

# Mendota High School students honored for outstanding academic achievement

❑ Six are cited by College Board National Recognition Program for classroom work

MENDOTA – Mendota High School is excited to announce six MHS seniors earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program. The programs celebrate the hard work of high school students nationwide to help them showcase their strong academic performance.

Eligible students must meet the following criteria to qualify:

- Earn a GPA of B+ or higher.
- PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program or earned a score of three or higher on two or more AP Exams by the end of 10th grade.

• Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, Indigenous/Native American, or a first-generation college student.

MHS recipients of College Board recognition include:

- Shelby Bentley: College Board National Rural and Small Town Award
- Lily Bokus: College Board National Rural and



Six Mendota High School students earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program. Front row, left to right, are Kaley Siemer, Lily Bokus and Shelby Bentley. Back row, MHS principal Joe Masini, Lea Turner, Anthony Kelson and Quin Holland. (Photo contributed)

#### Small Town Award

- Quin Holland: College Board National Rural and Small Town Award

- Anthony Kelson: College Board National Rural and Small Town Award and College Board First Generation Student

- Kaley Siemer: College Board National Rural and

#### Small Town Award

- Lea Turner: College Board National Rural and Small Town Award College Board First Generation Student

“We’re thrilled to celebrate our students and recognize them for the great work they’ve been doing. We’re proud of their strong

academic performance in the classroom and on College Board assessments like the SAT and AP® Exams,” said Joe Masini, principal of Mendota High School. “There’s so much that makes our students unique, and this honor reinforces their individuality and achievements.”

## MHS District 280 on board with bike/pedestrian path

❑ District’s FY24 budget ends in black

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education met in regular session on Aug. 19.

Ali Braboy, Annie Short, and City Engineer from Chamlin & Associates, Adam Ossola, presented on an ITAP grant that has opened up. It is a \$3 million grant for a bicycle/pedestrian path. It would start north of the Amtrak Depot and go through town to the high school. The grant is an 80/20 match, and the City of Mendota would pay the 20% match. Lighting and bicycle racks are included in the grant. The city engineer explained that it would have a separate path with lighting. The next grant attempt would extend the path up to the high school. The city would maintain around the lake and the district would maintain the school side.

The board passed a resolution of support for Mendota’s grant application for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

#### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini presented the Athletic Committee meeting recap. There are 221 students participating in athletics this fall, and this number has increased from last year.

He updated the board on the registration and back-to-school events. As of the Aug. 19 meeting, there are 506 students in grades 9-12.

The board discussed and approved the first reading of the Press Plus 115 updates from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

The board discussed and approved the purchase of Nevco baseball and softball scoreboards at \$28,996.

#### SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh reported that the fiscal year 2024 budget was completed in the black. The unaudited numbers showed revenue at \$12,039,537.90; expenses were \$9,245,236.37. The total revenue was 105% of the adopted budget and expenditures were 92% of the adopted budget. The bank balance end-

See MHS, Page A5



USDA predicted record-high corn and soybean yields for Illinois and the nation in its Aug. 12 crop production report. But this stretch in Stark County is a reminder that there’s a long road to go before harvest begins in earnest. (Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek)

## USDA forecasts record corn, soybean yields

By RHIANNON BRANCH  
*FarmWeek*

BLOOMINGTON – Record high corn and soybean yield estimates headlined the USDA’s August crop production report.

The agency forecasted a national average corn yield of 183.1 bushels per acre (bpa), up 5.8 from 2023, and a national average soybean yield of 53.2 bpa, up 2.6 bushels from last season.

The state average yield estimates for Illinois are also a record high at 225 bpa for corn and 66 bpa for soybeans.

“Upon initial observation, of course, the market looked a little bit spooked by the fact that you had the corn yield come in at 183. That’s a pretty good-sized yield,” Matt Bennett with AgMarket.net told FarmWeek. “But then you look, and they lowered planted and harvested acres.”

Early data from the Farm Service Agency prompted acreage adjustments, unusual for the August report. USDA now pegs corn planted area at 90.7 million acres, down from 91.5 million in July, and harvested area at 82.7

million acres, down from 83.4 million last month.

The acreage adjustments show USDA understands concerns for the crop in some growing areas, Bennett noted.

“That corridor in southeast South Dakota, southern Minnesota and northwest Iowa certainly is going to have some challenges on stuff that got planted. You’re going to lose some harvested percentage just simply due to a lot of flooding and ponding

See Yields, Page A5

## ‘Coolest thing’ made in Illinois

❑ Komatsu mining truck made in Peoria crowned the winner

By KEVIN BESSLER  
*The Center Square*

SPRINGFIELD – A winner has been announced in a contest to determine the “coolest thing” made in Illinois.

The Illinois Manufacturers’ Association calls the bracket-style contest “Makers Madness.”

“These remarkable manufacturers are the bedrock of our nation and the heart of our community,” said IMA President and CEO Mark Denzler. “We’re proud to showcase the amazing and innovative manufacturing sector with our Makers Madness contest.”

Chosen by voters from an initial field of more than 200 entries, the Komatsu mining truck was crowned the winner. Manufactured in Peoria, the truck is a large capacity vehicle that stands 26 feet tall, has tires that weigh more than 1,000 pounds and has a capacity of up to 400 tons.

“Komatsu is honored to receive this incredible recognition, which is a testament to the talent and skill of our team, who are the best in the business,” said Dan Funcanon, vice president of North America Engineering and Development for Komatsu.



“We are proud of our contributions to Illinois’ strong legacy of manufacturing, where human ingenuity transforms raw materials into modern marvels.”

The other three finalists were Mullen’s Imitation French Dressing made in Palestine; the MQ-25 Stingray Drone Refueler manufactured in Mascoutah; and the Mod Box insulated outdoor building made in Quincy.

Former winners include the Rosenberg Moon Habitat, a 3D printed polymer

structure designed to house humans on the moon, manufactured in Rockford, and Rivian’s all-electric R1T truck made in Normal.

“Congratulations to Komatsu’s mining truck for being named the 2024 Coolest Thing Made in Illinois,” said Denzler. “This magnificent construction and mining vehicle is a shining example of the innovation and creativity that drives the manufacturing sector, where big ideas become products that can change the world.”



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Reddick Mansion's Putt for History Golf Outing a big success

OTTAWA – The Reddick Mansion Association concluded their summer schedule with their fourth annual “Putt for History” Golf Outing at Pine Hills Golf Club on Saturday, August 10, 2024.

“We were very pleased with the community’s support and participation in our fourth golf outing,” said Mary Caba, event chairperson and member of the RMA’s Board of Directors. “After Mother Nature rained on our parade on the original date of June 1, she provided us with a picture-perfect day in August which helped to make the event another success.”

The team of Brian Lehr, Rick Lehr, Rick Bacon, and Dave VanDuzer won the first-place cash prize of \$500. Certificates to local restaurants were awarded to the following individuals: Jon Stevens for Closest



to the Pin and Kerry Caba for the Longest Putt. Jon Farro won the 50/50 raffle of which \$300 will be presented to the Ottawa Food Pantry.

“We are very grateful to all 18 of our sponsors,” said Caba, “especially

Scott Anderson of Cimco Recycling, and Grainco Farm Service, our Platinum (\$1000) sponsors.

“I also want to thank the great people at Pine Hills, Sports Boss in Leland, Handy Foods, Liquor N’ Wine, Express Employ-

ment Professionals, Heritage Corridor Destinations, the Illinois Waterway Visitors Center, the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, Daniel Aussem, Donna Nordstrom, the RMA volunteers and board members who created wonderful raffle baskets and worked the event, and the 22 local businesses who donated certificates worth \$1250,” added Caba. “Our fifth annual golf outing is already scheduled at Pine Hills on June 14, 2025. We hope that golfers and businesses alike will put that date on their calendars.”

The Reddick Mansion, located on 100 W. Lafayette Street, Ottawa, IL, anchors the Washington Square Historic District, site of the first Lincoln-Douglas Debate in 1858. It is open for tours on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday with tours given at 11 am and 1 pm.



## ‘Illinois Day of the Dozer’ gives children the ultimate ride

BLOOMINGTON – The annual Day of the Dozer on Saturday, Sept. 7 will give children the experience of a lifetime...a chance to ride and operate heavy construction equipment. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McLean County Fairgrounds in Bloomington.

In its 19 years, more than 15,000 kids have attended this one-of-a-kind event. On this day, the kids will be in the driver’s seat and actually drive dozers, excavators, and other heavy equipment with a professional operator at their side.

Additional farming, construction, trucking, and emergency vehicles will be on exhibit, plus the world’s largest sandbox and other kid-friendly activities. Food, refreshments, and souvenirs will be available. It’s a great day for good dirty fun.

Tickets for children to ride all day are \$10 and includes a souvenir ‘Hard hat.’ Adults admission is free. Tickets may be purchased at the gate that day or in advance at [www.dayofthedozer.net](http://www.dayofthedozer.net). In Bloomington they are available at Hy-Vee, The School Shop, and Stark Excavating.

Bryan Hanafin, Business Representative of IUOE Local 649, serves on the Day of the Dozer Committee, and is also a board member of the Great Plains LIFE Foundation.

“I wouldn’t miss being a

part of this event for anything in the world! We’re helping provide an unforgettable experience while at the same time educating them and their families about the construction industry. I would certainly encourage those in the industry who haven’t joined in yet to become a part of this important endeavor. It’s not too late. In addition, as a board member, I know that the money raised is making a big difference in changing the lives of at-risk kids. This is a win-win situation for everyone.”

Illinois Day of the Dozer is the only event of its kind in the state and continues to grow annually. IUOE 649 and Stark Excavating are bringing in additional equipment this year in order to address the waiting time in 2023.

Honorary Chairmen are David Stark, CEO of Stark Excavating, and local agricultural leader, Jim Finnigan. Major sponsors are Stark Excavating, Finnigan Farms, Cumulus Radio Bloomington, and WMBD-WYZZ TV.

Proceeds will benefit the “Stay 4” Project®; a local initiative designed to address the high school drop-out crisis and help low-income students that demonstrate the ability to succeed yet are at risk of dropping out.

For more information go to [www.dayofthedozer.net](http://www.dayofthedozer.net) call 309-828-3406, or email [gplife@stay4.org](mailto:gplife@stay4.org).

## Ottawa Concert Association announces 2024-25 concert schedule

OTTAWA – For 77 years, the Ottawa Concert Association has delighted its members with a variety of musical and entertainment performances. From popular to classical, Broadway to rock and roll, and everything in between, the Association has brought hundreds of professional acts to the area. The 2024-25 season is equally exciting. Under the leadership of David Manigold, president and local board members, the Ottawa Concert Association utilizes Allied Concert Services catalog of artists to make their performance selections.

A season adult membership of \$60 or family membership of \$130 provides admission to four scheduled concerts. In addition, anyone with a membership has free admission to four concerts by the Livingston County Concert Association held at Pontiac High School. New membership and

ticket information can be obtained by calling Beth at (815) 228-6474. Concerts are held at 7 p.m. at Central School, 711 E. McKinley Road, Ottawa.

The season opener on Monday, Sept. 23 is Street Corner Symphony. This Nashville-based male a cappella ensemble was runner up on NBC’s Sing Off in 2010. They toured for ACS in the 2011-12 season, earning great reviews. Their repertoire covers a wide range from gospel to rock and pop, appealing to the young and old alike.

A special Veterans program, Friday, Nov. 8 will feature Letters From Home. A USO style show honoring artists like Frank Sinatra, The Andrews Sisters, Creedence Clearwater Revival and many others, this high energy singing and dancing program will have you feeling great.

On Friday, March 14, 2025, the

featured artist will be Paolo Schianchi, an out-of-the-ordinary musician and performer able to master all existing variations of the guitar. With four degrees in music, he is the first solo guitarist to perform at the Carnegie Museum of Art. His performance includes a 49-string guitar he personally designed.

The season concludes on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, with Sail On - The Beach Boys Tribute. Sail On plays the music of “America’s Band”, The Beach Boys. Performing all the group’s classic hits, Sail On faithfully recreates the timeless songs of surfing, cruising, dancing and dreaming for all ages and anybody that wants to have fun, fun, fun. Based in Nashville, Sail On performs over 100 shows every year, bringing one of pop music’s greatest legacy to audiences everywhere.

