tested for rabies. (See below for tips on how to capture a bat.)

IDPH is also reminding the public to make sure that rabies vaccinations are up to

date for pets and any valuable livestock and horses for which a rabies vaccine is available. If a pet is exposed to a high-risk wild animal – such as a bat, skunk, raccoons, fox or coyote – pet owners should immediately contact a veterinarian for advice.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system. People can get rabies after being bitten by an infected animal. Rabies can also be contracted when saliva from a rabid animal gets directly into a person's eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound. People usually know when they have been bitten by a bat, but bats have very small teeth, and the bite mark may not be easy to see. If you find yourself in close proximity to a bat and are not sure if you were exposed, for example, you wake up and find a bat in your room, do not kill or release the bat before calling your doctor or local health department to help determine if you could have been exposed to rabies and need preventive treatment. If the bat is available for testing and test results are negative, preventive treatment is not needed.

If you have been bitten by any animal, seek immediate medical attention. Bite wounds can become infected and if the animal is high risk for rabies, preventive treatment, must begin quickly.

An animal does not have to be aggressive or exhibit other symptoms to have rabies. Changes in any an-

imal's normal behavior can be early signs of rabies. A bat that is active during the day, found on the ground, or is unable to fly is more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often easily approached but should never be handled.

The following tips can help prevent the spread of rabies:

- Do not touch, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.

- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick, wild animals to health. Call animal control or an animal rescue agency for assistance.

- Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. "Love your own, leave other animals alone" is a good principle for children to learn to reduce the risk of exposures to rabid animals.

- Maintain homes and other buildings so bats cannot get inside.

- If a bat is in your home, do not release the bat outdoors until after speaking with animal control or public health officials.

- After consulting with animal control or public health officials, you may need to capture the bat for rabies testing to determine if you need preventive treatment.

Steps you can take to capture the bat are:

- When the bat lands, approach it slowly, while wearing gloves, and place a box or coffee can over it.

- Slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside.

- Tape the cardboard to the container securely, and punch small holes in the cardboard, allowing the bat to breathe.

For more information about rabies and keeping bats out of your home, visit the IDPH website.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois Office of Tourism launches new outdoor content series, “Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors”

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Tourism recently announced its new outdoor video series featuring stories from Illinois adventurers spotlighting the extensive range of outdoor recreation and activities available throughout the state. The series of videos titled, “Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors,” aims to capture genuine experiences of Illinois residents and visitors exploring the outdoors, while highlighting the state’s natural beauty and outdoor adventures.

Home to 70 state parks and recreation areas, 2,900 lakes and seven national scenic byways, there is no shortage of outdoor adventure in Illinois. The stories featured in this new content series uncover picturesque nature trails, hidden gems, iconic landmarks, unique stays and beyond.

“This campaign inspires visitors to explore all that Illinois has to offer and positions the state as a leading outdoor destination – especially in downstate Illinois,” said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. “Illinois’ one-of-a-kind outdoor experiences have the power to attract a large market of outdoor enthusiasts and bring economic development to more rural areas of the state. This campaign shows the world why Illinois’ outdoor wonders should be at the top of everyone’s travel bucket list.”

“In our increasingly hectic and digital world, it’s vital to reconnect with the great outdoors, where every hiking trail offers a journey of discovery and every beautiful scene reveals a moment to remember,” said Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. “As spring approaches, we hope this new series inspires visitors and residents to get outside and discover the incredible parks, trails, and recreational areas in every region of Illinois.”

“The essence of ‘Real People, Real Stories, Real Outdoors’ perfectly captures the natural beauty and awe-inspiring experiences you can find at Illinois’

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Manning named to Dubuque Dean’s List

DUBUQUE, Iowa - The University of Dubuque has named its Spring Semester 2024 Academic Dean’s List. Among the students named to the list is Paige Manning, a sophomore from Mendota.

Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the Dean’s List. Once grades have been submitted for any Incompletes, the Office of Academic Affairs will review eligibility again for possible placement on the Dean’s List for the given term.

Dean’s List is awarded for the fall and spring semesters only and may be awarded retroactively.

E. Guelde graduates from UW-Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee held its commencement exercises May 19 in Milwaukee.

Among the students receiving their degree was Emma Guelde of Mendota, Bachelor of Science, School of Education.

UWM is the second largest university in the state of Wisconsin, with over 22,900 undergraduate and graduate students.



state parks, encapsulating how Illinois is truly an outdoor enthusiast’s paradise year-round,” said Daniel Thomas, Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism. “From hiking and cycling to horseback riding, canoeing, fishing and more, there are endless opportunities to explore and enjoy nature across Illinois.”

The content series features up close and personal stories of friends and families in Illinois as they explore outdoor destinations, including:

- A love letter to family camping & fishing in Illinois: For Dennis and Carol Sporleder, visiting their home state of Illinois is an opportunity to create special memories with their granddaughters by returning to some of their beloved places like Rock Cut State Park near Rockford and Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park in Oglesby.

