

## MHS Homecoming 2024



Mendota High School had its 2024 Homecoming assembly on Sept. 23 where the King, Queen and Court were announced. Left to right, are sophomore Cesar Casas, sophomore Sophia Orozco, senior David Casas, senior Makenzie Bean, senior Mauricio Martinez-Morales, senior Crystal Garcia, King Angel Serrano, Queen Ella Martin, Mini King Adan Carbjal, Mini Queen AJ Sester, senior Ella Coss, senior Braiden Freeman, junior Sebastian Carlos, junior Addy Allensworth, freshman Zariah Escatel and freshman Wendell Dennis. The Homecoming Parade is at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, the football game kickoff is Friday at 7 p.m. and the Homecoming Dance is Saturday, Sept. 28 from 7-10 p.m. (Photo contributed)



Holly Christman, left, and Jen Bresley recently became LaSalle County registrars for the Graves-Hume Public Library. All county residents can come to the Mendota library to register. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

## Area DMV facilities increase operating hours

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced a change in DMV facility operating hours across the state to align with higher customer demand in the morning.

As of Sept. 23, Illinois DMV locations will be open to customers Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., a half an hour earlier than the previous hours of 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. This includes sites in Mendota, Dixon, LaSalle, Ottawa and Princeton.

Facilities that offer services on

Saturday will also change hours from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.-Noon on Saturdays.

“Since Day One, our priority has been to provide the best possible DMV experience and service to our customers,” Giannoulias said. “We listened to feedback and analyzed the data to determine when our customers need us most. As a result, we’re adjusting our hours to align our operations with their busy schedules so they can conveniently access services without disrupting their routine.”

A data-driven analysis revealed customer demand is generally higher in the morning than in the early evening. By opening facilities earlier, the office aims to enhance service accessibility while reducing wait times.

The new facility hours are implemented at most, but not all, Illinois DMV facilities. To check facility hours, make an appointment or apply for online services, customers are encouraged to visit [www.ilsos.gov](http://www.ilsos.gov).

## Graves-Hume registrars are excited to register you to vote

By BRANDON LaCHANCE  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – It’s almost election time in the United States.

But to vote for the president of the country or any of the other voteable positions in our federal, state, or local government, you have to be registered.

For LaSalle County residents, there is now another place to get registered, the Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota as staff members Holly Christman and Jen Bresley are now certified registrars.

“It’s pretty cool to be a registrar. We actually received a phone call asking if we registered people to vote,” said Christman, who has been with the library for 12 years. “I approached Emily (Kofoid, the library’s director) and she said we used to have two people who were registrars, but they’re no longer at the library. I told her I’d be interested in doing it.”

“Emily called to figure out what we had to do. I normally workdays and Jen works nights, so that way we have one on each shift to help register people. We had to go through a booklet and be educated on what registrars do.”

The Graves-Hume registrar service is for LaSalle County residents and can only be done at the library. Those wishing to register to vote at the library do not have to be library members.

Although Bresley and Christman recently became certified, they will have to recertify after Nov. 30 as all Illinois registrars are on the same two-year certified timeline.

“I am super excited, es-

**“This is another service that we can do for the community. It goes in line with us being a community center.”**  
–Emily Kofoid, library director

pecially for someone who is younger and is trying to get younger people to register to vote and to vote,” Bresley said. “I am happy and honored to do that for our community.”

To be eligible to register to vote, a LaSalle County resident, similar to all United States citizens, has to be at least 18 years old to vote or will become 18 on or before the date of the next election. Also, if the citizen has been a resident or will have been a resident of his or her precinct for 30 days before the date of the next election.

The person must bring two forms of identification with verification of name and address.

There are no registrations 27 days preceding any election, including the upcoming election on Nov. 5.

For information regarding voting in LaSalle County, all information can be found at [lasallemountyil.gov](http://lasallemountyil.gov), under departments and elections/voting.

Kofoid is proud of Bresley and Christman for stepping up and giving LaSalle County residents a place to go to register to vote.

“This is another service that we can do for the community,” Kofoid said. “It goes in line with us being a community center.”

## Jumping all over the world

□ Mendota native Patrick Doughty has close to 1,000 air sport experiences

By BRANDON LaCHANCE  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – When we graduate from high school, we never truly know what’s going to happen next or later in life.

Patrick Doughty put on Mendota High School cap and gown in 2009 and then left for University of Wisconsin-Platteville knowing he wanted to get a degree in construction management and create buildings, structures, staples of cities and communities.

Somewhere in the mix, he decided he wanted to be part of air sports and parachute sports.

“To those of us in air sports, it’s not really a thrill that we’re seeking. I don’t really get a huge adrenaline boost. I’m not scared or shaking on exit,” Doughty said. “When I climb out on a helicopter, I’m not nervous. It’s more so putting skill to the test. I like to do unordinary stuff. The ordinary stuff doesn’t do it for me. It just so happened I got into sky sports

and parachute sports. It’s a niche hobby people think is super dangerous. From there I had goals to progress, and I still do.

“My jump numbers and my experience, I consider to be extremely novice. I’ve been sky diving for nine or 10 years with periods of time where I wasn’t jumping at all. Having close to 600 sky dives and 200 base jumps, those are childish numbers compared to the people I surround myself with, who are in the thousands. The guy who taught me how to base jump had over 8,000 base jumps when he taught me 2 ½ years ago.”

Although almost 1,000 jumps doesn’t seem like much to Doughty, he has enough experience to be able to break down all of the air sports disciplines and the differences between them.

Doughty, who has lived in or spent considerable time in New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, India, and South America, first started with sky diving, otherwise known



Patrick Doughty, right, has come a long way when it comes to his progression in air sports and parachute sports since graduating from Mendota High School in 2009. In preparation to jumping over Eiger Mountain in Switzerland, Doughty took a photo for the memories. (Photo contributed)

as belly diving or relative works, which is where all jumpers begin.

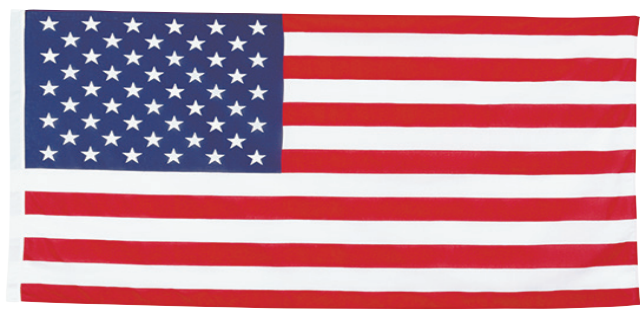
He has progressed to base jumping and wearing winged suits.

“Now, it’s all wingsuit for me. It’s really a progression to get to that point. You have

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## All 102 counties in Illinois now have 9-1-1 service

TOULON – Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Brendan F. Kelly, joined by Illinois Statewide 911 Administrator Cindy Barbera-Brelle, Stark County Sheriff Steve Sloan, and Peoria-Stark Joint Emergency Telephone System Board Chairman David Tuttle, recently announced every county in Illinois now has 911 service.

“This is a significant milestone for ISP’s Division of Statewide 911 and the whole state,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “The agreement between these two counties means residents will see quicker response times as telecommunications can get the appropriate first responders enroute sooner.”

Stark County entered into an agreement with Peoria County to create a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board so that Stark County residents and those traveling through the area can quickly and efficiently receive emergency services. This marks the successful completion of a monumental mission assigned to the Illinois State Police by the General Assembly in 2015.

Before this partnership, Stark County residents had to call a specific, 10-digit number for emergency services, such as the sheriff’s office or fire department. People traveling through Stark County who didn’t know which number to call had to be routed through other 911 systems, which meant more steps before police, fire, and EMS could be

dispatched.

“With the intergovernmental agreement between Stark and Peoria counties, each county in Illinois now has a comprehensive and coordinated 911 system,” said ISP Illinois Statewide 911 Administrator Cindy Barbera-Brelle. “Illinois is continuing to migrate 911 systems to the State’s Next Generation 911 network, which will provide increased services and better responses in an emergency.”

In 2015, Public Act 99-0006 established consolidation requirements for public safety answering points (dispatch centers) and mandated the delivery of enhanced 911 to unserved counties. Since 2016, the Illinois Statewide 911 Administrator, with the advice and recommendation of the Statewide 911 Advisory Board, has awarded approximately \$47.5 million in grants to 911 systems across the state from the 911 Consolidation Award Grant Program to ensure enhanced 911 service throughout Illinois.

“Stark County has finally reached the 21st Century with our 911,” said Stark County Sheriff Steven Sloan. “We will have faster response time to get to a call and we will know where they are calling from. Peoria County has been fantastic to work with, as they have so much knowledge on 911. I believe Stark County residents will be thrilled with the 911.”

“The partnership between Peoria and Stark County has been great,” said Peoria-Stark Joint Emergency Telephone System Board Chairperson David Tuttle. “Peoria County is thrilled to bring the same level of 911 service to the citizens of Stark County.”

Public Act 99-0006 also requires the establishment of a statewide Next Generation 911 network to enhance the delivery of 911 service to residents living in and traveling through the state of Illinois. Next Generation 911 is a system comprised of managed IP-based networks, gateways, functional elements, and databases that provide new methods of communication. It is designed to provide multimedia data capabilities, such as text and video, to first responders so they have more information and a “virtual on-scene” look of the incident to determine what resources are needed before they arrive. The system is also capable of providing more accurate locations to cellular users’ incidents in situations where they may not know where they are or are unable to communicate effectively.

There are 179 public safety answering points (911 centers) in Illinois, 158 of which have already switched over to Next Generation 911, and 21 are moving in that direction.

More information about the Division of Statewide 911 can be found on the ISP website.

## Blackstone School Report Stacy Kelly, Principal

We held our first Paw Pridereward assembly this past week. The students have been working hard to earn “golden tickets” for good behavior since school started. At our assembly, we drew golden tickets for students to be able to play in a game and then also to win prizes. The students were able to win some fantastic prizes. We will hold a Paw Pride assembly each month to reward our students for great behavior.

“Kindness Begins With Me” is our motto at Blackstone. Our students are taught about the importance of being kind to others. Students have the opportunity to earn kindness recognition on a daily basis at school. Each month we will pick a special project to show kindness to others in our community. For the month of September, we had our students make cards for their grandparents or a special person in their life in honor of Grandparent’s Day.

The students nominat-

ed for the principal award this past week included Asher Compton, Camden Weber, Rubi Baltazar, Armando Villarreal, Margaret Bend, Arianna Arteaga, Robert Havenar and Nova Dozard. The winners were Teague Zinke, Dian Zenedeli, Analeisa Arteaga and Asher Yarbrough. Congratulations to all of you!

Our first spirit day of the year will be held on Friday, Sept. 27. It will be Purple & Gold Day in celebration of Mendota High School’s homecoming. We are also excited to have a pep assembly that day with some of the MHS students. Don’t forget it is an early dismissal day due to the parade. Kindergarten will dismiss at 2:20 and first grade at 2:30.

Mark your calendars! Blackstone’s open house will be held on Monday, Sept. 30 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. More detailed information has gone home with all students. In addition to Open House, we will have a book fair in the gym that will be open until 7 p.m. that night.

## OSF Healthcare introduces advanced breast cancer screening technology

PERU – OSF HealthCare is excited to announce the availability of the Invenia ABUS 2.0 (Automated Breast Ultrasound System) at OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Peru. This FDA-approved technology offers enhanced breast cancer screening, particularly for women with dense breast tissue, by complementing traditional mammography.

“We are thrilled to add the ABUS screening tool to our comprehensive breast cancer screening program,” said Tiffany Magallanes, I-80 Director of Diagnostic Imaging. “By incorporating ABUS alongside mammography for women with dense breast tissue, we expect to improve detection rates for small cancers that might not be visible on a mammogram alone. We believe ABUS will become a key component of our practice in the fight against breast cancer.”

Studies published in JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) highlight that

dense breast tissue is a common risk factor for breast cancer and makes detection more challenging with mammography alone. Since both dense tissue and cancer appear white on a mammogram, distinguishing between them can be difficult. ABUS helps by making suspicious masses appear black against the white dense tissue.

In early 2019, a national density inform law was enacted, requiring the FDA to update mammography reports to inform women if they have dense breast tissue. Providers may offer supplemental imaging to help detect cancers hidden in dense tissue.

“Mammography remains the gold standard for breast cancer detection,” Magallanes noted. “However, it is not as effective for all women, especially those with dense breast tissue. Research shows that ABUS technology, used in conjunction with mammography, can identify nearly 40% more cancers that mammography alone might miss.”

## East Grove Church to host concert on Oct. 13

AMBOY – The Assemblymen Gospel Quartet is ready to sing toward the heavens at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13 at East Grove Union Church, located at 449 Reuter Road in Amboy.

The Assemblymen are a southern gospel men’s quartet from Rockford.

A freewill offering will be received before and during the concert.

Also, a dessert buffet will follow the concert.

For more information, please contact Pastor Rick at 815-440-5321.

## Results from the Sept. 17 American Red Cross blood drive in Mendota

MENDOTA – The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Sept. 17 at the Mendota Moose Family Center.

