

Mendota Trojans – 3rd Place Class 1A Boys’ State Soccer Tournament



Members of the Mendota High School soccer team are all smiles with their medals and trophy as Trojan fans cheer them on after winning third place in the Illinois High School Association Class 1A Boys’ State Soccer Tournament on Nov. 8 at Hoffman Estates. The Trojans defeated Columbia, 2-1, on penalty kicks to claim the third-place hardware. See more coverage of the soccer team’s historic season in Section B. (Reporter photo)

Mendota ‘Shop Local’ promotion to run Nov. 21 through Dec. 20

MENDOTA – Shoppers are reminded that Mendota’s Shop Local Promotion kicks off Saturday, Nov. 21 and will continue through Friday, Dec. 20 at participating businesses.

During this time shoppers will receive a sticker for every \$10 they spend in a participating merchant’s business. Customers can place the stickers on cards, obtained at the participating business or at the Chamber office. When your cards are full, and contain at least five participating businesses, you can turn them into the Chamber office for a chance to win valuable prizes.

Mendota Shop Local



Businesses will be having a 12 Days of Christmas giveaway starting with the first prize on Dec. 9 through Dec. 21 with a grand prize drawing.

Shoppers can turn in as many cards as they wish by the deadline at 4 p.m. Dec. 20. There will be a prize given away every day from Dec. 9 until the grand prize giveaway on Dec. 21. Every card will be placed back in for the grand prize drawing.

Don’t forget to get your free special sticker from the “A Mendota Christmas” event on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the information booth on Illinois Avenue.

So, don’t forget to get your stickers when shopping in participating businesses, whose names are listed on the back of the Shop Local Cards!

LaSalle, Bureau counties in USDA disaster declaration

SPRINGFIELD—USDA Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack issued a disaster declaration for three Illinois counties due to losses caused by tornadoes that occurred earlier this year. Tornadoes struck Marshall and Putnam counties July 14 and 15, 2024, and Henry County on July 15.

Counties contiguous to Marshall, Putnam and Henry counties are eligible for the same assistance. The contiguous counties include: Bureau, Knox, LaSalle, Mercer,

Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, Whiteside and Woodford.

“We appreciate the joint efforts of Governor JB Pritzker, Secretary Vilsack and the USDA to ensure Illinois farmers receive support to recover from these destructive storms,” said Jerry Costello II, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director. “Producers in declared counties should contact their local

See USDA, Page A5

Celebrating Our Veterans



Veterans Day 2024

Ella Lewis, right, a junior at Mendota High School, gives the Veterans Day address during the Mendota ceremony on Nov. 11 at Veterans Park while above, school children listen intently. A quaint crowd attended the ceremony, which is held to honor and remember all Veterans, both alive and deceased, for their commitment and contribution to our present way of life, and the benefits of liberty and freedom on both domestic and foreign soil. The presentation of colors was performed by the Mendota VFW Post 4079 Veterans Memorial Squad and Mendota American Legion Post 540. Following the program, Hume Carnegie Museum was opened to browse the museum’s veterans exhibit and to thank featured veterans for their service. (Reporter photos)



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LOCAL AND AREA



Northbrook honors Stephen Dancey
Veterans Day was celebrated at Northbrook School with an assembly honoring Mendota native, Sgt. Stephen Dancey, standing. Students provided a tribute speaking on Dancey's career in the military, dealing with PTSD, and his community involvement. Dancey thanked the students and talked to the crowd about his life. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

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Mendota, IL

Illinois Valley Sportscard and Collectible Show has thrived at Peru Mall since COVID-19

Former Chicago Bulls player, Bob Love, will be at Peru Mall on Saturday, Nov. 16 during trading card event

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

PERU – Dave Marvin has been involved in sports trading cards since he was a kid.

Over the years, he began hosting trading card shows and found his way to the Peru Mall in 2016.

With unique help from a pandemic and guests such as former Chicago Bull Bob Love, the Illinois Valley Sportscard and Collectible Show sells out, including the next event on Saturday, Nov. 16.

“We struggled in the beginning to get 25-30 tables of people to show up for a couple of years,” said Marvin, 61, of Grand Ridge. “A lot of times, I lost money doing the show. I kept at it, kept at it, and then COVID-19 hit. When the pandemic hit, because of the state’s restrictions, no one else in the state could hold a card show because they were indoor venues with 50-plus people.

“Because the Peru Mall was retail, they couldn’t stop people from going into the mall. Boom, the next thing you know, I’m selling out, left and right. I had people from all over the state coming to my state because they were the only ones going on because of COVID.

“People who hadn’t come to Peru from an hour away, had now been introduced to Peru. They thought we had a good show with a lot of good vendors. It has snowballed from there. I’ve had to increase the number of tables. Right now, we’re capped out at 80-something tables because the mall doesn’t have anymore. I’m turning people away from my shows now because I don’t have any more room.”

Through shows, Marvin linked with Chicagoland Sports Appearance Connection which brings in guest signers, including Love.

Love played for the Chicago Bulls from 1968-1976 where he was a three-time NBA All-Star, a two time All-NBA Second Team member, and a three-time NBA All-Defensive Second Team selection. His No. 10 jersey was retired by the Bulls.

Marvin has had numerous star guests including Bobby Douglass, former Chicago Bear, and Bob Dernier, former Chicago Cubs’ player.

“Anytime we get a guy who could draw a bigger crowd, it’s exciting. I’m a basketball guy myself, it’s always cool when we get a guy with star power like Bob Love,” Marvin said. “It’s cool to offer the opportunity for others to meet star players and get their autographs.”

Seeing the autographs and the excitement around collecting cards reminds Marvin of his upbringing.

If there was a pack of cards in Grand Ridge when he was a youngster, he either bought it or refrained because he knew he would be scolded.

“I still have cards I bought when I was 10 years old,” Marvin said. “My first memory is the Topps Tall Boy Cards of basketball players. Because Grand Ridge had cards that sat on the shelf for a long time, I don’t think I was too young in 1969 and 1970, but I know in 1972 I was getting yelled at

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by my mom about buying too many cards. She said it was just cardboard.

“We had a little country store and they had candy and sports cards on a big shelf. It was always cool to buy whatever packs they had to see what kind of stars you’d get.”

Marvin has four shows planned in 2025 at the Peru Mall and he’ll help arrange and manage six shows in Willow Brook.

For more information on Illinois Valley Sportscard and Collectible show, Nov. 16 or future events, email ridgecards@yahoo.com or call 815-830-1677.

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In Dixon at: Shining Star

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LOCAL AND AREA



Why I love Mendota

The City of Mendota has set up a video shoot for Mendota residents to showcase their love for “The World’s Greatest Little City” at the former Mendota Lutheran Home building. The videos will be posted on the newly created City of Mendota Facebook page to help market Mendota and in part of a tourism video. Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Mark Stelmack and his son, Krew, center, shot a video on Monday, Nov. 11 shot by, behind the cameras, left to right, Tyler Amm and Zach Shaw of Dual Focus Media. There will be additional video shoot times and days posted on the City of Mendota Facebook page for you to make a video. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Kishwaukee College Foundation announces creation of Janice Vida Owens Endowment

MALTA – The Kishwaukee College Foundation has announced the creation of a new endowment thanks to a generous donation from retired Office Systems program instructor Janice Owens.

The new fund provides scholarships for full-time and part-time students pursuing a degree or certificate in Kish’s Office Systems program.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my 30 years of teaching in the Office Systems department at Kishwaukee College. Managing the changes in technology was a challenge. Assisting students as they gained skills that helped them reach their goals was a joy. Now, I am hoping to help future students along their way,” Owens said.

Owens started at Kish in 1978 and worked as a full-time instructor until 2008. She continued to teach as an adjunct instructor from

2008 to 2012. During her tenure, the Office Systems program underwent major changes to keep up with the evolving nature of the workforce and office climates. Owens said one of her proudest moments was when the College transitioned the program from Secretarial Sciences to Office Systems.

“Janice’s continued support for the College and the Office Systems program is greatly appreciated. She has already contributed so much as an instructor and has now created a new legacy that will support students and our community well into the future,” said Dr. Kayte Hamel, Kishwaukee College Foundation Executive Director.

The Kishwaukee College Foundation manages more than 110 funds dedicated to scholarships, program enhancements and the overall needs of the College. Learn more at kish.edu/foundation.



Mendota boys soccer team’s state parade

Before the Mendota High School boys soccer team competed in the IHSA Class 1A State Tournament on Thursday, Nov. 7, the Trojans paraded in a charter bus to Northbrook School, Blackstone Elementary School, Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School, pictured, and Lincoln Elementary School. To see how the Trojans did at state, turn to B1. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Lloyd H. A. Bialas

STEWART—Lloyd H. A. Bialas, 88, of Stewart, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, at his home in Stewart.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Luna, 531 S. 7th St., Rochelle. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle.

Lloyd was born on Aug. 21, 1936, to William P. and Louise R. (Kretschmer) Bialas in Corsica, S.D. He married Linda Lou Hood in Mendota on Aug. 18, 1957.

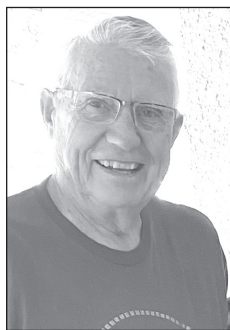
Lloyd is survived by his wife of 67 years, Linda Bialas of Stewart; three children, Steve (Diana) Bialas of Rochelle, Mark (Gwen) Bialas of Ashton, and Geina Parks of Mendota; sister, Darlene (Bob) Johnson of Stewart; sister-in-law, Joyce Bialas of Rochelle; six grandchildren, Steve "TJ" (Melody) Bialas and Travis (Aleigha) Bialas, both of Rochelle, Marcus (Jen) Bialas of Poway, Calif., Anthonie (Allison) Bialas of Columbia Heights, Minn., JoEllyn (Josh) Sarver of Mendota, and Alex Parks of West Brooklyn; 11 great-grandchildren, Sabrina (Adam) Greenwell, Alexis (Zachary) Prosser, Mackenzie Bialas, Aubree, Norahlee, and Alivia Bialas, Mack Bialas, Jett Bialas, Boston Bialas, Emerson Bialas, Magnolia Bialas; and five great-great-grandchildren, Dallas, Gavin, Oaklynn and Keaton Greenwell and Magnolia Prosser.