- Finding beauty in a nature escape from Chicago: Watch as a group of friends escape Chicago to discover the beauty of diverse landscapes like Camp Aramoni’s luxury safari-style campground in LaSalle County and Rend Lake in Southern Illinois. The group’s experience creates an easy itinerary for outdoor adventure options like paddling,

swimming and off-the-grid camping with friends and family.

- Adventures in Illinois to challenge and inspire you: Follow Chicago adaptive climber Meaghan Cusack and her squad to some of Illinois’ best climbing spots for people of all abilities and skill levels, including Cave-in-Rock State Park, Giant City State Park near the Shawnee National Forest and breathtaking Pere Marquette State Park along the Mississippi River.

The new outdoor content

series will be available on Illinois Office of Tourism’s website, EnjoyIllinois.com, as well as Enjoy Illinois YouTube and social channels, including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok as part of Illinois Office of Tourism’s upcoming seasonal outdoors campaign. The series will also reach international markets as well, appearing in Canada, U.K., Australia and New Zealand to inspire travel to Illinois. This video content initiative is supported by both Brand USA and Matador, media partner and award-winning hub for video travel content.

To view “Real Stories. Real People. Real Outdoors,” go to www.enjoyillinois.com/great-outdoors/. For more information about Illinois and to start planning your Illinois outdoor adventure, visit EnjoyIllinois.com and follow @EnjoyIllinois on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

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Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page B2!

SPORTS

Change is scary, but for the NBA it's needed

These NBA Eastern and Western Conference playoff series couldn't be any better played. Or at a better time. Or in any better circumstance.

The elephant in the room who is sitting on your couch watching the games with you are LeBron James, Steph Curry, Kevin Durant, Chris Paul, and Brook Lopez. The generation of the past which is



Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

every NBA broadcast come April and May because he's usually in the mix because of his ability to will his team to victories when they're not supposed to win or for epic collapses when his squads have more talent.

Lopez is never considered as a top NBA guy although he is one of the best defenders with the highest NBA IQs, which will keep him on teams until he can literally no longer walk or run. Plus, he is a role model or influence to a large crop of the younger, top centers in today's game.

He gets no respect. So, here's a little.

Back to my point, yesteryear's stars who have carried the league and are world-wide known names even to casual hoops fans or to those who don't care, are not on one of the last four teams left playing for an NBA Championship.

Which to me and to most fans, is a breathe of fresh air.

I'm sick of hearing millions and millions of LeBron story lines or hearing excuses of why his team didn't meet expectations or is he going to be on another team next season. Well, we're going to hear that anyway because LeBron doesn't sleep well at night if we're not talking about him.

Let's see the next crop of superstars. The LeBron successors who we're going to be talking about for the next 10 years.

Minnesota Timberwolves have Anthony Edwards, who people are unfortunately calling the next Michael Jordan, Jordan's son, or baby Mike. Not fair to him or any of the other players attention seeking media outlets have overshadowed or put illogical pressure on.

The T-Wolves are facing the Dallas Mavericks and Luka Doncic in the Western Conference Finals, who besides his constant complaining and begging for fouls to be called against his opponents is capturing the imaginations of young basketball enthusiasts every time he's on the court.

In Game 2 he hit a step-back 3-pointer with three seconds left on the fourth quarter clock to give the Mavs a 109-108 victory and a 2-0 series lead.

On the playground kids call out NBA players names when they're taking shots. It was (Larry) Bird in the 1980s, MJ in the 1990s, Kobe (Bryant) in the 2000s, Curry in the 2010s, and it's going to be Luca in the 2020s.

The Eastern Conference Finals has a set of faces ready to move up a notch in the Boston Celtic's Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, and the Indiana Pacers' Tyrese Haliburton. I give the Celtics two nominations to my list of people we want to see in conference finals and the NBA Finals other than Steph, LeBron, and KD because I feel they're on the same level and can carry their team or the league moving forward.

Haliburton may sit out a few games due to injury, but if he doesn't, he'll show what he can do whether it's shooting, assisting, leading, guarding, or even coaching if he chooses because the 24-year-old player can literally do it all.

None of the five guys - Edwards, Doncic, Brown, Tatum, or Haliburton - have won an NBA Championship. None of them have been considered the face of the NBA. None of them have been considered the best in their craft whether it's basketball as a whole or an intricate part such as shooting, passing, rebounding, and so on.

They've just been guys who are young, talented, and could maybe help their franchises win a few games.

Now they're in a spot to bring home the biggest trophy of them all. Minnesota and Indiana would be doing it for the first time, Dallas would be adding on to the foreign player legacy as Doncic would win a title after Dirk Nowitzki won in 2011 (against LeBron) for the Mavericks, and Boston would collect championship No. 18 tying them with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most titles in league history.

