

Sublette's Dinges picked for State FFA office

Recent Amboy High School graduate elected treasurer at Illinois State Convention

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Sublette resident and 2024 Amboy High School graduate Emma Dinges has spent the last four years enthralled in the National FFA Organization.

Well, another year has been added to her tenure.

Dinges was elected as the Illinois FFA Treasurer for 2024-25 at the Illinois FFA State Convention on June 13.

“I’m just so honored and grateful to get to experience this this year. It’s a pretty big deal,” Dinges said. “I got elected last out of my five teammates in Illinois FFA, so the excitement was really building up when my name finally was announced. It was really cool.

“My whole mindset through all of this was to show members that they can when they think they can’t. Making Selection Committee was a really cool feeling to show others that they can achieve their goals. Getting selected was the real big thing proving you can achieve your goal and overcome the obstacles.

“The whole reason I ran was to show the FFA members who think they can’t achieve their big dreams in life is that they can.”

In order to run for state office, the first step is being selected to the Selection Committee. Dinges found out she was one of 10 candidates in April when the committee selections were made.

At the state convention, the 10 FFA state officer hopefuls gave speeches to help the election process as



Sublette resident and 2024 Amboy High School graduate Emma Dinges, second from left, was elected as the Illinois FFA State Treasurer on June 13. She joins the FFA State Officer Team of, left to right, State Secretary Owen Torrance, State President Trenton Payne, State Reporter Sidney Stiers, State Vice President Brody Will. (Photo contributed)

five state officers are selected in the form of president, vice president, secretary, reporter, and treasurer.

On the same day of the speeches, the officers are elected. Dinges didn’t have much time to wait as she gave her speech and shortly found out it was good enough to be selected to serve the Illinois FFA for another year.

Her service began the next day, June 24, and will last until the Illinois FFA State Convention in 2025.

She joins elected president Tenton Payne, vice president Brody Will, secretary Owen Torrance, and reporter Sidney Stiers. Dinges said she was worked with all of them before and is excited for this year.

“We kind of work together in order to come up with ideas for the state of Illinois FFA,” Dinges said. “My specific roles in a normal officer team would be handling money and that kind of thing, but

at the state level, we kind of collaborate together for all of our duties.

“In the future, after my year of service, I plan to attend Iowa State University to major in animal science.”

Being a member of the Illinois FFA Officer Team has always been on Dinges’ mind.

However, not always at the forefront.

But now that it’s a reality, she is excited to see what’s next and appreciates all of the support she has received from family, friends, and the community.

A congratulations reception was held for Dinges on June 16 in Sublette.

“Throughout my high school career, FFA state office has always been something that has been there, but not something I’d necessarily say I was striving for since freshman year,” Dinges said. “Serving as Section 2 president my senior year really opened up my eyes for this

opportunity. I decided during that year of service that I would decide to run for state office and give FFA another year of service. It was there to think about my first three years of high school, but it became a reality and a goal to achieve during my senior year.

“My parents, Nick and Stacey Dinges, have definitely been a big inspiration through all of this. Their support and them working hard in the community and their service toward others is definitely a big reason that pushed me into giving another year of service to Illinois FFA.

“My family has been a big motivator. Their constant support has helped me make big decisions in my life. They’ve pushed me to work hard and to try my best.”

Another supporter of Dinges has been Amboy FFA Director Joe Heavner.

Heavner guided Dinges during her four years at Amboy High School and watched her bloom from a normal FFA member, into a leader, into a Illinois FFA State Officer.

“I’m very proud of Emma. A little over 10 years ago I was a FFA state officer, so I’ve been through the process,” Heavner said. “It brought me a lot of joy to see Emma get elected to the same position I had. It’ll be a great opportunity for her to grow as an individual, for her to network, and for her to give back to the organization that she has benefited from so much over the last four years.

“I’m very, very proud of Emma.”

Dist. 280 Board does not renew e-Learning Plan

Board hears of “phone-free” proposal

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education handled several items of business at its June 17 regular meeting.

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, a public hearing was held for the renewal of the e-Learning Plan from 2024-2027.

During regular session, the Board of Education chose not to renew the e-Learning Plan. Any inclement weather days will now be traditional “snow” days and will be made up with emergency days.

In other items from the business report, the board approved renewing its contract with Mar-co copiers and printers through 2029. The board also voted on two Engle #6 amendments, but neither resolution vote passed.

Principal Joe Masi-ni reported on summer school and registration information. He also commended the MHS athletes that participated in the state track & field meet in May.

During the citizens agenda, Justin Bend spoke to the board regarding his proposal for “phone-free schools.” No action was taken.

In board committee reports, president Jim Lauer presented the board committee assignments for the 2024-25 school year and he also provided the Board of Education meeting dates and times. They are: Monday, Aug. 19; Monday, Sept. 23; Monday, Oct. 21; Monday, Nov. 18; Monday, Dec. 16; Tuesday, Jan. 21; Tuesday, Feb. 18; Monday, March 17; Tuesday, April 22; Monday, May 19; Monday, June 16. All meeting times are 6 p.m.

The board held an executive closed session. Upon returning to regular session, the board took the following action:

- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the board and MEA Faculty #1510.
- Accepted the retirement notice of Janice Campbell, Bilingual/ESL/ Foreign Language teacher, effective at the conclusion of the 2024-25 school year.
- Approved the hiring of Fall and Winter athletic coaches and volunteer coaches.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board of Education will be Monday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m.

Illinois gas tax going up

Tax to hit 47 cents per gallon on July 1; 2nd highest in nation

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois’ second-highest in the nation gas taxes will go up again July 1 as the state motor fuel tax hits 47 cents per gallon.

That means the average driver in Illinois will pay \$184 more in state gas taxes each year than before Gov. J.B. Pritzker doubled the tax in 2019, according to the Illinois Policy Institute.

Overall, Illinois has the seventh-most expensive retail gas price in the nation, with all state, local and federal taxes and fees contributing to about 40% of the total cost at the pump.

“Illinoisans were already overburdened with heavy gas taxes before this latest hike and now it will be more costly for tens of millions of Illinoisans



expected to take to the roads this summer,” said Bryce Hill, director of fiscal and economic research at the nonpartisan Illinois Policy Institute. “These tax increases continue to damage our quality of life and make Illinois an expensive place to live.”

In total, lawmakers will hit Illinoisans with \$1.1 billion in tax hikes in the

coming year to support a record \$53.1 billion state budget. Other tax hikes hitting taxpayers on July 1 include \$200 million in taxes on sports wagering, \$35 million on video gaming taxes and \$60 million for bookings at select hotels.

To read more about Illinois’ gas tax increases, visit illinois.gov/july2024.

West Nile Virus found in mosquitos and birds in 13 Illinois counties, including LaSalle Co.

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reminding the public that along with the start of summer, mosquito season is underway in Illinois and with that comes the risk of West Nile virus (WNV), which has been reported in 13 counties around the state so far.

While no human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Illinois this year, there were 119 human cases reported in 2023, up from 34 human cases in 2022. There were six human deaths attributed to West Nile virus in 2023, compared to seven in 2022.

“West Nile Virus can lead to serious illness, especially for our Illinois seniors and people with weakened immune systems,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “With the virus appearing earlier this year following a milder winter and spring, I urge everyone to fight the bite in their communities. Please reduce exposures,



wear insect repellent while outdoors, and report any standing water around your community where mosquitoes can breed.”

A county is considered positive for West Nile virus if a bird, mosquito, horse or human from that county tests positive for the virus. To date this year, Illinois has had 11 positive mosquito pools and 10 positive birds from 13 counties, including Champaign, Cook, Douglas, Fulton, Kane, Hancock, La-Salle, Morgan, Washington,

Whiteside, Williamson, Winnebago, and Woodford. The first mosquito batches this year were found in mid-May, about two weeks earlier than in a typical year.

Updates on where cases have been reported can be found on the IDPH West Nile Virus Surveillance page.

IDPH supports mosquito control efforts throughout the state by providing a total of \$2.8 million in funding to

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LOCAL AND AREA

Jones named recipient of 2024 OSF Saint Paul Scholarship

MENDOTA – Ava Jones, a 2024 graduate of Mendota Township High School, has been named the 2024 recipient of the OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Staff Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship will support Jones in her higher education endeavors. This fall, she will attend the University of Iowa to study biology with the goal of entering pre-med. She is the daughter Tony and Michelle Jones of Mendota.

The scholarship selection is based on the student’s application, essay, letters of recommendation, and other criteria.

This scholarship is available to high school seniors in the OSF Saint Paul service area who are committed to continuing their education and pursuing a career in rural medicine.



Ava Jones, left, is presented the 2024 OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Staff Scholarship by Dr. Amy Matheis-Soliman, medical staff president at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. (Photo contributed)

Putnam County Public Library hosting multiple events during July

Personalized Candle Workshop

The Granville Branch of the Putnam County Public Library will offer “Personalized Candle Workshop,” on Tuesday, July 9th at 2:00 p.m. This program is free, open to the public, and is especially for adults and teens. With a few basic supplies, participants will transform plain candles into stunning decorations by using favorite photos, designs, or quotes.

Painted Rock Photo Holders

The Granville Branch of the Putnam County Public Library will offer “Painted Rock Photo Holders,” on Thursday, July 18th, at 11:00 a.m. This program is free and open to the public. Youth can let their imaginations soar by painting rocks with geometric designs, words of kindness, colorful scenes, or favorite characters. Once

dried, participants can turn their painted rock creation into a photo holder using wire and beads.

Chalk Art Creations

The Granville Branch of the Putnam County Public Library will offer, “Chalk Art Creations,” on Tuesday, July 23rd, at 2:00 p.m. This program is free and open to the public. Youth (and adults) are invited to help decorate the sidewalk in front of the Library with wonderful designs and happy messages. Before creating their artwork, participants can make their own homemade chalk.

Information

The Granville Branch of the Putnam County Public Library is located at 214 S. McCoy Street, Granville. For more information, please call the Granville Branch at 815-339-2038.

Illinois officials issue annual reminder to use caution when recreating in Illinois waters, be aware of harmful algal blooms

SPRINGFIELD – In anticipation of seasonal weather and higher temperatures, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and Illinois Department of Public Health (Illinois DPH) are issuing an annual reminder for individuals to use caution when recreating on or in Illinois waterways, as harmful algal (cyanobacteria) blooms are possible on any body of water. Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are microscopic organisms that naturally occur in lakes, streams, and ponds. A “bloom” can occur when cyanobacteria have a rapid and expansive growth. While most blooms are harmless, some produce toxic chemicals that can cause sickness or other adverse health effects in exposed people and pets.

Residents can find information on the Illinois EPA’s 2024 Harmful Algal Bloom Program through the Illinois EPA’s website. The program includes routine monitoring at lakes and lake beaches throughout Illinois. In addition, “Event Response” investigates credible reports of a potential cyanobacteria bloom. A credible report refers to a direct observation by Illinois EPA staff or observations and pictures submitted by the public to Illinois EPA. In 2023, Illinois EPA created the new online Harmful Algal Bloom Dashboard that displays information submitted through the public Illinois Bloom Report Form and has a map of blooms that have been reported to Illinois EPA, investigated, and confirmed. Two blooms have already been posted for 2024.

If a bloom producing toxins is confirmed, local officials are advised to post appropriate signage to warn residents to avoid contact with affected waters. However, it is important to remember that not all blooms are reported to state officials. Therefore, residents are advised to avoid contact with a body of water that:

- looks like spilled green or blue-green paint;
- has surface scums, mats, or films;
- has a blue or green crust at the shoreline;
- is discolored or has green-colored streaks; or
- has greenish globs suspended in the water below the surface.