There were 65 good units collected. There were 49 whole blood donations and 16 power red donations. Multi-gallon donors were Julie Friend-three gallons, Susan Spanier-23 gallons and Thomas Schuhler-28 gallons. There were also three first-time donors, Hanna Miller, Amber Miller and Holly Beals. Congratulations on these milestones.

Volunteers for the day were Paddy Schwemlein, Sandy Schroeder, Lori Schlesinger, Dawn Mathesius, Kathi Stamberger, Leesa Fitch and Lori Simonton. Mendota Subway donated sandwiches for the luncheon and Black Brothers Co. sponsored the egg salad sandwiches, BBQ, and chips for the drive. Desserts were provided by Marlene Simonton, Paddy Schwemlein, Leann O’Brien, and Lori Simonton.

The next bloodmobile will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. If you would like to make an appointment or have questions, please call Lori at 815-866-3582.

### The 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients:

**Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Community Action Network, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.**



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS - TOTAL CASH PRIZES EQUAL \$18,250 PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS**

### Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

- ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CASH CALENDAR.**
- IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:  
**In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest and Hub City Senior Center**  
**In Oregon at: Merlin's**  
**In Dixon at: Shining Star**
- BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail your cash calendar to you!

**YES! Send me my 2025 From The Heart Cash Calendar!**

(Please Print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail this form along with \$23 (\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:  
**Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068**

### Past Winners of the Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award

1992 - Cheryl Thorne  
1993 - Hester Full 1994 - Joyce McDonald 1995 - Barb Christopher 1996 - Jack Arkins 1997 - Johnny Arteaga 1998 - Bob Francis 1999 - Sheila Bettner 2000 - Nellie Needs 2001 - Bob Barnett 2002 - Donna Johnson 2003 - James "Stymie" Schmidt 2004 - Sherry Kuntzi 2005 - Steve Dinges 2006 - Jackie Emm 2007 - Ann Buchanan 2008 - Dave Fitzgerald 2009 - Rayanne Sester 2010 - Linda Basil 2011 - Carolyn Motter 2012 - Charlotte Delhotal 2013 - Lori Simonton & Sarah Dalton 2014 - Cheryl Barr 2015 - Rita Borelli & Wendy Letterly 2016 - Lynn Carbone 2017 - Ashley Brooks 2018 - Colleen Myers 2019 - Sidney Engels 2020 - Nancy Bogle 2021 - Jamie Bromenschenkel 2022 - Jennifer Sibley 2023 - Gerri Herren

## TOM MERWIN "GOLD STAR" EMPLOYEE AWARD

Remember when getting a "Gold Star" meant you'd done a "Great Job"? **IT STILL DOES!**

We're looking for that "Gold Star" Employee! Someone who makes you glad to do business in Mendota!

The MENDOTA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE MENDOTA REPORTER in a joint project, are seeking nominations from the customers of the retail, service and professional businesses in the community for that outstanding employee in Mendota!

This is your opportunity to recognize that kind, courteous, competent and efficient employee who cashes your check, fills your order, answers the phone, brings your food or processes your paperwork every day.

Nominations must come from the general public - The Customer - for this "Gold Star Employee."

The winner will be determined by the board of directors of the Mendota Area Chamber from those nominations received, and their decision will be final. Winner will be announced at the Mendota Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on Friday, Nov. 1, 2024.

For questions, email Sam Setchell at [president@mendotachamber.com](mailto:president@mendotachamber.com). (Store owners are not eligible.)

09092024

I Think (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

at (Business) \_\_\_\_\_

Deserves a "Gold Star" because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(my name) \_\_\_\_\_

(my phone #) \_\_\_\_\_

(we may call for additional information)

Nomination forms must be returned to the Mendota Area Chamber Office, Box 620, Mendota, IL by Friday, Oct. 11, 2024. You may also drop them in the water bill slot on Illinois Ave., or bring them into the office during the hours from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Past Gold Star Award Winners may be nominated, but are ineligible to win again.



# LOCAL AND AREA

## Tri-County Opportunities Council announces start of Energy Assistant Program

ROCK FALLS—Tri-County Opportunities Council, as the administrator of the Energy Assistance Program in Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, and Whiteside, is pleased to announce that funds are available to assist income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane and/or electric bills and furnace assistance for inoperable heating systems.

The program will begin taking applications on Oct. 1, 2024, for older adults (60 years +), individuals with disabilities, families with children under the age of six, and households that are disconnected from their utilities, have a disconnection notice, or have less than 25% in their propane tank. All other income-eligible households can start applying November 1, 2024.

Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis through August 15, 2025, or until funding is exhausted. If needed, households that receive a one-time benefit may return during the program year for a Reconnection Assistance or Furnace Assistance benefit(s).

Households must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to receive a benefit from LIHEAP. The 30-day income guidelines for LIHEAP are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, State Median Income and the number of persons living in the household. The income guidelines are as follows: 1- \$2,510, 2- \$3,407, 3- \$4,303, 4- \$5,200. Go

to [Agency website] or liheapillinois.com to know income limits for households with 5 members and more.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides one-time benefits to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help with energy bills and for reconnection of energy services. Propane customers who are part of the priority group are encouraged to apply when the program opens in October. Propane prices typically increase during the winter months, so by applying early propane customers will see their LIHEAP benefit go further.

Applications will be taken at the following locations by appointment only at:

- 1019 North Main Princeton, Illinois. 1-888-225-2099
- OSF medical center 111 Spring Street, Streator, Illinois. 815-673-3222
- Salvation Army 516 West Madison Street Ottawa. 815-434-0406
- 308 Civic Road LaSalle, Illinois 1-815-223-2333
- 735 North Galena Avenue Dixon, Illinois 1-815-994-4979
- 306 North 6th Street Rochelle, Illinois 1-815-562-6938
- Main office Rock Falls, Illinois. 1-800-323-5434

Other options are mail-ins, auto enroll (if applicable) and emergency walk-ins.

To submit an application, you MUST submit ALL documentation required:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the prior 30-day period beginning with the date of application.
  - For all customers new to LIHEAP and/or for new household members of previous customers, proof of Social Security numbers (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without a SSN or ITIN can still apply and Tri-County Opportunities Council will advise accordingly.
  - A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
  - A copy of the rental agreement (if renting) showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount, and landlord contact.
  - Other documents may be needed based on your household situation. If you have questions regarding this, please call our office.
- Please call Tri-County Opportunities Council at 800-323-5434 or visit the website at [www.tcochelps.org](http://www.tcochelps.org) for outreach locations and schedules.
- Beginning Oct. 1, 2024 income eligible LIHEAP customers of Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas and Peoples Gas will receive a monthly discount on their natural gas bill through the new Low Income Discount Rates. Visit [liheapillinois.com](http://liheapillinois.com) for more details.

### Guy Talk With the Expert

MENDOTA – Graves-Hume Public Library is hosting an important program for young boys at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, Guy Talk with the Expert.

Visit the library as PA-C Brenna Reeder gives an introduction to guy things such as hygiene (showers, deodorant, shaving, acne) and information about puberty, things to expect (hair growth, vocal changes, etc).

Thanks to Mendota's Expressions Salon for sponsoring Guy Talk with the Experts. Library programs are open to all and no library card is required.

Please call 815-538-5142 to register.

### Take flight with “Flyways” at Putnam County libraries

GRANVILLE—The Putnam County Public Library will host a film screening of the PBS documentary, “Flyways”, at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 at the Granville branch.

Shorebirds fly thousands of miles each year along ancient and largely unknown migratory routes called flyways. Over 200 species, such as Far Eastern Curlews, Lesser Yellowlegs,

Red Knots and Hudsonian Godwits, travel from feeding grounds in the southern hemisphere to breeding grounds in the Arctic and back again, flying up to nine days non-stop without food or water.

However, their populations are crashing amidst climate change and urban development. The documentary invites the public to follow a conservation

movement of bird-loving expert and citizen scientists as they mobilize to the challenge of understanding and saving shorebirds.

This program is the first of four in a program series made possible through a grant opportunity from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and SciStarter that focuses on bird migration and citizen science. Information on bird migration

and citizen science will be available.

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Please note that the Granville Branch will be closed during the program. Please arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. in order to guarantee admittance to the program.

For more information, please call the Granville Library at 815-339-2038.

## Digital Wallet payments now accepted at state DMVs

SPRINGFIELD—DMVs throughout Illinois are now accepting contactless payments as part of the Secretary of State's push to modernize technology and offer more convenient service for customers, Secretary Alexi Giannoulias announced.

“Allowing for digital wallet payments like Apple, Google and Samsung Pay reinforces our steadfast commitment to improving the customer experience at the DMV by leveraging new technology,” Giannoulias said. “Adopting digital wallets increases the accessibility and

ease of purchase customers already enjoy at stores and restaurants they visit.”

Reports show that more than half of all Americans use contactless payment for everyday purchases from groceries to gas. The widespread adoption is attributed to people wanting a contactless payment method during the pandemic and the increased security offered by the technology.

Near-field communication (NFC) is safer than using a traditional credit card with a magnetic strip or chip due

to the use of end-to-end encryption to ensure maximum fraud protection.

“Illinois residents can rest assured that their payment and personal information is safe when they visit the DMV,” Giannoulias said. “The security surrounding the payment and the speed at which it is processed leaves no room for fraudsters to steal information.”

Customers may now use their digital wallets to pay at all 150 Illinois DMV locations across Illinois as well as the Secretary of State's Business Services and Index departments.



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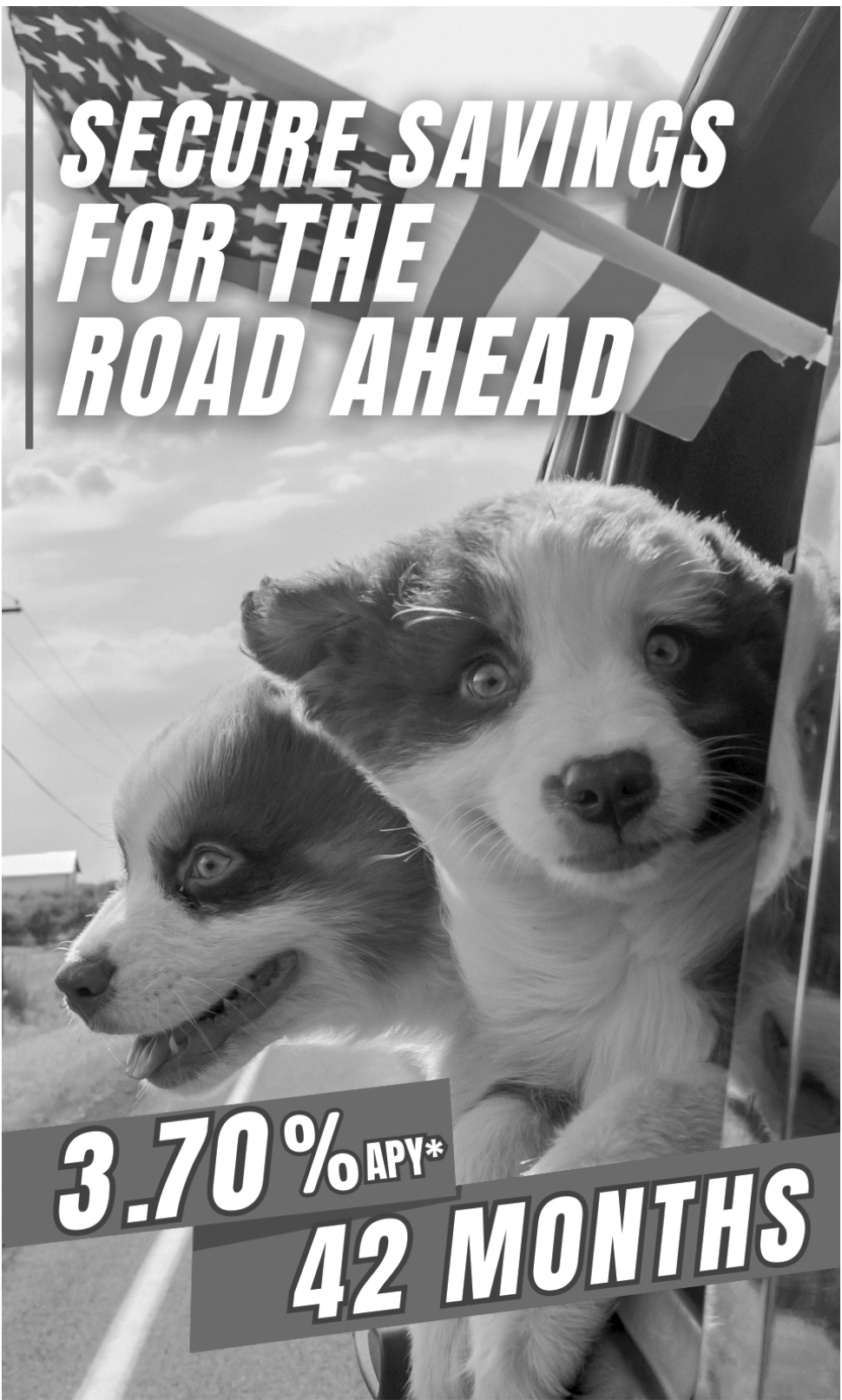
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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Dolores H. Jones

MENDOTA – Dolores H. Jones, 93, of Mendota, passed away peacefully on Sept. 19, 2024, at Allure in Mendota.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 23 at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Rev. Greg Nelson officiated, and burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery. Visitation was at 10 a.m. until service began at the church. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Dolores was a New Year baby, born Jan. 1, 1931, in Mendota to William and Ella (Walzer) Jones. She graduated Mendota High School in 1948.