All are compelling story lines making for compelling games.

Each game of the series has been talked about on sports radio (of course, that's their job), at water coolers, on Edge of Your Seat Podcast (shameless plug for my endeavor, check it out on Spotify and Apple Podcasts), and at every school and gymnasium in the country. Maybe the world, but for sure, the world.

It's the right time for this to happen.

Yes, the word change is scary, but the words stagnant, same, and again...get boring.

We're tired of the same players. The same teams. The same arenas. The same fan bases. The same general managers and owners. The same radio and TV talk about what's going to happen with them.

Sure, I'd personally love the Bulls to be in this discussion, but we're some time and some huge moves away from that being the case. So Bulls enter and exit the chat in the same paragraph.

Change, new, next, youth, and excitement are the words surrounding the NBA this postseason.

I've got my popcorn, Reese's Pieces, bottled water, and for the late games, Monsters, ready for all of the games to see what happens and who steps forth as the leader of the next era of the NBA.

Top baseball players named in Little 10 for the 2024 season

EARLVILLE—The Little Ten Conference baseball coaches have selected the 2024 Little Ten All-Conference Baseball Team. There were 17 players selected to the team and all were unanimous selections.

• **Serena** (11-1) – Tanner Faivre (Sr...P/IF)—Three-Time Unanimous Selection; Carson Baker (Sr...P/SS)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; Hunter Staton (Sr...P/1B); Beau Raikes (Jr...P/3B)

• **Hinckley-Big Rock** (10-2) – Martin Ledbetter (Jr...P/1B/C)—Three-

Time Unanimous Selection; McKinley Shelton (Sr...OF); Skyler Janeski (So...SS/P); Jacob Orin (So...2B/C)

• **Newark** (7-5) – Landon Begovac (Jr...OF/C); Payton Wills (Jr...1B)

• **Somonauk** (6-6) – Noah Brandt (Jr...IF/OF); Aldo Resendez (Jr...P)

• **Earlville-Leland Coop** (4-7) – Trenton Fruit (Sr...OF); Aaden Browder (Fr...P)

• **Indian Creek** (3-8) – Jeffrey Probst (Sr...OF)—Repeat Unanimous Selection; Jakob McNally (Sr...OF)

• **Hiawatha** (0-12) – Aidan Cooper (So...3B)



Mendota Quarterback Club golf fundraiser set for June 14

MENDOTA – The Mendota Quarterback Club will be sponsoring a fund-raising event Friday, June 14, at the Mendota Golf Club.

The public is invited to participate in the 23rd Annual Quarterback Club Golf Outing at the Mendota Golf Club. The cost is \$100 per person with steak dinner included. The 4-person scramble starts with sign-in and lunch at

11:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with dinner to follow at 5:30 p.m. If you choose not to golf, the steak dinner is available for \$20 per person.

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

Each year, the Quarterback Club donates thousands

S. Carlos runs time of 51.02 at state track meet

□ MHS soph does not make finals

CHARLESTON – Mendota track team member Sebastian Carlos competed in the IHSA State Track & Field Championships held May 23-25 at Eastern Illinois University.

Carlos, a sophomore, ran in the 400-meter dash and was clocked in 51.02, which put him in 18th place in the preliminary round. Although his time was a personal best for him, it was not good enough to advance to the finals. The top nine times earn a berth in the finals.

"Sebastian ran a PR (personal record) in the State Meet and had very positive finish for himself and our team, finishing 18th out of 33 overall in preliminary heat times," said Mendota coach Keegan Hill. "We believe he can continue to improve in the future and are excited for the energy he has created at Mendota along with Mariyah Elam. Our young athletes are eager to grow with them."



Carlos

Fishing tourney for kids planned in LaSalle

LaSALLE – A free Kids' Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 1 at I & M Canal Lock #14 in LaSalle. Registration is at 8 a.m. and fishing is from 9-11 a.m.

There will be two age groups for boys and girls: 4-12 years old and 13-15 years old. Participants should bring their own tackle – one pole and one hook. No artificial lures are allowed. Bait will be provided.

Prizes will be awarded and snacks and drinks will be provided.

The event is sponsored by the Better Fishing Association of Northern Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Peru Rescue Station.

For more information, call 815-223-2382, 815-488-2035 or go online at www.better-fishing-assoc.org.

Local IVCC athletes earn academic honors

OGLESBY – Fifty-four IVCC athletes were recognized for academic excellence in the Arrowhead Conference.

Each year the Arrowhead Athletic Conference recognizes student athletes for academic excellence. To qualify, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher and have passed at least 12 hours each semester of the academic year. The Arrowhead Conference comprises six community colleges in Northern Illinois.