Examples of cyanobacteria blooms can be found at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/monitoring/algal-bloom/identifying.html>

Residents or local officials who suspect a

cyanobacteria bloom may report the bloom to the Illinois EPA through the Bloom Report Form App, which is accessible by computer or phone. The App and other reporting methods are available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/monitoring/algal-bloom/reporting.html>.

Individuals most at risk for adverse health effects attributed to algal toxins include young children, the elderly, and individuals with compromised immune systems. Individuals are most commonly exposed to algal toxins while swimming or participating in other recreational activities in and on the water. The most common routes of exposure are direct skin contact, ingestion of contaminated water, or inhalation of water droplets in the air (e.g., while water skiing or tubing). Symptoms of exposure to algal toxins include rashes, hives, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, or wheezing. More severe symptoms may result from longer or greater amounts of exposure. If you are concerned you have symptoms that are a result of exposure to algal toxins, contact a health care provider or call the Illinois Poison Center Helpline at 1-800-222-1222.

Residents are also advised to keep pets out of water that may contain cyanobacteria. Do not allow pets to drink from the water, swim in the water, or lick their fur after being in contact with water containing a cyanobacteria bloom. Residents and pets that have contact with cyanobacteria should rinse with clean water as soon as possible. If pets experience symptoms that may be the result of exposure, residents are advised to contact a veterinarian immediately.

Activities near, but not in or on, a lake or river such as camping, picnicking, biking, and hiking are not affected. As with all activities, wash your hands with soap and water before eating if you have had contact with lake water or shore debris.

For additional information about harmful algal blooms, please visit the Illinois EPA Harmful Algal Bloom website:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/monitoring/algal-bloom.html>

To report a human or animal illness from harmful algal bloom exposure, please visit the Illinois DPH Harmful Algal Bloom website:

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/harmful-algal-blooms.html>

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LOCAL AND AREA

Asian longhorned tick confirmed in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois is the 20th state to discover the Asian longhorned tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*). The tick, considered an invasive species, was found on April 12 during routine active tick surveillance in Morgan County as part of an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) grant-funded active tick surveillance program. Additional surveillance in the area on April 24 discovered two additional Asian longhorned ticks.

Identification was confirmed by entomologists at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

While the tick was first introduced to the U.S. in 2017, this is the first known collection of this tick species from anywhere in Illinois.

Asian longhorned ticks are light brown in color and are very small, often smaller than a sesame seed. The tick is capable of carrying tick borne diseases that affect cattle. In addition, a female can reproduce without a mate and lay up to 2,000 eggs at a time. Therefore, numbers may expand rapidly.

“In some cases of severe *H. longicornis* infestation, livestock death has been reported,” said Dr. Mark Ernst, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) State Veterinarian. “Farmers and producers should continue working with their veterinarian to maintain an appropriate management plan.”

The IDOA, IDPH and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) are monitoring the situation in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture.

“IDPH’s active tick surveillance program was instrumental in discovering the Asian long horned tick in Illinois,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “Although the role that this tick will play in the transmission of infections in humans is yet to be determined, the Department of Public Health is working closing with the Department of Agriculture to monitor the presence of the tick and investigate the risk it carries to both humans and livestock.”

Tick Prevention Tips:

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone. Always follow product instructions.
- Treat clothing and gear with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin. Permethrin can be used to treat boots, clothing and camping gear and remain protective through several washings. Alternatively, you can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear.
- Check your body and clothing for ticks upon return from potentially tick-infested areas, including your own backyard. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body. Place tick-infested clothes in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing after you come indoors.
- Shower soon after being outdoors. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has been shown to reduce your risk of getting Lyme disease and may be effective in reducing the risk of other tick-borne diseases. Showering may help wash off unattached ticks and is a good time to do a tick check.
- Talk to your veterinarian about tick-borne diseases in your area and prevention products for your pets and livestock.

If anyone believes they have identified *H. longicornis* on an animal, the tick should be placed in a jar with isopropyl alcohol, and the Department of Agriculture should be contacted at 217 782-4944.

Friends of 4-H, Extension announce winners of drawing

PRINCETON – Friends of 4-H & Extension who help to support outreach educational programs for the Extension Service and 4-H/Youth Development Programs in Bureau County is pleased to announce the winners of the cash raffle fund raiser. The drawing was held on June 14 at the Becker Professional Suites Building in Princeton.

Jessica Carlson, 4-H Alumna, drew the winning tickets. Four cash prizes were awarded: Marilyn Weeks of LaMoille, \$2,500; Corban Family of Princeton, \$1,000; Kent Hildebrand of Princeton, \$500; and Steve Sash of Tiskilwa, \$250.

The Friends of 4-H and Extension volunteer group thanks the public for their support. The support of all individuals and groups who purchased the tickets will help maintain our county-wide University of Illinois Extension and 4-H Program.

All proceeds from the event will be used to support the 4-H and Extension educational programs in Bureau County. The proceeds will be used for local services and programming.

Kishwaukee College accepting nominations for 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award

MALTA – The Kishwaukee College Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award honors exceptional alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and beyond, reflecting the values and excellence of Kishwaukee College.

The Foundation invites community members, faculty, staff, students and alumni to nominate individuals who exemplify leadership, dedication and excellence in their respective fields.

Nomination criteria:

- Must be alumni of Kishwaukee College (completed 45 or more credit hours or received a degree or certificate of completion)
- Evidence of leadership, innovation and impact in their community or industry
- Commitment to the values and mission of Kishwaukee College

The deadline to submit a nomination is Sunday, July 14. The Distinguished Alumni Award recipient will be honored at the Foundation Annual Gala on Saturday, Nov. 2. To learn more or submit a nomination, visit kish.edu/alumniaward.

Stage 212 invites you to the adventure of “Anastasia”

LaSALLE – Her past is a mystery. Her future is an adventure. This summer, Stage 212 invites you to join in the adventure that is “Anastasia,” the dazzling musical from Tony winners Terrence McNally, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens.

“Anastasia” will be presented July 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28 at Stage 212, 700 First St., LaSalle. Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available to the general public for \$22 each beginning July 1, and may be purchased by visiting the box office Monday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon or by calling 815-224-3025 during those hours. Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting stage212.org.

“Anastasia” transports the audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love and family.

Appearing in the cast are Eloise Gatz as Little Anastasia, Karen Lesman as The Dowager Empress, Megan Cullinan as The Tsarina, Griffin Tabor as The Tsar, Holly Malmassari as Alexei, Fredrick Davis as Gleb, Kevin J. Alleman as Dmitry, Jeff Sudakov as Vlad, Ashley Hurst as Anya, Forrest Boes as Count Ipolitov, Joel Stevenor as Gorlinski, Serena Rogers as Lily and Douglas S. Alleman as Count Leopold.

The ensemble includes Landon Balestri, Andrew Beer, Olivia Bergfeld, Forrest Boes, Megan Cullinan, Sydney June Ganskop, James Hoehn, Spencer Kain, Emily Kmetz, Nina Leffers, Nathan Leffers, Nora Maier, Noah Ruiz, Ivy Soens, Monika Sudakov and Griffin Tabor. The Children’s Ensemble includes Aleeah Ann Smith and Rebecca Washkowiak.

Production staff includes director Reid Tomasson, producer Traci Tomasson, music directors Kevin J. Alleman and Megan Cullinan, choreographer Tori Duttlinger, costume designer Narissa Keller and set construction Cory Tomasson.

“Anastasia” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com.

What adventures have YOU been on this summer?

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Donald M. Cassidy

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Navy Vietnam Veteran Donald M. Cassidy, 76, of Indianapolis, Ind., passed away on June 22, 2024, after a long illness.

Donald is survived by his wife, Roberta (née Westfall). He is also survived by sisters Nancy and Pati Karch (Jack); brothers Jim (Barb), Robert (Chris), Rich (Luisa), Tom (Janet), Marty (Marcia), Jeff (Fran) and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Donald is predeceased by his parents, George and Elizabeth; sister, Julie; brothers, George, Dennis, Jerry and Kevin.

Don served his country in the Navy aboard The USS Bon Homme Richard. The stories he could tell made us all laugh when he was in the Navy with his twin brother, Dennis. It amazed all of us on how upbeat he remained throughout his illness. Don loved and cared for his wife Roberta (Bobbie) during his illness.

Don was on the Mendota Moose ritual staff the year they were state champions. He also took a part in the Community Theatre play Death of a Salesman. Don was a lot of fun to be around.

Thanks to Clayton and Linda Kelly and Bill and Tricia Kelly for the care and love they gave to our brother Don and Roberta during his illness.

"Fair winds and following seas shipmate, we have the watch, you stand relieved."

Rest in peace dear brother and friend.

Sympathy cards may be sent to 4519 E. 82nd St., Apt. 60, Indianapolis, IN, 46250



IRS warns against scams targeting Illinois seniors

CHICAGO — As part of continuing efforts to protect the senior community, the Internal Revenue Service today issued a warning about the rising threat of impersonation scams.

These scams are targeting older adults in Illinois and elsewhere across the country by pretending to be government officials, aiming to steal sensitive personal information and money. By posing as representatives from agencies such as the IRS, or other government agencies, these fraudsters use fear and deceit to exploit their victims.

"Scammers often target seniors, attempting to steal personal information through phone calls, emails or text messages by pretending to be from the IRS or other agencies or businesses," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "Preventing these types of scams requires assistance from many different places. By partnering with other federal agencies and others in the tax community, we can reach more seniors and other taxpayers to help protect them against these terrible scams."

The IRS also has been engaged in long-term efforts to protect against scams and other related schemes, including identity theft. This has been an ongoing focus of the Security Summit partnership between the IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax professional community since 2015.

Understanding the threats

The IRS has identified a concerning trend where fraudulent actors are increasingly targeting unsuspecting individuals, particularly senior citizens, by masquerading as IRS agents. Victims are pressured into making immediate payments through unorthodox methods such as gift cards or wire transfers under the pretense of resolving fictitious tax liabilities or securing false refunds.

These scammers deploy advanced techniques to fabricate a veneer of credibility, including the manipulation of caller IDs to appear legitimate. Here are just a few examples of their schemes:

- Impersonation of known entities: Fraudsters often pose as representatives from government agencies—including the IRS, Social Security Administration and Medicare — others in the tax community or familiar businesses



and charities. By spoofing caller IDs, scammers can deceive victims into believing they are receiving legitimate communications.

- Claims of problems or prizes: Scammers frequently fabricate urgent scenarios, such as outstanding debts or promises of significant prize winnings. Victims may be falsely informed that they owe the IRS money, are owed a tax refund, need to verify accounts or must pay fees to claim non-existent lottery winnings.

- Pressure for immediate action: These deceitful actors create a sense of urgency, demanding that victims take immediate action without allowing time for reflection. Common tactics include threats of arrest, deportation, license suspension or computer viruses to coerce quick compliance.

- Specified payment methods: To complicate traceability, scammers insist on unconventional payment methods, including cryptocurrency, wire transfers, payment apps or gift cards, and often require victims to provide sensitive information like gift card numbers.

Scam precautions and reporting

If an individual receives an unexpected call from someone alleging to be from the IRS, but they have not been notified by mail about any issues with their IRS account, they should hang up immediately. The call is likely from a scammer.