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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Linda Green-Isles

MENDOTA—Linda Green-Isles, 66, of Courtland, Minn., formally of Mendota, passed away on Aug. 11, 2024, at her home in Courtland.

Linda was cremated and there will be a celebration of life at a later date held in Mendota.

Linda was born on July 20, 1958, in Mendota, to Joan (Green) Dennison. She was a member of the Mendota community until 1999, when she moved to the Rochester, Minn., area until her untimely death.

Linda is survived by a daughter, Monica (Jamar) Caradine of Minnesota; son, Joshua Holland of Mendota; Chris Miller of LaSalle; sisters, Karen (Mark) Maurer of Washington and Angela (Ron) Robinson of Ottawa; brother, Charles Green of Mendota; grandchildren, Donovan, Conor, Aydden, Karma (children of Monica) and Aedan (son of Joshua); two great-grandchildren, Sophia and Logan (children of Donovan); many nieces and nephews along with other close relatives and friends. She will be greatly missed by all.

Linda was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Walter and Viola Schmidt; her mother, Joan Dennison; and one sister, Neva (Green) Lopez.

Linda was a loving mother to Monica (Hampton) Caradine and Joshua Holland. She also loved being a grandma to all her grandchildren. They were her greatest joy.

Linda was a loving and caring woman with a heart of gold and a sense of humor like no other. She was always the life of the party and kept the laughs going. She loved her whole family with everything she had.

Linda was an active member of the Lions Club. She loved doing crafts and you would always find her with something new she created. She enjoyed selling her homemade crafts at the local gas station in Courtland, where she worked up until her death.

A Gofundme account has been set up to help Linda's children offset some of the unexpected expenses.

## Constance M. Brown

TRIUMPH—Constance Marie Brown, 76, of Triumph, passed away Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, at her home.

Cremation care has been provided by Jacobson-Torman Funeral Home in Shabbona. Private interment will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery in Shabbona at a later date.

She was born April 17, 1948, in Mendota, the daughter of Roger and Betty (Starks) Miller. She married Larry Brown.

Constance is survived by her children, James (Jan Henson) Brown of Triumph and Jeana (Bill) Watson of Tylene, Ky.; grandchildren, Larry Ray, Katelynn, James Cory, Charles, Luran, Courtney, Angel, Robert, and Hope; several great-grandchildren; siblings, Mike Miller, Rich Miller; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Constance is preceded in death by her husband, Larry; brother, Lew Miller; and sister, Sandra Carr.

## 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.

## Frederick E. Mende

EARLVILLE—Frederick E. Mende, 83, of Earlville, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, at Allure of Mendota.

At Fred's request, there will be no services.

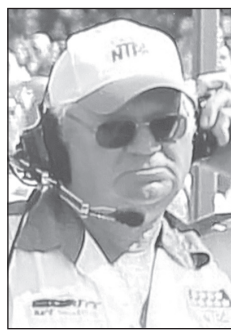
Fred was born July 2, 1941, to Edward and Frances (Shifflette) Mende. He married Wilma Hall at the Ashton United Methodist Church on Aug. 3, 1975.

Fred is survived by his wife, Wilma; special friend, Greg Delay; and numerous cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Edward.

Fred served in the U.S. Army for three years. He farmed his whole life. He also trucked grain and livestock for many years. He was very active in tractor pulling and was on the Allison Team, running a heavy modified tractor. He was admitted to the National Tractor Pullers Hall of Fame in 1985. In the 2000s, he worked as a tech official and flag man for the National Tractor Pullers along with his wife, who was an entry clerk. Fred was named official of the year in 2014. He also served on the Illinois Tractor Pulling board for a number of years representing the Northern Zone for the ITPA. Fred served as Meriden Township Road Commissioner for 19 years. During that same period of time, he served on the Earlville Fire Protection District board, including as President for many years.

Please visit [www.tormanfuneralhome.com](http://www.tormanfuneralhome.com) to sign the online guest book.



## Social Security news

## Social Security serves the Hispanic community

By Mike Weilt

PERU—For nearly 90 years, Social Security's programs and services have been a lifeline to people throughout the United States, including the Hispanic community. Our retirement, disability, and survivors benefits are just as important for Hispanics. Our Spanish-language website, Seguro Social at [www.ssa.gov/espanol](http://www.ssa.gov/espanol), provides information for those whose primary language is Spanish. People can learn—in their preferred language—how to get a new or replacement Social Security card, plan for retirement, apply for benefits, manage their benefits, and much more.

We also provide many publications in Spanish at [www.ssa.gov/espanol/publicaciones](http://www.ssa.gov/espanol/publicaciones). Popular topics include:

- Retirement, Disability, and Survivors benefits.
- Medicare.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Social Security cards.
- Fraud and scams.
- Appeals.
- Benefits for children.
- Payments outside the U.S.

Customers who prefer to conduct business in Spanish can reach a Spanish-speaking representative by calling our toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213. For more information on how we support the Hispanic community, visit our Social Security and Hispanics webpage at [www.ssa.gov/people/hispanics](http://www.ssa.gov/people/hispanics). Please share these resources with friends and family who may need them.

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

## Secretary of State vehicle show set for Sept. 7 in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Secretary of State's office is highlighting the 60th Anniversary of the iconic 1964 Ford Mustang at its annual Vehicle Show in Springfield. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7, in the State Capitol Complex at the corner of Edwards Street and College Street.

"The Vehicle Show brings together car enthusiasts and families from across the Midwest to downtown Springfield," Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias said. "A broad collection of classic vehicles featuring all makes and models will be on display this year. We look forward to hosting the event that will help draw visitors to Springfield and provide a boost to local businesses."

"The Illinois Secretary of State's Classic Vehicle Show is an exciting event that provides a unique experience to visitors and local residents alike," said Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher. "This iconic car show has left an indelible mark on automotive history, embodying the spirit of ingenuity and craftsmanship. This event also provides us with the opportunity to showcase Springfield's finest businesses, restaurants and historic downtown."

Owners that wish to display their vehicle at the annual show must pre-register by Aug. 30. For more information or for a brochure, including a Vehicle Show Registration Form, please call (312) 793-8876 or email [vehicleshows@ilsos.gov](mailto:vehicleshows@ilsos.gov). Spectators who are interested in checking out all the vehicles on display can attend free of charge.

The event will honor one vehicle with the Illinois State Champion Award, given to the vehicle judged best by the show's advisory committee. First-, second- and third-place winners will also receive awards in at least 60 classes.

Ford began manufacturing the Mustang in March 1964, creating a new class of automobiles known as pony cars. The Mustang's styling proved wildly popular and inspired other manufacturers to copy its look.

First held in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, the Secretary of State's Vehicle Show features some of Illinois' finest antique and classic vehicles, sports cars, motorcycles, trucks and tractors.

Last year's event brought more than 1,000 visitors to downtown Springfield with more than 600 Illinois drivers purchasing specialty plates.

## MPD investigates gun shots

MENDOTA—In the early morning hours of Aug. 18, Mendota Police Department officers were dispatched to the corner of Second Street and Ninth Avenue for a suspicious noise. After further investigation, it was found that six firearm discharges were shot into the air from a vehicle.

The case is open, active and being further investigated. Any person with information about this incident should contact the Mendota Police Department at 815-539-9331.

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**Where is it... in Mendota?**

**HOW TO ENTER:**

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

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# LOCAL AND AREA

MHS

Continued from Page A1

ed at \$9,190,159.97. Total cash plus investments is \$14,589,624.43.

The fiscal year 2025 tentative budget was presented and put on display. The board will hear additional recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding the budget at the September meeting. The pending Health Life Safety work items will be budgeted from FY25 and FY26. The proposed budget for FY25 projects revenues at \$11,481,552.06 and expenditures at \$12,167,142.61. The Corporal Personal Property Taxes (CPPRT) revenue number is not yet released from the state of Illinois. It is anticipated to expect a 28% reduction in the previous year's revenue of \$1.2 million. The district is placed in Tier 3 of Evidenced Based Funding (EBF) revenue. The new dollars the district will receive are \$9,991.65. There are no ESSER grant funds this year.

The FY25 budget hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23.

The board discussed the preference to take sealed bids to dispose of the district van no longer in service. The 2010 Chrysler Town and Country with 317,000 miles will be offered for sale by closed bids.

The board discussed and decided to take no action on the Land's Energy Contract for electrical only.

James Younger presented on the Music Department Spring, overnight trip request. The board approved the request.

### PERSONNEL

Following an executive session, the board handled the following personnel items:

- Approved the resignation of Jarred Johnson as assistant maintenance director and hired Jared Ortega as assistant maintenance director.
- Hired Miguel Bermudez as a bus driver, fall varsity tennis coach, and in-school suspension supervisor.
- Hired Justin Valdez as a bus driver.
- Hired Jim Watson as events custodian.
- Accepted the retirement notice from Mitchell Landgraf, school counselor, effective at the end of the 2027-2028 school year.
- Hired spring athletic coaches as presented.
- Approved the maternity leave for teacher, Paula Baker, as requested.

Yields

Continued from Page A1

issues," he said.

The acreage adjustment actually lowered ending corn stocks from last month to 2.07 billion bushels. U.S. corn production is now seen at 15.1 billion bushels, down 1% from last year.

"So, a bit of a surprise that overall production goes down somewhat with that great big yield on corn."

It was a different story for soybeans, however, with production now pegged at a record 4.59 billion bushels, up 10%. Soybean planted area is seen at 87.1 million acres, up from 86.1 million in July with harvested area estimated at 86.3 million acres, up from 85.3 million last month.

"Ending stocks for 2024-2025 came in at 560 million bushels, so that's a big difference and looks plenty rich," Bennett said. "It's a bit of a head scratcher that the USDA has so much export demand built in because we have some of the smallest new-crop bookings that we've had in many years. So, we've certainly got to hope that the USDA sees something that we're not currently seeing."

Immediately following the report on Aug. 12, the corn market was lower then jumped a few cents higher while soybeans settled 20-plus cents lower, hurt by the big carryout number.

"So basically, the perception here is that maybe this situation in corn isn't as bad as everyone thought even with this massive yield, because acreage has been reduced and demand is so strong," Bennett said.

It is important to note that upcoming crop tours and in-field data collection by USDA will provide a more accurate picture of crop conditions and some combines will even be rolling by the time the next crop production report comes out.

"So, as we move towards September, we've got to understand that if you get a better handle on the crop, many times a big crop continues to get bigger," the analyst added. "And if that's the case, then they can certainly provide some pressure on the market in a situation where these markets have already obviously been quite depressed."

*(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.)*

## Illinois State Board of Education launches a \$6 million statewide teacher recruitment campaign

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has announced the launch of a \$6 million comprehensive statewide teacher recruitment campaign in English and Spanish aimed at addressing critical shortages in the teaching profession across the state, especially in bilingual education, special education, and in rural and urban community areas. The campaign, titled "The Answer is Teaching," is inspired by the heartfelt stories and experiences of dedicated teachers across the state. ISBE has received more than 1,750 inquiries from prospective future teachers since the campaign launched in July.

"Teachers are the single most important investment we can make in our schools," said Governor JB Pritzker. "That's why ISBE's 'The Answer is Teaching' campaign is building a bicultural and bilingual teacher pipeline, and empowering potential educators to join classrooms across the state. I encourage anyone who wants to learn what it takes to become an educator to visit the campaign's website."

"Teachers are the cornerstone of our education system. A great teacher can change the course of a student's life and have a positive impact on their entire community," said State

**"It's a great time to be a teacher in Illinois. We offer teachers competitive pay and benefits, a strong community, and the freedom to develop their curriculum. Our goal with this recruitment campaign is both to fill essential teaching positions and also to celebrate the profound impact teachers have on students' lives."**

– State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tony Sanders

Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders. "It's a great time to be a teacher in Illinois. We offer teachers competitive pay and benefits, a strong community, and the freedom to develop their curriculum. Our goal with this recruitment campaign is both to fill essential teaching positions and also to celebrate the profound impact teachers have on students' lives."

