

## MHS awards 115 diplomas to graduates

MENDOTA – Mendota High School granted diplomas to 115 graduates of the Class of 2025 at commencement ceremonies on May 17 in the MHS gymnasium.

Students entered the gym to the playing of the processional by the MHS Band, followed by the welcome address by Principal Joe Masini.

“In my two short years as principal, I have started the school year with a song to act as a theme for the school year,” said Masini. “This year the song was Van Halen’s ‘Right Now.’

“The chorus of that song challenges the listener to ‘catch that magic moment and do it right here and now!’ Whether these students had that chorus on their minds as the school year went along, I can’t be sure, but make no mistake, this class caught magic moment after magic moment and made the most of this school year.

“This class consists of Illinois State Scholars, all-conference athletes, academic all-conference award winners, state qualifying athletes and musicians, and State Seal of Biliiteracy achievers. Let us not forget



Mendota High School seniors hang out in the hallway prior to commencement ceremonies on May 17. Preparing for the momentous occasion, left to right, are Gabriel Vallejo, Diego Raya, Mauricio Martinez, Angil Serrano and David Casas. (Reporter photo)

the members of the senior class who participated on a soccer team that finished the year third in state. That team represents the first team from MHS to bring home a trophy in 23 years.

“This outstanding group is going to further their education at college and trade schools, serve our country in the armed forces and go out

into the workforce. Today represents a magic moment on the trajectory of a life that right now has nothing but promise, and I congratulate each and every one of you.”

Next, Ella Martin, student council president, spoke to her classmates, after which scholarships and awards were presented to members of the Class of 2025. Recip-

ients were:

CSL (Christina Sue Lilja) Foundation Scholarship – Quin Holland; James Dankenbring Scholarship – Ella Martin and Lily Bokus; First State Bank Scholarship – Cameron Escatel and Braiden Freeman; Rodlofo

See Graduates, Page A5

## Council makes donations; has good news with budget

By KIP CHEEK

Staff writer

MENDOTA - The Mendota City Council approved several donation requests and made an amendment to the budget at its May 19 regular meeting.

Alderman John Holland presented a request from the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce for its annual donation from the city to help fund portions of the Sweet Corn Festival. The council approved a donation of \$6,500.

The council also agreed to make its annual donation of \$5,000 to Graves-Hume Public Library for its Summer Reading program.

In good news regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, Holland said cash projections

are expected to be higher than originally anticipated. He said revenue is estimated at \$8,549,761 and expenses are projected at \$7,632,008 for a positive cash balance of \$917,753.

During Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick’s report, the council approved an Illinois Department of Transportation resolution for FY26 maintenance in the amount of \$406,000.

In other business from Fitzpatrick, an engineering agreement was approved with Chamlin & Associates, Inc. for the Fifth Street and Ninth Street bridge projects.

Also, the council agreed to allow for improvements to locations at 712 Main St. and 707 Washington St. per the recommendation of

the Mendota Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission.

### MAYOR’S REPORT

During the Mayor’s Report, David Boelk proclaimed Mendota to be a “Dementia Friendly City.”

In other action, the mayor appointed Deanna Falchook, Jan Phalen, Sally Corrigan and Pete Ceresa to the Mendota Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission.

Boelk also made his FY26 mayoral appointments.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Sean Arteaga and Anthony Garcia addressed the council, saying they purchased the building at 701 Jefferson St. in hopes of making it into a bar/lounge, and asking for the council’s

support behind this business concept. They said they hope to make the business into a more laid back and sophisticated environment. They would like to have live music. Arteaga, who recently opened The Coffee Barn on Illinois Avenue, and Garcia, whose family recently purchased Main Street Station on Main Street, said they would like to continue to help with the revitalization of downtown Mendota and believe this business concept will attract more people to the downtown area.

The council will have more discussion on the proposal at its next meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m.

## Reimagine Mendota marks two years of giving its Heart & Soul

□ Group helps secure millions in grants

By BRANDON LaCHANCE

Staff writer

MENDOTA - On March 31, 2023, Reimagine Mendota was approved and awarded the Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant.

A month and a half later, May 15, 2023, the first Heart & Soul meeting took place.

Since then, Heart & Soul has intertwined into the Reimagine Mendota civic group and many changes, events, ideas have taken shape in the last two years.

“It’s great to see everyone come together for Mendota. After those fires happened, everyone really wanted to pull together in the same direction,” said Amy Brewer, a co-director of the original Heart & Soul Mendota group and a retired teacher who serves as a Mendota advocate in many areas. “We got great response to all of the data gathering we did that year. We’ve had new leaders step up. We have double the amount of people at Reimagine Mendota meetings now and more people are volunteering.

“Although there always seems to be something negative, the number of negative comments on social media or in person has been limited compared to when all of this first started. I think the change of the community coming together to make Mendota better is being seen.” The first year was about collecting data and asking the Mendota community what they thought the city needed and what they liked about the municipality. After many heart cards were filled out by the people, the group started putting ideas into action.

“We created value statements based off of surveys and questionnaires. Those value statements turned into a work plan,” said Annie Short, co-director with Brewer for Heart & Soul who has since been hired by the City of Mendota as project manager. “All of the activities and ideas we’ve accomplished or are working on, came from the residents of Mendota. They were listened to. All ideas were considered. Clearly, we can’t do them all at once, so we had a prioritizing meeting at the Mendota Civic Center and everyone voted on the things they wanted the most.

“That’s where the pavilion and fixing our sidewalks came up because they were both top priorities from the people. Everything that was suggested was then brought to the discussion of how the idea fit into our values. Then action plans were created.”

In 2024, the second year of the process, 16 grants have been approved worth a combined total of \$6,974,502. There have also been 15 new businesses and the downtown area is being beautified as gardens are being planted, murals are set to be painted through an art grant, hanging flower baskets have been purchased, and other initiatives are in the works.

See Reimagine, Page A5



## New pumper tank added to Sublette fire prevention arsenal

By BRANDON LaCHANCE

Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Thinking about how to stop a fire or how to rectify a situation is what’s usually on the mind of a member of the Sublette Fire Department.

However, recently, the thinking caps were used in a different direction, financially, as the department made moves to bring in a new fire prevention apparatus.

“We replaced our 2000 engine with a pumper tanker. Essentially, we moved two trucks into one. We got rid of both a tender and an engine this year,” said Sublette Fire Department Assistant Chief Nick Dinges. “It’s kind of nice; Compton got our used engine and Walnut got our used tender.

“We felt to be fiscally responsible to the district, combining two vehicles

into one made a lot of sense. It was the decision of the Sublette Fire Department Board of Directors. We were lucky enough to get a demo fire engine from Iowa.

“It was coming off-line and the timing was just right. It made sense for us to do this.”

The selling of the two used vehicles covered 50 percent of the nearly \$450,000 price tag hanging from the new pumper tank, which was picked up in Iowa.

“With fire trucks approaching the \$1 million mark, it’s almost unattainable for small departments like Sublette,” Dinges said. “We had to look at a way to be fiscally responsible, so we went with a commercial chassis. We felt that would do a lot for our district.

“A lot of times we’re responding with 4-6 people on the first-out fire engine, but we always need water. This new one, which will be our second truck, has 3,000 gallons.

“Between our first two trucks, we’ll have 4,000 gallons of water. When the third comes, our actual tender, we’ll have 7,500 gallons of water immediately. If we don’t get a fire knocked down with that then we have some big problems.”

The Sublette Fire Department hopes to have the new vehicle in service and hitting the streets by June after a few hoses, nozzles and decals come in and are applied to the pumper tanker.

Of course, the Sublette Fire Department patch will be included.



The Sublette Fire Department has added to its fleet of firefighting equipment. The new truck has a 3,000-gallon capacity. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Lee County Dispatch instructs father how to unwrap umbilical cord during infield delivery

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

SUBLETTE—Cheyenne Edwards was just about to go to sleep on a normal Monday, April 28 night.

However, the 24-year-old woman who was 39 weeks pregnant had to wait for rest.

“It was unexpected. I was getting ready for bed. I had to use the bathroom. I heard a pop but went back to bed,” said Edwards, who was ironically supposed to be induced on April 28 but was pushed back. “The pop was my water broke. I told Ryan (husband) it had broke and called my mom to come stay with our other two children. It felt way longer than an hour. My water broke at 10:45 and we had him at 11:45. We called a few times and waited for them to get there. I started to feel the urge to push.

“I told Ryan, ‘I think I need to push,’ and he looked at me with wide eyes and said, ‘No, you don’t.’ At first, I didn’t want him to call 9-1-1, but after he looked and saw the baby’s head, he called 9-1-1.”

When Ryan called 9-1-1, Lee County Dispatcher Kelly Boos was on the call.

Boos wasn’t waiting for the call to happen, but when Ryan told her the baby’s umbilical cord was wrapped around Wilder’s neck, she

was prepared.

“I was not expecting that kind of call. I was happy to help him through it and happy to have a healthy baby here now,” said Boos, 33, from Dixon, who has been dispatching for five years with the last two being for Lee County. “We have a protocol system called PowerPhone. It has different protocols and there is one in there for childbirth. I pulled it up on our computer and walked him through step by step of what was going on. Knowing the umbilical cord was wrapped, there were certain instructions to give him at that point.

“It was quick. The baby was already coming when he called. It went fast. The father was awesome. He was super cool. He did everything I asked of him when I asked him to do something. It was a great outcome.”

The instruction from Boos to Ryan Edwards, 28, lasted 7 minutes, 36 seconds.

However, to Ryan, it seemed longer.