Dolores is survived by many cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Growing up as an only child on the farm, Dolores helped with farm work at an early age, and continued to help with planting and harvest into her 80s. Dolores was the Head Teller at the National Bank of Mendota for 38 years until her retirement. In high school, she worked at the Anderson Bakery and Purity Ice Cream.

She was a member of Holy Cross Church.

Pallbearers were David Costello, Alissa Jones, Mark Jones, Ryan Jones, Tony Jones, Chuck Mann and Pat Myers.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services (M.A.S.S.), Holy Cross Church or School. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

## Keith A. Minder

MENDOTA – Keith A. Minder, 60, of Mendota, passed away Sept. 10, 2024, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at First Presbyterian Church, Mendota. Rev. David Spaulding will officiate. Military rites will be conducted by Mendota VFW Post #4079. Cremation rites have been accorded. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Keith was born Feb. 20, 1964, in Mendota, to William and Joy (Garten) Minder. He graduated from Mendota High School in 1982. He married the love of his life, Pok Lee, in South Korea.

Keith will be sadly missed by his wife, Pok of Mendota; three sons, Michael (Rachel) Minder of Springfield, William (Catie) Minder of Peru, and Cristen Minder of Mendota, and daughter Melissa Minder of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Paul on Dec. 31, 2022.

Keith proudly served in the United States Army. He was a mechanic for Advanced Drainage Systems.

Memorials may be directed to Fisher House Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 791598, Baltimore, Md., 21279 or online at fisherhouse.org. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.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.

## Patricia A. Rich

MENDOTA – Patricia L. Rich, 82, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 21 in Streator.

Visitation will be from 9-11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 at Holy Cross Church, with Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Rev. Jeff Windy will officiate and burial will follow at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Leonore. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Pat was born July 2, 1942, in Mendota, to James A. “Bud” and Mary (Parker) Boyle. She graduated Mendota High School in 1960. Pat married her first husband, Duane Bangert on March 3, 1962, in Mendota. He passed away in 1967. On Dec. 5, 1971, she married Duane Rich.

She will be forever missed by her daughter, Mary Rich of Gillette, Wyo.; sons, Sam (Yvonne) Rich of Rutland, Tony (Sue) Rich of Ladd, Mike (Mary Lou) Rich of Streator; step-daughter, Dee (Todd) Johns of Indiana; sister-in-law, Donna Rich of Guntersville, Ala.; 15 grandchildren, Melissa (Dallas) Bahr, Kelley (Jason) Millar, Tricia Rich, Alayna (Tony) Lawson, Chrissy (Kevin) Myer, Josh (Heather) Ragusa, Kristen (Elissa) McLaughlin-Ragusa, Sabrina (Jared) Mearida, Stephanie (Eric) Suryk, Ashley Holcomb, Michelle Fenwick, Anthony Rich Jr., Nick Rich, Megan (Caleb) Aschelman, Jessica Rich; and 19 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband Duane Bangert, and brother “Red” Boyle.

Pat was a hairdresser and cosmetology teacher for 48 years. She taught at the Elgin School of Beauty and Dixon School of Cosmetology. Pat worked locally as a hairdresser for the Fashionette, The Salon on Monroe, and in her home. Pat also served with the Mendota Township Assessor’s office for 22 years, serving as Assessor the last 12. Pat was an incredibly kind and caring person. She was always helping someone, a neighbor, co-worker, friend or stray animal. She had a sharp mind, a wicked cackle, and a wonderful sense of humor. Pat enjoyed spending time with her family and never missed a wedding or birthday.

Pallbearers will be grandsons and grandsons-in-law.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS), or Illinois Valley Animal Rescue-IVAR. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

## IVCC plans bus trip to wildlife refuge in Wisconsin

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College’s Continuing Education Department will offer a bus trip to Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

The 33,000-acre marsh is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States, and more than 300 species of birds can be found there during the year. Fall brings an impressive number of migrating ducks, sandhill cranes and Canada geese—even spotting a whooping

crane is possible.

The tour will board a pontoon boat to explore the marsh, lunch at a local favorite restaurant, and enjoy a self-guided tour of The Explorium’s interactive exhibits to see how the marsh has evolved from the Ice Age to the present.

And a day in Wisconsin would not be complete without a stop for cheese at a local shop.

For information or to register, call (815) 224-0427 or visit ivcc.edu/enroll. Class ID is 18142. Cost is \$169.

## Earl J. Smith

MENDOTA – Earl John Smith, 87, of Mendota, passed away on Sept. 22, 2024, just shy of his 88th birthday.

A visitation will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, at the Horner-Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. Graveside service with military honors will be held at the Wyoming Cemetery in Paw Paw after the visitation.

Earl was born on Oct. 19, 1936, in West Brooklyn, the son of Earl and Florence (Zinke) Smith, both of whom preceded him in death.

Earl is survived by one son, Christopher (Kimberly Brown) Smith of LaSalle; three daughters, Melissa (Bryan) Sanford of Earlville, Denise M. Hake or Paw Paw and Debbie (Chris Herman) Kaiser of Peru; eight grandchildren, Ashley (Eric) Pawlowski, Brandon Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Meagan (Brett) Woolard, Mitchell Hake, Kayla Kaiser, Courtney Kaiser, Carson Herman; six great-grandchildren, Camden, Brooks, Everly, Brody, Miles and Kennedy.

Visit [www.horner-merritt.com](http://www.horner-merritt.com) for online guestbook.

## Celebration of life set for Isles (Green)

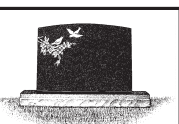
MENDOTA – On the afternoon of Aug. 11, 2024, Heaven gained another Angel. Linda Isles (Green), 66, was a loving and devoted daughter, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and a friend to so many. She was a very loving, funny, and diverse woman that loved her family and her friends more than anything in the world. She was a giver, even if it meant the shirt off her back. A selfless woman that loved her children and friends. Linda was the life of the party, cracking jokes, and always living life to the fullest. She gave her beautiful heart to all that she could. Linda enjoyed bird watching and was an avid crafter. She was the glue of her family, even after the death of her mother Joan Dennison in 2021. She will be missed by so many.

A celebration of her life will be held from 3-6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, at the Mendota Moose Lodge. Food and beverage will be provided. A card box for donations will be available, cash or check, in the name of her daughter, Monica Caradine.

Immediately following her celebration of life, Linda will be laid to rest aside her mother, Joan Dennison and step-father Chester Dennison at Restland Cemetery in Mendota. Everyone who knew her is welcome to attend. Any changes to Linda’s final resting place that may occur, due to any unforeseen circumstances, will be provided at her celebration of life.

**See the latest obituaries at [mendotareporter.com](http://mendotareporter.com)**

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Sassy's Gaming  
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# OPINION



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

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## Letters

### Harris will work as deep state puppet

Dear Editor:

I received a letter from Tulsì Gabbard last week and I would like to share some of it with you.

"I was a congresswoman (2013-2021). I am a Lt. Colonel in the United States Army Reserve. In 2020, Kamala Harris and I were both running for the Democratic nomination for President. From the debate stage, I challenged Kamala Harris, right to her face. I was the first person to warn the American people about Kamala Harris. As prosecutor, she blocked evidence that would have freed an innocent man from death row until the courts forced her to do so. She kept people in prison beyond their sentences to use them as cheap labor for the state of California. As a U.S. Senator and even as Vice President, Kamala Harris advocated for taking funding away from law enforcement. Harris said, 'It's wrong and backward to think that more police will create more safety.' Cities that have followed her lead

are significantly less safe today and have seen violent crime skyrocket. Joe Biden appointed Kamala as his 'border czar' where she supported an open border, allowing tens of millions of illegal immigrants across our border. Now, the mainstream propaganda media are trying to claim she was never responsible for securing our border. She has been lying to the American people for the last three and a half years, saying the border is secure. The same people in the deep state running the country with Biden as their figurehead will continue to run things with Kamala Harris as their puppet."

Lt. Colonel Gabbard and Robert Kennedy Jr. left the Democratic party and are working for Donald Trump's election and are American patriots because they love God and their country more than a political party. God bless Donald J. Trump and God bless the USA.

Robert R. Anderson, Amboy



## Glove contest at Opera House stopped – 1904

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Sept. 29, 2004.)

By Jessica Nashold

A boxing match, which had been scheduled to take place at the Opera House on Sept. 15, 1904, was blocked by "the church people." Rev. T.E. Allen, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, consulted an attorney to verify an Illinois law regarding boxing exhibitions. With support from the Methodist and Evangelical congregations, the Presbyterians passed a resolution calling upon the mayor to stop the contest. Text of the Illinois law was published on the front page of The Sun-Bulletin on Sept. 16, 1904. It was taken from page 1308 of the Criminal Code of Illinois. Anyone promoting or witnessing a boxing exhibition would be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500, and jail time not to exceed six months. In addition, anyone who contemplated sponsoring a boxing exhibition would be compelled to take out a peace bond.

**This information effectually deterred both promoters and spectators.**

Tom Henry, manager of the Central Union Telephone Co., had seen the number of subscribers increase from 76 to 300 during the three years he had been in charge. This resulted in a promotion for Henry.

**He will head the LaSalle office on Oct. 1.**

The Excelsior Debating Club at the YMCA promoted a Harvest Home Festival on Sept. 15, 1904. Exhibits of farm products, baked goods and needlework were displayed in Eckart's Hall. A competition to locate the oldest farmer who had farmed continually the longest time was topped by August Beitsch. At age 75, he had farmed 65 years.

**His prize was a garden cultivator valued at \$15.**

A prize for the best work of horses went to Henry Barth.

Many new CB&Q engines were

## Backtracks & Sidetracks

observed passing through Mendota. Also, the Burlington fast mail between Chicago and Council Bluffs, Iowa, was being supplied with new cars. They were built more solidly than heretofore, in conformance with new government patterns, "in case of wrecks."

**They are superior to any mail cars used on any road.**

A government representative from Japan visited the United States to purchase blooded stock for experimental purposes. At the Lowden farm in Oregon, Ill., he selected two yearling bulls –

**Paying a fancy price for them.**

The Woman's Cemetery Association, after installing a fountain at Restland at a cost of \$120, reported a balance in the treasury when they met in September 1904. They voted to purchase a table and a few more seats in the chapel, near the entrance to Restland Cemetery.

Reverend Annabel came from Amboy to deliver a sermon at the Mendota Baptist Church. He spent the night at the F.R. Bailey home. Somehow, a thief gained entrance to the room where Annabel was sleeping and stole his coat, vest, pants and shoes. Although the clothing was left on the back porch –

**A golf watch and \$2 in change had been removed.**

An automobile ordinance passed in September 1904 set a speed limit of 8 miles per hour. Autos were required to come to a full stop when meeting a horse that seemed to be afraid. A fine of not less than \$5 or more than \$100 would be levied for infractions of this ordinance.

**Autos must display bright lights at night.**

James Barnes had the low bid of 50 cents per cubic yard to haul crushed rock from railroad yards to designated spots for road repair. A cubic yard of rock weighs 2,500 pounds. Barnes had fitted his wagons to hold 1 ½ cubic yards. The large roller, purchased by the township, will require six horses to pull it.

It was a hundred years ago that Baptists decided to build a new church instead of remodeling the old one. Also, in September 1904, the Advent congregation was enlarging and improving its church home in Illinois Avenue, east of the railroad tracks.

A compulsory school law for Illinois passed, requiring children between the ages of 7 and 14 to be in classrooms. In Mendota, 340 were enrolled at East Mendota Public School, 23 in the North School and 268 at Blackstone School.

**Parents and guardians are responsible for enforcing the law.**

It was reported in the Sept. 23, 1904, Sun-Bulletin that Stephen Guilfoyle had purchased the former Clark farm, 1 ½ miles southeast of Mendota, for \$20,000. It consisted of 132 acres.

**This is the highest priced farm ever sold here.**

The United States Department of the Interior notified Illinois that it would have 30 days, after Aug. 23, 1904, in which to show why claims for "marshland indemnity" should not be rejected.

**No public land in Illinois will satisfy the claim.**

The United States brought in 300 of the brightest Filipino natives for the purpose of providing them with a complete education. They are scattered around in various normal schools throughout the country. In Illinois, six were placed in Normal, near Bloomington, and four were sent to Northern Illinois Normal School in Dixon.

## The real scandal in Springfield, Ohio

By Rich Lowry

In what ranks as one of the most memorable debate moments in recent history, Donald Trump said that Haitian immigrants are eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

No one has yet turned up evidence that this is true, although there is an audio recording of a man reporting that he witnessed four Haitian immigrants absconding with geese from a local pond.

Since everyone is always happy to see geese go someplace else, this call hasn't made much of an impression on the debate over Trump's comments, which, true to form, were the most incendiary thing he could say about Springfield.