Do not return the call using the number provided by the caller or the one displayed on their caller ID. If taxpayers are uncertain about the legitimacy of IRS communications, they can contact IRS customer service for verification

at 800-829-1040, or for the hearing impaired, TTY/TDD 800-829-4059.

Key points to remember

Individuals should understand how and when the IRS contacts taxpayers to help them verify whether any communication they receive is genuinely from an IRS employee.

Most IRS communications are initiated through regular mail delivered by the United States Postal Service. However, in certain situations, the IRS may make phone calls or visit homes or businesses. These situations include having an overdue tax bill, an unfiled tax return or missing employment tax deposit.

Additionally, an IRS employee might review assets or inspect a business as part of a collection investigation, audit or ongoing criminal investigation.

Remember the following:

- The IRS will never demand immediate payment via prepaid debit cards, gift cards or wire transfers. Typically, if taxes are owed, the IRS will send a bill by mail first.

- The IRS will never threaten to involve local police or other law enforcement agencies.

- The IRS will never demand payment without allowing opportunities to dispute or appeal the amount owed.

- The IRS will never request credit, debit or gift card numbers over the phone.

Remaining vigilant and informed about these scams can help protect taxpayers from financial loss and identity theft. The IRS and partnering federal agencies urge everyone to be cautious, especially when dealing with unsolicited communications concerning taxes.

In March 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice introduced the National Elder Fraud Hotline to address fraud targeting elderly Americans and support affected individuals. If an individual has fallen victim to elder fraud, they can contact the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).

The hotline operates Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, and services are available in English, Spanish, and other languages.

Social Security

Social Security omits food from in-kind support and maintenance calculations

By Mike Weitl

PERU — Supplement Security Income (SSI) provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness. It also provides monthly payments to adults aged 65 and older, who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits help pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine. People applying for and receiving SSI must meet eligibility requirements, including income and resource limits.

Under our current rules, we include food assistance as unearned income when calculating In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM). We understand this rule could affect your SSI eligibility or reduce your payment amount, so we made changes. Beginning Sept. 30, 2024, we are no longer counting food that someone gives you as income when we figure SSI payments. This new rule removes a critical barrier for SSI eligibility due to informal food assistance from friends, family, and community networks of support.

For more information on the SSI program, including who is eligible and how to apply, visit www.ssa.gov/ssi. Please share this with those who may need it.

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

See the latest obituaries at
www.mendotareporter.com

Mendota Burn Ordinance

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

Limited amounts of yard waste material may be burned provided the material is dry and does not create an offensive odor, nuisance or fire hazard due to excessive high winds.

Combustible yard waste material may be kindled from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. All fires must be constantly tended by a competent person, until such fire is properly extinguished. The continued smoldering of slow-burning combustible yard waste after 4 p.m. is a nuisance and anyone kindling such a fire that will emit obnoxious odors after 4 p.m. will be considered performing an unlawful act. Burning on Sunday by commercial establishments shall be considered an unlawful act.

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LOCAL AND AREA

West Nile

Continued from Page A1

the 97 local health departments in Illinois for vector surveillance and control activities. This includes purchasing and applying larvicide, working with local municipal governments and local news media for WNV prevention and education, and investigating mosquito production sites and nuisance mosquito complaints. Local health departments collect mosquitoes for West Nile virus testing and also collect sick or dead birds for West Nile virus testing.

Monitoring for West Nile virus in Illinois includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches and dead birds, as well as testing sick horses and humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who see a sick or dead crow, bluejay, robin or other perching bird should contact their local county or city health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a Culex mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. Most people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms; however, in rare cases it can lead to severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death. People older than 60 and those with weakened immune systems are at highest risk for severe illness.

IDPH urges the public to Fight the Bite by practicing the three “R’s”—reduce, repel, and report:

- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.

- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.

- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

Additional information about West Nile virus can be found on the IDPH website. West Nile virus.

MPD: Always lock vehicle

MENDOTA – Members of the Mendota Police Department would like to remind citizens of an important safety tip. Whether your vehicle is in your garage, driveway or parked on the street, always keep it locked. Do not leave the keys in the ignition of your vehicle, even if you are only parking it for a short period of time. Do not leave purses, wallets or other valuables in your vehicle, as this attracts unwanted attention from a would-be thief. Please assist the Mendota Police Department to help keep you and your valuables safe.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Area students graduate from NIU
DeKALB – Over 2,200 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in May. Included among the graduates were:
Landon Larkin of Earlville, Bachelor of Science, Finance; Lizandra Hernandez of Mendota, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences: General; Kevin Lewis of Mendota, Bachelor of Science, Mechatronics Engineering; Cassandra Stoval of Troy Grove, Master of Science, Data Analytics.
Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law.

Area students named to IWU Dean’s List
BLOOMINGTON – Devyn Kennedy of Earlville and Mallory Powers of Amboy were named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2023-24 academic year at Illinois Wesleyan University. Kennedy is a senior majoring in Nursing and Powers is a senior majoring in Kinesiology and Allied Health.
They were among 760 students from 29 states and 29 countries named to the Spring 2024 Dean’s List.
To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight As. Founded in 1850, Illinois Wesleyan is a nationally recognized, highly selective liberal arts university.

Iowa State names Dean’s List students
AMES, Iowa – More than 10,600 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2024 Dean’s List. Students named to the Dean’s List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.
Area students achieving the honor are Lisa Tordai of Earlville, a senior software engineering major, and Jack Beetz of Mendota, a senior agricultural studies major.

M. Phalen graduates from Western Tech
LA CROSSE, Wis. – Morgan Phalen of Mendota graduated from Western Technical College from the Occupational Therapy Assistant program. Phalen is one of 712 graduates to receive an associate’s degree or technical diploma in the 2024 Spring Term.

M. Harness on Bradley U. Dean’s List
PEORIA – Meghann Harness of Earlville was among more than 1,700 students named to the Bradley University Dean’s List for Spring 2024. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, a full-time student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.
Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, offering nearly 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students opportunities, choices, and resources to build their futures.

E. Buettner on Marquette Dean’s List
MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., has named its Dean’s List students for the spring 2024 semester. Among the students achieving the honor is Elly Buettner of Mendota, an accounting major.
To make the Dean’s List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the spring 2024 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean’s List. The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.
Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 7,600 undergraduate and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries.

Mendotan earns Masters from Iowa
IOWA CITY, Iowa – In May, more than 6,500 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students received their degrees, a group that included Curt Fitzgerald of Mendota.
Fitzgerald was a student in the Graduate College whose academic program of study was Electrical and Computer Engineering. The degree awarded Fitzgerald was a Master of Science.
Like Fitzgerald, the 2024 spring semester graduates have engaged, excelled, and stretched to reach their academic goals.

Mendota, Earlville students chosen for Taylor Scholarships from IVCC

OGLESBY – Recent Illinois Valley Community College graduates Isabelle Escatel of Mendota and George Richter of Earlville will attend Northern Illinois University next fall on full-tuition scholarships from William and Dian Taylor of Winnetka.
Escatel received the Taylors’ accountancy scholarship and Richter the Taylors’ STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) award.
Escatel has maintained a 4.0 GPA at IVCC while working in the Bookstore, participating in Hispanic Leadership Team and Project



Escatel

Richter

Success, and volunteering with Mendota Rotary and Mendota Area Senior Services. She also participates in Sigma Kappa Delta and Phi Theta Kappa. Her goal is to earn a master’s degree with CPA certification and work for a large accounting firm in the city or own a small firm of her own.
Richter plans to earn a

bachelor’s degree in medical laboratory science with a minor in chemistry. He hopes to attend medical school and eventually work in immunological and microbiological research. Richter had been employed in construction and as a paramedic/firefighter before pursuing his passion in health care.
Escatel and Richter have been accepted into Northern Illinois University’s Honors Program. The scholarships cover tuition for their junior and senior years and are worth more than \$25,000 to each student.
The Taylors are alumni of both IVCC and NIU.

IVCC students, employees to spend time studying abroad this summer

OGLESBY – An IVCC open house opened up the world for Charlee Bourell, and now she’s ready to fly.
Bourell and six other Illinois Valley Community College students and employees head to Europe and Canada this summer to study abroad. She’ll study Irish literature and history at Carlow College in Carlow, Ireland, for four weeks. She’ll also explore the country, including the capital of Dublin, on field trips that the criminal justice major anticipates will be “an incredible experience!”
Bourell looked forward to this trip from the time she attended an IVCC open house as a high school senior. “There was a booth that had a list of countries I could travel to. I thought that it was a great opportunity, and the week I started classes, I reached out to learn more about the program.”
She’s been warding off nervousness about the journey by learning as much about the country and its culture as she can.
Students Lynn Keyt, Riker Fesperman, and Anastasia Mallery Sondgeroth travel to Toronto, Canada, for a new three-week program at Humber University. Keyt and Fesperman, both of LaSalle, will take an environmental studies/sustainability course and Sondgeroth of Malden will study intercultural communications.
It’s Keyt’s second trip abroad. “These are once-in-a-lifetime trips for me. I can go places I most likely would never have the chance to go,” said the business administration major. Every trip is different, and she savors each one’s uniqueness. Field trips take students beyond the classroom, and she’s looking forward to seeing Niagara Falls this trip. She’ll also have a chance to observe how businesses operate in other countries.
Keyt’s first transatlantic flight to Austria last year delivered unbelievable views—but those were eclipsed by what she saw when she arrived at her destination. “Waking up in the Alps every morning was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me, and being able to see different locations that were part of one of my favorite musicals, ‘The Sound of Music’ was breathtaking!” she said.

This will be Anastasia’s first trip outside the country, and she’s looking forward to “going somewhere new and discovering lots of new things. I can’t wait to meet lots of new people,” though the shy science major is a bit nervous about making new friends. The more she learns about her destination, the more excited she is to go there, she said.
His mother Amanda’s embrace of travel sparked Fesperman’s enthusiasm for it. He’s no stranger to European travel and enjoys sampling diverse cultures, languages “and most of all, food.” Last year’s trip to Austria supplied “too many memories to recount. I think that speaks for itself.”
Amanda Cook Fesperman, who is IVCC’s coordinator of study abroad, will join the Canada-bound trio for a 10-day faculty program. She’ll study educational leadership.
Additionally, psychology professor Dr. Rick Mangold and Director of Admissions Tom Quigley traveled to The Netherlands for two weeks in May, repaying a visit from two Dutch educators they hosted here last fall.
“I’m looking forward to experiencing a different culture, seeing a different college, and going to a professional European soccer match!” Quigley said before he departed.
Study abroad programs are offered through IVCC’s membership in the Illinois Consortium of International Studies and Programs (ICISP). Summer programs are available in Austria, Ireland, Canada, Ghana West Africa, France, Costa Rica and Spain. Semester programs are available in Austria, England, Ireland, and Spain.
The program is open to students in the district over 18 who have completed at least 12 credit hours of college coursework with a 2.75 GPA, as well as a college writing course with a 3.0 GPA. Students attending area high schools who meet these requirements are eligible to study abroad as are adult community members.
For more information, contact Amanda Cook Fesperman at 815-224-0203.

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OPINION



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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.

The hidden costs of lawsuit abuse in Illinois

By Zach Mottl

Illinois residents are facing tough economic times. From rising inflation to a stifled job market, the financial landscape is increasingly challenging.

Unfortunately, these conditions are exacerbated by an issue that isn't familiar to many Illinoisans: the massive costs associated with lawsuit abuse. Excessive tort costs drain billions from our economy every year and place a substantial financial burden on every resident of our state.

