



Sweet Corn Festival calendar

Thursday, Aug. 8

3-5 p.m. – A sensory friendly afternoon. The Carnival Midway will be open for a private armband for anyone with special needs and their immediate family. Registration required.

5-7 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens to general public. Food & merchandise booths open.

7 p.m. – Silverstone Junction performing on First State Bank stage.

Friday, Aug. 9

All day – Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

10:30 a.m. – Food & merchandise booths open.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

1 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens. Discount armbands from noon-4 p.m.

2-6 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6:45 p.m. – Pre-pageant entertainment by Andrew Bloomquist on First State Bank stage.

7:30 p.m. – Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on First State Bank stage.

7:30 p.m. – Beer garden opens featuring Festival del Elote.

Saturday, Aug. 10

All day – Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. – Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran’s Park on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran’s Park.

9 a.m. – Pickleball Tournament at Lake Mendota courts.

10 a.m. – Mini Royalty Pageant on First State Bank stage. Young girls and boys competing to wear the crown of Mini King and Mini Queen.

10:30 a.m. – Food & merchandise booths open.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Nicodemus performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Steve Cerqua acoustic guitar performance on First State Bank stage.

Noon-2 p.m. – Lica Lorraine balloon artistry at intersection of Washington St. & Eighth Ave.

Noon-3 p.m. – Free face painting near corner of Washington St. & Indiana Ave.

Noon/2 p.m./4 p.m. – Mr. Steve performance includes music, magic, balloons and comedy at corner of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

1 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens.

2 p.m. – Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest at Mendota Elks Lodge.

2-4 p.m. – Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

3-5 p.m. – Mid Lyfe Krysys performing on the First State Bank stage.

3:30-6:30 p.m. – Valley Katz performing in beer garden.

5-7 p.m. – Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

7:30 p.m. – Beer garden opens featuring Judson Main.

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Illinois Housing Development Authority meets with Mendota

What is next in efforts to bring more housing to Mendota?

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

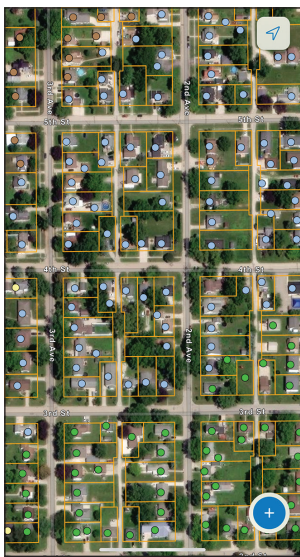
MENDOTA – From April to July, citizens of Mendota answered a survey – Mendota Community Needs Assessment, which was produced in partnership between the City of Mendota and the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDHA).

The survey asked residents questions about the current housing opportunities and conditions as well as what they would like the housing situation to be in the city moving forward.

On July 29, Kristopher Walton, a community revitalization planner within IDHA came to the Mendota Civic Center to discuss the results of the 61-question survey, which was answered by 354 Mendota residents, 5.1 percent of the population.

The results were displayed on a handout featuring bar graphs of whether Mendota residents strongly agreed, disagreed, were neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with a topic.

When it came to housing, 50.1 percent of the 354 survey takers disagreed that housing in Mendota was in good condition, 33.1 percent agreed that



Citizens of Mendota have the chance to help the city improve and expand housing conditions. Through Illinois Housing Development Authority and an application called Field Maps, residents are able to survey the current rental and owned properties to get a better idea of what is needed in Mendota.

housing is available for the elderly, and 50.6 percent disagreed housing in Mendota offers options that suit a variety of lifestyles and needs.

Also, 72.8 percent agreed Mendota has a need for more overall housing opportunities, 74.1 percent agree Mendota is in need of more homeownership opportunities, and 61.9 percent agree Mendota is in need of more rental housing opportunities.

The questions of cost of housing was answered with 50.3 percent of the surveyed disagreeing with the statement “Housing in my community is affordable to households making a variety of incomes,” while 28.9 percent agreed housing costs are generally affordable in Mendota and 53.5 percent agree their personal housing costs are affordable.

Walton opened each graph and result information for discussion with the approximately 15 people who were in attendance at the Civic Center.

Through the conversation it was determined more housing in general and more housing for senior citizens is needed in Mendota. Landlords and neighbors taking

See Housing, Page A5

Council sets bid openings

By **KIP CHEEK**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council is another step closer to beginning its summer street maintenance program after action taken at the Aug. 5 regular council meeting.

During his report, Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick announced that the bid opening for the 2024 motor fuel tax street maintenance program will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 19 at the Mendota city building on Washington Street.

At the same time on Aug. 19, bids will be opened for the Raymond Drive concrete replacement project.

In other action from Fitzpatrick’s report, the council approved a resolution to appropriate \$160,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds for the Fifth Street and Eighth Avenue bridge repair. Also, the council entered into an engineering services agreement with Chamlin & Associates for the Fifth Street and Eighth Avenue bridge repair.

Finally from Alderman Fitzpatrick, the council approved the hiring of Ivan Pantoja as a full-time employee in the Water Department effective Aug. 12.

In action from Alderman Jay Miller’s report, the council approved a liquor license for the Tri-County Fair to hold a beer/wine garden.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, Aug. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Guilfoyle family donates to Mendota

Local organizations to benefit in memory of woman who supported them

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The community of Mendota lost an important member on April 10, 2024, when Barbara Guilfoyle passed away.

In fitting fashion, just like when she was alive and involved in multiple organizations and activities, she is doing the same from above.

Recently the Guilfoyle family, husband Mike Guilfoyle, daughter Kati (Tyler) Stevenson and two grandsons, Gavin and Connor, and son Kris (Ashli) Guilfoyle made donations to organizations in honor of their beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.

“It was an idea from the family. My father had a lot to do with it. He got the ball rolling and then I assisted by contacting the different

organizations and setting up to meet. We knew we wanted to do something, but my dad was the one who ultimately proposed the organizations and then we, as a family, decided what we were going to do,” Kati Stevenson said. “We definitely wanted to keep it local, in the Mendota community, and with organizations we knew my mother supported or was a part of and worked with while she was alive.

“I know my mother would be proud to be able to help the community and the different organizations. I know a lot of the organizations need the help, whether it’s due to a funding issue, financial assistance, or there is something they need to keep the programs going.

“She would be very happy to know she was part of being able to help them because they’re all great organizations that do activities, events, provide services for people who need some kind



In honor of donations to the Mendota YMCA, banners are hung representing the donor. After the Guilfoyle family donated to the Y in Barb Guilfoyle’s honor, a rendering of her last piece of artwork, created less than a month before her passing, became the Guilfoyle banner. (Photo contributed)

of help, or benefit children. She would like to know she was able to help others.”

The Guilfoyle family donated \$20,000 to Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS) and the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry, and \$10,000 to Graves-Hume Public Library, Mendota YMCA, Holy Cross School, Illinois Valley Pads, and the Alzheimer’s Association. There is also a \$10,000

scholarship (\$1,000 per year for 10 years) in the works for a Mendota High School student who is going to college for art, and potentially if there isn’t an art student interested, a consideration for a student planning to be an educator since Barb was an art teacher at both Holy Cross and Northbrook.

See Guilfoyle, Page A5



SEE SHOPPE LOCAL DIRECTORY
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The 77th annual
Sweet Corn Festival
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downtown Mendota!



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LOCAL AND AREA

2024 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival sponsors



Ziggie's Family Restaurant

The family owned and operated restaurant on the intersection of Rt. 34 and 1st Avenue sponsors the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival by storing the parade float used by festival royalty, which travels to five parades every summer. Celebrating the major sponsorship is, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board President Evan Wixom, MACC Board member Kelly Becker, Ziggie's Musa Zendeli, Dian Zendli (in front), Vjolca Zendeli, and Ben Zendeli, and MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell.



Diaz Grocery

Diaz Grocery, Country Ranch, Quest Technology and Total Rentals are co-sponsoring the bands in the beer garden from 8 p.m.-midnight Friday, Aug. 9 including Los Sementales de Nuevo Leon, Banda Seduccion, Banda Pen Asco De Zacatecas, and Los Ahijados. In the photo are, left to right, MACC Board President Evan Wixom, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, Erik Diaz, Eddie Diaz, Sonia Salinas, MACC Board members Kelly Becker and Marion Quintana.



Northern Partners Co-op

Northern Partners Cooperative is bringing Chicago's Golden Knights Drill Team to perform at the parade set for 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. Celebrating the sponsorship is, left to right, MACC Board's Kelly Becker and Evan Wixom, NPC's Chad Sarver, Tyler Meloy, Heather Althaus, Troy Terzick, Mitch Allen, and Brent Kaufman, and MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell.



Triple Service

The plumbing, heating, electric, and cooling company is sponsoring the band, Silverton Junction, playing at the First State Bank Stage from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8. In the photo, left to right, are MACC Board members Marion Quintana and Kelly Becker, TS's Savannah Wade, Michelle Wade, Ethan Wade, and Gabe Wade, and MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell.



Starved Rock Wood Products

The cabinet and millwork manufacturer is helping bring Chicago's premier team, the South Shore Drill Team, to perform in the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Grand Parade, which kicks off at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. Also, join them for a post-parade performance in front of the Mendota Elks Lodge at approximately 3:30 p.m. In the photo, left to right, are Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board members Marion Quintana, Erica Henry, SRWP Vice President of Sales & Marketing Steve Parisee, SRWP Director of Human Resources Ginny Siwicki, SRWP President Michelle Christ, MACC Board member Kelly Becker, SRWP Director of Sales Earl Hernandez, SRWP Cabinet Design Autumn Kirk, SRWP Director of Operations Tom Hayward, SRWP Cabinet Design Bree Beatty, SRWP Territory Sales Andy Kromm, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, MACC Board President Evan Wixom.



Prairie Land Millwright

"Mid Lyfe Krysys" is being brought to the 77th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival with the help of Prairie Land Millwright's sponsorship. Krysys will perform classic rock, pop rock, and dance songs from the 70s, 80s, and 90s from 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10. In the photo are, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board member Kelly Becker, PLM's Brett Chaon, Curt Chaon, Duane Chaon, and Trevor Chaon, and MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell.



Mauch Carpentry

The family owned and operated carpentry business is co-sponsoring the very popular Jesse White Tumbling Team, who will perform in the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Parade at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11 and in front of the Elks Lodge around 3 p.m. Celebrating the union are, left to right, Erin Mauch, Keegan Mauch, Lane Mauch, Brooklyn Mauch, and Dave Mauch, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board member Kelly Becker, MACC President Evan Wixom, and MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell.



HCC, inc.