Even if Tabby and Fido aren't on the menu in the small Ohio town, the fact remains that a place with a population of 60,000 has seen an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants since 2020, making the new arrivals a wildly disproportionate share of the population in short order.

Prior to this point, Springfield had nothing to do with Haiti, and looking at the map, a town located between Columbus and Dayton would be one of the least likely places to have anything to do with Haiti. It is very far from Little Haiti in Miami, and it had no pre-existing Haitian population or an infrastructure to provide services to Haitian Creole speakers.

No matter. Under the Biden administration's open-handed immigration policies, every place in the country has become subject to sudden, disruptive demographic change. We've seen it in big cities, where Democratic mayors have complained of the associated burdens, and now we are seeing it in a small city. To match in relative terms what's happened in Springfield, more than 2 million migrants would have had to arrive in New York City in the past several years.

Numbers matter. No one would care if there were 150 new Haitian migrants in Springfield since 2020, or 1,500. But 15,000 is a different proposition. Quantity, as they say, has a quality all of its own.

To be clear, Haitian immigrants (many permitted here legally under Biden policy) didn't begin showing up in Springfield hoping to filch unsuspecting domestic short hairs.

Rather, they were looking for work in a city that was seeing something of an economic revival. That's all well and good, but people are more than cogs to be plugged into warehouses or manufacturing operations.

They come with families and with needs for housing, health care and education. They have pre-existing cultural predilections different from ours (Haiti and the United States are very different places), and if they don't speak the language, that makes everything even more difficult. Nor are resources unlimited. Health care facilities, schools and the housing stock have all been strained in Springfield.

The New York Times reports that consultations began to take three times as long at the local community health center. The head of the clinic told the paper: "We lost productivity. We had huge burnout of staff." It hired six Haitian Creole speakers, and annual spending on translation services increased from \$43,000 in 2020 to \$436,000.

The school district, according to the Times, has had to hire two dozen new English-as-a-second-language instructors and several interpreters.

The city manager, Bryan Heck, wrote a letter to U.S. senators saying that the influx is "putting a significant strain on our resources and ability to provide ample housing for all of our residents." The Haitians also tend to be poor drivers. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has pledged help from the state highway patrol.

News reports often dismiss the concerns of residents as ill-informed or xenophobic. Their complaints about the costs and disorder associated with the wave of immigration are legitimate, though, and the sense that the town has undergone a large-scale change that no one was consulted about is very real. Who signed up to become a laboratory for Biden's experiment in permitting Haitians to come to and stay in the United States?

The cats and dogs may be safe and sound, but all is not right in Springfield.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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# SOCIAL NEWS

## MMHS hosting program about orphan trains on October 3

MENDOTA – The Mendota Museum & Historical Society is thrilled to present a talk by historian and author Sandra McKay, scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 at the MMHS new space at 907 Washington St., Mendota.

McKay is the author of *A Place for Me: An Orphan's Journey Home* and she will be discussing the history of the orphan trains that ran from the middle of the 19th century and into the early 20th. These trains transported children who had either lost their parents or whose families could no longer care for them to new homes across the country. This talk will focus on the role played by the nation's railroads, including the Illinois Central, as well as the impact on the children and local communities here in northern Illinois – for good and for ill.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased either on the MMHS website or by calling 815-539-3375.

## How to start your own book club

C.S. Lewis is credited with saying, "We read to know we are not alone." Though reading is often a solitary activity, sharing and discussing books can serve as an even greater reminder that we are not alone. For those who say they do not love to read, they probably just haven't found the right book yet. One way to be exposed to different literary styles and authors is to be part of a book club. Readers might actually want to start their own club.

A book club can include your friend group or it can pull relative strangers together. By reading with others on a deadline, you may be more likely to stick with reading and retain more of what you've read. Here are some simple ways to start a book club of your own.

- Start small. If you're inexperienced, it is best to begin small when setting up the book club. Privately reach out to a few different people you know enjoy books and see if they would be interested. Ask them to invite a few other people to help the club grow.

- Stay organized. Digital tools can help book club organizers stay on top of things and inform the club. Many clubs utilize social media platforms



like Facebook Groups. Bookclubs is an application designed especially for book clubs. Make an account to organize your book club, receive book recommendations and view discussion guides.

- Identify your intentions. The motivation behind a book club is to read, but you might want to narrow that even further. Perhaps you want to make new friends? Or maybe you want to explore a certain literary genre exclusively? Create a book club business plan of sorts where you fully express your intentions for the club.

- Choose the vibe and meeting style. Some book clubs are rigid with a set schedule and firm deadlines. Others are more relaxed with meetings being shuffled around to accommodate everyone's lives. Create a game plan of where you will meet, how often you meet and how books

and discussion points will be selected.

- Select your first book: Look to Goodreads, Amazon reviews, and other book-related resources to find a popular book. Various celebrities also have their own book club recommendations, so that may be a safe place to start.

- Opt for a slow weeknight for meetings. People tend to be busy on the weekend with other social engagements, so book clubs may be best hosted on a Monday or Tuesday evening. When establishing the book club, poll potential attendees to see what the majority want. Try to be consistent with the meeting day and time to keep the book club rolling along.

- Prepare discussion questions. It's easy for a book club meeting to veer away from the book or for there to be a lull in conversation unless it is guided along. A discussion question list will help keep people chatting about what's important: the book.

- Be open about costs. Some book clubs are free and others require a fee to join to help pay for meeting spaces or refreshments. Be up front about how costs will be absorbed.

Book clubs are entertaining ways to bring literary lovers together to expand their enjoyment of reading.



Wilma Jacobs

## W. Jacobs to celebrate 90th birthday with family dinner

MENDOTA – Wilma Jacobs of Mendota will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Thursday, Oct. 3. She will be celebrating this special event with a family dinner.

Anyone wanting to wish her a happy 90th birthday may send cards to Wilma Jacobs, 204 First Ave., Mendota, IL 61342.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Hollywood

**HOLLYWOOD** -- After being eclipsed by Margot Robbie in "Barbie" and Emily Blunt in "The Fall Guy" (which had disappointing grosses of \$180.5 million against a \$125-million cost), Ryan Gosling flies solo in the sci-fi film "Project Hail Mary." In the film, he wakes up in space as the sole survivor of a crew who is searching for a way to save Earth. It's due on March 2026.

\*\*\*  
Here come remakes, sequels, and explicit film titles! Sony plans to remake the 1987 classic "La Bamba," which is about rock legend Ritchie Valens. In 1959, Valens died at 17 in a plane crash with Buddy Holly and "The Big Bopper." The original film starred Lou Diamond Phillips and Esai Morales, and it grossed \$54.2 million gross against a \$6.5-million cost.

\*\*\*  
"The Lord of the Rings" trilogy grossed \$2.988 billion, while the three "Hobbit" films grossed nearly \$2.938 billion, proving that these franchises have a huge audience. But former director of the trilogies, Peter Jackson, will only produce the new film coming in 2026, titled "The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum." It will be

shot in two parts back-to-back. Andy Serkis will direct and star, along with Sir Ian McKellen who will be returning as Gandalf.

Serkis has done voice and motion capture for "The Lord of the Rings" films, "King Kong" (2005), "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" (2014), and "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" (2019). He's also starred on screen as Alfred in "The Batman" (2022).

\*\*\*  
Danial Craig's new film "Queer" got a 9-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival. After all, it's not everyday James Bond goes gay! In "Queer," Craig plays a gay American expatriate in 1940s Mexico City, who has explicit love scenes with Drew Starkey's character. Based on the 1985 novel by William S. Burroughs ("Naked Lunch"), Craig establishes an intimate connection with a young male student (Starkey), which eventually becomes psychedelic.

Director Luca Guadagnino ("Call Me by Your

Name") earned the trust of his two stars, and Craig admitted, "We all know there's nothing intimate about filming a sex scene on a movie set ... so we just wanted to make it as touching, real and natural as we possibly could. Drew is just a wonderful, fantastic, beautiful actor to work with .... we tried to make it fun."

Craig and his actress wife, Rachel Weisz, were totally at ease with the love scenes. It's called acting, and he's one of our best!

\*\*\*  
Amy Adams, who played Lois Lane in "Man of Steel" and Princess Giselle in "Enchanted" (to name two roles), now finds herself in a comedy-horror film called "Nightbitch." She portrays a mother who sometimes transforms into a dog.

"I'm never going to be smart, happy or thin ever again," Adams says, in character, in the trailer. "Oh, and I'm pretty sure I'm turning into a dog!" Not since "The Shaggy Dog" (1959), when Tommy Kirk turned into a dog, have we seen this kind of canine caper. But, after all, Adams has always been known as an actress with dogged determination! The film barks into theaters on Dec. 6.



Adams



Delvey

**By Dana Jackson**  
**Q:** I can't believe that the scam artist from "Inventing Anna" is competing on "Dancing with the Stars." How is she able to film in Los Angeles if she's on house arrest in New York?  
-- S.C.

**A:** Anna Delvey (previously known as Anna Sorokin) served just a small portion of her sentence in federal prison before being released in 2021. She then served 18 months in an immigration detention facility and is now on house arrest, while her deportation back to Germany remains a possibility. Delvey, who impersonated an heiress and was later convicted of larceny, says that she was given permission by ICE to travel to California to compete in "Dancing with the Stars," but she has to wear an ankle monitor.

Delvey and her partner, dance pro Ezra Sosa, face a formidable list of competitors on Tuesday nights this fall on ABC and Disney+ (the next day on Hulu), including Olympians Ilona Maher (rugby) and Stephen Nedoroscik

## Celebrity Extra

(gymnastics); reality TV stars Jenn Tran ("The Bachelorette"), Joey Graziadei ("The Bachelor") and Phaedra Parks ("The Traitors"); actors Eric Roberts, Tori Spelling, Reginald VelJohnson and Chandler Kinney; athletes Danny Amendola and Dwight Howard; and model Brooks Nader.

Hosts Alfonso Ribeiro and Julianne Hough are also back, as well as judges Carrie Ann Inaba, Bruno Tonioli and Derek Hough. A date for the season finale hasn't been announced yet, but expect it to run for 10 episodes and conclude at the end of the November sweeps.

**Q:** When does the new season of "Saturday Night Live" start? It's always so funny during an election year.  
-- K.C.

**A:** The 50th(!) season premiere of "Saturday Night Live" is Sept. 28, but as of this writing, the host and musical guest haven't been named. The iconic sketch-comedy show welcomes three new cast members -- Ashley Padilla, Emil Wakim and Jane Wicks -- while bidding farewell to three others -- Punkie Johnson, Molly Kearney and Chloe Troast.

What we do know is that

former "SNL" star Maya Rudolph will return as Vice President Kamala Harris, and there will also be a special three-hour, live 50th anniversary show on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.

Soon in theaters, you can also see the new scripted movie about the very first "SNL" live episode in 1974. Directed by Jason Reitman, the film "Saturday Night" earned rave reviews at its premiere at the Telluride Film Festival this past August. It will be available to see in wide release beginning Oct. 11.

**Q:** I saw that Kaitlin Olson is on another new TV show. Does this mean "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" isn't coming back?  
-- L.V.

**A:** No, the long-running ensemble comedy series will return to FX for its 17th season ... at some point. Kaitlin Olson, who stars in the new crime procedural series "High Potential" on ABC, is expected to start filming the new season of "Sunny" this October. Hopefully, this means new episodes of the hilarious comedy will air by January 2025 at the latest. Olson also plays a supporting role on the award-winning HBO series "Hacks."

