



Madelyn Becker, center, was chosen the Queen of the 77th annual Sweet Corn Festival during the pageant on Aug. 9. Bria Frey, left, and Ava Jones were named attendants. (Reporter photo)

Great weather, better memories made at ‘24 Sweet Corn Festival

Thousands show up to take in 77th annual event

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Yawns are happening more often the Monday after the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival.

So are bones creaking and cracking.

Shoes busting and grasping for air.

Washing machines erasing the corn stains and smell.

However, through the signs of tiredness and a long, hard worked Thursday-Sunday, there are plenty of smiles and an equal amount of pride.

“We had an extremely successful Mendota Sweet Corn Festival,” said Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Sam Setchell. “That is thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Chamber Ambassadors, and everyone’s spouses who came to lend a helping hand. We can’t do this without everyone’s help.”

What also helped bring out smiles and overshadow any fatigue was the beautiful weather.

Many SCF visitors were saying 2024 may have been the best weather the fest has ever had.

“It was the absolute best weather we could have asked for,” Setchell said. “You want those nice days and cooler nights. It makes everything a lot more enjoyable. You

“It was the absolute best weather we could have asked for. You want those nice days and cooler nights. It makes everything a lot more enjoyable. We were very excited to have perfect festival weather.”

—Sam Setchell,
Mendota Chamber President/CEO

can spend a lot more time downtown enjoying the festival when it’s not too hot and not too miserable. We were very excited to have perfect festival weather.”

Besides the carnival rides and the various food options, one of the main features of the SCF is the 50/50 drawing.

Shelli Billhorn was the name on the winning ticket as she won \$14,760.

“Saturday and Sunday were absolutely huge days in terms of getting the pot to \$29,519,” Setchell said. “We love watching the pot grow. We love being able to give away that amount of money. And then have the other side of the 50/50 money going into improvements for our city.”

The 2024 Sweet Corn Festival Parade winners were:

Commercial: 1. Expressions Salon, 2. Scooters, 3. Prescott Brothers

Best Use of Sweet Corn: 1. Expressions, 2. Mendota Area Senior Services, 3. One

Stop Heating and Cooling.

Musical Units: 1. Mendota High School

Performance: 1. Nicore, 2. Bring Out the Talent, 3. MHS

Organization: 1. Cheerleaders, 2. MASS, 3. De Colores Dance Group

Friendship: Village of Sublette

Queen’s Trophy: Scooter’s Coffee

Grand Marshal’s Trophy: GESound-Gary Swanson’s Sound & The Generics Goodies Band

Antique Farm Vehicle: 1. 1965 Minneapolis Moline, Dwight Frick, 2. 1953 Case SC-3, Paul Hamrick, 3. 1936 Ford Farm Truck, Tina Kittleson.

The Queen’s Trophy was selected by the 2024 Sweet Corn Festival Queen Madelyn Becker. Becker won the pageant on Friday with the attendants being Ava Jones and Bria Frey, and Ryleigh

See Festival, Page A5

Mendota plans Family Safe Night Out event

All ages invited to attend August 23

MENDOTA – The City of Mendota is inviting the public to its first Family Safe Night Out on Friday, Aug. 23 outside the Mendota Civic Center, 1901 Tom Merwin Drive.

The night includes bounce houses, face painting, yard games, fire trucks, police cars, safety demonstrations and kick ball games (games scheduled for 6:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:45 p.m. People are encouraged to sign up 15 minutes before each game).

Sensory hour will be 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. is open to the public.

Residents will be able to register bikes. All children ages 16 and under will receive a free Child ID Safety Kit. There will be a drawing for 100 children ages 16 and under for a free bicycle helmet.

Local nonprofits will be present with information about what they offer. Visit the nonprofit booths and get a stamp for a free meal, which includes either a Mendota Lions Club corn dog or a hamburger/cheeseburger.

All ages are invited, and admission is free.

The night is made possible by the City of Mendota: Live Well Mendota Substance Prevention group, police and fire departments.

For more information, call Mendota Program Coordinator Maria J. Arteaga at 815-539-7459 or email marteaga@mendotacity.com.



Crop price projections increasingly pessimistic

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

BLOOMINGTON – Farmers should brace for even tighter margins and implement applicable risk management practices based on the latest crop price estimates from the University of Illinois farmdoc team.

Current levels of futures contracts suggest appropriate budgeting for 2024 crop production is down to \$4 per bushel for corn and \$10.50 for soybeans.

Those prices would result in low returns for 2024, much lower than the most recent low-price period from 2014 to 2019, according to ag economists on the U of I farmdoc team.

“I think we’ve now entered a period of lower returns to farming just like we did in 2013 and 2014,” Gary Schnitkey, U of I soybean industry chair in ag strategy, previously told FarmWeek. “The big thing that we see right now is that just like in 2013 and 2014, cash rents are high relative to the return potential for farmland.”



Farmers should brace for even tighter margins and implement applicable risk management practices based on the latest crop price estimates from the University of Illinois.

The national marketing year price for corn is currently forecast at \$4.65 per bushel (the 2023 marketing year ends in August) compared to \$6.54 in 2022. If it drops to \$4 for 2024, it would be the lowest since 2019 (\$3.56).

It’s a similar story for soybeans with a current projected price of \$11.55 per bushel for 2024 compared to \$13.76 in 2023.

Meanwhile, cash rents increased from an average of \$277 per acre statewide

from 2014 to 2019 to a projected \$359 per acre in 2024, an increase of \$82. Non-land costs during the same time increased by \$185 per acre for corn and \$149 for soybeans, according to Illinois Farm Business Farm Management data.

“Current market price indicators of \$4 per bushel for corn and \$10.50 for soybeans are above the 2014 to 2019 averages,” the U of I economists noted. “Still, return levels likely will be much

“The big thing that we see right now is that just like in 2013 and 2014, cash rents are high relative to the return potential for farmland.”

—Gary Schnitkey, U of I

lower than from 2014 to 2019 because of higher costs.”

And don’t look now, but current futures prices suggest cash prices at harvest could dip to around \$3.80 for corn and below \$10 for soybeans.

Beyond that, futures prices suggest market year average prices for 2025 of around \$10.80 per bushel for beans while cash corn prices at harvest in 2025 could be in the low-\$4.30-range.

Visit the website, farmdocdaily.illinois.edu, to read the U of I’s latest report and crop budget projections.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)



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24/7 - We’re always on at www.mendotareporter.com



LOCAL AND AREA



‘I could have never imagined how great this is’ Maddie Becker is the 2024 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Queen

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Speaking in front of a large group isn’t Maddie Becker’s favorite thing to do.

And honestly, it was the most stressful part of the 2024 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Pageant for the Mendota High School 2024 graduate.

However, the nerves calmed down and she answered the questions the best she could.

And the judges felt her answers were the right ones.

“I was really nervous coming into it. I’m not the biggest fan of public speaking. It was a little nerve racking to me,” Becker said. “Abby Fancher (pageant director) was definitely a great help. She really helped prepare us in every way she could from the practices to being able to text her at any minute about anything. Abby was a great help for preparing a lot of us.

“The pageant was fun. All of the girls made it as fun as it could have been. They were the best. The girls make or break it and I feel we’re such a tight-knit group of girls. We’re very open and helping of each other. We weren’t self-centered and no one was holding any information because they wanted to win.

“You could ask any girl in the pageant a question about the pageant itself or about the questions, and they would be there instantly to help. I really

felt that made the pageant so much better.”

Becker, who was sponsored by the Mendota YMCA and is on her way to University of Iowa to study pharmacy, has been thinking about taking the stage since she was a little girl.

Although she may have dreamed about winning the pageant, she didn’t think it would become reality.

“I go to the pageants every year, as much as I can, because I love watching. I’ve kind of always looked up to the

queen,” Becker said. “It’s big shoes to fill. Being the queen means you’re a big role model for the city. It’s definitely a dream for any little girl.

“When they called my name, I said, ‘No way.’ I was in shock.”

Walking the streets of the festival Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday packed on the memories.

Becker got to walk with her friends and attendants Ava Jones and Bria Frey and meet people she’s never met before.

“The coolest thing has

been the random interactions. We’re just walking down the street and people introduce themselves and say hi,” Becker said. “It’s nice to get those interactions that if you were just walking down the street on a regular day, you wouldn’t see that.

“It’s been a great experience. I could have never imagined how great this is. I have Ava and Bria by my side and that makes it even better. I’ve spent every day of the festival with them.”

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LOCAL AND AREA

Robert L. “Smitty” Smith Assistantship allows Kish students to study STEM programs

MALTA – Four Kishwaukee College students participated in science-based learning opportunities during the 2023-2024 school year thanks to the Robert L. “Smitty” Smith Assistantship.

The assistantship provides hands-on learning and research opportunities under the supervision of Kish faculty for students studying science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) programs. In 2021, Dr. Dale and Sharon Evans created the assistantship through the Kishwaukee College Foundation with a donation honoring former Kishwaukee College science instructor Robert L. Smith. The Evans credited instructors like Smith for providing mentorship and

educational opportunities during their time at Kish and established the assistantship to provide those opportunities to a new generation of students.

“Overall, this assistantship was educational, enjoyable, and eye-opening to many different STEM fields. I enjoyed the vastly different activities we did, which kept this experience fresh and engaging. I am extremely thankful for the experience, skills, and education I am taking with me after this involvement. I am especially grateful for our wonderful donors who made this experience possible,” said Navi Ruiz, an assistantship participant in Fall 2023.

During the Fall 2023 semester,

Ruiz and Megan Radtke participated in the assistantship under the guidance of Adam Hughes, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Dr. Elena Lineberry, Assistant Professor of Biology. Both Ruiz and Radtke plan to transfer from Kish to study marine sciences.

Ruiz and Radtke experienced a variety of projects during the assistantship, including photosynthesis lab testing, testing equipment on Shabbona Lake, electrofishing with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, grounds clean-up with the Kish Green Team at Starved Rock State Park, exploring Shedd Aquarium, cadaver dissection and organizing Kish’s biology specimen cabinet.