In addition to his parents, Lloyd was preceded in death by his two brothers, Herb and Gene Bialas, and nephew, David Bialas.

Lloyd was a lifelong farmer, who thoroughly enjoyed his work. He loved the time he spent hunting, fishing and boating. He cherished the time he spent with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Rochelle for many years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Lloyd's memory to Serenity Hospice and Home. Visit www.ungershorner.com to sign the online guest book.



Social Security News

How you can protect yourself from identity thieves

By Mike Weitz

PERU—Identity theft is when someone uses your personal information to impersonate you or steal from you. These crimes can impact your physical, mental, and emotional health and lead to lost opportunities that are often hard to measure. Learning more about identity theft can help you keep your personal information safe.

Types of Identity Theft

There are two types of identity theft you should be aware of:

- Thieves stealing your data, physically or digitally, without contacting you directly.
- Thieves contacting you directly and convincing you to provide sensitive information.

In these instances, you may never know how the thief got your information.

How Identity Thieves Use Your Information

Identity thieves steal personal information like your name, address, credit card or bank account numbers, Social Security number (SSN), and medical insurance account numbers. They use this information to:

- Buy items with your credit cards or bank accounts.
- Obtain new credit cards or accounts in your name.
- Use your SSN to get a job.
- Open phone or utility accounts in your name.
- Steal your tax refund.
- Use your health insurance to obtain medical care.
- Pretend to be you if they are arrested.

How to Spot Identity Theft

- To spot identity theft:
- Keep track of your mail for missing bills or other documents.
- Review your credit card and bank statements for unauthorized transactions.

- Obtain and review your credit reports regularly to make sure they do not include accounts you have not opened.

Ways to Prevent Identity Theft

While no plan is perfect, taking the precautions below can help you better protect your personal information:

- Protect documents that have personal information.
- Ask questions before giving out your SSN.
- Protect your personal information online and on your phone by using a strong password and adding multi-factor authentication when offered.
- Safeguard your information on social networks.
- What to Do if You Believe Someone Has Stolen Your Identity
- Report fraud to the company where it occurred.
- Contact a credit bureau to place a fraud alert on your credit report.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.identitytheft.gov.
- File a police report.

For more information about how to protect your SSN from identity thieves, read our publication, Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10064.pdf. Please report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — on the Office of Inspector General's website at www.oig.ssa.gov/report.

It's important to protect yourself against identity theft because it can damage your credit status. Repairing this damage can cost you a great deal of time and money.

Please share this information with your family and friends.

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

EDUCATION BRIEFS

J. Rocha on Concordia U. honors list

MEQUON, Wis. — Concordia University Wisconsin officials have released the Spring Honors List for the 2023-24 academic year. To be eligible for the honor, students must achieve a minimum 3.60 GPA and complete at least 12 undergraduate credits.

Among the students named to the list was Jose Rocha of Mendota, a freshman K-12 Education-Physical Education major.

Founded in 1881, Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 North Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, offers over 70 undergraduate majors and is affiliated with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The school is located on 200 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline, only 15 minutes north of downtown Milwaukee.

IVCC names summer '24 graduates

OGLESBY — A total of 166 students earned 200 degrees and certificates at Illinois Valley Community College in Summer 2024. Graduates, listed by hometown, and their degrees or certificates include:

Arlington — Lisa Grisham, Associate in Arts; Tori Daniels, Certified Nursing Assistant; Rylan Kerper, AAS Marketing

Earlville — Kimberly Ballas, Practical Nursing; Hailey Kuter, AAs Dental Assisting, Dental Assisting

La Moille — Cassidy Geiger, Truck Driver Training

Mendota — Ashley Calamaco, Dental Assisting; Brian Castaneda, AAS Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice; Asia Cordova, CNA; Larry Davis, Truck Driver Training; Bailey Engels, CNA; Isabelle Escatel, Associate in Arts; Joel Escatel, Associate in Science; Vanessa Escatel, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science; Cruz Figueroa, Truck Driver Training; Analiyah Flores, Dental Assisting; Helayna Harmston, CNA; Abigail Kunz, ECE Gateways Credential 2; Molly Mauch, Practical Nursing; Eulysse Preciado, CNA; Odalis Sangabriel, Dental Assisting; Emily Sarabia, Practical Nursing; Mileigh Schultz, Associate in Arts; Daisy Valdez, Dental Assisting

Troy Grove — Sarah Orah, CNA

Mendota's Gonzalez graduates from NIU

DeKALB — More than 587 students received their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Northern Illinois University in August. Included among the graduates was Janice Gonzalez of Mendota, Bachelor of Science, Public Health-Health Administration.

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university with a global network of nearly 260,000 alumni. With expertise that benefits its region, the country and the world, NIU offers more than 170 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs across seven colleges: Business, Education, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. Through its main campus in DeKalb and education centers for students and working professionals in Naperville and Rockford, NIU serves a diverse and international student body of over 15,400. The 16 NIU Huskies Division I athletic teams compete in the Mid-American Conference. For more information, visit NIU.edu.

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
Graves-Hume Public Library
Winner: Corbin Doll

LOCAL AND AREA

ADM adds to innovation toolbox with rollout of Digital Grain Elevator Transportation Management Technology

CHICAGO — ADM (NYSE: ADM), a global leader in innovative solutions from nature, announced on Oct. 29 that it has implemented Digital Grain Elevator's FOB Ag Logistics Platform at a significant number of U.S. grain origination locations, with the rollout expected to continue across the company's North America footprint.

The digital technology offers an all-in-one mobile tool to simplify and streamline the grain transportation and delivery process, including:

1. Digital dispatch, powering the ability of producers and carriers to quickly and easily request and dispatch trucks as needed
2. Real-time visibility of in-progress delivery information — including location, status updates and ETA — for producers and carriers
3. Easy-to-use digital invoicing and ticketing, eliminating cumbersome manual paperwork



"The successful implementation of this technology across a broad part of our North American footprint is already helping us work with our partners—including our producer customers, commercial grain shippers, carriers and owner-operators—to simplify and streamline the work we do together," said Alicia Ralston, ADM's vice president of Digital Transformation. "Today, we're seeing the benefits of more efficient dispatching and deliveries, faster payments thanks to automatic invoicing, and more. We're continuing to expand our use of this exciting technology, and we strongly encourage producers and haulers alike to reach out to us so we can tell them more about it."

"Innovation is a pillar of

ADM's growth strategy, and we're continuing to expand our technology ecosystem to meet customer needs," Ralston added. "Just a short time ago, we announced our new Gradable joint venture, a key enabler of our regenerative agriculture program and our success in meeting customer demand for more sustainably sourced products. We're adding to our capabilities with the expanding rollout of Digital Grain Elevator, which will help us at a time of increasing customer needs for enhanced traceability of supply chains. And there's more to come. We're excited about the many ways we're building out our suite of technologies to meet our partners' needs and help the entire value chain work together more

efficiently and effectively for years to come."

"This partnership with ADM is a significant step forward for the future of Ag transportation," said Aaron Secrest, CEO of Digital Grain Elevator, Inc. "By simplifying dispatch, tracking shipments, digital ticket integration, and automated invoicing, we're creating a more streamlined and transparent experience for everyone involved."

ADM has currently implemented the FOB Ag Logistics Platform in its eastern grain regions including Decatur/E. Central Ill.; Mendota, Ill.; Evansville, Ind.; Frankfort/Central Ind.; Toledo, Ohio; Windsor, Ontario; and Memphis, Tenn., and is continuing a steady expansion across its North American origination footprint.

Producers and haulers can contact Barry Jacobs (217-358-0629, barry.jacobs@adm.com) for more information, and to sign up.

Northbrook to celebrate 2024 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Nov. 14th

Walk made possible with mini-grant

MENDOTA — Northbrook School is excited to announce its participation in the 2024 Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, made possible through the generous support of a mini-grant from the Safe Routes Partnership. This special event, set to take place on Thursday, Nov. 14, will bring together students and community volunteers to celebrate Ruby Bridges' courage and promote safe, healthy, and active transportation to school.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is celebrated annually on Nov. 14, the day Ruby Bridges bravely integrated William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960. This day honors Ruby's historic role in advancing civil rights and serves as a reminder of the importance of equality, justice, and education for all children. Communities across the country participate in this event to recognize her courage and to inspire future generations to continue her legacy.

Northbrook students will meet at Purple Park for a short breakfast and throughout the walk Mr. Scheppers' and Miss Henkel's Enrichment Rti groups will be sharing their work to improve the sidewalks for Mendota. The event will bring greater awareness that accessibility is an issue of equity.

"We are thrilled to receive this mini-grant and are eager to celebrate

Ruby Bridges' legacy while encouraging our students to walk or bike to school safely," said Sarah Henkel and Brandon Scheppers, coordinators of the event.

For more information on how to participate in the event, please contact Scheppers at bschep@m289.org or Henkel at shenkel@m289.org.

About Ruby Bridges

At just 6 years old, Ruby Bridges became an icon of the Civil Rights Movement by integrating William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans on Nov. 14, 1960. Under the protection of U.S. federal marshals, she braved daily opposition and threats as she entered the school, making her a symbol of resilience and the fight for equality in education. Ruby Bridges' story reminds us of the power of one child's actions to make significant change.