A new report from Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse illuminates the staggering impact of this problem. Illinois faces direct losses of \$14.48 billion annually due to frivolous lawsuits, resulting in a hidden tax – a “tort tax” – of more than \$1,850 per person.

A primary symptom of lawsuit abuse is stacked costs due to regulatory burdens across all major industry groups. Retail trade, business services, and health services – industries that are instrumental in supporting our communities – experience the greatest losses from keeping up with these piling costs.

The layers of costs brought about by compliance and the fear of lawsuits drive up operational expenses for businesses, which in turn leads to higher prices for consumers. This rampant abuse has also resulted in the loss of 215,046 jobs yearly as businesses struggle to pay employees amidst the sea of litigation brought by trial lawyers.

The Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) is a major source of contention and a prime example of how frivolous verdicts can further bog down an already oversaturated legal system.

Within Illinois courts, a surge of no-injury BIPA suits has transformed the state into a breeding ground where even minor compliance mishaps can result in back-breaking penalties for small businesses. The intent behind BIPA was to protect consumer privacy, but trial lawyers' exploitation of this law has led to unintended consequences that handcuff business growth and innovation.

All of these factors collectively result in a “tort tax” that every Illinois citizen pays without even knowing it. The economic toll of lawsuit abuse affects us all, from higher prices at the checkout to fewer job opportunities and reduced economic growth. The \$1,858 per person cost is an unnecessary financial burden that we can no longer afford to ignore.

Every Illinois resident has a stake in this fight. The pervasive nature of lawsuit abuse means that it touches every aspect of our daily lives, making everything more expensive and less accessible. It's a hidden tax that we pay in the form of higher prices, lost jobs, and stunted economic progress. Our state's economic health is now directly tied to the current legal environment we find ourselves in, and as it stands is unsustainable.

It's time for our legislators to step up and enact common-sense reforms to help ease this burden. We must urge them to protect our communities, support our businesses, and ease the financial strain that Illinois families are already struggling with during challenging economic times.

The release of the Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse's Economic Impact report is a glaring wake-up call. By addressing the root causes of lawsuit abuse and implementing meaningful legal reforms, we can reduce these hidden costs that weigh us down and create a brighter future for all of Illinois.

(Zach Mottl is the fourth generation of his family to own and operate Atlas Tool Works, Inc. in (Lyons, Ill.).

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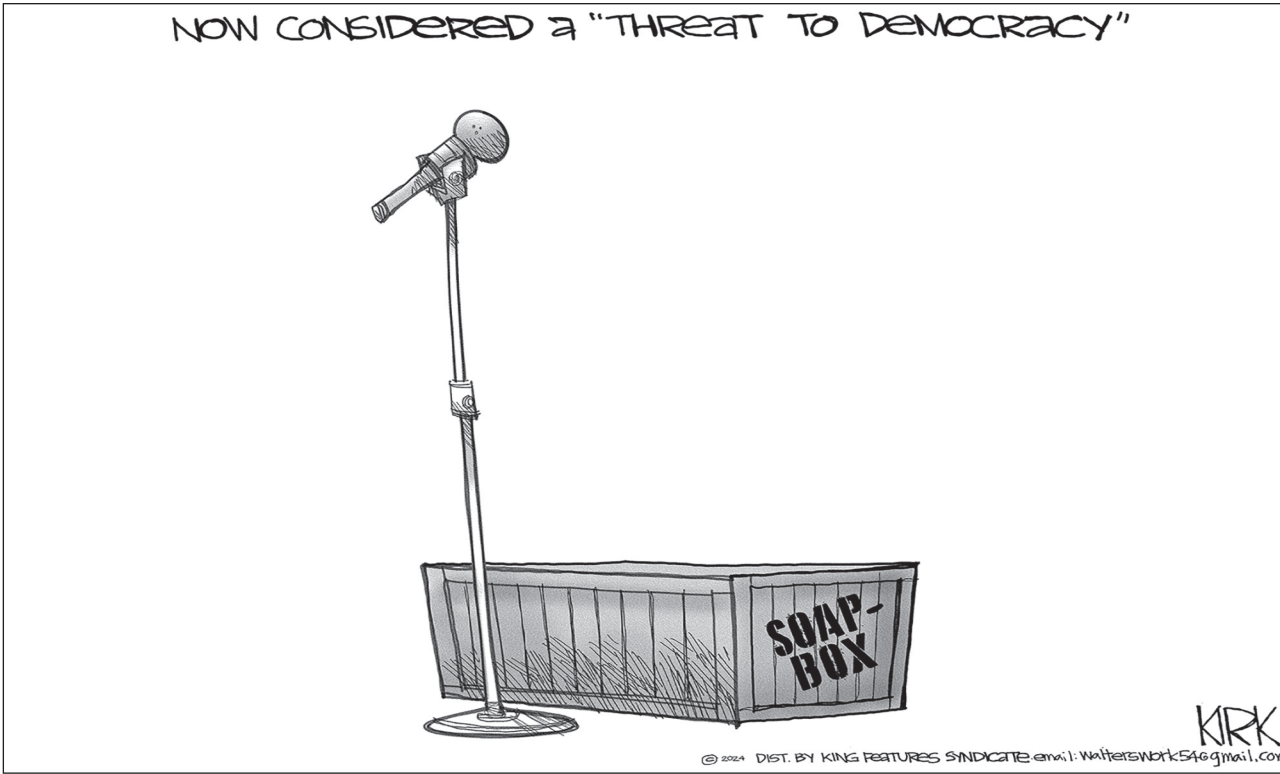
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Breaking ground for new Graves-Hume – 1993

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from June 24, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

Newcomers to Mendota may find it surprising that it was only five years ago – on June 22, 1993 – that ground was broken for the new Graves-Hume Library. Seated in a tractor at the site was the donor of the library building, Horace D. Hume. With him were Mrs. Hume, his daughter-in-law Jane Patterson, grandchildren Marsha Jones and Michelle Babin and great-granddaughter Jessica Setchell.

Lined up to participate in the groundbreaking were library board members Tim Setchell, Rick White, Neil French and Janet Sills, Ken Kurth, past president of the library board, Kathy Berggren, library director; Dee Walburn, president of Friends of the Library; Rose Buck, director of the Mendota Chamber of Commerce; and from Phalen Steel, founder Rich Phalen, president Bill Phalen, architect Alan Russell and office administrator Doug Phalen.

The building was being donated by Hume in memory of his son, James. It was to be located at the intersection of Main and Meriden streets.

Crediting Ken Kurth with calling his attention to the need for expanded library facilities, Hume continued –

We are today starting to build a modern library building. We continue to be the World's Greatest Little City.

Phalen Steel anticipated completion by Nov. 30, 1993, with moving day from the old library scheduled to take place during the December school break.

Two days after the groundbreaking for the new Graves-Hume Library, a monument honoring Hume and a fellow inventor, James Edward Love, was dedicated by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers near Rosalia, Wash. By inventing the floating cutter bar and tined pickup reel, Hume and Love had qualified for the honor.

These inventions had significant impact on industry and were new and unique to North American agriculture.

The dedication was June 24, 1993, attended by family representatives of Hume and Love and by 30-40 ASAE members who had been meeting in

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Spokane.

An appropriation of \$8,195,300 for fiscal 1993-94 was approved by the Mendota City Council. New state legislation becoming effective July 1, 1993, would not allow transfers of appropriations from one fund to another (a common practice in the past). Therefore –

Some of the figures have been inflated 50% so the city will have a little leeway in spending.

The fishing derby at Lake Mendota on June 20, 1993, drew 122 contestants. Among prize winners were Bob Nurnberg, largest fish, a 3-pound catfish; Logan Noles, most fish caught, 42; Annie Faber, largest panfish, 13 ounces; and Brittany Gascoigne, youngest person with a catch, 8 months old.

The Booster Club's fundraising for an all-weather track was making progress toward its \$100,000 goal. A \$7,500 contribution from Black Bros. took the fund across the \$90,000 mark.

Volunteer work had begun and construction should be complete by the beginning of the football season.

Elvis, a purebred black German shepherd, was introduced to the community as the Mendota Police Department added a K-9 unit. His handler was Lt. Dave Brown, who had completed a training course in Indiana before assuming the responsibility. Elvis lived at the Brown residence. He had a special cage donated by Coast to Coast. When getting a call, he rode in a K-9 mobile unit donated and adapted to Elvis's needs by Schimmers. Elvis was trained to track “just about every illegal drug,” according to Brown.

He can search an 1800 square foot house for drugs in about 15 minutes.

A new scoreboard valued at \$6,300 was installed at Doenier Field, courtesy

of Pepsi. In exchange, a Pepsi sign was on permanent display.

The board is purple trimmed in gold.

The former scoreboard was adapted for use at the Lake Mendota baseball diamond.

The Community Development Appropriation Committee approved a loan of \$50,000 to Keith Miller for purchase of the Cuke Inc. building. He was preparing to locate Superior Woodworks, Inc., there to make blanks stock for use in his stair manufacturing plant in Batavia. The loan was for seven years at 5.5 percent interest. Miller expected to start with seven employees.

The CDAP committee also approved a \$30,000 loan to David and Nancy Hardin for operating expenses as they opened a Radio Shack at 715 Illinois Ave. The loan was for seven years at 5 percent.

An Elite Eight Basketball Camp for boys from fourth through ninth grades was conducted during mid-June at Mendota High School. Coaches were Jason Kreiling, Chad Rosenwinkel, Mike Kilmartin, Jason Kilmartin and Derek Kilmartin.

A Junior Spiker Volleyball Camp for girls was held June 21-25 at MHS. Head instructor was Mary Stephenitch, assisted by coaches Stacy Koch, Mandy Rumsey, Jenny Beetz, Jennifer Ulth, Jamie Holloway and Beth Davis.

Glenn and Vanessa Neubauer, owners of G&V's Great Eatery, opened G&V's Great Eatery Too at the Mendota Golf Club. The dining room was open to the public. Claiming to “make everything from scratch,” Neubauer added –

I even make hamburger buns from scratch.

Wyanet Meats changed ownership in June 1993. The new owners were Guy and Carrie Sutcliffe.

Four generations of Moores had done painting at Lincoln School. George Moore and his son, Warren, painted classrooms, halls and the gym during the 1950s. In 1980, Warren's son, Randy, started his own business and his daughter, Tami, began painting in the Lincoln School gym in the summer of 1993.

Is it OK to rescue hostages?

By Rich Lowry

Israel pulled off a hostage rescue that deserves to go down in the annals of extraordinarily daring, highly successful military operations, yet it is being condemned for it.

The secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council denounced the “heinous and terrorist crime that targeted defenseless innocents with brutality,” while Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon have decried Israel's alleged criminal tactics. U.N. special rapporteurs have weighed in with typically fulsome denunciations of the Jewish state.

The media coverage in the U.S. has taken a skeptical or negative tone, emphasizing the civilian casualties. According to the laughably unreliable Gaza Health Ministry, the operations killed 274 Palestinian civilians. It stands to reason, then, that it was almost certainly fewer than that. The Israel Defense Forces says the toll was less than 100. While everyone would prefer that every military operation were completely antiseptic, that's not how the world works.

The Israeli forces weren't in the Nuseirat refugee camp because they wanted to conquer it or despoil it. They came on a mission so basic to human nature that it's been a part of conflicts since time memorial, and until now has been universally regarded as a righteous one -- recovering one's own from captivity by the enemy.