ISBE's Unfilled Positions Data, collected annually from all Illinois school districts, showed over 4,000 unfilled teaching positions as of October 2023 with a third of vacancies in special education. The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents released a survey report showing over 90% of schools in the state reported having issues with teacher shortages in the 2023-24 school year. Shortages disproportionately affect students needing special education and bilingual education services, exacerbating disparities in educational access and out-

comes. The campaign aims to attract and retain qualified teachers in these critical areas to promote equity in education in Illinois.

"The Answer is Teaching" utilizes a multifaceted approach, including materials in English and Spanish, to reach potential teachers throughout the state via digital platforms, targeted advertising, and partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations. Current teachers are central to the campaign, sharing their experiences and the many rewards that come with being a teacher, as well as the opportunities for professional growth available in Illinois.

ISBE's commitment to growing and retaining the state's teacher workforce is reflected in multiple initiatives. Illinois invested \$45 million in state funding in both fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for Teacher Vacancy Grants aimed at addressing chronic shortages by providing the state's most understaffed districts with

resources to attract, hire, support, and retain teachers. In addition to recruitment efforts, ISBE is committed to providing ongoing support for educators through apprenticeship and mentorship programs, expedited pathways for qualified professionals to enter the profession, and robust professional development opportunities. Illinois also respects teachers' professional autonomy in the classroom through local control over curriculum and instruction and a statewide ban on banning books.

ISBE launched the marketing campaign in July 2024, utilizing federal pandemic relief funds. The associated advertising will run through January 2025. A website and other materials were developed to establish a pathway for long-term recruitment of a pipeline of new, high-quality teachers in Illinois. For more information about the campaign and to explore career opportunities in Illinois, visit [www.BecomeATeacher.com](http://www.BecomeATeacher.com).

## History of Lake Kakusha event set for Sept. 5th

MENDOTA – The Mendota Museum & Historical Society is thrilled to host a talk on the history of one of Mendota's important local landmarks, Lake Kakusha, presented by Audrey Moreno, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5. The talk will take place in MMHS's new space at 907 Washington St., Mendota.

Moreno will delve into the history of Lake Kakusha and the role it plays in the control of flooding in Mendota. She is a Conservation Technician and Educator for the LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District and an advocate for environmental education and sustainable agriculture. Moreno's journey from rural landscapes to sustainable conservation farming and nature-based education exemplifies her dedication to fostering a love for the environment in young and old alike.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be reserved either on the MMHS website, [mendotamuseums.org](http://mendotamuseums.org), or by calling 815-539-3373.



### AUCTION ALERT!



**REAL ESTATE & CONTENTS AUCTION**  
**THURSDAY EVENING AUCTION**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**  
**STARTING with contents of home @ 5:00PM**  
**175 E KROSS STREET, LELAND, IL. 60531**  
*Rain or Shine*  
*Comfort station, refreshments*  
*Home is open for your inspection by appointment*  
*contact auctioneer here in listed or on sale day the home will be opened at 1:00 pm.*

The property being offered is a residential lot improved with a single family three-bedroom ranch style home. The house features two full fixtured bathrooms, large living room, eat in kitchen, oversized two car garage, rear access to deck, large back yard with stone fire pit. Other amenities included is a Wood constructed yard shed, central air conditioning, gas forced air furnace, hot water heater. The basement of the home is unfinished, poured walls, concrete driveway. Appliances included refrigerator, washer / dryer, gas stove. The property has been very well maintained, City services, mature landscaping. Walking distance to school. Quiet neighborhood. **HOME IS MOVE IN CONDITION**  
**The auction of the property will start @ 5:30 pm.**  
**Contents of the home include an exceptional line of quality well-kept and brand name items including a 2004 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS 2 door Hatchback moon roof, one owner, 21,000 original miles, new tires, could not find a scratch on this vehicle.**

**DANIEL R. AUL, ESTATE Attorney for the Seller:**  
**John Vickers 815-434-2000 Ottawa Il.**  
**Executor, Charles Aul**  
**AUCTIONEERS:**  
Chris Wegener (815)-451-2820, Sandwich IL.,  
[Go2wegenerauctions.com](http://Go2wegenerauctions.com) for more photos, terms, details & upcoming auction events

## IVCC offers pilot ground training

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College's Continuing Education Center offers a 14-session Private Pilot Ground Training course on Tuesdays from Sept. 10 through Nov. 26.

Offered on IVCC's main campus, the course prepares students for the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam (there is an additional fee for the test). Class meets 6-9 p.m. with instructor Joseph Nimee.

The course provides knowledge of flight controls and instruments, airport and airspace considerations, aircraft weight and balance, aircraft perfor-

mance tables, basic weather meteorology, federal aviation regulations, flight psychology and emergency preparedness.


Students will tour Illinois Valley Regional Airport and experience a flight simulator on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1-4 p.m. One class session will meet on Thursday, Nov. 7, because the college is closed on the Election Day Tuesday that week.

The cost of the class is \$359 and the course is open to ages 15 and up. Course ID is 16521.

For information, visit [www.ivcc/enroll](http://www.ivcc/enroll) or call (815) 224-0427.




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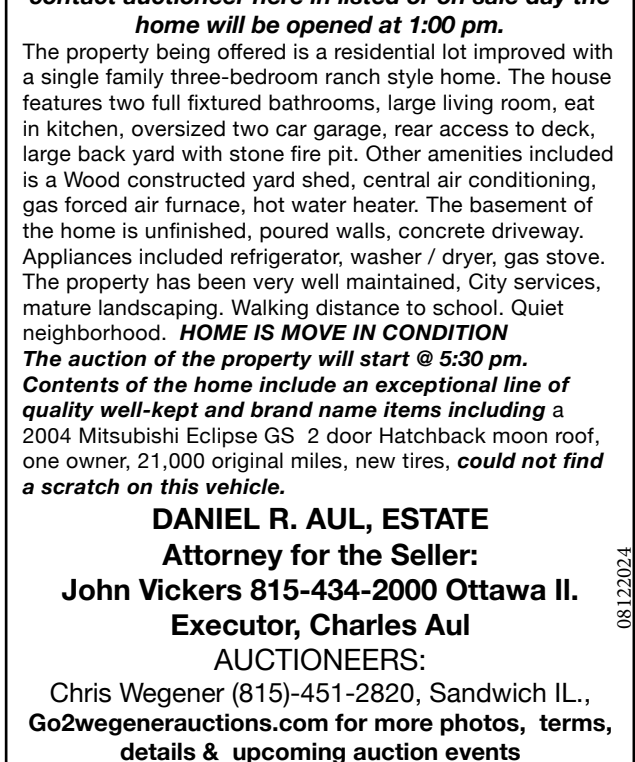


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# OPINION



**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.

## This Labor Day, vow to capitalize on opportunity to diversify the workforce

By **PAT DEVANEY** and **HANNAH HILL**

This Labor Day is a celebration of our country’s growing embrace of a new face of leadership and opportunity. In our politics, a minority woman leads a presidential ticket for the first time. And on the frontlines of our labor movement, the “toolbelt generation” has tremendous room for growth led by women and minorities.

Our challenge ahead is to recognize this important moment and capitalize on it, rather than let it slip by.

We see more young people pursue apprenticeships and careers in the trades than pursuing the traditional four-year college degree. In Springfield, Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Legislature are making substantial investments in these new trades pathways, including \$13.4 million for pre-apprenticeship hubs that help workers find roles in the burgeoning clean energy sector. More women and minority workers will be recruited and welcomed into these roles.

Young people are recognizing working in the trades provides a successful middle-class career and retirement security where other paths fall short. But there are hurdles that must be overcome for a more diverse workforce.

Women make up less than 11 percent of the workforce in the construction industry and just 4.3 percent in the construction trades. Despite some new momentum, recruitment and retention of women in the Illinois construction industry has plateaued at 5 percent for more than 20 years.

Why? The odds are still against working women finding success in the skilled trades.

Too few employers offer maternity leave benefits. Without maternity leave, women with children must go on short-term disability.

Child care is another major stumbling block. The costs are too high, or there are simply not enough options to match their schedules and needs. Non-union workers in child care often are paid poverty wages that lead to high turnover, forcing women workers to pay a heavy price if they want to support their families by heading to work.

With child care uncertainty and restrictions, women on the job face dilemmas. How do we report for work at 5 a.m. or 7 a.m. when everyone else shows up, if the daycare doesn’t open until 8 a.m.? Projects running behind schedule mean longer hours, or weekend schedules. Women in construction must turn down overtime hours because there is simply no one available to watch their children.

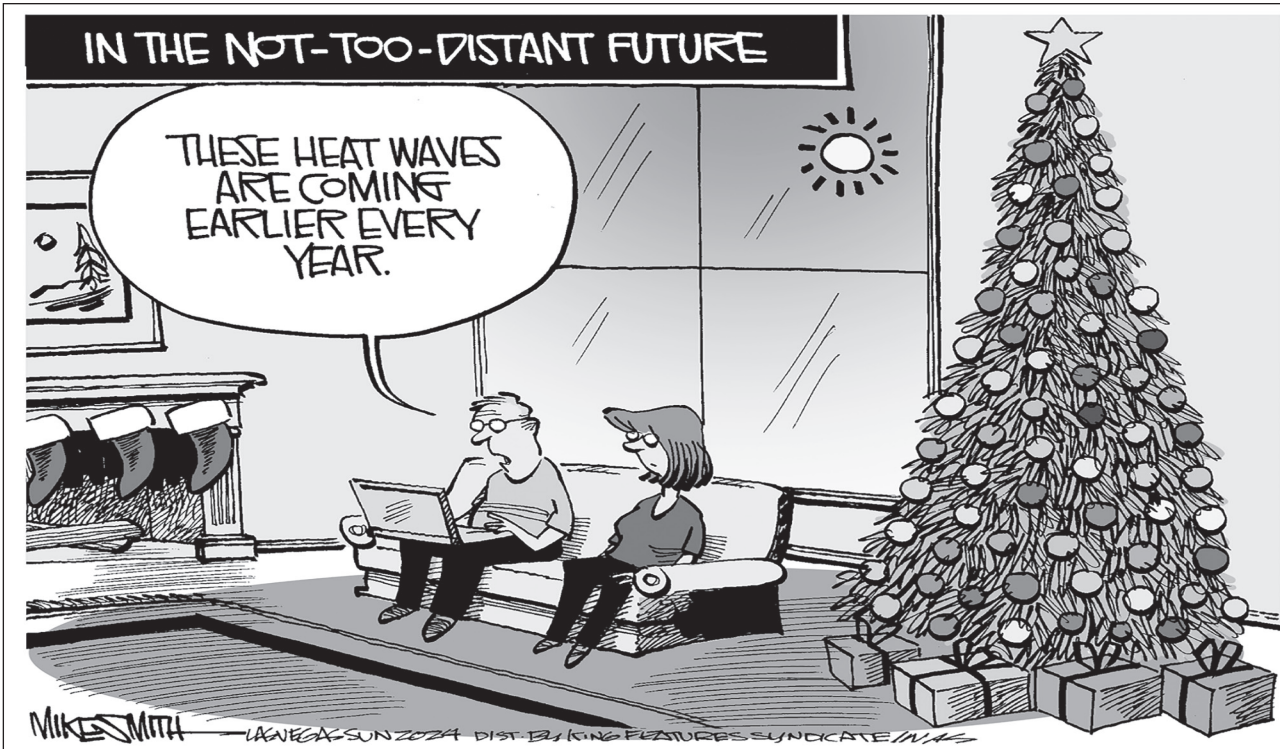
Our union leadership recognizes these serious challenges and is taking them head on. For example, programs like the Barrier Reduction Fund, outlined in the Climate Equitable Jobs Act are one piece of a larger puzzle that we can use to address child care inequities for working women.

A resolution adopted at our recent Illinois AFL-CIO convention this summer calls for a unified campaign to significantly increase women’s recruitment and retention in the building trades within five years. We will fight hard for increased funding and smart legislation at all levels of government to directly address these gender diversity challenges. We need better training programs, more visible outreach, and strong partnerships with allies who share our goals of closing the gender gap by ensuring good, union jobs for women in the building trades.