HCC is co-sponsoring "Magic Matt" during the 77th Annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. Matthew Scherer is a magician and a balloon artist the kiddos won't want to miss. He has been amazing audiences all over the Midwest for over 30 years. "Magic Matt" will perform multiple 10-15 minute mini shows while he strolls the festival on Aug. 11 and Aug. 12. Celebrating the sponsorship are, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board members Brad Cox and Marion Quintana, HCC Director of Sales and New Business Development Mark Lamboley, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, HCC Controller John Holland, HCC Chief Financial Officer Dave Van Den Bussche, HCC HR Generalist Renee Lock, HCC General Manager Erik Klosinski, and MACC Board member Kelly Becker.



Sullivan's Foods

It's a yearly tradition for Mendota Sweet Corn Festival goes to slab some butter from Sullivan's on the corn from the boil on Sunday. This year is no different as Sullivan's is providing the butter for the corn serving starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. Celebrating the butter are, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Sam Setchell, MACC Board member Erica Henry, SF Pricing Coordinator Candi Richey, SF Bakery Manager Julie Kerly, SF Assistant Guest Services Manager Nancy Bennett, SF Assistant Store Director Juan Renteria, MACC Board member Kelly Becker, and MACC Board President Evan Wixom.



RSG Millwright

Kelly Gloria, center, met with Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce's, left to right, Board President Evan Wixom, Board members Kelly Becker and Marion Quintana, and President/CEO Sam Setchell to recognize RSG's sponsorship of the bands in the beer garden from 8 p.m.-midnight Friday, Aug. 9 including Los Sementales de Nuevo Leon, Banda Seduccion, Banda Pen Asco De Zacatecas, and Los Ahijados.



Black Bros. Company

A major sponsor of the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, Black Bros. is co-sponsoring Chicago's South Shore Drill Team. South Shore will be in the parade starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11 and will perform in front of the Elks Lodge on Indiana Ave. at approximately 3:30 p.m. Honoring the sponsorship are, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce President Evan Wixom, MACC Board member Erica Henry, BB's Chief Financial Officer Megan Kneebone, BB's Jerilyn Schroeder, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, BB's Mari O'Donnell, and MACC Board member Kelly Becker.

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Black Bros. Company

A major sponsor of the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, Black Bros. is co-sponsoring Chicago's South Shore Drill Team. South Shore will be in the parade starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11 and will perform in front of the Elks Lodge on Indiana Ave. at approximately 3:30 p.m. Honoring the sponsorship are, left to right, Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce President Evan Wixom, MACC Board member Erica Henry, BB's Chief Financial Officer Megan Kneebone, BB's Jerilyn Schroeder, MACC President/CEO Sam Setchell, BB's Mari O'Donnell, and MACC Board member Kelly Becker.

LOCAL AND AREA



Boys Scouts build flower beds at Stonecroft Village
On Monday, July 8, the residents of Stonecroft Village in Mendota had company, entertainment, and a service done for them by the Boys Scouts. A group of seven scouts did all the work to help beautify the village’s back patio. Logan Curtis, an 18-year-old life scout, said “It was very cool that all the scouts came together to create a great project.” (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

What can you make with sweet corn?

MENDOTA – It is time to get out your favorite sweet corn recipes.

The very popular Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest, sponsored by Nightengales Thrift Shop of Mendota, will take place Saturday, Aug. 10 of Sweet Corn Festival weekend.

The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for some creative cooks to serve up special dishes using sweet corn as the main ingredient.

Chairpersons of the Food Contest, Audrey Becker-Moreno and Kathy Barnard, have begun preparations for this special event.

“There will be a Grand Prize winner chosen by the judges,” announced Becker. “Prizes will also be awarded for Queen’s Choice, Grand Marshal’s Choice, Most Creative and Best Presentation.

Criteria for entering is as follows:

- Contestants must prepare the food ahead of time.
- All categories are open to all types of food dishes, as long as the main ingredient is sweet corn.
- Multiple entries from one contestant

will be accepted, but only one award per contestant.

- All entries must be taken to the Mendota Elks Lodge, 707 Indiana Ave. Mendota. They can be dropped off between 1:15 and 1:45 p.m. Judging starts promptly at 2 p.m.
- All entries must bring a recipe card for the judges.
- There are no entry fees to participate in the SCF Food Contest.
- Times may vary due to the number of participants.

The Grand Prize Winner will receive \$250 in Mendota Gift Certificates, which can be used for services or merchandise in over 50 Mendota businesses. The other awards will be \$50 Mendota Gift Certificates.

Applications for the SCF Food Contest are available at the Mendota Chamber Office, and at www.sweetcornfest.com website or by calling (815) 539-6507.

Nightengales Thrift Shop of Mendota and the Mendota Chamber ask all creative cooks to come forward and prepare some fantastic dishes for this year’s event.

Missy Byrne becomes new wellness director at Stonecroft

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Missy Byrne has been in health care since 1997.

The 1998 Mendota High School graduate began as a certified nursing assistant (CAN) in high school and hasn’t stopped progressing as she achieved her licensed practical nurse (LPN) status in 2006 and her registered nurse (RN) in 2020.

Most of her work was at Heritage Health, now known as Allure of Mendota. But after a while, or two decades, it was time to find a new opportunity.

Byrne’s first day as the Stonecroft Village wellness director was Monday, July 15.

“I knew of Stonecroft from being in the community. I came from a nursing home in town,” Byrne said. “I was at Allure of Mendota for a month short of 21 years. I’ve always heard good things about Stonecroft. I just needed a change, but I’m still working with the elderly.

“When you’re working at a nursing home or an assisted



Missy Byrne, right, has been in the medical field since 1997. She is now bringing her experience and care to Stonecroft Village as the new wellness director. Her first day was a pancake breakfast, above. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



living village, you become family. You get to know the staff and the residents. They become close and their families become family to you. I’m looking forward for that to happen here.”

She joked she also took the job for pancakes as her first day was also a pancake

breakfast hosted by Stonecroft.

The new wellness director is excited to assist the residents, be part of the Stonecroft activities, and eat more pancakes.

Back to School Bash at Graves-Hume Library

MENDOTA – Hey kids, the Graves-Hume Public Library is celebrating you with a Back to School Bash at 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16.

Graves-Hume will have bounce houses and snow cones on the back law, brought to you by Shynox Décor, More LLC,

and R&L Funtine, LLC, so make sure you bring a friend for a fun night at the library.

The event is free and open to all. No library card or registration is required.

Call 815-538-5142 or stop by the library for more information.

McConville joins First State Insurance staff

MENDOTA – Jonathan McConville’s insurance career begins in 2024, when was hired at the First State Insurance Agency in Mendota.



McConville is a 2019 graduate of Western Illinois University, with a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture, an emphasis in Agricultural Science and a minor in Agricultural Business. He specializes in multi-peril and crop hail insurance.

As a native resident of Earlville, McConville has spent his whole life in the Mendota area and is passionate about aiding others

with their insurance needs. Through his experiences in agriculture, McConville has an appreciation for the land and serving the individuals who benefit from it.

When he is not in the office, you will most likely find him on the family farm with a small beef cattle operation. The Cubs and Bears are his favorite sports teams.

Lee County Farm Bureau members ready for retirement?

AMBOY – Attention Lee County Farm Bureau members. Do you feel ready for retirement? Are you wondering what retirement might look like and have questions about how to successfully prepare yourself for a financially secured retirement? No matter where you are in your career it’s never too early or too late to start planning for retirement.

The Lee County Farm Bureau is offering

a free retirement planning seminar to Lee County Farm Bureau members hosted at the Lee County Farm Bureau Building in Amboy on Monday, Aug. 19 from 6:30-8 p.m. The seminar will be given by Brent Seggebruch, financial advisor.

Light refreshments will be provided. Limited spots are available so RSVP by Friday, Aug. 16 by emailing leecfb@comcast.net or calling the office at 815-857-3531.

Tee Box introduces its version of the tenderloin

SPRING VALLEY – The Tee Box has recently introduced its unique take on an Illinois Valley favorite, the Tenderloin.

Spread the word, there’s a new top tenderloin contender in the Illinois Valley, and it’s at The Tee Box, located at 223 East St. Paul Street in Spring Valley.

This delicacy features hand-breaded, hand-pounded pork tenderloin seasoned with Essl Family Farms seasoning and topped with the freshest ingredients. Available on Tuesday evenings, the Tee Box’s famous

tenderloins have quickly become a hit, selling out multiple times since their debut.

The Tee Box tenderloins gained viral fame in the “Pursuing Pork Tenderloin Sandwiches” Facebook group, which boasts 80,000 members nationwide. Steve Kirby from Iowa made a special trip to The Tee Box to try the tenderloin and shared, “With pickles, lettuce, and thinly sliced onions positioned perfectly on this pork tenderloin, and mustard added to enhance the first bite, this experience was truly memorable. I have

never tasted a pork tenderloin with such bragging power. It was tender, thick, and packed with flavor. This was easily the best pork tenderloin I’ve ever had in Illinois.”

The Tee Box is the ultimate spot for sports fans. It features two multi-sport simulators, a full bar serving your favorite beers and cocktails, and a menu crafted from years of family restaurant experience. Enjoy homemade seasonings and dressings and local favorites like JT’s fried chicken. Dine, drink, and swing at The Tee Box.

Solar Art Workshop

GRANVILLE – The Putnam County Public Library District is offering you a chance to create one-of-a-kind art at 11 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Granville Branch.

Instead of markers or crayons, artists will use ultra-violet sensitive paper, the sun’s power, nature, and imagination in a solar art workshop designed for youth and teens.

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.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Kathleen M. Kaiser

MENDOTA – Kathleen Marie Kaiser, 75, of Mendota, passed away, Monday July 29, 2024, at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Rockford, surrounded by her family.

Visitation was Monday Aug. 5, 2024, from 10 a.m.-noon, followed by a memorial service, both at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton, with Rev. Jeff Schlesinger officiating. Private burial will be at Restland Cemetery at a later date.

Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Kathleen was born June 9, 1949, in La Crosse, Wis., to Harold and Darlyene (Nienast) Topel. She married Duane Kaiser on Feb. 15, 1969, in La Crosse. They enjoyed parenting their son, Daniel, and their daughter, Rebecca Jean.

Kathleen is survived by a son, Daniel (Nicole) Kaiser of Mendota; a daughter, Rebecca Jean (Marc) Bond of Mendota; sisters, Debby (Tom) Yeldell of Owasso, Okla., and Becky Wapp (Tom) Sawyer of Dresbach, Minn.; sister-in-law, Margaret Ann (Dwight) Frick of Mendota; two grandsons, Jacob Swope and Kevin Swope; many nieces and nephews and their families along with many other close relatives and friends. She will be greatly missed by all.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Duane; sisters, Mary, Tamie Topel, and Margaret Manecke; brother, David Topel; and brothers-in-law, David Wapp and Wes Blackwell.