Decent societies aren't just tireless in seeking the return of their countrymen, but even of the bodies of the fallen. The most moving scene in “The Iliad” is Priam petitioning the Greek champion Achilles to return the body of his fallen son Hector.

The moral equation in Gaza is not complicated. One side wants to free non-combatants from their nightmarish imprisonment to live again at home with their families as they please. The other side grabbed innocent people in a bloodthirsty pogrom, hideously abused them and refused to release them.

The sensible and very easy way to avoid exposing your civilian population to potential harm during hostage rescues is not to take hostages in the first place, and, failing that, not to secrete hostages among civilians. The final fail-safe is not

to violently resist hostage rescues, creating a massive battle in a heavily populated area. Needless to say, Hamas hasn't honored these rules or any other norm of civilized society.

It's not as though the Israeli raid was indiscriminate; it was the opposite. Dressed in disguise in broad daylight, special forces targeted two apartment buildings where four hostages were being held in two civilian homes. The element of surprise was essential, since the hostages likely would have been killed with any warning.

The forces smoothly extracted one hostage -- Noa Argamani, the young woman infamously kidnapped on the back of a motorbike from the Israel music festival on Oct. 7 -- from one building. The team that rescued three male hostages from the other building came under heavy fire.

Once Israel forces encountered military resistance in dire circumstances, what were they supposed to do? Give the hostages back? Surrender? Apologize and ask to come back at some other time? The Israeli military used the force necessary to get their operators and the hostages out alive, as any other country would have done (one commando was killed in the raid).

In a society in its right mind, this contemporary equivalent of the Entebbe raid would one day be made into a movie about the ingenuity and bravery of those men who pulled off a near-miracle, getting out four innocents held by terrorists. The deaths of the civilians in the Nuseirat refugee camp are tragic, but so were the estimated 50,000 French civilians killed by Allied bombing in World War II. Confronting evil sometimes comes with terrible downsides.

Either out of profound moral confusion, enmity toward Israel, self-loathing of the West, or all of the above, many people since Oct. 7 have confused victim with victimizer, hostage-rescuers with hostage-takers, and the forces of civilization with the forces of barbarism.

If Israel can't even bring home its own, the world is truly upside down, just the way Hamas wants it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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TRI-COUNTY



Farmers' Market returning to Sublette this summer

□ 'Drive your old truck to town day' set

SUBLETTE—The village of Sublette is resuming its farmers' market this summer. Vendors with fruits, vegetables, baked goods or other items are invited to participate.

The market will be held on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. at the downtown vacant lot between LaFiesta Restaurant and Leffelman & Associates Insurance. The dates are July 30, Aug. 27 and Sept. 24. More dates may be added later.

There is no fee for vendor space. Just bring your table and set up. For more information, contact Don Dinges at 815-713-5675.

"Drive your old truck to

town day" in Sublette has been designated for Saturday, June 29.

Owners of trucks 25 years old and older are invited to drive their truck to Sublette and park in the downtown area from 4-7 p.m. There is no registration fee and no trophies, just a night to enjoy the trucks. Show trucks, daily drivers, rusty trucks and dusty trucks are invited. It is even a chance for the children to 'touch-a-truck.'

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the evening. The stores and restaurants will also be open during show hours.

You might even see a few antique cars parked on Main Street.

Illinois State Museum seeking Route 66 stories for Mother Road's 100th anniversary in 2026

□ Historians will record oral histories with travelers, businesses, highway builders, and others

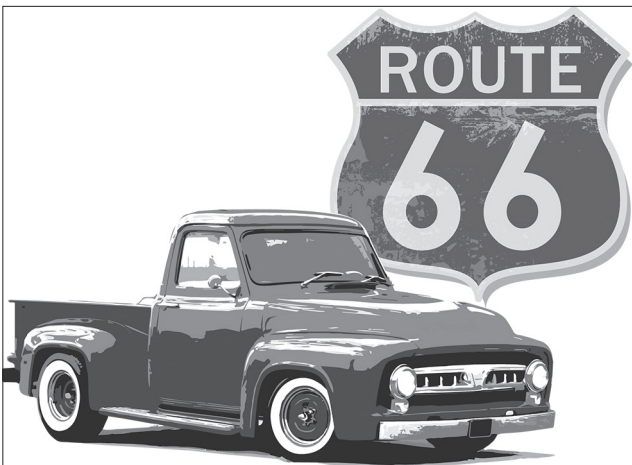
SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Museum is seeking individuals to share their personal experiences with the original Route 66 in Illinois, including travelers, businesses that operated along the route, workers who built the highway, and others.

Route 66 will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026. Historians from the Illinois State Museum will record and share oral histories of people who can recall their connections to the historic roadway, which operated from 1926 until decommissioning in 1985.

"These interviews will help illustrate the significance of this important transportation achievement," said Erika Holst, the museum's curator of history.

Specifically, museum historians would like to interview:

• People who have memories of driving on Route



66 or traveling the highway with family or for business.

• Those who were involved or whose families were involved in operating restaurants, hotels, or auto service businesses along the route.

• Anyone who participated in the building, maintenance, or rerouting of the Mother Road.

• First responders who worked along Route 66.

• Those who have any

other firsthand experiences with Route 66 to share.

"This project also gives us an opportunity to preserve memories of Illinois citizens for posterity," said Amanda Bryden, registrar for the history collections of the Illinois State Museum and Illinois historic sites.

Anyone who has experienced Route 66 in one or more of these ways and would like to be part of the project can contact Route

"These interviews will help illustrate the significance of this important transportation achievement."

—Erika Holst, Museum curator of history

66 project coordinator Judy Wagenblast at jwagenblastp@gmail.com. The oral history project is funded in part by the National Park Service.

Interview participants will be asked to sign a permission form granting legal rights to conduct and preserve the interview. Monetary compensation is not offered. Video recordings of the interviews and transcriptions will be made available to the public in an online database as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of Historic Route 66 in 2026.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Fifty-five-year-old Hugh Jackman put his Broadway musical training to good use when making "Deadpool & Wolverine."

"When I came back to it, it was really fun, and I was thrilled," Jackman confessed. "My body was still responding, and I realized how good it was for your brain. The hardest bit ... [was] the food! ... For me, for my body type, I'm naturally skinny. To get the size on, that's the hardest bit." Poor Jackman!

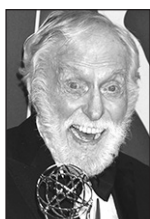
Ryan Reynolds said of Jackman, "Just the sheer relentlessness that [he] dedicated [himself] toward stunts, choreography. It was the first time I'd ever seen how invaluable a background in song and dance is when you are doing an action movie!"

Another actor eating his way to stardom is Chris Hemsworth, who bounced from the animated Paramount/Hasbro film "Transformers One" (due Sept. 20) to the upcoming "Transformers/G.I. Joe" crossover movie. Why keep making

"Transformer" films? Maybe the \$439 million grosses for "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" last summer explain it.

The Barnes & Noble bookstore at The Grove in Hollywood had to call for extra security to handle throngs of fans of Thaa Penglis (of "Days of Our Lives" and "General Hospital" fame), who came for his book signing of "Seducing Celebrities One Meal at a Time." He regaled them with delicious tales about Claudette Colbert, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, Charlton Heston and more. But his favorite moments came when he was joined by his "Days" co-stars Susan Seaforth Hayes and Leanne Hunley, who came to celebrate his book.

Having covered Hollywood parties for decades, I became friends with lots of big stars. One such star was Dick Van Dyke, who came



Van Dyke

to events with his wife at the time, Margie Willett. Dick taught me a great lesson. Back in 1974 at a publicity event, I saw Dick standing in a corner by himself. I approached him, asking, "All alone, Dick? Where's your lovely wife?" He replied, "We separated today. She got the house, I got the mortgage. She got the car, I got the payments. She got the elevator, I got the shaft!"

Undaunted, I forged ahead, trying to save myself, and said, "Well, at least you have 'The New Dick Van Dyke Show' to keep you busy!" "It was canceled today," he sadly said. And from then on, I learned not to mention spouses or TV series to actors ever again!

Now at 98, Dick has announced, "I'd still like to do a one-man show. Cary Grant did it. And Gregory Peck. Went on the road and talked about their careers. I think it'd be fun!" What I'd never dare say to him is that Grant died doing that show in Davenport, Iowa! Can you say swan song?!

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Couch Theater

"A Family Affair" (PG-13) -- From the producers of "Anyone but You," this rom-com is led by quite the interesting trio -- Nicole Kidman ("Expats"), Zac Efron ("The Iron Claw"), and Joey King ("The Kissing Booth" trilogy) -- with Kathy Bates and Liza Koshy co-starring. King plays Zara, the personal assistant to celebrity Chris Cole (Efron), while Kidman plays Brooke, Zara's widowed mother. Upon learning that her boss of two years is hooking up with her mother, Zara understandably undergoes a bit of a crisis, especially knowing firsthand how much of a selfish man Chris can be. Amid Zara's protests, Brooke and Chris' relationship starts to deepen, as Brooke acknowledges that she hasn't felt this way in years since the death of her husband. So, will Zara continue to stand in her mother's way, or will Nicole Kidman get her happily ever after with Zac Efron? (Who

would've thought!) Find out on June 28. (Netflix)

"Red Right Hand" (NR) -- In this action-thriller film out on June 28, Orlando Bloom dons a Southern accent to become Cash, a hardworking man who is just trying to live a quiet life with his niece and brother-in-law after the death of his sister. But his past wasn't as clean as his present, and the presence of the kingpin Big Cat (Andie MacDowell) in his town is a reminder of that tragic past. But when Cash finds out that his brother-in-law owes Big Cat a hefty sum of \$100,000, Big Cat starts showing her claws and terrorizes their family. So, Cash is left with no choice but to fall back into her trap, and he promises to do three jobs for her to repay the debt. Despite his honorable intentions, he quickly realizes that he underestimated the mercy Big Cat will show and buckles up to finally put the kitty down. (Hulu)

"Fancy Dance" (R) -- Erica Tremblay makes her

feature directorial debut with the perfect actress to lead this emotional drama. Taking place on the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Reservation, Lily Gladstone ("Under the Bridge") stars as Jax, an aunt who is helping prepare her 13-year-old niece, Roki (Isabel DeRoy-Olson), for an upcoming powwow. Because Roki's mother recently went missing again, this powwow holds a special importance to Roki, and Jax tries her best to step up in Roki's mother's place. But law enforcement fails to show any desire to find Roki's mother, rather showing an interest in Jax's criminal background that they think makes her an unsuitable guardian. Even though they force Roki to live with her close-minded grandparents, the renegade Jax sneaks Roki out to embark on a journey to find her mother in time for the powwow. This moving film premieres June 28. (Apple TV+)

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I just started watching the comedy series "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." I know that two people on the series are married in real life. Did they meet on the show? -- **G.W.**

A: Debuting in 2005 and still going strong, this hit FX (and FXX) network sitcom is the longest-running, non-animated comedy series ever, surpassing the previous record holder "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet." It was created by Rob McElhenney, who plays Mac on show, and stars his off-screen wife Kaitlin Olson as Dee, Glenn Howerton as Dennis, and Charlie Day as Charlie.

Olson and McElhenney fell in love on the set of "It's Always Sunny," but initially kept their romance a secret from their co-stars. They wed two years later and now have two sons.

The strikes in Hollywood pushed back production, but there will be a 17th season -- just don't expect it until late 2024 or early 2025.