We took an important step forward in May with our first Tradeswomen Take Over Springfield advocacy day at the State Capitol, bringing teams on the frontlines to meet with legislators and make the case in person for the investments needed to open more doors to women and minorities.

At this critical time for our country and labor movement, we encourage you to visit the IL AFL-CIO website to find a Labor Day celebration parade or event near you: <https://www.ilaf-cio.org/events/2024/9/2/laborday2024/>. Ask the women in your lives how we can help them find the opportunities that have been elusive for too long. We succeed when we all can work together, to put people to work.

*(Pat Devaney is secretary-treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO, and Hannah Hill is a commercial painter and treasurer of Local Union 90, Painters District Council 58.)*



## Chautauqua Week is rare value – 1923

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Aug. 26, 1998.)*

By **Jessica Nashold**

It was 75 years ago this week that the Mendota Chautauqua Association offered a rare treat. Opening Saturday, Aug. 25, 1923, there were five days of music, drama and lectures in a big tent erected on the Lincoln School playground. There were also morning activities for children. Because the association had bought the programming outright, it was able to offer the whole week on a non-profit basis of \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. As The Reporter pointed out –

**This opportunity is not presented every week of the year.**

To make sure expenses were met, tickets were sold door to door.

**Someone will visit you to sell tickets. Treat them kindly and buy all the tickets you can afford.**

A beauty contest sponsored by The Mendota Reporter was in full swing. During August, the names of nominees were published each week and a coupon printed in which additional names could be suggested. Coupons were to be deposited in a ballot box at the foot of the stairs leading up to the Reporter office – at that time located on the second floor of a building on the west side of Illinois Avenue. Voters were to be counted the night before the Mendota Agricultural Fair, which was scheduled for Sept. 4-7.

To encourage attendance, school hours would be shortened during fair days.

One summer evening in August 1923 there was a Ku Klux Klan meeting on a farm northeast of Mendota.

**Quite a number drove out to see the members in the open field.**

Many cars carried spectators not participants in the Klan rally.

Ladies of St. Mary’s sponsored a platform dance and ice cream social in Blackstone Park, Aug. 21, 1923. Music was Edward Bieser’s Orchestra. The event was so enjoyable that many suggested the summer dances in City Park be transferred to the park on the east side.

Al Hebel, who had recently pur-

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

chased the Mendota Bottling Co., announced he had secured the agency for Coca Cola and would be able to distribute within a 25-mile radius of Mendota. He also let it be known he was experiencing a shortage of bottles and cases.

**Those who have any are requested to telephone and a truck will be sent to get the same.**

Both the Burlington and Illinois Central railroads tested specially built cars, installed behind engines to test their pulling power. In one instance, a long line of cars on the Illinois Central failed to make the grade at Henkel. The train had to return to Mendota and remove some of the cars before making another attempt.

Edward Kopp and Henry Ganz, owners of G&K Sales, went to Chicago to drive out two Jewett Sedans. One of them had been sold to Fred Sunday, the taxi driver. He had put 14,000 miles on his Jewett with “very little cost for repairs” and wanted a second one.

**The G&K has sold 30 Jewetts since they have been in business, a little over a year.**

Threshing was expected to be completed on most farms by fair time, Sept. 4. John Scheidenhelm’s oats made 60 bushels per acre.

**This is an exceptional yield.**

The oats were of very good quality. Although a number of hired hands had returned to their homes in the South, they expected to come back to husk “the bumper crop of corn” anticipated in 1923.

A suggestion was made that the Cannon Ball Trail be called the Harding Highway, since road building during his presidency was “the greatest ever seen.” Furthermore –

**The name Cannon Ball is meaningless.**

The change was not made.

At Mendota Auto Co., customers

could open accounts to save for Fords. With an initial payment of \$5, money would be put in a bank account and draw interest as additional weekly payments were made. Once started –

**You will be surprised how little time it really takes to get a Ford.**

Enroll now.

A list of high school texts being used in 1923 was published. Anyone having used texts was urged to leave them at the high school for resale.

**Do not send any not on the list.**

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 26, 1923, the Strand Theatre featured a religious lecture. It was based on lectures of Judge Rutherford, apparently well known, and would be delivered by E.S. Bruce, a member of International Bible Studies Association.

**No collection – no admission fee.**

Bruce’s lecture dealt with the approach of the Battle of Armageddon and the prospect of living in peace and happiness thereafter, if properly prepared.

Twenty-six stores in Mendota and surrounding towns became members of United Retail Merchants of America. Cooperative advertising by these stores listed sugar at 10 pounds for 89 cents, two cans of Campbell soup for 19 cents, URMA coffee at 39 cents per pound. In Mendota, URMA stores were Worsley Brothers, Ed Lathrop, Fischer Grocery, Otto Schildberg, R&E Grocery, Reeser & Wiedenhoefner and F.J. Schmitz.

**SIDETRACK** – Winner of The Mendota Reporter’s Beauty Contest was Miss Alma Barnickle, elected “most beautiful” by popular vote. She resided on a farm southwest of Mendota. On the opening day of the Mendota Agricultural Fair, she was conveyed in a decorated carriage to a platform near the judges’ stand. The carriage was drawn in front of the amphitheater by six young ladies: Jessie Witte, Margaret Smith, Marion Bates, Ethel Cannon, Marjorie Kohl and Marie Zapf. The streamers that served as reins were handled by Beverly Cleer. On the platform, Miss Barnickle was crowned Queen of the Fair. She received \$20 in gold and “a large gold key to the Fair.”

## 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 an 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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## Mendota City Officials

- MAYOR**  
David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive, .....815-538-3924
- CITY CLERK**  
Emily McConville, 1404 Ben Mar Ave., .....815-539-7459
- TREASURER**  
Rob Letterly, 1714 Peri Drive, .....815-910-7652
- FIRST WARD ALDERMEN**  
James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ....815-538-2474  
John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive, ....815-539-9934
- SECOND WARD ALDERMEN**  
John Holland, 902 West Lawn, .....815-528-5367  
Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave., .....630-841-1315
- THIRD WARD ALDERMEN**  
Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave., .....815-538-2414  
Jay Miller, 702 First Ave., .....757-412-9374
- FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN**  
Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave., .....815-252-7243  
Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St., .....815-866-5558



# SOCIAL NEWS

## DAR Chapter welcomes new members

LaMOILLE—The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met Aug. 17 at the Community United Methodist Church in LaMoille. Regent Donna Jungnickel presided over the meeting.

The chapter will be hosting the final Lunch in the Park, Sept. 20 at Mendota Veteran's Park. Carolyn Schultz and Janet Koch will co-chair this. D.A.R. Days will be in Lisle on Sept. 7. Jungnickel announced there is a grant for replacing an American flag in the community. Members are to report to next meeting if they know of a flag that needs replacing and if they want to apply for the grant.

Registrar Ruth Meinhardt introduced new members to the chapter: Cheryl Mooney Mid-night and Sharon Spinks Presse. They placed their patriot ornaments on the patriot tree.

The American Indian minute was on the Oneida tribe. They openly supported the American Revolution, providing the troops with troops and supplies. The patriot missionary Samuel Kirkland greatly influenced their loyalty. When British said they'd march through Oneida lands to attach Fort Schuyler, the Oneida warned local patriots and fought to help defend the fort. The tribe also helped the troops during the winter at Valley Forge.

The Patriot minute recognized Elizabeth Griscom, better known as Betsy Ross. She was shunned by her Quaker family, when she married John Ross an Anglican church member. During the war she manufactured items such as tents, clothing, and blankets for the cause. After her husband's death in the early part of the war, she made flags, ensigns, and banners for the Pennsylvania Navy. She married Joseph Ashburn, who was captured and died in British prison. Her last marriage was to John Claypoole who had been in prison with Ashburn. After the war, she resumed her upholstery & seamstress shop. Although it is not certain that she created the American flag, her various flag designs certainly influenced the final design.

Bev Richardson reported that August is Physical/Mental Health - National Wellness Month. She listed the five determinants of health: healthcare access and quality, educa-

tion access and quality, social and community context, economic stability and spiritual and social well-being. Social and physical environmental factors account for 80% of a population's health outcomes.

Members learned the first 4th of July celebration was July 4, 1777, with a spontaneous celebration in Philadelphia. Most every home displayed candles in the windows in celebration.

Richardson reported she had the new membership directories. They will be available at the next meeting. To avoid postal costs, members were asked if they could deliver to members who couldn't attend. The Audrey and Kasha will do the Christmas and March issues of the chapter newsletter. Audrey is willing to continue the Book Nook section. It was suggested that each section have an editor. A new team will be needed after March.

Jungnickel thanked members who stitched bookmarks to take to the Fall meeting. Diane McCully announced that Amanda Simpson would help with the September library display celebrating the Constitution.

The program was given by the Illinois State Registrar on Supplementals. Supplemental memberships help add new ancestors to assist potential members. She advised only send in one application at time, so problems could be resolved, and then not repeated. This will save members on fees. She also recommended all applications be reviewed by registrar or knowledgeable person before submitting. The meeting closed with prayer and a light lunch.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Sept. 14 at the Mendota Museum & History Society Offices, 907 Washington St., the former Pella Window store. The program will be on how to clean gravestones. The Fort du Rocher web page may be viewed at <http://www.fortdurocherchaptersdar.com>. Any woman over 18 years of age whose lineage traces back to a Revolutionary War patriot, who wishes to learn more about Daughters of the American Revolution is invited to attend the next meeting or go online to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pierce...now and then



## Couple to mark 50th anniversary on September 7

EARLVILLE—Mike and Kathy (Fitch) Pierce will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7, 2024. They were married on Sept. 7, 1974.

Amy (Pierce) and Ryan Finley, Regin (Finley) and Trent Browning, and Austin Finley, all of Troy, Ohio, and Amos and Olivia Pierce of Lake Ozark, Mo., wish their parents and grandparents a happy anniversary.

Anyone wanting to wish the couple a happy anniversary may send cards to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pierce, 825 N. 45th Road, Earlville, IL 60518.

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# TRI-COUNTY NEWS

## Community Calendar

### SEPTEMBER 2024

#### SEPT. 2024

**SENIOR LUNCHESES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11:30 AM  
Monday - Friday  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Meal Cost - \$4.00  
Monthly menus are available on our website & Facebook page. Lunches are from OSF St. Paul Medical Center. Must register 24 hours in advance.

**OCT. 1, 2023 - SEPT. 30, 2024**  
**ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE FUNDRAISER**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Our goal for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$1000. Please help us reach our goal. Drop off cans at the northeast back door of the Civic Center.

**AUG. 29TH - SEPT. 2ND**  
**MENDOTA'S TRI-COUNTY FAIR**  
Sponsored by Multiple  
Opens Thurs. 8/29 @ 4p  
405 1st Ave, Mendota  
For more info call  
815-252-5321  
Free admission

**SEPT. 3, 10, 17 & 24**  
Wii **BOWLING**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10:30 AM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700  
All welcome to come and enjoy the fun.

**SEPT. 3, 10, 17 & 24**  
**EUCHRE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM (Noon)  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
All are welcome!

**SEPT. 4**  
**WAFFLE WEDNESDAY**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
9 AM to 10:30 AM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Join us for FREE Homemade waffles and all the toppings.

**SEPT. 4, 11, 18 & 25**  
**BEGINNING CROCHET CLASS**  
(CANCELLED THIS MONTH DUE TO ILLNESS)  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM - 2 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
New class being offered. Barbrie Crochet will be here to teach crochet from beginners to advanced. Bring your own crochet hooks and yarn.

**SEPT. 4**  
**SMALL FRIES: "WILDFIRE DAY"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: 3 yrs to Kindergarten. Join us for books, craft and play.

**SEPT. 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26**  
**EXERCISE CLASS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
8 AM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Exercise at your own pace with an exercise video.

**SEPT. 5**  
**LEGO CLUB**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: 1st-8th Grades. Come build LEGOs with friends.

**SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26**  
**NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Bring your needlework or crafts to work on or just come for the comradery.

**SEPT. 5 & 19**  
**HEARING SCREENINGS**  
Sponsored by Civic Center & M.A.S.S.  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Hearing aid batteries available at M.A.S.S. to purchase. Bring in old batteries to recycle.