## Couch Theater

"Wolfs" (R) -- Following its premiere at the recent Venice International Film Festival (where its main actors were looking quite snazzy, if I do say so myself), this action-comedy film starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt hits our screens on Sept. 27! Whether you missed the Clooney-Pitt dynamic from the "Ocean's Eleven" trilogy or you're just a fan of the actors respectively, this film will definitely scratch your itch. The two Hollywood long-timers play two professional "fixers" who are separately called up to work on the same job. Although these lone wolves prefer to work alone, they actually find out that they make a pretty good (and entertaining) team. Amy Ryan ("The Office") and Austin Abrams ("Euphoria") co-star. (Apple TV+)

"Grotesquerie" (TV-MA) -- The start of the spooky season has arrived, thanks to none other than Ryan Murphy (creator of "American Horror Story"). For his latest horror series, he's once again employed the talents of Niecy Nash, who seems to be finding her

footing in the horror genre as of late, after snagging an Emmy for Murphy's series, "Dahmer -- Monster." In this 10-episode series, Nash plays Lois Tryon, a detective battling alcoholism as a series of grotesque, seemingly connected crimes grip her town. After she gets put on the case, a local nun named Sister Megan (Courtney B. Vance) volunteers to work alongside Lois to uncover the perpetrator. If you're not yet exhausted by the media coverage of him and his special lady, keep a lookout for Travis Kelce, who makes his acting debut in the series. Premieres Sept. 25. (Hulu)

"Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story" (TV-MA) -- Speaking of Ryan Murphy and his "Monster" anthology series, the second season has just been released for viewers to binge. This season tells the true story of Lyle and Erik Menendez, two brothers who were convicted of murdering their parents, Jose and Kitty, back in 1989. While the basis of their conviction was rooted in the fact that the two brothers were trying to inherit their

parents' wealth, there is so much more to their story, including a history of physical, emotional and sexual abuse from their parents. Last season, it was clear that Jeffrey Dahmer was a monster, but the monsters this time around appear to be Jose and Kitty. Javier Bardem ("Dune: Part Two") and Chloe Sevigny ("Feud: Capote vs. The Swans") play the cold-blooded couple, while Nicholas Chavez ("General Hospital") and Cooper Koch ("They/Them") portray the brothers. (Netflix)

"Wise Guy: David Chase and the Sopranos" (TV-MA) -- This two-part documentary series explores the making of the legendary HBO series "The Sopranos," which originally ran from 1999 until its sixth and final season in 2007. Viewers get an in-depth look at the show's creator, David Chase, and how his own relationship with his mother ultimately kickstarted the creation of the show. Several of the show's cast members chime in to provide their points of view of what it was like to work on the show. (Max)

## • Trivia Test •

1. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Hawkeye State?
2. MOVIES: What are the bad guys called in "Transformers"?
3. MYTHOLOGY: What happens to people when Medusa turns her gaze on them?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of crocodiles in the water called?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What is the main ingredient in bouillabaisse (stew)?
6. ASTRONOMY: How old is our Sun?
7. TELEVISION: Where does Walter White live in "Breaking Bad"?
8. LITERATURE: The character named Ichabod Crane

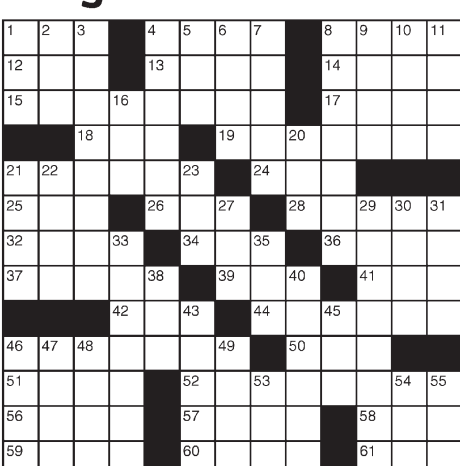
appears in which 19th-century story?

9. MEDICAL: What is a common name for onychocryptosis?
  10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Nova Scotia?
- Answers
1. Iowa.
  2. Decepticons.
  3. They turn to stone.
  4. A float.
  5. Seafood.
  6. About 4.6 billion years old.
  7. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
  8. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."
  9. Ingrown toenail.
  10. Halifax.
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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Peron of Argentina
- 4 Siestas
- 8 First light
- 12 Bud
- 13 -- Major
- 14 Actor Morales
- 15 German shepherd
- 17 Teen hangout
- 18 Resistance unit
- 19 Church topper
- 21 British party
- 24 Louvre treasures
- 25 Khan title
- 26 The "G" of LGBTQ
- 28 Doesn't buy
- 32 Clothing store section
- 34 Gender
- 36 Stratagem
- 37 Green sauce
- 39 Teeny
- 41 Shriver of tennis
- 42 Rainbow shape
- 44 A Karamazov brother
- 46 Stew flavorer
- 50 Chi follower
- 51 Genesis brother
- 52 Music school concerts



### DOWN

- 1 Clean air org.
- 2 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
- 3 Losers
- 4 Egg nog sprinkling
- 5 "Entourage" agent
- 6 Unpaid TV ads
- 7 Dasher's boss
- 8 Agriculture goddess
- 9 Pronto
- 10 Humpty's perch
- 11 Egyptian river
- 16 Sashimi fish
- 20 Goof up
- 21 Pack (down)
- 22 Curved molding
- 23 Airline to Sweden
- 27 Evergreen type
- 29 Wedding
- 30 Despot
- 31 Big rig
- 33 Bought time
- 35 Deleted
- 38 Tram load
- 40 Realm
- 43 Ersatz chocolate
- 45 Follower (Suff.)
- 46 Wild party
- 47 "Peek- --!"
- 48 Holler
- 49 Disaster aid gp.
- 53 Scoundrel
- 54 Long, crosser
- 55 CIA operative

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

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

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

Answer  
Weekly SUDOKU

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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* Octopus wrestling was a popular sport in the 1960s. A diver would fight an octopus in shallow water and drag it to the surface.

\* After an online vote in 2011, Toyota announced that the official plural of Prius is Prii.

\* Each spacecraft sent to Mars is scrubbed and inspected before dispatch as part of a strict planetary protection protocol meant to prevent contamination from Earth.

\* Ophiocordyceps unilateralis, a parasitic fungus, effectively turns ants into zombies. The fungus compels the ant to bite onto the underside of a low-hanging leaf, where it dies, and the fungus then sends a fruiting body out through the ant's head to disseminate spores.

\* Geckos can turn the stickiness of their feet on and off at will.

\* And speaking of feet, during World War II, the United States began rationing shoes. Citizens were allowed three pairs.

\* When Leonardo DiCaprio smashed his hand on the dinner table in "Django Unchained," he accidentally crushed a small stemmed glass with his palm and really began to bleed. He ignored it, stayed in character, and continued with the scene. Quentin Tarantino was so impressed that he used this take in the final print, and when he called cut, the room erupted in a standing ovation.

\* Though they are often used as vegetables in cooking, eggplants are botanically classified as berries.

\* Charles Richard Drew was a Black physician who developed blood banks for military personnel during World War II. He quit working for the Red Cross after he learned that the military separated blood donations by race.

\* The Dr. Seuss classic children's tale "Green Eggs and Ham" was banned in China from 1965 to 1991 for its "portrayal of early Marxism."

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Happy 21st  
Birthday  
Michelle!



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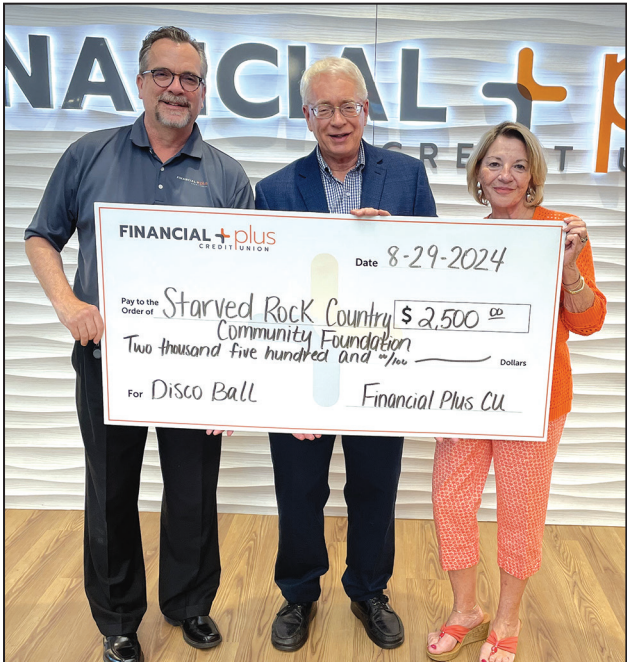


2 Column x 2"  
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Or Money Saver  
\$34 To  
Run In Both





# TRI-COUNTY NEWS



## FPCU donation to Disco Ball

Financial Plus Credit Union recently made a \$2,500 donation to the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation’s “Stayin’ Alive Disco Ball.” The third annual event will be from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Course. Left to right, are FPCU President and CEO Peter Fauth, SRCCF board chair Reed Wilson and SRCCF co-founder Pamela Beckett. Financial Plus serves over 40,000 members in 10 northcentral Illinois counties. Disco Ball tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online at [www.srccf.org](http://www.srccf.org) or by calling (815) 252-2906. SRCCF supports fine arts, mental health, education, economic development, disaster relief and more across LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam counties.

## Child proficiency testing above average in Paw Paw CUSD

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw CUSD 271 Board of Education met on Sept. 17.

Superintendent Jennifer DuBois presented a power-point program explaining the results of the testing just completed of where the children stand in proficiency in math and reading. Tests from the end of last school year were compared to tests taken in the first weeks of this school year. It is usual to lose some standing after the “summer-slide.” Some notable news was that the kindergarten class came in at 0.2 (the second month of kindergarten). The standings are listed by grade and month. Thus, it could be expected for kindergartners to come in at 0.0. It was a pleasant surprise that some of them actually came in above what would be expected for their first month in school. The fifth and eighth grade students came in above the national average for the Illinois Science Assessment.

The Board noted that perhaps the Paw Paw Library Summer Reading Program had helped keep skills up.

There will be intervention periods available to help students who need extra attention in catching up to their grade level and to help those at grade level excel beyond in areas of their interests.

The math department is participating in a year-long professional development series with a coach from the Illustrative Math curricular resource that the school uses in all grades K-8. This series will help teachers fine tune their implemen-

tation of the curricular resource.

The old mower, that is not in working condition, will be assessed for use in the FAA group, or, disposed of.

Bus routes were discussed. There is a bus-stop at Brookside and Peru Street, which anyone who can walk there is welcome to board. The Board is looking into getting a crossing guard at the corner of Chapman Street and Chicago Road. Superintendent Du Bois said she will send a survey out to all families who live south of Chicago Road and ask if they would use an extra bus stop at other locations south of Chicago Road.

Dr. Erik Borne, principal of Indian Creek High School, was in attendance to give an update on happenings and answer any questions. He reported that the school year has gotten off to a good start. The focus is on positive culture. The five indicators that positively affect school success are effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environments and ambitious instruction. Dr. Borne stated that he has lunch meetings in his office with 6-8 freshmen each week, discussing any questions or concerns they may have. The students from Paw Paw have mentioned they enjoy having more friends this year.

He explained that Indian Creek has a program that allows students to give a “Shout-Out” during the announcements at the end of the day for anyone they think did something

helpful that day. Students are enjoying that, as well as the end-of-the-week raffle, in which students’ names are submitted by teachers for a student who has done something meaningful. A drawing is held, and the winner is given a prize - perhaps a gift card to a local business, or, to get a designated parking space for a week.

ICHS is hoping to have an Open House in the beginning of October, for residents to view the new addition and changes in the building lay-out.

Changes were made to the Paw Paw coaching/sponsor job description, adding supervision during bus transportation to games, activities and events.

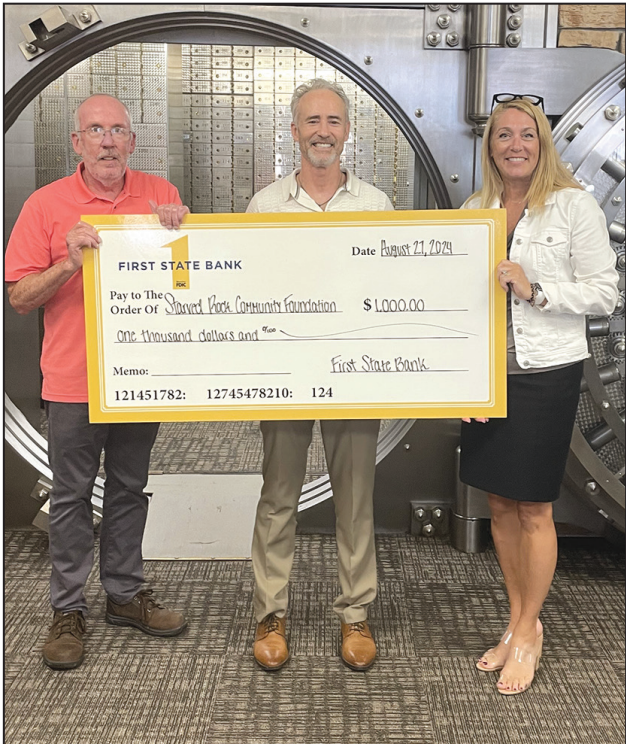
The Bullying Prevention policy was reviewed and accepted.

The budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year was approved.

The FFA national convention trip was approved. It will be Oct 24-25; eligible Junior High FFA members will attend.

The resignation of Dave Negrete Jr as junior high boys’ basketball assistant coach was accepted.

Paw Paw CUSD #271 Mission: The members of the entire school community are committed to collaborating with each other so that all students are provided with high quality, rigorous educational experiences to ensure students have the academic, social, and emotional skills necessary to be successful in a diverse, global environment.



## FSB donation to Disco Ball

First State Bank of Mendota recently made a \$1,000 donation to the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation’s third annual Disco Ball. The gala is from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at Senica’s Oak Ridge Golf Club in LaSalle. Left to right, are SRCCF board member Bill Hunt, SRCCF President Fran Brolley and First State Bank Chief Marketing Officer Jan Phalen. A locally owned bank since 1940, First State has 19 branches throughout north central Illinois and \$1.5 billion in assets.

## Antique Powers Days planned Sept. 28-29 at Sublette campground

SUBLETTE – Antique Power Days will be held Saturday, Sept. 28 and Sunday, Sept. 29 at Mendota Hills Campground, 3 ½ miles northwest of Sublette on U.S. 52. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Everyone is invited to come see antique power at work. All exhibitors big and small are welcome.

Other highlights include music by the ‘Just 4 Fun Band,’ a 50/50 raffle, food and vendors. Admission is a free-will donation.

## New home construction is adding to the enrollment in Indian Creek School District

SHABBONA – The Indian Creek School Board met on Sept. 16.

Middle School Principal Travis Naber reported that Paw Paw sixth through eighth graders are invited to the Indian Creek Middle School dance on Nov. 1.