Receiving Arrowhead Conference Academic Excellence honors were:

Alex Stremmlau, tennis; Alexis Kerley, soccer; Ava Moriarty, softball; Beau Ewers, baseball; Brady Ewers, baseball;

Brandon Novotney, baseball; Callee Bauer, softball/volleyball; Charlee Bourell, tennis; Christian Yepsen, cross country; Colin Hart, soccer; Conner Price, baseball; Connor Noramczyk, golf; Drake Stoudt, golf; Dylan Cartwright, golf;

Elizabeth Browder, softball; Ella Sibert, softball/volleyball; Emma Augustine, softball; Emma Garretson, volleyball; Emma Walker, tennis; Grace Johnson, soccer; Grant Plym, golf; Hailey Rakers, softball; Holly Shriber, softball; Isabella Lambert, soccer; Ivan Patricio, soccer; Jackson Olson, baseball; John Riva, baseball; Jonathan Cooper, golf; Justus Mason, baseball;

Katie Bates, softball/volleyball; Kendall Schmidt, baseball;

Kristy Hoang, cross country; Libby Boyles, softball/volleyball; Logan Brandner, tennis; Lyan Gonzalez, soccer; Maddy Klicker, softball; Maddy Pagric, softball; Marissa Vickers, tennis; Max Cook, baseball; Morgan Clements, soccer; Neely Hougas, softball/volleyball; Olivia Shetterly, volleyball; Roko Jurasovic, basketball; Koko Kegalj, basketball; Ryan Chamberlain, baseball; Ryne Strous, baseball; Sean Whitfield, golf; Taylor Wetsel, softball; Thomas Swartz, baseball; Tyler Marconi, soccer; Wade Menard, baseball, and Wesley Ruppert, basketball.



Free boating safety courses set at Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

OTTAWA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, is offering free boating safety education classes at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center located at 950 N. 27th Road in Ottawa, June 15, July 20, and Aug. 17. Each class runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is open to anyone 11 years of age or older. Completion of only one course is necessary for certification.

New boaters as well as seasoned individuals looking to brush up on safe boating knowledge, are encouraged to take the course. No on-the-water experience is offered during

the classroom-based course. Upon successful completion of the class and exam, participants will be issued an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Boat Safety Certification, which is honored in both Iowa and Illinois.

Pre-registration for the class is required and youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and classes fill quickly. To register contact the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center at 815-667-4054. Visit <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Illinois-Waterway/Boater-Safety-Courses/> for more information.

Pistol Shrimp to recognize IVCC's 100th at special theme night

PERU – A theme night at the Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp game Saturday, May 31, will be a chance to honor Illinois Valley Community College on its 100th birthday, raise money for the IVCC Foundation and enjoy the historic national pastime.

There is free admission to the game. Proceeds from a sale of VIP seating tickets benefit the IVCC Foundation, as do proceeds from a 50/50 raffle that night.

"It's a special night to honor IVCC's 100 Years of Excellence and enjoy baseball with the Pistol Shrimp," said Tracy Beattie, executive director of the IVCC Foundation.

The Pistol Shrimp face the Clinton (Iowa) Lumberkings that evening. Game starts at 7:05 p.m. at Schweickert Stadium, Plank Road, Peru. Eagles baseball fans have a chance to see IVCC's Johnny Riva in his first season with the Pistol Shrimp.

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The Kerry farm is located 8 miles northwest of Wenona, IL or 12 miles south of Peru, IL. The farm is further described as being located in Section 16, T31N-R1E, Hope Township, LaSalle County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a well-located farm with the buyer receiving 100% of the 2024 crop income!

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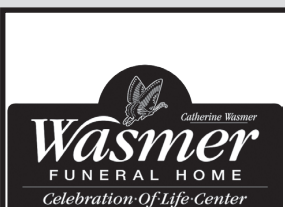
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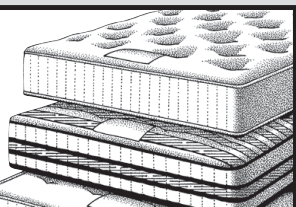
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: When is “Yellowstone” coming back for its final season? I don’t watch any of the spin-offs. I’m just waiting for the original show to return. -- *A.W.*

A: The wait is almost over for the second half of the final season of “Yellowstone,” which last graced our screens in January 2023. The delay can mostly be attributed to the writers’ and actors’ strikes, but there was also a major dispute between the show’s creator Taylor Sheridan and star Kevin Costner that most certainly was a factor. Fortunately, the Paramount Network has announced that production on the remainder of the season has begun and that you should expect to see those some time in November of this year.

There is a spin-off in the works that will continue to tell the Dutton family saga with current cast members Kelly Reilly and Cole Hauser and none other than Academy-Award-winning actor Matthew McConaughey (“Dallas Buyers Club”). The yet-to-be-named spin-off is expected to premiere on the Paramount channel in December and start streaming

on Paramount+ soon after.