“The seven minutes definitely felt like seven years. It was a lifetime. It was something to experience,” said Ryan, who along with Cheyenne also have River (4) and Atley (2). “It was definitely a new angle on childbirth. Never in my life would I think I’d be the one delivering. I would do



Ryan Edwards, left, went into dad, husband mode on April 28 as his wife Cheyenne, next to him, was going into labor instead of going to bed, the original plan. When he saw the baby’s head, he called 911 and met Lee County Dispatcher Kelly Boos, right, and she instructed him through delivery, which included untangling the umbilical cord wrapped around Wilder’s neck. Boos, as well as members of Lee County Dispatch and Sublette Fire Department received “Stork Pins” from Mercyhealth. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



it again, honestly. I think a lot more dads need to at least have the option to be a little more hands on. The bond afterward was surreal, just holding him with the umbilical cord still attached. It was magical.

“With Kelly, I couldn’t have asked for a better dispatcher at the time.”

For their efforts in helping the Edwards give birth, Boos and the Lee County Dispatch team as well as the Sublette Fire Department crew who arrived on the scene, received “Stork Pins” from Mercyhealth Associate

EMS Medical Director John Pakiela on Thursday, May 15 at the Sublette fire station.

“As a fire chief, it makes me very, very proud to have our EMTs and first responders be able to step up and support our community like they do,” said Sublette Fire Chief Kevin Schultz. “It is an important piece for everyone to be able to have rural community health. Our first responders and our EMTs are the first line in the community health program.”

Shelley Dallas, director of Lee County 911 Emergen-

cy Telephone System Board said this is the first infield delivery for Lee County Dispatch. Sublette Assistant Fire Chief Nick Dinges, who has been in EMS for 28 years, said (and Schultz nodded in agreement) it’s the first time there has been one in Sublette as well.

“I want to thank the chain of survival we have in rural America. It starts with our dispatchers,” Dinges said. “They did a phenomenal job and we want to thank them for that. It went on to our responders at the Sublette Fire Department. The crew

was Sublette EMS Captain Mary Ehlers, paramedic Jen Stampfler and Roger Wittenauer.

“Within 4-6 minutes, our team arrived on scene. The baby was out and the color was pretty good. Roger helped stimulate the baby’s breathing and dry him off. They were able to cut the umbilical cord and finish the delivery in the ambulance on the route to CGH Hospital.

“On behalf of the Sublette Fire Department, we thank everybody for the teamwork and professionalism.”

## OSF HealthCare to host Living Works safeTALK suicide prevention training

PERU – OSF HealthCare is hosting a LivingWorks safeTALK training on Tuesday, May 27 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Peru Police Department, 2650 N. Peoria St. The cost is \$20.

This life-saving workshop is designed to help individuals recognize and respond to situations where thoughts of suicide may be present.

Participants in this session will learn how to reach out to someone with thoughts of suicide and start a conversation, help them KeepSafe by connecting them to further support and explore personal and community attitudes about suicide and learn how to talk openly about the subject.

LivingWorks safeTALK is proven to work. Studies show that participants gain confidence in asking people about

suicide directly, connecting those at risk to life-saving resources and keeping individuals safe until professional resources can take over.

For more information about the event, contact Stefanie Morris at [stefanie.morris@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:stefanie.morris@osfhealthcare.org). Take this crucial step to help save lives in your community. Reserve your spot and register today! <http://osf.care/YKTJ50VRUcn>

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### Lunch in the Park

Don’t go hungry on a Friday. Not only can you grab lunch from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. every Friday at Veterans Park in Mendota, but you can also help non-profit organizations and associations as the funds go toward programs and services in the Mendota community. Each week features a different group. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



### Morbid History

Lorrisa Julianus gave a presentation called Morbid History on Wednesday, May 14 at Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota. She spoke about all kinds of morbid activities humans have done from the beginning of time from Chicago to New York to Europe. The library always has interesting programs. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

The kindergarten students attended a field trip on May 13. They went to Woodhaven Lakes where they had some educational lessons and lots of fun! The students visited the nature center and took a guided nature walk. They learned about different plants, trees and birds. They visited the wetland area and got a presentation on the wildlife that live there. They also enjoyed playing some mini golf and had a picnic lunch. Thank you to the parent chaperones that were able to go along to help out.

All kindergarten and first grade students were able to visit Graves-Hume Library in Mendota on May 14. Two classes went at a time and had the opportunity to tour the

library, hear and see what they have to offer and participate in some fun activities. Many of our students have never been to our local library so we are hoping that this visit sparked some excitement and more of our students utilize this great community resource. We're thankful for the amazing visit that the Graves-Hume Library staff organized. Our students really enjoyed the visit!

Students completed spring benchmark testing in reading and math in Fastbridge this past week. We are excited about the growth our students have shown throughout the school year. Results will be coming home with students before the end of the year.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week were Emma Springstein, Harper Ganz, Luca Eich, Emilio Magallanes, Eddie Ramos, Maylen Vela Vazquez, Joaquin Scott and Kaitlyn Castaneda. The winners were Sasha Harzheim, Emmanuel Esparza, Gus Eich and Cash Gliatta. Congratulations to all of you.

Online registration is still open online for students in grades K-7. Parents should log into their Teacherease account and complete registration information for the 2025-2026 school year. Registration should be completed by June 1.



### Northbrook Young Authors

Young authors winners from Northbrook School submitted their own creative writings and were selected to attend the Young Authors Celebration at Grand Bear Lodge on May 1. They will have the opportunity to attend an author presentation and receive a signed book by the author. Front row, left to right, are Bradley Betz, Tadeo Ortiz Manzo, Adelyn Landers, Landon Kent, Aubrey Mathieu and Kaylynn Read. Back row, Skyler Kenny, Averie Hazelwood, Kaylee Bonnell, Bailey Rambert, Valerie Manz and Charlize Pena. (Photo contributed)



### Lincoln Young Authors

Young authors winners from Lincoln School submitted their own creative writings and were selected to attend the Young Authors Celebration at Grand Bear Lodge on May 1. They will have the opportunity to attend an author presentation and receive a signed book by the author. Front row, left to right, are Delila Casas, Analysis Neilsen and Oliva Mathieu. Back row, Liam Christmann, Gwen Pecher and Logan Jones. (Photo contributed)

## Dementia Friendly Mendota recognized by community, mayor's proclamation

MENDOTA – The City of Mendota proudly recognizes the efforts of Dementia Friendly Mendota, a grassroots initiative that has been actively working to make the community more inclusive and supportive for those living with dementia and their care partners.

This recognition was formally marked by a proclamation from Mayor David Boelk, celebrating a year of impactful work led by a diverse and passionate task force.

Formed one year ago, the Dementia Friendly Mendota Task Force brings together an exceptionally broad coalition of community members. The group includes representatives from first responders, libraries, local government, healthcare providers, residential care facilities, banks and financial institutions, faith communities, support organizations and partners at the local, state and national levels.

“Our goal is to create a compassionate, understanding environment where individuals living with dementia can

continue to live with dignity and support,” said Amy Brewer, a member of the task force.

Over the past year, the task force has assessed community needs through surveys, interviews and discussions. These efforts have informed the development of several key goals and initiatives:

Creation of ID cards to assist first responders in interacting safely with individuals living with dementia.

A community-based Dementia Resource Guide to connect families and caregivers with vital services and information.

Sector-specific improvements guided by Dementia Friendly America (DFA) tools.

Community information training tailored for local businesses and organizations.

Ongoing “Dementia Friends” talks conducted by trained local Dementia Champions.

To date, nine individuals have completed training to become Dementia Champions, equipping them to

educate others with baseline understanding of dementia and ways to convert that knowledge into meaningful action.

The initiative has also established a relationship with a local community foundation, enabling donations and financial support to further expand programming and community impact. The Mayor’s proclamation reflects a growing acknowledgment of the importance of dementia-friendly efforts and Mendota’s leadership in fostering a more inclusive environment.

To make a tax deductible donation to Dementia Friendly Mendota to support projects and events, go to <https://srcf.org/fund/dementia-friendly-mendota/>. For more information about Dementia Friendly Mendota, including upcoming events, training opportunities or ways to get involved, contact the task force at [dfmendota@gmail.com](mailto:dfmendota@gmail.com) or visit <https://dfmendota.wixstudio.com/my-site>.

## IDPH reports first mosquito pool in Illinois to test positive for West Nile Virus in 2025 found in Winnebago County

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reporting that the first mosquito pool of the year to test positive for West Nile virus (WNV) this year was collected on May 9 in Rockford by the Winnebago County Health Department. The specimen tested positive for WNV on May 12.

“The news of the first batch of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus is a reminder for Illinois residents to begin protecting themselves from diseases caused by mosquito and tick bites,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “The best defense against West Nile virus is to practice the ‘Three R’s’: reduce, repel, and report’. IDPH urges everyone, and especially those who are older or have weakened immune systems, to ‘Fight the Bite’ and protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes and the viruses they carry.”

Last year in Illinois, IDPH reported that 72 counties around the state reported positive tests for WNV in mosquitoes, birds, horses or humans. There were 69 confirmed human cases of WNV according to IDPH data and 13 human deaths, the highest number since 17 deaths were recorded in 2018.