Q: Whatever happened to actress Jennifer Love Hewitt? I loved her show

"Ghost Whisperer" and would love to see her do a supernatural theme again. -- **W.J.**

A: Jennifer Love Hewitt first gained fame as Sarah in the 1990s drama series "Party of Five." She followed that up with the hit scary film "I Know What You Did Last Summer" before starring in the TV show "Ghost Whisperer," which ended in 2010 after five seasons. Since then, she's starred in three other hit series: "The Client List," "Criminal Minds" and "9-1-1."

Next up, she'll star, direct and produce "The Holiday Junkie," a TV movie for Lifetime later in 2024. Her husband, Brian Hallisay, and their children will also appear in the film. It's a very personal project for Hewitt about moving on during the winter holiday season while coping with the loss of her mother.

Elaine Frontain Bryant (EVP, head of programming genres for A&E, Lifetime and LMN) stated that "Jennifer is beloved by Lifetime and our viewers. We're excited to work with her again on this special project near and dear to her and to have it as one of our cornerstones for our 'It's

a Wonderful Lifetime' slate."

In addition, Hewitt launched her marketing and consumer brand The Holiday Junkie last year and is also releasing a book titled "Inheriting Magic," which is set for publication this December.

Q: Did Bette Midler get cast as one of the cast members on "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" like she wanted? I never heard anything further about it. -- **W.M.**

A: Back in March, film actress Bette Midler ("The First Wives Club") asked via social media if it was "too late" for her to be a "Real Housewife." She was in the mood to "talk some s***" and get paid for it. Alas, her name was not among the cast of the upcoming season, but she does have a new project on the horizon.

She's part of the ensemble cast of the comedy "The Fabulous Four," which hits theaters this July. Midler stars as a bride whose old college pals (played by Susan Sarandon, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Megan Mullaly) make up her bridal party at her destination wedding.

• Trivia Test •

1. HISTORY: What is America's first colony?
2. ENTERTAINERS: Which actress' mother is actress Melanie Griffith and grandmother is actress Tippi Hedren?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is the only one born on Independence Day?
4. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the Mont-Saint-Michel medieval monastery located?
5. SCIENCE: What does a kelvin measure?
6. ASTRONOMY: Which star is the brightest in the sky?
7. MUSIC: What are the first names of the Gibb brothers who formed The Bee Gees?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which

- company's slogan is "You're in good hands"?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What did Prometheus steal from the gods, resulting in his eternal punishment?
 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby turkey called?
- Answers
1. Jamestown, Virginia.
 2. Dakota Johnson.
 3. Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4, 1872.
 4. Normandy, France.
 5. Temperature.
 6. The Dog Star, Sirius.
 7. Barry, Robin and Maurice.
 8. Allstate.
 9. Fire.
 10. A poult.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mortgage again, for short
- 5 Carried out
- 8 Classic Fords
- 12 Golf bag item
- 13 King, in Cannes
- 14 Black-and-white cookie
- 15 Candidate
- 17 Texas city
- 18 Fall flowers
- 19 Activate
- 21 Wee bit
- 22 Elevator name
- 23 Enjoy the Alps
- 26 "Family Guy" daughter
- 28 "Have --!"
- 31 Teller's partner
- 33 '60s war zone
- 35 Canyon sound
- 36 Loses color
- 38 eBay offer
- 40 Badge metal
- 41 Computer debut of 1998
- 43 Wrong (Pref.)
- 45 Tranquil
- 47 Circular window
- 51 War god
- 52 Cancel a choice
- 54 Pudding variety

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45	46					47		48	49	50
51					52	53				
54					55			56		
57					58			59		

DOWN

- 1 Morning co-host Kelly
- 2 Messes up
- 3 Yard fraction
- 4 Map within a map
- 5 City on the Elbe
- 6 Winter Games org.
- 7 "Same here"
- 8 Like some jeans
- 9 Cut across
- 10 1920s art style
- 11 Anon
- 16 Baby carriage
- 20 Actress Hagen
- 23 Suntan lotion letters
- 24 Mauna --
- 25 Roundabout
- 27 Prattle
- 29 Sushi fish
- 30 Great weight
- 32 Archivals
- 34 Brunch cocktails
- 37 -- Diego
- 39 "Monopoly" cubes
- 42 Surrenders
- 44 Mopes
- 45 Poet Teasdale
- 46 Idle of Monty Python
- 48 Bound
- 49 Golden State sch.
- 50 Editor's "keep it"
- 53 UFO crew

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	9			5				1
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		8			9		2	
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	3		6					7

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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FIRST STATE BANK

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* On July 4, 1776, King George III wrote in his diary entry, "Nothing important happened today."

* A 5-month-old fetus has 200,000,000,000 brain cells, but by birth half of them have been lost.

* Superstitious folks understandably took note in Santa Clara, California, on Oct. 22, 1931, when the Gamma Eta Gamma legal fraternity was partially destroyed by fire: The house was located at 1313 Franklin Street, its phone number was Santa Clara 13, and the postman wore badge number 13! The damage sustained to the house was even estimated at \$13,000.

* An AK-47 is depicted on the flag of Mozambique.

* Einstein's ideas on relative acceleration were partly inspired by a guy who fell off a roof in Berlin. Surviving without injury, he told the physicist that he had not felt the effects of gravity.

* Until the 17th century, the word "upset" meant to set up (i.e., erect) something.

* The oldest recorded death sentence is found in the Amherst papyri, a list of state trials of ancient Egypt dating to 1,500 B.C. A teenage boy, convicted of "magic," was ordered to kill himself by either poison or stabbing.

* Apart from humans, the Asian elephant is the only mammal that can stand on its head.

* In 2002, the Nevada state legislature authorized a license plate depicting a mushroom cloud from an exploding nuclear bomb to commemorate nuclear weapons tests conducted in the state's desert between 1945 and 1992. The Department of Motor Vehicles, however, rejected it.

* Soviet craftsman Nikolai Syadristy carved a set of chess figures that were so small they could only be distinguished when magnified 2,000 times with a microscope.

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

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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LOCAL AND AREA



IVCC students and several science faculty headed to a river in North LaSalle for the 46th annual river testing exercise. Back in the laboratory, students through microscopes observed the hatching of a caddisfly armed with ferocious-looking claws. Such creatures are important barometers of the river's health. (Photo contributed)

IVCC students perform testing on area rivers

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College chemistry instructor Larry Ault and natural science lab instructor LeeAnn Johnson guided 26 students in the annual river testing exercise recently.

The group returned to an area on Hogsback Road in north LaSalle. Ault noted it was the 46th test at that site since 1995. The project was initiated a year earlier by Bob Byrne, a chemistry professor at IVCC for 31 years.

Results were above average concerning nitrate and phosphate concentrations but nearly the highest seen in previous years, Ault said, attributing the high phosphate levels to heavy rains and farm planting. Dissolved oxygen levels were good, he added.

An interesting activity took place back at the college, where students observed the hatching of a possible insect larvae or crayfish from a very tiny spherical shell, Ault and Johnson reported.

"Looking through a microscope and displaying the vision on a large screen, one could see eyes, mouthparts, and ferocious-looking claws. The students finally identified it as caddisfly larva," Ault said. "Think 'Alien!' If this caddisfly was six feet tall, it would tear a human being to pieces! The world of the very small macroinvertebrates is a violent world indeed. And they eventually grow up to be many types of flies and insects."

Ault continued: "Understanding the populations of these little guys help us to understand the health of the river. A lot of water-breathers, like caddisflies, indicate a healthy environment. Lots of air-breathers, such as snails and worms, indicates a polluted system."

The next river testing event will be in September. IVCC performs two such events each semester with the assistance of biology, chemistry, and geology faculty.

Now is the time to invite a variety of pollinators to your garden

By Melinda Myers

This is a great time to celebrate all the pollinators that play an important role in producing food, fiber, medicine, and more that we rely on. When you think of pollinators, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds are likely the first that come to mind. But moths, wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and some other birds also help pollinate our gardens. More than 80% of all flowering plant species, including 180,000 different species and more than 1,200 crops, rely on them for pollination.

Like honeybees and Monarch butterflies, many of these pollinators are struggling and their populations dwindling due to pesticides and loss of habitat. Gardeners can make a difference by creating pollinator gardens filled with their favorite plants.

When designing a garden, select plants with different shapes, colors, and bloom times. You'll attract a wide array of pollinators and provide them with a constant supply of nectar and pollen. Include bright white, yellow, blue, and ultraviolet-colored flowers to attract the bees. Add some tubular flowers with a spur or landing pad for the butterflies. They are especially fond of purple and red blossoms.

Don't be in a hurry to squash those beetles you find meandering over your plants. Many do not harm the plant but rather move pollen as they travel throughout your garden. These generalists visit a variety of plants, but most often can be found pollinating large strongly scented flowers like Cana-



A Monarch caterpillar on an *Asclepias tuberosa* plant. (Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com)

dian ginger, magnolia, paw paws, and yellow pond lilies.

They can be annoying, but flies are also busy pollinating your flowers. They are generalists, like beetles, and tend to pollinate small flowers with shallow, funnel-like, or complex trap-like flowers. You're likely to see them on annuals, bulbs, goldenrod, skunk cabbage, paw paws, and members of the carrot family.

It may be difficult to welcome the often dreaded and feared wasps and hornets to your garden. However, most are solitary, not all sting and some are predators or parasitoids that help manage garden pests.

Besides helping with mosquito control, bats pollinate over 500 species of night-blooming flowers

around the world. They prefer those with a musty or rotten odor of mostly tropical and some varieties of desert plants.

Most of us enjoy watching hummingbirds visit our gardens and feeders. Hummingbirds are the primary bird pollinators in North America, carrying pollen on their beaks and feathers. They prefer brightly colored scarlet, orange, red, and white tubular flowers. Baltimore orioles are accidental pollinators spreading pollen as they feed on flower nectar while white-winged doves pollinate and spread saguaro cactus seeds.

Be sure to include milkweed, herbs, trees, shrubs, and grasses with foliage that caterpillars and others feed upon. Use native plants

including trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses whenever possible. These plants have evolved with pollinators and provide the greatest benefit. Make sure the native plants you select are suited to the growing conditions and available space.

Don't overlook cultivated plants that also attract and support pollinators. Many have flowers or foliage that benefit a variety of pollinators. Watch for bees visiting thyme, borage, and calamint flowers; hummingbirds sipping on salvia, cuphea, and verbenas blossoms; and swallowtail caterpillars munching on dill, fennel, and parsley leaves.

Once you create a pollinator-friendly environment, give them time to discover your pollinator paradise. It may take time but once the word gets out you will be enjoying lots of pollinators and the many benefits they provide.

For more information watch Melinda Myers' Underappreciated Pollinators webinar recording and download the handout (MelindaMyers.com).

(Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.)



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THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

GARAGE SALE
1700 Hillcrest Court
Friday, June 28 &
Saturday, June 29
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Vintage Victrola,
teen-adult clothes,
toys, sewing machine
& cabinet.
1t26msr

BABY SALE
202 14th St.
Thursday, June 27
4-7 p.m.
Friday, June 28
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturday, June 29
9 a.m.-noon
0-24 months girls'
clothing & shoes,
miscellaneous baby
items, toys,
car seat, push toys.
1t26msr

GARAGE SALE
2013 Pine Ave.
Thursday, June 27
4-7 p.m.
Friday, June 28
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Women's clothes,
kids' clothes & toys,
tools, house décor
& much more.
1t26msr

POLICE BLOTTER

**DRIVING WHILE
LICENSE SUSPENDED**
Candice J. Bonnell, 45,
of 308 212 S. First Ave.,
Mendota, was charged with
driving while license sus-
pended after a traffic stop at
Guiles Avenue and 12th Street
at 7:35 p.m. June 19. The
subject was released with a
LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST
Jonathon L. Cooper, 27, of
1108 Monroe St., Mendota,
was arrested at 8:09 p.m. June
20 on valid no bond Bureau
County warrant for failure
to appear/domestic battery.
The subject was transported
to the LaSalle County jail.