About the Safe Routes Partnership

The Safe Routes Partnership is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing safe walking and bicycling to and from schools and improving the health and well-being of kids of all ages. By partnering with schools, community organizations, and local governments, Safe Routes Partnership aims to create more accessible, equitable, and joyful active transportation options. Learn more at saferoutespartnership.org

OSF HealthCare unveils 'Faith's Closet' in honor of Faith McNamara

OTTAWA — OSF HealthCare Mission Partners (employees), in collaboration with OSF HealthCare Foundation, came together on Sept. 24 to unveil "Faith's Closet," a legacy project dedicated to the memory of Faith McNamara, an Emergency Department nurse who lost her courageous battle with cancer on Aug. 10, 2023.

McNamara, known for her deep faith, boundless compassion, and remarkable strength, left an enduring mark on her OSF Family. "Faith's Closet" will continue her legacy by providing clothing to patients in need upon discharge from the Emergency Department.

Dan McNamara, Faith's husband, shared a heartfelt story during the unveiling: "I can't tell you how many times Faith would call me from work asking me to bring items for a patient," he said. "This would make her so happy to know that she's still caring for people in need."



OSF HealthCare Mission Partners (employees), in collaboration with OSF HealthCare Foundation, came together to unveil "Faith's Closet," a legacy project dedicated to the memory of Faith McNamara, an Emergency Department nurse who lost her courageous battle with cancer on Aug. 10, 2023. (Photo contributed)

the Open Space Art Gallery & Studio. The gallery's donation added a special touch to the space, further honoring Faith's passion for caring for others and her vibrant spirit.

"The OSF Foundation truly enjoys supporting legacy projects, like 'Faith's Closet' that benefit our communities," said Cherie Reynolds,

director of the OSF Foundation in the I-80 area. "In addition, it's a memorable way to honor those who have made a lasting impact."

The dedication and blessing of Faith's Closet marks the first of three installations planned for OSF emergency departments across the I-80 region.

For more information on Faith's Closet and its heartfelt effort to serve those in need, contact Cherie Reynolds, director of OSF Foundation, I-80, at Cherie.R.Reynolds@osfhealthcare.org

USDA

Continued from Page A1

USDA Service Center to confirm eligibility."

A Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency to provide emergency loans to producers recovering from

natural disasters. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. Those eligible should contact their local USDA Service Center to ask questions or file a Notice of Loss.

Mendota burn ordinance

MENDOTA — It is unlawful to burn any materials other than small and dried quantities of branches, leaves, weeds or grass at any time. The burning of any material such as rubber, tires, leather, tar paper, old batteries or any material that emits an offensive odor when burned is unlawful within the city limits of Mendota.

Limited amounts of yard waste material may be burned provided the material is dry and does not create an offensive odor, nuisance or fire hazard due to excessive high winds. Combustible yard waste material may be kindled from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. All fires must be constantly tended by a competent person, until such fire is properly extinguished. The continued smoldering of slow-burning combustible yard waste after 4 p.m. is a nuisance and anyone kindling such a fire that will emit obnoxious odors after 4 p.m. will be considered performing an unlawful act. Burning on Sunday by commercial establishments shall be considered an unlawful act.

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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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Kip Cheek, Managing Editor
Brandon LaChance, News Reporter
Jennifer Robinson, Office Manager
Brent Hatch, Account Executive


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

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

Did we just have an election?

Did I miss something?
Was I covering too many athletic competitions, playing too much Mario Party Jamboree, eating too much bad for me food, or at city council meeting so long I failed to take in an event?

Never the Last Chance



By Brandon LaChance

I'm talking about the presidential election on Nov. 5.

For months, maybe years, this election has dominated media coverage, dinner table conversations, bar stools followed by the adjoining jail cells after a fight ensued, council gatherings (local, state, and federal), and anywhere else people talk and listen.

Who should win Joe Biden or Donald Trump?

The debate happens and Biden's health and dependability are questioned. He's replaced by Kamala Harris as the Democratic selection for the presidential election. Trump and Harris have a debate.

Harris questioned Trump's run as president (2017-2021) where he became the first president to be impeached twice and his values as he is awaiting sentencing on a felony conviction.

Trump pointed out the positives of his presidency and put an interrogation lamp on Harris' last four years as the vice president of the country.

There wasn't a radio station, TV network, newspaper, podcast, or comic strip not focused on the election as it was viewed as a life-changing moment for the livelihoods of everyone in the United States of America's borders.

Then it happened.

Facebook, which would be the third largest country in the world if it was a country, featured millions of photos with people smiling about or pointing at their sticker they received for voting.

A few people were happy with the result of Trump being president, again, and a few people were sad Harris didn't win.

Then life went back to normal where we knit pick every moving molecule in the world's existence without much thought or further reaction to the election.

This big, cultivating, country moving significant event...seems like it meant nothing.

Yes, it has only been a week.

Yes, Trump isn't officially in office until January.

Yes, it will take time for Trump and the all-Republican government to write bills and laws.

But why does it feel like the election never happened?

Was the hype or the attention to it, just that, hype and attention?

Do we not think anything is going to be different, good or bad, now that the election is over?

Are we treating it like most other aspects of life and once it happens, it's over, and we move to the next mission, buying a Taylor Swift concert ticket for an insane amount of money?

Are we glossing over the election like Sephora does lips?

Or are we simply waiting?

Some for the positive.

Some for the negative.

All to see what happens economically, commercially, and culturally.

Maybe we're just scared to talk about it now because it has happened. There is nothing we can do about it. The votes were placed, they were counted, and the winner was announced.

What do you do?

Surprisingly, we're not doing what we usually do the most, complaining or stating an opinion.

Maybe I'm in the wrong circles or don't tune into the right feed where all of the election gossip and banter is happening.

But if you ask me, if this country is going to be changed so much from one election, why isn't it dominating life as we know it similar to how it did before it even took place on Nov. 5?



Mendota remembers its own Helen Hokinson - 1949

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks and Sidetracks column, reprinted from Nov. 10, 1999.)

By Jessica Nashold

The Mendota Reporter carried one of its rare banner headlines on Thursday, Nov. 3, 1949.

HELEN HOKINSON AIR CRASH VICTIM, TUESDAY

Hokinson's cartoons of "fat ladies" in The New Yorker had brought her national recognition and Mendota had long claimed her as one of its most illustrious former residents. She was born in Mendota and graduated from Mendota High School in 1913 when it was located on the third floor of old Blackstone School. Her artistic talent first surfaced there.

On Nov. 1, 1949, she was en route, via Eastern Airlines, from her home in Connecticut to Washington, D.C., where she was to address a meeting of Community Chest workers. That group had already assembled and was awaiting her arrival when it was learned that Hokinson's plane and a Bolivian aircraft had collided while both were attempting to land at Washington's National Airport. Both planes crashed into the Potomac River. Thirty-three victims were recovered from the river that day and Hokinson's body was recovered and identified the following day. The final figure for casualties was 35.

Arrangements were made to hold the funeral in Mendota on Nov. 5, 1949. Services were in the Bailey funeral home with the Rev. Kenneth W. Soloist, pastor of the Mendota Baptist Church, officiating. Burial was in the family plot at Restland.

The Burlington traffic manager escorted Hokinson's mother and a niece from Chicago to Mendota in Burlington's private car No. 68, attached to train No. 9.

SIDETRACK - In the Hi-Light (forerunner of The Trojan Tattler), it was mentioned that while a student at MHS, Hokinson provided sketches for the first issue of The Atodnem, published in 1911. She continued sketching and in her senior year, sketched the principal who proved to be the inspiration for her famous "fat ladies."

Collections of Hokinson's cartoons appeared in book form, "My Best Girls" and "So You Were Built."

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Some of Hokinson's original drawings can be seen at the Hume-Carnegie Museum.

The cornerstone of the new Mendota Baptist Church was laid Oct. 30, 1949. It marked the 95th anniversary of the founding of the church by the Rev. Nathan Denison on Oct. 28, 1854. The manuscript of his first sermon, in his own handwriting, was placed in the cornerstone by his granddaughter, Miss Jessie Denison.

On Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1949, Mendota retail stores closed from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to allow owners and employees to attend services in Library Park. Members of the American Legion & Auxiliary, VFW & Auxiliary, Catholic War Veterans and Navy Mothers attended. The address was by the Rev. Wilbert Hare, pastor of the Presbyterian church. The MHS band played, a salute was fired and those present sang the first and last stanzas of America. They were led by Victor J. Wedemeyer.

The Roy Rogers Club held a 2 p.m. Saturday meeting at the State Theatre and received free Roy Rogers bronze coin lucky pieces. The film was "Badmen of Tombstone" with Broderick Crawford, Barry Sullivan and Marjorie Reynolds.

Building trades students at MHS were hard at work on their home building project at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and 17th Street. This was a five-room, two-bedroom cottage with fireplace and a carport. Building trades classes were under the direction of Joe Rollins. Window and door openings were cut in the shop with Gilbert Gehler in charge. A pictured showing boys at work included Melvin Jackson, Robert Harboldt and Kenneth Stremmlau. A warm air oil burning furnace for the house was donated by Conco Engineering.

The house will be auctioned in the spring.

On Nov. 7, 1949, Mrs. John Edwards called The Reporter to tell of seeing a flying saucer in the western sky.

It looked like a large shooting star.

Mrs. Edwards was the first Mendotan to report a sighting.

While a J.A. Wetherby Construction truck was crossing the bridge over Second Creek on the extension of East Sixth Street, the bridge collapsed and the truck toppled into the creek bed. It had been hauling gravel from a pit east of Mendota to a road repair in progress north of town. Two tow trucks from Bowne's Motor Service were used to lift the truck. The driver sustained only minor scratches and bruises.

When the north section of the Mendota waterworks building collapsed, Alderman Gerald Snyder drew up specifications for its replacement. He and Karl Erbes "donned carpenter aprons" and went to work.

The machinery is under cover for the winter.