IDPH maintains a robust surveillance system to monitor WNV both in the environment, with laboratory testing of mosquito batches and sick horses, and among Illinois residents by investigating and monitoring human infections.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a Culex mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache

and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. Most people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms; however, in rare cases, severe illness including meningitis, encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

IDPH urges the public to Fight the Bite by practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel, and report:

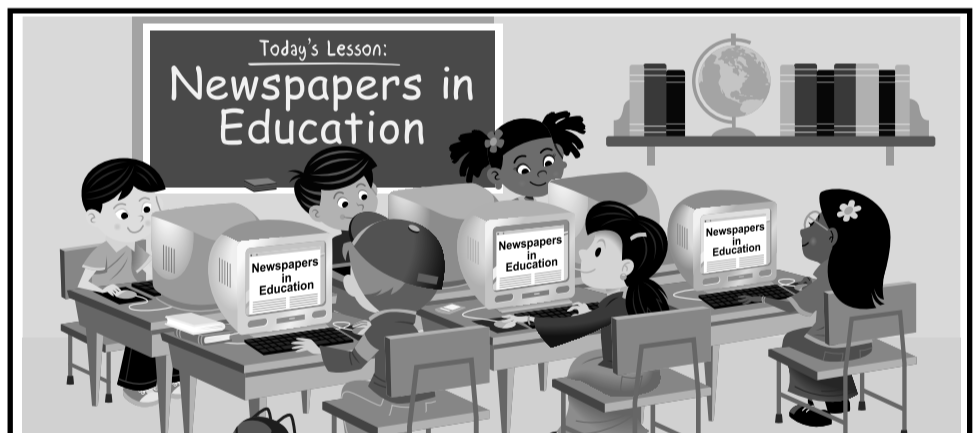
- **REDUCE**- make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.

- **REPEL**- when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, IR 3535, para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.

- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

Additional information about West Nile virus can be found on the IDPH website.

## The weather man says it's supposed to be warm sometime...this year Maybe?



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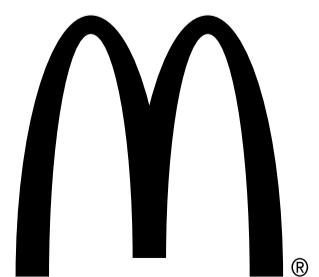
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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Gordon H. Frey

MENDOTA – Gordon Howard Frey, 59, of Mendota, passed away May 17, 2025, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, May 23, 2025, at Restland Memorial Gardens. Fr. Greg Nelson will officiate. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Gordon Howard Frey was born on April 6, 1966, to Clayton and Mary Margaret (Phalen) Frey, and he brought joy and love into the lives of all who knew him.

Gordon was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. Gordon is survived by his brothers, Doug (Karole) and Kent, as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Julie; brother-in-law, Marty Bonnell; and his youngest brother, Greg.

Gordon was a kind and gentle soul, who had a quiet manner but a mischievous smirk that made you smile. His passion for working on Case IH equipment at Stollers in Ottawa brought him immense joy, and he felt happiest when he was doing what he loved. Gordon also enjoyed spending time with his work buddies, sharing a few beers and stories on Friday nights after work.

Gordon was loved by all who knew him, and his kindness, gentleness, and caring nature touched the hearts of everyone he met. He was truly a good human being, and his presence will be deeply missed. As we say goodbye to Gordon, let us remember the love and light that he brought into our lives, and the impact he had on all of us. May his memory live on in our hearts forever.

Rest in peace, dear Gordon. You will always be remembered and loved.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

## Shirley Maloy

JOLIET – With heavy hearts and fond memories, we announce the peaceful passing of Shirley Maloy, 72, on May 4, 2025, at Lightways Hospice & Serious Illness Care in Joliet.

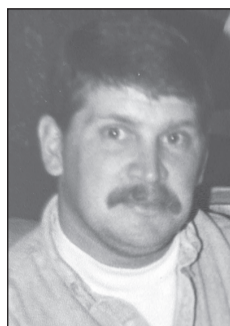
A celebration of Shirley's life will be held on Saturday, July 12 from 1-4 p.m. at the Earl Town Hall.

Shirley was born on Oct. 31, 1952, in Sleepy Eye, Minn., to Russell and Vera Thoms. She married her high school sweetheart in 1969 and dedicated over 40 years of her life to raising children.

She was a beloved wife to Glen Maloy III and a devoted mother to their five children, Gwen and (Leslie) Robinson, Rebecca and (John) Eager, Daniel Maloy and April Craft, Laura and (David) Santibanez, Thomas Maloy and Allison Hibbard; nine grandchildren, Emily, Rachel, Jaxon and Lily Robinson, Jazz Craft, Roman, Sami and Yasmin Santibanez, Clinton and Grace Eager, and Justin Slagle. She is also survived by her mother, Vera Thoms, and three siblings, Greg Thoms, Jeanne VanHorn and Karen Gauer.

She balanced the roles of chauffeur to school, sporting events, dance and karate lessons while juggling businesses in wreath-making to roofing to managing rental properties. Her passions were as diverse as her talents. She loved photography, music, reading, travel, space and dessert. She will be deeply missed, as she departs, we imagine her smiling slyly, saying, "I'm glad you got to see me!"

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association. For more information or to sign the online guestbook go to [www.EighnerFuneralHomes.com](http://www.EighnerFuneralHomes.com)



## Sarah T. Brandner

MENDOTA – Sarah T. Brandner, 27, of Mendota, passed away peacefully at home on May 13, 2025, with her loving family by her side.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 17 at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Rev. Gregory Nelson officiated, and burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Sarah was born Feb. 14, 1998, in Spring Valley to Don and Karen (Christen) Brandner Jr. She attended Holy Cross School and graduated Mendota High School in 2016.

Sarah will be missed by her loving parents; two brothers, Matt of Portland, Ore., and Andy (Nicki) of Naperville; four sisters, Katie of Mendota, Beth (Visham) Appadoo of Milwaukee, Wis., Mary (Scotty) Quintanilla of Marseilles, and Rachel of Milwaukee, Wis.; nephews, Ovin and Rohan; niece, Savannah, and two more on the way; paternal grandfather, Don Brandner (Karole) Sr. of Peru, and maternal grandparents, John and Wanda Christen of Sherman.

Sarah is preceded in death by her paternal grandmother.

Sarah had so many things she loved. She liked colorful things, particularly blue and yellow (but no black, brown, or white, please). She enjoyed crafts of all kinds, especially stickers and puzzles. She once completed a 40,000+ puzzle all by herself! She liked to sing or hum (if she thought no one was listening), she loved driving for hours looking at Christmas lights in the winter, and she was happiest when all her siblings were gathered together under one roof.

One of her greatest passions was horses. For years, Sarah faithfully made weekly visits to Cedar Creek Ranch with her dad. She knew who was sweet and who was a troublemaker (and who might be breeding next year!). Indy and Sugar were her favorites.

But even more than horses, Sarah loved her niece and twin nephews (and two more on the way that she was eagerly anticipating!) As newborns, she loved to hold them and feed them bottles. As they began crawling, talking, walking and playing, she always made sure she could watch them from her chair. She loved her babies, and they loved their Aunt Sarah. Memorials may be directed to Cedar Creek Ranch, 249 IL-71, Cedar Point, IL 61316. Condolences may be left at [wasmerfuneralhome.com](http://wasmerfuneralhome.com).



## Betty J. Wenzel

LaMOILLE – Betty J. (Engelhaupt) Wenzel, 81, of La Moille, passed away at her home, surrounded by family, on May 16, 2025. She was a lymphoma survivor, but complications from treatment led to ongoing health issues later in life, which ultimately contributed to her passing.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 29, at St. Patrick's Church in La Salle with Rev. Thomas Shaw officiating. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, at Hurst Funeral Home in La Salle, and a rosary will be recited prior, starting at 3:30 p.m. Additional visitation will be in the church on Thursday from 9:30-10:15 a.m.

She was born in Spring Valley on Jan. 10, 1944, to August and Dorothy (Bodnum) Engelhaupt. She married Francis Wenzel on Oct. 13, 1962, at Immaculate Conception Church in Spring Valley, and they shared over 61 years of marriage together.

She is survived by her four children, Mary Beth (Tom) Norton of La Moille and Longboat Key, Fla., Susanne (Mike) Bullock of West Chicago, Jennifer (Matt) Wenzel-Wamhoff of La Moille, and Mark (Teri) Wenzel of Mendota; four grandchildren, Jessica Bullock, Daniel Bullock, Luke Wamhoff, and Elaina Wamhoff; brother, Joe Engelhaupt; and sisters, Carol Renkosik and Donna (Tom) Fulara.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Francis; infant son, Mathew; parents; and nephew Larry Wenzel.

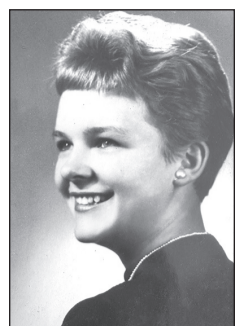
Beyond her cherished role as a loving mom and grandma, Betty was a passionate farmer and found great joy in working the land; her favorite place was in the cab of a combine during harvest. In addition, she was a brilliant businesswoman – owning and operating her own real estate and appraisal business – and also served as a farm owner-operator, 4-H leader, and accountant.

Betty touched countless lives and brought many closer to God through her deep involvement in TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), Cursillo, Prison Cursillo, and through the quiet strength of her faith-filled actions and tireless volunteer work. As a professed Lay Carmelite of the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, she embraced a life of prayer, community, and spiritual commitment. The thousands of rosaries she hand-crafted can be found all over the world. Her life was a living witness to God's love and grace, and her faith shone brightly in all she did. Her family chose this high school senior photo for the obituary because it shows her love, strength, and beautiful spirit.

Family was everything to Betty. She loved picnics and reunions on the river beach, boating and waterskiing, spending time with her grandkids, traveling, and walking the Florida beach hunting for sand dollars and shells. She also took joy in baking, canning, and freezing homemade treats for her family.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Betty's generous spirit and lifelong habit of giving to others, the family invites you to donate to a charity of your choice or have a Mass said for her.

Online condolences may be viewed and remembrances shared at [www.hurstfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hurstfuneralhomes.com).



## Illinois residents can take part in annual transportation survey

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking the public to provide feedback on the state's transportation system and the agency's overall performance by taking the annual Traveler Opinion Survey. Conducted through May 30, the survey is available online at <https://go.uis.edu/traveler2025> or visiting by [idot.illinois.gov](http://idot.illinois.gov).