As for Costner, he knows who his audience is. He starred and directed the Oscar-winning film “Dances with Wolves” and has done the same for the upcoming two-part western film “Horizon: An American Saga,” which recently earned a 7-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival. ***

Q: Since Steve Carell has said he won’t appear in the upcoming new version of “The Office,” is he going to keep acting in movies instead? -- *J.S.*

A: Like many versatile and talented actors in Hollywood today, Steve Carell seems to enjoy acting in a mix of series and films. Unfortunately, his last series with Greg Daniels, “Space Force,” just didn’t gel with audiences, and it was canceled after two seasons. Now Daniels is creating a new version of his hit series “The Office” with an all-new cast.

This leaves Carell available for more series work. First up, he’s reteaming with his “Date Night” co-star Tina Fey in the upcoming Netflix series “The Four Seasons.” He also just inked a deal to star in an upcoming HBO

comedy series created by Bill Lawrence (“Scrubs”), which is “set on a college campus, centering on an author’s [presumably Carell’s character] complicated relationship with his daughter.”

Amy Gravitt, executive vice president of HBO & Max comedy programming, excitedly released the following statement: “The combination of Steve Carell and Bill Lawrence promises to be full of great laughs, warmth and charm. We’re thrilled to be the home for this long overdue collaboration.” ***

Q: Who is the actress playing Amy Winehouse in the new movie about her? Also, did she do her own singing, or did she lip-sync over Amy’s vocals? -- *K.S.*

A: Marisa Abela (“Industry”) stars in the new Amy Winehouse biopic “Back to Black,” directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson (“Fifty Shades of Grey”), and yes, she did her own singing. The actress took singing lessons daily for four months in order to sound like the bluesy Brit.

“Back to Black” was released in theaters on May 17 and will be available for streaming at a later date.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Are we ready for “The Death of Robin Hood”? Hugh Jackman stars as Robin Hood, who is “grappling with his past after a life of crime and murder.”



Jackman

Instead of the merry outlaw seen in previous films (notably with Errol Flynn), he’s a “battleworn loner, gravely injured and in the hands of a mysterious woman [Jodie Comer], who offers him a chance at salvation.” It will be similar to the 1976 Sean Connery/Audrey Hepburn film “Robin and Marian.”

Jackman’s “Deadpool & Wolverine,” opposite Ryan Reynolds, opens on July 26, while Comer’s “The Bikeriders,” opposite Austin Butler, drops on June 21.

People magazine’s 2021 “Sexiest Man Alive” Paul Rudd and Nick Jonas (who’s sexy anytime) are starring in the musical comedy “Power Ballad.” It tells the story of a wedding singer (Rudd) and a rockstar (Jonas), and the

song that comes between them. It’s currently shooting in Dublin.

It must be “Fate” that brings together “Pretty in Pink’s” Andrew McCarthy, Academy Award winner Faye Dunaway (“Network”), and “Reservoir Dogs” star Harvey Keitel for a suspenseful, supernatural romance. Dunaway’s reputation for being difficult didn’t deter director Franco Nero to cast her in “The Man Who Drew God,” featuring Nero, Kevin Spacey and Robert Davi. Dunaway also has the HBO documentary “Faye” available soon. It recently premiered at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

Have they gone too far? An upcoming film titled “The Carpenter’s Son” explores the rarely told story of the childhood of Jesus Christ. Director Lofty Nathan is basing this horror tale on the apocryphal Infancy Gospel of Thomas (dating back to the second century A.D.), which recounts the dark story of a family hiding out in Roman Egypt.

The son, known only as “The Boy,” is “driven to

doubt by another mysterious child and rebels against his guardian [Nicolas Cage], revealing inherent powers and a fate beyond his comprehension.” The Boy and his family become targets of horrors -- both natural and divine. Sounds like a rocky road ahead, and we don’t mean ice cream. Cue the protesters!

Jennifer Lopez will deliver the “Kiss of the Spider Woman” to Diego Luna in the film adaption of the 1992 Kander and Ebb Broadway hit that originally starred Chita Rivera. The songwriting team was also known for musicals such as “Cabaret,” “Chicago” and “New York, New York.” Notably, “Dancing with the Stars” hooper Tony Danza, who finally won a mirror ball after 14 seasons dancing with Melissa Rycroft (“The Bachelor”), plays a mob boss.

Backstage at a Hollywood talk show, Chita once complained to me, “My nails are all broken from climbing that freaking web seven times a week!” Lopez will need to use her stand-in to nail it!
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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* In 1925, a war between Greece and Bulgaria started after a stray dog crossed their border.

* During the 1917 siege of Jerusalem, the British, in an effort to capture the city from an entrenched Ottoman garrison, airdropped cigarettes filled with large doses of opium in the hope their opponents would be too stoned to fight. It worked.

* Holland, Michigan, has 168 miles of tubing coiled underneath its streets that circulates hot water in order to melt any snow on the ground.

