



Feeding time
This year’s Tri-County Fair had plenty of activities for the entire family, including a petting zoo and a chance to feed some animals, as this camel enjoys accepting a tasty snack. Beautiful weather descended upon the Mendota fairgrounds for the entire five-day run of the fair. See more pictures from this year’s fair on Page A2. (Reporter photo)

Construction underway on I-39 in LaSalle Co.

OTTAWA – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that construction on Interstate 39 through LaSalle County began on Sept. 3.

The project will patch 36 miles of I-39 in La Salle County from the Marshall County line to just south of the Lee County line. Work includes joint and pothole repair. There will be intermittent lane closures on I-39 throughout the project, which is expected to be completed in November.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area and be prepared for slow and stopped traffic. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,200 miles of highway and nearly 9 million square feet of bridge deck

as part of Rebuild Illinois, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illinois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 3 updates on X, follow us at @IDOTDistrict3. View area construction details on IDOT’s traveler information map at www.GettingAroundIllinois.com.

Sublette ready to throw a big celebration for 170th milestone

❑ Numerous events scheduled for September 7 & 8

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – It’s not every year a municipality turns 170.

Especially, a thriving precinct.

And it’s extraordinary when the census sign reads 450 people.

Sublette, Illinois is one of few which can make the claim. And not only make the claim but celebrate its ability to sustain a united community with the ones who help make it a real-life bond instead of a statement, you.

Sublette is celebrating its 170th anniversary on birthday, both terms fit, on Saturday, Sept. 7 and Sunday, Sept. 8.

On Saturday, a softball tournament will begin after its 8:30 a.m. registration, craft vendors are open 9 a.m.-2 p.m., bounce houses and a petting zoo will open 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Les Wilson will perform uptown from 11 a.m.-noon, a parade will cruise down the Sublette streets at 1 p.m., and food trucks will be available all day.

Hops and Harmony will take place from 6-10 p.m. with beer tasting and musical performances from The Wilde, Voth, and Grammy Award winning country music band, Diamond Rio.

Sunday will include craft vendors from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and the annual attraction, Pullin’ in the Park at 11 a.m.

Residents and natives of Sublette are excited about the celebration and Sublette turning 170.

John Stenzel

“For Sublette to turn 170-years-old, that means there has been a lot of dedicated, hardworking people to help sustain the village,” said



the Sublette Village Board president. “The number of volunteers and support Sublette receives from its residents is phenomenal. I hope everyone comes out and celebrates because it’s for all of the people who live here and make our community great.”

Nick Vaessen

“It was typical small-town living when we were kids. Everybody was riding bikes and playing baseball. We met up with the neighbors every day,” said Vaessen, who is a third-generation family member associate of Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet in Sublette and 1992 Amboy graduate. “There was only one way to tell where everyone was at, look for the pile of bicycles. We didn’t have cellphones, so you traced the bikes.”

“It’s cool Sublette is having a 170th celebration and it’s cool Sublette has made it this long. A lot of small

towns dry up and blow away because of lack of business. We’re all here to support Sublette at all times. Vaessen Brothers is turning 98 this year, so we’ve been here for most of the 170.”

Katie Leffelman

“We’ve done different celebrations before, but we haven’t done anything like this where we have so many activities in at least the last 10 years,” said Leffelman, who grew up five miles outside of town, bought a house in Sublette in 2017, and works at Sublette’s Numark Credit Union. “We’re trying to focus on kids’ activities and have plenty for them to enjoy. At the same time, adults want to have fun during the day.”

“It’s going to be a fun weekend. Pullin’ in the Park is always a great time for families. Now, we have a fun-filled Saturday, too.”

Nick Dinges

“I think it is always great to bring people together. I’ve always felt that our community is very special,” said Dinges, who is the Sublette Fire Department’s assistant fire chief, CEO/owner of Dinges Fire, and president of Sublette 365. “Anytime there is an event, or someone needs help, it feels like everyone always wants to come together and get a lot of things accomplished.”

See Sublette, Page A5

“For Sublette to turn 170-years-old, that means there has been a lot of dedicated, hardworking people to help sustain the village. The number of volunteers and support Sublette receives from its residents is phenomenal.”

—John Stenzel, Sublette village president

Mendota students return from foreign lands...with friends

❑ Students enjoy exciting times experiencing other cultures

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – In May, The Mendota Reporter published a story about Rosalinda (Rosi) Lopez becoming a foreign exchange student in Italy and Addy Allensworth boarding a plane to France.

Both Mendota High School students came back in July. They didn’t return alone as both of them brought back their foreign exchange friend they stayed with across the pond.

“France was so exciting. When I got back, I was just as excited to tell people about my trip,” said Allensworth, who had always wanted to go to Paris. “I want to get more people to be a foreign exchange student because I had so much fun. I had more fun than I thought I was going to have. Knowing that, I think others would have fun and think it was cool.”

“My favorite part was seeing the Eiffel Tower, especially when it sparkled at night.”

Allensworth also enjoyed the coastal aspect of France, the food, and the people.

Her favorite dish was galette, which is a breakfast-like dish consisting of ham, cheese, and an egg, made similar to a crepe, but consumed at the dinner table.

When Allensworth returned to Mendota, she was glad Anais Bouvier came with her so she could make her the French delicacy.

Bouvier and Allensworth stepped off the plane on United States soil on July 17. Bouvier returned home on Aug. 19, but not before she enjoyed the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival and American culture.

“My trip has been very good. Perfect. Going to Chicago was my favorite. I

love Chicago,” Bouvier said. “I liked that there is a river that runs through Chicago and all of the big buildings. We went to a White Sox game against the (New York) Yankees and we went to a Cardinals game in St. Louis. It was cool to see the arch. I stood underneath it and was amazed.”

“Food is very different here. It isn’t bad. It has more sugar and processed. Food in France is more organic, fresh. School is more chill here. We don’t play games or watch movies in class in France.”

When speaking about Italy, Lopez is all smiles.

Her lifelong dream of going to Italy is now a countless real-time souvenir she won’t forget.

See Students, Page A5



Students have been touring the country through the Rotary Exchange Program, including to and from Mendota. Left to right, are Mendota High School junior Addyson Allensworth, Julia Carvalho (Brazil), Anais Bouvier (France), MHS junior Rosalinda Lopez, and Maila Gorgaini (Italy). (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



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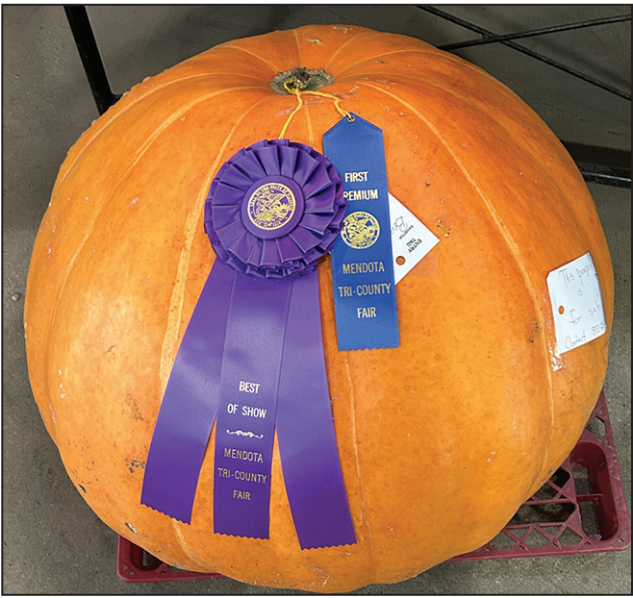
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**RECYCLE THIS
NEWSPAPER**

LOCAL AND AREA

Tri-County Fair packs the floral halls, bleachers, vendor lines



Best of Show-Agriculture
Ben Kiner of Mendota won the Best of Show-Agriculture for his giant premium pumpkin. (Reporter photo)



Best of Show-Photography
Madison Myers of Mendota won the Best of Show-Domestic/Fine Arts Photography for her unique picture of architecture. (Reporter photo)

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We’ve had a very smooth start to the year at Blackstone. The students are making new friends, meeting staff, learning rules and practicing procedures. It’s great to have everyone back in the building and ready to have a fantastic year!

□□□

We have a few new staff members at Blackstone this year. They are off to a great start and are already a part of our Blackstone family. We welcome the following new staff members: Ashley Diaz (social work), Amanda Ridge

(paraprofessional) and Teresa Leffelman (health aide).

□□□

I would like to thank the many community members and businesses who have recently donated school supplies to our students in need at Blackstone. The students were so excited to receive their new supplies. We appreciate this support!

□□□

Our students recently brought home information on our first fundraiser of the school year. We are selling items from

Perfect Pastries. There are a variety of items for sale including braided pastries, fruit puffs, cinnamon rolls and caramel rolls. All orders are due back to school by Friday, Sept. 6. All proceeds from this fundraiser will allow all three schools to purchase prizes for our monthly reward assemblies recognizing great behavior. We appreciate your support with this fundraiser!

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Schools are required to practice different drills each school year. One of

them is a fire drill. The Mendota Fire Department assisted us with a mandated fire drill on Aug. 27. The students and staff did a great job of evacuating the building and following the procedures for the fire drill. Thank you to the Mendota Fire Department for assisting us.