Done in partnership with the University of Illinois Springfield, the survey is an opportunity for people who live in Illinois to provide

feedback on a wide range of topics, giving IDOT valuable insight and information to continue being a national leader in transportation services.

This year's survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and asks for input on commuting habits, passenger rail, ice and snow removal, planning priorities, electric vehicles and more. In 2024, more than 1,700 responses were received.

The Traveler Opinion Survey has been a staple of IDOT since 2001.

Please see more  
Obituaries on Page A5.

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**LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:**  
Track Side Tavern sign  
Winner: Margaret Schlesinger

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# LOCAL NEWS/OBITUARIES

## Graduates

Continued from Page A1

Escatel Castaneda Memorial Scholarship – Lidia Hernandez; American Legion Award –Marco Balcazar and Anthony Kelson; Aaron Olsen Memorial Scholarship – Braiden Freeman; Barb Guilfoyle Memorial Scholarship–Katelyn Cook; Clara Cypreansen & Alfred O. Jacob Scholarship–Katelyn Cook; Jason Kent Johnson Memorial Scholarship – Korinne Miars; Live Like MLM Memorial Scholarship – Wyatt Sondgeroth and Josh Sondgeroth; Morris Morgan Scholarship – Noemi Arteaga and Samuel Matura; Oden Jordal/Kiwanis Club Scholarship–Katelyn Cook; Scott Rider Scholarship – Ben Bresley.

State Seal of Bilitery – Fernando Arteaga, Jorge Arteaga, Samantha Ascensio, Ella Coss, Sofia Duarte, Ava Eddy, Ivan Espinoza, Crystal Garcia, Cassandra Gonzalez, Rosa Gonzalez, Jose Hernandez, Lidia Hernandez, Samuel Matura, Brisa Nunez, Gabriel Vallejo; High Honor Academic Graduates–Shelby Bentley, Lily Bokus, Quin Holland, Anthony Kelson, Samuel Matura, Korinne Miars, Kaley Siemer.

Following the award presentations, Kaley Siemer addressed her classmates as High Honor speaker, followed by comments from Jim Lauer, school board president.

Superintendent Dr. Denise Aughenbaugh provided the presentation of the Class of 2025, stating, “As we close another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on your incredible journey. Whether you’re graduating or moving on to the next grade, you’ve faced challenges, grown in many ways, and contributed to the ‘heart and soul’ of our school community.

“We are all proud of you for your perseverance, your kindness, and your commitment to learning. To the Class of 2025...as you step into your next school of life, you are ready.”

Next, Masini read the names of the graduates as they filed across the stage to receive their diplomas from Lauer.

Senior class president Crystal Garcia concluded the ceremony with a speech to her classmates. The MHS

band played the recessional as the new MHS alums exited the gymnasium.

Students receiving their diplomas were:

Eric Aranda, Aiden Arjes, Fernando Arteaga, Gabriel Arteaga, Jorge Arteaga, Noemi Arteaga, Samantha Ascensio, Marco Balcazar, Makenzie Bean, Ava Beetz, Shelby Bentley, Kate Biers, Tyler Blayne, Lily Bokus, Kirby Bond, Ryn Booth, James Bradley;

Ben Bresley, Ashley Caracheo, Julia Carvalho, David Casas, Colton Castillo, Elijah Castillo, Katelyn Cook, Jaxon Cooper, Karina Coronel, Ella Coss, Jairo Covarrubias, Jonathon Diaz, Sofia Duarte, Ava Eddy, Gavin Elston, Alessandra Enriquez, Cameron Escatel; Jasmin Escatel, Jesus Escobar, Ivan Espinoza, Aidan Fisher, Braiden Freeman, Crystal Garcia, Jack Gillespie, Joseph Gomez, Cassandra Gonzalez, Rosa Gonzalez, Kregory Griffith, Natalie Hanaman, Conner Hansen, Claire Hanson, Jocee Haun, Chloe Heath, Jose Hernandez;

Kayla Hernandez, Lidia Hernandez, Lauren Holland, Quin Holland, Kaleb Houle, Horacio Huizar, Adrianna Johnson, Andrianna Karahalios, Cameron Kelly, Anthony Kelson, Aidan Kent-Tucker, Christopher Kimes, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Cameron Kordick, Brandon Leadley, Luis Magallanes;

Lupita Maldonado, Ella Martin, Logan Martin, Mauricio Martinez-Morales, Samuel Matura, Evan McPheeters, Gabriela Membrano, Korinne Miars, Travis Mumm, Kaitlyn Neville, Brisa Nunez, Neveah Orozco, Xzavior Orozco, Brenda Palacios, Sophia Pappas, Diego Raya, Elaina Reddin; Nicki Reyes, Domenic Richey, Jacob Roldan, Isabela Rosales, Brenna Rummery, Yesenia Salinas, Reyli Sandoval, Lisette Sandoval Rios, Jason Schroeder, Maybrianna Schultz, Angilberto Serrano, Kaley Siemer, Brielle Smith, Josh Sondgeroth, Wyatt Sondgeroth; Madison Sproston, Payton Stavropoulos, Elias Sumner, Aiden Swanson, Michael Thornhill, Cadence Thornton; Lea Turner, Michael Valencia, Gabriel Vallejo, Erick Vasquez, Angel Villalba, Miguel Villalba, Faith Villegas, Rhett Watson, Jillian Younger.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### M. Boelk graduates from UW-Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. – The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee held its commencement exercises Sunday, May 18, 2025, in Milwaukee, with 2,919 candidates receiving their degrees.

Among the graduates is Marlie Boelk of Mendota, Sheldon B. Lubar College of Business, Bachelor of Business Administration.

UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with over 22,800 undergraduate and graduate students.

### F. Anderson on Belmont U. Dean’s List

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Belmont University recently released the Dean’s List for the spring 2025 semester. Approximately 47% of the University’s 6,912 undergraduate students qualified for the spring 2025 Dean’s List, including Faith Anderson of Mendota.

“Achieving the Dean’s List accomplishment showcases the resilience, discipline and academic excellence of these deserving Belmont students,” said Dr. David Gregory, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Excellence.

Dean’s List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Located near the heart of thriving Nashville, Tenn., Belmont University consists of nearly 9,000 students who come from every state and 33 countries.

## Reimagine

Continued from Page A1

The pavilion project looks to bring a pavilion to the downtown area across from the Mendota train station and received a \$100,000 matching grant from Black Bros. Co. Food Truck Mania has become a go-to community function and food vendor market on the second and fourth Mondays from May to October.

Mendota was able to hire three people to work on projects and grants – Short, Ali Braboy, and Maria Arteaga. Project Sidewalk, through the Walkability Academy, has already made strides to fix Mendota sidewalks. Events such as Heritage Day, Amigo Fest and Live at the Lake were created.

The youth have been invited to Early Dismissal Days where games and fun are to be had at different locations with staff from the Mendota YMCA and the City of Mendota instead of sitting at home or getting into trouble when school is let out early.

The disc golf course at Lake Mendota has been redesigned at Lake Kakusha and a ribbon cutting is taking place May 30. Blackstone Park received new playground equipment. Becoming a Dementia Friendly community is in place with events and a

group dedicated to pushing the awareness and understanding of what dementia is and how we can help.

With a long list like this, it may be easy to forget something Reimagine Mendota and the City of Mendota have done over the last year.

However, without Brewer and Short pushing for the Heart & Soul Grant and being awarded, and volunteers becoming part of the cause, there wouldn’t be a list at all and no changes would be seen in terms of grant money, new businesses, beautification, entertainment activities and events, and community involvement.

“It’s been a great process. We asked the community what they wanted. They told us and over the last few years, a lot has been accomplished,” Brewer said. “We’ve lost track of everything we’ve done, so it’s fun to look back and take in everything Reimagine Mendota, the City of Mendota, and the community have done.”

To find out what’s happening, what’s next, or how you can be involved, check out [reimaginemendota.org](http://reimaginemendota.org) and the projects tab on the City of Mendota website, also created in the last year, at [cityofmendota.com](http://cityofmendota.com).

## OBITUARY

### Adeline V. Husser

MENDOTA – Adeline “Addie” Virginia Marcum Husser, 81, of Mendota passed away Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Manor Court in Rochelle.

The visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, May 22, 2025, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth St., Rochelle. There will be a graveside service at St. Paul’s Lutheran Cemetery in California, Mo., at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 27.

Addie was born on Oct. 26, 1943, in Princeton, the daughter of W. Russell and Arlene E. (Meisel) Marcum. She graduated from Shabbona High School in 1961.

Addie is survived by her three children, Teri (Terry) Zinke, Chris (Jim) Lamkin and Greg Husser; 10 grandchildren, Virginia “Jenny”, Marybeth, Josh, Veronica, Jessica, Olivia, Kaleb, Emma, Henry and Hazel; nine great grandchildren, McKenzie, Maevyn, Adriana, Tara, Justice, JessAnn, Onyxia, Tiessa, Teyanna and soon to be born, Colter; and one great-great-grandchild, Jordy; sister, Karen (Neil) Burger.

In addition to her parents, Adeline is preceded in death by her brother, Kenneth “Kenny”; nephew, Kyle; and granddaughter, Jessica.

Adeline retired from Nicor Gas after working for 33 years. Although she enjoyed her work, she loved gardening, canning, going on trips, attending church and spending time with her family. She also volunteered at St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Aide Society and the Senior Center in Tipton, Mo.

A memorial will be established. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.



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# OPINION



## The Mendota Reporter

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

Show some respect

By BRANDON LACHANCE  
Staff writer

We will start with the fact I was not a great, upstanding human being when I was a teenager.

I drank at an early age.

I smoked weed at an early age.

I got in trouble at school.

I fought in school.

I spent time in detention homes.