In the Spring 2024 semester, Carly Summers and Catlin Kersten participated in the assistantship under the direction of Tania Nezeck, Professor of Biology, and Dr. Lineberry.

Summers and Kersten contributed to X-ray image revision, developing hands-on lab exercises for anatomy and physiology labs, examining Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District effluent, screening tropical and local soil for antibiotic-producing bacteria, creating a circulatory system model, cadaver dissection, Earth Day event planning, the Argonne National Laboratory’s Bioenergy Research and Education Bridge Program (BRIDGES), frog moni-

toring in Russell Woods in Genoa and Rotary Park in DeKalb, and more.

The participants expressed gratitude for the support they received and the diverse educational opportunities available through the assistantship.

“I had so much fun. All the different experiences have opened my eyes and made me feel better prepared for my STEM-filled future. Thank you for allowing me to have this amazing experience. I am so excited to begin doing activities like these for a living,” Radtke said.

For more information on the Kishwaukee College Foundation, visit kish.edu/foundation.



Rochelle museum open Aug. 17

The Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, as part of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival in Rochelle. The museum displays artifacts from WWII, specializing in the history of the 70th Tank Battalion, 10th Mountain Division of WWII as well as local veterans from WWII. The museum is only open three times a year. There is no admission charge. To find the museum, go to the intersection of Route 251 and Intermodal drive in Rochelle. (An Army truck is at this intersection.) Just follow the signs, about three miles to the museum. More information is available at <http://www.robertsarmory.com>. (Photo contributed)

Stage 212 offers dance workshops

LaSALLE – Stage 212 in LaSalle is offering two dance workshops Saturday, Aug. 31 at the theater. “Dance for Movers” runs from 10-11 a.m., and “Advanced Dance” runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both workshops will be led by instructor Reid Tomasson.

“Dance for Movers” is for everyone ages 8 up to adults and is designed for untrained dancers who want to improve their movement skills and range on stage. “Advanced Dance” is for

everyone ages 14 up to adults and is designed for experienced dancers looking to add new skill sets to their dancing repertoire. Appropriate dance attire and shoes are required for both workshops.

The cost of “Dance for Movers” is \$12 per person. The cost of “Advanced Dance” is \$15 per person. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Registration and more information are available online at www.stage212.org.

Brennan Reeder providing primary care at OSF

MENDOTA – OSF HealthCare is excited to welcome Brennan Reeder, PA, as the newest addition to its primary care team. This will enhance service for Mendota and the surrounding communities.

Reeder will be providing primary care services at OSF HealthCare – OSF Medical Group, located at 1405 E. 12th St., Suite 600, Mendota. With a medical degree from Concor-

dia University of Wisconsin and board certification from

the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Reeder brings a wealth of expertise and qualifications to the community, ensuring better access to quality care for patients.

To schedule an appointment with Reeder, PA, or any member of his dedicated care team, new and existing patients can call (815) 538-7200.



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Nicholas J. Haberbush

MENDOTA – Nicholas Jon Haberbush, 30, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly at home on Aug. 5, 2024, after a brave battle with a traumatic brain injury.

Visitation was from 1-4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, with services at 4 p.m., all at Wasmer Funeral Home. Rev. Mary Bohall officiated, and cremation followed after services.

Nick will be forever missed by his parents, Terry and Becky Haberbush of Mendota; sister, Tiffany (Jordan) Pomeranke of Flanagan; brother, Alex Haberbush of Champaign; niece, Lorelei Pomeranke; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Ben; maternal grandparents, Ray and Julia Zwierzycki; paternal grandparents, Jack and Betty Haberbush; and Uncle Larry Haberbush.

Nick graduated Mendota High School in 2012. During his time there he participated in track excelling at the high jump, discovering that even though he didn't grow to be 6 feet tall, he could certainly jump that high. After high school, Nick brought the laughs and smiles to many co-workers throughout his various job ventures.

His siblings would tell you, growing up, Nick was the "Golden Boy." If you truly knew Nick, you would know he was a giant pain in the rear end. He was stubborn and opinionated, but also very protective of those he loved. When Nick became an uncle, his softer side emerged, though he never let his niece win at Mario Kart.

Although the last few months had been difficult for Nick, he could count on his friends to treat him like the buddy he always was.

Memorials may be directed to the family to offset funeral expenses.

Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

Matthew J. Wallis

MENDOTA – Matthew J. Wallis, 62, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 2, 2024.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17 at Wasmer Funeral Home.

Matt was born Dec. 5, 1961, in Rockford, to Waymon and Joann (Berridge) Wallis. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1979.

Matt will be dearly missed by his two brothers, Waymon (Frieda) Wallis Jr. of Temple, Ga., and Victor Wallis of Rockton; sister, Denise Mcelyea of Loves Park; two grandchildren, Alek Owen-Wallis and Emalynn Owen; his fur companion, Asa; several nieces and nephews; and special friends, Amber Gonzalez and Kim Abel.

He was preceded in death by his parents; twin brother Mark on Feb. 12, 2020; daughter, Tiffany Wallis; sister, Diane; sister-in-law, Lisa Wallis and brother-in-law, Gary Mcelyea.

He and his identical twin, Mark, moved to Mendota in 2007. Small-town living agreed with Matt. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle and belonged to a local motorcycle club. Matt became involved in the community working numerous hours with Nightengale's helping those less fortunate than he. In his last selfless act on earth, he donated his tissue and organs.

Matt was currently working as a truck driver with Lilja Tiling.

Memorials may be directed to Nightengale's. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Gary W. Wulf

MENDOTA – Gary Wayne Wulf, 87, passed away peacefully on Aug. 4, 2024, surrounded by loved ones at his beach house in Wells, Maine, his "happy place."

Gary's cremation has been carried out and a church service and memorial, to be held in Mendota, will be decided at a later date.

Gary was born in Aurora in 1936. In 1939, he moved to Mendota with his parents, Dallas and Emily, and brother David, where he remained a life-long resident.

Gary graduated from Mendota High in 1954, where he participated and excelled in track and cross country, and found the love of his life, Nancy Dana. Gary and Nancy married on Sept. 9, 1956.

Gary is survived by his brother, David Wulf of Landers, Wy.; his sons, David (Elvia) of Los Angeles, Bradley (Sheila), of York, Maine and Michael (Marlene) of Canoga Park, Calif.; grandchildren, Dana and Emily; the love he found later in life, Marilyn Greenawalt; his special sister-in-law, Kandice Zolper; brothers-in-law, Charles Dana and Richard Dana; family friend, Steven Lafargue; and the many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends that greatly loved and will miss him.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Nancy; parents, Dallas and Emily; in-laws, Betty Dana, Beth Dana, Bill Zolper, Virginia Dana, Eldridge Dana; niece, Lori Dana; and nephew, Madrick Musgrove.

Gary attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, graduating with a B.A., and earned his Master's degree in Business at Northern Illinois University in 1972. During his long career, he held positions in management at DeKalb-Ogle Telephone, Northern Illinois University (Non-academic Personnel Director), the University of New Hampshire System (Director/Vice Chancellor), and finished with 35+ years of labor negotiations and consulting, mainly with New Hampshire State agencies and municipalities. He retired in 2022, at the age of 85. He was an Eagle Scout and Navy Reservist.

For those of you who knew Gary, we hope that the following list of words from the story of his life bring a fond memory and a smile to you..... fireworks, Ellen Oaks, Oldsmobiles, summer concerts, negotiations, cross country, convertibles, Sweet Corn Festival, feeding pet seagulls (Buddy, Mrs., Jr.), beer can collection, curling, antiques (strictly Victorian!), Patriots, tobogganing, cruises, breweries, lions, Uncle No-no, Lake Ripley, Jarts, Hilltop, Thanksgiving, pie votes (mincemeat!), married barracks, shag carpeting, the White Sox.



Mobile driver's license & ID legislation for state residents signed into law

SPRINGFIELD – Legislation enabling Illinois residents to start using mobile driver's licenses and state IDs was signed into law recently by Governor JB Pritzker, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced.

The bill is part of Giannoulias' commitment to modernizing the office, while getting up to speed with other states that already have secure mobile driver's license and state ID programs in place.

HB 4592 was sponsored by State Representative Kam Buckner (26th District-Chicago) and State Senator Michael Hastings (19th District-Frankfort). Giannoulias' office is hoping to make mobile IDs available next year, but only after rigorous testing requirements are implemented and the highest standards of security are ensured.

"Whether it's offering more services online or introducing products like mobile driver's licenses and identification cards, we want to leverage new, secure technology to create efficiencies that better serve Illinoisians," said Giannoulias, whose office pushed for the bill. "We're excited to reach a point where we can implement mobile IDs in a manner that ensures our roads are safe and that the privacy of Illinoisans is protected, while still providing law enforcement, businesses and medical professionals, which rely on physical driver's licenses and identification cards, the information they require."

"Other states already have mobile driver's licenses and ID cards, and this bill gives our residents the same ability to have a mobile card if they want one, while still providing them with the option of a traditional physical card," Buckner said. "We can keep folks safe while providing them with the convenience and benefit of modern technology."

"Mobile driver's license and ID cards provide our residents with the option to protect their personal information," Hastings said. "There is no reason age verification should require residents to disclose sensitive information such as their address when we have the technology available for mobile cards that allow for selective information disclosure."

The legislation would not replace a physical driver's licenses, but instead mobile IDs would act as a companion to a physical card. Illinois joins 12 other states that already offer mobile forms of identification (including bordering states – Iowa and Missouri), while at least 18 other states are currently working toward the implementation.

New technology allows for more privacy by allowing individuals to decide what personal information they share via a contactless encrypted data exchange between their device and the reader. Mobile IDs offer privacy control options that allow people to verify their age when legally purchasing alcohol, cannabis or renting a car, while hiding other personal information – like their address.



Giannoulias

DEATH NOTICES

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

The latest obituaries can be seen at www.mendotareporter.com

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC First Responders group has new coordinator

OGLESBY – After 25 years, Ron Groleau is passing on his two-way radio and stepping down as coordinator of Illinois Valley Community College’s First Responders volunteer organization.

Nick Fish, IVCC’s Emergency Medical Services instructor/coordinator, has been selected as the new coordinator.