* China’s Three Gorges Dam is so huge that it’s slowed the rotation of Earth.

* Hard-rocker Ozzy Osbourne once fell asleep during a driving test and woke up to find a note on the seat that said, “You have failed.” But give him credit for persistence: After 19 attempts, he finally managed to pass the test in 2009 at the age of 60, and then purchased a Ferrari.

* In Wisconsin, it’s legal for kids of any age to drink alcohol in a bar as long as they are with their legal guardian.

* Dwayne Johnson’s beard in the movie “Hercules” was made of yak testicle hair.

* The Aztecs regarded childbirth as a form of battle. Women who didn’t survive it were thought to rise to one of the highest heavens, the same one as for male warriors who died in battle.

* In 1986 a Soviet pilot made a bet with his co-pilot that he could land his airplane blind. He curtained all the cockpit windows and crashed the plane into the landing strip, killing 70 out of his 87 passengers.

Thought for the Day: “Life is like skiing. The goal is not to get to the bottom of the hill. It’s to have a bunch of good runs before the sun sets.” — Seth Godin

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w	a	i	m	v	o	n	r	i	n
a	t	a	p	t	e	r	i	o	n

Solution time: 26 mins.
Answers
— King Crossword —

• Trivia Test •

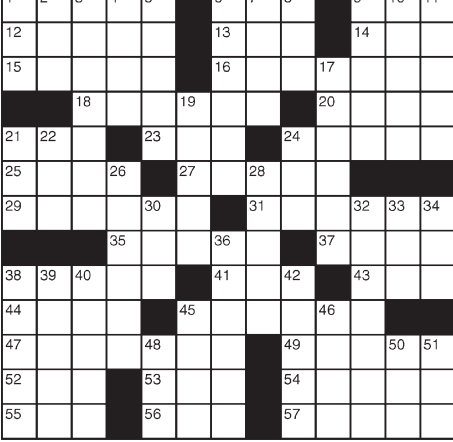
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the community college in the sitcom “Community”?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries in South America are landlocked?
- HISTORY: Where did the effective end of the Civil War take place?
- U.S. STATES: Which state comes first alphabetically?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is an affogato?
- MOVIES: Which movie features the character Inigo Montoya?
- ENTERTAINERS: What is singer/songwriter Taylor Swift’s middle name?
- ANATOMY: What is the smallest organ in the human body?
- LITERATURE: Which

- fantasy novel (later made into an HBO series called “Game of Thrones”) features a place called Winterfell?
- GEOLOGY: What is the most malleable metal?
- Answers
- Greendale Community College.
 - Bolivia and Paraguay.
 - Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
 - Alabama.
 - Dessert of ice cream and coffee.
 - “The Princess Bride.”
 - Alison.
 - Pineal gland.
 - “A Song of Ice and Fire.”
 - Gold.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Annoyed state
- Suitable
- TV schedule abbr.
- Road reversal
- Cornfield noise
- “— the Walrus”
- Idaho’s capital
- Minor complaint
- Vehicle’s capacity
- Intends
- German pronoun
- “... — quit!”
- Unravels
- Second in command
- Fighting
- “Already?”
- Unparalleled
- Track horse
- Continental currency
- Nepal’s neighbor
- D-Day vessel
- -de-France
- Sole
- Litter container
- Without a sound
- Aromas
- Ornate vase
- Bit of physics



- Illuminated
- “A spider!”
- Summer on the Seine
- Very small

DOWN

- Tavern
- Jurist Lance
- Savory brunch pies
- Celestial bear
- January, to Juana
- Find not guilty
- Painter
- Cezanne
- Prefix with night or light
- Leg bone
- Pleasantly warm
- Make — of (bungle)
- “Peter Pan” author
- Swiss money
- Hosp. hook-ups
- Corp. boss
- Summer cooler
- Spinach-eating sailor
- German sausage
- Granola grain
- Man of La Mancha
- Web address
- Fair hirer, in ads
- Boosler of comedy
- Chef’s hat
- Accustom
- Lose a staring contest
- Letter-shaped hardware
- Coagulate
- “Garfield” dog
- Cravat
- Ske-daddle
- CIA operative

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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“Gaga Chromatica Ball” (TV-14) -- Calling all fans of the Mother Monster herself! A new concert experience from pop icon Lady Gaga reaches streaming on May 25, for all the Monsters who weren’t able to attend the Chromatica Ball tour back in 2022. Immerse yourself in the dark, edgy atmosphere of the Chromatica Ball with a stage inspired by brutalist architecture. Jam out to songs spanning her decades-long discography, like “Just Dance,” “Bad Romance,” “Shallow” and “Rain on Me.” Filming for this TV special took place during the Los Angeles show at Dodger Stadium, and the special premieres on May 25. (Max)