Kathleen was a graduate of Logan High School, La Crosse Wis. She was born to be a caretaker of all things living, plants, animals, children; often found caring for her younger siblings and neighborhood children growing up and caring for the elderly in her later years. After high school, to pursue her dream of caring for others, she went to nursing school at La Crosse Lutheran Hospital, now Gunderson Medical Center, graduating as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

During high school and college summer breaks, she traveled to Illinois to visit and then care for her Aunt Rita. During one of her visits, she met and fell in love with Duane Kaiser. Kathleen shared Duane's joy of animals and farming; filling the role of farmwife, homemaker and was often found beside him caring for animals, working the ground, walking beans, hauling in crops to harvest, butchering, gardening and canning. Together they also shared the affection for Dalmatian dogs.

She loved to bake and was well known for her chocolate chip cookies; she could often be found at the local fairs competing in many categories for baking, canning, and yarn work. Years after the children were in high school and Daniel was old enough to farm beside Duane, she returned to nursing, fulfilling her love of Geriatric Nursing at the Mendota Lutheran Home and Perry Memorial Hospital for 18 years until her retirement. After retirement, her favorite new role became Grandma Manga to Jacob and Kevin teaching them her love of animals, cards and board games.

When she wasn't working in the garden or kitchen, she could be found having tea with her best friend Pattye, visiting with her sisters, playing cards, crocheting, or reading. She loved all things Wizard of Oz and Disney. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Compton, serving in Sunday School, choir and Altar Committee.

Memorials may be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church or the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Linda K. Grey

EARLVILLE – Linda Kay (Thompson) Grey, 69, of Earlville, passed away on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family, after an 11-year battle with metastatic breast cancer.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, at the Mueller Funeral Home in Ottawa, with Rev. Duane Kaufman, officiating. Burial will follow at Oakwood Memorial Park in Ottawa. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the funeral home. Linda requests that attendees wear animal print to the services.

Linda was born on March 1, 1955, in Ottawa to Arden Dean and Joan Marie (Metzler) Thompson. She worked as a Registered Nurse for 31 years. Linda married Jonathan Grey on Dec. 28, 1984, in Earlville.

She is survived by her husband, Jonathan Grey, of Earlville; three children, Michelle (Thomas) Hallam, of Ottawa, Connie (Richard) Falcon, of Mendota, Joseph (Barbara) Grey, of Utica; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; a brother, Greg (Betsy Portzen) Thompson; and a sister, Sherri Farley.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother, Steven Thompson.

She enjoyed gardening, bowling and cherished bonfires and camping with her family.

Pallbearers will be Thomas Hallam, Joseph Grey, Chris Farley, Cody Falcon, Greg Thompson, and Richard "Buddy" Falcon. Memorials may be directed to the family.

You may sign the online guestbook and share remembrances at www.MuellerFH.com. Mueller Funeral Home and Crematory 800 First Ave., Ottawa.



Donald Swope

COMPTON – Donald "Doc" Swope, 89, of Compton, passed away Aug. 2, 2024, in his home.

Funeral services were held at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Burial was at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was from 10 a.m. until time of services.

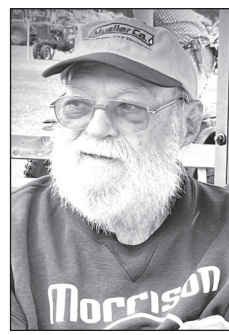
Donald was born on Jan. 8, 1935, in Compton, to Wendell and Elizabeth (Kehm) Swope. He married Patricia Bettner on Nov. 24, 1956. He attended Compton High School for two years and then graduated from Lee Center High School.

Doc is survived by daughters, Lori Swope and Tini (Chuck) Montavon, both of Compton; son, Tim Swope of Oregon, Ill.; granddaughters, Jeni (Clifton Noble) Montavon, Michelle (Gabe) Wade and Kim (Don) Wisinski; and a sister, Marilyn Ehlers of Princeton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his daughter, Geneva; his son, Dani; his grandson, Jeffrey Montavon; his sister, LaVila Bains; and brothers, Elroy, Marvin and Jerroll Swope.

Doc was employed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. After retirement he helped area farmers with planting and harvest, which was his real passion. He loved working the ground and driving a tractor. He also spent many hours of mowing and plowing snow for the Village of Compton. He took great pride in making sure the streets were cleared for the citizens of the town. Doc was a very civic-minded individual who gave countless hours to his community by serving on the Village Board, Compton Fire Department and the Compton Community Club for 50+ years.

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



Larry M. Christen

MENDOTA – Larry M. Christen, 86, of Mendota, passed away on July 11, 2024, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church, Mendota with Rev. Laurie Walker officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

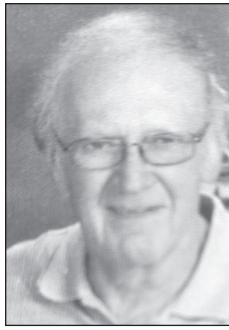
Larry was born March 7, 1938, in Rockford, to Myron and Ruth (Benson) Christen. He married Kay Miller on Jan. 28, 1956.

He is survived by his wife, Kay; his three children, Deb (Gary) Daub, Tim (Fran) Christen and Shawn (Stacy Walters) Christen; five grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; a brother, Russell and a sister, Nancy Luna.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and a sister.

Larry was a truck driver most of his working life for several different employees. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and riding his motorcycle after his retirement.

Memorials may be directed to the family for a memorial to be determined. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Social Security

How we serve people who have limited English proficiency

By Mike Weilt

PERU – We strive to deliver great customer service with helpful information for everyone. This includes improving access for underserved communities. We aim to reduce language barriers and increase access to Social Security programs, services, and benefits. If you are a person with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), know that we have the resources available to help you in your preferred language. We encourage you to learn about the resources that are available to serve LEP communities.

What resources are available?

We offer publications in languages other than English. Our non-English publications and other resources at www.ssa.gov/multilanguage are available in more than 12 languages. The multilanguage website also lists resources to support you in your preferred language.

We provide benefit information in Spanish at Seguro-Social.gov that includes:

- Retirement.
- Disability.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Our free interpreter services are available, by phone and in person, in more than 200 languages. These services are accessible by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 or by visiting a local Social Security office and asking for an interpreter in your preferred language.


Diversity is one of our nation's greatest strengths. We want to ensure an inclusive environment for everyone we serve. Our Language Access Plan affirms our commitment to increase access to benefits and services for people who prefer a language other than English. To learn more, we encourage you to visit www.ssa.gov/site/languages.

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

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LOCAL AND AREA

Housing

Continued from Page A1

better care of their properties to help Mendota look nicer was also discussed as the topic was also in the survey.

Once the discussions were completed, Walton said the next step for IDHA is to get a better idea of what each property looks like or how it would critique on a rating scale.

Walton introduced a phone or device application called Field Maps, which allows people to rate each property in Mendota. He then asked the meeting attendees if they would help both the City of Mendota and IDHA by taking the time to observe rental and owned housing through Mendota.

If you are interested in helping Mendota upgrade current housing or bring in more housing opportunities, please contact Annie Short, Mendota's project coordinator, at the Mendota City Clerk's Office, 815-539-7459.

Calendar

Continued from Page A1

Sunday, Aug. 11
All day – Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. - Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran's Park on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran's Park.

10:30 a.m. – Food & merchandise booths open.

Noon – The Jesse White Tumblers high-flying performance in front of Mendota Elks Lodge.

Noon-2 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

Noon-2 p.m. – Lica Lorraine balloon artistry at intersection of Washington St. & Eighth Ave.

1 p.m. – Carnival Midway opens.

1 p.m. – Sweet Corn Festival Grand Parade, featuring floats, bands, antique & classic vehicles, Shriners and more.

2 p.m. – Free sweet corn served at intersection of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

2-4 p.m. – The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

3:30 p.m. – The South Shore Drill Team performing in front of Mendota Elks Lodge.

Beware of scammers posing as the IRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Identity thieves may try to contact taxpayers through fraudulent calls, emails, texts and social media messages pretending to be the IRS. Here's how taxpayers know when it's the IRS that contacts them.

Email, text and social media

The IRS will mail a letter or notice before calling or emailing. The IRS does not:

- Send unexpected or unsolicited text messages to taxpayers.
- Initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text message or through social media.
- Send messages that ask for personal or financial information, especially when it comes to a tax refund.

Common IRS-related online scams include:

- Phishing email sent to taxpayers.
- Fake IRS social media accounts that contact taxpayers about a fake bill, grant or refund.
- Text messages sent to taxpayers for fake "tax credits" or "stimulus payments."

Scammers' messages often direct taxpayers to click fraudulent links they claim are IRS websites or other online tools.

Phone calls

After mailing a notice or letter to a taxpayer, IRS agents may call to confirm an appointment or discuss items for a scheduled audit. Taxpayers should know that:

- The IRS doesn't leave pre-recorded, urgent or threatening messages. Scammers will tell victims that if they do not call back, a warrant will be issued for their arrest. These calls are scams.
- Private collection agencies that the IRS works with may call taxpayers to collect certain outstanding inactive tax liabilities, but only after sending written notice to the taxpayer and their representative.
- The IRS and its authorized private collection

agencies will never ask a taxpayer to pay using any form of pre-paid card, store or online gift card. Taxpayers can review the IRS payments page at [IRS.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments) for all legitimate ways to make a payment.

Letters and notices

A letter or notice is usually the first contact a taxpayer gets from the IRS contacts. If a taxpayer gets a suspicious letter or notice, they can check to see if it's really the IRS:

- Log in to their secure IRS Online Account to find a copy of the notice or letter.
- Contact IRS customer service to verify it, if they weren't able to do so in their Online Account.
- Review IRS letters and notices at Understanding Your IRS Notice or Letter.
- Confirm that collection notices from a private collection agency have the same Taxpayer Authentication Number as the Notice CP40 the taxpayer received from the IRS.
- Visit Private Debt Collection Frequently Asked Questions to learn more about verifying a private collection agency.

Warning signs of a scam

If taxpayers get an unexpected letter, email or text that claims to be from the IRS or another trusted source – like a bank, a credit company or a tax software provider – here are some tell-tale signs that it's a scam:

- Spelling errors or incorrect grammar.
- A link or attachment that with a slightly misspelled URL or an unusual one such as irs.com. All IRS links go to irs.gov.
- A threatening or urgent request to pay now, to follow a link or to open an attachment.

Taxpayers who receive a request from IRS in the mail or by phone can always contact IRS customer service to authenticate it.