“It’s just time,” said Groleau, who is the College’s Dean of Natural Sciences and Business. Groleau also reasoned the timing is right because Fish, who has an extensive EMS background, is available now to assume the role.

It is not only the change in administration that brings attention to a little-known program. Fish and the College administration both want to ramp up awareness about medical emergency procedures. Fish wants to sustain recruitment for the organization and the College is developing medical emergency drills this summer for all employees.

Fish wants everyone to know how to respond to emergencies, which they do by dialing a familiar number: 9-1-1. As it dispatches community aid to the College, the regional dispatch center relays the alert to Campus Security, which activates the two-way radios every campus First Responder has.

The First Responders organization began in September 1999 with 14 people from faculty, staff and administration trained to respond to medical emergencies on campus. Groleau is proud the organization has maintained a double-digit strength even in times when members retired, moved on, or stepped away -- and now a new class

of responders is scheduled to get underway in August.

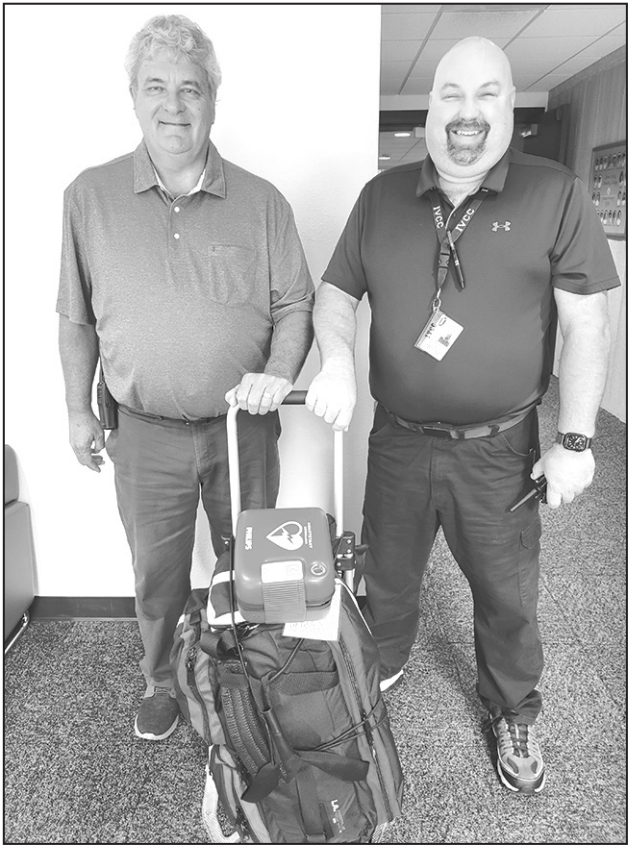
“The response has always been good, and we’ve been able to stay over double-digits,” Groleau said. “I’m grateful that people have stepped forward to volunteer to aid in times of need.”

Members are trained to assist on scene until emergency medical crews arrive. They can assess the situation, administer CPR, bandage wounds and administer oxygen. In a case of cardiac arrest, they know how to use the 20 AED (Automated External Defibrillators) stored around campus.

When he proposed the First Responders team, EMS education was under Groleau’s division, and he was a natural lead for the program. His volunteer force was intended to bridge gaps when community agencies were understaffed or delayed by other calls. At the time, IVCC’s EMS instructor was a part-time faculty member.

The team answers two to three calls a month, a number that fluctuates with the campus population. They have responded to minor injuries like cuts and burns, and some life-threatening injuries too. Groleau says the people who receive the help appreciated “knowing there is someone there.”

Though some campus responders also serve with their community EMS units, volunteers don’t need prior medical training. Prospective First Responders undergo 60 hours of training, are certified through the Illinois Department of Public Health, and must renew their certification every four years. Fish said continuing education sessions are scheduled every year.



A campus emergency medical response team of volunteers is still going strong after 25 years, but its founder and coordinator is stepping down. IVCC Dean Ron Groleau, left, says he is grateful to all the volunteers through the years and is leaving the program in capable hands. EMS program coordinator Nick Fish, right, will be the new coordinator. (Photo contributed)

Fish says he’s excited to take on the new role coordinating a great group of volunteers who are committed and passionate about what they do. Both men say they appreciate the administration’s support of the group with supplies and equipment.

Fish is an instructor, a registered nurse and a paramedic who has worked at IVCC for about five years. He is a nurse at OSF Saint Elizabeth’s in Ottawa and OSF Saint Paul’s in Mendota and has served as Sandwich Fire Department EMS Coordinator and the EMS System Coordinator at

Illinois Valley Community Hospital.

Groleau looks back over the quarter century only briefly before turning his eyes ahead. “I see the person in charge. I see the College’s commitment. It’s amazing we’ve come as far as we have – and the future is bright. First Responders is in good hands!”

If you are interested in learning how you can serve your own community as a first responder, IVCC offers basic and advanced EMS classes. To learn more, email Fish at nick_fish@ivcc.edu.

Guess the number of volunteer hours for Tri-County Fair

❑ Prizes awarded to the closest guesses

MENDOTA – Have you ever wondered how many volunteer hours go into the production of a fair? Mendota Tri-County Fair would like you to think about that question, come up with an answer, enter and win a free “Super Pass” armband or event ticket to this year’s fair.

If you’d like a shot at winning these passes, all you have to do is guess how many hours the directors and their helpers dedicate to the fairgrounds and the production of the fair from June 1, 2024, until opening day of the fair, Thursday, Aug. 29. Closest guesses will be awarded their choice of a Super Pass Armband, which allows the wearer unlimited rides every day the carnival is open or admission to all five evening events.

You can enter by emailing your guess, name, address, phone number and email address to Mendota.tri.co.fair@gmail.com, or through messenger on the fair’s Facebook page Mendota’s Tri-County Fair. Entry forms are available at the Setchell Agency Ltd at 618 Sixth St., Mendota, or just write the information on a scrap of paper and mail to Mendota Tri-County Fair, P O Box 142, Mendota, IL 61342. You can also drop your entry off Wednesday, Aug. 28, during check in of entries in the north floral hall.

Mendota Tri-County Fair will run Aug. 29 through Sept. 2 at the fairgrounds located at 501 First Ave., Mendota. K&S Southern Amusements will be there with carnival rides, games of chance, and there will be a wide variety of foods and drinks available on the grounds.

Waldorf Hall will hold a variety of crafters and vendors, along with those local talents that will be exhibiting their best for those Blue Ribbon bragging rights.

Evening entertainment will include dirt drag racing, truck and tractor pulls, Mega X Shootout motorcycle races, vintage stock car racing, and the Labor Day Demolition Derby. Funky Munky Wrestling will also appear on Saturday night in the east floral hall.

Admission to the grounds and parking are free. General admission to the major events is just \$10, with daily armband specials available for the carnival rides.

Winner will be announced shortly before gates open on Thursday, Aug. 29, with winners able to claim their prize at the Secretary’s office.

Garage Sale time is here! For best results, advertise your sale in The Reporter. Call 815-539-9396 for all the details.



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IVCC Summer Camp

Chemistry and science can be fun, especially when they’re part of Science FUNdamentals in Illinois Valley Community College’s summer camp series. During the two-hour camp, youngsters hypothesized whether objects would sink or float in water in an exploration of density, then created their own bouncy balls by mixing various properties together. The camp is sponsored by Carus Chemical and was led by chemists Rachel and Akila.

Social Security news

Social Security supports teachers

By Mike Weiti

PERU—A well-informed instructor can have a powerful influence on their students. That’s why we created the Educator Toolkit. This toolkit is easy to use and provides shareable online resources that teachers can use to engage students and educate them about Social Security.

The Educator Toolkit includes:

- Lesson plans with objectives.
- Infographics and handouts for each lesson plan.
- Links to Social Security web pages.
- Talking points.
- Quiz questions and answers.

We value the efforts all teachers make to educate America’s young people. As Social Security approaches its 90th anniversary in 2025, we want to help spark important discussions with students about Social Security. You can download the Educator Toolkit at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/educators.html. Please share this information with your favorite educators.

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

Festival

Continued from Page A1

Sondgeroth was chosen for Miss Congeniality.

The Sweet Corn Festival Food Contest winners were Carole Eich’s corn relish taking the Grand Prize, Tracy Cooper’s corn dessert winning Best Presentation, Mitchell Jarman’s sweet corn drink taking Most Creative, Margaret Schlesinger’s sweet corn cake being selected as

Queen’s Choice (thank you Maddie), and Kristi Carroll’s corn cake pops were chosen as the Grand Marshal’s Choice, which were Holy Cross eighth-grade basketball team representatives Cole Tillman and Luke Tillman.

Setchell couldn’t be happier with the winners of every contest and how smooth the 2024 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival operated.

“I feel like I got to enjoy things a lot more. I wasn’t so worried about trying to be everywhere at once,” said Setchell, who was running the SCF as the second-year Chamber President/CEO. “Obviously, both years I’ve had amazing help. Everyone has been so great around the city doing what they can. The weather made a huge impact on this year being more enjoyable.”

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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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

Local author asks for Wild Bill book review

When I spoke to author Craig Crease about his book “The Wanderer: James Butler Hickok and the American West” for a story in early 2024, I agreed to write a review.

The book was released in June 2024 and although I was trampling the paths of the Lee County Fair & 4-H Show for work, the streets of the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival as a Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, and Nashville and Cleveland on vacation, I was finally able to read the book in July and August.

Although, I’ve lived in Mendota for a major chunk of my life, which is close to Troy Grove (formerly Homer) and the home of “Wild Bill” James Butler Hickok, I don’t know much about the spy, scout, and sharpshooter during the Civil War.

Crease’s book definitely opened up my mind and gave me multiple layers of information and knowledge on Hickok.

It reads as a true biography starting with Wild Bill being born on May 27, 1837, in Homer and moves through his life in chronological order.

In all honesty, I enjoyed not having to jot down notes or a timeline because it was given to me in order. In a lot of biographies or narratives about a person, they jump around. The story may start halfway through the subject’s life or begin at birth and then jump 30 years before returning to when they were in high school.