I never disrespected teachers, principals, referees, umpires, police men/women, fire fighters, or anyone older than me whether I was in the cities or the rural areas I lived in.

If I was doing wrong or bad things, or I was self-destructing, I did it to myself. Obviously, it wasn't right, but I didn't involve anyone, make life tough on anyone else directly, or be rude or ignorant to anyone who was underserving.

What is the deal in 2025?

Every day I see a young person disrespecting others or mistreating them whether it's words, body language or actions.

At a 14U travel league baseball tournament (with teams from Beloit, Brookfield East, Elgin, and Joliet) in Rockford over the weekend, I had to boot two players for how they were acting or what they were saying.

I even did my due diligence as someone who understands the age and maturity level I was dealing with and gave warnings to the players and told the coaches what was going on.

The first eventually ejected player continued to stand outside of the fence during play when I warned twice not to, was in base runner paths consistently even after getting called for obstruction twice (he said they were bad calls and he wasn't), talked on the field and in the dugout (yelled or screamed) while pitchers were in motion or the game was being played.

One of his teammates even told him to "shut up."

The breaking point was when he was walking, yes walking, off of the field after a half inning at shortstop and called two opponents explicits.

I heard half of the word and pointed, "You're gone." As he was walking away, he mumbled under his breath something about me. I didn't hear the exact words.

Unfortunately, half of the battle or problem was the coaches didn't say anything toward him at all. They let him act how he was and didn't see a problem with it when I addressed the issue to them.

The second kid was, as the kids say, crashing out.

He was the starting pitcher and after the second or third inning, he was gassed and threw six or seven straight balls. After he walked in a run, he throws his glove as he is walking off of the mound and starts screaming, "It's unfair." He was talking about the opposition cheering for their teammate before and after his windup and pitch. He felt they weren't quiet when he wanted them to be.

His tantrum continues with throwing his glove at the dugout fence, picking it up and throwing it in the dugout.

The coach looked at me and I just pointed.

The crash out continued as he starts screaming at both me and his coach, not nice words to either of us, runs toward the pavilion and flips over a trash can. He was then escorted out of the sports complex by the tournament director and a policeman.

The coach of the crash out kid was better than the first coach in terms of knowing his kid was in the wrong, but didn't do anything in terms of discipling or calming down his player before police officers did.

None of us are completely controllable, right? I understand that because I definitely wasn't and in way different ways, I am not now.

But what is going on where there is zero respect, and no acknowledgement of direction or assistance adults are trying to give youth. They say and do whatever they want and then act like they did nothing wrong when they're disciplined or told what they are doing.

Instead of adapting, changing, understanding the adult, they're instantly defensive, using bad language, and show they don't care at all what is being said to them.

I gave two sports examples, but I see it everywhere, outside of sports as well.

The other day at a grocery store, a teenager or young 20s female turned the corner and ran into an elderly woman's grocery cart. The girl instantly looked at the older woman and said, 'Why did you just hit me, you need to get out of my way.' I personally thought the woman with the cart was going to have a stroke based on the look of disgust on her face.

There is no reason youth, or adults, need to be so hateful, so misunderstanding, and have zero understanding, patience, acknowledgement, or grace for others.

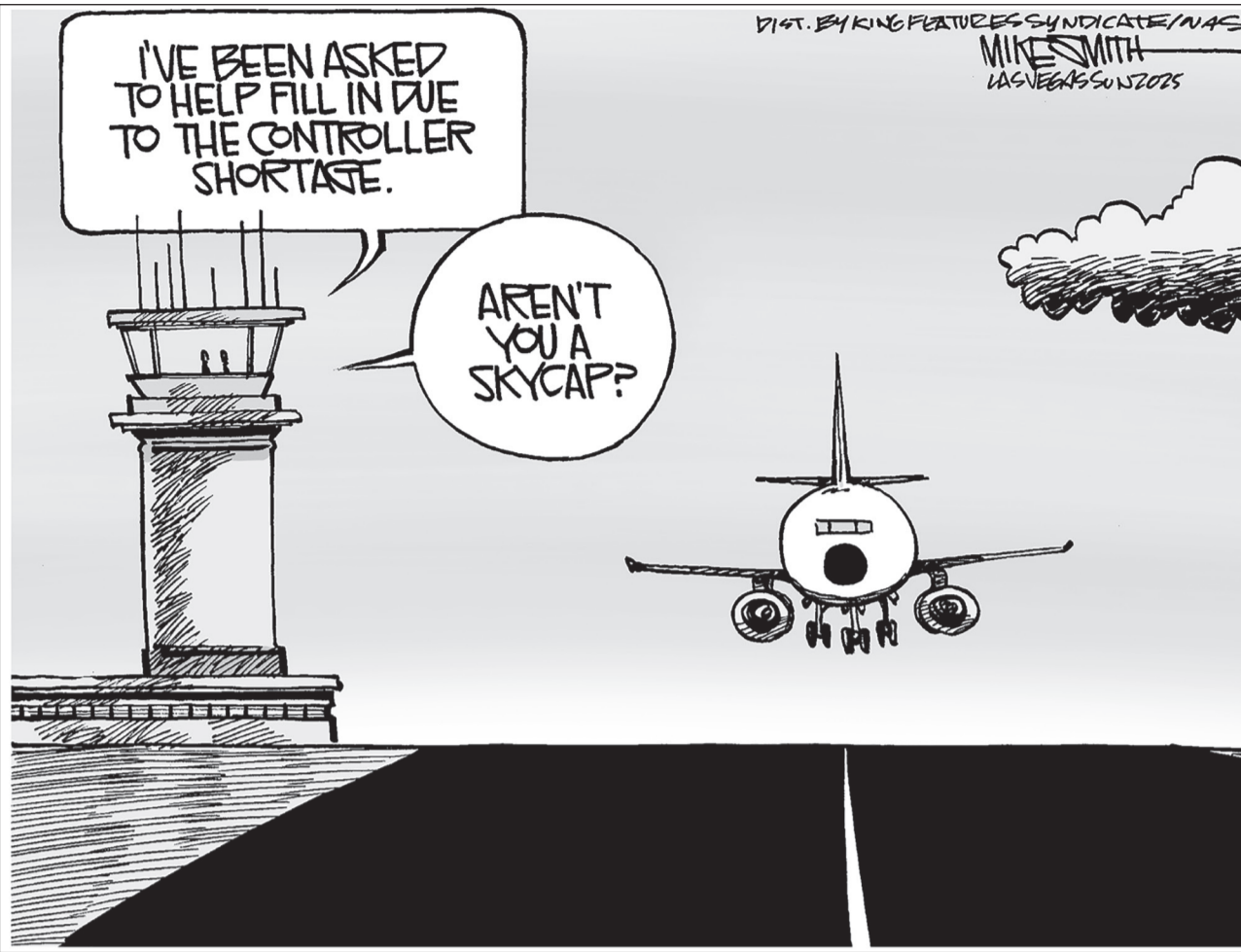
I'm definitely not saying every kid is like the ones I used as examples because there are plenty of others who are more polite and courteous than adults, which is an entirely other column.

We all need to treat each other like we want to be treated and find ways to mingle in a positive progression even in negative situations.

What we have going on right now is awful.

I hope moving forward, youth open their eyes and adults, all adults not just parents, help them in becoming better human beings.

During games, I'll have a thought of not umpiring anymore after a not-so-great game or personalities. Then it comes back around, where I know I'm helping young kids, who some are like me when I was 12-14, and I'm giving back.



# Citizen survey approved - 1993

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from May 21, 2003.)*

**By Jessica Nashold**

It was at their May 10 meeting, 10 years ago, that the high school board approved mailing survey questions to all registered voters in the district. The estimated cost was \$2,300. Superintendent Mike Duffy said the average return on surveys of this type was 20 percent.

\*\*\*

After the fund for an all-weather track at Doenier Field appeared to be stalled at \$48,000, Richard and Carl Zimmerman, of Fasco Mills, issued a challenge. After making a donation of \$10,000, they promised an additional \$10,000 provided some other businesses or individual would match it. Bill Neuman, a former star athlete, contributed \$10,000 in memory of his wife, Helen, who had been a sports enthusiast. Two businesses also made contributions - Motor Wheelr, \$3,000, and Gromann's Service Co., \$1,250.

\*\*\*

At a May meeting of the Graves Public Library Board, Alan Russell of Phalen Steel, architect for the new Graves-Hume Library, presented plans, which had been finalized.

**Work will begin in June.**

The city council passed an ordinance, exchanging property on which the Graves Public Library was standing, for property on which the new Graves-Hume Library would be erected. In connection with this change, a right-of-way was approved for 25 feet on West Main and 40 feet on East Main, adjoining the Graves-Hume site. It was announced Horace Hume would be parade marshal for the Sweet Corn Festival parade on Aug. 15, 1993.

**He will be 95 on that day.**

\*\*\*

MHS alumni band members were recruited to play at the Memorial Day observance at Restland Memorial Gardens. A rehearsal in the high school band room was scheduled for 8:45 a.m. Former band director, Robert Bailey, and current director, Rex Benson, were

**Backtracks & Sidetracks**

in charge.

\*\*\*

Mary Bailey, a longtime resident of Mendota Lutheran Home, was among the first to ride in a newly acquired \$30,000 van, in May 1993. Both wheelchair and ambulatory residents could be accommodated. The fund for purchase of the van had been launched in 1991 by a contribution for the purpose from Harry A. Staybaugh.

\*\*\*

A science project, undertaken when some members of the 1993 graduating class at MHS had been enrolled in Emery Kirby's sixth grade science class, was nearing completion. As sixth graders they had buried items made of various materials - cloth, paper, plastic - to determine at what rate they would break down. They had been buried in Kirby's yard at 407 Division St. Excavation was scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, May 22.