Guilfoyle

Continued from Page A1

"It's funny because she wasn't a teacher when my friends and I attended elementary school or junior high," Kati said. "I was already a sophomore or a junior at Mendota High School. Now, when someone finds out she is my mom, they say, 'Oh, your mom was my art teacher.' I didn't hear it before because my age group and the people I know didn't have her as a teacher."

"I have a son in fifth grade in Mendota and a lot of the fellow students' mothers had my mom as a teacher, so I hear it all the time now."

One thing the family and everyone close to Barb knows is art wasn't the only passion she cherished.

Guilfoyle was a regular at the Mendota YMCA, the Mendota Golf Club, loved to travel, loved dogs, spending time with her family; loved all aspects of life.

"She loved her community. She loved helping people in any way she could. She wasn't just an artist or an art teacher, although that was a big part and she loved being able to share art with people," Kati said. "But, she enjoyed being a member of the community in general and being involved in different aspects of the community."

The YMCA has a tradition of hanging a banner for anyone who makes a contribution to help them provide services for children and gym members.

On March 18, a little under a month before she passed away, Guilfoyle finished her last piece of art. A rendering of the piece is going to be the banner in Barb Guilfoyle's honor.

"The generosity of the



Barb Guilfoyle, center, loved the outdoors and taking walks with her grandsons Gavin, left, and Connor, right. For being an advocate and supporter of Mendota as she was, her family decided to make generous donations to multiple organizations in Mendota and the local area. (Photo contributed)

Guilfoyle family is overwhelming. Barb was a great part of the Mendota YMCA family," said Stephen Donnell, the Mendota YMCA branch manager. "We are so proud to honor her memory with this donation so the youth of our community will have great experiences at camp and the after-school program."

Donnell and the Y are not the only organizations who feel this way.

Emily Kofoid, the director of Graves-Hume Public Library will forever remember Guilfoyle as a supportive library patron.

"We are so honored the Guilfoyle family chose the library to donate to in memory of Barb. We saw Barb with her grandkids in the library often when they were younger, bringing the boys to programs and often assisting them in discovering

their next new read," Kofoid said. "In speaking with the Guilfoyle family, we know they are dedicated to making Mendota a family-oriented place to live and learn. Keeping that in mind, the library is thrilled to use this donation in creating new spaces inside and out that are filled with ways families can enjoy art together. We are excited to use the Guilfoyle family's vision to allow more interactive ways families can use art through creativity, social skills, and imagination."

Tracy Cooper, the executive director of the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry couldn't thank Barb and her family enough for their magnanimity.

"I think it was really nice for them to see we were in need," Cooper said. "It was a nice honor, and great gesture for Barb Guilfoyle and for the community."

Sublette Farmers Market held every Tuesday

SUBLETTE – The Sublette Farmers Market will be open every Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. during August and September. Vendors will be located on Main Street between La Fiesta Restaurant and Leffel-

man Insurance. Vendors are welcome and there is no charge for space, just bring your table and set up. For more information, contact Don Dinges at 815-703-5675.

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Fortune Phrase wraps up for '24

MENDOTA—Another year of The Mendota Reporter Fortune Phrase game has come to an end, and the lucky winner for Week Four of the game is Deb Hochstatter of Mendota. Her entry was drawn from all of the correct guesses submitted. She is the recipient of a \$25 gift certificate to El Zarape Mexican Restaurant.

The correct phrase was: The End Of July Means The Sweet Corn Festival Is Near.

The words were hidden in the following ads: The – Falcon's Landscape and Lawn care; End – Sullivan's Foods; Of – ARS Auto Repair; July – Mendota Farmers Market; Means – Davis Family Health; The – Mendota Chamber of Commerce (50/50 raffle); Sweet – El Zarape Mexican Restaurant; Corn – El Torito Mexican Grill; Festival – T2 Enterprises/Tony Troyer; Is – Prime Solutions; Near – Mendota Chamber of Commerce (Sweet Corn Festival).

Thank you to everyone that played the game this year, and a special thanks to the advertisers that made it possible.

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Visit our Website or Facebook for daily lunch & dinner specials. www.mainstreetstationbar-grill.com

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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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

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

Letters

Former resident cheering for Mendota

Dear Editor,

Why do I love Mendota? I was born in Mendota but now I live in Columbia, S.C. I have seen the effects of two big fires in downtown Mendota. Instead of sitting around and moaning about the fires, Mendota jumped in and got started cleaning up and worked for grants and donations to rebuild and get back to normal.

A few years ago a group of people formed a group called Reimagine Mendota to help the improvement of Mendota and worked diligently in improving the city. They got together and many events to raise money. They have also put together many different requests for grants to help

move forward to improve our great city of Mendota. It just happened that I have been coming back to the city of Mendota for 25 years for several weeks and enjoy seeing several people during the summer as well as meeting new people.

I attended one of the first meetings of Reimagine Mendota and have been attending the summer meeting ever since. I just wanted to say that you have worked hard and I have had a lot to cheer about Reimagine Mendota over the years and I know I will keep cheering as long as I live. God bless you.

**Ken Gehler,
Columbia, S.C.**

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Remembering Polly Butler Hickok – 2004

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Aug. 4, 2004.)

By Jessica Nashold

It so happens that this issue of The Mendota Reporter is appearing on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Polly Butler Hickok, on Aug. 4, 1804. It seems appropriate, on this date, to share the findings of Joseph G. Rosa, of Middlesex, England, as he checked the background of Polly's celebrated son, Wild Bill Hickok. Rosa is the author of several biographies of Wild Bill.

Polly was born in North Hero, Vt. In 1827, she married William Alonzo Hickok, and after several moves, they settled in Homer, Ill., already parents of sons Oliver, Lorenzo and Horace. In Homer, on May 27, 1837, Polly gave birth to another son, James Butler Hickok. Later, there were two daughters, Celinda, born in 1839, and Lydia, born in 1842. (Homer was renamed Troy Grove when it was found there was already a Homer in Illinois.)

William Alonzo Hickok, Polly's husband and father of her children, died in 1852. In 1851, Oliver, the eldest son, had left for California. In 1856, James and Lorenzo went west to Kansas. When they received a letter announcing that Polly was ill, Lorenzo returned home. James, however, remained in Kansas. In 1859, Horace visited his brother and wrote his mother that James was going to Pike's Peak. He had been employed as a teamster by Jones & Cartwright, on their route to Denver City. He was to receive \$30 a month.

Polly promptly replied: "I am sorry to hear that James has gone to Pike's Peak. I do not know what he means by doing so. Has he got anything, or made anything, or is he in debt for his board? If you hear from him, tell us all about it. I was pleased when I heard you had gone to Kansas, instead of the Peak, for I thought it would be better for you and James to be together. But it seems you did not stay together long."

Among a few existing letters from James to Horace, it seems there was a lot of brotherly banter. Horace announced

he would like to go hunting with James, only to be told he never got up early enough.

In 1861 Polly and the family were shocked to hear from their cousin, Guy Butler, who lived in Olatha, Kan., that James had died, having contracted "newmonia," and that his employers had owed him money. Horace promptly wrote the company, who advised that James was alive and well when he left their employ, in late April, and had been paid what was due him.

For reasons unknown, James stopped off at a Pony Express relay station, at Rocky Creek, Nebraska Territory. There, on July 12, 1861, a fight over ownership of the station resulted in three men being killed. Controversy still rages over the role James played in the affair.

From Rocky Creek, James went to Leavenworth where he began service to the Union army during the Civil War. That service included stints as teamster, wagon master, government scout and spy. For a brief period, he was a Provost Marshal's detective.

Back in Troy Grove, Polly and other family members hears little from James during the conflict, except for a visit home in 1862.

Following the war, Polly spent a lot of time in the East, visiting relatives.

When Harper's New Monthly Magazine, in February, 1867, published the now legendary article, "Wild Bill," written by Col. George Ward Nichols, Polly and other family members were "bemused."

One visit home by Wild Bill, in Rosa's words – "Early in 1869, Polly was agog with excitement. James intended to come home for his birthday on May 27. But early in March, he telegraphed from Mendota requesting that she meet him at the depot. She and Celinda did so and James presented Polly with a large framed photograph of himself. During his short stay in Mendota and Troy Grove, James was treated for a lance wound suffered in an Indian uprising, which turned septic. He was summoned to Chicago for a meeting

with General Phillip Sheridan, possibly to brief him on what would be wanted of him, should the Plains Indians go on the warpath again.

Polly possible last saw James when he visited prior to his marriage to Agnes Lake Thatcher, on March 5, 1876, in Wyoming Territory. Wild Bill was shot on Aug. 2, 1876, as he sat playing poker in Saloon No. 10, in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. Family members tried to keep the news from reaching Polly until she could be prepared for the shock. But as Rosa relates, the effort was fruitless. Polly was found with a copy of a newspaper announcing his death, in her hands, as she rocked back and forth in her chair, tears streaming down her face, and blood from a lung hemorrhage staining the front of her dress. She dies two years later, in 1878, still mourning James.

SIDETRACK – A letter written by Polly to a cousin gives a glimpse into her later years. "I don't expect to live very much longer, and still I am healthier than I have been in years. Life is beautiful and I take more interest in what is going on in the world, especially in our beloved land. Hope the time will come when we get cleaned of the corruption, and people will find there is something that gives more satisfaction than the almighty dollar. The dear Saviour has been my stay and prop through all my troubles. O year, I want to tell you, I am a bent over old woman, and I get around lively. I don't take any kind of drug, no tea, no coffee, no meat, except a little chicken meat."

A black taffeta dress belonging to Polly, high style for the mid-19th century, was modeled on several occasions by her granddaughter, Miss Ethel Hickok. It can now be seen at the Hume Carnegie Museum, in the area devoted to Wild Bill Hickok memorabilia.

(Biographer Joseph G. Rosa and Cynthia Rosinski have contributed to this account.)

Sorry, everyone – Oswald still acted alone

By Rich Lowry

All we need to know about the Deep State, we supposedly learned when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

In the aftermath of the attempted assassination of Donald Trump, Sean Davis of the conservative website The Federalist wrote on X, "They did it to Kennedy, and his brother, and they just tried to do it to Trump."

In a recent conversation with Donald Trump Jr., Tucker Carlson casually referred to the system having been broken "for at least 61 years since they killed a president in an election year."

"Exactly," Trump Jr. responded.

In another interview with Carlson, Ron Paul said that there "was a coup" on Nov. 22, 1963.

The JFK conspiracy theories originally emanated from the Left. As the Right has come to hate and distrust the Deep State, though, the theories have seeped over.

That such conspiracy theories have so long endured, and, in fact, found new converts on another part of the political spectrum, is a stunning victory of paranoia over reason and fiction over fact. For all its consequences, the JFK assassination is an uncomplicated murder case.