Crease did a good job of showing the growth of Hickok as a person. It gave an, “Oh, that makes sense” type of feel because Hickok’s previous experiences led up to why he did something or how he could do something when it came to that situation. There wasn’t any guessing, it made sense to know why Hickok became the legend he still is today.

Why he has a plaque in Troy Grove.
Why he is a subject in movies.
Why Crease wrote this book and why I read it and am writing about it.

Another aspect of The Wanderer that I enjoyed are the letter entries in almost each chapter.

A reader can tell Crease did his homework and made sure he had proof of what he was narrating. It’s always a nice touch in a biography to have dated artifacts to help confirm a point or a story line.

I also like how Crease uses his research and findings to say whether something we’ve been told is true or not. He breaks down each myth or folk tale and helps put a spotlight on what seems to be more of the truth and what has been made up for storyteller’s ego or the bright lights of a Hollywood movie.

I say, ‘What seems like,’ because let’s face it we can have evidence of some things of the past, but we don’t have everything to tell a story 100 percent accurate, especially from the 1800s when no one was really thinking about what would be in museums or historical documentation in 2024.

My only negative was the length.

I love to read, but in a world that moves as fast as ours does in the 21st century, it took me over a month to actually read the over 500-page book because of other commitments. I had to go back and reread a few chapters to remind me of where I was.

However, after reading the entire work, I don’t know what Crease could have cut out because all of the information, story, research was interesting and eye opening.

Even to someone who has grown up a town over from the legend known as “Wild Bill” James Butler Hickok.



Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



World War I, second draft – August 1917

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Aug. 13, 1997.)

By Jessica Nashold

When the Mendota Sun-Bulletin appeared on Aug. 9, 1917, it was eagerly awaited. The second draft call for LaSalle County was for 524 men and the Sun-Bulletin published the names of men from Mendota, Troy Grove, Dimmick, Ophir, Meriden and Earl townships included in this draft. Starting with #525, Joseph P. Ferguson of Troy Grove Township and concluding with #1007, Samuel Wolfe of Earl Township, the list contained the names of 61 Mendota men. The first was #526, Earl S. Garard, who become one of the Mendota casualties in WWI.

LaSalle County’s quota of 262 in the first draft fell short. Only 135 men in LaSalle County passed the physical and did not claim exemption. Of the 135, 32 were from Mendota and nearby townships.

The Sun-Bulletin emphasized that the “utmost effort” had been made to get the names and numbers on the list “absolutely correct.”

It is believed that the list approximates utter accuracy.

In claiming dependents, the men who wished to be exempt from the service had to follow strict rules. They had to support their dependents by their own labor, which could be physical or intellectual. The work could be professional, mechanical, commercial, clerical or agricultural. Except in rare instances, those whose income was derived from dividends or rents could not claim dependents.

A procedure was set up for claiming exemption on occupational grounds. Application had to be made to the District Draft Board in Chicago.

Mendota was seriously embarrassed when, having received no advance notice of a visit from two Army ambulances, the event had not been publicized. On Sunday, Aug. 12, 1917, the ambulances had visited Princeton and had given demonstrations of Red Cross work at the fairgrounds. On Monday, they arrived in Mendota expecting a crowd to be on hand. No one was there.

This was very aggravating to the citizens of Mendota and especially the officers and directors of the local Red Cross chapter.

The ambulances had been a gift to the University of Chicago unit from the Chicago Red Cross. Each ambulance had a crew of 10, a sergeant, a driver and eight men, some of them doctors. Each ambulance was capable of carrying four wounded men on stretchers. Close order drills and litter drills, including first aid, were demonstrated by the ambulance corps on this tour. There was also a short talk of the work of the Red Cross.

Work at the new township high school was progressing “at utmost speed” and was nearing completion. Furniture had arrived and a September opening date was the goal.

School opened on Sept. 10, 1917, with an enrollment of 216.

Carpenters were adding the third floor and roof to the Harris Hospital on East Sixth Street. The operating room was to be on the third floor.

There will be plenty of light as well as air.

An elevator was installed to convey patients up to the third floor.

Sheds and an outhouse at the township high school were advertised for sale. Bids could be submitted to board member B. Katzwinkel and the buildings would go to the high bidder on Aug. 16, 1917.

The CB&Q installed a new turntable at the roundhouse, as the old one was not large enough to accommodate the new engines. Master mechanic Mandrilla said a new roundhouse was needed.

W.P. Cavanaugh was driving a new Buick six, purchased from Martin Fahler’s garage.

This is the first car of the 1918 model to be driven in Mendota.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Mendotans were told they could help themselves to trees north of the new high school as soon as they were cut down.

Crop news included a corn crop estimate 67,000,000 bushels larger than the estimate of the previous month. A timely rain was credited.

Nothing but an early frost will prevent a bumper crop of corn this year.

At the Henry Pitstick farm south of Mendota, 100 acres of oats were shocked.

Thirteen men were in the field doing the shocking.

The Sun-Bulletin launched a tobacco fund for “Our soldiers in Europe.” A coupon was published on which donors could indicate whether they wished to send cigarettes, pipe tobacco, cigarette tobacco or plug chewing tobacco. For each 25 cents contributed, a 50-cent value in tobacco would be sent to a man serving overseas.

If desired, a stamped postcard addressed to the donor would be enclosed.

There is nothing you can think of that will give more comfort and solace, to these men than tobacco.

A bill was drawn asking Congress to authorize the American Purple Cross as an auxiliary to the Quartermaster General’s Department of the Army. Its function would be to embalm soldiers killed in action, as near the front as possible, and inter them until after the war, when bodies would be returned to families.

Dr. Wm. M. Wagner opened a dental office in the Waldorf block, above Potter’s dry goods store. He installed the very latest equipment, including an X-ray machine.

Dr. Wagner can take and develop pictures in 15 minutes.

Attention was called to the circumstance that some of the men appointed to investigate coal minds had a financial interest in them. This posed the question –

Will coal barons continue in the hold up game?

The teleprompter presidential campaign

By Rich Lowry

The basement campaign has been updated. Kamala Harris isn’t in the cellar of the Naval Observatory campaigning via Zoom calls a la Joe Biden in 2020.

No, she’s speaking to adoring crowds fired up by pop stars. She’s identifying herself with the latest trends (she’s “brat” now). She’s clapping back against Donald Trump with panache.

In one of the great political transformations of our time, she’s gone from a subpar vice president to the second coming of Barack Obama in the space of about two weeks.

Except Obama was a genuine political talent who was glib enough to handle almost anything. He wasn’t an intellectual but was a writer with intellectual interests -- in another life, he could have been a staffer at The New Yorker instead of president (would that it had been so).

The people most aware that Kamala isn’t truly a new version of Obama are the people around her, who clearly fear putting her in any setting where she isn’t reading from a script.

Biden’s basement campaign in 2020 kept him from having to go out and build a crowd, but he did interviews.

Kamala’s teleprompter campaign in 2024 is meant to limit her exposure to keep her from inadvertently bursting the media bubble that’s been created around her.

In that, her campaign may resemble the pre-debate Biden approach this year more than his limited stumping in 2020. Biden’s operation feared putting him out in any setting where he’d be challenged, and when his abysmal debate performance forced them to do so anyway (to prove he’d just had “a bad night”), the additional exposure resulted in predictable disaster.

Kamala’s problem isn’t messing up names or dates or losing her train of thought -- hallmarks of aging. Rather, she often ends up repeating the same (usually banal) thought in slightly different words, so she expresses herself in an endless loop of vacuity.

In one of her few off-script comments since her ascension, she explained last Friday why Biden should get credit for the

prisoner swap with Russia:

“This is just extraordinary testament to the importance of having a president who understands the power of diplomacy and understands the strength that rests in understanding the significance of diplomacy and strengthening alliances.”

For those keeping track, that’s three “understands,” two “diplomacys” and two “strengths” in one sentence. All that she said is that it’s important that Biden understands diplomacy, but she didn’t know how to land the plane after stating this simple idea in a brief sentence.

Because Kamala hasn’t been out there, we don’t know in her own words how she feels about the amazing turn of events over the last two weeks, how she plans to lead, or -- and this is important -- how she explains her multiple changes in position since she last ran for president.

If a presidential candidate flip-flops on one thing during a campaign, it’s usually a focus of discussion for weeks. She’s done it on about eight things with no explanation whatsoever and without generating any significant media static. If you were them, wouldn’t you want to keep it that way?

The campaign will eventually need to do some interviews. Perhaps they will schedule some appearances on MSNBC and with sympathetic influencers. Then, they can address the criticism that Kamala is only talking to partisan outlets with a sit-down with a relatively safe journalist who has credibility in the broader media, say, Lesley Stahl of “60 Minutes.” Besides that, back to the teleprompter!

It’s extraordinary that the Democrats had one presidential candidate whom they didn’t trust with interviews and have replaced him with another, fresh and younger candidate whom they also don’t trust with interviews.

This is why Trump has to debate Harris. Given the way Harris has been hiding from the media, a debate (or debates) may have to be one of the main means of trying to expose her.

She’s out of the basement, but she’s never off-script.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC professor goes on archaeology expeditions to Britain & Michigan

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College professor Jeff Spanbauer did some time-traveling this summer.

June found him excavating an alleyway of a 4th-century Roman garrison in Britain. In July, he jumped forward a few centuries to a fur-trading fort occupied by French, then British, soldiers in Michigan.

The thrill of uncovering secrets buried for centuries never gets old, and the history/anthropology instructor concedes he “geeks out” over it all. “You are touching something that’s not been touched in 1,800 years! That’s so cool!”

For a second there, the guy who holds master’s degrees in American history and anthropology and a doctorate in archaeology almost sounds like that kid who got caught up in the Indiana Jones movie craze of the 1980s. His parents then added fuel to the fire by presenting him with a “wonders of archaeology” book that featured a photo of Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas. And he was hooked.

But not by the adventure part. “I wanted to understand why people did the things they did. The finds are neat, but what do they tell us about the people then, and about us?”