**Can anyone present that day report the outcome?**

\*\*\*

Members of the Mendota Golf Club Auxiliary volunteered to plant flowers at every hole in the course. They would also maintain them.

\*\*\*

Mayor James Strouss appointed Larry Barker to replace Frank Kobilsek as alderman of the Third Ward. Kobilsek was no longer a resident of the Third Ward. Barker had worked with the mayor on several projects and would serve the two years remaining on Kobilsek's unexpired term.

**The alderman confirmed the appointment.**

\*\*\*

Residents of Southview Manor would benefit from advice by Master Gardeners as they planned to raise vegetables. The land was made avail-

able by the LaSalle County Housing Authority. Supplied would be furnished by the County Extension Service of the University of Illinois.

**Extension also provided 40 hours of instruction, leading to Master Gardeners certification.**

\*\*\*

Scott Mosier, 14, was pictured in the May 19, 1993, issue of The Mendota Reporter as he was demonstrating how to save and retrieve data on a computer. Although the son of Leon Mosier, a teacher at MHS, Scott's computer skills were self-taught. From an early age, he had immersed in computer and math manuals.

**He preferred them to watching TV.**

\*\*\*

In mid-May 1993, a major change occurred on Sixth Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets. Houses were either removed or demolished, to make room for expansion at Mendota Lutheran Home.

\*\*\*

Although there were a few 1992 tax increases, payable in 1993, the total for city, schools, township, county and library was \$7,932, down from \$8,040 in 1991. Also, the multiplier was only 1.000.

**Good news for taxpayers.**

\*\*\*

The Church of the Nazarene marked the 50th anniversary of its establishment in Mendota, on May 23, 1991. Out-of-town guests would include some of the former pastors. Kurt Ayers, current pastor, said everyone was welcome to attend a 2 o'clock program and time of reminiscence, the church.

**Location - 1209 Sixth St.**

\*\*\*

Among fundraiser undertaken by the Odyssey of the Mind team, which had qualified to compete in World Finals, was a car wash at Blackstone School. Kiwanis was also donating proceeds from popcorn sales during Mendota's annual Sidewalk Sale.

**World Finals are in Maryland in June.**

# The on-again, off-again trade war

By Rich Lowry

Never mind.

President Trump's 145% tariffs on China ran smack into Stein's law, the late economist Herb Stein's famous axiom that "if something cannot go on forever, it will stop."

What was effectively an instant embargo on the biggest importer into the United States wasn't sustainable, and sure enough, it's not going to be sustained. The U.S. and China have mutually agreed to back off a tit-for-tat trade war that quickly spiraled into territory that meant wanton economic destruction for both sides.

The U.S.-China trade relationship wasn't built in a day, and it couldn't plausibly be ended over a few days via presidential Truth Social posts, either.

During a 90-day pause, the U.S. is taking its tariffs down from 145% to 30%, while China is dropping from 125% to 10%. If it always seemed likely that there'd be a fig-leaf deal with China, there isn't even a fig leaf here -- just a promise to keep talking and perhaps fashion one later.

The problem with tariffs is that they are a way of harming a foreign trade partner via imposing pain on your own businesses and consumers. The 145% tariff was hitting Beijing hard but also was due to impose severe costs on U.S. concerns dependent on Chinese manufacturing.

Small businesses were looking at potential extinction and retailers warning of empty store shelves. When the president of the United States is musing about little girls having to do with fewer dolls, it's not a reassuring signal about the direction of U.S. economic policy.

We've imposed embargoes on foreign countries before -- for instance, the so-called ABCD encirclement that cut Japan off from raw materials during the early stages of World War II. But we were about to go to war with Imperial Japan, whereas one hopes we won't be engaged in active hostilities with China any time soon.

While markets are relieved that the 145% tariffs are off

for now, we aren't in a great place. A 30% tariff on China, plus the other tariffs that are in play around the globe, mean we still have lurched into the highest U.S. tariff regime since the 1930s.

Earlier this year, there was a surge of imports in anticipation of Trump's tariffs, in the phenomenon known as front-loading. Then, imports were basically shut off as the 145% tariffs took hold. And now there will be more front-loading to avoid what comes next.

An on-again-off-again-on-again approach forces U.S. economic actors to deal with wildly gyrating uncertainty for no good reason. Who knows what will happen in 90 days? The Soviet Union was governed by Five-Year Plans; now, we are governed by 90-Day Pauses.

Trump prides himself on his deal-making, but he hasn't gotten anything from the U.K. or China over the last week that he couldn't have achieved with much less disruption. We could have gotten an outline of a trade deal with the Brits by working with them behind closed doors, and we could have gotten a 30% tariff on China by imposing one at the outset, rather than 145%.

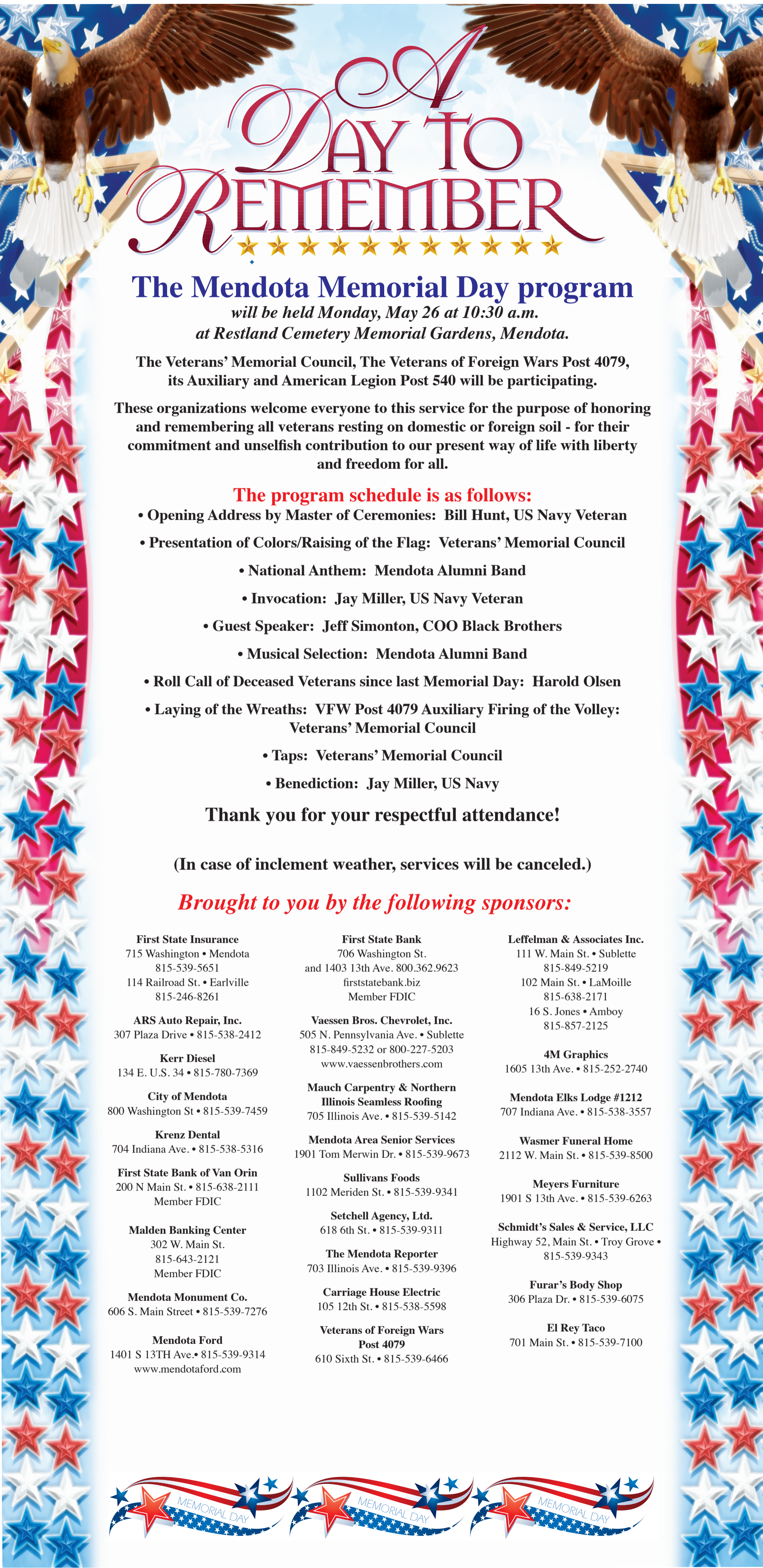
There is no doubt that China is a hostile power and bad economic actor, and we should be putting our relationship on a different basis. The risk is that Trump has, by tariffing everyone, friend or foe, made it harder for us to deepen relationships with our allies and isolate our adversary.

As Robert Atkinson of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation points out, the current tack will also hamper the most strategically important, technologically advanced U.S. firms that are all globally integrated. The Trump tariffs will increase their costs by making imported inputs more expensive, while limiting their foreign markets by inviting foreign retaliation for Trump's tariffs.