In the spring, doors and windows were to be cut.

A delegation of Lions members attended the Nov. 8, 1949, council meeting to check on progress made in dealing with speeders. They were informed that 12 police whistles had been purchased to bring speeders to a halt. Also, the crossing guard at 13th Avenue and Washington Street had been outfitted with a police uniform.

Reporter editor Richard Leiser was a passenger in officer Frank Christman's squad car one evening to observe the traffic situation.

Some slow down when they see the squad car.

Fines were collected from two violators of speed limits that evening.

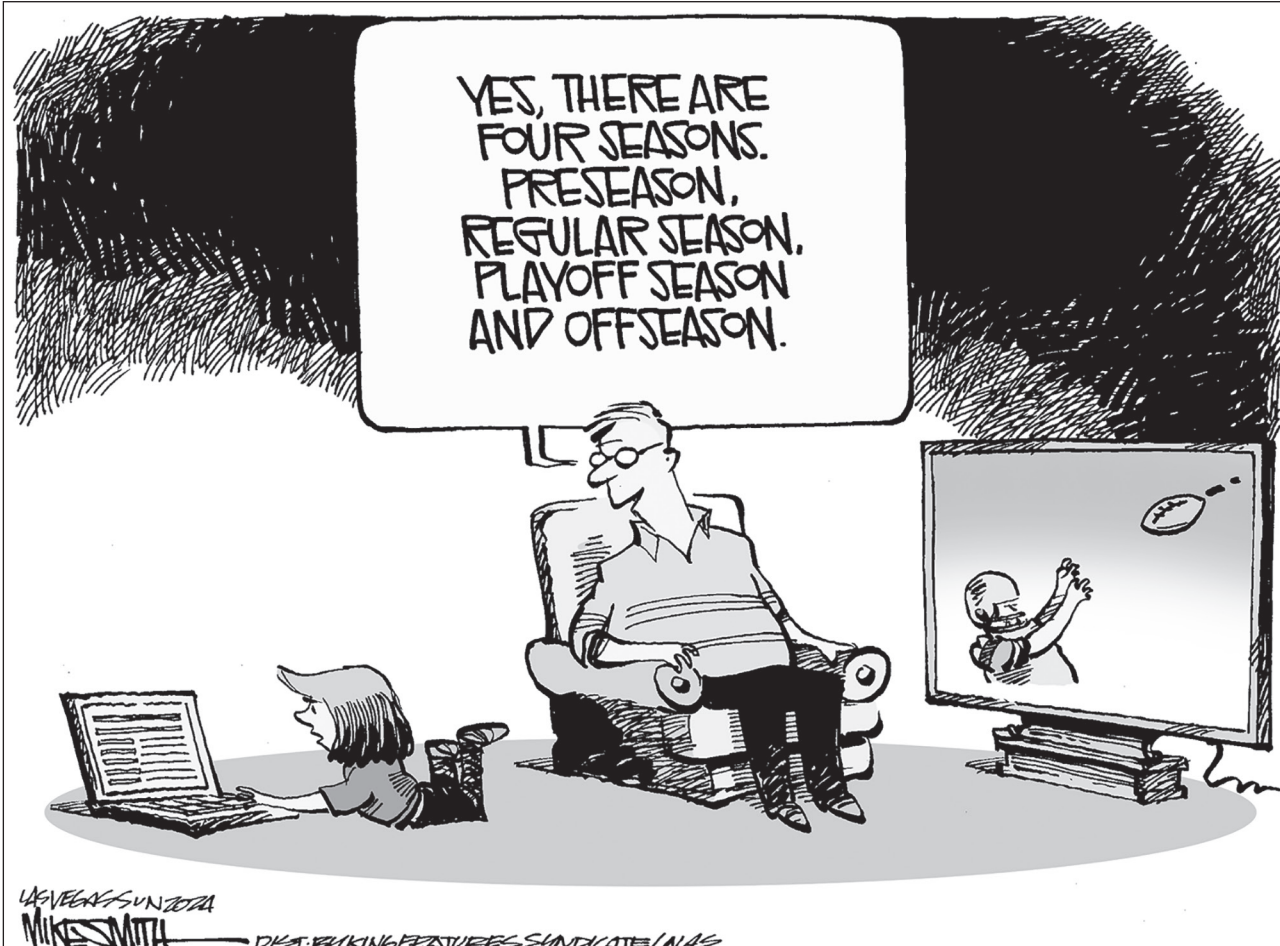
An auction of new and used cars to benefit the hospital was scheduled for Nov. 19, 1949.

Co-chairmen were Art Goslin and Roy Kraft.

Car dealers supplied the cars. Other merchants, farmers and homeowners were encouraged to contribute additional auctionable items for the benefit. New cars were supplied at cost with the hospital receiving any amount above that as a result of auction bidding.

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC Theatre’s Fall Musical set Nov. 14-24

OGLESBY – IVCC’s fall musical, “Forever Plaid—The Heavenly Four-Part Harmony Hit,” brings classic harmonies, pitch-perfect melodies, humor and nostalgia to the stage Nov. 14-24 for a two-week run.

The jukebox musical presented by the IVCC Theatre Department features hits of the 1950s and 1960s, such as “Three Coins in the Fountain,” “Crazy ‘Bout Ya Baby,” “Perfidia,” “Cry,” “Sixteen Tons,” “Shangri-La,” and many other tunes from the era. Before there were Boy Bands, there were Guy Groups like the Four Plaids.



When four young singers are killed in a car crash on the way to their big break, they posthumously take the stage for one final gig in a goofy, 1950s nostalgia romp. Overcoming nosebleeds and anxiety, asthma and stage fright, the Four Plaids recall their music, choreography, and patter to make their delayed debut at last.

“The four of us have been learning and rehearsing the 25 numbers for a while now, and we have great respect for the Guy Groups as the harmonies are so tightly intertwined—but what a feeling when those harmonies come together!” said IVCC Director and Choreographer Don Grant Zellmer.

Zellmer plays Sparky, one of the quartet. Completing the Four Plaids are student Genarro Piccolo of Spring Valley as Smudge, alumnus Jake Jakielski of Marseilles as Frankie, and student Lucas Fraga of Streator as Jinx.

Zellmer directed and choreographed, and Dr. David Kuester produced and costumed the production. Chad Brokaw is the technical director, and Alex Guererro is the music director.

Reserved tickets are on sale online at <https://cur8.com/2091/project/127092>. Adult admission is \$20 and tickets for children 18 years and under are \$15. Admission is free for IVCC employees and students.

The musical will be presented Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. For more information on IVCC Theatre, visit <https://www.ivcc.edu/theatre>.



Members of the Waltham Curling Club will provide instruction in curling during an IVCC Continuing Education Center course that starts this month. (Photo contributed)

IVCC offering ‘Learn to Curl’ sessions at Triumph club

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College’s Continuing Education Center is offering instruction in a novel competition that has a long history in the Illinois Valley.

Learn to Curl will be offered in four sessions from Nov. 18 through Dec. 9 at the home of Illinois’s oldest curling club in Triumph. Classes start at 6 p.m. at the club, which is located at 3926 East 758th St. in Triumph.

Members of Waltham Curling Club

will teach techniques like delivering the stone, sweeping, and strategy. There are even options for people with knee or joint issues.

Curling is a sport in which players slide stones on a sheet of ice toward a target area, scoring points for getting closest to the center. The name derives from the curved path, or curl, induced by the stone’s rotation. The path can be influenced by sweepers with brooms or brushes who accompany the slide

down the ice.

The activity was brought to the Illinois Valley by immigrants from Scotland in the mid-19th century. Waltham Curling Club was established in 1884 and moved to Triumph in 1937 where an indoor curling arena was built. Curling became an Olympic sport in 1998.

Tuition is \$75. Class ID is 18190. To register, call the IVCC Continuing Education Center at 815-224-0427 or register online <https://www.ivcc.edu/enroll>.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Nursing scholarship created at IVCC

OGLESBY – A nursing scholarship has been created with the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation to honor the late Dolores “Dee” Heflebower. She is the daughter of the late Anne Baker of Peru, wife of former Peru Mayor Don Baker.

The scholarship was created by John Heflebower of St. Helena, Calif., and Linda Gorr of Arlington Heights to honor their older sister, Dee. Beginning in 2025, it will award \$3,000 annually to an Illinois Valley Community College nursing student planning to work in oncology.

Anne and Don Baker created the scholarship

initially with the Illinois Valley Community Hospital Foundation. Don Baker died at age 87 in 2016 and Anne at age 99 in 2020. Dee died of ovarian cancer in 2000.

John Heflebower said Dee was a great ‘big’ sister to him and Linda.

“My sister was a sweet soul,” he said. “She was a teacher, artist and devout Buddhist. She had a silly sense of humor which caused us to laugh often.”

For information about creating a fund with the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation, visit srccf.org or contact President Fran Brolley at (815) 252-2906 or fran@srccf.org.

I-39/U.S. 20 interchange nearly completed in Rockford

ROCKFORD – The Illinois Department of Transportation along with local officials and community leaders announced that the \$98.8 million reconstruction of the Interstate 39 and U.S. 20 interchange in Rockford is nearing completion, another major investment in the region made possible by Gov. JB Pritzker’s historic, bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital program. The project, which features two new ramps that connect both directions of I-39 to and from U.S. 20, improves safety, reduces congestion and enhances quality of life while creating jobs and long-term economic opportunity for the region.

“Through Rebuild Illinois, my administration continues to deliver on its promise to modernize our state’s infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for our communities,” said Gov. Pritzker. “The new I-39 and U.S. 20 interchange will soon improve safety and ease traffic flow while driving economic growth for the Rockford area. The completion of this project is a major step forward in our efforts to transform I-39 and revitalize the region’s mobility.”