When people learn his interests, they’re full of questions. Does he dig up dinosaurs? “That’s a big huge NO! I study the stuff humans have messed with.” What’s the best thing he’s ever found? “Sometimes nothing’s the best thing. Even if you don’t find something, that tells you about the area, that maybe people weren’t using it.”

He’s never stumbled over gold or bodies, either, in case you ask. But deep

“I wanted to understand why people did the things they did. The finds are neat, but what do they tell us about the people then, and about us?”

—Jeff Spanbauer

in his Roman alleyway, he scored something finer. “We figured out my alley was a gated alley between two barracks. There are only two documented dated examples of gated barracks in England, and I had just found the second one!”

The Michigan excavation yielded beads, lead shot or ceramics -- things “that tell us what they were using any given day.” Trash pits become archaeologists’ keys to hidden kingdoms, exposing new pages of human occupation soil level by soil level. “They tell time.”

Everyday items reveal the people who used them and how they see themselves and want others to see them. Items uncovered at the Vindolanda excavation in Britain have included hundreds of Roman sandals dating from 300 A.D. and bark tablets on which lonely soldiers wrote home. “They wrote to ask for socks and underwear because it was cold, or to complain they ran out of beer.”

On the Michigan site, Spanbauer can imagine himself on the American frontier. “They’re there to do this job and interact with all the local people they don’t like and are not liked by -- how do they navigate that?”

Archaeology is about more than digging, he says. “Honestly, that’s the smallest investment of your time.” It’s what happens



IVCC archaeology professor Jeff Spanbauer became a time-traveler on his summer vacation, joining archaeology expeditions in Britain and Michigan and uncovering the past. Spanbauer says he wants to understand why people did the things they did, and what the artifacts tell us about people then, and about us today. (Photo contributed)

after you dig and start piecing together the past -- and wondering.

Spanbauer joins expeditions as a volunteer. It’s worth his time, he says, because “I spend two weeks doing something fun, being part of something meaningful and doing good work.”

Digs bring together enthusiasts of all ages and from many nations, and the ones he’s been on in Britain attract tourists from near and far who stop to chat and admire. “They are interested and eager to learn.”

While he hasn’t faced Indiana Jones’s poisonous snakes or vicious antiquities looters, he had his share of challenges from weather and insects. He dove for shelter from a passing tornado in a World War II ammunition bunker. His biggest battle is usually against himself. “I soon realize the difference between ‘gym strength’ and

‘work strength.’ It’s different pushing a wheelbarrow full of dirt and stones for six hours!”

The Roman dig was on his bucket list, but so is a Viking site. He’s always wondered, who were they, really?

He’ll share his travels with students when he returns to his classroom this fall. “When they can touch or see an article, it means more to them than a picture in a book. They’ll see an instructor who can bring real-life experience to a classroom that a textbook can’t!” Spanbauer is scheduled to teach Introduction to Archaeology for the first time this year.

His personal interests span Dr. Who science fiction and Dungeons & Dragons and King Arthur legends, but where would he go if he really could time travel? To the past, of course.

1,000-year-old stone knife ignites passion

OGLESBY – A 1,000-year-old stone knife blade she unearthed this summer ignited Meagan O’Boyle’s passion and rekindled a dream.

Inspired by her archaeology professor Jeff Spanbauer, O’Boyle -- who also works as an admissions assistant at IVCC -- enrolled in a week-long archaeology field school in Southern Illinois, an area occupied by Native Americans during the Late Woodland Period 800 to 1,200 years ago.

Trowel scrape by trowel scrape, campers removed layers of soil, uncovering potshards, animal bones and other evidence of ancient habitation. O’Boyle didn’t let heat, rain or mud dampen her enthusiasm for the work.

The team’s thrilling moment came when O’Boyle’s partner found a hook made from bone. O’Boyle herself found the stone blade on her last day on the dig. The supervising archaeologist identified it as a knife because it was too long and heavy to be an arrowhead, she said.

Both discoveries were amazing -- and it was humbling to be the first to touch something that lay untouched since its last use centuries ago, she said. It made her wonder: “What did the last person who held it do? What were they like?” For a second, she was transported to the future, imagining archae-

ologists uncovering ancient artifacts from our lives in 2024. “What would that be like, touching something of ours?”

The field school attracts enthusiasts of all experience levels from all over. They come to experience the process from beginning to end, from first scrape to curating.

O’Boyle relished being surrounded by people who shared her interests. “When your friends hear you talk about archaeology, they tolerate you, but here you can be around others and they’re not looking at you like you’re weird!”

Heat drove campers to the nearest shade, and a daylong downpour drove them inside, where they performed lab work. Then it was out to the field site to bail out the excavations so they could resume their outdoor tasks. They lost two days of field work in the process, she said.

O’Boyle is grateful for Spanbauer’s advice on dressing and coping with the heat, but he also gave her something more valuable: courage to follow a dream.

“It took going to Jeff Spanbauer’s class to realize I can do things and still give a good life to my kids,” she said, acknowledging her struggle to raise a family, work and go to college. Support at home and at the field school “has encouraged me to find a way. I’m getting a



Meagan O’Boyle always wanted to see what archaeology was like, and this summer she got her chance. She participated in a weeklong field school in Southern Illinois, where her team uncovered implements from Native Americans who made the area their home over 1,000 years ago. (Photo contributed)

feel for what life can be! This is something I have wanted to do my whole life, and I hoped I’d fall in love with it!”

She’s determined now to make sure a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity doesn’t come along just once. And she’s looking forward to sharing her summer experience in Spanbauer’s inaugural Introduction to Archaeology class this fall.

If the knife blade and a

bone hook she also discovered ever go on display at the Center for American Archaeology field school’s museum, she hopes to visit. They have become a part of her legacy, now.

At home with her own children, she turns to look back over the centuries.

“I picture what the site looked like when it was occupied, full of families, kids playing in the field.”



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Case Antique Tractors

1966 Case 730 Comfort King, Wheatland, gas, WF, power steering, 2 hyd., live PTO; Case 800 Case-O-Matic, diesel, WF, 2 hyd., eagle hitch, power shift wheels; Case 930, diesel, WF, factory power steering, 1 hyd.; Case 900, diesel, WF, power steering, 2 hyd; Case 500, diesel, power steering, WF, 2 hyd.; Case 800, Case-O-Matic, gas, factory WF, live PTO, eagle hitch, power steering; Case 800, gas, NF, 2 hyd., Live PTO, eagle hitch; Case D, gas, WF, 1 hyd., 13-26; Case VC, gas, NF, PTO; Case 800 Case-O-Matic drive, gas, factory WF; Case 800, Case-O-Matic drive, gas, power steering, NF, 2 hyd., PTO, eagle hitch, top link; Case 400, gas, NF, PTO, eagle hitch top link; Case SC, gas, NF, 2 hyd., power lift; 1930 Case Model L, gas, WF; Case DC, gas, NF; 1929 Case L, gas, WF, belt pulley, 14-28, One Owner; Case LA, gas, WF, I hyd., PTO, (parts only); Case Model S, gas, WF, 1 hyd., factory front weight, electric start; Case VC, gas, NF; Case CC, gas, NF, PTO; Case SC, gas, NF, PTO, power lift, belt pulley, great sheet metal; Case SC, gas, NF, live PTO, eagle hitch, front weight, foot clutch; Case SC, gas, NF, PTO, belt pulley; Case DC, gas, factory WF Adj., 1 hyd., live PTO, eagle hitch, top link, foot clutch; Case VAC, gas, NF, PTO; Case DC, gas, WF, 1 hyd., live PTO, heart shaped front end, eagle hitch, 14.9-38, S/N 802350; Case DC, gas, NF, PTO; Case DC, gas, Adj. WF, hand clutch, live PTO, eagle hitch; Case DC, gas, NF, 1 hyd., live PTO; Case C, gas, WF, PTO; Case DC, gas, WF, heart shaped front end, 1 hyd., foot clutch, eagle hitch, top link; Case C, gas, WF, PTO; Case LA, gas, WF, PTO; Case LA, gas, WF, PTO, belt pulley; Case LA, gas, WF, PTO, wheely bars; Case L, gas, WF.

John Deere Antique Tractors

JD 70, gas, NF, live PTO, hand clutch, belt pulley, 15.5-38, One Owner; JD A, gas, NF, power trol; JD A, gas, NF, PTO, 1 hyd; JD A, unstyled, gas, round spoke rims, PTO, loop draw bar, newer tires; 1936 JD A, unstyled, gas, PTO, round spoke rims, brass tag.

IH Antique Tractors

Farmall Super MTA, torque amplifier, gas, NF, 1 hyd., live PTO, power steering; Farmall 450 Factory LP, NF, 1 hyd., live PTO; Farmall Super M, gas, NF, 1 hyd., PTO; Farmall M, gas, Schwartz WF, 1 hyd., live PTO, M & W power governor; Farmall M, gas, NF, 1 hyd., PTO; Farmall BN, gas, NF, Char-Lynn pump, Woods belly mount mower; Farmall C gas, NF, PTO, belt pulley; Farmall C, gas, NF, PTO, belt pulley, w/Woods 6' belly mount mower; Farmall BN, gas, NF, Char-Lynn pump, w/Woods L59 belly mount mower; Farmall M, gas, NF, PTO; Farmall Super M, gas, NF, 1 hyd., PTO; Farmall H, gas, NF, 1 hyd., pto; **Case Plows:** 4 bttm slate plow, 3pt. w/coulters; 4 bttm slate plow, pull type w/coulters; 3 blade disk plow, 3pt., w/dirt scrapers; 5 bttm plow, pull type w/coulters; 4 bttm plow, 3pt. w/coulters; (2) 4 bttm plows, pull type w/coulters; (3) 3 bttm plows, 3pt. w/coulters; (2) 3 bttm plows, pull type w/coulters; 2 bttm plow, 3pt. w/coulters. **Equipment:** Brent Grain Train 610 Grain Cart, 1000 PTO, 24.5-32R-1 tires; JD 500 Grain Cart, 1000 PTO, 23.1-26 tires; 350 bu center dump Gravity Wagon, 11L-15 tires; 250 bu Gravity Wagon, side dump, 9.5-15 tires; Worthington 125 portable air compressor, w/Continental G193 gas motor; M Grain Drill, 12', grass seed, fert. attachment; IH 1 row sub soil plow, w/ steel wheels; 2 bttm JD plow, pull type, steel wheels; antique steel wheel Grader; IH portable power engine; (2) Chevy small block motors; Assortment of tractor & implement parts.