This is not a winning formula, and if China gets an upper hand as a result, there will be no easy do-over.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# A DAY TO REMEMBER

## The Mendota Memorial Day program

*will be held Monday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m.  
at Restland Cemetery Memorial Gardens, Mendota.*

**The Veterans' Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary and American Legion Post 540 will be participating.**

**These organizations welcome everyone to this service for the purpose of honoring and remembering all veterans resting on domestic or foreign soil - for their commitment and unselfish contribution to our present way of life with liberty and freedom for all.**

### **The program schedule is as follows:**

- **Opening Address by Master of Ceremonies: Bill Hunt, US Navy Veteran**
- **Presentation of Colors/Raising of the Flag: Veterans' Memorial Council**
  - **National Anthem: Mendota Alumni Band**
  - **Invocation: Jay Miller, US Navy Veteran**
- **Guest Speaker: Jeff Simonton, COO Black Brothers**
- **Musical Selection: Mendota Alumni Band**
- **Roll Call of Deceased Veterans since last Memorial Day: Harold Olsen**
- **Laying of the Wreaths: VFW Post 4079 Auxiliary Firing of the Volley: Veterans' Memorial Council**
  - **Taps: Veterans' Memorial Council**
  - **Benediction: Jay Miller, US Navy**

**Thank you for your respectful attendance!**

**(In case of inclement weather, services will be canceled.)**

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Scholarship & award recipients named at Mendota High School

MENDOTA – Mendota High School graduating seniors for the Class of 2025 are the recipients of scholarships and special awards. They include:

927 Scholarship – Natalie Hanaman, Gabi Membrano, Payton Stavropoulos; Arion Award – Shelby Bentley, Sophia Pappas, Jillian Younger; Ben Bokus Memorial Scholarship – Braiden Freeman; Bohn-Nielsen Scholarship – Dessa Komitas; Booster Club Award – Lily Bokus, Kirby Bond, Ava Eddy, Cameron Kelly; BPW Scholarship – Noemi Arteaga, Avy Eddy, Dessa Komitas, Ella Martin, Jillian Younger; DAR Recipient – Anthony Kelson;

DLA Architect Scholarship – Dessa Komitas, Quin Holland, Katelyn Cook; Don Stephenitch Award – Jose Hernandez; Don Whitmore Award – Crystal Garcia; English Award – Jillian Younger; FCS/Scholar Award – Cameron Kordick, Maybrianna Schultz; FCS/

Citizenship Award – Lisette Sandoval Rios; Financial Plus Credit Union Scholarship – Katelyn Cook, Anthony Kelson; Gerald Wood Award – Ava Eddy; Greg Frey Memorial Award – Braiden Freeman;

Hispanic Business Owners' Association Scholarships – Ace of Decks: Cameron Escatel, Jose Hernandez; El Zarape: Samantha Ascensio; Correa Heating & Cooling: Sofia Duarte Salinas; Thermal Solutions Heating & Cooling, LLC: Cassandra Gonzalez; Salinas Mexican Food: Lidia Hernandez; Juan's Auto Body: Jasmin Escatel; JLM Automotive: Horacio Huizar; JLN Soto Trucking: Crystal Garcia; O&R Truck & Trailer Repair: Ashley Caracheo; Sahuayo Auto Repair: Isabela Rosales; Ultimate Data, Inc.: Brisa Nunez; FPCU Mendota Branch: Fernando Arteaga; Pita Rey Estates, LLC: Noemi Arteaga;

Karen Fischer Scholar-

ship – Anthony Kelson; Illinois State Scholars – Shelby Bentley, Lily Bokus, Quin Holland, Anthony Kelson, Samuel Matura, Korinne Miars, Kaley Siemer; Illinois Valley Hispanic Partnership Council Scholarship – Crystal Garcia; Kilmartin 3 Sport/4 Year Awards – Ella Coss, Ava Eddy, Braiden Freeman, Dessa Komitas, Evan McPheeters, Rhett Watson; Kunz Engineering Scholarship – Kaley Siemer; Lions Club Fine Arts Scholarship – Korinne Miars;

Illinois State Seal of Bilit-  
eracy – Samantha Ascensio, Ella Coss, Ava Eddy, Rosa Gonzalez, Brisa Nunez; Dr. Musick Scholarship – Samuel Matura; Jim O'Neil Award – Marco Balcazar; Math Award – Anthony Kelson; MEA Scholarship – Katelyn Cook; Mendota Quarterback Club/George "Ted" Lewis Award – Braiden Freeman; Mendota Quarterback Club/Ray Jauch Award – Rhett Watson; MGCWA Scholar-



ship – Ella Coss; PEOScholar – Lily Bokus; Robert Cooper Award – Korinne Miars; Rotary Club Scholarship – Ella Martin, Anthony Kelson; SAR Recipient – Makenzie Bean; Science Award – Samuel Matura; Selbrede Physics Award – Wyatt Sondgeroth; Senior Technology Support Team – Aiden Fischer; Sousa Award – Ben Bresley;

Spanish Heritage Award – Lidia Hernandez; Spanish Non-Heritage Award – Samuel Matura; Student Council Scholarship – Ella Martin; Tacos Guzman Scholarship – Crystal Garcia, Korinne Miars;

TRAC All-Academic Team – Noemi Arteaga, Makenzie Bean, Lily Bokus, Kirby Bond, Ben Bresley, Jaxon Cooper, Ella Coss,

Ava Eddy, Cameron Escatel, Braiden Freeman, Crystal Garcia, Cassandra Gonzalez, Claire Hanson, Lidia Hernandez, Lauren Holland, Cameron Kelly, Anthony Kelson, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Ella Martin, Samuel Matura, Korinne Miars, Travis Mumm, Lisette Sandoval Rios, Kaley Siemer, Josh Sondgeroth, Madison Sproston, Lea Turner

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

### 1. WHAT TO SELL

Anything that still has usability and some value.

### 2. HOW TO PRICE

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

### 3. LENGTH OF SALE

Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.

### 4. HOW TO SET IT UP

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

### 5. HOW TO ADVERTISE

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

## GARAGE SALE DEADLINES\*

**MONDAY, 10 AM -**

**To appear in Wednesday's Reporter**

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



**Call 815-539-9396 or  
stop in the office at  
703 Illinois Ave.**

# SOCIAL NEWS

## Blood drive held May 13

MENDOTA – The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Tuesday, May 13 at the Mendota Moose Family Center. There were 73 good units collected. There were 47 whole blood donations and 26 power red donations.

Multi-gallon donors were William Fancher and Lynn Phalen-one gallon, Trisha Askin-two gallons, Steven DeLong and Karen Stremmlau-15 gallons, Patrick Reeder-19 gallons, Joseph Hochstatter and Linda Beattie-23 gallons. Congratulations on these milestones. There was also one first-time donor, Khalid El Bacha.

Volunteers for the day were Paddy Schwemlein, Sandy Schroeder, Kathi Stamberger, Margy Frey, Dawn Mathesius, Lori Schlesinger and Lori Simonton. Black Brothers Co. sponsored the egg salad sandwiches, BBQ, and chips for the drive. Desserts were provided by Marlene Simonton, Paddy Schwemlein, Margy Frey, Kathi Stamberger, Aimee Holland and Lori Simonton.

The next bloodmobile will be held on Tuesday, July 8 at the Mendota Moose. If you would like to make an appointment or have questions, please call Lori at 815-866-3582.

## Fort du Rocher DAR Chapter installs new officers

MENDOTA – The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met April 12 at the Hume-Carnegie Library. Regent Donna Jungnickel presided over the meeting. Sandra Davis was a guest.

Jungnickel announced the chapter had received the 2024 "Website Review" badge. To earn this, the site must follow the NSDAR policies to inform the public about the DAR mission of historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

She also announced the Rochelle chapter was celebrating its 125th anniversary. The Illinois District II Mini Tour will be June 12, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the River Heights Golf Club. The State Conference will be May 29-June 1 in Bloomington. President General, Pamela Rouse Wright will be in attendance.

In the President General's report, Ms. Wright noted some of the achievements of her administration: DAR members had given over 20,000,000 Service to America volunteer hours and \$1 million of donations had been given to the Military Women's Memorial.

In the American Spirit minute, Alice Giberson read about Nicole Malachowski who was the first female pilot for the Thunderbirds and Admiral Lisa Franchetti the first female commander of the Navy.



**Fort du Rocher officers were installed for 2025-2027. Front row, left to right, are Alice Giberson, Chaplain and Margaret Carr, Recording Secretary. Back row, Diane McCully, Historian; Ruth Meinhardt, Registrar; Donna Jungnickel, Past Regent; Beverly Richardson, Regent; Lonnie Schafer, First Vice Regent; and Sharon Presse, Corresponding Secretary. Not pictured: Amanda Simpson, Second Vice Regent; Audra Goy, Treasurer; Betty Bauman, Librarian. (Photo contributed)**

During the Native American minute, members learned that American Indians volunteered to serve during World War I even though they were not considered citizens of the country. The Cherokee Phoenix was the first bilingual newspaper. The Illinois Potawatomi is the only federally recognized tribe in Illinois.

The flag minute described the Continental Army's first flag. It had 13 alternation red and white

stripes. The Union Jack was in the upper corner.

The patriot minute told about the Rhode Island plan that promised Blacks pay for service and if they were slaves, freedom. Slave, Sigby Talbut, was part of the Black regiment, which served five consecutive years. Unfortunately, at the end of the War, no funds were available to pay the troops.

Bev Richardson gave members tips in a Financial Literacy Challenge. As an example: Place \$20 in an

envelope weekly from July 1 to Thanksgiving and you could have saved \$420 for Christmas shopping.

National Defender reported that Earnest Hemingway (18) joined the Red Cross in 1917, prior to the US declaring World War

I. He was an ambulance driver on the Italian Front handing out chocolate to the soldiers. He was hit by a shell. Two of the four in the dugout were killed. When he regained consciousness, he carried the fourth man to the first aid dugout. For this he received the Italian Medal of Honor "Croce de Guerra." His experiences in the war influenced his future books.

The meeting closed with the installation of new officers for 2025-2027.

The next regular meeting will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at the First United Methodist Church, Mendota. Discussion topics will include the chapter's booth at the Sweet Corn Festival and Lunch in the Park, Sept. 26.