Many new homes are being built in Waterman, which is adding to the district’s enrollment. Over 100 homes have been built or sold within the last couple years in the Green Ridge Subdivision. The village of Waterman is also updating the impact fees for the Deerfield subdivision. Eighty-nine lots are currently under contract with a developer.

A 1% sales tax for DeKalb County will be on the November ballot. Indian Creek has taken a neutral stance. According to PMA Asset Management, 42% of purchases are made by individuals outside DeKalb County. If it does pass at the November election, Superintendent Chad Willis will likely recommend that to abate the district’s bonds, which will lower the tax rate/taxes unless the enrollment increases enough that would cause the district to add on to its existing buildings.

The Paw Paw High School contract is up for renewal at the end of this year. It must be re-negotiated every two years, as set by the State of Illinois. Willis is recommending that a committee be formed to meet with Paw Paw to negotiate a new contract within the next couple months.

Dr. Erik Borne, high school principal, reported that the average high school class size is 21 students.

Homecoming activities were held the week of Sept. 16, with a bonfire and volleyball games on Thursday, parade and soccer games on Friday evening, and dance on Saturday evening.

High school students have been enthusiastic about the Best Student Friday raffles and prizes. Names of students are put into the raffle by teachers, based on doing good deeds, making a great improvement, consistently putting forth best effort, doing something extraordinary. Prizes so far have included gift certificates to Screamer’s, the principal’s parking spot for a week, etc. There will be other gift cards to local businesses in the future.

SPARK intervention motivation assistance is provided in the middle of the day, for students getting intervention as necessary at the student tutoring center. Students who attend IVCC in the morning are able to attend as they wish.

The DeKalb County Partnership for a Substance Abuse Free Environment (DCPSAFE) is a community coalition that serves DeKalb County. The coalition promotes prevention, wellness, and healthy lifestyles for youth, adults and the community as a whole. Kevin Poterek has been approved as the district sponsor.

Dana Kick has been approved as the Academic Bowl sponsor.

Cordogan Clarke & Associates of Aurora have been approved as the district’s architects.

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# THE BACK PAGE

## GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

**HUGE MOVING SALE**  
1604 Stroble Ave.  
Friday, Sept. 27 &  
Saturday, Sept. 28  
9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day  
Queen bed set,  
push mower,  
Mantis tiller, lots  
of household items.  
1t39msr

**GARAGE SALE**  
406 Sixth Ave.  
Thursday, Sept. 26  
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Friday, Sept. 27  
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 28  
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
1t39msr

**LARGE FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
207 Fourth St.  
Friday, Sept. 27  
Saturday, Sept. 28  
Sunday, Sept. 29  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day  
Men's, women's &  
children's clothing,  
lots of household items.  
1t39r

**LARGE GARAGE SALE**  
1507 Illinois Ave.  
Mendota  
Friday only,  
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household items.  
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## POLICE BLOTTER

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Devon L. Riggins, 30, of 1707 Lincoln Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 12:48 a.m. Sept. 18 on a Lee County warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. The subject posted bond and was released with a Lee County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Jerome L. Elam, 35, of 709 Pennsylvania Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Pennsylvania Avenue and Jefferson Street at 10:50 p.m. Sept. 18. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**CRIMINAL TRESPASS TO RESIDENCE**  
Meri K. Baucom, 55, of 506 12th St., Mendota,

was charged with criminal trespass to residence after police officers responded to the report of a disturbance in the 500 block of 12th Street at 12:54 a.m. Sept. 19. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Brayden C. Watkins, 22, of 1006 Fifth Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended at 10:35 p.m. Sept. 19. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Michael B. Henderson, 34, of 104 Second Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 7:28 p.m. Sept. 20 on a LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear/driving under the influence. The subject was

transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Daniel S. Downing, 40, of Davenport, Iowa, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and East Fourth Road at 8:19 p.m. Sept. 20. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Richard W. Freeman, 37, of 1202 Washington St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Meriden Street at 10:15 p.m. Sept. 21. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

## Bridge work set on Meridian Road

MENDOTA – A bridge on East 0th Road (Meridian Road) in Troy Grove Township will be closed for a bridge replacement beginning Monday, Sept. 30. The bridge is located 500 feet north of North 39th Road on County Line, which is

approximately two miles west of Route 251 on the County Line.

The work is expected to be completed by Dec. 15, 2024, weather permitting. Motorists are advised to use alternative routes around the construction site.



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# SPORTS

## Is Shohei Ohtani the best ever?

In our ESPN, Fox Sports, CBS Sports, ABC Sports, TNT Sports, a million sports podcasts, sports radio on both FM and AM dials, and every sports association has its own channels on every media medium so we know everything happening in sports the second it occurs type of society, it is extremely easy to get caught up in the now.

A player breaks a record or two, he's the greatest ever (you should know who I'm talking about).



### Not the Last Chance

By Brandon LaChance

A coach comes up with a never-seen-before play, he should be christened as the next John Wooden.

A team wins the same number of games or more than a team 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago, the current squad is better.

Rule changes, medical advancement, technology breakthroughs, equipment improvements, air conditioning in practice facilities and arenas (believe it or not it wasn't always a thing), and other intangibles, which have changed sports and its athletes over time, are overlooked or purposely forgotten to bestow a new crown on a new face, new record, new team.

I try to stay away from "The now" to not be "That guy."

However, this time around, I'm going to be.

Since his Major League Baseball debut in 2018, Shohei Ohtani has had one headline, one web gem, one remarkable game, and one accomplishment after another.

And another.

And another.

The 30-year-old was one of few reasons to watch or pay attention to baseball from 2021-24 because he tore it up as a batter and a pitcher in ways only comparable to one man, the Great Bambino, Babe Ruth.

Ohtani was the 2018 American League Rookie of the Year, two-time American League MVP (2021, 2023), four-time All-MLB First Team, two-time All-MLB Second Team, four-time All-Star, two-time Silver Slugger Award recipient, three-time Edgar Martinez Award winner, earned the Hank Aaron Award, led the American League in home runs in 2023 and in triples in 2021.

Oh, he was also the Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year twice (2021, 2023).

Quite an impressive resume for a 30-year-old, who has only been in the MLB for six years.

Well, the above listed credentials were overshadowed by a whale of a feat on Sept. 19.

Not just a feat, he created his own club.

Ohtani is the inaugural member of the 50-50 club as he became the first baseball player to hit 50 home runs and steal 50 bases in the same season, in history. Which means, he did something no one has ever done since the National League was created in 1876, the American League in 1901, or Major League Baseball in 1903.

Read those years again. And then remember, we're in 2024.

On Sept. 19, the man went nuts against the Miami Marlins to begin the club as he was 6-of-6 at the plate with three home runs, two doubles, 10 RBI, and stole two bases, which is going down as one of the best performances of all time.

Honestly, I don't know if this stat line is possible in the video game, MLB The Show, even set on easy difficulty, stacking the lineups, and using every cheat code (are cheat codes still a thing) possible.

The former Los Angeles Angel now Los Angeles Dodger is putting up video game numbers in real life at a level thought impossible and now imagined to be unduplicated.

Not only did he put up numbers we have never seen before, but he did something else we haven't done all season long, he has made us interested in baseball again.

For us Chicago or Midwest baseball fans, there hasn't been much to cheer about since the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in 2016. On the other pendulum of Ohtani making history this season, the Chicago White Sox have lost 120 games, which is tied for the most in league history. The Sox have five more games on the schedule.

OK, I'm done crying now, back to Ohtani.

He is the real deal.

His swing is as beautiful as Ken Griffey Jr.

His speed bag speed clocks in with Ricky Henderson.

He's hitting home runs out of the park on tier with Barry Bonds, Roger Maris, Hank Aaron, Albert Pujols, Sammy Sosa, and Mark McGwire whether they were using PEDs or not.

If a player is on par with icons we call the best players of their time or in league history, on all categories, not just one which is how players usually find themselves in the "He's the new greatest" conversation, then maybe Ohtani is the greatest.

There will be feedback to this. Some will probably say I'm stuck in the now. I'm actually positive of it.

But, if you look at the resume, add the fact he just created a club and did something that has never been done before, even in 2024, Shohei Ohtani being the best player of all-time is a reality.

And he's nowhere near retirement.

## MHS golfers pressing on toward regional

Mendota's freshmen golfers participated in the Three Rivers Conference Freshman Invitational on Sept. 16 at Kewanee. No team scores were kept.

Trojan golfer Esten Otero finished second overall in the tournament with a 43, while teammate Ashtyn Stamberger tied for third with a 44. Other Mendota golfers in the field were Corbin Doll (49), Maddox Rosales (53), Kamilah Preciado (57) and Dell Dennis (59).

Braydon Oakes of Rockridge was the overall champion with a 38.

\*\*\*



Mendota golfers Brody Hartt (second place), left, and Jonas Fitzgerald (tie for sixth) finished in the top 10 of the Princeton Invitational on Sept. 21. (Photo contributed)

The Mendota golfers took on two other teams in a triangular at Princeton's Chapel Hill on Sept. 17. Riverdale came away with the win, shooting a 149, followed by the Trojans (157) and Princeton (172).

Dane Doyle, Grady Jones and Jonas Fitzgerald all turned in rounds of 39 to pace the Trojans. Brody Hartt was one shot off the pace with a 40, while Evan McPheeters (46) and Alex Holland (56) also competed.

Riverdale's Mason Smyser was the medalist with a 34.

Mendota claimed the win in the junior varsity competition with a 174. Princeton and Riverdale both had a 192.

Otero led the way for the Trojans with a 42, which was good enough for meet medalist honors. Nick Sheridan, Kooper Novak and Rosales all checked in with 44s, while Collin Coss (47) and Stamberger (48) completed the MHS lineup.

\*\*\*

Mendota went up against two other Three Rivers Conference foes and came out a winner in varsity and junior varsity action on Sept. 19 at Kewanee. The Trojan varsity squad fired a 177 to beat out Kewanee (192) and Sherrard (196).

Hartt carded a 39 to earn meet medalist honors. Other MHS golfers contributing to the team score were Fitzgerald with a 44, and Doyle and Jones both with 47s. Holland (49) and McPheeters completed the lineup.

Mendota downed Sherrard, 191-234, in the junior varsity meet.

Rosales had the low score for the Trojans with a 45, while Coss was one shot back with a 46. Also hitting the links for the JV team were Otero (50), Novak (50), Sheridan (53) and Stamberger (57).

See Golf, Page B2

### Linksters in L-P Regional Oct. 2

LaSALLE – The Mendota Trojan golfers have been assigned to the LaSalle-Peru Class 2A Regional Golf Tournament to be held Wednesday, Oct. 2 at Senica's Oak Ridge Golf Club in LaSalle.

Other schools in the regional include Burlington Central, Genoa-Kingston, LaSalle-Peru, Maple Park Kaneland, Ottawa, Plano, Sandwich and Sycamore.

Members of the first-, second-, and third-place teams in the regional will advance to the sectional. In addition, the 10 best scoring individuals that are not members of a qualifying team shall also advance from the regional to the sectional tournament.

The sectional will be hosted by Maple Park Kaneland and will be contested at Hughes Creek Golf Course in Elburn on Monday, Oct. 7.

## Boys' soccer improves to 12-1-1

Mendota dispatched Somonauk, 8-1, in varsity boys' soccer action on Sept. 21 at Somonauk.

The Bobcats scored the first goal of the game, but Mendota came back with two goals before halftime. It was all Trojans in the second half as they tacked on six more goals to win going away.

Johan Cortez, Cesar Casas and Sebastian Carlos booted in two goals apiece, while Mauricio Martinez and Isaac Diaz also got shots past the Somonauk goalie. Mendota assists went to Cortez (two), Casas (two) and Aaden Castle (one).

Mateo Goy had two goalie saves for the Trojans.

\*\*\*

The Trojans (12-1-1) rolled over Streator, 9-0, on Sept. 23 at the MHS field.

Cortez and Diaz each found the net twice for Mendota. One goal apiece went to Martinez, Carlos, Cesar Casas, Mauricio Salinas and Sam Matura.

Picking up assists were Martinez, Cortez, Salinas, Castle, Gael Garcia and Ramiro Palacios.



Mendota's Joe Stewart attempts to pull down Monmouth-Roseville's Nick Huston from behind during varsity football action on Sept. 20 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

## Monmouth-Roseville tops Trojans

MENDOTA - When Monmouth-Roseville scored a touchdown in the first 21 seconds of the game, you could sense it was going to make its two-hour plus bus ride to Mendota worthwhile.

The Titans did just that as they no doubt enjoyed their long trek home after rolling to a 49-10 win over the Trojans in a Three Rivers Conference Mississippi Division contest on Sept. 20 at the MHS field.

After four weeks of the season, Mendota is still searching for a win while Monmouth-Roseville remained perfect at 4-0.

After the initial score, the Titans reeled off one more TD in the first quarter and then four more in the

**Next for the Trojans**  
**Opponent:** Friday, Sept. 27 vs. Sherrard at the MHS field. Kickoff at 7 p.m.  
**Last year:** Did not play.  
**Last week:** Sherrard gained its first win of the season with a 20-14 verdict over Hall.

second period to go up 42-0 at intermission and ensure a running clock in the second half. The Trojans managed to avoid the shutout when they tallied the only points of the fourth frame.