There were only three shots that day, and they were all fired from the Texas School Book Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald worked. Almost all the witnesses thought the shots came from the direction of the depository. Multiple witnesses saw a man with a rifle in the sixth-floor window. A couple of Oswald's fellow employees were on the floor beneath him and saw cement loosened by the shots fall from the ceiling.

All of this is why the police had an accurate description of Oswald within minutes and why an officer immediately rushed to the depository and found Oswald right after the assassination; he let him go when Oswald's supervisor said he was employed there.

Oswald was a good shot during his stint in the Marine Corps, and the longest shot, the third, which killed Kennedy, was only from 88 yards away – considerably closer than Thomas

Crooks was to Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania. Moreover, Kennedy's two entrance wounds were from behind – where Oswald was shooting from.

No one who knew anything about Oswald could be surprised. He was a misfit with a history of violence, including trying to assassinate a right-wing general. Would the CIA have recruited Oswald to do its dirty work? It's a fantastical notion. Not only was Oswald an utterly unreliable character, he was a pro-Castro Marxist.

Besides, why, if the CIA was omniscient enough to pull off such an operation, did it not deploy a super-sniper who could get in and out of Dallas quickly? At the very least, it should have secured a getaway plan for Oswald. Instead, it allowed him to careen through the streets of Dallas, a clearly desperate man, and after he was captured, permitted him to be interrogated by the police for days, when he could have unraveled the entire plot.

Ah, you say, but they didn't need to rely on Oswald's discretion because they had a hit on him planned via his shooter, the strip club owner Jack Ruby? This was clearly an impulse killing by another violent misfit, who believed he'd be hailed as a hero for taking out JFK's assassin. With a different happenstance or two, Ruby never would have been in just the right time and place to kill Oswald.

Regardless, no organization that valued loyalty or discipline ever would have trusted Ruby, any more than Oswald, with anything – not the CIA, and not even the Mafia.

It made sense that the anti-American Left gravitated to a conspiratorial view of the JFK assassination. But now some on the Right are so disaffected from contemporary America that they, too, think that our history is a tale of the nightmarish scheming of shadowy forces.

We thought we were citizens of a decent, open society, when the truth, or so they believe, is that we live in the plot of an Oliver Stone movie.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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SOCIAL NEWS

Blood drive held; next one Sept. 17

MENDOTA—The American Red Cross held a blood drive on July 23 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. There were 62 good units collected. There were 44 whole blood donations and 18 power red donations.

Multi-gallon donors were Emily Kofoid and Darrell Adkins—one gallon, Aaron Elston—two gallons, Amy Leffelman and Brian Blumhorst—three gallons, Tori Sadnick—four gallons and Cheryl Bird—nine gallons. There were also two first-time donors, William Madden and Kya Delao. Congratulations on these milestones.

Volunteers for the day were Paddy Schwemlein, Cindy Stephenitch, Sandy Schroeder, Lori Schlesinger, Deb Jasper, Dawn Mathesius, and Kathi Stamberger. Mendota Subway donated sandwiches for the luncheon and First State Bank sponsored the egg salad sandwiches, BBQ, and chips for the drive. Desserts were provided by Marlene Simonton, Paddy Schwemlein, Leann O’Brien, Kathi Stamberger, Barb Cantlin, Kristi Carroll, Teresa Leffelman, and Amiee Holland.

The next bloodmobile will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at the Mendota Moose Family Center. If you would like to make an appointment or have questions, please call Lori at 815-866-3582.



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Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum voted among top 10 percent of attractions worldwide

SPRINGFIELD — The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has been recognized with a Travelers’ Choice award from Tripadvisor because of its thousands of 5-star reviews from visitors.

Tripadvisor says consistently great reviews put the library and museum among the top 10 percent of all attractions around the world.

“Everyone at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum values the feedback we receive from visitors. It’s important to us that guests truly connect with Lincoln’s life and legacy,” said Christina Shutt, the ALPLM’s executive director. “This award confirms we’re succeeding in making those connections.”

Recent ALPLM Tripadvisor reviews include statements like “Highly impressive museum ...,” “Staff were both friendly and informative,” and “One of the best museums we have visited.” To see all reviews, visit bit.ly/3iANQL4.

“Travelers’ Choice honors businesses that consistently demonstrate a commitment to hospitality excellence. This means they have made such a memorable impact on their visitors that many of them took the time to go online and leave a great review about their experience,” said John Boris, Tripadvisor chief growth officer.

The presidential library and museum combines traditional scholarship with

high-tech showmanship to immerse visitors in Abraham Lincoln’s life. They can walk through some of Lincoln’s most joyous and tragic moments, see documents he wrote and artifacts he owned, and enjoy shows that bring history to life.

“We are proud to be a destination for travelers from around the world,” said Summer Griffith, the ALPLM’s director of marketing and guest experience. “It is an honor to introduce our guests to Abraham Lincoln and to the Springfield community.”

Tripadvisor helps millions of travelers each month. They use the website and app to browse more than 1 billion reviews and opinions on accommodations, restaurants,

experiences, airlines and cruises worldwide.

For more information, visit www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov. You can follow the ALPLM on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

(The mission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is to inspire civic engagement through the diverse lens of Illinois history and sharing with the world the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. We pursue this mission through a combination of rigorous scholarship and high-tech showmanship built on the bedrock of the ALPLM’s unparalleled collection of historical materials—roughly 13 million items from all eras of Illinois history.)

Rep. Fritts starts community calendar on website

DIXON—State Representative Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) has announced a new community calendar function on his website.

“Beginning today (July 31), my official website will begin hosting a ‘Community Calendar’ page for upcoming local events,” said Rep. Fritts. “I’ve heard from many

constituents and organizations who want to support our local communities but don’t know where to start. This calendar will be a streamlined way for residents to find all local events in one location.”

To view the calendar, visit RepFritts.com and select ‘Community Calendar’ under ‘Events.’

If you are interested in submitting a community event, please visit RepFritts.com for instructions or email

repfrittsstaff@ilhousegop.org for more information.

Please note that as state ethics laws apply to this site, event restrictions apply. For-profit, political, or personal events will not be posted. Final decisions on which events are allowed are made at the discretion of the Office of Rep. Fritts.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.



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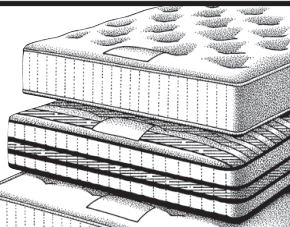
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LOCAL AND AREA

LaSalle student is the recipient of 2024 Matthiessen Award at IVCC

OGLESBY – Riker Fesperman of LaSalle was awarded the 2024 Frederick W. Matthiessen Award during the 58th annual spring commencement ceremony.

Graduating students are nominated for the award by faculty for academic scholarship, a record of civic achievement or community volunteer service, and service to the College community. Named for local industrialist and philanthropist F.W. Matthiessen, the honor has only been awarded 29 times since its inception 46 years ago.

“Selecting a winner from some of the best of the best is extremely difficult,” said College President Dr. Tracy Morris in presenting the award. “Our winner this year has excelled academically and has been involved in a number of leadership roles on campus and in the community.”

Fesperman has been an Illinois Department of Natural Resources volunteer maintaining nature trails at Starved Rock State Park, served as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army, led collection drives for Illinois Valley Animal Rescue, assisted in hosting a Syrian Art Exhibit at IVCC in 2023, served two years as representative on the Student Government Association, been an officer in several campus student groups, and been a peer tutor in the Academic Support Center.

Fesperman received several nominations from faculty. Instructor Dawn Chambers commended him for “consistently going above and beyond expectations in his volunteer efforts... he approaches each task with sincerity and a genuine desire

to make a positive impact” and creates a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.

Instructor Shannon Slight applauded Fesperman’s endeavors as helping “create and promote a better place in the Illinois Valley,” and cited Fesperman’s assistance in and promotion of multicultural events on campus.

Instructor Jason Beyer called Fesperman “a moving force” who recruited rotating faculty sponsors to sustain a struggling campus student organization, planned and carried out Student Government Association fund-raising and promotion efforts, and spearheaded a drive to preserve student bake sales, a time-honored student fundraiser.

Matthiessen winners are: Cynthia Liebhart, 1978; Michelle Mueller, 1979; Sheila Lyons, 1980; Mary Jo Menendez, 1982; Paulette Nesbitt, 1987; Donna Joerger, 1988; Melissa Leone, 1992; Joseph Ablett, 1993; Cathy Thorsen, 1995; Scott Forrest, 1995; Nancy Kochis, 1997; Beth Whittington, 1999; Elizabeth Zelenski, 2000; Kristin Abrahams, 2004; Megan Guilfoyle, 2007; Michelle Franklin, 2008; Cassie Fuller, 2009; Tyler Swanlund, 2010; Caitlin Rinker, 2011; Kristopher Sienza, 2011; Jackie Heim, 2012; Ashley Williams, 2015; Matthew Phillips, 2016; Trevor Finnan, 2017; Martha Hoffman, 2018; Lillian Rodrigues, 2019; Devanshi Patel, 2020; Grace McCormick, 2021; and Hope Beelman, 2022.

IVCC participates in professional study abroad program with Dutch

OGLESBY – Last fall, Illinois Valley Community College Director of Admissions Tom Quigley treated a Dutch guest to American cuisine and Halloween displays. This spring, it was Quigley’s turn to sample Dutch culture.

Quigley rejoined Ryan Smulders in ‘s-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands, where Smulders teaches at Koning Willem I College. The pair are part of a professional study abroad program through the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs.

Quigley gained insight into Dutch college life as well as the country’s lifestyle.

“One of the most striking aspects is the pervasive cycling culture. Bicycles are the primary mode of transport for many people, and the infrastructure is incredibly supportive of this. Bike lanes are everywhere, and it’s impressive to see how seamlessly integrated cycling is into daily life. We biked to work every day—even in the pouring rain!—which is very different than here.”

Though not fond of the rainy climate, Quigley enjoyed the food. “I enjoyed trying traditional Dutch foods such as stroopwafels, kibbeling, cheese, and bitterballen. The focus on fresh, local ingredients in many meals was also impressive.” He also noted the college provided plenty of tea and coffee, preferred beverages in the country.

The Dutch place a strong emphasis on work-life bal-



As this Dutch streetscape shows, bicycling is a favored method of transport in Holland. IVCC Director of Admissions Tom Quigley and his host biked to and from work daily, even in the rain. And, he notes, it rained a lot. He was also able to compare Dutch life- and workstyles to those in his own country. (Photo contributed)

ance, Quigley learned. “Many people work reasonable hours and prioritize spending time with family and friends. This balance contributes to a high quality of life and a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere. Everyone has a hybrid work schedule so they can work from home when they want to.”