“Geek Girl” (TV-PG) -- In her new series, actress Emily Carey goes from playing the tortured young queen Alicent in HBO’s “House of the Dragon” to playing a socially awkward teenager named Harriet Manners. As a self-proclaimed “geek,” Harriet has accepted a life of limitations until she suddenly

gets discovered by a model agency that is desperate for new, raw talent. Although transforming Harriet from a geek to a high-fashion model won’t be the easiest transition, luckily, she has the help of fashion connoisseur Wilbur Evans (Emmanuel Imani) and a gorgeous supermodel named Nick Park (Liam Woodrum). The 10-episode series releases on May 30. (Netflix)

“The Boys in the Boat” (PG-13) -- George Clooney (“Ticket to Paradise”) sat on the director’s chair once again to bring an inspiring story about a rowing team full of underdogs to the big screen. Set in 1936, an underprivileged engineering student named Joe Rantz (Callum Turner) tries out for the junior varsity rowing team at the University of Washington after hearing that a spot on the team comes with jobs and boarding. Even though the junior varsity team is less experienced, these go-getters begin pulling off upset after upset, outrowing their own varsity team and other

college teams. Now full of momentum, their coach (Joel Edgerton) sets the team’s sights on getting a gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany. Premieres May 28. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Love Undercover” (TV-MA) -- This seven-episode reality series puts a spin on the traditional dating show format that instantly reminded me of the 2009 TV special “I Get That A Lot,” where celebrities like Nick Jonas and Jessica Simpson would pretend to be regular working-class citizens. In this new show out now, five international soccer stars go undercover in the United States to look for love, with the notion that women will fall in love with them for who they are, instead of their successful careers. The soccer players include Jamie O’Hara and Lloyd Jones from the United Kingdom; Sebastian Fassi and Marco Fabian from Mexico; and Ryan Babel from the Netherlands. (Peacock)

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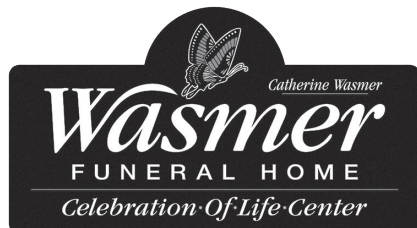
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The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

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1	16		19
	3	17	25
26	27	29	

11	8	9
2	16	1
10	8	20

Solution

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1654:** LOUIS XIV IS CROWNED KING OF FRANCE.
- **1905:** NORWAY'S PARLIAMENT DISSOLVES ITS UNION WITH SWEDEN.
- **1946:** THE UNITED KINGDOM'S BBC RETURNS TO BROADCASTING ITS TELEVISION SERVICE, WHICH HAS BEEN OFF AIR FOR SEVEN YEARS DUE TO WORLD WAR II.



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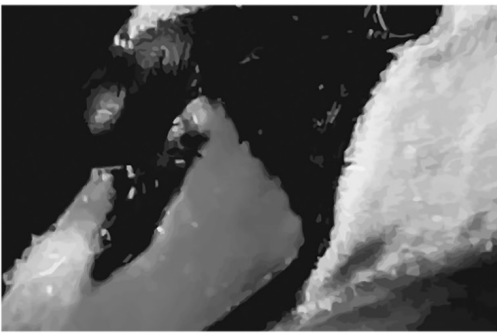
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- SPANISH:** Brisa
- ITALIAN:** Brezza
- FRENCH:** Brise
- GERMAN:** Brise



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1501 First Ave., Mendota



The Mendota Reporter
703 Illinois Ave.
Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-9396
www.mendotareporter.com



RELIGION

The key to fulfill your purpose in life!

God loves you and He has a good plan for your life. You are a wonderful creation made by Him and you have a unique purpose to fulfill in this world.

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP) says that as Christians, "For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus...for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He pre-arranged and made ready for us]."

It's so exciting to know we are each created with a purpose and God has a good life that He has prepared in advance for us to live. But it's important to understand that we have

an enemy, Satan, who wants to keep us from having the life Jesus died to give us.

Yes, Satan has a plan for us, too, and his plan is destruction and death.

John 10:10 (ESV) says the enemy "comes only to steal and kill and destroy."

The good news is we have everything we need through Christ to overcome the enemy. We just have to know who we are in Christ, believe that we have His authority, and know how to release the power God has given us.

To do this, we have to rely on our faith in God. Romans 12:3 (ESV) says each person has a "measure of faith that God has assigned." This means God has given you enough faith to do His will, whatever it may be

and no matter what the enemy throws at you to stop you.

There are many challenges and difficult situations we have to face in life. You may have a child with special needs to care for, or maybe you're in a difficult marriage. You could be facing a devastating illness or have serious financial problems. Whatever your situation is, God has given you everything you need, through Christ, to keep you moving forward in His plan for your life.