Students recently brought home flyers for fall pictures. Parents have the opportunity to purchase pictures from our photographers at Inter-State Studios. Pictures will be on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Oscar Mayer Weiner Mobile coming to Mendota Sept. 7

MENDOTA – The famous 27-foot-long hotdog on wheels is rolling through Illinois with stops at multiple Sullivan’s Foods locations.

On Thursday, Sept. 5, the Oscar Mayer Weiniermobile will be in Freeport from 11 a.m.-2p.m and Winnebago from 3-6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 6, the hotdogger will be in Morrison from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Savanaa from 3-6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 7, Oscar Mayer will be in Mendota from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Princeton 3-6 p.m.

Sunday will see stops in Stockton (11 a.m.-2 p.m.) and Lena (3-6 p.m.).

The Tee-Box proving to be an Illinois Valley culinary attraction

SPRING VALLEY – The Tee-Box, located at 223 E. St. Paul Street in Spring Valley, has been getting rave reviews for its food.

Recently, The Tee-Box debuted its pork tenderloin served for \$10 from 5-8 p.m. every Tuesday. The limited hours are because of the demand for the hand-breaded and pounded delicious pork, seasoned to perfection with all the toppings and an order of fries.

The tenderloin received top-notch marks from local critics.

Now, food reviewer and Illinois Valley native, Steve Kirby, wrote a review on Facebook about The Tee-Box and how he keeps coming back to Spring Valley for more.

“If you know me at all, once I find one great thing I rarely leave that comfort circle, but at The Tee-Box, this restaurant keeps bringing their A-game in all they do. During the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, my family took a detour from Mendota and headed south again to Spring Valley,” Kirby scribed. “The Tee-Box had a special dish on the back of the menu that suggested a medley of meats and noodles blended with some Cajun spices. Once again, we were greeted with all smiles, sat immediately and had our food and drinks in no time.

“This restaurant pours all their attention and detail into everything they do. You can feel and easily taste the labor of love they put in each dish. This Cajun meal is called the Cajun

chicken, shrimp and sausage. While there was an itch to it, it wasn’t overwhelmingly hot or spicy. It was perfection.”

The Tee-Box menu offers many delicacies including JT’s fried chicken, Italian beef, crab rangoon egg-rolls, pulled pork nachos, flatbreads, pastas, salads, and more.

Other than Tuesday only offering pork tenderloins from 5-8 p.m., the full menu is available 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sundays.

Dine-in at 223 E. St. Paul Street in Spring Valley, the phone numbers for carry out are 815-554-9049 or 815-554-9050, and orders can be placed online at theteeboxsv.com.



Mendota Lions Club donates \$30,000 to YMCA
Members of the Mendota Lions Club and the Mendota YMCA recently gathered to recognize the Lions Club donating \$30,000 to the Y. The donation is three years, \$10,000 per year, and for the use of scholarships for the YMCA after school program. The YMCA said, “We are deeply honored by the Lions Club’s incredible kindness and generosity.” In the photo are, left to right, Zach Hunt, Bob Martinez, Mike Merriman, Steve Donnell, Zach Ross, Haydon Schmidt, and Jill Friedman. (Photo contributed)



Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) to turn 100
Did you know there is a Philanthropic Educational Organization Sisterhood in Mendota? Not only is there a group, but this year in December, it will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Mendota PEO, which currently has 23 members, meets monthly to emphasize the objective of women educating women, which has been the premise since it was formed in 1924. PEO has created multiple scholarships for many female students over the years. The intergenerational group featuring more than one level of family trees is symbolized by the PEO flower, the daisy. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Leeward Renewable Energy holds tour
While the downtown streets of Mendota were bustling with Sweet Corn Festival activities on Saturday, Aug. 10, some Mendotans and people from surrounding communities were at the wind turbines on the outskirts of town. Kyle Rex, the local Leeward plant manager explained how the wind turbines work, how much energy they produce, how much land mass they need, and why they are important. GSG Wind, which started operations in 2007, is on 3,000 acres of land near West Brooklyn. The GE 3.4MW Serra Wind Turbine features a rotor diameter of 140 meters, has a hub height of 321 feet, a rotor swept area of 15,397 m2 (equivalent of 3.8 acres) for a blade tip speed of 173 MPH, a maximum operating temperature of 104 degrees, and a minimum operating temp of -22. There are currently 26 turbines on the windfarm which produce 334, 272 megawatt hours per year, which is enough power to supply 31,240 homes for one year. In a pamphlet handed out by Rex, one megawatt hour will light a standard light bulb for 16,000 hours or almost two years. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

LOCAL AND AREA

The Kramers to perform gospel concert in Ottawa

OTTAWA – A gospel concert featuring The Kramers will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13 at Washington Square Park in Ottawa. The event is free and sponsored by the city of Ottawa Special Events Committee. Just bring a lawn chair.

When God’s gifting, God’s anointing and God’s calling come together in one family, exciting things are going to happen. Since their beginning in gospel music ministry, The Kramers have maintained a high quality of musical excellence with an unquenchable passion to see people come to know Jesus Christ as Savior. Matched with the seriousness of their calling, The Kramers shine with an undeniable love for The LORD.

The beauty of this relationship is clearly evident not only through the anointing of their music, but also their godly love for everyone they meet. One cannot attend a Kramers concert without being touched. With Rachel’s beautiful, soaring soprano voice, Maria’s tender, heartfelt delivery of beautiful lyrics and smooth family harmonies, many doors of opportunity have now opened nationally.

The Kramers maintain a full schedule sharing at events across the United States and beyond in churches, auditoriums and major concert venues. This increased demand has also led to increased recognition and The Kramers were nominated for “2020 New

Artist of The Year” as part of The Singing News Fan Awards. As things have continued to progress for The Kramers, they teamed up with StowTown Records and multi-award-winning producer, Wayne Haun for their latest album release entitled, “Sing Me There,” a sophomore album release with StowTown Records. The new project is indicative of The Kramers’ wide range of musical styles as it offers touching ballads, up-tempo songs with catchy melodies, powerful songs of worship and songs featuring awe-inspiring orchestrations.

At an event with The Kramers, audiences can expect a variety of musical styles featuring beautiful family harmonies and the



skilled accompanying instrumentation brought forth by Scott and Ben. Audiences are greatly moved, oftentimes to tears, by the sweet, yet powerful gospel message within each of the

musical selections. Top all of this off with a time of hearing personal testimony, along with an opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, and many walk away greatly

impacted by the gospel. That’s the hope of The Kramers – to share this gospel Truth with everyone they meet that Jesus is The Living Hope for All Tomorrows!

Fall Pluto Fest to take place Sept. 14 in Streator

STREATOR – The Hardscrabble Lions Club is planning its Fall Pluto Fest on Saturday, Sept. 14 in Streator. On the same day, the Streator Walldog Food Truck Festival will return to City Park, 200 N. Park St. Both events will begin at 11 a.m. and will coincide with the farmers market at the park. Fall Pluto Fest is in honor of Streator native Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered the planet.

Pluto Fest will feature Homebrew beer tasting under the tent. A driver’s license for proof of age will be required to enter the tasting tent. Souvenirs will be for sale including Pluto T-shirts, FineField pottery mugs, and wine and beet glasses. The event is free to attend.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Truman Ridge from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and Street Corner Blues from 3-6 p.m. on the pavilion. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chair and/or blanket.

Also, Sparrow Nest Farm will have a fenced area for a petting zoo from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the north central area of

the park.

The Food Truck Festival will feature 17 confirmed food trucks from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in the 200 block of Hickory Street on the south edge of City Park.

A special interest booth will be available with Scott Pellican of LaSalle, NASA Solar System Ambassador, focusing on NASA’s New Horizons mission to Pluto. While achieving space exploration milestones of its own, New Horizons fly-by of Pluto in 2015 revealed how Pluto is different than anywhere else in the solar system.

Pellican will be available to answer questions about the mission and NASA in general. The NASA Solar System Ambassador program is a public engagement effort that works motivated volunteers across the nation to communicate the science and excitement of NASA’s historic space exploration missions and solar system discoveries with people in their communities.

For more information about either festival, call 815-674-3931.

Kishwaukee College recognized for excellence in financial reporting

MALTA – Kishwaukee College was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for Kish’s comprehensive financial report for the Fiscal Year 2023.

The achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by Kishwaukee College and its management, according to GFOA.

Jill Fletcher, Kishwaukee College’s Chief Financial Officer, and the Kishwaukee College Business Office were recognized for compiling the Annual Comprehensive Financial

Report (ACFR). Each year, Kish submits its ACFR to GFOA for review and evaluation by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to communicate the College’s financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the GFOA for our team’s hard work in financial reporting. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report allows our community to see a complete picture of Kishwaukee College’s economic condition and the public finances entrusted to us,” Fletcher said.

Kish has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial

Reporting every year since first submitting an ACFR in 2012.

“Receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is an exceptional accomplishment for Kishwaukee College and our Business Office,” said Bob Johnson, Kishwaukee College Board Chair. “We are very proud of the hard work and dedication that goes into making the College a fiscally responsible and transparent entity for our community.”

GFOA provides best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 21,000 members working in federal, state and local finances. To learn more about Kishwaukee College, visit kish.edu.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

John F. McConville

MENDOTA – John F. McConville, 94, of Mendota, formerly of rural Earlville, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, at Allure of Mendota.