Quigley met the college president, the international department, the marketing department, the public relations department, some project managers, students, and some teachers. A highlight

was having dinner with the president and the international department.

He enjoyed reuniting with Smulders, who he’d hosted on a two-week visit to IVCC and the Illinois Valley. “Ryan was incredibly welcoming and hospitable. He went out of his way to make me feel at home, which made the transition to a new environment very smooth,” Quigley said.

Quigley added he’d like to do another cultural exchange and would recommend the opportunity to his colleagues.

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Merv and Kay Schlesinger

Reminder to obey school bus laws

OTTAWA – Christopher Dvorak, Regional Superintendent of Schools, would like to remind everyone how important it is to know and obey school bus laws.

Citizens should know that the flashing amber lights are a warning the bus is going to stop, and the flashing red lights and extended stop arm mean the bus has stopped to load or unload children. Motorists are required by state law to obey these signals.

Please help protect the children who ride the school buses by obeying the law.

POLICE BLOTTER

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Luis Miguel Cabrea Cobix, 39, of 905 ½ Illinois Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 12th Street and Fourth Avenue at 4:10 p.m. Aug. 1. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Conor E. Shukstor, 31, of Streator, was arrested at 3:08 p.m. Aug. 2 on a Grundy County warrant for failure to appear/driving while license suspended after police officers conducted a service call at 607 Eighth Ave. The subject was released with a Grundy County court date.

THEFT

Mark A. Moedinger, 43, of LaSalle, was charged with theft after police officers conducted a service call at 2701 E. 12th St., Mendota, at 2:56 p.m. Aug. 3. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Brittany A. Debeck, 33, of 1107 Monroe St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after police officers conducted an investigation near the intersection of East Main Street and Peri Drive at 8:44 p.m. Aug. 4. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Mendota Police Dept. advises to always keep vehicle locked

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

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

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

MPD offers burglary prevention tips

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department encourages its citizens to prevent crime before it happens. Taking a few prevention steps could keep your home from being a target. The golden rule in home security is to ensure that your property does not present an opportunity. Please consider these burglary prevention tips.

- A would-be burglar will look for signs of an alarm or cameras. Let them know they cannot enter your home unnoticed.
- Over one-third of home burglaries are termed by police as “no force” entries. Doors or windows that are left unlocked allow easy access to the home.
- Sliding glass doors are another easy way in. They are usually at the rear and can often be lifted out of their frames.
- An unsecured garage door presents an opportunity for a burglar to enter your property if your garage is attached to the home or to find tools to assist him.
- An unlocked shed or out-building likewise presents an easy target. The burglar can use your own tools to enter your home or take valuables such as bikes and lawnmowers.



- A dark property is always attractive. About 90 percent of all intruders choose not to enter a residence that is well lit so keep the main entryways and exterior sections of your home lit, either constantly or using motion sensor lighting.
- Overgrown bushes or trees close to your home allow a burglar to hide and can provide a leverage to higher windows.
- A quick escape is important for a burglar, so high fences or hedges are a real deterrent.
- Burglars prefer to target empty residences. Stop the newspapers when you go on vacation and have a neighbor pick up your mail.
- Install a deadbolt lock. Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant.

Lock your doors every time you leave. The more popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over one-third of all burglaries, there is no forcible entry - someone forgot to lock the door.

- Install solid doors. Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1-3/4 inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.
- Keep garage doors closed and locked.
- Secure sliding doors and windows. Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both castings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.
- Secure sash windows. To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail. To prevent aluminum windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.



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

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

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Art to Explore in 2024

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Professional Emerging Artists

August 9, 2024
Kevin Stock & Kent Broadbent

September 6, 2024
The Art of Law Enforcement

October 25, 2024
NCI Legacy Artists

November 8, 2024
Mike Vaughn, David Horst & Jon McCutchan

November 7-28, 2024
WW2 Tuesdays Video Series

December 13, 2024
Bill Swisher & Earlene Campbell

Arts-On-The-Go trips:
Sicily—October 2 - 12, 2024
Sicily—May 21 - 31, 2025

outreach@nciartworks.com

07082024

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214 16th Street, Mendota

2 Story, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom

Newly remodeled kitchen with laundry on 1st floor. Located on a large lot with oversized 2 car garage. Appliances Stay.

Asking \$125,000.00
Call for Appointment - 815-539-5288

07152024

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33rd Amboy Depot Days

CAR, TRUCK, AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Sunday, August 25, 2024
Downtown Amboy, Illinois (Rain or Shine)

All Proceeds Benefit Community Projects

- Judged Show
- Registration : 6:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Awards : 3:30 p.m.

QUALIFYING VEHICLES REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
If possible, please pre-register online. Please use the pre-registration link on the depotdays.com website or the link on the Amboy Car Show Facebook page. THE PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15, 2024. When you pre-register online you will receive an e-mail that verifies your registration. BRING THIS E-MAIL WITH YOU TO THE SHOW. On Sunday, August 25, you will pay \$15 at the gate. When you come to the registration tent to pick up your materials, BRING YOUR E-MAIL. You will receive \$5 worth of 50/50 tickets as well as your pre-registration materials. To pre-register by mail, please see the reverse side of this form.

Dash Plaques to first 500 cars & first 65 bikes.
Gate closes promptly at 11:00 a.m.

Participating Voting Awards:
Best Engine - Best Paint - Best Interior
Best GM - Best Ford - Best Mopar
Best of Show - Best of Show Motorcycle

Other Awards:
• Mayor's Choice Award • Miss Amboy Award
• Special Prize for Longest Distance traveled to show

4 - 2nd Prize Drawings
\$2,500 cash each
Need not be present to win!

Facebook: Amboy Car Show
Email: amboycarshow@hotmail.com

Very Large 50/50 Drawing
2019 won \$105,425
2021 won \$105,580
2022 won \$99,430
2023 won \$124,959

FREE REMOTE PARKING - TAKE A TROLLEY TO THE SHOW
Parking at the High School (watch for signs on highway)

TOP DOLLAR PAID!

For your classic car - Restored or Unrestored

Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar, Corvettes, Vintage Cars, Foreign & Domestic, Restored & Unrestored, Hot Rods, Mopars & Vintage Motorcycles

Call Jim at 630-201-8122

07292024

FAMILY SAFE NIGHT OUT

Friday Mendota Aug. 23 Civic Center

4:30 - 5:30pm for Sensory Hour
6:00 - 9:00pm Open to Public

All Ages Invited / Admission Is FREE

Visit non-profit booths and get a stamp for a Free Meal
Also included:

Fire trucks • Police cars • Safety demonstrations
Bounce houses • Face painting • Yard games
Kickball (Games at 6:15, 7:00, 7:45 / sign-up 15 mins before)

For more Info, contact Maria at 815-539-7459 or marteaga@mendotacity.com

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Child ID Safety Kits for first 200 (16 and under)

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SPORTS



Pickleball is something of a hybrid sport that combines elements of tennis and ping-pong to form a fun activity that's also great exercise.

Recreational sports that make for a great workout

Billions of people across the globe share a passion for sports. Whether it's youngsters playing on sandlots, adolescents competing in scholastic sports or even professional athletes locking horns at the highest level, there's no denying that sports appeals to people of all ages. The thrill of competition undoubtedly compels many athletes to engage in sports, but playing a sport also makes for great exercise. That's even the case for various recreational sports, which many athletes look to after their more formal playing days have ended. In fact, the following recreational sports are not only fun, but also make for a great workout.

Pickleball

Perhaps no recreational sport has enjoyed a surge in popularity as significant as pickleball in recent years. The 2023 Topline Participation Report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association indicates participation in pickleball grew by 159 percent between 2019 and 2022. Pickleball is something of

a hybrid sport that combines elements of tennis and ping-pong to form a fun activity that's also great exercise. An ongoing examination of pickleball by Apple has found that participation in the sport helps players reach moderate to vigorous heart rate zones, which cardiologists note can improve cardiac fitness. In addition, a 2023 study published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* found that pickleball players enjoyed significant improvements in happiness, life satisfaction and personal well-being after taking up the sport.

Basketball

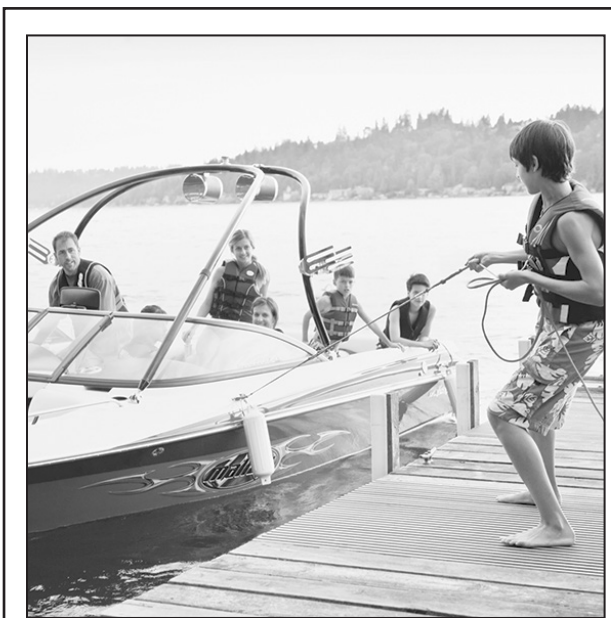
Basketball is among the more accessible recreational sports, as it's not uncommon for players to find a pickup game at their local park on a nice spring or summer afternoon or evening. Basketball combines various components of a great workout, including cardiovascular exercise, coordination and balance and weight-bearing activity. A 2018 study published in the *Journal of*

Sport and Health Science found that both half-court and full-court basketball helped to increase lean body mass, bone mineral density and oxygen uptake, each of which helps to make recreational basketball a great way for players to improve their overall health.

Golf

The serene setting of a typical golf course can make it easy to see the sport as fun but not necessarily a great workout. But that's a misconception, as a round of 18 can make for great exercise. A 2016 study published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* noted that golf can be a useful ally in the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases such as heart attack, stroke, certain cancers, and diabetes, among other conditions. Walking the course, as opposed to renting a cart during a round, makes for excellent cardiovascular exercise as well.

Athletes may embrace recreational sports for fun, but these physical activities also can make for a great workout.



Free boating safety course to be offered at Illinois Waterway Visitor Center

OTTAWA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, is offering a free boating safety education class at the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center located at 950 N. 27th Road in Ottawa on Saturday, Aug. 17. The 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-Classes/> for more information.

Support your favorite player or team by attending a game!

GARAGE SALE TIME!