**SEPT. 5, 12, 19 & 26**  
**POKENO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM (Noon)  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673

This game is a combination of Bingo & Poker. Pennies are used, so bring your penny jar. Call M.A.S.S. for more information @815-539-7700

**SEPT. 5**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "ARTS IN EDUCATION"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, songs and play.

**SEPT. 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 & 30**  
**BINGOCIZE**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM  
Feik Lounge -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Open to anyone in the community.

**SEPT. 6**  
**COMMUNITY BINGO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 538-7700 or 539-9673  
Anyone 18 and older welcome to join the fun!

**SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
**BINGO**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Hosted by area facilities with special prizes. Everyone welcome.

**SEPT. 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**TOPS CLUB**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Anyone welcome.

**SEPT. 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**DOMINOES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM  
Feik Lounge -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
All are welcome to join in the fun.

**SEPT. 10 & 24**  
**BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11 AM - 12 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Free to anyone in the community.

**SEPT. 11**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "ARTS IN EDUCATION"**  
(Repeat of Sept. 5th Program)  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
11 AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, songs and play.

**SEPT. 14**  
**SINGING BIRD AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE WOMEN IN THE CULTURE**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
10:30 AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Free  
Dressed in her native regalia, Kim Sigafus gives a history of Natives in Illinois with a focus on Native women, or what was considered "The Hidden Half." Her primary focus is women such as Singing Bird (Blackhawk's wife), and Hononegah.

**SEPT. 14**  
**MASS COOKOUT AT SULLIVANS**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
11 AM - 2 PM  
Sullivans  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Hamburger, hot dogs, brats, pork chop sandwiches, chips and a drink.

**SEPT. 17**  
**CAREGIVER COUNSELING / ALTERNATIVES**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
10 AM - 12 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
A staff member from Alternatives for the Older Adult is available to find caregiver resources or to just talk to caregivers of any age.

**SEPT. 17**  
**3RD TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
Choose  
1 PM OR 6 PM  
FREE  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call

(815) 538-5142  
Reading and discussing: 'Peace Like a River' by Leif Enger. Please stop by the Library to pick up a copy to read.

**SEPT. 18**  
**CHAPTER CREW: "HENRY HECKELBECK GETS A DRAGON"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
4 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: 1st and older. Introduction into chapter books with play and movement incorporated.

**SEPT. 19**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "PIRATES-AHOY"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, songs and play.

**SEPT. 21**  
**RUTH HANDLER: THE STORY BEHIND HER DREAM DOLL CREATION, BARBIE**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
11:30 AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Free  
Step back to 1994, the 35th anniversary of Mattel's bestselling doll, Barbie, as storyteller Lynn Rymarz portrays Ruth Handler, Barbie's creator. Bring your own Barbie to share!

**SEPT. 24**  
**LET'S CRAFT TOGETHER!**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
Choose  
1 PM OR 6 PM  
FREE  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Botanical artwork. All GOOD things come to those who CRAFT together! Bring your friends for a fun time. (Registration is required. Adult crafters only.)

**SEPT. 19**  
**SHAKE, RATTLE & READ "PIRATES-AHOY"**  
(Repeat of Sept. 19th Program)  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
11 AM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: Birth - 2 years old (siblings welcome). Join us for books, songs and play.

**SEPT. 25**  
**MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. - "THE BLIND SIDE" WITH SANDRA BULLOCK**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library & M.A.S.S.  
3 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Free. Snacks (popcorn and beverages) provided by M.A.S.S.

**SEPT. 27**  
**CAREGIVER FAIR "THE BREAKFAST TABLE"**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
8 AM to 10 AM  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
Come join us for breakfast, resources for caregivers of any age.

**SEPT. 27**  
**SEPTEMBER POTLUCK "FALL COLORS"**  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM  
Feik Senior Parlor -  
Mendota Civic Center  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700 or 539-9673  
A sign-up sheet will be available. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

**SEPT. 30**  
**TWEENS: "NERF WARS!"**  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM  
1401 W Main St, Mendota  
For more info call  
(815) 538-5142  
Ages: 5th - 8th Grades. Bring your NERF supplies. Be ready to battle indoors. Pizza by Mendota Rosati's served at 6:30 pm.

More local events found at [mendotachamber.com](http://mendotachamber.com)

*The Community Calendar Is Brought To You By Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce & The Mendota Reporter. These are some of the local businesses who belong to your Chamber of Commerce:*

Brad Fritts State Representative  
Stonercroft Village  
Studio 1500  
Subway  
Sullivan's Ace Hardware  
Sullivan's Foods  
Surf Internet  
T2 Enterprises  
Tacos Guzman  
Tara N. VanDeWyngaerde, OD,PC



The Paw Paw PTO Back-to-School BASH included a bounce house and many other fun activities for the children. (Photos contributed)

## Paw Paw opens a new school year

PAWPAW—The Paw Paw School Board met in regular session on Aug. 20.

David Braun, the school's attorney, gave an update of Title IX changes, and what they entail for the district. The district is in compliance with the regulations.

The PTO Back-to-School BASH was a great success. There was a bounce house, and many big rig equipment "Touch a Truck" for the kids to climb on and learn about. A raffle was held, and one student won a "Take a fire truck to school" ride.

The students were able to enjoy Matt Wilhelm's BMX Show and listen to his powerful message about anti-bullying.

Superintendent DuBois reported the school year was off to a good start with staff, coaches and students. Current enrollment is 43 Paw Paw high school students attending Indian Creek High School, and 130 K-8 students in Paw Paw Elementary.

On the first day of classes, Junior High students buddied with elementary students in kindergarten-fourth grade to give them a tour of the school and explain some of the school rules.

Reading and Math assessment testing is currently underway.

A review with TRANE regarding solar initiatives was discussed and Superintendent DuBois will follow up with the district architect.

The new ramp on the south side of the school has been installed, allowing for easy access with wheeled conveyances.

There will be four four-year school board member positions open in the April 1, 2025 election. Election packets are available at the Lee County Elections Office. The applications must be turned in to the Elections Office in Dixon between Nov. 12-18.

Jolene Miller, Indian Creek District Director of Curriculum and Instruction was present to respond to any curriculum questions from the Board.

Long-range planning school improvement for year-one will include new boilers and updated plumbing. Contracts are being



**Matt Wilhelm, BMX Flatland rider and motivational speaker, gave a presentation to the Paw Paw students at the PTO Back-to-School BASH. He is known for his fast spinning and aggressive riding style. He is a three-time X Games Medalist, World Championship Silver Medalist, two-time United States National Champion, and Guinness World Record Holder. Among other television appearances, Wilhelm advanced to the semi-finals on America's Got Talent. He also won America's Got Talent YouTube competition, and won FOX TV's 30 Seconds. He is also a motivational speaker and performs at over 300 schools per year. He was featured in the award-winning documentary Stop Bullying: Speak UP with President Obama.**

negotiated and bidding will begin this fall for the summer 2025 project.

A Community Forum will be held on Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. and the School Board has invited the Village of Paw Paw Board of Trustees to join the forum. An invitation has also been sent to Sheriff Whelan from the Lee County Sheriff's Office in hopes of having a law enforcement conversation with both groups and any interested community members.

The FFA national convention trip to Indianapolis Oct. 24-25 will be attended by FFA members and their chaperones.

A discussion was held regarding the safety of children getting to school who must cross busy streets. The

School Board transportation committee, along with bus drivers, will meet to discuss possible additional bus stops.

The tentative budget for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year was approved and is on file in the district office.

The Threat-Assessment Plan was approved.

The Revised School Improvement Plan was approved.

Teresa Cardot was approved as the Eighth Grade Class Advisor.

Amy Wormley was approved as the Young Authors advisor for the 2024-25 school year.

A decision to employ REVVER digitalizing services for storing the District's old documents was approved.

## Labor Day Mass planned at St. Michael's cemetery

SUBLETTE—There will be a Mass offered on Labor Day at St. Michael's cemetery - Sandy Hill, located off of Sublette Road, east of Rockyford Road,

in May Township at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 2.

Please bring your lawn chair. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Rep. Fritts recognized for voting record

DIXON—State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) received a 100% voting record from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) for the 2023-2024 session. NFIB, an organization that advocates on behalf of small businesses across the nation, scores all Illinois State Legislators

based on how many votes they cast in alignment with pro-business policy.

"It is truly an honor to receive a perfect voting score from the NFIB, an organization that advocates on behalf of small businesses across the nation," said Rep. Fritts. "Illinois businesses are suffering under the increasing

pressure of regulations and tax hikes. We need to address this critical issue by passing pro-business legislation that will attract businesses and families back to Illinois. I look forward to continuing my fight alongside the NFIB for common-sense, pro-business legislation down in Springfield."



# TRI-COUNTY FAIR

## Carnival returns, new attractions coming to the Tri-County Fair

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA -- The summer is ending.

School is back in session, the sun is setting earlier, and the temperatures are hiking up for a few weeks before they plummet into fall.

This all means one thing in Mendota, it's time for the Tri-County Fair, Thursday, Aug. 29 through Monday, Sept. 2. Gates open at 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and noon on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

"We have a lot of new things at the fair this year. The carnival, K&S Southern Amusements is back and it will be going on for all five days," said Tri-County Fair Board Secretary Carol Ramer. "Carnivals don't come cheap and it means an increase in security. It's an expensive endeavor and we hope people come and support it. It will be great for added activities and games for both kids and adults. There will be plenty to keep people busy and having fun.

"We're going to have a lot more food vendors this year and we're completely



full of vendors in Waldorf Hall. They may spill over into the next building, so we have a lot more than the last few years."

The last time the carnival was at the Tri-County Fair was 2018 after a three-year contract had ended.

This time around, there is only a one-year contract to make sure the attraction is justified by plenty of thrill seekers buying wrist bands (\$25 each) and enjoying the rides.

As always, the fair is going to use the grandstands to the best of their abilities with dirt drags (drag racing

on dirt for side-by-sides, pick-up trucks, and other vehicles you wouldn't normally see on a drag strip) at 7 p.m. Thursday, the truck and tractor pulls at 7 p.m. Friday, Megacross at 6 p.m. Saturday, stock car racing at 6 p.m. Sunday, and the demolition derby at 4 p.m. Sunday.

All of the events are \$10 each.

If racing and derbies are not your style, there are other activities for adults and plenty for children.

With the free parking and



free admission comes a free petting zoo during all five days of the fair.

There will be a dunk tank with some familiar faces in the community waiting to laugh at you if you can't dunk them, Funky Monkey Wrestling will take place in the Floral Hall at 7 p.m. Saturday, a chainsaw art auction

at 3 p.m. Sunday, and the halls will be open throughout the entirety of the fair, as will the beer garden.

"I'm always excited for it to be over. I'm thrilled on the last night when we lock the doors and we don't have to be back at 6 a.m. It means we did a good job and a lot of people came and had fun,"

Ramer said. "It's coming together real nice. We have the carnival, new attractions, the number of vendors that want to come, we have the petting zoo every day, and Free Beer and Chicken will play in the beer garden Sunday night.

"There is something for everyone at this year's fair."