Visitation was from 9-10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024, at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Earlville. Funeral Mass followed the visitation at 10:30 a.m. at the church with Father Gregory E. Nelson officiating. Burial followed at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery in Earlville.



He was born May 5, 1930, in Ophir Township Earlville, the son of Leo and Frances (O'Donnell) McConville on the family farm. He married Florence Munroe on April 25, 1953, at Holy Cross Church in Mendota.

He is survived by his wife, Florence; his children, "John" Michael (Marlene) McConville of Ottawa, Dennis (Susan) McConville of Peru, Mary (Kevin) Biers of Athens, Ala., Ellen (Mark) Atherton of Earlville, Rose McConville (deceased), Dan (Joanna) McConville of Earlville; seven grandchildren who will be pallbearers, Angela (Brent) Kalsto, Brian (Christin) Atherton, Jake (Amanda) Atherton, Katie (Laen) Neal, Luke (Bailey) McConville, Jonathan McConville and Daniela McConville; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Doris Jessen, as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Rose McConville; one grandson, Jared Biers; sisters and brothers, Mary (James) Graham, Eileen (Lester) Full, Donnell (Bernice Larkin) McConville, Emmett McConville, Leo (Lois) McConville, John Jessen, Shirley (Richard) Smith; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Robert "Red" and Shirley Widmer as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was a lifelong member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Earlville and The LaSalle County Farm Bureau. He farmed his entire life in Ophir Township. John was a Fourth Degree Knight of The Knights of Columbus, past Grand Knight, past Faithful Navigator and District Deputy for several terms. He was a past board member of Ophir Township, served on the Ophir School Board for many years, Ophir drainage district and he was a long-time member of the Mendota Elks Lodge. He was an election judge for over 30 years. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to MASS, which is Mendota Area Senior Services, Mendota Christian Food Pantry or to St. Theresa Catholic Church. For more information or to sign the online guestbook go to www.EighnerFuneralHomes.com

DEATH NOTICES

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

The latest obituaries can be see at mendotareporter.com



District 289 new staff members

Mendota Elementary School District 289 welcomed new staff members for the 2024-25 school year on opening day Aug. 16. Front row, left to right, are Beth LeBeau, Assistant Principal Northbrook; Dana Dunnett, 8th grade resource Northbrook; Ashley Diaz, Social Worker Blackstone/Lincoln; Madi Brannon, 3rd Grade Lincoln; Ava Fortney, ROE Mentor Northbrook; and Gloria Bauer, Lincoln ESL coordinator. Back row, Dalton Jilderda, 6-8 PE Northbrook; Mark Aska, Band/Choir Northbrook; Danielle Buttel, 2nd Grade Lincoln; Chance Blumhorst, 6th Grade social studies Northbrook; and Rey Arteaga, 6th Grade math Northbrook. (Photo contributed)

IVCC approves \$41 million FY25 budget

OGLESBY – The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees on Aug. 15 approved a \$41 million budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

Revenues increased due to an increase in sales and service revenue and investment income. Expenditures also increased, largely due to planned Master Plan initiatives. The operating budget is balanced at \$29.7 million, which includes \$1.7 million for Master Plan initiatives.

In her monthly report, President Dr. Tracy Morris noted:

- Twenty-two additional degrees or certificates were awarded in spring and summer as students received credit through Prior Learning Assessment (through an examination or life experience).

- Beginning this fall, a non-credit surgical technician program provides 24 in-person training sessions to prepare students for certification in the field.

- The Get Set program served 17 participants and the Project Success Jumpstart served 65 students. Both programs provide additional support and orientation for students starting at IVCC.

- As part of a "Keeping your Kids Safe Back-to-School Series," CBS News covered Continuing Education's Cyber Crusaders Camp on Aug. 8 and 9 for kids ages 8-12.

The Board:

- Designated procedures for filing nominating petitions for the April 2025 Board of Trustees election. Nominating petitions can be filed in Room C-301 between

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 12 to Nov. 15, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 18. The College is closed for Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 11.

- Authorized the College's annual contributions to health plans and learned that full-time employees will be offered a new health plan option.

- Authorized renewal of a Microsoft software maintenance and support agreement in the amount of \$39,800.

- Authorized renewal of the Coursedog Event Scheduler and Class Scheduler in the amount of \$63,600.

- Authorized renewal of the Ferrilli Core System Admin Agreement to support the Ellucian Colleague administrative and academic operations software in the amount of \$36,600.

The Board also:

- Authorized appointments of Madonna Duncan as Director of Marketing and Communications and Rebecca Caldwell as Early Childhood Education instructor.

- Learned of the appointments of Madeleine Hunter, Financial Aid Administrative Assistant, and Taressa Edge, Learning Resources Administrative Assistant.

- Accepted the retirement of Ron Groleau, Dean of Natural Sciences and Business, effective Jan. 31, 2025.

- Learned of the resignations of Kimber King, Health Careers Navigator; Brandon Henry, history instructor, and Gerald Stuart, women's soccer head coach.

- Learned of a networking agreement with Freedom House of Princeton.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Sublette

Continued from Page A1

Sublette feels like it provides a sense of belonging.

“There are a lot of family ties and roots that date way back in our town. It’s great to see a lot of those families still in Sublette and it’s great to see new families come into town.”

Denny Klein

“We’re on our third home in Sublette in the same neighborhood we originally moved to almost 60 years ago,” said Klein, who is originally from Mendota but moved to Sublette 56 years ago. “When we moved in, we had great neighbors and that’s what has kept us here. It’s a nice community to live in.

“When you’re in a community for over 50 years, you become part of it and want to see it be successful. We don’t celebrate all that often, but when we do, we want to make it a meaningful celebration.”

Carol Vaessen

“The people in Sublette are awesome,” said Vaessen, who moved to Sublette 56

years ago with her husband Louis, who has lived in Sublette for all but two years of his life. “Our children who don’t live in Sublette anymore saw a T-shirt at Local Cup and Cake when they were visiting that said, ‘I was raised in Sublette.’ Although they don’t live here anymore, they wanted the shirt because Sublette is where they’re from. They wear them.”

Kyle Kellen

“There have only been two years of my life, the first two, where I was right outside of town between Sublette and West Brooklyn, otherwise I’ve been here the entirety,” said Kellen, 43, who is a deputy for the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. “For years, I was one of the officers who patrolled Sublette. Now, I’m a school resource officer at Sauk Valley Community College.

“My duty has changed where I’m not patrolling Sublette anymore, but I still receive calls about Sublette issues. It’s nice to be part of a small, tight-knit community

like Sublette. Everyone who has lived here or has been involved in some capacity has played a part in Sublette. You see some small towns struggling and businesses are shut down.

“We’re lucky for our small, little town to keep on rolling and still be doing good. That’s a testament to the people in town.”

Chris Leffelman

“Every town around talks about how nice Sublette is. It’s because of the volunteers. They come out of the woodwork,” said Leffelman, the Sublette Park Board president, who similar to his wife Kim, was born on Main Street in Sublette, hasn’t had a Sublette address for the last 30 years, but are heavily active in the community. “It’s not just people from Sublette, it’s people from West Brooklyn, Amboy, Maytown, and LaMoille.

“I’ve always said, ‘No small town can make it on its own. Small towns have to work together.’ And around here, they sure do. Every little town helps the other little towns.”

Illinois EPA Household Hazardous Waste collection events set in Oregon and Dixon

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois EPA Interim Director James Jennings is announcing 10 upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) one-day collection locations for the Fall of 2024. These collection events are co-sponsored by units of local government and provide residents the free opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover hazardous products commonly found in homes.

The Fall 2024 one-day collections are scheduled on Saturdays and require pre-registration.

Among the collection sites and dates are:

- Saturday, Oct. 12—Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department, 909 Pines Road, Oregon. Contact solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov or call 815-732-4020.
- Saturday Oct. 26—Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL-2 N, Dixon. Contact State Rep. Brad Fritts at repfrittsstaff@ilhousegop.org.

“Illinois EPA is pleased to once again offer one-day Household Hazardous Waste collection events, providing residents with the opportunity to properly dispose of unused and unwanted household chemicals and other hazardous products from their homes,” said Interim Director Jennings. “I would also like to extend a special thanks to our local partners for helping to make these events possible.”

One-day collections are open to all Illinois residents and operate from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the event. Pre-registration is required for all Fall 2024 collection events. Residents participating are encouraged to bring chemical cleaners, oil-based paints, thinners, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, weed killers,

insecticides, and pesticides, and similar hazardous household products. Fluorescent and other high-intensity discharge lamps may also be brought to the collections. ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED include latex paint, explosives, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals, and business wastes. A complete list of wastes that are and are not accepted is available online at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/acceptable-wastes.html>.

For safe transport of HHW, residents are asked to:

- Pack HHW items in a disposable box to avoid spilling during transport.
- Keep like chemicals together and separate unlike chemicals.
- Secure lids and make sure containers are not leaking.
- Place box(es) of HHW in the empty trunk or storage compartment of your vehicle, away from passengers during transport.
- Remain in vehicle at collection site. On-site personnel will remove the HHW from your vehicle.

For questions concerning the Illinois EPA’s one-day or long-term collections, please contact the Illinois EPA Materials Management Unit at 217-524-3300. The HHW collection schedule is also available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/collections.html>. Illinois EPA HHW collections continue to be contactless for the safety of participants and workers. Collection events are funded through the Illinois EPA’s Solid Waste Fund.