The project, which began in the summer of 2023, features five new or reconstructed bridges to accommodate the new ramps. The ramps have been realigned with longer lanes and wider shoulders to increase capacity and improve the flow of traffic, resulting in better travel times and increased safety.

“The rebuilt interchange, combined with other investments made to I-39 through Rebuild Illinois, greatly improves the movement of people, goods and commerce, while setting the stage for more jobs and economic development in the Rockford area,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Under the leadership of Gov. Pritzker, infrastructure across all modes throughout Illinois is being modernized to improve quality of life at the local level while strengthening our status as the country’s transportation hub.”

Traffic from I-39 already has been relocated to the new northbound and

southbound ramps. Paving is wrapping up on U.S. 20, with all work expected to be completed by the end of November, weather permitting. While the work zone remains in place, the public should continue to anticipate delays and allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs, obey the posted speed limits and remain alert for workers and equipment.

“When my neighbors in Northern Illinois get in their cars to go to work, see their families or pick up their kids from school, they deserve to drive on roads that are safe. This multimillion-dollar investment that made the reconstruction of the new I-39 and U.S. 20 interchange possible is an incredible achievement that will make Rockford and Northern Illinois sustainable for generations to come,” said U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-17). “I want to congratulate Gov. Pritzker, Secretary Osman and all our dedicated union workers that worked around the clock to get this important project finished on time and within budget.”

The interchange is part of a larger, \$302 million multiyear project to improve I-39 between the U.S. 20/Harrison Avenue interchange and Blackhawk Road, which Gov. Pritzker helped to kick off in early 2023. A critical piece that started this year: the \$44.3 million conversion of the Harrison Avenue/U.S. 20 and I-39 interchange from a traditional cloverleaf to a modern diverging diamond design. The majority of the project will be substantially complete by the end of 2025, with miscellaneous work to be completed in early 2026.

Other elements include expanding I-39 from four to six lanes with an access lane between U.S. 20 and Harrison Avenue as well as replacing several bridges in the corridor. Also, U.S. 20 will be expanded from four to six lanes at the intersection of Mill Road, with the bridges crossing the Kishwaukee River replaced with wider structures. All projects are anticipated to conclude

by the end of 2027. More information is available at rebuildi39.com.

“This project underscores the importance of Rebuild Illinois, which is improving our roadways for local travelers, supporting jobs and sparking further economic investment in this region,” said state Rep. Dave Vella (D-Loves Park). “I appreciate the local and state support that went into making this vision a reality. Strong investments in our infrastructure are critical for our future. Let’s continue to build on this positive momentum.”

Additionally, Rebuild Illinois is funding multiple improvements throughout the Rockford area, including replacing bridges on Illinois 2, resurfacing Alpine Drive and restoring passenger rail service to Chicago.

“From the upgrades on West State Street and East State Street to the revitalization of South Main, North Main and Alpine, IDOT has proven time and again that they are a true partner in helping Rockford thrive,” said Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara. “This interchange is one of the most vital arteries in our region. Every day, more than 50,000 vehicles pass through here, connecting people to work, school, recreation and everything in between. This was a critical and necessary project for our community’s residents and visitors.”

Statewide, over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,200 miles of highway and nearly 9 million square feet of bridge deck as part of Rebuild Illinois, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. Accomplishments through Year Five of Rebuild Illinois include approximately \$16 billion of improvements statewide on 6,541 miles of highway, 686 bridges and 986 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on the social platform X at @IDOT-District2 or view area construction details on IDOT’s traveler information map on GettingAroundIllinois.com.



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By ANDREW ADAMS Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The state’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications for all households as of Nov. 1. The program offers financial assistance for utility bills to low-income families. Other discounts are also available, even if someone is not enrolled in LIHEAP.

Applications opened on Oct. 1 for adults age 60 and older, individuals with a disability, families with children under age 5, and households that are disconnected from their utilities or energy vendors, have a disconnect date within seven days or whose propane tanks are less than 25% full.

Community action agencies – the local organizations which administer LIHEAP – accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis through the middle of August, although applications will close earlier if funds run out, so those interested in applying should do so sooner rather than later.

Households with incomes lower than double the federal poverty level are eligible for the program. That works out to \$2,510 in a 30-day period for individuals, \$3,407 for households with two members, \$4,303 for households with three individuals and higher for larger households. Higher income thresholds are available at the state’s Department of Commerce

and Economic Opportunity website.

Changes in 2024

Beginning in October, natural gas utilities implemented a new set of bill discounts for low-income customers, after being required to do so by state regulators at the Illinois Commerce Commission.

These discounts are available for any household under three times the federal poverty level. Those who receive LIHEAP assistance are automatically eligible for the new discounts and will be enrolled automatically, but those making between two and three times the poverty level and those who are not enrolled in LIHEAP can apply for these new discounts directly with their utility.

Utility bills for those enrolled in the discount

program will be lowered by 5% for those in the highest eligible income bracket to between 75% and 83% for those making less than half of the federal poverty level, depending on the utility company.

“Families shouldn’t have to decide between putting food on the table or heating their homes this winter,” ICC Chairman Doug Scott said. “The state’s new Low-Income Discount Rates will make it easier for low-income families to manage their gas bills.”

All households that meet the income requirements for these discounts can receive the new rates.

Similar programs offering low-income discounts for water and electric utility bills are expected to be offered in 2025, according to the ICC.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Nearly 5,000 entries received in Illinois flag redesign contest

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias announced the Illinois Flag Commission received 4,844 entries during the six-week submission period that closed Oct. 18.

“I’m thrilled by the number of submissions the commission has received, as well as the excitement that this project has generated. I can’t wait to see which designs the commission selects for public voting,” Giannoulias said. “The contest has encouraged us all to reflect on what makes us proud to be Illinoisans, resulting in some great stories and unique designs reflecting what our state represents.”

Now that the submission period is closed, the Illinois Flag Commission will meet before the end of the year to select the top 10 designs. Beginning in January, the public will have the opportunity to vote online for one of 10 new designs, or one of the

three former flag designs, including the current state flag, the 1918 Centennial Flag and the 1968 Sesqui-centennial Flag.

After a public feedback period, the commission will report its findings to the Illinois General Assembly by April 1, 2025, whose members will vote on whether to adopt a new flag, return to a previous iteration of the flag or retain the current flag.

Senate Bill 1818, sponsored by State Senator Doris Turner (48th District—Springfield) and State Representative Kam Buckner (26th District—Chicago), was signed into law in 2023, creating the commission with the goals to gauge public sentiment on a new flag and to bolster civic pride. The Secretary of State’s office chairs the commission.

The commission will evaluate if a new state flag would better represent the state. The state flag has not had a major redesign since 1915.

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After shopping for that special child, the unwrapped gift may be taken to Eureka Savings Bank by 4 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 6. You may call ahead or go through the drive-up to let them know you are dropping off a gift. Financial support is also being accept-ed and may be dropped off at the Chamber office in December. For more information, call the Mendota Chamber of Commerce at 815-539-6507.

THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

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City ordinance

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

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

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

Reminder of winter weather ordinances as season nears

MENDOTA – During winter weather conditions, the Mendota Police Department reminds residents to obey the following ordinances:

• Ordinance 41.38 – Parking After Snowfall

It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street in the city at any time after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred, unless the snow has ceased and has been plowed off or otherwise removed from the street.

Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association found violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for each violation of this ordinance and may be subject to towing said vehicle away. The cost of said towing shall be the obligation and expense of those violating

this Section.

• Ordinance 6.21 – Depositing Snow in Streets

No person within the city shall remove any snow from his private property or from offstreet parking lots or right of way parking into any of the city streets or alleys. This Section does not apply to removal of snow from sidewalks. This Section is specifically directed to, but not limited to gasoline stations, medical and dental clinics, or any other business or corporation which has private parking on the property or in those areas where the berm of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.

The above ordinances are in place to assist the city of Mendota with snow removal from the city streets.

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Chad Zinke, 47, of 2004 Pine Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at Guiles Avenue and 17th Street at 8 p.m. Nov. 5. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Janette A. Rocha, 52, of 111 S. 13th Ave., trailer B7, Mendota, was arrested at 6:20 p.m. Nov. 6 on a LaSalle County violation of conditions of pretrial release warrant. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Grace E. McConville, 32, of 1322 Burlington St., Mendota, was charged with

driving with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Fifth Street at 5:11 a.m. Nov. 8. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI,

OTHER CHARGES

Arturo Hermosillo, 40, of 111 S. 13th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence, leaving the scene of a crash and possession of a controlled substance after the Mendota Police Department conducted an investigative stop on a vehicle at Eighth

and Main streets at 8:09 a.m. Nov. 9. The vehicle was stopped related to a hit and run. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Telesforo Guerra Jr., 44, of 108 Sixth St., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to the report of a domestic disturbance at the Guerra residence at 6:33 a.m. Nov. 9. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

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SPORTS

Third place belongs to Mendota!

Trojans grind out thrilling 2-1 PK win over Columbia in State Soccer Tournament

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

HOFFMAN ESTATES – After the Mendota boys soccer team fell 1-0 in the IHSA Class 1A State Semifinal against Normals University High on Nov. 7 at Hoffman Estates High School, Trojan senior David Casas was bummed but recognized the positives.

“Although we’re not going to the state final, we made a lot of history in Mendota,” Casas said in the postgame conference after the semifinal. “That’s what makes me happy.”

What made the senior captain and the rest of the Trojans happier was when Mendota won the third-place game 2-1 (4-3 penalty kicks) against Columbia the following day, Nov. 8.

Mendota’s IHSA third-place trophy is the first soccer state trophy to be added to the case in the school’s hallway and the first team state trophy in any sport since the baseball team placed third in 2003.

“The first time I held the state trophy, I was really proud of my teammates and myself. We fought hard,” Casas said after the third-place victory. “We’re not last (fourth), so that’s great.”