### Mendota Tri-County Fair schedule of events

#### Thursday, Aug. 29

4 p.m. – Gates open  
4-10 p.m. – Carnival & Floral Halls open  
5-8 p.m. – Carnival Armband Special  
5-10 p.m. – Beet Garden  
7 p.m. – Dirt Drags

#### Friday, Aug. 30

4 p.m. – Gates open  
4-10 p.m. – Carnival & Floral Halls open  
5-8 p.m. – Armband Special  
5-11 p.m. – Beer Garden  
7 p.m. – ISP Truck & Tractor Pull

#### Saturday, Aug. 31

Noon – Gates open  
Noon-10 p.m. – Carnival & Floral Halls open  
1-4 p.m. – Armband Special  
4-11 p.m. – Beer Garden  
6 p.m. – Mega X Shootout-Grandstand  
7 p.m. – Funky Munky Wrestling-Floral Hall

#### Sunday, Sept. 1

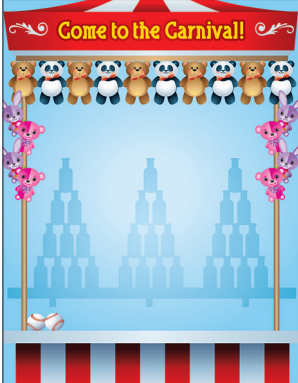
Noon – Gates open  
Noon-10 p.m. – Carnival & Floral Halls open  
1-4 p.m. – Carnival Armband Special  
4 p.m.-Midnight – Beer Garden  
6 p.m. – Stock Car Racing  
8-11 p.m. – "Free Beer & Chicken" playing in Beer Garden  
9 p.m. – Fireworks

#### Monday, Sept. 2

Noon – Gates open  
Noon-5 p.m. – Carnival & Floral Hall  
1-4 p.m. – Carnival Armband Special  
2-8 p.m. – Beer Garden  
3 p.m. – Chainsaw Art Auction  
4 p.m. – Demolition Derby

#### Other Features

- Free parking & gate admission
- Free petting zoo
- Event admission - \$10
- Armband daily special - \$25
- Pony rides
- Crafts, vendors, food



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JIM FITZPATRICK • JOHN HESSENBERGER  
  
2nd Ward Alderman  
JOHN HOLLAND • LEO HOCHSTATTER  
  
3rd Ward Alderman  
KYLE KIM • JAY MILLER  
  
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Enjoy the 2024  
Tri-County  
Fair!

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Enjoy your time at this year's Tri-County Fair!

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# THE BACK PAGE

## GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

**YARD SALE**  
1511 Indiana Ave.,  
Mendota  
Thursday, Aug. 29  
4-7 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 30  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 31  
8 a.m.-noon  
New woodcrafts,  
lots of KN Ex  
motorcycle helmets,  
motorcycle seats,  
Little Tikes items,  
much, much more.  
1t35msr

**MULTI-FAMILY  
GARAGE SALE**  
176 E. US Highway 52  
Mendota  
Friday, Aug. 30  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 31  
8 a.m.-3 p.m.  
1t35r

**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.

## POLICE BLOTTER

**TWO ARRESTED**  
John H. Larson, 39, of Saint Paul, Minn., was charged with driving while license suspended, one headlight, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving under the influence of drugs, possession of a controlled substance and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and I-39 at 12:05 a.m. Aug. 20. A passenger in the vehicle, Maxwell Seabury, 24, of Hendersonville, Tenn., was found to have a valid failure to appear arrest warrant for driving while license revoked from Williamson County, Tenn. Seabury was charged with fugitive of justice, possession of a controlled substance and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Both subjects were transported to the LaSalle County jail.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Efrain Magallanes, 25, of 503 Sixth St., Mendota, was arrested at 7:28 p.m. Aug. 20 on a valid Lee County failure to appear warrant for contempt of court. The subject posted bond and was

released with a Lee County court date.

**VIOLATION OF  
ORDER OF  
PROTECTION**  
Brandi N. Palmer, 31, of 100 S. Ninth Ave., Apt. 139, Mendota, was charged with violation of order of protection after police officers responded to the report of an unwanted person at 111 S. 13th Ave. at 6:24 p.m. Aug. 21. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

**BATTERY**  
Lamirand Scott, 33, of 722 Main St., Mendota, was charged with battery at 3:15 p.m. Aug. 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DOMESTIC  
BATTERY**  
Fredy M. Balderas, 23, of 916 Main St., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to a 9-1-1 call at 7:29 p.m. Aug. 25. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

## State Treasurer returns \$301 million to residents

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs returned a record \$301 million to 321,558 Illinois residents through the state's missing money program during Fiscal Year 2024.

"Putting money back in people's pockets helps families and our state's economy," Frerichs said. "This money belongs with its rightful owners, and we have added tools to return more of it."

Illinois' missing money program — also known as I-CASH — is one of the state's oldest consumer protection initiatives. The Illinois State Treasurer is tasked with safeguarding and returning unclaimed property, including the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. The Illinois State Treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owner or heirs, no matter how long it takes.

Frerichs has given back more than \$2 billion during his time in office. When Frerichs first became Treasurer, there were 60,000 claims paid a year. Today, more than 300,000 claims are paid a year, owing in no small part to Frerichs' complete restructuring of the missing money process. The State Treasurer's Office added electronic claims and eliminated red tape that slowed small-money claims.

The Enhanced Money Match program is a key driver in this success. The program allows the Treasurer's Office to automatically return money to individuals without the need to file a claim. Frerichs worked with the General Assembly to raise the limit on the amount of money returned this way to \$5,000.

The Enhanced Money Match program leverages data already collected by the state and crossmatches it with the Treasurer's unclaimed property database. When a name

and mailing address are matched, identified, and confirmed, the unclaimed property owner receives a letter from the Treasurer's Office that describes the amount and source of the money. After one additional security step is concluded, a check simply is issued to the owner. All people have to do is watch for it in the mail.

Frerichs also added a Friends and Family "share" feature. When visitors to the I-CASH website come across the name of someone they know, they can select the "share" icon and provide the email address of their friend or relative. Frerichs' office will notify the individual by sending an email that mentions the missing money along with the name of the friend or relative who spotted it. Then, that individual can start the process of retrieving their missing money.

This year, Treasurer Frerichs unveiled a Spanish-language missing money website. The site works the same way as its English-language counterpart. People enter a name and city or ZIP code into the search box, and if there's a match, they can start filing a claim online.

When the Treasurer's Office's safe deposit boxes fill up, unclaimed items go up for auction after 10 years of private and public attempts to locate the owner or heirs. All auction proceeds are held in perpetuity for the rightful owners.

Illinois is a national leader in the unclaimed property space and is frequently consulted by other states' leaders who are seeking to reform their unclaimed property laws, rules, and procedures.

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office recommends that people check at least twice each year at [icash.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://icash.illinoistreasurer.gov) to see if missing money is waiting for you.

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# SPORTS

## Back in session

Yes, yes, school is back in session. Big yellow school buses are on the roadways, walkers with backpacks are running across the street, teachers are back in classrooms after a few weeks off (they don't really get an entire summer break), and internet reception is slower than normal because all the kiddos are on their Chromebooks.

The third one isn't fact, but based on a smart, human assumption.

With all of the above, means organized school sports are back.

I don't know about you, but I'm always excited for school sports after a summer of youth and travel leagues. No disrespect to the latter, as I'm a fan and an official, but the old man in me loves seeing athletes represent their school in uniform, spirit, and competition. And for most of those athletes, this is the only time in life they're ever going to play sports where records and accomplishments are kept.

Unfortunately, we are not all athletically worthy of allocating hundreds to thousands of dollars for sports or for the transportation to get the player and the parents to the outside organization outings, so sports start and end for some at school.

I say this from experience.

Which probably also adds to my love for school sports. This year should be very, very interesting in Mendota.

The boys' soccer team went 21-2-2 last year. When I was chatting with coach Nick Myers for the season preview, he said this year's squad could improve on the record.

What? How do you improve on a two-loss season? Yup, the Trojans are ready for an amazing year on par to the team winning a regional title every postseason since 2018 and winning the program's lone sectional in 2021.

We will find out tomorrow (Tuesday, Aug. 27, after press time) of how good the boys' soccer team is going to be because they're playing Moline, which is a IHSA Class 3A school that only lost one game a year ago.

On the gridiron, the Three Rivers Conference Mississippi Division has a new look as Sherrard and Monmouth-Roseville replace St. Bede (left two seasons ago for the Chicagoland Prairie Conference) and Bureau Valley (left this year for the Lincoln Trail-Prairieland (Large) Conference).

And Sterling Newman moved over to the Three Rivers Rock Division.

No offense to Monmouth-Roseville, which I've been to three times in the last two years to broadcast their games against Hall and Princeton, including last year's playoff game against the Tigers, or Sherrard, but I think conference games may be a little easier for the Trojans and they can improve on last year's 1-8 mark.

However, Princeton, M-R, and Kewanee all qualified for the playoffs in 2023, while Mendota, Hall, and Sherrard did not.

The girls' tennis team has a new coach in Miguel Bermudez.

The boys' cross country team has seven returning runners including two-time state qualifier senior Anthony Kelson, while the girls have added two new members for a full squad.

The golf team has many members on the team I see at Mendota Golf Club on a regular basis. All of them post scores I dream about.

Demi Salazar is the new coach for the volleyball team who brings about 50 years of experience with him.

I've talked to him for preview stories, gamers, and season accomplishments at the end of seasons while he was at five different schools in the Illinois Valley over the last 13 years.

If anyone knows volleyball and how to put an impactful team on the court, it's Demi.

Hopefully you're as excited as I am and will be checking out The Mendota Reporter weekly to see the athletic awesomeness surrounding the Mendota Trojans and the Mendota Spikers.



### Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance



Lumen Setchell earned a medal in Northbrook School's inaugural cross country meet on Aug. 21 by finishing in 15th place.

## Inaugural meet

Northbrook School started up Cross Country this year and had its first meet on Aug. 21 at Princeton. Members of the team, front row, left to right, are Evelyn Sims, Graci Bloomfield, Lumen Setchell, Averie Hazelwood and Avi Batchelor. Back row, Harper Stamberger, Kendra Milus, Aliya Delao, Aliya Eames, Austin Brown, London Jones, Tyler Kenny and Aisaac Arteaga. Setchell medaled by finishing in 15th place and the girls' team finished in sixth place. (Photos contributed)

## Trojan golfers claim wins over Princeton and Putnam Co.; beaten by Sandwich

The Mendota Trojan golfers hit their home links for the first time this season and came away with a triangular win over Princeton and Putnam County on Aug. 19.

In varsity action, the Trojans fired a 171 to easily outdistance Princeton (193) and Putnam County (212).

Leading the way for Mendota was Grady Jones, who was meet medalist with a round of 40. Next in for the Trojans was Brody Hartt with a 41, followed by Dane Doyle (44), Tayven Orozco (46), Jonas Fitzgerald (49) and Evan

McPheeters (59).

Mendota's junior varsity squad also had an easy time in disposing of its opponents with a score of 189. Princeton was second with a 238 and Putnam County tallied 263.

The Trojans' Esten Otero turned in the low round with a 46, while Kooper Novak and Collin Coss were just one shot back with 47s. Rounding out the MHS lineup were Nick Sheridan (49), Alex Holland (50) and Maddox Rosales (52).

\*\*\*

The Trojans dropped a 175-186 decision at Sandwich on Aug. 20.

Hartt posted the low score for Mendota with a 43. McPheeters was one shot back with a 44, followed by Doyle at 47. The rest of the Trojan lineup consisted of Fitzgerald (48), Orozco (48), Jones (48), Sheridan (51) and Novak (54).

Mendota's junior varsity squad had a 191 total to win by a wide margin over Sandwich (252).

Topping the Trojan card were Coss and Brody Kaecker with 46s. Otero was next with a 48, followed by Rosales (51), Holland (57), Levi Ossman (58), Ashtyn Stamberger (62) and Corbin Doll (67).

## High school sports participation sets all-time record in 2023-24

More than 8 million athletes competed in U.S. last year

INDIANAPOLIS — More than eight million participants competed in high school sports in the 2023-24 school year — an all-time record and the first time ever that total participation has exceeded the eight-million mark.

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey indicated that 8,062,302 participants were involved in high school sports in 2023-24, which is up 210,469 from the previous year and tops the previous record of 7,980,886 set in 2017-18.

The total includes 4,638,785 boys and 3,423,517 girls — both record highs — according to figures obtained from the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes the District of Columbia.

The 2023-24 total marked the second consecutive increase after numbers tumbled during the pandemic. Since the initial survey after the pandemic, participation in high school sports has increased 444,248 in two years and represents a turnaround from the decline that started the year before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are thrilled to learn that participation in high school sports has exceeded eight million for the first time," said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CEO of the NFHS. "The comeback from the pause of school sports during the pandemic has been so gratifying and certainly indicates the staying power of education-based sports in our nation's schools. We salute coaches, athletic directors and other school administrators for making these experiences happen for student-athletes."