Students

Continued from Page A1

“It was everything I expected and way more. Every single night I had fun. There wasn’t a second where I was miserable or wanted to come home,” Lopez said. “Every moment was a memory. I loved everything about it. It felt like home.”

Lopez loved her time in Milan, Venice, Verona, and Sirmione as she traveled Italy. Her favorite attractions were the Milan Cathedral and the beaches.

She attended family parties where she was introduced to Italian rapper and singer, Anna, and new Spanish and Reggaeton music.

“Every single day, I felt like I gained 100 pounds because of all of the food I ate. It was so good,” Lopez said. “I love their gelato. Every night, we went to a soccer game and then had gelato afterward. It’s one of my favorite things now.”

Maila Gorgaini hosted Lopez in Italy and returned with her Mendota friend from July 4 to Aug. 18.

In similar fashion as Lopez gravitating to Gorgaini’s

friends and family, Gorgaini did the same with Lopez’s inner circle.

“There were moments when I was looking for Rosey. She was with my friends. It was fun to have her come to Italy and be with us. It was really cool,” Gorgaini said. “My experience in the United States, I love it so much. Her friends were really cool and know they’re my friends. I also loved Chicago. It was one of the reasons I wanted to come to the United States. I couldn’t stop smiling when I was in Chicago.

Gorgaini immediately became a fan of American breakfast as waffles, pancakes, French toast, bacon, and sausage are now her favorite food group.

One aspect of American culture she said was very different than Italy was the relationship between teachers and students. She noticed American students have a “friend-like” interaction with their teachers, while in Italy, they cannot use teachers’ first names.

School was one of the first differences Julia Carvalho

talked about when she came to Mendota from Brazil.

Carvalho came from Brazil alone on Aug. 14 and will stay with junior Elaina Reddin and her parents, Kent and Angie Kirchner, for the next year.

She also noticed food and stores.

“So far, I like it here. The first place I went to when I got to Mendota was Cindy’s (Cindy’s on 34). The food was so good, so different, and so much,” Carvalho said. “In Brazil there are smaller portions and it’s more expensive. At Cindy’s, there was a lot of food for a good price. I took some home for dinner.

“I was excited to go to stores. In Brazil, we don’t have a lot of options. The stores we do have, it is very expensive. When I went into stores when I got here, I wanted to buy everything, but I controlled myself.”

The foreign student exchange was made possible by the Mendota Rotary Club and the Rotary Exchange Program.

City Ordinance

Grass clippings, etc. in streets

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

Penalty: Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500. Imposition of any penalty for a violation of this section shall not be construed as a waiver of the right of the City to collect the cost of removal of such nuisance where it is necessary for the City to remove such nuisance.

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
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John Vickers 815-434-2000 Ottawa Il.
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OPINION



Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA
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Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive

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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.

A summer filled with fairs & fests

Some states may be different, but when it comes to Illinois, fairs, festivals, and carnivals are at the top of the summer to-do list.

I mean, it would be hard to believe if they weren't since there are many of them spread through the entire state. But for lack of space in the paper and limited knowledge of events outside of the Illinois Valley, we'll stay right here.



Never the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, Amboy Depot Days, Tri-County Fair, and Hops N Harmony in Sublette from the end of July to the beginning of September.

If you want to add a few from surrounding communities, there is the Bureau County Fair in Princeton, LaSalle Days, Oglesby Days, Buffalo Days in LaMoille and the Petunia Fest in Dixon. I'm probably missing a whole bunch.

But isn't that the point?

There are so many, and they happen everywhere.

So far, this seems like I'm hating or don't enjoy the festivals. When I was younger, a teenager, that's exactly what I was doing. Just seemed like a waste of time.

As I get older, the criticism for the actual event isn't there.

The last two years, as an ambassador for the Sweet Corn Festival, I have volunteered 20-40 hours over the weekend to help with different aspects of the annual fest. This year, I helped sell 50/50 tickets for Depot Days and made sure I was present for as many of the attractions as I could be. For the Tri-County Fair, I said I would sit in the dunk tank, but thankfully, it didn't happen.

Now, I know I'll be in swimming trunks during next year's fair in Mendota.

Being on the other end and understanding what it takes, from so many people (usually volunteers) is mind blowing and gives a whole other perspective of the good, and the community cohesion a village, town, or city event such as the ones listed below achieve.

Like everything else in life, there are the depressants.

When you hear people bashing the Sweet Corn Fest and why isn't this here or this there or it isn't up to their standards. It's hard to hear those comments when you know the Chamber of Commerce, which funds, staffs, and runs the entire SCF – not the city, is compiled of volunteers.

These volunteers are spending months to gather all the resources, all the aspects of the festival, then organizing, then manually putting together stages, beer gardens, craft vendor areas, then creating 50/50 drawings for you to win money, and an additional 10-15 thens.

Oh, here is 16...then picking up and collecting trash left on the ground two feet away from a garbage can, which are labeled and are approximately the same size as the residential garbage cans. They are not camouflaged.

The same can be said for the rest of the fairs and festivals, especially the numerous people standing in a shack on a hot day in Amboy selling 50/50 tickets instead of spending time with their families or drinking beverages with their friends.

They took a time out of their life to help you enjoy yours, whether it's giving you an opportunity to win money, enjoy music, play a game, ride a ride, eat carnies (I had to use the word at least once, right?) food, and purchase interesting crafts.

It's also disheartening to hear, "I don't go because the fair doesn't have a carnival" or "There isn't enough food vendors" or "There isn't enough for kids to do."

Because on the other side you're finding out, the community didn't fund the carnival before and it put the board in debt and made them take out a loan, there were 10 different types of foods available, but the gripes were about an 11th option, and kids' activities were planned, advertised, and held for six hours during the day but families showed up in the seventh hour.

I know we are currently in a complain about everything society. Don't get me wrong, I do it about certain aspects of life as well.

But when it comes to people going out of their way for the happiness and fun of others, can we please have some grace, understanding, and thanks for what these awesome people are doing...for you.



Mendota school mandates of 1922

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Sept. 3, 1997.)

By Jessica Nashold

As school bells began ringing in 1922, a number of changes were being addressed. Lincoln School, on the east side, had an enrollment of 234 of which 23 seventh graders had preferred not to transfer to the Departmental School for 6-7-8 grades at Blackstone on the west side.

Blackstone had 118 in grades one through five, and 97 in Departmental School.

Since quite a few children were not attending school, it was believed some had illegally gone to work.

No work certificates are to be issued to children under 14 years of age. They must complete the fifth grade.

Employers were warned they would face fines if they hired boys or girls without legal work certificates.

The child labor law will be enforced.

Enrollment at Mendota Township High School had been damaged by rumors that the school was overcrowded.

Fifteen or more students were influenced to attend other high schools.

Although classes could be accommodated size wise, it was true MTHS could not accept credits earned by students transferring from unaccredited schools.

Such acceptance would mean losing its accreditation.

The city council wrestled with a knotty problem when it opened bids on installing boulevard lighting downtown Mendota. There were three bids and the bid of the local electrical contractor, F.C. Lenihan, was \$3,507.20, only \$62 higher than the low bid of \$3,445 from William McLaughlin of Chillicothe.

The contractors were asked to leave the room while the matter was discussed.

Alderman Barnett wanted to vote for Lenihan "but did not see how to get around the proposition that it was not the low bid." Alderman Rutishauser said the contract should go to Lenihan because he would be around after the work was done in case problems developed.

Alderman Bolster moved that the low bid be accepted and the motion passed with 5 ayes and 2 noes. Aldermen Ru-

Backtracks & Sidetracks

tishauser and Schaller voted no.

Many businesses were of the opinion the contract should have gone to the home contractor.

John H. Faber was engaged to mark trails leading to Mendota – the Meridian, the Cannon Ball and the Starved Rock Trail.

The markers have been made much plainer for tourists.

Paul Carroll took up a collection locally to cover the cost.

George Moore Jr. sold his oil business located west of the Faber Hotel to B.E. Umbarger of Ottawa. Prairie Motor Oil was sold there.

Harry and William Worsley took possession of the George Nurnberg grocery on East Sixth Street on Sept. 5, 1922. They promised to carry nothing but the best goods at "prices as low as possible."

They will deliver to any part of the city.

Although coal was in short supply it was believed the cost could be held in check. Dealers were quoting a price of \$6-\$6.50 per ton. Customers were warned they might not receive their orders "all at one time."

It will be delivered in a load here and there, but all will be taken care of as much as possible.

A farm group served notice that farmers would prosecute anyone picking wild grapes and berries outside their fence lines.

Their rights extend to the middle of the road.

Republican Committeemen of LaSalle County held a meeting at Shabbona Park in September 1922, attended by 100. Rudolph W. Witte of Mendota was county chairman. Talks by all the candidates were followed by a wiener roast and steak fry with Mendotans R.N. Crawford and Fred Henning in charge.

It was one of the most harmoni-

ous Republican gatherings ever held in this county.

Both St. Mary's and Holy Cross had baseball teams in 1922 and after a Holy Cross victory of 4-2, St. Mary's came back to triumph 6-3. Although Holy Cross did not win this game, their Ben Zolper made local history with an unassisted double play.

This was probably the first of its kind to have ever been made on the local diamond.

The Reporter often carried a Woman's Column. In a September 1922 offering, it was noted that the "modern girl" was being criticized for her independence.