HAROLD BOSTON ESTATE

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Auctioneers Note: Tractors have not been run for over 12 years. All tractors & equipment have been stored inside. No tractors are currently running.

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THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

NIGHTENGALES THRIFT SHOP OVERFLOW GARAGE SALE
1700 Hillcrest Court
Thursday, Aug. 15
4-7 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 16
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Antique school desk, vintage table & chairs, dressers, canning jars.
1t33msr

POLICE BLOTTER

LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT
Sergio F. Solorzano, 21, of Midlothian, was charged with leaving the scene of a property damage accident after police officers were dispatched to the area of Lincoln Avenue and 15th Street for the report of a crash at 10:35 a.m. Aug. 5. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

ENDANGERING CHILD

Heather L. Arroyo, 26, of 1025 E. Union St., Earlville, was charged with endangering the life/health of a child after police officers were dispatched to the Lake Mendota area for a suspicious circumstances call at 10 p.m. Aug. 7. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Shayne M. Roberts, 18, of Peru, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at First Avenue and Cherry Street at 5:17 p.m. Aug. 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Always lock your vehicle

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

Nuisance ordinance

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department would like to remind home and business owners of city ordinances regarding public nuisances.

It is against city ordinance to have accumulations of trash, building materials, abandoned automobiles, machinery, scrap metal, discarded tires, vehicle batteries or any other material that creates a public health hazard on your property. It is also a violation to permit weeds, grass or plants other than trees, bushes or flowers or other ornamental plants to grow to a height exceeding six inches anywhere in the city. Also, all multi-family structures, including structures that consist of both residential and commercial units, and structures which share a wall or walls with another structure, shall be kept free from infestations of insects (including but not limited to bedbugs, cockroaches and disease-carrying insects), rats or other vermin.

The city of Mendota requests anyone who is in violation of the above mentioned nuisance regulations to remove the item(s) from your property. Anyone found in violation will be subject to receiving a citation, which involves a court date and fine.

GARAGE SALE/ NOTICE DEADLINES

- Thursday 3 p.m. to appear in Monday's Money Saver.
- Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.



Veterans honoring Veteran

The Mendota VFW Post 4079 took time during the Sweet Corn Festival parade to honor 100-year-old Veteran Willard Simpson. Simpson served as a Corporal with the 103rd Regiment B 28th Division. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge with General Patton. (Photos contributed)



Burn Pit

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

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

Garage Sale time is here! For best results, advertise your sale in The Reporter! Call 815-539-9396.



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33rd Amboy Depot Days

CAR, TRUCK, AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Sunday, August 25, 2024
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(Rain or Shine)

All Proceeds Benefit Community Projects



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 on-line 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

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

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

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

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Email: amboycarshow@hotmail.com

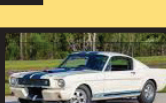
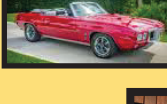


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Sweet Corn Festival 2024

Photos by Brandon LaChance



SPORTS



Why swimming is so good for your body

Engaging in fitness activities that are enjoyable can increase the likelihood that a person will remain committed to routine exercise. In addition to being fun, swimming is an exercise that benefits the entire body. It's also ideal for people of all ages, as the buoyancy of water reduces the strain on muscles and joints.

Healthline reports that an hour of swimming burns almost as many calories as running, without all the impact to the bones and joints. Many people who commit to swimming each week may have no problem getting the recommended 150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity each week recommended by various health organizations. Here are some of the ways swimming is good for your body.

- Engages the entire body: Swimming works just about all the muscles of the body. Various swimming strokes can enable a person to focus on certain muscle groups, if desired.
- A thorough cardiovascular workout: Swimming increases heart rate without stressing the body. The fitness level can be customized and gradually built up so that one can increase strength and endurance.
- Reduces body fat: Swimming can help many people slim down. According to Harvard Medical school, a 155-pound

person can burn about 432 calories swimming versus about 266 calories walking at a moderate pace for the same duration of time. A 2021 study published in BMC Sports Science, Medicine and Rehabilitation revealed that 16 weeks of swimming led to significant reductions in body fat and BMI among those studied.

- Improves heart health: Research has linked swimming to a reduction in blood pressure and additional benefits related to improved cardiovascular health.
- Enhances lung volume: Swimming involves deeper breathing and can strengthen the muscles involved with respiration, says Everyday Health.
- Improves quality of life: Older adults who swim may experience decreased rates of disability and improved quality of life. Swimming helps to improve or maintain bone health, particularly among post-menopausal women. Water-based exercise also is low-impact and builds strength.
- Improves mental health: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that swimming can improve mood in both men and women. Swimming may decrease anxiety, and exercise therapy in warm water can improve symptoms of depression.

These are just some of the health benefits associated with swimming.

Athletes are ready for action during fall sports

Scores of student athletes participate in scholastic sports each year. Next College Student Athlete (NCSA), an organization that connects young athletes with college coaches, says high school sports in particular provide competitive experiences for nearly eight million student athletes each year.

Schools follow seasons that determine when certain sports are played in a school year. Sports seasons are largely consistent across the country, though there are some exceptions. It is always best for potential student athletes to understand how their schools break down seasons so the opportunity to participate in a sport of choice in any given year is not missed. Generally speaking, here is a list of the sports student athletes can expect to encounter once school begins (or shortly before) as part of the fall season, courtesy of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Cross country
USA Track & Field indicates cross country is a sport in which teams and individuals run races on outdoor courses over natural terrain. Cross country courses may be set up in parks, open country, fields, golf courses, and grasslands. The runners are known as harriers, and the goal is to come in at the lowest time for the set course.

Football
American football is one of the most popular fall sports across North America among athletes and fans. NCSA says football attracts more than one million players each



Sports can be a big part of students' lives, and the fall season can be an especially exciting time for young athletes.

year. The object of the game is to score more points than the opponents in the allotted time. Each team gets four downs to move the ball 10 yards forward. There are 11 players from each team on the field for each play.

Soccer
Boys play soccer during the fall season. Each team consists of 11 players, and games are split into two halves. Games are shorter at the youth soccer level than professional play and the game may run two 40-minute halves.

Tennis
Girls participate in tennis in the fall while boys do so in the spring. Players will be assigned as singles and doubles and some schools may restrict singles play to varsity teams. Sherwood Tennis says match

lengths vary by varsity and JV. Sets must be won by two games.

Volleyball
Girls play volleyball in the fall while boys play in the spring. Generally speaking, volleyball consists of six players per team on the court at a time, designating "front row" and "back row" positions, says USA Volleyball. All players rotate clockwise through the six positions on the court. To win a game, a team must earn 25 points with a two-point difference.

Golf
Boys and girls play golf in the fall. The object is to get the ball into the hole with the fewest amount of shots.

Sports can be a big part of students' lives, and the fall season can be an especially exciting time for young athletes.

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: Did Cameron Diaz completely retire from acting? The last thing I remember her in was the musical “Annie.” Is she ever coming back?
-- E.M.



Diaz

A: A-list actress Cameron Diaz announced her retirement from professional acting in 2018, four years after the movie “Annie” came out, which was sadly considered a box-office bomb. She devoted the next several years to life with her family and appeared not to have any plans to work in Hollywood again.

But in 2023, she returned with a new project, a film with Jamie Foxx (her co-star from “Annie”) titled “Back in Action.” While filming in Atlanta, Foxx collapsed on the set and endured a lengthy hospitalization. It was touch and go for a while, but Foxx fortunately survived. Filming resumed earlier this year, and “Back in Action” is scheduled to be released on Netflix in November.

Diaz is continuing to build her filmography with “Outcome,” a film written

by, directed by and starring Jonah Hill (“Moneyball”). She will follow this with voicing the role of Princess Fiona again in “Shrek 5.” After that, Diaz might want to take another break, but if not, we’ll be thrilled to see her back on the big and small screens.

Q: I recently watched the movie “Queenpins” on Netflix, starring Kristen Bell. Is the movie based on a true story, and was one of them really a former Olympian? -- K.L.

A: Yes and no. “Queenpins,” a buddy comedy that “takes coupon clipping to a criminal level,” according to Entertainment Weekly, is loosely based on a scam started by three women in Arizona who sold counterfeit coupons to purchasers in bulk. The fraudulent coupons looked so authentic that cashiers would override their registers, allowing them to go through. The manufacturers apparently suffered losses of hundreds of millions of dollars, according to EW.

None of the characters in the movie were exactly based on the real-life perpetrators or those involved in the investigation. Kristen Bell and Kirby Howell-Baptiste, who both starred in the NBC com-

edy series “The Good Place,” played the fictional characters of a former Olympic gold medalist and a wannabe influencer, who both become counterfeiters. Singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha co-starred as a computer hacker, alongside Vince Vaughn (“Bad Monkey”) who portrayed a postal officer.

Q: When is “Chicago Med” returning with new episodes? Are there any big changes in the cast? -- F.W.

A: NBC’s “Chicago Med” returns for its 10th season on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. ET, followed by “Chicago Fire” and “Chicago P.D.” on the same night. Dominic Rains, who played Dr. Crockett Marcel, has exited the show after five seasons, paving the way for two new characters. Sarah Ramos (“Parenthood”) and Darren Barnet (“Never Have I Ever”) joined the medical team as physicians.

Meanwhile, season 12 of “Chicago P.D.” will welcome Toya Turner (“New Amsterdam”) as a new officer, and Dermot Mulroney (“My Best Friend’s Wedding”) will debut as the new chief on “Chicago Fire,” following Eamonn Walker’s departure last season.

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Glen Powell’s “Twisters” grossed \$134 million during its first weekend, and his rom-com “Anyone but You” grossed \$220 million from a \$25 million cost. Now that Paramount merged with Skydance, they’re now planning a “Top Gun” threequel. The last sequel, “Top Gun: Maverick,” grossed \$1.496 billion.