Third-place game
Mendota 2, Columbia 1
(4-3 penalty kicks)

Junior goalkeeper Mateo Goy wasn’t just battling the Eagles, he was battling demons.

After regulation concluded with a 1-1 tie, Goy’s mind immediately went to remembering not being able to win a penalty kick shootout in last

“Last year, I couldn’t stop penalty kicks. This year, I redeemed myself in a big moment. I’m so glad we didn’t get fourth. Based on how hard we worked all summer, and in the offseason, we truly didn’t deserve fourth.”

—Mateo Goy,
Mendota goalie

year’s playoffs.

This time he was triumphant as he blocked the first Columbia PK, which proved to be what was needed for the Trojan victory as the Eagles made the next three and had the fifth bounce off of the cross bar.

“Last year, I couldn’t stop penalty kicks. This year, I redeemed myself in a big moment,” Goy said. “I’m really happy for my team and for myself for being able to redeem myself because last year’s loss in the sectional semifinal (3-2 loss to Quincy Notre Dame) was really hard for me. I couldn’t believe I couldn’t save any. Since then, I haven’t lost a PK shootout.

“I’m so glad we didn’t get fourth. Based on how hard we worked all summer, and in the offseason, we truly didn’t deserve fourth. We worked so hard for this season. I think we should have been in the championship, but this works, too.”



Mendota goalie Mateo Goy lunges to his right in anticipation of the shot and looks up to see the ball hit the cross bar during the final penalty kick by Columbia, ensuring a Trojan victory and a third-place finish in the Class 1A Boys’ State Soccer Tournament on Nov. 8 at Hoffman Estates. (Reporter photos by Kip Cheek)

For Mendota, sophomore Cesar Casas, junior Johan Cortez, junior Sebastian Carlos, and David Casas were able to kick the ball past the Eagles’ keeper, Brayden Keys, to win the shootout, 4-3.

The contest was scoreless until Cortez put in the only goal for the Trojans during regulation in the state tournament with 12:10 remaining in the second half.

“They sent the ball down the line. Cesar (Casas) was on the other side. He fell over a defender and the ball went to Sebastian (Carlos),” Cortez said. “He was one-on-one

and the goal was right in front of him. I was sprinting up the field. I was wide open and yelling for the ball at the top of my lungs.

“After the game, Sebastian said he didn’t even see me, but he heard me. He passed me the ball, I had the wide-open goal, and I was able to put it in.”

Columbia (lost 1-0 to Chicago’s Cristo Rey Jesuit in a state semifinal), which had ample opportunity to put the ball in the net during the game having eight shots on goal and 16 shots off goal compared to MHS’s two on

“Sitting here with the third-place trophy this year, we’re hoping next year we’re sitting here with the first-place trophy. I think we’re fully capable. This has to motivate these guys. We want to come back and get first.”

—Nick Myers, MHS coach

and two off, scored with 8:43 left in the game.

The defense did what it needed to do to end regulation and set up Goy’s and the Trojans’ redemption.

“Anytime you play in a third-place game, no matter what tournament it is, I think it always comes down to what team wants it,” MHS coach Nick Myers said. “Both teams were coming off of tough 1-0 losses the night before. We talked before the game about us having to want it more than them and showing up to play our game.

“We didn’t play the greatest in the first half. We didn’t look like we were into the game. We looked like we didn’t want to be here for a while. We didn’t have very many scoring chances. Defensively, I thought we did a great job of holding them off.

“In the second half, I think we came out with a lot more energy. We had a little more fire in us and we created a few more offensive chances in the second half than we did in the first half.”

Semifinal
Normal U-High 1,
Mendota 0

Heading into the postgame conference the Trojans were deservingly upset they were not playing in the IHSA Class 1A State Championship the next day.

However, holding the eventual state champion (U-High beat Cristo Rey Jesuit 3-0 in the final) to one goal was a feather in the cap, regardless of the loss.

“I thought we played a great game. For our first time being here, I think we handled our emotions,” Myers said. “We got through the first initial 10-15 minutes of being in this type of atmosphere. Defensively, I thought we played great. We were under pressure for a lot of the game. I thought the guys held up well.

“In the second half, we just made one mistake and it really cost us. But overall, I thought we played really well. U-High is a quality team.”

The Mendota defense was relied on heavily as it tried to contain a high-powered offense anchored by senior forward Noah Molitor, who entered the state tournament with 44 goals scored.

Mendota senior Cameron Kelly said the Trojans were up for the challenge.

“I thought our defense played pretty good,” Kelly said. “We were under a lot of pressure, but we held up. We were just trying to stop No. 10 (Molitor) from getting the ball.”

The Trojans did stop Molitor for most of the game except at the 46-minute mark when a U-High header bounced off of the cross bar directly to Molitor, who headed it in for the lone goal of the game.

What’s next?

Ask this question to any of the Trojan players and coaches, Myers and assistant Rey Arteaga, and it’s an easy answer... a state title.

“Sitting here with the third-place trophy this year, we’re hoping next year we’re sitting here with the first-place trophy,” Myers said. “I think we’re fully capable. This has to motivate these guys. They have to have the drive that motivated them before this season. We wanted to go from sectionals to state and it really moved them.

“Now, I’m hoping we can take this third-place trophy as motivation to come back to state. We want to come back and get first.”

Mendota will lose five seniors after the 2025 graduation in David Casas, Kelly, Mauricio Martinez, Cameron Escatel, and Sam Matura.

Although they will be missed, the Trojans are already looking forward to bringing the family back to state tournament.

“I’ve been playing with these guys since I was 7 years old,” Cortez said. “We’ve really grown up together. We’re all really close. Even outside of school or soccer, we’re all hanging out and having fun. We’re basically a family. I love these guys.”



Mendota’s Johan Cortez, right, battles for control of the ball with Elliot Nelson of Columbia while fellow Trojans Sebastian Carlos, back left, and Isaac Diaz (No. 21) move in for assistance.



Players from Mendota and Columbia look to the sky waiting for a corner kick from a Columbia player to come down around the Trojan goal in the third-place game at the state tournament.

IHSA Class 1A Boys’ State Soccer
Tournament @ Hoffman Estates

Thursday, Nov. 7
(Semifinals)

Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit) 1, Columbia 0
Normal (University) 1, Mendota 0

Friday, Nov. 8
(Third Place)

Mendota 2, Columbia 1 F-PK

Saturday, Nov. 9
(Championship)

Normal (University) 3, Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit) 0

SPORTS



Mendota's Mauricio Martinez has a hard collision with Columbia's Jack Fromme in the third place game of the IHSA Class 1A Boys' State Soccer Tournament on Nov. 8 at Hoffman Estates. The Trojans pulled out a 2-1 PK victory.



Mendota's Isaac Diaz races to beat Columbia's Drew Elliot to the ball.



Mendota's Cesar Casas and Bryce Nicolas-Penn of Normal University High arrive to the ball at the same time in state semifinal action on Nov. 7.



Mendota's Cameron Escatel and Columbia's Quentin Frentzel battle for possession.

10 Trojans chosen for all-conference honors by Three Rivers Conference

MENDOTA – Ten Mendota Trojan soccer players were selected for Three Rivers Athletic Conference all-conference honors for the 2024 season.

Four of the players were named to the first team, led by senior David Casas and junior Johan Cortez, the only two players on the first team that were unanimous selections. Also earning first-team all-conference honors for the Trojans were sophomores Cesar Casas and Isaac Diaz.

Three Mendota soccer players made the second team. They include senior Cameron Kelly, and juniors Sebastian Carlos and Ramiro Palacios.

Trojan senior Cameron Escatel was named as an honorable mention all-conference performer.

The conference also selected all-conference goalkeepers and defenders. Mendota senior Mauricio Martinez was chosen as a first-teamer at the defender position, while junior Mateo Goy made the second team as a goalkeeper.

Mendota won the Three Rivers Conference championship with a perfect 6-0 record. The rest of the conference standings in order of finish: Monmouth-Roseville 5-1, Orion/Sherrard 3-3, DePue/Hall 2-4, Princeton 2-4, Riverdale 2-3, Kewanee 0-6.

FIRST TEAM

*David Casas, Sr., Mendota; *Johan Cortez, Jr., Mendota; Cristian Diaz, Sr., Kewanee; Gabriel Cano, Jr., DePue/Hall; Cologero Sarcomo, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; Cesar Casas, So., Mendota; Asa Gartin, Sr., Princeton; Aiden Sensabaugh, Jr., Riverdale; Bruntsh Bolse, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville; Isaac Diaz,

So., Mendota; Jordan Marshall, Jr., Orion/Sherrard; Chase Sims, Sr., Princeton; Biak Ceu, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville
(* Indicates unanimous)

SECOND TEAM

Jackson Sallows, Jr., Monmouth-Roseville; Sebastian Carlos, Jr., Mendota; Brody Clark, Sr., Riverdale; Osavaldo Morales, Jr., DePue/Hall; Ilan Bardot, Sr., DePue/Hall; Michael Bermudez, So., Kewanee; Ramiro Palacios, Jr., Mendota; Cameron Kelly, Sr., Mendota; Tyson Currie, Sr., Kewanee; Landon Sensabaugh, Sr., Riverdale

HONORABLE MENTION

Cameron Escatel, Sr., Mendota; Ivan Ruiz, Sr., Kewanee; Keegan Burns, Fr., Orion/Sherrard; Izaiah Smallwood, Sr., Princeton; Garrett Enright, Sr., Riverdale; Baylor Smith, So., Riverdale; Alonso Corral, Sr., Kewanee; Isidro Martinez, Jr., Kewanee

FIRST TEAM

(Goalkeeper)

Isaac Garcia, Sr., Monmouth-Roseville

SECOND TEAM

(Goalkeeper)

Mateo Goy, Jr., Mendota

HONORABLE MENTION

(Goalkeeper)

Gavin Geest, Jr., Riverdale; Dillon Price, Sr., Kewanee; Landon Davis, Jr., Princeton

FIRST TEAM

(Defender)

Mauricio Martinez, Sr., Mendota

SECOND TEAM

(Defender)

Osvaldo Morales, Jr., DePue/Hall

HONORABLE MENTION

(Defender)

Garrett Enright, Jr., Riverdale



Danny Garcia of Mendota, left, and Sully Bonaldi of Columbia go for a header ball.