She learned to be self-supporting and independent during the war.

The columnist felt this should be blamed on the war, not the girls, but suggested "moderation."

Not too much rouge, not too short skirts or too transparent blouses and no rolled hose.

The Mendota Regulars had sponsored platform dances in City Park during the summer of 1922 in an effort to erase a debt. They announced the platform would be moved to the fairgrounds where dances would be held during the fair in mid-September.

The market on Sept. 7, 1922, quoted corn at 52 cents, oats at 28 ½ cents, butter at 32 cents and eggs at 22 cents.

American Legion members of LaSalle County were making a second attempt to get a measure favorable to Illinois veterans on the November ballot. There were 17 Legion posts represented at an organization meeting in Ottawa. Robert Black of Mendota was elected to the executive board. A previous effort in 1920 had "died out" for lack of effort.

The general manager of Westclox, recently returned from a trip to Germany, reported in "Tick Tock," the plant publication, that he had been required to register his arrival in town with the police department in order to secure a permit allowing him to remain. There was a fee of 2500 marks (less than \$2) per month. On leaving, he had to tell government officials where he was going next.

Letters

Lee County benefits from funds

Dear Editor:

Under the Biden/Harris leadership, several programs were created to lift the US economy out of the recession created by the Covid crisis.

And it worked! "Right now, America's economic-growth rate is the envy of the world. U.S. GDP growth is nearly twice as fast as Canada's and more than eight times as the United Kingdom's" per Roge Karma of the Atlantic on June 10, 2024.

You've heard of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. So, where's my money? It's right here, in Lee County, Illinois.

From ARPA, Lee County has nearly completed over \$6.6 million of projects since 2021, spent primarily on replacing aging systems in public buildings countywide. That's the HVAC, elevator and IT network systems in the courts' buildings, Small Business program investment, the Lee County

Fairground and Theater restoration. And when projects are created, there is more reinvestment in local businesses. Sublette received \$20,000 of ARPA funds, which are earmarked for public safety projects.

Finally, after four years of hollow promises from the previous administration, everyone pulled together to pass the Infrastructure Program and it's a biggie – \$17.2 billion is coming to Illinois. Along with the Rebuild Illinois program, Lee County is spending \$8.5 million on road projects. Dixon is replacing two large water mains for \$3.1 million and \$578,000 is funding an upgrade to the Dixon airport's Automated Weather Observation System. This is what makes America great.

**C. Amy Palmer,
Sublette
Democratic Precinct
Committee Person
for Sublette**

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LOCAL AND AREA

Practical Farmers of Iowa sets Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up event for Earlville

EARLVILLE – Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) is hosting a Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up in Earlville at 8 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 12. The location is 4279 E. 12th Road, Earlville. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

Join PFI for this field crop farmer meet-up where you can talk with neighbors about cover crops, soil health, conservation practices on your farm or the growing season in general. This casual get together provides farmers the opportunity to connect, share ideas and troubleshoot challenges around the farm.

For more information, go to <https://practicalfarmers.org/events/field-crops-farmer-meet-ups/>

IVCC Theater plans costume & vintage clothing sale

OGLESBY – If you are in panic mode over what to wear for Halloween, Illinois Valley Community College's Theater Department's upcoming costume sale might just do the trick – or treat.

Add a little theatrical flair to your Halloween wardrobe during the department's costume and vintage clothing sale Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 12-14, at the Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

Browse the racks of formal wear, vintage men's and women's clothing and specialty costume pieces, masks, wigs and character hats – all available at bargain prices and some just waiting for best offers to be taken home. Transactions are cash only.

"Our costume room is overflowing, and we want to share and bring costume joy to everyone!" said Dr. David



Dr. David Kuester displays some of the costumes that will be available during the IVCC Theater Department's vintage clothing sale next month. The three-day sale will be held on the college campus, with proceeds going to the student performing arts association. (Photo contributed)

Kuester, IVCC speech and theater professor.

Hours of the sale are

Thursday, 2-6 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Proceeds support Students of Performing Arts and Music Organization.

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

1. WHAT TO SELL

Anything that still has usability and some value.

2. HOW TO PRICE

Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.

3. LENGTH OF SALE

Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.

4. HOW TO SET IT UP

Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.

5. HOW TO ADVERTISE

The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*

THURSDAY, 3 PM -

to appear in Monday's Money Saver

MONDAY, 10 AM -

To appear in Wednesday's Reporter

* On a week with a holiday, deadlines may change. Please call to verify.



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The thousands of lives lost, the families changed forever, the nation enveloped in fear and grief. The incredible acts of courage, the daring rescue missions, the stronger nation that emerged united in the fight against terrorism. Let us remember it all, the tragedies and the triumphs, and let us be grateful for those who were there to help. May the American spirit forever soar!

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PATRIOT DAY

THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST

Conor E. Shukstor, 31, of 815 Washington St., Apt. 3, Mendota, was arrested at 2:25 p.m. Sept. 2 on a Grundy County warrant for failure to appear/driving while license suspended. The subject was released with a Grundy County court date.

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

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Be alert for bicyclists

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department urges motorists to pay attention, be alert for bikes and share the road. MPD urges bicyclists to be predictable and observe traffic laws. Your actions affect public opinion.

Illinois Bicycle Laws

Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists riding on a highway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, with few exceptions.

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

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

Two or More on a Bike – Bicycles shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack device or sling.

Parental Responsibility – The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize the child or ward to violate any of the provision of this code.

The Mendota Police Department encourages bicyclists to wear a helmet for protection against head injuries.

Illinois Dept. of Revenue reminds eligible taxpayers to take advantage of back-to-school tax benefits

CHICAGO – As the new school year gets underway, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is reminding eligible taxpayers that they may claim back-to-school expenses for their K-12 students on their 2024 Illinois individual income tax returns.

“Both teachers and parents spend a lot of money in preparation for each school year and that is why I encourage them to utilize valuable savings offered through both the Illinois Educational Expense Credit (for parents) and the Instructional Materials and Supply Credit (for teachers),” explained IDOR Director David Harris. “It is important they keep receipts for all qualifying purchases in a safe place so they can be accessed when it is time to file their taxes.”

The Illinois Education Expense Credit allows parents or legal guardians of a full-time K-12 student under the age of 21, to take a 25% tax credit on qualified education expenses over \$250 this

year. The total credit may not exceed \$750, regardless of the number of qualifying students. For tax years ending on or after Dec. 31, 2017, the credit is not allowed if a taxpayer’s federal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) exceeds \$500,000 for returns with a federal filing status of married filing jointly, or \$250,000 for all other returns.

Qualified educational expenses include tuition, book rental, and lab fees in excess of \$250 paid to the school where the student is enrolled on a full-time basis. For home schooled students - book rental and lab fees greater than \$250 are eligible when attending a qualified home school program.

Based on the latest final IL-1040 return data, over 203,000 taxpayers claimed the Illinois Education Expense Credit in Tax Year 2023. The total amount claimed was more than \$65.4 million, with an average credit of \$322.

The K-12 Instructional Materials and Supplies Tax

Credit allows eligible teachers of full-time K-12 students to receive a tax break for qualified expenses on classroom materials paid during the taxable year. To qualify, taxpayers must be teachers, instructors, counselors, principals, or aides in a qualified school for at least 900 hours during a school year. They can claim a credit of up to \$500 for qualified expenses they paid in the current taxable year. If spouses are both educators and are filing jointly, the maximum credit is \$1,000.

Based on the latest final IL-1040 return data, over 68,500 taxpayers claimed the Instructional Materials and Supply Tax Credit in Tax Year 2023. The total amount claimed was more than \$29.1 million.

Additional information regarding both tax credits may be found by visiting IDOR’s website at tax.illinois.gov and at Pub-112, Education Expense Credit General Rules and Requirements for Schools, Home Schools, Parents, and Guardians.

MPD reminds to always keep vehicle locked

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

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

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




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SPORTS



The Mendota varsity soccer team won the championship of the Streator Tournament on Aug. 31. The Trojans posted two wins and one tie. (Photo contributed)

Trojans blank Oregon, win Streator Tourney

❑ Mendota goes 2-0-1 at Streator; has eight named to all-tournament team

The Mendota varsity boys' soccer team opened the season with a convincing 9-0 victory at Oregon on Aug. 28. Isaac Diaz led the attack with three goals for the Trojans. Tallying one goal apiece were David Casas, Cesar Casas, Danny Garcia, Luis Ramirez, Aaden Castle and Hugo Falcon. Assisting on three of the goals was Johan Cortez, while Ramirez, Mauricio

Salinas and Kevin Herrera each had one assist. Mateo Goy was in goal and recorded three saves. *** The Trojans claimed the championship of the Streator Tournament on Aug. 31. Mendota battled to a 0-0 tie with Streator to open the action and then defeated Limestone, 3-0, and Bloom-

ington, 2-1, to take the title. Cesar Casas had three goals on the day for the Trojans, while Johan Cortez and Danny Garcia had one goal apiece. Cortez also picked up an assist. Eight Mendota players were named to the all-tournament team. They were Cesar Casas, Cortez, Sebastian Carlos, David Casas, Escatel, Mauricio Martinez, Cameron Kelly and Garcia.

Spikers drop first two matches of volleyball season

The Mendota Spikers opened up the 2024 volleyball season with a 21-25, 25-17, 19-25 loss to Putnam County on Aug. 27 at the MHS gymnasium.