Powell’s schedule is tight, but the threequel news comes from Powell, who confirmed that he has a date to start shooting “Top Gun 3.” The plan is to reunite him with Tom Cruise and Miles Teller. “There is going to be some fun stuff being announced soon,” Powell teased.

“Twisters,” which is projected to land half a billion dollars, will have a sequel with the same cast. This explains why they left the story open-ended. Meanwhile, Powell’s currently shooting a black comedy called “Huntington,” with Margaret Qualley and Ed Harris. Teller shot the musical drama “Michael” with Colman Domingo, which is due on April 2025. Teller also has two rom-coms coming up

-- Apple TV+’s “The Gorge” with Anya Taylor-Joy and Sigourney Weaver and A24’s “Eternity” with Elizabeth Olsen and Da’Vine Joy Randolph.

Keanu Reeves, who turns 60 on Sept. 2, was shooting Aziz Ansari’s “Good Fortune,” with Seth Rogen, Keke Palmer and Sandra Oh, when he fractured his knee. It wasn’t from doing a stunt, like in “The Matrix” franchise, but from tripping on a rug in his trailer. He used a crutch on set, except while filming, but a salsa dancing scene had to wait until he fully recovered.

Reeves finally wrapped “John Wick Presents: Ballerina,” with Ana de Armas, Anjelica Huston, Gabriel Byrne, Norman Reedus and Ian McShane, for a June 2025 release. He is currently shooting Jonah Hill’s “Outcome,” a black comedy for Apple TV+ that co-stars Hill, Cameron Diaz, Matt Bomer, Susan Lucci, David Spade and Laverne Cox.

Robert Pattinson and Jennifer Lawrence are set to star in the thriller “Die My Love.” Pattinson had

a string of eight movies that flopped between 2015-2019. It was Christopher Nolan’s “Tenet” that led him to “The Batman,” which grossed \$772 million and renewed his career. Pattinson’s \$150-million sci-fi film “Mickey 17,” with Steven Yeun, Toni Collette and Mark Ruffalo, is set for release on Jan. 31, 2025.

“The Whale” Oscar winner Brendan Fraser has completed three films this year. The first is Amazon MGM Studios’ “Brothers,” an action-comedy film with Josh Brolin, Peter Dinklage and Glenn Close. The second film, “Rental Family,” was filmed in Japan with a Japanese cast. The third film, “Sacrifice,” is about a radical group that attacks a charity event to steal a mystical artifact, and it co-stars Anya Taylor-Joy, Chris Evans, and Salma Hayek.

Fraser’s also set to portray President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 72 hours leading up to the D-Day invasion. It’ll take a “Whale” of a performance for him to pull that off!

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Couch Theater

“The Instigators” (R) -- This new heist comedy film available now to stream stars none other than Matt Damon (“Drive-Away Dolls”) and his best friend’s little brother, Casey Affleck (“Oppenheimer”). It seems that the sexual harassment allegations surrounding Affleck during the #MeToo movement have become a thing of the past, as he begins to star in leading roles again. In this film, Affleck stars as Cobby, an ex-con with whom Rory (Damon) teams up for a once-in-a-lifetime score that will give Rory the money he needs to take care of his son. But with this being Rory’s first heist, it’s safe to say that nothing will go as planned. Luckily, he has Casey Affleck to show him the way, right? OK, OK, putting my aversion for Affleck aside, if you do give this film a try, look out for Jack Harlow in his second film role ever. Acting seems to fit the rapper well. (Apple TV+)

“The Union” (PG-13) -- Speaking of controversial actors from Massachusetts,

this film dubbed as a “spy action comedy-thriller” stars Mark Wahlberg (“Arthur the King”). He portrays construction worker Mike, who runs into his high school sweetheart Roxanne (Halle Berry) at a bar in New Jersey. After a night of nostalgia and reminiscing together, Mike is appalled when he wakes up in London the following morning. Having drugged and brought him to the headquarters of her organization, Roxanne reveals that she’s a spy and that a list with the identities of every U.S. spy has been compromised by the enemy. So, she needs a “nobody” to train up in order to get the list back, and her old flame Mike is exactly that nobody. J.K. Simmons (“Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse”), Mike Colter (“Evil”), and Lorraine Bracco (“The Sopranos”) co-star in the film, out on Aug. 16. (Netflix)

In Case You Missed It “Civil War” (R) -- This dystopian thriller from A24 became the second highest-grossing film in the

production company’s history, suggesting that viewers greatly resonated with its plot of a modern civil war taking the U.S. by storm. The film follows a handful of war photographers and journalists who are in the throes of a conflict between an authoritarian version of the U.S. government and the secessionist forces, led by states like Texas and California. Through the eyes of these journalists, who come from all walks of life, viewers get to see firsthand how exhilarating and traumatizing it is to not only see these heinous acts of war up close but to photograph them frequently. Beloved actress Kirsten Dunst (“The Power of the Dog”) leads this film, and her co-stars include her husband Jesse Plemons (“Killers of the Flower Moon”), Wagner Moura (“Narcos”), Cailee Spaeny (“Priscilla”), and Stephen McKinley Henderson (“Beau Is Afraid”). Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* After 10 minutes of looking at yourself in a mirror in a dimly lit room, your bored brain will distort your reflection, triggering the appearance of imaginary monsters such as “Bloody Mary.”

* Sologamy is the act of marrying yourself.

* In 1895, there were only two cars in the entire state of Ohio ... and they still ended up crashing into each other.

* The record for most passengers on an airplane was set in 1991 when 1,086 Ethiopian Jews were evacuated to Jerusalem on a Boeing 747. However, the plane landed with 1,088 passengers, as two babies made their earthly debut during the flight.

* Pineapples were a status symbol in 18th century England. In fact, they were so expensive that you could rent them by the night and take them to parties with you.

* In the first quarter after Covid lockdowns, lipstick sales shot up nearly 50%.

* The Apollo 11 astronauts had to go through customs upon their return to Earth and declare moon rocks, moon dust and other lunar samples, according to the form signed by all three and filed at the Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 24, 1969.

* Cymothoa exigua is a parasite that severs the blood vessels of a fish’s tongue and becomes a new functional tongue.

* Bella and Edward’s relationship in the “Twilight” book and film series meets all 15 criteria set by the National Domestic Violence Hotline for being in an abusive relationship.

* An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague.

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• Trivia Test •

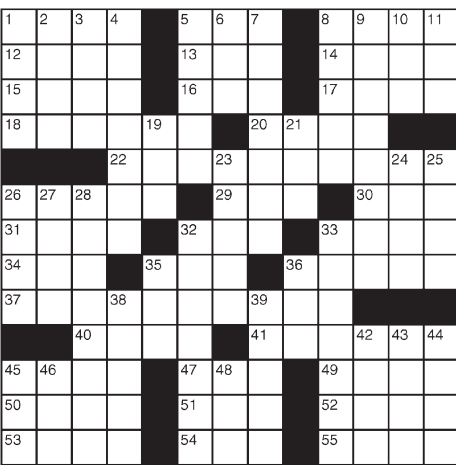
1. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix “audio-” mean in English?
2. TELEVISION: Gladys Kravitz is the annoying neighbor in which TV comedy?
3. ANATOMY: About how many taste buds does the average human tongue have?
4. GEOGRAPHY: The Brandenburg Gate is in which European capital city?
5. HISTORY: Who was the leader of the Soviet Union during WWII?
6. MOVIES: Which movie features the line “I’m the king of the world!”?
7. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the Egyptian sun god?

8. LITERATURE: “The Great Gatsby” is set in which U.S. city?
 9. MONEY: What is the basic currency of Poland?
 10. FOOD & DRINK: Which country is associated with the side dish kimchi?
- Answers
1. “Sound” or “hearing” (e.g. “audiophile”).
 2. “Bewitched.”
 3. 2,000-8,000.
 4. Berlin, Germany.
 5. Joseph Stalin.
 6. “Titanic.”
 7. Ra.
 8. New York.
 9. Zloty.
 10. Korea (North and South).
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Persian leader
- 5 Kipling hero
- 8 Dull sound of impact
- 12 Earring site
- 13 Enzyme suffix
- 14 Bagel feature
- 15 River to the Baltic
- 16 Boom times
- 17 Director Preminger
- 18 Spanish explorer
- 20 Some babies
- 22 Contemplate anew
- 26 Vatican VIPs
- 29 Televised
- 30 Italian article
- 31 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 32 Automaton, for short
- 33 Farmland unit
- 34 Oklahoma city
- 35 Weir
- 36 Grove units
- 37 Contemplate anew
- 40 Eyebrow shape
- 41 Excuses
- 45 Pocket bread
- 47 Passing craze
- 49 Aloe --
- 50 Scott Turow book



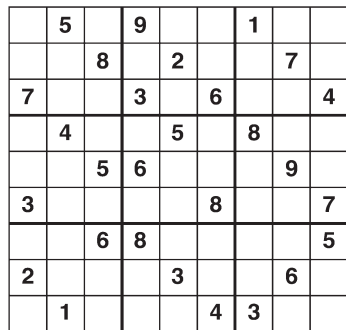
DOWN

- 1 No neatnik
- 2 “Today” cohost Kotb
- 3 First victim
- 4 Chamomile product
- 5 Island of Hawaii
- 6 MSN, for one
- 7 Camper’s din-nerware
- 8 Daring swimwear
- 9 Tabasco, for one
- 10 Last (Abbr.)
- 11 “Gloria In Excelsis --”
- 19 Surprised cries
- 21 Rowing need
- 23 Model Campbell
- 24 Concerning
- 25 Burnside turn-downs
- 26 Bartlett, for one
- 27 Shoppe descriptor
- 28 Mollifies
- 32 Timid
- 33 Showed up
- 35 Pol. party org.
- 36 Business card no.
- 38 Face-to-face exams
- 39 -- Warbucks
- 42 Actress Neuwirth
- 43 Press
- 44 Without
- 45 Soda
- 46 Chef Garten
- 48 Santa -- winds

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers
— crossword king —

RELIGION

How to make fear disappear

It has been said that F-E-A-R stands for “false evidence appearing real.”