Two of the biggest storylines are the increases in all forms of high school football — boys and girls — and the continued rise in both girls and boys wrestling. Eleven-player football remained the most popular boys sport and registered an increase for the second consecutive year from 1,028,761 to 1,031,508. There also was an increase in 8-player football participation from 23,812 to 26,420.

The biggest gains in football, however, came on the girls side, particularly with the emerging sport of flag football. The number of participants in girls flag football more than doubled from 2022-23 to 2023-24. A total of 42,955 girls participated in flag football in 2023-24 compared to 20,875 the previous year — a 105 percent increase. And from the 15,716 participants in 2021-22, there has been an increase of 173 percent. There also was an increase in the number of girls competing on 11-player football teams from 3,654 to 4,094.

Including boys and girls competitors in 6-, 8-, 9- and 11-player football, and girls and

boys participants in flag football, the overall football total for 2023-24 was 1,118,705 — an increase of 28,825 from 2022-23.

Another highlight is the sizeable jump in wrestling — boys and girls — for the second consecutive year. An additional 32,443 boys were involved in wrestling last year, jumping from 259,431 to 291,874. Since the 2021-22 season, there has been a gain of 60,000 in boys wrestling — an amazing 25 percent increase. And participation on girls teams has continued its historic rise as well with 64,257

participants last year — an increase of 102 percent from the 31,654 in 2021-22.

Outdoor track and field, volleyball and soccer all registered increases and remained the top three participatory sports for girls.

Track and field increased four percent to 506,015, followed by volleyball at 479,125 and soccer at 383,895. Although the number of participants was down about 6,000, basketball (367,284) remained in the No. 4 spot followed by fast-pitch softball (345,451), tennis (195,766), cross country (192,989), competitive spirit (181,023 — up 20 percent), swimming and diving (138,174) and lacrosse (101,204).

Outdoor track and field, and soccer had significant gains on the boys side as well. After 11-player football and outdoor track and field (625,333), the rest of the boys top 10 includes basketball (536,668), baseball (471,701), soccer (467,483), wrestling (291,874), cross country (239,381), tennis (157,835), golf (155,174) and swimming and diving (116,799).

The number of participants in Esports and Unified Sports also registered increases in 2023-24. A total of 27,051 students participated in Esports last year, which included 23,041 boys and 4,010 girls — an increase of 3,129 participants from the previous year. The survey indicated a total of 51,502 participants in the 15 Unified Sports, up from 42,010 in 2022-23.

Texas (859,301) and California (834,103) remained atop the list of state participation. New York (341,454) remained in third, followed by Pennsylvania (336,946), Ohio (323,117), Illinois (320,603), Florida (299,398), Michigan (289,740), New Jersey (280,798) and Minnesota (224,179).

The NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey was started in 1971 and was compiled in its current form through the 2018-19 school year, resuming annually with the 2021-22 survey. The complete 2023-24 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey will be available soon on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).



## Northbrook soccer

### Aug. 24 — Northbrook Round Robin Tournament

#### Game 1

Northbrook 7, LaSalle Lincoln 0  
Goals: Gavin Stamberger 1, Marion Membreno 3, Austin Brown 1, Jose Chavez 1, Arian Chavez 1  
Assists: Membreno 1, Sergio Correa 1  
Goalie saves: Holden Coss 1, Armando Valdes 1

#### Game 2

Northbrook 2, Huntley 1  
Goals: Arian Chavez 1, Jose Chavez 1  
Assists: Axel Ruiz 1  
Goalie saves: Armando Valdes 2, Holden Coss 1



## Hunter safety course planned

DIXON - State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) is hosting an upcoming Hunter Safety Course. This two-day event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both days are required.

"I am thrilled to offer my second annual Hunter Safety Course this September," said Rep. Fritts. "With hunting season right around the corner, I want to offer my constituents a way to learn more about how to keep themselves and others safe while enjoying the outdoors."

The event will take place at the Rochelle Masonic Lodge located at 500 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle. Reservations are required and spots are limited. To secure your spot, contact Representative Fritts' office at 815-561-3690.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit [RepFritts.com](http://RepFritts.com).

## IVCC athletes named to NJCAA All-Academic Team

OGLESBY — Twenty-seven Illinois Valley Community College athletes earned a spot on the 2023-24 National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic Teams, which recognize student athletes across the country for their dedication in the classroom.

More than 12,200 athletes were honored for achieving a grade point average (GPA) above 3.60.

"Playing intercollegiate athletics is a huge time commitment, and many of the athletes compete in multiple sports, have jobs, and belong to other college and community organizations," said Athletic Director Cory Tomasson. "The degree of involvement and motivation of many of these athletes is truly amazing and they contribute so much to the college."

First Team Academic All-Americans are: Charlee Bourell, tennis; Colin Hart, soccer; Elizabeth Browder, softball; Emma Garretson, volleyball; Isabella Lambert, soccer; Maddy Klicker, softball; Marissa Vickers, tennis; and Olivia Shetterly, volleyball.

Second Team All-Americans are: Alex Stremlau,

tennis; Ella Sibert, softball/volleyball; Emma Augustine, softball; Emma Walker, tennis; Katie Bates, softball/volleyball; Kendall Schmidt, baseball/soccer; Lyan Gonzalez, soccer; Maddy Pangric, softball; Roko Jurasovic, basketball; Roko Kegalj, basketball; and Taylor Wetzel, volleyball.

Third Team All-Americans are: Brandon Novotney, baseball; Christian Yepsen, cross country; Justus Mason, baseball; Kristy Hoang, cross country; Logan Brandner, tennis; Morgan Clements, soccer; Thomas Swartz, baseball, and Wade Menard, baseball.

The criteria for the three All-Academic Teams are: First Team — 4.00 GPA; Second Team — 3.80-3.99 GPA, and Third Team — 3.60-3.79 GPA. A total of 3,424 athletes earned a spot on the First Team, while a total of 4,013 athletes were named to the Second Team, and 4,808 were named to the Third Team.

IVCC's softball, women's tennis and volleyball teams also were among the Teams of the Year nominees, among nearly 1,200 teams across the nation that earned at least a 3.0 GPA.



















# MENDOTA TROJANS

## '24 KICKOFF!

### MHS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM



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# MENDOTA TROJANS

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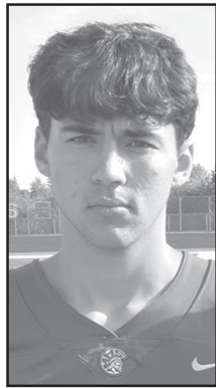


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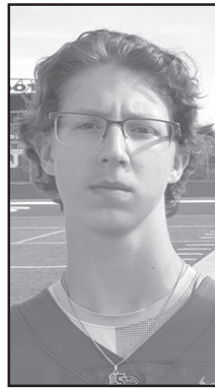


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### 2024 MENDOTA TROJANS SCHEDULE:

#### Varsity Football

- Aug. 30 – Riverdale – 7 p.m.
- Sept. 7 – at Newman – 6 p.m.
- Sept. 13 – at Hall – 7 p.m.
- Sept. 20 – Monmouth-Roseville – 7 p.m.
- Sept. 27 – Sherrard – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 4 – at Kewanee – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – Princeton – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 18 – Erie-Prophetstown – 7 p.m.
- Oct. 25 – at Aledo Mercer Co. – 7 p.m.





# THE 2024 SPIKERS

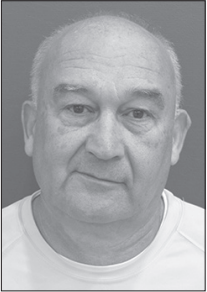


## Good Luck, Lady Spikers!

Aug. 27 – Putnam County – 5 p.m.  
Aug. 29 – at Amboy – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 3 – at Hall – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 5 – Newman – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 6 – at Oregon Tourney (V) – 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 7 – at Oregon Tourney (V) – 10 a.m.  
Sept. 7 – at Putnam Co. Tourney (Fr) – 8 a.m.  
Sept. 9 – Sandwich – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 10 – at Princeton – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 11 – Dixon – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 14 – Mendota Invite (So) – 8 a.m.  
Sept. 17 – Erie – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 21 – at Ottawa Invite (Fr) – 8:30 a.m.  
Sept. 23 – at Indian Creek – 4:30 p.m.  
Sept. 24 – Kewanee – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 26 – Bureau Valley – 5 p.m.  
Sept. 30 – Mercer County – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 1 – Hall – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 3 – at Somonauk – 4:30 p.m.  
Oct. 5 – Mendota Invite (Fr) – 8 a.m.  
Oct. 8 – at Newman – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 12 – at Princeton Tourney (V) – 8 a.m.  
Oct. 12 – at Pecatonica Tourney (So) – 8:30 a.m.  
Oct. 15 – Princeton – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 17 – at Erie – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 19 – Mendota Invite (V) – 8 a.m.  
Oct. 19 – at Fulton Invite (So) – 8 a.m.  
Oct. 22 – at Kewanee – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 24 – at Sterling – 5 p.m.  
Oct. 26 – at Stillman Valley Invite (V) – 8 a.m.  
Oct. 28-31 – Regional

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Sophomore



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Junior



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** Was Keke Palmer ever a child actress? I know she had a music career when she was younger, but what about acting? -- **B.Y.**

**A:** Yes, Keke Palmer, who was born in 1993, started out with a very successful acting career by the time she was just 13 years old. She first had a role in the movie "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" before landing Tyler Perry projects like "Madea's Family Reunion" and "House of Payne." However, it was a starring role in the film "Akeelah and the Bee," opposite Angela Bassett and Laurence Fishburne, that earned her the respect of critics.

She's also gone the traditional child-actor route on Nickelodeon, with shows like "True Jackson, VP," but she eventually graduated into a successful movie career as an adult ("Hustlers" and "Nope").

**Q:** Is it true that "The Librarians" is returning as a series? Will Noah Wyle star in it again? -- **J.C.**

**A:** Noah Wyle's best-known role outside of playing Dr. Carter on the massive hit "ER" is the role of Flynn

Carsen in a series of movies and, subsequently, a TV series called "The Librarians." In addition to Wyle, the series also starred Rebecca Romijn ("X-Men") and Christian Kane ("Angel"), as well as beloved television veterans John Larroquette ("Night Court"), Bob Newhart ("Newhart") and Jane Curtin ("Kate & Allie").

Their fans haven't forgotten the franchise, so when it was announced last year that the CW network was reviving it in a new sequel series, they were thrilled. However, "The Librarians: The Next Chapter," which features a new, young cast (alas, minus Wyle), was originally picked up for the upcoming fall season with a premiere date of Oct. 24. But recently, a report came out that it will not be part of the CW's fall schedule.

Instead, according to "Deadline," an eight-part reality series called "The Wranglers" that explores "the world of professional cowboys and cowgirls on a Montana dude ranch" will debut in its place. Heather Olander, head of unscripted programming for the CW Network, explained what inspired the show: "Fans love

the drama of the bunkhouse on the scripted hit 'Yellowstone,' and now we're bringing it to life in this series."

As for "The Librarians: The Next Chapter," hopefully, it will find a spot on the network's winter schedule in 2025. Fortunately, Wyle has a new project up his sleeve. He's set to produce and star in a new medical drama series on Max titled "The Pitt," which reunites him with "ER" showrunner John Wells.

**Q:** I'm happy that "Good Morning Football" is back on weekday mornings, but why isn't Jason McCourty back? -- **K.E.**

**A:** The NFL Network's highly entertaining morning sports show "Good Morning Football" relocated from the Big Apple to Inglewood, California -- home of the SoFi Stadium. Its four hosts had to make a choice whether to uproot their families to the West Coast, and all but Jason McCourty accepted the move. Meanwhile, McCourty and his twin brother, Devin, who is also a former NFL player, are part of the preseason broadcast team for the New England Patriots.