Monmouth-Roseville won the coin toss to start

the game and chose to receive, and it turned out to be a good decision. The Titans' Payton Thompson returned the opening kick 43 yards to the Mendota 40-yard line, then on the first play from scrimmage, Thompson took a handoff and maneuvered his way 40 yards to the end zone with just 21 seconds elapsed from the clock. Ivan Godina was good on his PAT kick.

Mendota's opening possession resulted in a punt that set up Monmouth-Roseville in good field position at its own 43. The Titans ran nine plays to cover 57 yards, end-

## Harriers race at L-P & BV Invitational

Mendota High School was in action against seven other area teams in a cross country meet at LaSalle-Peru on Sept. 17.

Fifty-six runners competed in the boys' three-mile race, won by Somonauk's Landin Stillwell (16:36). Mendota harrier Anthony Kelson was second in 16:44, while Griffin Hammers of LP was 3rd in 17:21. Also racing for the Trojans were Carlos Toribio (19:50, 15th), Hector Gonzalez (21:30, 29th), Aiden Fisher (25:35, 45th), Travis Mumm (27:09, 50th) and Gage Richey (29:13, 53rd).

LP's 39 points earned top honors, followed by Ottawa 70, Princeton 71, and Somonauk 96. Mendota was fifth with 115 and Streator was sixth with 127.

Princeton's Ruby Acker (20:56) was first through the chute in the girls' race, while Ottawa's Georgia Kirkpatrick (21:46) and Princeton's Payton Frueh (22:45) were second and third, respectively. Mendota's two lone finishes belonged to Emily Banks (33:53) and Payton Stavropoulos (37:51).

Ottawa won with 28 points, followed by Princeton (50), LP (71), and Streator (93).

\*\*\*

Thirty-eight teams assembled at Walnut Junior High for the annual running of the Dale Donner Invite, hosted by Bureau Valley on Sept. 21.

Williamsville's Lucas Hollinshead had the top finish in the boys 3.02-mile race in a time of 16:02. MHS's Kelson took fifth place in a time of 16:47.

Other finishes for Mendota included Toribio (20:43, 95th), Gonzalez (23:09, 131st), Spencer Kain (25:03, 155th), Fisher (25:04, 156th) and Mumm (27:51, 168th).

Elmwood won the team scoring with 59 points, followed by Illinois Valley Central (102) and East Dubuque (124). Mendota placed 19th with 437 points.

The girls' varsity race was won by Sundara Weber of Sandwich in a time of 18:03. MHS was represented by Banks (32:00, 165th) and Stavropoulos (36:52, 181st).

Sandwich tallied 92 points for the title, followed by Williamsburg (112) and Cambridge (127).

In the freshman-sophomore 2.5-mile race, Everett Henderson of Tremont was victorious with a time of 14:13. Mendota competitors were Ryder Woods (17:34, 38th) and Richey ((23:43, 79th).

See Football, Page B2

## Spikers fall to Erie-P.

MENDOTA – A solid Erie-Prophetstown squad took out the Mendota Spikers, 25-17, 25-16 in Three Rivers Conference volleyball action on Sept. 17 at the MHS gym. Mendota is 1-3 in league play.

Laylie Denault and Ella Coss led the net attack with 10 and nine kills,

respectively, while Ella Martin provided 14 assists and Ava Eddy pulled up eight digs.

"This was the best match we played this year," said Mendota coach Demi Salazar. "The rallies were incredible. I saw the girls not back down against the best team in our conference."



# SPORTS

## Football

Continued from Page B1

ing in a 10-yard touchdown scamper by Nick Huston, followed by a Godina extra-point kick to make it 14-0.

Mendota's next two possessions resulted in turnovers that were turned into scores by the Titans. Monmouth-Roseville defensive back Andy Myers intercepted an Aden Tillman pass at his own 47, and then Myers the quarterback finished off a speedy four-play, 53-yard drive with a 22-yard touchdown run less than a minute into the second period. Godina's PAT kick was good.

On Mendota's next series, Tillman fumbled and the Titans' Cody Johnson recovered at the Trojan 10-yard line. Monmouth-Roseville was back in the end zone two players later on a 5-yard run by Landon Montroy. Godina split the uprights with his extra-point kick.

The Titans tacked on two more touchdowns before the half. Mendota turned the ball over on downs at its own 49.

An Andrew Way 4-yard run capped off a four-play drive, followed by a Godina kick to make it 36-0 with 6:55 left in the half.

Mendota punted the ball back to Monmouth-Roseville after a stalled drive, pinning the Titans back at their own 11 with just 2:44 to

go before halftime. But the long field ahead didn't deter Monmouth-Roseville from adding on one more score when Thompson sprinted 59 yards to paydirt to seal a four-play, 89-yard journey. Godina added the extra-point kick.

The Titans scored the only touchdown in the third quarter off of another Mendota turnover. Elliott Rogers swiped a Tillman aerial and returned it 38 yards to the Trojan 4. Elijah Noel finished off the short drive with a 4-yard TD run. Godina ended a perfect night with his seventh PAT kick.

The Trojans finally got on the board in the fourth frame, starting with a 28-yard field goal by Angil Serrano.

Mendota's Joe Stewart recovered a Monmouth-Roseville fumble and the Trojans parlayed that into a seven-play, 54-yard touchdown drive, culminated by a 10-yard run by Wyatt Ossman with just over a minute to play. Serrano was good on the PAT kick.

Mendota ended with 161 total yards in 47 plays. Ossman rushed 12 times for 70 yards, while Tillman completed four passes for 28 yards, all to Braiden Freeman. The Titans gained 328 yards in just 34 plays, with Thompson churning out 110 yards in only five totes.

### • Trojan Yardstick •

MONMOUTH-ROSEVILLE 49, MENDOTA 10						
Monmouth-R.	14	28	7	0	-	49
Mendota	0	0	0	10	-	10

#### SCORING SUMMARY

MR - Thompson 40 run (Godina kick), 11:39 1Q  
MR - Huston 10 run (Godina kick), 2:30 1Q  
MR - Myers 22 run (Godina kick), 11:12 2Q  
MR - Montroy 5 run (Godina kick), 9:48 2Q  
MR - Way 4 run (Godina kick), 6:55 2Q  
MR - Thompson 59 run (Godina kick), 1:14 2Q  
MR - Noel 4 run (Godina kick), 8:30 3Q  
ME - Serrano 28 field goal, 11:54 4Q  
ME - Ossman 10 run (Serrano kick), 1:16 4Q

	MR	ME
First Downs	17	10
Rushes-Yards	33-318	35-133
Passing Yards	10	28
Passes	1-1-0	4-12-2
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Punts-Avg	0-0	2-42
Penalties-Yards	1-5	2-15

#### INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

**Rushing** - MENDOTA: Ossman 12-70, Freeman 3-27, Lesley 5-14, Price 4-12, Watson 1-5, Tillman 10-5; MONMOUTH-R.: Thompson 5-110, Huston 8-93, Way 5-33, Montroy 3-26, Myers 1-22, Smith 4-16, Bergren 1-12, Noel 2-5, Russell 1-2, Moore 3-(minus 1).  
**Passing** - MENDOTA: Tillman 4-11-2-28, Watson 0-1-0-0; MONMOUTH-R.: Myers 1-1-0-10.  
**Receiving** - MENDOTA: Freeman 4-28; MONMOUTH-R.: Thompson 1-10.

## Dixon blanks MHS netters

DIXON - Dixon shut out the Mendota varsity girls' tennis team, 5-0, on Sept. 17 at Dixon.

#### Sept. 17 @ Dixon

Dixon 5, Mendota 0

**Singles:** No. 1 - Ferguson (D) def. Ella Lewis (M), 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 - A. Arjes (D) def. Lilly Bokus (M), 6-0, 6-0

**Doubles:** No. 1 - Lance-B. Arjes (D) def. Kylie Goldblatt-Leah Stamberger (M), 6-3, 6-1; No. 2 - Tefiku-Mustapha (D) def. Lauren Holland-Lidia Hernandez (M), 6-0, 6-3; No. 3 - Herrera-Ortgieson (D) def. Lucie Brandner-Chloe Walzer (M), 6-0, 6-1



**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024**  
**10:00 AM CST START**

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## Northbrook Soccer 8th Graders

Northbrook School recognized the eighth graders on its soccer team on Sept. 17. Left to right, are coach Ruti Arteaga, Emmanuel Guzman, Isaac Espinoza, Elizandro Orozco, Josh Granados, Illan Garcia, Arian Chavez, Axel Ruiz, Sergio Correa and Lumen Setchell. Not pictured: Coach Tom Slater. (Photo contributed)

### Northbrook soccer

#### Sept. 9 vs. Sandwich

"A" game

Northbrook 5, Sandwich 0

Goals: Jose Chavez 2, Isaac Espinoza 1, Joshua Granados 1, Gavin Stamberger 1

Assists: Mario Membreno 1

Saves: Armando Valdes 1

"B" game

Northbrook 1, Sandwich 0

Goal: Omar Hinojosa

Assist: Emiliano Galindo-Garcia

Saves: Holden Coss 1

#### Sept. 10 @ LaSalle Lincoln

"A" game

Northbrook 3, LaSalle 1

Goals: Arian Chavez 1, Mario Membreno 1, Axel Ruiz 1

Assists: Arian Chavez 1, Isaac Espinoza 1

Saves: Holden Coss 3

"B" game

Northbrook 3, LaSalle 0

Goals: Omar Hinojosa 1,

Mario Membreno 1, Camilo Ramirez 1

Assists: Omar Hinojosa 1,

Mario Membreno 1

No shots on goal.

#### Sept. 11 vs. DePue

"A" game

Northbrook 6, DePue 2

Goals: Austin Brown 1, Arian Chavez 3, Holden Coss 1,

Gavin Stamberger 1

Assists: Arian Chavez 1, Mario Membreno 2, Axel Ruiz 2,

Santos Salinas 1

Saves: Armando Valdes 3

"B" game

Northbrook 4, DePue 0

Goals: Jose Chavez 1, Holden Coss 1, Emiliano Galindo-Garcia 1, Omar Hinojosa 1

Assists: Herlinda Huizar 1,

Mario Membreno 1

No shots on goal.

#### Sept. 14 @ DeKalb

Game 1

Northbrook 7, DeKalb 1

Goals: Arian Chavez 2,

Emiliano Galindo-Garcia 1, Mario Membreno 2,

Elizandro Orozco 1, Gavin Stamberger 1

Assists: Arian Chavez 1, Illan Garcia 1, Jowell Garcia 1,

Mario Membreno 1, Lumen Setchell 1

Saves: Holden Coss 2, Armando Valdes 3

Game 2

Northbrook 4, Sterling 1

Goals: Arian Chavez 1, Emiliano Galindo-Garcia 1, Axel Ruiz 1, Gavin Stamberger 1

Assists: Arian Chavez 1, Jose Chavez 1, Axel Ruiz 1

No shots on goal

## Northbrook X country competes in 2 meets

Northbrook Middle School competed in two cross country meets last week.

The boys and girls ran at Ottawa Shepherd on Sept. 18 over a two-mile course.

The Spartan girls finished first as a team and Lumen Setchell was the overall winner in a time of 15:17. Graci Bloomfield (2nd, 15:28) and London Jones (7th, 16:19) were also in the top 10 finishers. Other runners were Aliya Eames (14th, 17:33), Aliya Delao (18th, 19:09), Averie Hazelwood (29th, 22:32), Harper Stamberger (31st, 22:40), Evelyn Sims (32nd, 23:34), Kendra Milus (38th, 24:35).

For the boys, Aisaac Arteaga was eighth in 14:44 and Tyler Kenny was 34th in 19:02.

\*\*\*

The cross country teams traveled to Sandwich on Sept. 19 for a two-mile race.

Setchell had the top finish for the girls, taking sixth in a time of 14:11. Bloomfield (8th, 14:27), Eames (10th, 16:04) and Sims (16th, 20:46) also competed.

In the boys' race, Arteaga was seventh in 14:57 and Kenny was ninth in 15:21.

### Three Rivers Mississippi Division Football Standings

	TR	OA
Princeton	2-0	4-0
Monmouth-R.	2-0	4-0
Hall	1-1	1-3
Sherrard	1-1	1-3
Mendota	0-2	0-4
Kewanee	0-2	1-3

**Friday, Sept. 20**  
Monmouth-R. 49, Mendota 10  
Princeton 44, Kewanee 15  
Sherrard 20, Hall 14

**Friday, Sept. 27**  
Sherrard at Mendota  
Princeton at Monmouth-R.  
Kewanee at Hall

## F-S gridders beaten by 2 opponents

Hall scored all of its points in the second half to defeat Mendota, 28-0, in freshman-sophomore football action on Sept. 16 at the MHS field.

After a scoreless first half, the visitors tallied three touchdowns in the third quarter on runs of 30 and 2 yards, and a 77-yard punt return for a TD. Hall added a 4-yard touchdown run in the fourth.