**NO VALID
DRIVER'S LICENSE**
Stephen L. Hancock, 65,
of Sheridan, was charged with
driving with no valid driver's
license after a traffic stop at
13th Avenue and Fourth Street
at 2:05 p.m. June 22. The
subject was released with a
LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY
Juan A. Figueroa, 36,
of 300 Fifth St., Mendota,
was charged with domestic
battery after police officers
responded to a call for service
near Third Avenue and Fifth
Street at 9:02 p.m. June 23.
The subject was transported
to the LaSalle County jail.

Mendota city ordinance

Grass clippings, etc. in streets

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

Penalty: Any person vi-
olating this section shall
be subject to the penalty of
not less than \$50 nor more
than \$500. Imposition of

any penalty for a violation
of this section shall not be
construed as a waiver of the
right of the City to collect the
cost of removal of such nu-
isance where it is necessary
for the City to remove such
nuisance.

School's out: Motorists should be cautious of children on bikes

MENDOTA – The Men-
dota Police Department urg-
es motorists to pay attention,
be alert for bikes and share
the road. MPD urges bicy-
clists to be predictable and
observe traffic laws. Your
actions affect public opinion.

Illinois Bicycle Laws
Traffic laws apply to per-
sons riding bicycles. Bicy-
clists riding on a highway are
granted all of the rights and
are subject to all of the duties
applicable to the driver of a
vehicle, with few exceptions.

Lane Positioning – When
riding on roadways and
bicycle paths at less than
normal traffic speed, ride
as close as practicable and
safe to the right-hand curb
or edge of the roadway,
except, when overtaking
and passing another bicy-
cle or vehicle proceeding
in the same direction, or,
when preparing for a left
turn, or, when reasonably
necessary to avoid fixed or
moving objects, parked or
moving vehicles, bicycles,

motorized pedal cycles,
pedestrians, animals and
surface hazards.

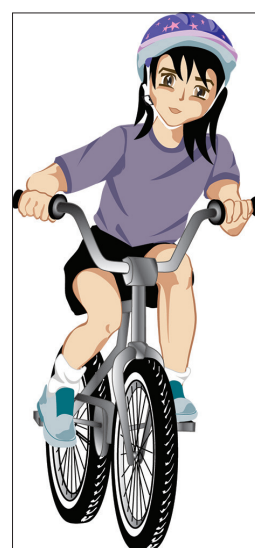
Lights on Bicycles – For
night riding, a
front lamp with
a white light
visible from at
least 500 feet
to the front and
a red reflector
on the rear vis-
ible from 100
feet to 600 feet
are required. A
rear light visible
from 500 feet
may be used in
addition to the
red reflector.

**Two or More
on a Bike** – Bicy-
cles shall not be used to carry
more persons at one time

than the number for which
it is designed and equipped,
except that an adult rider may
carry a child se-
curely attached
to his person in a
backpack device
or sling.

**Parental Re-
sponsibility**
The parent of
any child and
the guardian of
any ward shall
not authorize the
child or ward to
violate any of
the provision of
this code.

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Police Depart-
ment encourag-
es bicyclists to
wear a helmet for protection
against head injuries.



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SPORTS

Mendota Elks represented in Michigan bowling tournament

□ E. Thomas, J. Robinson place as a team and individually

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

PLYMOUTH-ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Every spring, members of the Mendota Elks Lodge #1212 take a trip.

There is some sightseeing, networking, drinking and eating, celebration, and of course, bowling.

The 2024 Elks National Bowling Tournament was held at the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 in Michigan over seven weekends during March and April. The lodge is in Plymouth, while the bowling took place at Oak Lanes in Ann Arbor.

Mendota's Emily Thomas and Jessica Robinson finished 10th in handicapped doubles, while Thomas was 31st and Robinson was 48th in handicapped singles.

"The Elks National Bowling Tournament is an event I look forward to each and every year," Thomas said. "It's always such an adventure to travel with your fellow Elks members and check out different lodges in different states.

"Jessica and I set high expectations for ourselves this past year, and even though we fell short in our personal goals, we were still able to place in the tournament. Both of us feel proud to represent the Mendota Elks. We got a kick out of men, twice our age, checking in on our bowling stats because Jessica and I were the competition that weekend. It gave us the boost of confidence we needed to pull through for doubles."

Both Robinson and Thomas said the Elks lodge in Plymouth was beautiful and they're looking forward to next year's tournament, no matter where it's located.

"The tournament was great. Everyone from other lodges across the United States were so friendly and welcoming," Robinson said. "As far as bowling, I think Emily and I both started off pretty good. We bowled doubles first followed by singles on the same day. I was definitely excited and eager to bowl. I could have



Jessica Robinson, left, and Emily Thomas along with other Mendota Elks Lodge #1212 members took a trip to Michigan to bowl in the 2024 Elks National Bowling Tournament held at the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325. Robinson and Thomas placed 10th in handicapped doubles, while Thomas finished 31st and Robinson took 48th in handicapped singles. (Photo contributed)

done a lot better, but I'm not disappointed at all. It was overall a great and fun

weekend I look forward to every year with our Elks bowling group."

IHSA Girls' Basketball State Tournament to remain at Illinois State U. through 2029

NORMAL – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA), Illinois State University (ISU), and the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau announced on June 18, that they have reached a five-year contract extension for the IHSA Girls' Basketball State Finals to remain at CEFCU Arena on the ISU campus in Normal through the 2029 state tournament.

"CEFCU Arena feels like home for the IHSA Girls' Basketball State Finals, so we are excited to be able to announce an extension that pushes us closer to 40 years of the state tourney being held on the ISU campus," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "CEFCU Arena is beautiful, and we have an incredible support from the ISU staff and community volunteers. Their passion and professionalism make for an unforgettable experience for our student-athletes, coaches, and fans."

Horton Fieldhouse on the ISU campus hosted the inaugural IHSA Girls' Basketball State Finals in 1977. The tourney then moved to



Champaign for a little over a decade, before returning to CEFCU Arena in 1992, where it has remained ever since.

"Illinois State University values the long-standing relationship between ISU, the IHSA, and the Bloomington/Normal Convention and Visitors Bureau," said ISU Interim Director of Athletics Jeri Mullins Beggs. "We're proud that the IHSA Girls' Basketball Tournament is synonymous with Illinois State University. We look forward to providing a first-class experience to all the teams and their fans."

Through the years, future stars like Candace Parker, Tamika Catchings, and NFHS Hall of Fame coach Dorothy Gaters won IHSA state titles competing in CEFCU Arena as a part of America's Original March Madness.

"We are honored that the Illinois High School Association has given us the opportunity to continue to host the prestigious IHSA Girls' Basketball State Finals," said BNACVB President and CEO Crystal Howard.

"We appreciate the great working relationship we have with the Illinois High School Association and look forward to welcoming the athletes, students, and fans. The economic impact this event has on our community is considerable and we will make every effort to give our visitors a great State Finals experience."

In 2021-22, the IHSA altered the state final format and now crowns state champions in all four classes on a single weekend (Thursday, Friday, Saturday). In June 2024, the IHSA Board approved time and game order schedule changes to the state tourney that will go into effect in 2025.

Sweet Corn 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney scheduled Aug. 2 & 3 at Strouss Park

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the 77th Annual Sweet Corn Festival, which will be held Aug. 8-11, has announced the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will return to the 2024 festival. The tournament will be two days, Aug. 2 & 3. The Mendota Area YMCA is the sponsor.

The tournament will offer five different age divisions: ages 8-10, ages 11-13, and ages 14-17, and will have a maximum of 16 teams per division. Ages 18-29 and 30 and older will have a maximum of eight teams per division. Check-in will begin at 8 a.m. at Strouss Park, 1100 Meriden St., Mendota. The competition begins at 9 a.m. The tour-

namment will be a fast-paced, action-packed, double-elimination tournament. Games will be 10-minutes, half-court games with a 12-second shot clock.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Mendota Area YMCA Office or by visiting www.sweetcornfestival.com. There is a \$25 entry fee per player, made payable to the Mendota Area YMCA.

The entry deadline is Saturday, July 27 at 4 p.m. All players registered by the deadline will be guaranteed to receive a Sweet Corn Festival Basketball T-shirt. For more information, contact the Mendota Area YMCA at 815-538-2900.

Mendota Golf Club partners with KGF for second Traditional Golf Program

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Trial is the word to describe what the Mendota Golf Club and the Kids Golf Foundation tried to do last summer.

This summer, the two organizations advanced past novice to a full-fledged Traditional Golf Program held June 21 to young golfers aged 8-12.

"It's awesome. The Kids Golf Foundation provides golf opportunities to more youth in Illinois," said Eric Pawlowski, a member of the Mendota Golf Club who is the site coordinator for the KGF. "This is our second

year holding the program. Last year was kind of a trial run and we had 15 participants. We have nailed some things down and this year is more of a full blast, ready to go, run.

"It gives more youth an opportunity for golf and it uses golf as a way to talk about life, which is a big key. It's really what the Kids Golf Foundation is all about."

The 2024 version of the Traditional Golf Program featured 30 young golfers taking to the course to learn the game.

See Golf, Page B2



The Mendota Golf Course partnered with the Kids Golf Foundation to host their second Traditional Golf Program on June 21. The program had 30 attendees who learned the basics and fundamentals about the game and golf course etiquette. (Photo contributed)

Sports fans continue to hate through the Celtics

Two weeks ago, I wrote a column about Caitlin Clark and haters focusing on the star WNBA player and how people love to hate on athletes or people who are successful in general, sports or no sports.



Not the Last Chance
By **Brandon LaChance**

Almost on que, the hate continues through the Boston Celtics.

The NBA Championship honored with the Walter A. Brown

Trophy (1949-1976) and the Larry O'Brien Trophy (1977-present) have been won by the Celtics, a league record, 18 times with the conclusion of their 2024 NBA Finals series victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday, June 17.

The Los Angeles Lakers, and fans, were hating as soon as they found out the Celtics were in the finals and had the chance to break the tie since the Lakers have 17 ships. Be careful when looking on Wikipedia, it says the west coast team has 18 championships. However, one is from the NBL (National Basketball League) in 1948, which is not counted toward NBA championships.

Through the Western Conference bracket Cinderella darlings were created in the form of the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Dallas Mavericks.

In my opinion, deservedly so, as Anthony Edwards is emerging as a star and a contender for the future face of the league as LeBron James, Stephen Curry, and Kevin Durant age.

For the Mavericks, Luka Doncic showed why he may be the best offensive player in not only the league, but the world, while Kyrie Irving put away the propaganda, the stunts, and the unexplainable behavior, and legit proved he is still an amazing basketball player.

In the Eastern Conference, the Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler, the Cleveland Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell, and the Indiana Pacers' Tyrese Haliburton were injured as the Celtics defeated the Heat 4-1 in the first round, the Cavaliers 4-1 in the conference semifinals, and the Pacers 4-0 in the Eastern Conference Finals.