## • Trivia Test •

1. TELEVISION: Who was host of the "Good Eats" cooking show?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which nation's nickname is "Land of Fire and Ice"?
3. MUSIC: What was the title of Madonna's first Top 10 hit?
4. MOVIES: What does the acronym AT-AT refer to in the "Star Wars" movie series?
5. LITERATURE: Which famous entertainer started a children's book-giving program called the Imagination Library?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which bird's eye is larger than its brain?
7. U.S. CITIES: Which U.S. city's nickname is The District?
8. HISTORY: In which modern country is the an-

- cient civilization of Babylon located?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many articles are in the U.S. Constitution?
  10. AD SLOGANS: Which rental platform's slogan is "Be-long anywhere"?
- Answers
1. Alton Brown.
  2. Iceland.
  3. "Borderline."
  4. All Terrain Armored Transport.
  5. Dolly Parton.
  6. Ostrich.
  7. Washington, D.C.
  8. Iraq.
  9. Seven.
  10. Airbnb.
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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Costa —
- 5 Crib cry
- 9 Gal. fractions
- 12 Colorado resort
- 13 Russian river
- 14 Motor City labor org.
- 15 Alike (Fr.)
- 16 Eyelid woe
- 17 Lyricist
- 18 Santa's runway
- 19 Sly chuckle
- 20 Per person
- 21 British verb ending
- 23 Right angle
- 25 Exaggerated pride
- 28 Affliction
- 32 Look of disdain
- 33 Edition
- 34 Agreed silently
- 36 Goddess of wisdom
- 37 Half of bi-
- 38 Mont. neighbor
- 39 Army transport
- 42 Cagers' gp.
- 44 Till bills
- 48 Internet address
- 49 Eye drop

**DOWN**

- 1 KOA patron
- 2 Shakespeare villain
- 3 Pisa farewell
- 4 Super-motivated
- 5 Urges dogs on snow
- 6 Museo display
- 7 Chaos
- 8 Ginger —
- 9 Witticism
- 10 Poi base
- 11 Trade
- 20 #1 Elvis Presley song
- 22 Ambulance sound
- 24 Non-clergy
- 25 QVC alternative
- 26 Popular card game
- 27 Nap site
- 29 Enzyme suffix
- 30 Press for payment
- 31 Verily
- 35 Moolah
- 36 Prizes
- 39 Burlap fiber
- 40 Messes up
- 41 Power co. supply
- 43 Lure
- 45 Central point
- 46 Black, in verse
- 47 Dispatched
- 49 Smidgen

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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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**FIRST STATE BANK**

## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD --** In 2017, Zendaya made her film debut in "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (an \$880 million box-office gross), followed by "The Greatest Showman" (a \$462 million gross), and topped by "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (a \$1.133 billion tally).



Zendaya

Even though "Dune: Part Two" made \$711.8 million, she couldn't carry "Challengers," which grossed \$94.2 million against its \$55 million cost. But season three of her HBO series "Euphoria," with Jacob Elordi, plans to resume production in January. She's currently filming "The Drama," opposite Robert Pattinson. Oh, and she and hunky, young Spider-Man Tom Holland are hot and heavy out of the web, too!

Whenever she was asked about writing a memoir, Liza Minnelli has often said, "Tell it when I'm gone!" But she has since capitulated and will now write her story alongside longtime friend Michael Feinstein.

But why now? She admits it's because of "a sabotaged

appearance at the Oscars, in front of billions of people ... a film with twisted half-truths ... [and] a recent miniseries that just didn't get it right." She said they were "all made by people who didn't know my family and don't really know me."

Minelli explained, "Finally, I was mad as hell! Over dinner one night, I decided, it's my own damn story ... I'm gonna share it with you because of all the love you've given me."

And why'd she choose Feinstein? "We've been joined at the hip for 40 years," she confessed. "As an Ambassador of the Great American Songbook and my absolute favorite collaborator, Michael's one of the greats. He's razor-sharp, and he tells the truth."

Minnelli is an EGOT (performers who've won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony) -- something her mother, the immortal Judy Garland, never achieved.

"Saturday Night Live" celebrates its 50 years anniversary with a film based on the night the show premiered. It will be written and directed by Jason Reitman. His father, Ivan Reitman, produced and directed "Ghostbusters," (1984), which featured many former "SNL" cast members. Jason wrote two successful

"Ghostbusters" sequels -- "Afterlife" (2021), which he also directed, and "Frozen Empire" (2024), which he also produced.

The film "Saturday Night" features a cast of unknowns (except for Willem Defoe as David Tebet and J.K. Simmons as Milton Berle) and will recreate the chaos of that special premiere night. It's due on Oct. 11.

Kevin Costner's "Horizon: An American Saga -- Chapter 1" grossed \$34.3 million worldwide, and "Chapter 2" of the four-part saga will screen out of competition on Sept. 7 at the Venice Film Festival. Sam Worthington, Sienna Miller, Jena Malone and Danny Huston are back in their saddles.

Former Superman Henry Cavill had to inhale cigar smoke for 8 hours while filming his cameo for "Deadpool & Wolverine" as Cavilline, a Wolverine variant. Director Shawn Levy remembered, "[He] kept that cigar lit and in his mouth for the entirety of the shoot day. I remember hearing the next day that Henry got sick to his stomach because he had been inhaling cigar smoke for 8 hours straight, but never once did he waver."

Sounds like Superman's found his earthy kryptonite!

## Couch Theater

"Inside Out 2" (PG) -- The sequel to Disney's "Inside Out" (2015) has become the second highest-grossing animated film of all time after bringing in a whopping \$1.597 billion, and it's well deserving of its immense success. The film boasts a star-studded cast, with new additions Maya Hawke ("Stranger Things") and Ayo Edebiri ("The Bear") joining Amy Poehler, Diane Lane, and Kyle MacLachlan, who reprise their roles from the first film. Taking place two years after she first moved to San Francisco, Riley is now officially a teenager and faces a new learning curve in life as she hits puberty. Insert four new emotions for her to deal with: anxiety, envy, embarrassment and ennui -- oh, my! To keep their storytelling as authentic as possible, the film's production team even consulted psychologists so that teenage viewers could truly relate to Riley's pestilent pubescent problems. Rent it now! (Apple TV+)

"Twisters" (PG-13) -- Almost three decades after Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton's "Twister" hit the big screen

back in 1996, a standalone sequel was released and pulled in \$315.3 million in the box office so far. The new cast of tornado chasers is led by Daisy Edgar-Jones ("Normal People"), Anthony Ramos ("Transformers: Rise of the Beasts"), and the always-grinning Glen Powell ("Hit Man"). Their adrenaline-loving, yet brilliant characters take on a myriad of bone-chilling storms throughout rural Oklahoma, facing tornadoes that reach a Category 5 of incredible damage on the EF Scale. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Fall Guy" (PG-13) -- Let's move on to a film that actually underperformed at the box office, even with its two notable stars. This action comedy loosely based on the 1980s TV series of the same name gave us another "Barbenheimer" moment by putting "Barbie's" Ryan Gosling opposite "Oppenheimer's" Emily Blunt. Gosling plays stuntman Colt Seavers, who is tasked by his film's producer to find the missing lead actor, Tom Ryder (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), and stop his

ex-girlfriend's (Blunt) film from being ruined. Turning into somewhat of a bounty hunter, Colt starts to track Tom's whereabouts, but the closer Colt gets to finding him, the more Colt realizes that he's been seriously misled as to what's really going on with Tom. Premieres Aug. 30. (Peacock)

"Simone Biles Rising" (TV-MA) -- If you didn't get enough of the talented Simone Biles during the recent Paris Olympics, you should definitely give this two-part documentary series a try. Viewers can follow along as Biles prepares to make her return to the Olympic stage after withdrawing from the 2020 Tokyo Games due to her struggles with mental health. Starting from the point where Biles felt herself coming apart in Tokyo and leading up to moments before she would snag four medals in Paris, the series gives fans an intimate, up-close portrait of the world-renowned gymnast in all aspects of her life -- as a daughter, a sister, a teammate, a friend and a wife. (Out now, Netflix)

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



**King Crossword**

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

J	N	E	D	S	T	O	D	C	S	E	T
N	O	O	N	O	I	H	V	E	R	T	
B	E	O	K	U	A	E	L	T	R	U	
S	E	N	O	A	V	N					
				O	A	M		I	N		
V	N	E	H	I	V		O	E	O	O	N
B	E	S	S	I			U	E	E	N	S
A	D	V	T	W		S	I	U	R	B	H
				L	I	E	S	I			
D	O	D	V		H	E	H		J	O	O
V	H	I		E	A	I	S		T	I	V
M	Y	O		T	I	B	U		T	I	V
S	T	O		V	A	M	A		M	I	C



# RELIGION

## Give yourself a push

Do you know that you're stronger than you think? Do you know God has placed a holy determination inside of you...an ability to handle things that come your way and never give up?

We all have dreams, and we all experience times in life when we feel like throwing in the towel. Or we say a quick prayer and hope everything will just magically change. However, just wishing for things or situations in life to get better or to be different does not bring change or results.

What makes a difference is setting aside all distractions, opposition from the

enemy, reasons why "it can't work," and whatever else holds us back. We also

have to decide that when God says something can happen—when He's given us a dream or vision for our lives—it's our job to agree with Him and allow Him to empower us to see it happen.

We've all been frustrated by outcomes in life. We've all been hurt. We've all

gone through pain, stress, trials, and adversity. We all have had moments when it felt like life was pressing against us. And the truth is—whether things are good in your life right now or

they're difficult—there will be seasons when life seems to be pressing in on you. That's not going to change.

On this side of heaven, none of us get to choose whether or not we'll be free

from pain. But that doesn't mean we're helpless. You don't have to sit back and

let life happen to you.

No, God's given you something incredibly powerful: He's given you His strength and power, which can help you overcome and press through any issue in your life!

Wishes don't have any power to change your life. But God's power and your determination to stay the course (no matter what) does.

When life has pressed against you, backed you into a corner, stolen your joy, or kept you from God's best, you have to press back! God is calling you to press against the pressure that's pressing against you. No one else can press in for you, and there's no getting to the other side of the storm without making this choice.

So, what's pressing against you? What's the source of your greatest stress?



Maybe you need to get out of debt. Maybe there's a relationship that needs

healing. Maybe you need to change your lifestyle habits, exercise more and take

better care of yourself.

You can do it—it's not impossible. But it's not going to just happen by itself.

You've got to decide that you're more desperate for change, more desperate to have what God says you can have—than your desire to stay comfortable or satisfied with where you are.

The apostle Paul says it this way (and he was in prison because of his faith when

he wrote it): "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me" (Philippians 3:12 NKJV).

Paul was determined

to press in and press on. He wasn't going to let anything stop him from laying hold of everything that Jesus had prepared for him.

That's the exact same attitude I want you to have. I want you to come to the place where you say, "God, I'm tired of being stuck in this same place and feeling defeated. I'm going deeper into Your purposes and plans for my life, and I'm going to press in. I want to have to have everything You have promised me!"

So, whatever obstacles you are facing—whether they are financial, relational, emotional, or anything else—I encourage you to press in and press on toward the dreams God has placed in your heart. Because when you refuse to give up, God will surely reward you.

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching re-

source Don't Settle for Less Than the Best. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

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

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AUCTIONS?  
See Page A5!

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Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

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

In-person & on Facebook at:  
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Methodist Church

Sept. 1 - 9:30 a.m. Worship service

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METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Jeff Brace  
jbrace8459@gmail.com

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Preschool - 6th grade  
in fellowship hall during worship service  
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during Sunday services)

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

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Pastor Elise Rothfusz

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Website:  
www.stjohnsmendota.org

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9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person  
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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...The lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

PROVERBS 5: 3-6

"Head of a Girl" by Karl Schmid-Berthoff (1915)

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell  
Wayne Shuman

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Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

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following children's message  
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our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.  
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Joshua 6, on the seventh day, how many times did the men of war march around Jericho? 1, 3, 5, 7

3. In His first recorded miracle, what did Jesus turn into wine? Goat's milk, Grape juice, Fig cider, Water

4. From 1 Chronicles, what king was buried with his sons under an oak tree? Neco, Jehoshaphat, Saul, Rezin

5. In the story of creation, what did God call the darkness? Blackness, Night, Fourscore, Trinity

6. In Exodus 17:15, who built an altar and called it Jehovah-Nissi? Moses, Abraham, Jacob, Aaron

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Seven, 3) Water, 4) Saul, 5) Night, 6) Moses

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

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