Mendota had 180 yards of offense compared to 214 for Hall. Daniel Pierce rushed eight times for 89 yards for the Trojans, while Gavin Stevenson completed five passes for 37 yards. Oscar Castaneda and Ryan Gibertini each had two receptions.

\*\*\*

Monmouth-Roseville handed Mendota a 56-16 loss on Sept. 23 at Monmouth.

The home team scored the first four touchdowns of the game to go up 32-0.

Mendota got on the board at the 3:32 mark of the second quarter on a 7-yard TD run by Javier Hernandez followed by a two-point run by Hernandez.

The Titans tallied three straight touchdowns before the Trojans closed out the scoring on a 5-yard run by Hernandez, who also ran in the two-pointer.

Mendota (0-4) had 141 total yards compared to 327 for Monmouth. Hernandez rushed 14 times for 90 yards. He also completed four passes.

## Golf

Continued from Page B1

\*\*\*

The Trojans finished second in the nine-team Princeton Invitational on Sept. 21 at Chapel Hill. Mendota had a score of 352, while Hall won the event with a 330. Other schools competing were Princeton (354), Newman (363), LaSalle-Peru (367), Rock Falls (376), Sherrard (395), Kewanee (424) and Chillicothe IVC (426). Hall's Landen Plym was the individual champion with a 72.

Mendota had two top 10 finalists - Hartt in second place with an 82 and Fitzgerald tied for sixth with an 87. Also participating for the Trojans were Doyle (89), Jones (94), McPheeters (108) and Holland (109).

\*\*\*

Mendota competed in the Three Rivers Conference meet on Sept. 23 at Sherrard. The Trojans finished in seventh place with a 377. The top six teams were Riverdale (316), Hall (334), Princeton (343), Erie (352), Mercer County (356) and Rockridge (359).

Doyle had the low score for MHS with an 88. Hartt followed with a 92, while Holland (98), Jones (99), Fitzgerald (100) and McPheeters (106) also played for the Trojans.

Aidan Dorathy of Riverdale was the individual champion with a 70, four strokes better than Hall's Landen Plym.

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# LOOK HERE!

The Village of Sublette is looking for an INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR to serve as a maintenance contractor for the Village beginning November 12, 2024.

The contract document and specifications may be obtained by calling Makenzie Kessel  
815-973-2385

Please contact Kessel on or before  
October 7th by 6:30 p.m.



# NIE FUN PAGE



## Food FACT:

Consuming these foods helps a person stay full, maintain a healthy weight, and have a healthy digestive system.

Answer: Whole grains

## What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.

A



B



Answers: 1. Bread on board turned 2. More pasta in upper left corner 3. Missing pasta above tortillas 4. Pasta replaced other grain in bottom bowl

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER  
26

**1934:** The ocean liner RMS Queen Mary is launched.

**1950:** United Nations troops recapture Seoul from North Korean forces.

**1969:** Abbey Road, the last recorded album by The Beatles, is released.

## NEW WORD

### FIBER

dietary material containing substances such as cellulose

## How they say that in...

**English:** Grain  
**Spanish:** Grano  
**Italian:** Cereali  
**French:** Céréales  
**German:** Getreide

## Did You KNOW?

Most people should aim to eat between 25 and 30 grams of fiber each day from a variety of sources.



## Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

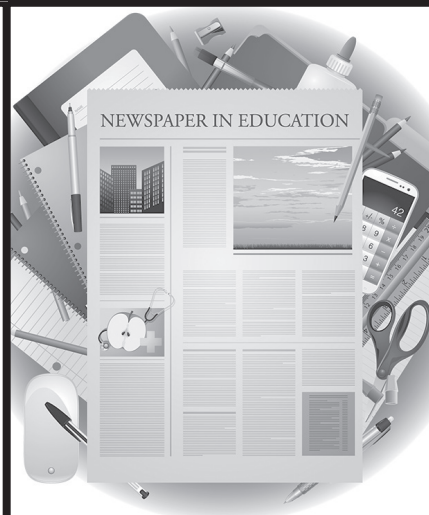
Answer: Wheat

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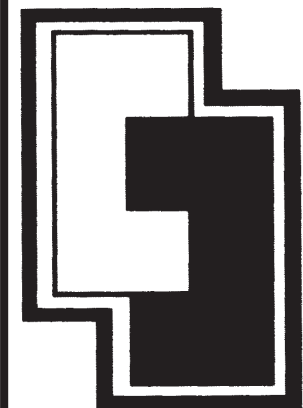
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# RELIGION

## The secret to your best life

One of the greatest lessons I've learned is that you can't be both selfish and happy. I know this is true through my own personal experience, but more importantly, the Bible has some things to say about the attitude we should have about "self."

For example, love is not selfish. In the Amplified Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:5 says love "is not self-seeking." In 1 Corinthians 15:31, the apostle Paul said, "...I die daily [I face death and die to self]" (AMP), which basically means

he was not self-seeking but instead focused on doing what God called him to do with his life.

There are also scriptures that teach us the importance of having self-control. Galatians 5:23 lists self-control as a fruit of the Spirit, and 2 Timothy 1:7 says that in Christ, we have a spirit "of power and of love and...personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]."

If you've lived very long, you realize that not being selfish requires

self-control, because we're all born with a human nature that is selfish. Think about how babies act: They are only concerned with what they need and usually cry when they don't get their way.

Thankfully, when we experience new life in Christ, we die to sin (Romans 6:11). But even though we die to sin, sin does not die. That's why we have to continually make the decision over and over again to choose to do the right thing on purpose. And we have what it



takes, in Christ, to do what's right—whether we feel like it or not.

As Christians, we're destined to be molded into the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). Jesus is the greatest example of what it means to love others and not live a selfish life. First John 3:16 (NIV) says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."

This scripture shows us that Jesus gave everything when He demonstrated His love for us. And we are to follow His example.

The truth is, loving others is not always easy, and it always costs us something: time, money, convenience, etc. But through our relationship with Christ, we can find the strength and ability to love others, even when it seems to cost more than we think we can give.

God is faithful to give us His love, grace, and wisdom to reach out and be a blessing to others. And when we do, we end up receiving more joy and peace than we had before.

It's important to understand that God doesn't expect you to take this to such an extreme that you don't take care of yourself.

We need to use wisdom so we can be healthy emotionally, mentally, and physically while we're helping others. In following Jesus' example, remember to make your relationship with God your number one priority and do what He puts in your heart to do.

The world is full of lonely, hurting people who are hungry for the love of God and the hope that is only found in Jesus. I want to encourage you to get rid of a "What about me?" mindset and instead pray, "God, show me someone who needs a blessing. Show me someone I can help."

We all have room to grow in our relationship with God, and learning how to reach out to others is a big part of that process. I used to be self-centered and focused on getting my way all the time. And I was miserable! But now I am happier than I've ever been because I don't spend all my time thinking about what I want, what I think, and how I feel. The truth is, you can't be happy if the center of your life is you!

Imagine how different the world would be if everyone would just do one nice thing to help someone else every day. It can be so simple to put a smile on someone's face. Give a compliment, give

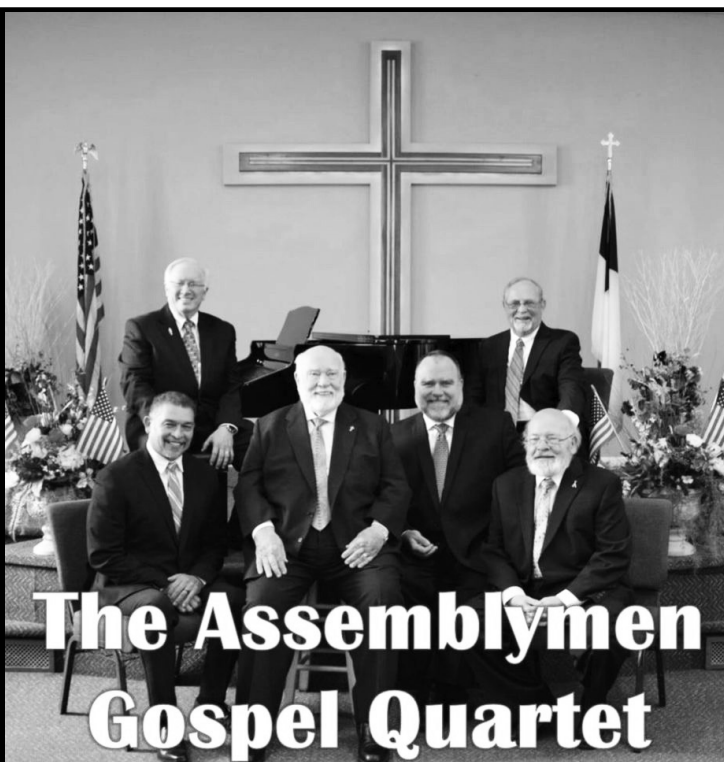
something away, take the time to listen, open a door for someone, let someone go before you in line at the store...the list could go on and on.

Make it your business to regularly reach out to people around you, encouraging them and meeting their needs as you are able to do it. Be determined each day to do at least one thing for someone else that makes their life better. Trust me: You'll discover that serving God by loving others is the most wonderful, exciting thing you can do!

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource Do Unto Others. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (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](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

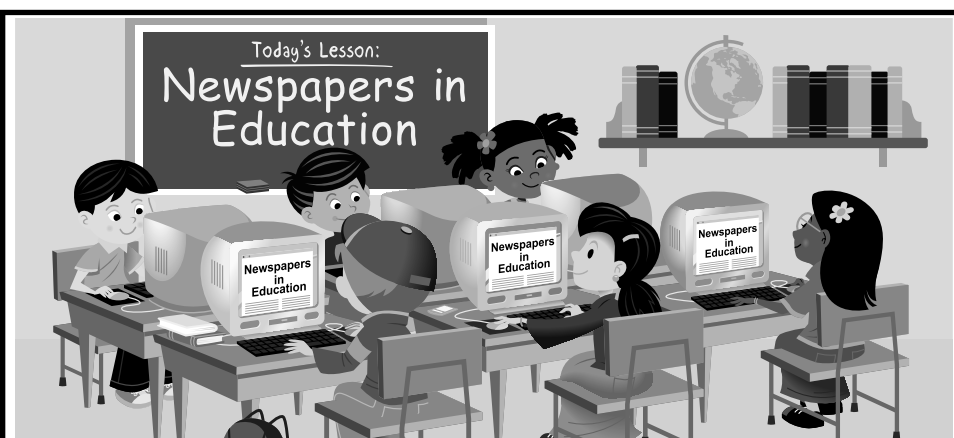


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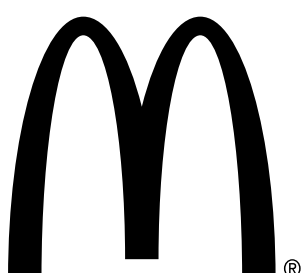
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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY - IN PROBATE NO. 2024PR000148 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Gerald W. Borchelt, Deceased.

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Gerald W. Borchelt. Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued to Matthew Smith, 416 E. Benton Street, Morris, Illinois, 60450 whose Attorney is Frank J. Black, Black & Black Lawyers, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 West Madison Street, Ottawa, Illinois 61350, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

**MATTHEW SMITH INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR**  
**FRANK J. BLACK**  
**BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS** 201 LIBERTY STREET SUITE 211 P.O. BOX 148 MORRIS, IL 60450 815-942-0594 No. 0902 (Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2, 2024)

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on September 5, 2024 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Iron Family Supplements located at 605 Betty Street Earlville, IL. 60518. Dated: September 5, 2024. Chad Cantlin Applicant. No. 0905 (Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2, 2024)

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION No: 2024-JA-30**  
TO: Ivan Perez-Garcia, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:  
Take notice that on the 19th day of September, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Deny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Anthony Perez-Garcia, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 30th day of October, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to the child. You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered. Dated: September 19, 2024 Greg Vaccaro, Clerk No. 0909 (Sept. 25, Oct. 2 and 9, 2024)

tion. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child. You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered. Dated: September 19, 2024 Greg Vaccaro, Clerk No. 0908 (Sept. 25, Oct. 2 and 9, 2024)

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION No: 2024-JA-30**  
TO: Ada Perez-Garcia, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:  
Take notice that on the 19th day of September, 2024 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Deny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Anthony Perez-Garcia, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 30th day of October, 2024, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to the child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child. You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered. Dated: September 19, 2024 Greg Vaccaro, Clerk No. 0909 (Sept. 25, Oct. 2 and 9, 2024)

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

**NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES**  
Whittaker Construction & Excavating, Inc. P.O. Box 21, Earlville, Illinois 60518, 815-246-7119, is seeking disadvantaged businesses for the City of Mendota, Phase I Headworks

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

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● **HOMECOMING 2024** ●



**2024 Mendota Varsity Football Team**

**10    20    30    40    50    40    30    20    10**

<b>Sherrard Tigers</b>		<b>Friday, Sept. 27</b> <b>Purple &amp; Gold Spirit Day</b> <b>Parade at 3:30 p.m.</b> • <b>Varsity football game</b> <b>at 7 p.m.</b>	<b>Mendota Trojans</b>
		<b>Saturday, Sept. 28</b> <b>Homecoming Dance</b> <b>in the Main Gym 7-10 p.m.</b>	

**We're Behind You All The Way Trojans**

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