Leading the team in kills were Laylie Denault with nine and Elaina Reddin and Ella Coss with four apiece. Ava Eddy topped the club with 22 digs and Ella Martin led with 18

assists. Zariah Escatel provided four aces from the service line. *** Mendota traveled to Amboy on Aug. 29 and the host Lady Clippers

prevailed, 25-22, 25-23. Denault drilled 10 kills, Martin collected 12 assists and Eddy had 10 digs and six points, while Escatel had six digs and two ace serves.

Golfers finish 2nd in triangular; take 5th in L-P Invite

❑ Hartt places 6th overall in tourney

Mendota finished second in a three-team varsity golf meet on Aug. 28 at Rochelle. The host Hubs took the top spot with a team total of 164, which was 10 strokes better than the Trojans. Amboy finished with a 187. Grady Jones posted the low score for Mendota with a 41, which was one shot back of the medalist's score from Rochelle. The rest of the Trojan lineup also ended up in the 40s, with Brody Hartt coming in at 43, Dane Doyle, Jonas Fitzgerald and Tayven Orozco all shooting 45s, and Evan McPheeters at 49. Mendota's junior varsity squad pulled out a victory with a 177 to best Rochelle (188) and Amboy (233). MHS's Collin Coss had the low round among all golfers with a 42. Maddox Rosales was next for the Trojans with a 44, followed by Esten Otero with a 45, Nick Sheridan with a 46, and Kooper Novak and Alex Holland both with 47s. Also competing for Mendota were Ashtyn Stamberger (51), Brody Kaecker (52), Corbin Doll (56) and Levi Ossman (68).

eight other teams in the L-P Invite on Aug. 29 at Seneca's Oak Ridge. The Trojans placed fifth in the team standings with a 346. The top four teams were Ottawa (307), Rochelle (340), Hall (343) and Morris (345). Other schools in the event were Streator (348), Sycamore (353), L-P (361) and Serena (406). Hartt turned in the low score for the Trojans with an 80, which put him in sixth place in the individual standings. Doyle shot an 86 for 15th place, while also competing for Mendota were Fitzgerald (88), Jones (92), McPheeters (98) and Novak (103). "We were fifth overall and very easily could have been top three but just couldn't finish it out," said MHS coach David Ross. "Brody played really great golf all day today and then just hit a string of bogeys at the end. Overall, a good day - hopefully we are saving the low numbers for later in the season."



Hartt

Riverdale sends Trojans to 23-12 loss in season opener

❑ Costly turnovers and penalties contribute to MHS setback

MENDOTA – Mendota's lone win last football season was against Riverdale. The much-improved Rams made sure that didn't happen in 2024. Riverdale didn't show much flashiness, but it came through with just enough clutch plays when it needed them the most en route to a 23-12 triumph over the Trojans in a Three Rivers Conference cross-over game on Aug. 30 at the MHS field. The Rams converted several first downs at key instances of the game while the Trojans committed the only two turnovers in the contest and were beset by back-breaking penalties that aided Riverdale's cause. Mendota was whistled for nine infractions totaling 65 yards, several of which kept Riverdale offensive drives alive. The Rams didn't need any help when they took the opening kickoff and drove 65 yards in just five plays to begin the scoring. A 31-yard gallop by Caen Beckett put the Rams in business at the Mendota 31-yard line, then quarterback Kolton Kruse completed the drive with a 3-yard run just over two minutes into the game. Aiden Sensabaugh kicked the extra point. Mendota's first offensive series of 2024 saw it move from its own 34 to the Riverdale 39, but the Trojans were stopped short of a first down on a fourth-and-four play at the Ram 37. Riverdale got back into the end zone on its ensuing possession on a six-play, 63-yard drive. Beckett scored from 20 yards out, and after the extra-point kick was blocked, the Rams owned a 13-0 lead at the 2:14 mark of the initial stanza. A 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Mendota contributed to the Riverdale drive. Mendota's next possession included a 31-yard pass completion from Aden Tillman to Keegan Beetz, but the drive stalled and the Trojans punted the ball back to Riverdale. The Rams managed to tack on a 26-yard field goal by Sensabaugh with just



Mendota quarterback Aden Tillman tries to escape the grasp of a Riverdale defender on Aug. 30 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

over a minute left in the half to take a 16-0 lead to the locker room. A costly offsides penalty on the Trojans kept Riverdale's drive going when it was facing a fourth-and-two from its own 31-yard line. Riverdale kicked off to Mendota to start the second half, and needing a score in the worst way, the Trojans responded with a 14-play, 75-yard drive. Corbin Furar put the finishing touches on the series when he darted into the end zone from the 1-yard line. Mendota's two-point conversion run came up short. The scoring drive took nearly seven minutes to complete and was sustained when the Rams were called for pass interference penalty on a fourth-and-four play from the Ram 15-yard line. Just like the offense needed to produce to start the second half, Mendota's defense had to do the same, and it did when Riverdale's ensuing possession resulted in a punt. That punt traveled only 6 yards and the Trojans took over with excellent field position at the Ram 34-yard line. But Mendota couldn't take advantage when it fumbled the ball away to Riverdale

at the Rams' 43-yard line. The Trojan defense rose up again, forcing another Riverdale punt that only went 15 yards. Starting at its own 30, Mendota committed its second turnover in as many possessions when Jackson Tegeler picked off a Tillman aerial and returned it to the Ram 26 with 7:26 left in the game. The Trojans looked like they were going to get the ball back when they had Riverdale in a third-and-13 situation deep in Ram territory, but a big run by Beckett picked up the first down. The Rams finished off the 72-yard drive with an 8-yard TD run by Kruse with 2:16 left. Sensabaugh added the extra-point kick. The Trojans were able to add another touchdown when Furar raced 51 yards to the end zone as time expired. Mendota outgained Riverdale, 297 yards to 274, with Furar rushing 11 times for 78 yards and Braiden Freeman carrying eight times for 66 yards. Tillman completed 10 passes for 121 yards, with Freeman catching five passes for 45 yards. Beckett gained 135 yards in 15 totes for the Rams.



Mendota's Cam Wasmer wraps up Riverdale quarterback Kolton Kruse while Mike Thornhill moves in for assistance on Aug. 30 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)



Three Rivers Mississippi Division Football Standings

	TR	OA
Princeton	0-0	1-0
Monmouth-R.	0-0	1-0
Mendota	0-0	0-1
Hall	0-0	0-1
Sherrard	0-0	0-1
Kewanee	0-0	0-1

Friday, Aug. 30
Riverdale 23, Mendota 12
Princeton 28, Newman 14
Orion 42, Hall 14
Monmouth-R. 50, Mercer Co. 14
Rockridge 42, Sherrard 6
Erie-P. 13, Kewanee 6

Friday, Sept. 6
Kewanee at Riverdale
Monmouth-R. at Orion
Princeton at Rockridge
Sherrard at Mercer County
Hall at Erie-Prophetstown

Saturday, Sept. 7
Mendota at Newman

• Trojan Yardstick •

RIVERDALE 23, MENDOTA 12						
Riverdale	13	3	0	7	-	23
Mendota	0	0	6	6	-	12

SCORING SUMMARY

RI - Kruse 3 run (Sensabaugh kick), 9:56 1Q
RI - Beckett 20 run (kick blocked), 2:14 1Q
RI - Sensabaugh 26 field goal, 1:12 2Q
ME - Furar 1 run (run failed), 5:14 3Q
RI - Kruse 8 run (Sensabaugh kick), 2:16 4Q
ME - Furar 51 run (no PAT attempt), 0:00 4Q

	RI	ME
First Downs	19	17
Rushes-Yards	39-226	33-168
Passing Yards	48	129
Passes	5-8-0	11-20-1
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Punts-Avg	2-10	1-38
Penalties-Yards	5-27	9-65

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing – RIVERDALE: Beckett 15-135, Heinsen 13-69m Kruse 11-22; MENDOTA: Furar 11-78, Freeman 8-66, Lesley 4-14, Tillman 9-12, Watson 1-(minus 2).
Passing – RIVERDALE: Kruse 5-8-0-48; MENDOTA: Tillman 10-19-1-121, Freeman 1-1-0-8.

SPORTS

Next for the Trojans

Opponent: Saturday, Sept. 7 vs. Sterling Newman at Sterling High School. Kickoff at 6 p.m.

Last year: Newman rolled to a 50-0 triumph over the Trojans. Mendota had 43 plays from scrimmage and generated just 33 yards of total offense. Newman, which built a 33-0 halftime lead, accumulated 355 yards in 42 plays.

Last week: The Comets dropped their season-opener to Princeton, 28-14.

Riverdale blanks F-S Trojans, 53-0

PORT BYRON – Riverdale delivered a 53-0 shut-out victory over Mendota in freshman-sophomore football action on Sept. 2 at Port Byron.

The home team built a 25-0 halftime lead and added 28 points in the second half, including 22 in the fourth quarter.

Mendota generated 123 yards on offense, led by Cole Tillman with 60 yards rushing. He also threw for 27 yards. Ross Sondgeroth had three catches for 17 yards.

Riverdale piled up 533 total yards that included TD runs of 76, 27, 69 and 58 yards.



Mendota defenders Rhett Watson, left, and William Musanovic combine to stop Riverdale running back Caen Beckett on Aug. 30 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

Hunter safety course set in Rochelle

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.