Mauricio Salinas of Mendota manages to get a foot on the ball before Columbia's Liam Bivins.



Mendota's Sebastian Carlos boots the ball ahead of Columbia's Micah James.

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Pete Davidson looked really healthy when he appeared in a sketch on “Saturday Night Live” recently. Did he have a bunch of his tattoos removed, or were they covered up with makeup? -- **D.E.**



Davidson

A: Former “Saturday Night Live” cast member Pete Davidson used to have his torso and arms covered in tattoos but started having them removed about three years ago. He told Seth Meyers on his talk show in 2021 that he was starting the painstaking removal process so that he didn’t have to spend three hours in the makeup chair getting them covered during acting gigs.

As you may know, Davidson lost his father, a New York City firefighter, in the 9/11 terrorist attack, and he’s always been very proactive with his mental health issues. He suffers from borderline personality disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, and he recently finished a stint in rehab dealing with

these issues. He put on some weight and looked healthier when he recently appeared in an “SNL” sketch on Nov. 2 with host John Mulaney.

Next up for Davidson are the films “Wizards!” with Naomi Scott and Orlando Bloom and “The Pickup” with Eva Longoria and Eddie Murphy. He’ll also voice the role of Petey the Cat in the upcoming animated movie “Dog Man,” based on the hit children’s book series.

Q: I’m enjoying “Doctor Odyssey” with Joshua Jackson. I was a huge fan of “Dawson’s Creek” when he was on it. What is James Van Der Beek up to lately? -- **S.C.**

A: James Van Der Beek, Joshua Jackson, Katie Holmes and Michelle Williams became huge stars practically overnight when the teen drama series “Dawson’s Creek” began airing in 1998. All four have been acting steadily with varying degrees of fame and awards for their work.

In recent years, Van Der Beek starred in the Ryan Murphy series “Pose” and the animated series “Vampirina.” Next up for him is the Tubi original film “Sidelined: The QB and Me,”

which is based on the hugely popular young adult novel “The QB Bad Boy and Me” by Tay Marley.

Van Der Beek, who is 47, recently shared that he’s been privately battling colorectal cancer but remains optimistic about his prognosis. In December, he’ll appear in the two-hour live special on Fox “The Real Full Monty,” with Taye Diggs, to help raise awareness of prostate, testicular and colorectal cancers.

Q: When is the new season of “Big Little Lies” coming back to HBO? Will all of the original stars be in it? -- **L.L.**

A: The prospect of a third season of “Big Little Lies” is very promising, but it’s still in the very early stages. Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon have both confirmed that the series is moving “fast and forward” once author Liane Moriarty delivers another novel on which the third season will be based.

Laura Dern, Zoë Kravitz and Shailene Woodley have all contacted Witherspoon about the status of the project, so it’s assumed that they’re eager to reprise their roles once a script is in place.

• Trivia Test •

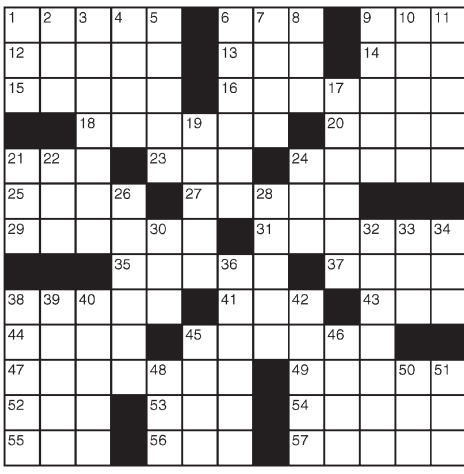
1. MOVIES: In the movie “The Shawshank Redemption,” what is Andy Dufresne’s occupation before he was imprisoned?
2. LITERATURE: Which of Shakespeare’s plays features the characters of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
3. TELEVISION: Which 2000s TV drama starred a character named Jack Bauer?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy’s maiden name?
5. HISTORY: Which dynasty built the Forbidden City in China?
6. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the mythical creature who is half man and half horse?
7. CHEMISTRY: What is

- aqua regia?
 8. GEOGRAPHY: Where was the ancient region of Mesopotamia mostly located?
 9. ANATOMY: Where are the alveoli located?
 10. FOOD & DRINK: What is hummus mostly made of?
- Answers
1. Banker.
2. “Hamlet”
3. “24.”
4. Bouvier.
5. Ming Dynasty.
6. Centaur.
7. A corrosive mixture that can dissolve gold.
8. Iraq.
9. Lungs.
10. Chickpeas.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Platters
- 6 Chum
- 9 Club —
- 12 Put on — (act)
- 13 Expert serve
- 14 Navarot of “The View”
- 15 Gettysburg general
- 16 William on “Star Trek”
- 18 Vatican term
- 20 Folklore monster
- 21 Blackbird
- 23 Airport screening org.
- 24 Offered one’s seat
- 25 Taverns
- 27 Plant life
- 29 Perfect place
- 31 Zesty dips
- 35 Blood line?
- 37 Model in a bottle
- 38 Future oak
- 41 Luau instrument
- 43 Canine greeting
- 44 Wander
- 45 Pencil end
- 47 Subtle variation of color
- 49 Spanish snacks
- 52 Feedbag morsel



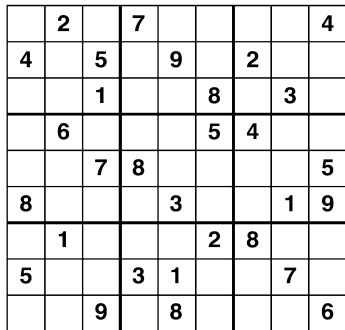
DOWN

- 1 River blocker
- 2 British verb ending
- 3 NPR’s Ari
- 4 Musical finale
- 5 Used a broom
- 6 Computer language
- 7 Needing a massage
- 8 Tony winner Salonga
- 9 Chutney fruit
- 10 January, to Juan
- 11 Challenged
- 17 Sums
- 19 Equally distant
- 21 Dhahi precedent
- 22 Rebel Turner
- 24 Madrid Mrs.
- 26 Went easy on
- 28 Japanese seaport
- 30 Bit of physics
- 32 Hone
- 33 Football filler
- 34 Suntan lotion letters
- 36 Overblown
- 38 Incendiary crime
- 39 “Over There” composer
- 40 Egg-shaped
- 42 — Park, Colorado
- 45 “May It Be” singer
- 46 Roof edge
- 48 Conditions
- 50 Moreover
- 51 Snake’s sound

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- International Italian film star Marcello Mastroianni starred in 147 films, which earned him three Oscar nominations and two Golden Globes over the span of his career. He co-starred in over 17 films with Sophia Loren, including “Yesterday, Today And Tomorrow” (1963) and “Marriage Italian Style” (1964). A new documentary, “Ciao Marcello,” is commemorating his 100th birthday.

I met Marcello in 1986 when he came to NYC to publicize “Ginger and Fred” with his co-star Giulietta Masina and her husband, Federico Fellini, who had directed the homage to Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. They were charming and sweet. Marcello spoke Italian to me, but I had no idea what he was saying. I just smiled and nodded!

Another star of the ‘50s, Kim Novak, is the subject of the upcoming film “Scandalous.” Sydney Sweeney (“Anyone but You”) is playing Novak, while David Jonsson plays Sammy Davis Jr. in the drama about their forbidden romance. They

met when they guest-starred on “The Steve Allen Show” in 1956.

When Davis visited Novak on the set of Alfred Hitchcock’s “Vertigo” (with James Stewart), all hell broke loose. Harry Cohn, the head of Columbia Pictures at the time, made her deny their romance. A few days later, Davis suddenly married Lory White, saving his and Novak’s careers at a time when integrated romances were taboo!

Davis divorced White a year later. He died in 1990 at 64, and Novak, now 91, lives in Sam’s Valley, Oregon. At the premiere after-party for her 1965 film “The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders,” I somehow wound up under her petticoat dress looking for her lighter ... but that’s a story for another time!

Tom Cruise finally wrapped the eighth “Mission: Impossible” film in July. Meanwhile, he’s starring in the next film from five-time Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu (“Birdman” and “The Revenant”). Iñárritu led Leonardo DiCaprio

to a Best Actor Oscar and Michael Keaton to a Best Actor nomination. The as yet untitled film will co-star John Goodman and Jesse Plemons. If anyone can lead Cruise to an Oscar nomination, it’s Iñárritu!

Jane Fonda, 86, one of the last four superstars of the Golden Age of Hollywood (Shirley MacLaine, Sophia Loren and Robert Redford are the others), can add the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award to her list of honors on Feb. 23, 2025. Her accolades include two Oscars for “Klute” (1971) and “Coming Home” 1978; two BAFTAs (British Oscars); an Emmy; seven Golden Globes; the 2014 American Film Institute Lifetime Achievement Award; and the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

When I was 18, I waited for Jane outside her father’s (Henry Fonda) brownstone, where she signed some photos, then invited me to accompany her and her mother-in-law to see the Broadway play “Luv” with Peter Falk. I’ve been Fonda’s friend from that day on!