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

- 1. WHAT TO SELL**
Anything that still has usability and some value.
- 2. HOW TO PRICE**
Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.
- 3. LENGTH OF SALE**
Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.
- 4. HOW TO SET IT UP**
Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.
- 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE**
The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*
THURSDAY, 3 PM -
to appear in Monday's Money Saver
MONDAY, 10 AM -
To appear in Wednesday's Reporter
* On a week with a holiday, deadlines may change. Please call to verify.

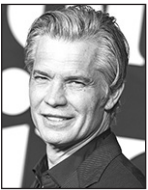

**Call 815-539-9396 or
stop in the office at
703 Illinois Ave.**

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Do you know if they are going to make a second season of the new “Justified” series? -- **J.S.**



Olyphant

A: It’s been more than a year since “Justified: City Primeval” premiered on FX. The reboot of the widely acclaimed original series “Justified” marked the return of Timothy Olyphant as Deputy U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens, but it wasn’t set in the hills of Kentucky anymore. Instead, his character was seen in Miami, contemplating retirement before he was summoned to Detroit for a new case.

Walton Goggins, who played Raylan’s longtime foe Boyd Crowder, told TV Insider that “everyone wants to do another lap of ‘Justified.’” But he said, “It’s just a matter of timing and whether or not FX wants to pick it up.” The show also streams on Hulu, so if FX is foolish enough not to greenlight another season, perhaps Hulu or another streaming service will.

Honestly, the biggest obstacle right now seems to be scheduling. Goggins is currently juggling several

shows: HBO’s “The Righteous Gemstones,” Amazon Prime Video’s “Fallout,” and the upcoming new season of “The White Lotus” (also on HBO). Meanwhile, Olyphant will star opposite Tom Hardy in the film “Havoc.” He also has another FX project on the horizon, a prequel series based on the “Alien” movies, titled “Alien: Earth.” Perhaps after some much needed rest for the stars, “Justified” will find its way into production again.

Q: With movies being so expensive these days, I missed “The Fall Guy” in theaters. Will it be available to stream anywhere soon? -- **M.M.**

A: Yes, romantic comedies are in big demand from the public, but due to inflation, moviegoing seems to be on the decline, except for big-budget action flicks like “Twisters” or anything in the Marvel or DC Universes. “The Fall Guy” cost \$140 million to make, but only grossed \$28 million its opening weekend, a shocking disappointment with stars like Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt as leads. The rom-com adventure film had all the recipes for a hit, but it just didn’t produce.

The film was available to

rent or purchase as early as May 21, and it came out on DVD a month later. Beginning Friday, Aug. 30, you can watch the movie on the Peacock streaming service, which costs \$7.99 a month with ads or \$13.99 a month ad-free.

Q: Who is the actor who plays Luke on “Criminal Minds: Evolution”? He looks so familiar, but I don’t think I’ve seen him in anything else before. -- **C.I.**

A: Actor Adam Rodriguez was cast as Agent Luke Alvez on “Criminal Minds” during its 12th season on CBS. Now in its 17th season and titled “Criminal Minds: Evolution” on Paramount+, the actor might look familiar to you if you watched another CBS crime series “CSI: Miami.” Rodriguez played Detective Eric Delko during the show’s entirety from 2002-2012.

Other series you might have seen him in are “Jane the Virgin,” “Penny Dreadful: City of Angels,” and “Ordinary Joe.” He also appeared in the film “Magic Mike’s Last Dance.”

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

HOLLYWOOD -- I wonder what Clint Eastwood thinks of the upcoming remake of his perfect 1964 classic film

“A Fistful of Dollars,” in which he played “the Man with No Name.” **Williams** T h i s launched his film career and gave birth to the “spaghetti western” genre. When I ran into Clint in 1964 in NYC after he returned from Italy, where he was shooting that classic, he said, “I’m really nervous because I didn’t have a word of dialogue in that film.” I assured him that with his looks and charisma, it would be a cinch for the movie to hit it big, and it did! The remake’s currently shooting in Italy.

Also headed for a remake is “The Devil Wears Prada” (2006), which starred Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt and Anne Hathaway. It cost \$40 million and earned \$326.7 million for 20th Century Fox (now owned by Disney). Could they suddenly want to remake it because Vanessa

Hollywood

Williams is about to star in a musical version of the show in London on Aug. 17? Oh, yes, and the score for her musical was written by Sir Elton John! Williams said of the character Miranda Priestly, “I channel Miranda through the dialogue [from the film].”

Nicolas Cage’s breakout film was 1983’s “Valley Girl,” followed by his starring in major roles in more than 120 films. He won an Oscar for “Leaving Las Vegas” in 1997. This year, he starred in the post-apocalyptic, action-horror film “Arcadian,” which was released in April. He also starred in the psychological thriller “The Surfer,” which scored at the Cannes Film Festival in May, as well as the horror thriller “Longlegs,” with Blair Underwood and Alicia Witt, which opened on July 12.

Already in the can is “The Gunslingers,” co-starring Heather Graham and Stephen Dorff. It’s about a reformed gunslinger and a mad genius in a town named Redemption. Cage is currently preparing for

“The Prince,” with Giancarlo Esposito and Andy Garcia. It was inspired by second son Hunter Biden, with a screenplay by acclaimed writer David Mamet.

Despite all this, Cage, at 60, is talking about retiring from acting in films. He stated, “I may have three or four more movies left in me. ... I do feel I’ve said what I’ve had to say with cinema.” He admitted that one of his favorite films was 2021’s “Pig,” in which he played an Oregon truffle-hunter whose pig is kidnapped. It cost a mere \$3 million and only grossed \$3.9 million.

Cage was then relegated to a voice role in “Spider-man: Beyond the Spider-Verse,” which co-stars Hailee Steinfeld, Brian Tyree Henry, Jake Johnson, Oscar Isaac, Jason Schwartzman, Issa Rae, John Mulaney, and Mahershala Ali. Is this a fitting exit film and the best way to end an impressive Oscar-winning acting career? If he planned to go out on top, this is not the one to go out with; it will leave his fans totally Cage-free!

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Couch Theater

“Despicable Me 4” (PG) -- Always a killer at the box office, the “Despicable Me” franchise just had its fourth main installment become the third highest-grossing film this year behind “Inside Out 2” and “Dune: Part Two.” In this installment out to rent on Aug. 6., Gru’s family has grown by one with the arrival of his son, Gru Jr. But when Gru’s rival Maxime Le Mal (Will Ferrell) breaks out of prison, he and his family are forced into Witness Protection. As Maxime continues to target Gru during his breakout, their family has no choice but to put this French supervillain back in his place -- with the help of their minions, of course! Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig reprise their roles as Gru and Lucy, respectively, while Joey King (“A Family Affair”) and Sofia Vergara (“Griselda”) join the franchise. Get ready for a whole new era of Pharell and his “Despicable Me” songs, as his new single “Double Life” from the film is already

going viral. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga” (R) -- Moving on from a box-office success to a box-office bomb, this spin-off prequel to “Mad Max: Fury Road” (2015) tells the origin story of Charlize Theron’s original character, Imperator Furiosa. This time, she’s played by Anya Taylor-Joy (“Amsterdam”), as the film is set 15-20 years before the events of “Fury Road.” As a child, Furiosa is discovered by raiders and captured to be brought to their unhinged leader, Dementus of the Biker Horde (Chris Hemsworth). Choosing to adopt her, Dementus hopes that she will lead him from the radioactive wasteland to the Green Place, where there is fresh water and food. But if you know Furiosa, you know that Dementus’ dreams will be crushed in her mechanical fingers. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

“Downtown Owl” -- Lily Rabe (“Presumed Innocent”) leads this heartwarming comedy film out on Aug. 7. Set in the fictional town of Owl, North Dakota, in 1983, Rabe’s character, Julia, decides to teach English at the local high school while her husband finishes graduate school. While teaching, she meets a variety of different characters in the town, including a hyperactive teen named Eli (Jack Dylan Grazer); a carefree, wild teacher named Naomi (Vanessa Hudgens); and an old man named Horace who loves to reminisce (Ed Harris). But it is former high school football star Vance (Henry Golding) who really piques her interest, leaving Julia to ponder her general direction in life. Is her marriage truly as stable as she advertises? Can this town and its people fix the demons that she harbors deep inside of her? Watch to find out! (Netflix)

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Medicine cabinets are one of the worst places to store medicine because of the high temperatures and humidity in bathrooms.

* A Hershey’s Kiss contains 26 calories that take about four minutes of kissing to burn.

* You say money doesn’t grow on trees? Try telling that to a certain dog in Colombia. After seeing students pass money to a food stall attendant, the pooch began a regular practice of “paying” for dog biscuits with tree leaves!

* The main exporter of Brazil nuts is not Brazil, but Bolivia.

* Screenwriter Bob Gale confirmed that Marty McFly’s nemesis in the “Back to the Future” trilogy, Biff Tannen, was modeled on Donald Trump.

* A scientific method called toxin engineering turns venom into painkillers.

* As novels became more prominent during the 1700s, society and the media became increasingly concerned that young people spent too much time reading books. They even went so far as to call it “reading rage,” “reading fever,” “reading mania” and “reading lust.”

* A regular BIC ballpoint pen can draw a line that’s about 2 kilometers long -- more than six times the height of the Eiffel Tower.

* Nazis planned to kill Sir Winston Churchill with a bar of chocolate. A bomb made of thin steel was covered by real chocolate that would explode once a chunk was broken. Luckily, British Allies discovered the plan.

* At his presidential inauguration, Theodore Roosevelt wore a lock of Abraham Lincoln’s hair.

* Yamaha produces some of the world’s most popular motorcycles, but the company started off as a piano manufacturer.

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King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

E	S	S		H	S	S	
O	H	N	E	S	V	A	I
E	T	O	C	E	O	L	V
H	T	I	F	I	E	H	I
S	S	V		W	N	T	I
	O	I	T	V		N	I
I	S	N	V		L	E	S
U	E	D		M	O	E	
V	T		X	O	V	B	
O	V	I	S	H	T	S	E
E	T	E	D	S		I	N
S	E	I	T		P		E
C	T	S		C		A	R

• Trivia Test •

1. MUSIC: Which folk-rock group produced many of the songs in the movie “The Graduate”?

2. GEOGRAPHY: Which European capital is known as “The Eternal City”?

3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix “acri-” mean in English?

4. TELEVISION: Lenny and Squiggy are the annoying neighbors in which TV comedy?

5. MONEY: What is the basic currency in Guatemala?

6. CARS: What animal is found on the Porsche car logo?

7. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the soup dish pho?

8. LITERATURE: In which U.S. state is the novel “Their Eyes Were Watching God” set?

9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek gods called?