We need to always remember that God is greater than our problems—nothing is too hard for Him and nothing catches Him by surprise. When we're going through hard times and the enemy is attacking us, we don't



need to ask, "What can I do?" The question is, "What can God do?" The Word says all things are possible with God, and greater is He who lives in me than he who is in the world (Matthew 19:26 and 1 John 4:4).

I want you to really get this in your heart today: In Christ, you have enough faith and the strength you need to do whatever you need to do in life! Get rid of "I can't" thinking and focus on the truth of God's Word, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!" (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

Prayer is a simple, powerful way to interrupt Satan's plan because we release our faith through prayer. First Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV) says, "Pray without ceasing." This basically means prayer can be as natural as breathing, and our first response in every situation. It's so amazing that we can talk to God all the time.

Now the enemy doesn't want us to pray, so he will do everything he can to discourage us. He wants us to think prayer is hard,

that we need to use eloquent speech and sound poetic, that we need to be careful what we ask God for so we don't overload Him with too many requests, or that we have to be in a certain place with a certain posture (on our knees, head bowed, eyes closed) for God to hear us. But it's actually simple to pray effectively.

James 5:16 (ESV) says, "...The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." God wants you to come to Him honestly, with a sincere heart, and just talk to Him as a friend. Be yourself and don't approach conversation with God as a religious activity. Humble yourself before Him and open your heart to Him. He loves you and wants you to walk in His will for your life victoriously.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are God's child and He is always with you. He is Almighty God, and if God is on your side, who can be against you?

In Christ, you have what you need today to live in victory. Put your faith in God constantly.

Pray, take God-inspired action, and fulfill your true purpose in life!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource Unleashing the Power of Faith. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

MENDOTA

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Rev. Peter A. Pilon, Pastor
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar
Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,
and Hector Diaz, Deacons

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

Weekday Mass
Weekend Mass
Confession

STS. PETER AND PAUL,
PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass
Confession

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

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

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

June 2 - 9:30 a.m. Worship

ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

4401 State Route 251
(815) 538-3444

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

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

VICTORY BAPTIST
CHURCH

"Faithful & Effective"

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

Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY
Sunday school
Worship

WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

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

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blessed hope."

Sunday School
Worship

MENDOTA BIBLE
CHURCH

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

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School
Worship
Evening Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.
(815) 539-5626

Pastor Elise Rothfusz

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:
9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person
and online via YouTube

Find us on Facebook

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

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Then I heard a voice from heaven say,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead
who die in the Lord from now on."
"Yes," says the Spirit,
"they will rest from their labor,
for their deeds will follow them."
REVELATION 14:13

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com
Accessible

Pastor Laurie Walker

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School following
children's message

Fellowship 11 a.m.

Available on Facebook Live
Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

May 30 - 10 a.m. Newsletter folding

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

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

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Please call for more information

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Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran
compton@live.com

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Online "devotional service" videos continue
every Sunday at
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YouTube. Check our website and Facebook
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Sunday!

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Love

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Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

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METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille

(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 a.m.

Children's Sunday School
following children's message

FELLOWSHIP 10 a.m. (nursery available)

Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Soup & Soul

TROY GROVE

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FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,
Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbchurch20817@gmail.com

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SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. In 2 Chronicles 9:21, which was
not among the things Solomon's
ships brought to emphasize the
luxuriousness of Israel? Ivory,
Apes, Peacocks, Cedars

3. From Proverbs 30, what will
pluck out the eyes of anyone who
scorns their parents? Demons,
Ravens, Doves, Quails

4. In 1 Timothy 6:10, who wrote,
"For the love of money is the root
of all evil"? Saint Jude, Isaiah,
Moses, Paul

5. From Matthew 8, what Roman
official asked Jesus to heal his
servant? Marshall, Governor,
Centurion, Jailor

6. Who was the father of Hosea?
Uzzah, Beerli, Joash, Ahab

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Cedars, 3)
Ravens, 4) Paul, 5) Centurion, 6)
Beerli

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GOD
with good works

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

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Faith

9 Reasons to Shop Local

1

Shopping Local Creates Jobs:

The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.

2

Local independent businesses invest more in our community:

They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3

Local businesses sell a wide range of great products

at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4

Shopping Local saves you money and time!

Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.

5

Shopping Local retains our community:

Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

6

Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:

Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.

7

Shopping Local encourages community growth.

By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Mendota's diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.

8

Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.

Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Mendota. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through sales tax. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.

9

Local shops value you more:

Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.



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1403 13th Ave. • Plaza
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firststatebank.biz
Member FDIC

First State Bank of Van Orin
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815-539-3828
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mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

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Orzech Towing

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Maze Lumber
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815-223-1742



City of
Mendota

800 Washington Street
815-539-7459
www.mendota.il.us

Eureka Savings BANK
NMLS#447018
www.eurekasavings.com

250 Marquette St., LaSalle, IL 61301 Ph. 223-0700
1300 13th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 Ph. 539-5656
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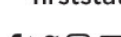
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