MHS harriers launch '24 season at Genoa

□ Kelson finishes second for Trojans

GENOA – The Mendota High School cross country team launched its 2024 season with races at Genoa-Kingston's home course of Walcamp on Aug. 29.

Landon Stillwater (16:36) of Somonauk was able to battle out the win on the 3-mile course, edging out Mendota's Anthony Kelson (16:40).

Carlos Toribio was next for the Trojans (11th, 19:39), then Ryder Woods (23rd, 21:56), Spencer Kain (25th, 22:10), Hector Gonzalez (37th, 25:02), Aidan Fisher (38th, 25:19), Gage Richey (49th, 28:30), and Travis Mumm (50th, 28:31).

The Trojans' 77 points

was good for second place, behind Harvest Christian Academy (25). Somonauk took third with 96 points, followed by Stillman Valley (4th, 101), Genoa-Kingston (5th, 102), and North Boone (6th).

In the girls' race, two freshmen set the pace for the field. Harvest Christian's Giselle Moret (1st, 20:40) bettered Elgin St. Edwards' Hayden Poole (2nd, 20:58).

Mendota was represented by Emily Banks (31:59) and Payton Stavropoulos (33:45).

Harvest Academy posted 26 points for the team win, followed by Genoa Kingston (34) and Stillman Valley (75).

Northbrook soccer

Aug. 29 vs. Earlville

Northbrook 5, Earlville 0
Goals: Arian Chavez 1, Sergio Correa 1, Emmanuel Guzman 1, Omar Hinojosa 1, Mario Membreno 1
Assists: Emiliano Galindo-Garcia 1, Herlinda Huizar 1

Aug. 30 at Ottawa Wallace

"A" game
Northbrook 3, Wallace 2

Goals: Isaac Espinoza 1
Saves: Holden Coss 3, Armando Valdes 2

"B" game

Northbrook 7, Wallace 1
Goals: Jose Chavez 1, Holden Coss 1, Jowell Garcia 1, Camilo Ramirez 1, Lumen Setchell 1, Gavin Stamberger 2
Assists: Holden Coss 1, Emiliano Galindo-Garcia 1, Gavin Stamberger 2
Saves: Bristol Bonnell 6

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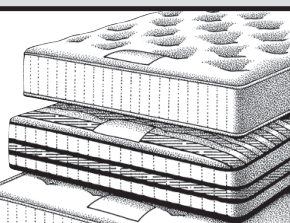
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: Why did Disney+ cancel “The Acolyte”? I thought it was supposed to be the next big thing. -- *A.O.*
A: You’re correct in that there was a lot of buzz surrounding the newest series in the “Star Wars” universe, but unfortunately, it didn’t translate into ratings. The people who did watch the show praised it, especially Manny Jacinto’s performance as the Stranger. Alas, the finale of the first season became its last when the numbers just weren’t up to Disney’s expectations.

Q: When does the new “Matlock” series that stars Kathy Bates release? Also, is her character related to the original Matlock, played by Andy Griffith? -- *C.U.*
A: In the original series, Andy Griffith played a sharp criminal defense attorney named Ben Matlock. The upcoming series of the same name, starring Kathy Bates, is a reboot with a twist. Her character, also an attorney, is named Madeline Matlock, but there’s no relation to Griffith’s character. According to USA Today, the show’s executive pro-

ducer Jennie Snyder Urman (“Jane the Virgin”) says that she wanted to “write about how older women are overlooked in society.” She explained, “I wanted the audience to enjoy being shocked by the underestimation.”
Also similar to the “Matlock” we loved back in the ‘80s, the 2024 series features a new case that keeps you guessing the whole week. Madeline Matlock is “a fish out of water [and] a mastermind,” according to Snyder Urman. “Just because you’re older doesn’t mean you can’t be a bad b*tch,” she emphasized.
Supporting Bates is a stellar cast that includes Beau Bridges (“Lessons in Chemistry”), Skye P. Marshall (“Good Sam”), and Jason Ritter (“A Million Little Things”). “Matlock” will have a sneak preview of its first episode on Sept. 22 on CBS and will continue on in its regular time slot of Thursdays at 10 p.m. ET, beginning Oct. 17.

Q: When is the last episode of “The Talk”? I thought it was canceled, but I heard

it’s coming back this fall with new episodes. -- *S.I.*
A: Yes, CBS announced that the daytime talk show was being canceled after 15 years, but fortunately, it will include one last season of new episodes this fall before its “celebratory send-off” in December. These new live shows will air weekdays, beginning Sept. 9, with returning hosts Sheryl Underwood, Natalie Morales, Jerry O’Connell, Akbar Gbajabiamila and Amanda Kloots. The show was created in 2010 by Sara Gilbert (“Roseanne”), and she hosted along with Leah Remini, Holly Robinson Peete, Julie Chen Moonves, and Sharon Osbourne.
In a surprising turn of events, it’s reported that a new daytime soap will take over the show’s time slot next January. (“The Talk” originally took the place of the long-running CBS soap “As the World Turns” after it was canceled in 2009.) Created by Michele Val Jean (who has written for “The Bold and the Beautiful”), “The Gates” will center around an upper-class African-American family living in a gated community.

• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: How many lakes are in the Great Lakes Basin?
 2. MOVIES: What is the little girl’s last name in the film “Matilda”?
 3. TELEVISION: What is the name of the teacher on the animated kids’ series “The Magic School Bus”?
 4. LITERATURE: In which historic period is Jack London’s novel “Call of the Wild” set?
 5. U.S. CITIES: Which city’s nickname is “City by the Bay”?
 6. ANATOMY: How much of the human body is made up of water?
 7. SCIENCE: What is heliology?
 8. HISTORY: Which world leader’s birth name is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?
 9. ASTRONOMY: In what year did a U.S. astronaut land on the moon?
 10. ENTERTAINERS: Which famous actor who starred in “The Notebook” was once a member of “The Mickey Mouse Club”?
- Answers
1. Five.
2. Wormwood.
3. Ms. Frizzle.
4. 1890s Klondike Gold Rush.
5. San Francisco, California.
6. About 60%.
7. Scientific study of the Sun.
8. Pope Francis.
9. 1969.
10. Ryan Gosling.
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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Sch. supporters
5 White House monogram
8 Young cow
12 Stellar musician
14 Hodgepodge
15 Soften
16 Harvest
17 Auction signal
18 Calif. NFL team
20 Harmful gas
23 Bating practice area
24 "Lucky Jim" author
25 With gusto
28 — de deux
29 Sports bar fixture
30 Candied veggie
32 Gulleets
34 Knuckle-head
35 Grecian vessels
36 Walking sticks
37 Radiator sounds
40 Soap unit
41 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
42 Playwright
47 Stadium top

DOWN
1 USMC rank
2 Uncle (Sp.)
3 Prince
4 Valiant's son
5 Shorthand
6 Cobra feature
7 Away from
8 NNE
7 Freight weights
8 Intersection
9 Downwind
10 Tale teller
11 Dandies
13 Japanese noodle
19 "— a Kick Out of You"
20 Knock
21 Latin 101 word
22 Platter
23 Broadway rosters
25 Chicago suburb
26 Rhone city
27 Harvard rival
29 Ripped
31 Peaks (Abbr.)
33 Oxidized
34 "Rats!"
36 Poet
37 Sandburg
38 Conceal
39 Big rig
40 This and that
43 Grass shack
44 Chai, e.g.
45 Leftover bit
46 Code-breaking gp.

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Simon Baker, formally “The Mentalist” (2008-2015), moved back to his native country of Australia after the CBS series was completed. He made four Aussie films from 2017-2023, as well as 2018’s “Here and Now,” which was shot in NYC. It co-starred Sarah Jessica Parker, Jacqueline Bisset and Renée Zellweger, but only grossed \$14,000.
Baker’s currently shooting the dystopian sci-fi film “Klara and the Sun,” with Jenna Ortega, Amy Adams and Natasha Lyonne.

Is Brad Pitt planning to retire from acting now that he’s approaching 61? Pitt’s wrapped the action-comedy film “Wolfs,” with George Clooney and Amy Ryan, which is due on Sept. 27. And a sequel’s already in the works! In addition, Pitt’s currently shooting the Apple TV+ sports/action/drama film “F1,” with Javier Bardem, which drops on June 27, 2025. He’s also produced



Baker

and/or served as the executive producer for 50 films, including the Sept. 6 arrival of “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.”
Pitt admitted, “I’m still kind of on the same trajectory. I’m really just trying to enjoy the people I love around me and just living.” His former director Quentin Tarantino lamented that when Pitt does call it quits, the industry will lose “one of the last remaining big-screen movie stars!”
Not thrilled with Tarantino’s assessment of big-screen stars is Clooney, who was furious when Tarantino responded to a GQ interview question about Clooney also being one of the last big-screen movie stars. Tarantino replied, “He’s not a movie star!” Tarantino probably said that because Clooney began in TV with two series: “The Facts of Life” and “ER.” But every actor started in some lowly part ...
Pitt’s career began in 1987, when he starred in two episodes of “Another World,” in two episodes of “Growing Pains,” and as a “man at the beach with a drink” in the film “Hunk.” “Hunk” starred “Santa Barbara” soap actor John Allen Nelson. At least Clooney was

on two high-rated series!
Clooney told Tarantino to bugged off (admittedly, with spicier language), but added: “I don’t mind giving him sh*t!” Clooney worked with Tarantino in the 1996 vampire film “From Dusk till Dawn,” so they’ve got a history of jesting with each other!