For kicks and giggles, let's add the fact the Celtics had a 64-18 regular season record and had a 14-game lead over No. 2 the New York Knicks.

So, there was a team, Celtics, which had the chance to win the most titles in league history, had a sizeable Eastern Conference regular season lead over another media darling, the Knicks, and the Giannis Antetokounmpo-led Milwaukee Bucks (who were media darlings until Giannis started making demands and they began going through coaches quicker than the Detroit Pistons), and cruised through the playoff bracket.

Instead of celebrating their success and saying the Celtics, which have been building this team since it brought on Brad Stevens as a coach from 2013-21 and then moved him to the front office where he was named 2024 NBA Executive of the Year, drafted Jaylen Brown in 2016, Jayson Tatum in 2017, and brought in key players such as Kristaps Porzingis, Derrick White, and Jrue Holiday, people are saying they had an easy route to the championship and are not a good team.

Why, because they played teams with players who were hurt?

Answer: They beat the teams in the regular season when the players were healthy. And they didn't personally injure them, it isn't Boston's fault.

Why, because they beat the Mavs, your picked favorite, in the finals?

Answer: The Celtics have more depth, play more team basketball, and have better defenders.

Why, because they dropped a double-digit game in the finals, Game 4?

Answer: Boston only lost three games in the entire playoffs. Plus, it's better for the Celtic fanbase to win the championship in Boston. Another additional thought, the NBA executives are already mad only three playoff series went seven games, which were the Cavaliers first-round win over the Orlando Magic, and conference semifinal victories for the Pacers over the Knicks and the Timberwolves over the Nuggets. Since the conference finals were won 4-1 by Dallas and 4-0 by the Celtics, and the finals were undoubtedly going to be won by Boston, why not extend the finals for the last three series of the NBA season to be at least 14 games.

Why, because you don't like the Boston Celtics?

Answer: They were the best team in the NBA this year with the best record and the best team ball on the court. They built this team from scratch after the 2008 championship team dissipated. Instead of making crazy trades for overpriced players, they did it the right way and drafted great players and made smart business and basketball moves for role players who help win games.

Continued answer: They're the team with the most championship banners hanging from the rafters, and us, as a people, would rather root for the Cinderella or the underdog than the outright better team.

I am far from a Boston Celtics fan, but as a sports fan, let's quit hating success and embrace it, no matter where it comes from because hating isn't going to take away the banner, the championship, or the Boston legacy.

Sign-up is in progress for Mendota Volleyball Camp

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

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

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

SPORTS

Golf

Continued from Page B1

In July, the Mendota Golf Club will host another group of 30 to hold the event twice in the same year.

“A lot of the attendees were stepping on to a golf course for the first time who don’t know anything about golf, which is cool,” said Pawlowski, who has been a Mendota member for the last nine years. “It gives us the ability to talk about the basics of golf from the grip of the clubs, how to use the clubs, to the Mendota golf course, to general golf course etiquette.

“One of the big things Kids Golf Foundation does is it ties all of the aspects of golf together. It’s golf basics and tips they can take to work on their own.”

The timing of the event is beneficial as well.

The Traditional Golf Program took place a week before the Mendota High School’s Mendota Golf Club Junior Camp from June 24-28 for golfers aged 9-14.

“There are a lot of positives around this event. It started three years ago when I sat down with the KGF to understand what they were trying to achieve,” Pawlowski said. “Giving away free golf clubs, polos, hats, and golf bags seemed too good to



Participants in a recent youth golf event at the Mendota Golf Club each received a starter set of golf clubs in addition to other golf-related items. (Photo contributed)

be true. The team was awesome and they had a strong mission to drive golf and their program across Illinois. Being able to bring it to the Illinois Valley is amazing.

“Having it the week before the high school camp allows these kids to have lessons and be trained to

play the game for multiple days, sessions with different instructors who can all give them pointers.”

The Kids Golf Foundation gave each of the 30 participants a starter set of golf clubs, a KGF bag tag, golf balls and tees, a polo shirt and hat, and a KGF rules booklet.

Earlville’s Cook among Kish College student-athletes to achieve honor

MALTA – Kishwaukee College in Malta had a Kish College-record 46 student-athletes nominated for the Arrowhead Conference Academic Excellence Team during the 2023-2024 season. The award recognition is given to student-athletes who complete at least 12 credits for both fall and spring semesters while

achieving a 3.00 or higher cumulative GPA for the academic year.

Garett Cook of Earlville, a member of the men’s soccer team, was recognized for the academic achievement.

In addition, Cook was one of a college record 46 student-athletes nominated for the Arrowhead Conference Bob Bopp Academic

Excellence Team during the 2023-2024 athletic season. The award honors Bob Bopp, a major supporter of the Arrowhead Athletic Conference and its athletes, and recognition is given to student-athletes who complete at least 12 credits per semester while achieving a 3.00 or higher cumulative GPA for the academic year.

Next free boating safety class is set for July 20 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 on Saturday, July 20 and Saturday, 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-Class-ess/> for more information.

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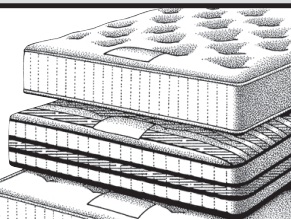
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RELIGION

Freedom from judgment and criticism

Years ago, I was truly one of the most critical and judgmental people I knew. It was my “default” setting.

If I was at the mall or even at church, I could look at someone and immediately make three or four judgments about their clothes, hair, behavior, or family. Or if I walked into someone’s home, everything could be absolutely perfect, but somehow I would notice that one corner of wallpaper that was ripped slightly.

I’ll admit, judging and criticizing others was something I rather enjoyed doing before God began to change me. However, little by little, He used His Word to begin showing me truth about myself.

I’ll never forget one day in particular. I had just finished judging someone and knit-picking them about something in my thoughts, when the Holy Spirit so clearly spoke to my heart and said, “Joyce, you look at everyone else with a magnifying glass, but you look at yourself through rose-colored glasses.”

I got the point! The truth is, we can be pretty quick to recognize what’s wrong with other people and see all of their issues. However, even though we may have some of the same problems ourselves, we usually have good excuses to justify them.

Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 7:5: “You hypocrite, first take

the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (NIV).

I love this—it’s so practical. Jesus is basically saying, “You love to point out everyone else’s faults, but you should really begin with yourself. Until you get yourself straightened out, you can’t really even help anyone else!”

We need to forget about what everyone else is or isn’t doing, present ourselves before God, and let Him do a work in us. The truth is, the more we allow God to change us, the less we are bothered by the faults of others.

Our circumstances may never be perfect, and the things we don’t like about our family, friends, or co-workers may not change, but God can do something even better: He can change us.

These days, if there’s something about my husband, Dave, that I think needs to change, I will pray and ask God for help. But even then, my attitude is completely different than it used to be.

Now, I’ll pray something like, “Lord, if it’s Your will, I ask You to help Dave change in this area. But first, if the problem is really me and not Dave, please show me. Show me if there’s anything I need to change.”



Sure, there are times when we may need to sit down and talk with a friend or family member about their weaknesses or faults for the health of the relationship, but even then, it should be done with humility and love. Our motive should always be to help them.

Psalm 51:6 (AMPC) says, “Behold, You desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart.”

And Ephesians 4:15 (AMPC) says, “Let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]....”

God wants to reveal the truth to us. He desires for us to face anything that is coming between us and Him...things that are holding us back from His good plan and purpose for our lives.

I’ve learned to ask God on a regular basis, “Show me truth. And help me to face the truth You show me...especially what You show me about myself.”

Can I tell you something? All of those days

when I was constantly judging and criticizing others...I wasn’t happy. First, I wasn’t walking in love with people, and I was also sowing seed for others to judge and criticize me.

But even beyond that, there is such freedom when we can learn to “live and let live”—when we can focus on our own growth and change, and leave the spiritual progress of other people up to God.

When I look back at all of the years I pestered Dave and pressured him to change, it’s almost comical! And now that I have allowed God to change me, I can truly say that I love and enjoy my husband for who he is...and there’s freedom in that.

Let God begin with you. I encourage you to pray, “Lord, please show me the truth about myself. Please change me so I can better help the people around me.”

As you do, the Holy Spirit—the “Spirit of Truth”—will start to show you things about

yourself...and help you walk in new levels of freedom.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-part teaching resource *Living a Life of Total Freedom*. 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.

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

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 3, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Hair by Angela Bernardoni located at 425 1st Street LaSalle, IL 61301.

Dated: June 3, 2024.
Angela Bernardoni Applicant.
No. 0610
(June 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2021-JA-06
TO: Eric Horner, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 3rd day of June, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Raelynn Hulska-Shields, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 24th day of July, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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

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

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

Dated June 3, 2024
Greg Vaccaro
No. 0612
(June 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2022-JA-19
TO: Lynnard Farley, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 3rd day of June, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Serenity Kubisak-Farley, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 11th day of September, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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

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

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

Dated May 31, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0611
(June 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2021-JA-41 and 2022-JA-19
TO: Jennifer McGillen, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 3rd day of June, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Maddison Kubisak-Farley, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 11th day of September, 2024, at the

hour of 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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

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

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

Dated June 3, 2024
Greg Vaccaro
No. 0612
(June 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0613
(June 12, 19 and 26, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2021-JA-41
TO: Brandon Manley, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 3rd day of June, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Maddison Kubisak, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 11th day of September, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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

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

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

Dated June 3, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0614
(June 12, 29 and 26, 2024)

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 4, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting the business known as EL TORITO MEXICAN GRILL E.R.A. located at 604 6th Street Mendota, IL 61342.

Dated: June 4, 2024.
Andres Alanis & Monica Cholico Applicants.
No. 0615
(June 12, 19, and 26, 2024)

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 7, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Fat Daddys Bar and Grill located at 176 West Jackson Street Seneca, IL 61360.

Dated: June 7, 2024.
James Knaperek Applicant.
No. 0617
(June 19, 26 and July 3, 2024)

ON VACATING ROAD IN MERIDEN TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT

The Meriden Township Road District announces a public hearing to be held on **Monday, July 8, 2024 at 4:30 P.M. at the Meriden Township Building at 927 E US Hwy 34, Earlville, IL 60518**, concerning the Certificate of the Highway Commissioner to vacate:

A part of Cherry Street described as that part of Township 36 North, Range 2 East of the Third Principal Meridian; in the Southeast Quarter of Section 19, in the Village of Meriden as follows: Cherry Street lying North of Scott Avenue between Lot 4 in Block 2 on the East (132.23) and Lot 1 in Block 3 (133.24) on the West being 66 feet in width, all in the Village of Meriden, Township of Meriden, LaSalle County, Illinois.

Also known as the North end of Cherry Street. All interested parties will be granted an opportunity to be heard. The hearing may be adjourned from time to time without additional notice.

MERIDEN TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER,
s/ Pete Campbell
Prepared by:
Paul V. Martin
Attorney for Meriden Township
Marsh, Martin, Anderson, Vickers, Deobler & Temple
511 E. Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
Ph. (815) 434-2000
Fax (815) 434-0564
No. 0620
(June 26, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT, LASALLE COUNTY

Request of Melissa Sue Sallee
Case Number 24MR53
Filed June 14, 2024
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from Melissa Sue Sallee to the new name of Melissa Sue Stephens
The court date will be held on Aug. 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. remotely in courtroom #305.
No. 0621
(June 26, July 3 and 10, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

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