Couch Theater

“My Old Ass” (R) -- Maisy Stella (“Nashville”) and Aubrey Plaza (“Agatha All Along”) play two versions of the same person for this fun coming-of-age film, which was produced by Margot Robbie (“Barbie”) and her husband, Tom Ackerley. Stella portrays the freshly 18-year-old Elliot, who has nothing figured out besides where she’s going to college. On the eve of her birthday, Elliot decides to take hallucinogenic mushrooms with her friends, and while she’s tripping out, a 39-year-old version of herself (Plaza) materializes in front of her. At first, this discovery unnerves younger Elliot, but when older Elliot proves herself to be very useful, younger Elliot finds great comfort in this strange bond with her own self. Available now to stream. (Amazon Prime Video)

“Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS World Tour” (TV-MA) -- Pop star Olivia Rodrigo kicked off her very first world tour earlier this year, with 97 shows spanning across North America, Europe, Asia and more. The Guts World Tour, aptly named to support her

second studio album, Guts (2023), features a setlist with songs from the aforementioned album, as well as some major hits from her first album, which launched her singing career back in 2021. This film encapsulating Rodrigo’s latest tour was shot during the two dates she performed at Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California, and is now available for all the “Livvies” to sing their hearts out to! (Netflix)

“Poolman” (R) -- Veteran actor Chris Pine (“Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves”) decided to make his directorial debut with a comedy-mystery film, which is available now to stream. Pine also stars as the main character, Darren Barrenman, who is a pool cleaner for his apartment complex, The Tahitian Tiki. In his free time, Darren is an advocate and activist for several causes, which has gotten him on the bad side of city councilor Toronkowski. But when the councilor’s assistant, June, secretly divulges Toronkowski’s corruption to Darren, he agrees to set aside his pool

pole to become an amateur detective. Unfortunately, most of the reviews sounded off about the film’s shortcomings, so Pine will have to go back to the drawing board if he plans to continue directing. (Hulu)

“Music by John Williams” (PG) -- There’s no question that a movie isn’t complete without its score and soundtrack, and this is definitely the case for many of the projects that composer John Williams has worked on over his seven-decades-long career. Williams is a five-time Academy Award winner, having won Best Score for “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Jaws,” “Star Wars,” “E.T.” and “Schindler’s List,” and has been nominated a whopping 54 times! (second only to Walt Disney.) This documentary highlights some of Williams’ greatest works and also features interviews from frequent collaborator Stephen Spielberg; actors Ke Huy Quan and Seth MacFarlane; and, of course, John Williams himself. Out now! (Disney+)

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Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

RELIGION

Our hope for change

I’ve found that we can learn so much about the Lord by examining His many names found in the Bible. Each one reveals a unique aspect of His character along with a very specific promise for our lives.

When we get to know God—really know Him—it fills us with hope and confidence because we realize He’s greater than any situation we will ever encounter. Understanding God’s character and incredible love for us allows us to relax and trust Him in every area of our lives.

The Bible says He is Jehovah Jireh, which means “Your Provider” (Genesis 22:14). He’s Jehovah Rapha, “Your Healer” (Exodus 15:26), and Jehovah Shalom, “Your Peace” (Judges 6:24).

The Lord is also referred to as Jehovah M’Kaddesh, which means “The Lord who sanctifies you” (Leviticus 20:8 AMPC). This literally means He is the God Who changes us. It’s so encouraging to know we don’t have to change ourselves, because when we try to change on our own, it only produces frustration and struggle.

Philippians 2:12-13 says, “...Work out... your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling.... [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure...” (AMPC).

You see, when you begin a relationship with Je-

sus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. Now you have great things on the inside, but they need to be “worked out” to the outside. We need to learn how to think right, talk right, and treat other people the way we should. And we can only do it through God’s strength and help.

As the Holy Spirit begins to bring conviction in different areas of our lives, we become aware of things that need to change. When this happens, the Lord doesn’t want us to feel guilty and condemned. He simply wants us to have the attitude that says, “God, I know that You’re right and I’m wrong, and I want to change in this area. I trust You to help me change.”

The truth is you can actually enjoy your life while God is changing you. You don’t have to feel bad because you’re not perfect or even worry about trying to change yourself.

I’ll be honest: It took me a while to learn this lesson. I remember when the Holy Spirit began convicting me about talking too much. Instead of asking the Lord to change me and relying on His grace and strength, I took matters into my own hands. I decided I was going to fix it. So I went home and didn’t say anything at all. As a result, I ended up feeling depressed, and everyone kept asking me what was wrong. Needless to say, it was a frustrating



experience!

First Thessalonians 5:24 (AMPC) says, “Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you].”

I love this! Out of His great love, God not only shows us what needs to change, but this verse says He will also do it. As we draw closer to the Lord through reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer, He literally transforms us from the inside out and makes us more like Him. Our part is to cooperate with God and do the things He puts in our hearts to do.

For example, years ago when the Lord was teaching me about walking in excellence and integrity, I began feeling convicted about little things like putting my grocery cart away in the store parking lot. During those times, I had a choice. I could either leave the cart out in the middle of nowhere or I could obey God and go the extra mile to put it where it belonged.

The Lord also constant-

ly dealt with me about how I treated my husband, Dave.

I remember wanting to start an argument one day and the Holy Spirit whispering to my heart, “You don’t need to say anything.” Sometimes it meant letting Dave think he was right...even if I knew he wasn’t. I can still feel the pain of trying to keep my mouth shut!

These may seem like small things, but every time you obey God and do what’s right—even when it hurts—you grow spiritually and become more like Jesus. And as you represent the character of Christ to the world, people will want what you have and be drawn to you to know more about God.

Friend, the Lord has an amazing plan for your life. He not only desires for you to be with Him in heaven, but it’s also His will for you to have a great life here on Earth! I encourage you to seek God and spend time in His Word. Ask Him to change you and help you become everything He has created you to be.

As you do, the Lord will

be faithful to transform you into His image...and help you experience a greater, more fulfilling life than you ever imagined.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-part teaching resource Who Is God? You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org

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

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See Page A8!

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Way to go Trojans!

THIRD PLACE - 2024 IHSA CLASS 1A BOYS' STATE SOCCER TOURNAMENT

2024 Mendota Varsity Boys' Soccer Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
1	Mateo Goy	GK	5-7	Jr.
2	Angel Orozco	DEF	5-7	Jr.
3	Cameron Kelly	DEF	6-1	Sr.
4	Cole Kleckner	DEF	5-7	So.
5	Mauricio Martinez	DEF	5-7	Sr.
6	Alex Beetz	DEF	6-2	Jr.
7	Isaac Diaz	FWD	6-1	So.
8	Ramiro Palacios	MID	5-9	Jr.
9	David Casas	MID	5-10	Sr.
10	Johan Cortez	MID	5-9	Jr.
11	Cesar Casas	FWD	6-0	So.
12	Gael Garcia	MID	5-9	So.
13	Sebastian Carlos	FWD	5-9	Jr.
14	Kevin Herrera	FWD	5-7	Fr.
15	Luis Ramirez	MID	5-10	Jr.
16	Mauricio Salinas	MID	5-9	Jr.
17	Omar Nanez	MID	6-0	Fr.
18	Cameron Escatel	DEF	5-9	Sr.
19	Aaden Castle	FWD	5-8	Jr.
20	Sam Matura	FWD	5-8	Sr.
22	Hugo Falcon	FWD	5-9	Fr.
23	Daniel Garcia	DEF	5-10	So.
24	Aaron Venegas	MID	5-10	So.
26	Abel Nanez	DEF	6-3	Fr.
33	Gianni Figueroa	FWD	5-9	Fr.

Head coach: Nick Myers

Assistant coach: Rey Arteaga

Managers: Crystal Garcia, Kaley Siemer, Ariana Sanchez



2024 Mendota Varsity Boys' Soccer Opponents

Date	Opponent	W/L	Score
Aug. 28	Oregon	W	9-0
Aug. 31	Streator (Streator Tournament)	T	0-0
Aug. 31	Bartonville Limestone (Streator Tournament)	W	3-0
Aug. 31	Bloomington (Streator Tournament)	W	2-1
Sept. 3	Riverdale	W	9-0
Sept. 4	Rochelle	W	6-2
Sept. 5	Orion-Sherrard	W	7-0
Sept. 9	Yorkville	L	5-0
Sept. 11	Kewanee	W	7-0
Sept. 12	DePue-Hall	W	5-0
Sept. 14	Chicago Amundsen (Body Armor Series)	W	2-1
Sept. 14	Geneseo (Body Armor Series)	W	6-1
Sept. 21	Somonauk-Leland	W	8-1
Sept. 23	Streator	W	9-0
Sept. 24	Princeton	W	9-0
Sept. 26	Sterling	W	8-0
Sept. 28	Monmouth-Roseville	W	3-2
Oct. 1	Dixon	W	9-2
Oct. 5	Earlville	W	9-0
Oct. 10	Moline	L	3-0
Oct. 12	Ottawa	W	7-1
Oct. 15	Peoria Christian	W	4-2
Oct. 18	DePue-Hall (Serena Regional)	W	6-0
Oct. 22	Princeton (Serena Regional)	W	6-0
Oct. 26	Beardstown (Chillicothe IVC Sectional)	W	5-0
Oct. 30	Peoria Christian (Chillicothe IVC Sectional)	W	2-1
Nov. 2	Aurora Central Catholic (Mendota Super-Sectional)	W	2-0
Nov. 7	Normal University High (IHSA State Tournament)	L	1-0
Nov. 8	Columbia (IHSA State Tournament-3rd place)	W	2-1 PK



We are proud of you on your outstanding accomplishments!!

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Congratulations Trojans on a fabulous season!

THIRD PLACE - 2024 IHSA CLASS 1A BOYS' STATE SOCCER TOURNAMENT



25 wins • 3 losses • 1 tie



2024 IHSA Class 1A Boys' State Soccer Tournament @ Hoffman Estates High School
Thursday, Nov. 7
 (Semifinals)
 Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit) 1, Columbia 0
 Normal (University) 1, Mendota 0
Friday, Nov. 8
 (Third Place)
 Mendota 2, Columbia 1 F-PK
Saturday, Nov. 9
 (Championship)
 Normal (University) 3, Chicago (Cristo Rey Jesuit) 0

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