10. AD SLOGANS: What product is advertised with the slogan, “You’re not you when you’re hungry”?

Answers

1. Simon & Garfunkel.

2. Rome, Italy.

3. “Sharp” (e.g. “acrimonious”).

4. “Laverne & Shirley.”

5. Quetzal.

6. A horse.

7. Vietnam.

8. Florida.

9. Mount Olympus.

10. Snickers candy bars.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Bow-wow!"

4 Dol. fractions

7 Ornamental jug

8 Ballet bends

10 Resident of Tabriz

11 Limber

13 Goes on

16 Sault — Marie

17 Quarterback Tom

18 La-la lead-in

19 Cat call

20 Antelope's playmate

21 Map feature

23 Goethe play

25 Thor's father

26 Sax range

27 Consumer protection agcy.

28 Ryan's daughter

30 Ninny

33 Refuses to answer

36 Italian ice cream

37 Paris school

38 Turkish coins

39 Modern money

40 Lith., once

DOWN

1 Not dozing

2 Actress Russo

3 Thrown beach toy

4 Tipped off, with "in"

5 In one's cups

6 Aug. follower

7 Part of Q.E.D.

8 "Hogwash!"

9 Schedules

10 "— a deal!"

12 Heron's kin

14 Jog

15 Listener

19 ISP choice

20 Pair with an air

21 Luggage attachment

22 Jefferson's coin

23 Chimney part

24 Withdrawal charges

25 Frequently

26 A Musketeer

28 Despotes

29 Perfume ingredient

30 Earlier, in verse

31 Normandy battle site

32 "Thar — blows!"

34 Yale students

35 Hosp. areas

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7		3	8				9
	8			2			5
		6			4	1	
8				6			3
	9		1				5
		2			3	8	
5				9		2	
	4			7	4		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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1 Column x 4" \$26 in Reporter Or Money Saver \$34 To Run In Both

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CONGRATULATIONS! on passing your State Exams Carol Ann Smith, RN Love, Joey

RELIGION

The dangers of doubt

God loves boldness and He wants us to be confident of His love for us. He wants us to know without a doubt that we are made right with Him through the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross—especially on those days when we feel unworthy of His love.

To live boldly means that we're willing to step out in faith to try new things and pursue our God-given dreams and passions without letting the fear of doubt overshadow our faith.

Doubt is a fear that can bring a lot of confusion: Did I make the right decision? I don't know. Maybe I did. Well, maybe I

didn't. We can go back and forth like that in our heads forever. But I've found that when I'm confused, it's better to stop, turn off my brain, and just look at what's in my heart—not for what I think I should do, but what I believe I should do.

Sometimes it becomes very clear what God wants us to do; other times it's less obvious. But before you jump ahead, give God a chance to speak to your heart.

James 1:5-6 (AMP) says, "If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God,

who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God's willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind."

I hope that you noticed it says, "If any of you" need wisdom. God isn't looking for perfect people; they don't exist. So, no matter where you are, God wants to help you! Isn't that good news?

God will never leave you or forsake you, and He will always remain faithful to His Word. All you have to do is ask and receive, dismissing the doubts that set themselves up against His Word. If you can do that, there's no telling what God will make happen in your life!

Romans 4 gives a wonderful account of the story of Abraham, one of the great heroes of faith. Verses 18-19 say, "In hope against hope Abraham believed that he would become a father of many nations, as he had been promised [by God]: 'So [numberless] shall your descendants be.' Without becoming weak in faith he considered his own body, now as good as dead [for producing children] since he was about a hundred years old, and [he considered] the deadness of Sarah's womb" (AMP).

Abraham considered the facts. But he still be-



lieved God was greater. Verse 20 says, "But he did not doubt or waver in unbelief concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong and empowered by faith, giving glory to God" (AMP).

Instead of relying only on what we see around us, you and I can choose to believe God's Word. And we can open our mouths to speak words of thanks, like this:

"God, I remember the good things You've done for me and how You've been faithful to those who've trusted in You through the ages. I'm giving You praise today because I know You'll always be faithful."

Like Abraham, we all have times of waiting that God uses to test and stretch our faith. But He promises to work all things out for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Honestly, if we can keep a good attitude throughout the process, our wait time might be shorter than it would be if we decided we'd rather murmur and complain.

God wants to use the challenges we experience to draw us closer to Him so that when our prayer is finally answered, and our day of breakthrough comes, we'll be stronger in our faith and able to withstand any opposition that comes against us.

Hebrews 10:36 (AMP) says, "For you have need of patient endurance [to bear up under difficult circumstances without compromising], so that when you have carried out the will of God, you may receive and enjoy to the full what is promised."

It takes boldness to believe God's promises are for you and not just for everyone else. It takes boldness to cling to His promises when the world around you says, "It will never happen!" And it takes boldness to step out in faith and try something new. But be encouraged. God isn't concerned about you making mistakes. He knows you're not perfect and He wants to give you His wisdom and strength to do everything He's put in your heart.

So, stop doubting and step out in faith...and

believe God can do something amazing in you and through you. He wants to see boldness in you!

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

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

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

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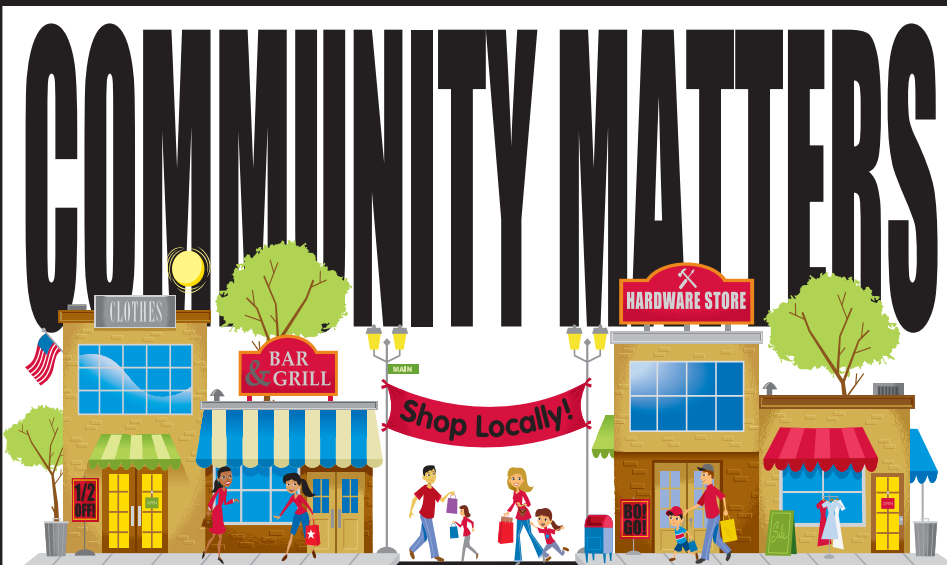


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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Ann L. Brand, Deceased
Case No. 2024-PR-110 CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Ann L. Brand of Triumph, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 10, 2024 to Harold Brand Jr. of 111 S. 1st Street, Malta, IL 60150 and Leora Williams of 705 W. 9th Street, Sterling, IL 61081 as Independent Co-Executors, whose Attorneys of record are Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.
Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate, the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider.
Visit <https://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice.

Any claims not filed on or before 6 months from the first publication of this notice are barred.
No. 0713
(July 24, 31 and Aug. 7, 2024)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2024-JA-68
TO: Tommy Hendrix, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 29th day of July, 2024 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Jaylen R. Hendrix, a minor', and that in the

Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 4th day of September, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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

Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered.

Dated July 30, 2024
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0801
(Aug. 7, 2024)

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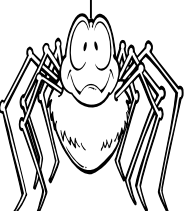
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Mendota's 77th Annual SWEET CORN FESTIVAL



Thursday, Aug. 8

3-5 p.m. — A sensory friendly afternoon. The Carnival Midway will be open for a private armband for anyone with special needs and their immediate family. Registration required.

5-7 p.m. — The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6 p.m. — Carnival Midway opens to general public. Food & merchandise booths open.

7 p.m. — Silverstone Junction performing on First State Bank stage.

Friday, Aug. 9

All day — Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

10:30 a.m. — Food & merchandise booths open.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

1 p.m. — Carnival Midway opens. Discount armbands from noon-4 p.m.

2-6 p.m. — The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

6:45 p.m. — Pre-pageant entertainment by Andrew Bloomquist on First State Bank stage.

7:30 p.m. — Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on First State Bank stage.

7:30 p.m. — Beer garden opens featuring Festival del Elote.

Saturday, Aug. 10

All day — Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran's Park on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran's Park.

9 a.m. — Pickleball Tournament at Lake Mendota courts.

10 a.m. — Mini Royalty Pageant on First State Bank stage. Young girls and boys competing to wear the crown of Mini King and Mini Queen.

10:30 a.m. — Food & merchandise booths open.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Nicodemus performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — Steve Cerqua acoustic guitar performance on First State Bank stage.

Noon-2 p.m. — Lica Lorraine balloon artistry at intersection of Washington St. & Eighth Ave.

Noon-3 p.m. — Free face painting near corner of Washington St. & Indiana Ave.

Noon/2 p.m./4 p.m. — Mr. Steve performance includes music, magic, balloons and comedy at corner of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

1 p.m. — Carnival Midway opens.

2 p.m. — Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest at Mendota Elks Lodge.

2-4 p.m. — Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

3-5 p.m. — Mid Lyfe Krysus performing on the First State Bank stage.

3:30-6:30 p.m. — Valley Katz performing in beer garden.

5-7 p.m. — Good Vibz DJ performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

7:30 p.m. — Beer garden opens featuring Judson Main.

Sunday, Aug. 11

All day — Magic Matt performing his strolling magic & balloon artistry.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Crafters Market Place & Flea Market. Lots of vendors in two locations. Veteran's Park on U.S. 34 in downtown Mendota and the Elks Club parking lot on Indiana Ave. & Jefferson St. just 1/2 block north of Veteran's Park.

10:30 a.m. — Food & merchandise booths open.

Noon — The Jesse White Tumblers high-flying performance in front of Mendota Elks Lodge.

Noon-2 p.m. — The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

Noon-2 p.m. — Lica Lorraine balloon artistry at intersection of Washington St. & Eighth Ave.

1 p.m. — Carnival Midway opens.

1 p.m. — Sweet Corn Festival Grand Parade, featuring floats, bands, antique & classic vehicles, Shriners and more.

2 p.m. — Free sweet corn served at intersection of Illinois Ave. & Jefferson St.

2-4 p.m. — The Acoustix performing in First State Bank Hospitality Tent.

3:30 p.m. — The South Shore Drill Team performing in front of Mendota Elks Lodge.



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