Boy George won’t be asking “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?” about his upcoming biopic, because he’s got one of his managers as a producer on the film. The screenplay’s based on three of his autobiographies: “Take It Like a Man,” “Straight,” and “Karma.” His recordings of “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me” and “Karma Chameleon” sold over 100 million singles and over 50 million albums worldwide.
George still tours, and he recently starred on Broadway in “Moulin Rouge! The Musical.” He’s also been a judge on both “The Voice UK” and “The Voice Australia.” The two-time Grammy nominee, now 63 years old, is not showing any signs of slowing down! His film will undoubtedly get rave reviews because no critic would want to risk bad karma -- chameleon or otherwise -- from Boy George!

Couch Theater

“The Perfect Couple” (TV-MA) -- This mystery-drama series features quite the cast to bring author Elin Hilderbrand’s characters alive. Nicole Kidman stars as Greer Garrison Winbury, a novelist and the proud matriarch of her wealthy family. As her son, Benji, prepares to marry a woman named Amelia in an extravagant wedding, a body is suddenly discovered in Nantucket Harbor just before the ceremony is set to begin. With everyone in the wedding party now a suspect, the Winbury family gets put under a microscope, revealing secrets that Greer has been desperate to keep hidden. Liev Schreiber (“Asteroid City”), Dakota Fanning (“The Watchers”), and Meghann Fahy (“The White Lotus”) co-star in the six-episode series, premiering Sept. 5. (Netflix)
“A Quiet Place: Day One” (PG-13) -- Academy-Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong’o leads this apocalyptic horror film, which co-stars Joseph Quinn (“Stranger Things”), Alex Wolff (“Hereditary”), and Djimon Hounsou (“A Quiet Place Part II”). Serving as a prequel to the two “A Quiet Place” films, this installment

picks up in New York City during the first invasion of the blind extraterrestrial creatures that hunt humans with their exceptional hearing. A hospice patient named Sam (Nyong’o) first encounters these terrifying creatures while on an outing with her nurse, Reuben (Wolff). The creatures’ attack on the city forces the pair (along with Sam’s cat, Frodo) to enter survival mode and find a way to leave the island of Manhattan without accidentally signing their own death warrants. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)
“Longlegs” (R) -- This horror-thriller film grossed \$101 million in the box office against a less-than-\$10-million budget, making it the highest-grossing independent film of the year. Set in the 1990s, Maika Monroe (“God Is a Bullet”) plays FBI agent Lee Harker, who gets assigned to several murder-suicide cases occurring in Oregon. All of these murder cases resulted in a father killing his family, then himself, and a letter signed by Longlegs. As Lee and her supervisor William Carter (Blair Underwood) follow clues that lead them closer to the murderer, a strange connection from

Lee’s childhood resurfaces, and she realizes that Longlegs might be closer to her than she originally thought. Alicia Witt (“Alice”) and the illustrious Nicolas Cage (“The Surfer”) round out the rest of the cast. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)
“In Case You Missed It”
“Normal People” (TV-14) -- This Irish miniseries dubbed as a “romantic psychological drama” launched the careers of Daisy Edgar-Jones (“Twisters”) and Paul Mescal (upcoming in “Gladiator II”), who are on their way to becoming modern-day movie stars. Based on the acclaimed novel by Sally Rooney, the series follows two classmates, Marianne (Edgar-Jones) and Connell (Mescal), who are in very different places within their secondary school’s social food chain. Popular and carefree, Connell enjoys his solid group of friends, while the outspoken, headstrong Marianne turns others off with her blunt outbursts to students and teachers alike. But with Connell’s mom serving as Marianne’s housekeeper, the two inevitably cross paths and strike up a rare, tender romance. All 12 episodes are out now. (Hulu)

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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9			6				8	
		2			7			9
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	3				8		6	
		9		7				8

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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LOCAL AND AREA

How to defeat procrastination

It's been said that "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

The biggest thief of our dreams is procrastination. We can think about doing the right thing, plan to do it, and talk about doing it, but nothing changes in our lives until we start consistently doing what we need to do!

For instance, perhaps you are struggling with bad habits that are holding you back. You would like to change, but you're not sure you want to change. Someone once said that said that bad habits are like a comfortable bed; they're easy to get into, but hard to get out of.

But think of it this way: Are you willing to sacrifice and do the more difficult thing now in order to enjoy a life of freedom later on?

Hebrews 12:11 says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and

peace for those who have been trained by it" (NIV).

The irony is that we are often unwilling to suffer for a short while just to do what needs to be done. Then we end up with continual misery, dread, guilt, and the penalties of having put off something that would have taken a few minutes or a few hours to do.

In other words, by putting off the pain of doing something hard, we often spend much more time avoiding it than it would take to just do it!

To me, nothing feels better than knowing that I am doing my best, making the best choices I can make, and consistently making progress toward the best life that God has for me.

Being mediocre does not feel good to me, and I doubt that it feels good to you either. You may have gotten used to it and forgotten that there is something better,

but this is a wake-up call to arise and be all you can be. The best time to get started is now!

Procrastination is very deceptive. It makes us complacent by telling us that we are going to do the right thing. It justifies inactivity. I once heard a story someone made up to illustrate this point...

Three demons who were graduating from their course on how to deceive people in the world and prevent them from knowing God. Satan was questioning each demon, and he asked each one how he would deceive people.

The first one answered that he would tell people there was no God. Satan answered, "You won't deceive many because most people down deep inside of them do believe God exists even if they have not chosen to follow Him."

The second demon said he would tell people that heaven and hell didn't really exist. Satan said, "You will deceive a few more than your coworker, but you won't get many souls either."

The third demon said that he would tell people that there was no hurry, and they could put off the decision to follow God until another time. Satan got excited and said loudly, "You will reap many souls for the kingdom of darkness by simply telling them to make the decision later."

I have never forgotten this story even though I heard it more than 30 years ago.

Procrastination is a thief—it steals our time, our potential, our self-esteem, and our peace of mind. It is like a lullaby that whispers,



"Go to sleep—everything will be fine." But everything will not be fine if we put off doing what we need to do. And the task isn't going to get done by itself!

Procrastination is very deceptive, and we can only conquer it by becoming what I call a "now" person. Be aggressive when you know you need to do something. Don't put it off and keep putting it off—just do it!

When we put things off, they aggravate us. We may not even be consciously aware of it, but unfinished projects pressure us.

If you walk through your home and see dishes in the sink, laundry on the floor, trash cans filled to the brim, beds unmade, every countertop piled high with mail that needs to be sorted, I feel certain that it pressures you in some way.

You may even get grouchy and start an argument with someone else in the house just because you feel overwhelmed. When we find fault with someone else it diverts our attention from how we feel about ourselves. Procrastination never makes us feel good.

If the grass needs to be cut, the weeds need to be pulled, the car needs to be washed and the oil needs to

be changed, and the garage is a disorganized mess, it pressures you. You can complain about the mess, or you can stop procrastinating and take action one item at a time to bring order to your home.

God is certainly a God of order and organization. Some of the details recorded in the Bible about the building of the Ark and the Temple are just amazing to me. God made sure that everything was done in the most orderly and best way possible. Chaos makes us feel confused, and God is not the author of confusion, but He's a God of order and peace (1 Corinthians 14:33).

I encourage you to form the habit of being a now person—one who does what needs to be done as soon as you can. All truly successful people have this habit. We don't become successful by putting things off!

Again, something can seem so big in our minds, but if we make a decision to just get going and take action, it's amazing how much differently things appear after we make a little progress.

Galatians 6:9 is so encouraging. It says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (NIV).

Take a few moments right now and ask God to give you the grace to become a now person. Then write down one or two things—even if they are small—that you can do today to get started. Then do them. Little by little, you can defeat procrastination if you refuse to give up.

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

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

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

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A5!

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9:30 a.m. Worship

In-person & on Facebook at:
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Sept. 8 - 9:30 a.m. Worship service

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808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

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Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the
Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom
and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited, nor will it be
settled from generation to generation; nor will the
Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds
make their sheepfolds there. But wild beasts
of the desert will lie there, and their houses
will be full of owls. ISAIAH 13:19-21

Detail of medieval engraving

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Sept. 5 - 10 a.m. "Fill My Cup"

Sept. 6 - 12:30 p.m. HOH pickup; 3
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Sept. 8 - 9 a.m. Second Sunday
Breakfast

Sept. 10 - 11 a.m. Produce
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Sept. 7 - 8-11 a.m. Volunteer at
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Sept. 8 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
begins

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E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

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Mondays - 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study

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

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SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Ecclesiastes 4, how many
are better than one, because they
have a good reward for their labor?
Two, Three, Five, Seven

3. In 1 Kings 5, how many thousand
men comprised the labor force
that King Solomon raised? One,
Five, Ten, Thirty

4. What son of Abda was in
charge of the forced labor in
David's kingdom? Baal, Adoniram,
Cyrenius, Phaneul

5. From Exodus 20, how many days
shalt thou labor and do all thy
work? Two, Four, Six, Seven

6. Proverbs 14:23 states, "In all
labor there is ..." Love, Hope, Light,
Profit

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Two, 3)
Thirty, 4) Adoniram, 5) Six, 6) Profit

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