Too many times the enemy tries to fill our minds with fear and make us feel trapped—backed into a corner with no way out. He makes what is false look so real!

It’s important to remember that fear comes from our enemy—Satan. Whatever good things God tries to give to us, the enemy tries to ruin it with some kind of poison. Satan uses fear to keep us from having everything God wants us to have.

However, for every poison the enemy tries to bring into our lives, God has the antidote—faith. Faith is the antidote for the poison of fear. We don’t have to stay stuck in a corner surrounded by fear (false evidence appearing real). We can break free, release our faith, and walk in victory.

Fear always makes everything seem worse than

it really is and sometimes causes us to do unreasonable, even ridiculous, things.

When my husband, Dave, and I were first married and I was pregnant with one of our daughters, we lived in a place that had mice and we began to see them here and there. I can’t stand mice and would literally scream when I saw them.

Well, one day I went into the bathroom and there was a mouse in the bathtub. I just freaked out. I was petrified. My heart and mind were racing trying to figure out how I could contain this “monstrous” mouse and keep myself safe.

How ridiculous! I’m sure that mouse was more afraid of me than I was of it. The point is that fear can make us do things that are quite unreasonable...even foolish.

Before we react in situations, we need to remember that fear will push us to a level of emotion where we

will do things that make absolutely no sense. Our human nature tends to react in fear because we think the situation is so much bigger than it really is.

Fear appears huge and overshadowing. However, when we shine the light of faith on it, fear begins to diminish. The minute fear comes into our lives, all we have to do is release our faith. When we do, the feeling of fear doesn’t always go away, but our faith will keep us going...even if we have to do it afraid.

You see, God wants us to keep going forward and do what we believe He wants us to do. He doesn’t want us to back off because we feel fear. As Psalm 34:4 says, “I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (NKJV).

There’s no way to count all the people who totally lose their God-ordained destiny because of fear. When they try to step out in faith, fear comes to them, asking all the “what ifs.”

What if I fail? What if people don’t like me? What if I don’t have all of the answers?

Sadly, there are probably relatively few people who actually push past fear and end up boldly doing everything God has planned for them to do in life. Too many consider the fear instead of the evidence of God’s Word about overcoming fear.

Everything that God has for us is better and more powerful than anything Satan has to offer. No matter how powerful and overwhelming fear feels to us, we need to remember that faith is greater.

The Bible says that each one of us is given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). What does this mean exact-



ly? It means that God will give us the amount of faith we need to do what He has called us to do in life. The evidence is clear!

Whatever you’re going to face in life—whatever is coming in your future—God has already given you the faith for it. It may not look like it, and you may not feel like you have what it takes to overcome, but appearance isn’t everything!

God has given you His Holy Spirit, and He’s all you need to handle whatever life throws your way. The enemy would like for us to believe that we don’t have a chance in life, we’re too weak, too poor...too whatever. But God has a different view of us. God sees us through the eyes of love. He sees what we can be—not what we see or what others see.

But it takes faith to move forward and overcome the situations of life. And faith does you no good if you don’t know how to release it. You have to release it in order for it to work. We release faith through our words, actions, and, of course, through prayer.

Some people seem to go through harder times than others, but God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and will give each of us the faith we need for

every part of our journey in life. However, it’s up to us to act.

You can’t sit around and think fearful thoughts and continue to walk in faith. What we think about and meditate on is very important. First John 4:4 is a scripture we quote a lot, and almost anytime I say this verse in church or a meeting, everybody claps and cheers. But I wonder, how many people really believe it? It says: “...Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (KJV).

You and I don’t have to be fearful. I don’t mean that we won’t feel fear, but it does mean that appearance isn’t everything. It doesn’t matter what the enemy wants us to see or how things might look. Our faith overcomes through the One Who lives in us!

First John 5:4 says: “... This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (NKJV). It’s so simple. What do you need so you can overcome the things that come against you? Childlike faith!

That means simply believing God more than you believe anything else. It means believing His promises. It means believing what you know in your heart more than how you feel, what you think, what

your friends say, what your circumstances look like, or what the enemy tells you.

Fear doesn’t have to rule your life. Remember, it’s false evidence appearing real! And when you make a decision to stand in faith and consider the truth of God’s Word, fear will disappear...and you will win the battle.

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

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See Page A7!

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808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186
Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

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www.mendotaupc.org

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Do not revile the king even
in your thoughts, or curse
the rich in your bedroom,
because a bird in the sky
may carry your words,
and a bird on the wing
may report what you say.
— ECCLESIASTES 10:20

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SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Terebinth (KJV)
in the Old or New Testament or
neither?
2. What sprang up and shadowed
over Jonah’s head, delivering him
from his grief? Hemlock, Gourd,
Flowers, Fig tree
3. From Judges 16, where did
Samson tell Delilah that his great
strength lies? Deep voice, Mighty
arms, Long hair, Kind heart
4. Who married King David after
her evil husband, Nabal, died?
Tamar, Abigail, Vashti, Sarah
5. Which man’s name in the book
of Genesis means “hairy”? Seth,
Cain, Abel, Esau
6. How many times is the word
“Lucifer” in the Bible? 1, 13, 39, 66

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Gourd, 3)
Long hair, 4) Abigail, 5) Esau, 6) 1
(Isaiah 14:12)

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If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

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706 Washington St. • Main
1403 13th Ave. • Plaza
815-538-2265
firststatebank.biz
Member FDIC

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

First State Bank of Van Orin
200 N Main St., Van Orin
815-638-2111
Member FDIC

Malden Banking Center
302 N Main St.
815-643-2121
Member FDIC

NuMark Credit Union
Earlville • Paw Paw • Sublette
NUMARKCU.ORG
Member NCUA-ESI

FIREPLACES

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

FITNESS

Mendota YMCA
1811 S. 13th Ave.
815-538-2900
Ivymca.org/Mendota-ymca/

FLORISTS

Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse
1207 22nd St.
815-539-9306

FOOD TRUCK

Tacos Guzman
815-503-0839
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FUNERAL HOMES

Wasmer Funeral Home
2112 W. Main St.
815-539-8500

FURNITURE

Meyers Furniture & Carpet & Mattress
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

GROCERY STORES

De La O
Grocery • Deli • Meats • Catering
710 Jefferson St.
815-539-6871

Sullivan's Foods
1102 Meriden St.
815-539-9341

HEALTH CARE CLINIC

Davis Family Health, LLC
1201 Meriden St.
815-538-1800

HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

Correa Heating and Air Conditioning
815-910-9876

Malley Plumbing & Heating
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville
815-246-6011
IL License #055-009898

Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE

In-Home Care Connection
Hospice Services
680 W. Peru St., Princeton
815-872-7447
www.ihccare.com

HOUSE CLEANING

Illinois Valley Clean Team
815-228-5273

ICE CREAM SHOP

Neveria y Paeteria
La Esquinita de Oro
Ice Cream Shop
1206 Sixth Ave. • Mendota
815-503-0162

IDOT INSPECTIONS

RC Service Co. – Haun Inc.
904 Main St.
815-538-6311

INSURANCE

First State Insurance
715 Washington St. • 815-539-5651

Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance
1103 Main St.
815-539-3878

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St. • 815-539-9311

KITCHEN & BATH

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

SITK
1619 N. Main St. • Princeton
815-879-0604
www.somekitchen.com

KITCHEN & BATH

Starved Rock Wood Products
815-538-7799
1605 Division Street • Mendota
srwoodproducts.com

LIBRARY

Graves-Hume Public Library
1401 W. Main St.
815-538-5142
www.graveshume.org

LIQUOR STORE

Lakeside Liquors & Tobacco
1310 Meriden St.
815-539-6400

MUSEUMS

Breaking The Prairie Museum and Country Chapel
684 8th St.
815-539-3373

Hume Carnegie Museum
901 Washington St.
815-539-3373

Union Depot Railroad Museum
638 Main St.
815-538-3800

OPTOMETRIST

Dr. Tara Van de Wyngaerde
700 14th Ave.
815-539-6291

PET GROOMING

Dirty Dawgs
1111 Main St.
815-538-2550

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Malley Plumbing & Heating
123 South Ottawa Street, Earlville
815-246-6011
IL License #055-009898

Triple Service
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

POST FRAME BUILDERS

N.L. Morton Buildings, Ltd.
203 N. 4099th Road
815-539-9325
New construction & repair

REALTORS

Erbes Realty, LLC
1922 Tower Road • Sublette
815-535-6295 • Lorierbes@gmail.com

Homestead Realty
1316 Lakewood Plaza, #5
815-539-3811

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

RESTAURANTS

Cindy's on 34
1300 Raymond Drive
815-539-9000

El Ray Del Taco Mexican Restaurant
701 Main St.
815-539-7100

Ziggie's Family Restaurant
1212 First Ave.
815-539-5060
Ziggiesrestaurant.com

SEAMLESS ROOFING

DuroLast Roofing
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-5142
License #104005528

SOCIAL CLUB

Mendota Elks Lodge #1212
707 Indiana Ave.
815-538-3557

TAX PREPARATION

H&R Block
1313 Meriden St.
815-539-7610
hrblock.com

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St.
815-539-9311

THRIFT STORES

Nightengales Thrift Shop
708 Jefferson St. • 815-539-6100
Supports Trinity Health Care Clinic • 815-910-0200

TRANSPORTATION

Mendota Area Senior Services
1901 Tom Merwin Drive
815-539-7700
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

TOWING

Ramer Automotive & Towing
Paul, Matt & Brendan Ramer
4266 E. 4th Road
815-539-5321

VAPE/SMOKE SHOP

Smooth Smokes and Vapor
1001 Main St.
815-539-3499

VETERINARIANS

Ancare Veterinary Clinic
Stephen J. Dullard, DVM ABVP
1205 6th Ave.
815-539-3844
www.ancarevet.com

Mendota Companion Animal Centre
Cathy J. Wolf, DVM
Rt. 251 N.
815-539-6601
www.mendotavet.com

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742



City of
Mendota

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



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FIRST STATE INSURANCE

715
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815-539-5651





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