The Fort du Rocher web page may be viewed at <http://www.fortdurocher-chaptersndar.com>. Any woman over 18 years of age whose lineage traces back to a Revolutionary War patriot, who wishes to learn more about Daughters of the American Revolution is invited to attend the next meeting or go online to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)

## DINING & entertainment guide

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<b>SAT JUN 21</b> BUCKING BULLS MARS MARS MARS	<b>SUN JUL 3</b> NATIONALS MARS MARS MARS
<b>SAT AUG 23</b> BILL WATERS Memorial MARS MARS MARS	<b>SAT SEP 13</b> MONSTER TRUCK BASH MARS MARS MARS
<b>SAT OCT 18</b> LASALLE SHOWDOWN MARS MARS MARS	

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE - CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS AT:  
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# THE BACK PAGE

## MEMORIAL DAY



### Area Memorial Day Services

**MENDOTA**  
MENDOTA – The 2025 Mendota Memorial Day Program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 26, at Restland Cemetery Memorial Gardens, Mendota. The Veterans' Memorial Council, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4079, its Auxiliary and American Legion Post 540 will be participating.

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- Musical Selection: Mendota Alumni Band
- Roll Call of Deceased Veterans since last Memorial Day: Harold Olsen
- Laying of the Wreaths: VFW Post 4079 Auxiliary
- Firing of the Volley: Veterans' Memorial Council
- Taps: Veterans' Memorial Council
- Benediction: Jay Miller, US Navy

### SUBLETTE

SUBLETTE – The village of Sublette will hold its Memorial Day Service at 11 a.m. Monday, May 26 at the Veterans' Memorial in front of Ellice Dinges Center.

Ken Olson of Mendota will be the speaker. He is a U.S. Navy veteran who served two deployments in Vietnam. He is commander of VFW Post 4079.

The Poths Lavelle American Legion is in charge of the events. Attendees should bring their lawn chairs.

### COMPTON/ WEST BROOKLYN

COMPTON/WEST BROOKLYN – The Compton-West Brooklyn American Legion Post #657 will hold three Memorial Day services on Monday, May 26. The service schedule is as follows:

- 10 a.m. – Melugin's Grove Cemetery, Compton. Flag-burning ceremony. Attendees are encouraged to bring their worn/torn flags for proper disposal.
- 11 a.m. – West Brooklyn Cemetery.
- 11:45 a.m. – Four Mile Grove Cemetery north of Meriden. Rifle squad salute.

## GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

**MULTI-VENDOR YARD SALE**  
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Sunday, May 25  
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### GARAGE SALE/ NOTICE DEADLINE

- Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

**ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE HERE**

## City Ordinance

### Grass clippings, etc. in streets

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

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

## POLICE BLOTTER

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT- MISUSE OF 9-1-1

Sharrod A. Hill, 27, of Chicago, was charged with disorderly conduct-misuse of 9-1-1, after police officers responded to the 700 block of Main Street for a 9-1-1 call at 9:48 p.m. May 14. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Dylan B. Quest, 31, of 418 W. Martin St., LaMoille, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Washington Street at 10:38 a.m. May 15. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DRIVING WHILE

### LICENSE REVOKED

Sara Lee M. Beckendorf, 35, of 1004 Washington St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after police officers responded to a call for service in the 1000 block of Jefferson Street at 10:17 p.m. May 16. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

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## LAMOILLE BUFFALO DAYS

June 13-15, 2025

### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

5:00-7:00 Paint the Town (\$5)  
Gurney street (behind bank)  
Foam Party Included / Snacks provided.  
(Rae 910-7711 / Ashley 878-7909)  
5:00 Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)

### FRIDAY, JUNE 13

4:00 Food - Taco Special / Beer Tent Opens  
Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)  
4-8 Blondin's Bounceables (Wristbands \$10)  
5:30 Baby Buff Winners Announced- Allen School  
6:00 Prairie Princess- Allen School (Mara 579-1833)  
5K Stampede-High School (Stacy 878-6962)  
8:30-12 Music By **THE BRAT PACK** - Beer Tent  
11:00 Egg Sandwiches

Parade Registration is in the High School parking lot. Parade Route will go North this year on Main Street, starting at Burnett Street, ending at the Park.

**Come get your buffalo burger!**

### Congratulations

**2025 Grand Marshalls: 2 Time State Champion in 8 man Football. Here's your 2023-24 Amboy / La Moille / Ohio Clippers Football Team**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14

8:00 Tractor Show (Munro 303-1960)  
10:00 Food / Beer Tent Opens  
Parade Registration - HS Parking Lot  
10-4 Vendor Fair (Tammy Mcstoots-Stachowiak 830-8215)  
11:00 Parade-Main Street (Jeremy 343-6848 / Brian 200-2899)  
12:00 Adult Waterfights Registration- Sheldon Street by Park  
Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)  
12-4 Silent Auction  
12-8 Blondin's Bounceables (Wristbands \$20)  
1:00 Adult Waterfights Begins  
Magic Show by John Measner  
1-3 Kids Fun fair  
1-4 Around the Town Entertainment - Caricature Drawing  
2:00 Magic Show by John Measner  
2:30-4:30 Foam Party (included in wristband)  
3:00 Magic Show by John Measner  
3-7 Music By **WISE GUYS** - Beer Tent  
8-12 Music by **WILDCARD** - Beer Tent

### 11:00 Egg Sandwiches

### SUNDAY, JUNE 15

9:00-10:30 Churches of La Moille Service Park Pavilion  
9:30 Biscuits and Gravy (food tent)  
10:30 Sign Up Bags Tournament - Beer Tent  
11:00 Food / Beer Tent Opens  
Bags Tournament begins  
Kiddie Waterfights Registration - Sheldon Street  
Chiller's Shakeups & Ice Cream (\$)  
11:30 Kiddie Waterfights begins  
1-6 Music by **BURN N BUSH** - Beer Tent  
2:00 Live Auction - Beer Tent (Lori 252-2827)  
5:30 50/50 Drawing

Complete listing of events:  
[www.lamoillebuffalodays.org](http://www.lamoillebuffalodays.org)  
Or call 815-878-5858



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# SPORTS



Mendota's Noemi Arteaga (No. 20) hits a header shot off a pass from Crystal Garcia (No. 7) and catches DePue-Hall goalie Kassy Lopez out of position for Arteaga's first of four goals in an 8-0 Lady Trojan rout in the semifinals of the Mendota Regional Soccer Tournament on May 16. (Reporter photo)

## MHS blanks DePue-Hall in regional opener

□ C. Garcia, N. Arteaga tally four goals apiece to lead Lady Trojans into title game

MENDOTA – The Mendota girls' soccer team cleared its first hurdle in the post season after rolling over DePue-Hall, 8-0, in the first round of the Mendota Class 1A Regional Soccer Tournament on May 16 at the MHS stadium.

It was the Crystal Garcia and Noemi Arteaga show for the Lady Trojans as they each scored four goals in the dominating effort.

Garcia got things started when she took a rebound shot off the top of the goalpost and executed a header that found the back of the net with just under six minutes gone in the game.

Less than three minutes later, Arteaga scored a header goal off of a nice assist from Garcia to make it 2-0.

Arteaga scored again at the 29:19 mark and Garcia added Mendota's fourth goal at 25:42.

Utilizing some fancy footwork, Garcia maneuvered around several DePue-Hall defenders and fired a shot into a wide-open goal at 18:23, then with a minute left in the first half, an Arteaga shot landed in the net to make it 6-0 at intermission.

Mendota finished off the scoring with two second-half



Mendota's Kaeyle Brown outraces DePue-Hall's Melany Perez to the ball and boots a shot during regional soccer action on May 16 at the MHS stadium. (Reporter photo)

goals—one by Garcia and one by Arteaga.

In the second semifinal-round game, Princeton edged Oregon, 3-1. The Lady Trojans (14-7-1) were scheduled to meet their con-

ference rivals for the regional championship on Tuesday. A Mendota win in that contest will propel it to the Rock Island Alleman Sectional to meet the winner of the Byron Sectional at 5 p.m. Saturday,

May 24. The other sectional qualifiers will be winners of the Rockford Christian and Indian Creek regionals. The sectional championship is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28 at 6 p.m.

## MHS sending 2 girls to state track meet

□ M. Elam to defend high jump title

STERLING – A goal of a state champion is to be able to defend their state title. Mendota's Mariyah Elam is able to do that after she competed in the Sterling Class 2A Track & Field Sectional Meet on May 14.

The Mendota sophomore won the state championship in the high jump last year and qualified for the state meet again this year. She finished in second place in the sectional with a height of 5-4.5. Katie Kostro of Aurora Rosary, a junior, was able to claim the top spot in the high jump with a measurement of 5-6.5.

Elam will also compete in three other events at state. She finished in first place in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 47.40 and grabbed the blue ribbon in the triple jump with a leap of 35-9.

While the top two finishers in each event earn automatic bids to state, an athlete can also advance out of the sectional by achieving the qualifying standard. Elam did that in the 100-meter hurdles as she finished in third place but had a time of 15.87, which was under the qualifying time of 16.62.

Mendota freshman Rylee Woods will join Elam at the state meet after she took fourth place in the high jump at 5-1, which was right on the state qualifying height.

The only other top 10 finish for the Lady Trojans was by Aby Buettner. The sophomore was eighth in the long jump with a distance of 15-5.5.

“As the season comes to an end for most of our athletes, two athletes have earned a spot at the State Fi-

nals this weekend, Mariyah Elam and Rylee Woods,” said head coach Joe Hughes. “The team had its ups and downs throughout our busy schedule but most athletes were competing at their best levels here at the end of it. Rylee was able to achieve her personal record at the sectional and will be joining the reigning high jump state champion, Mariyah Elam, at state.”

There were 16 teams in the sectional meet and Mendota finished sixth in the standings with 39.5 points. Sterling won the sectional team title with 97.5 points.

Elam and Woods will participate in the IHSA Class 2A State Track & Field Meet May 22-24 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Elam enters the state meet with the second-best high jump mark in the state, behind only Kostro.

**May 14 - Sterling Class 2A Girls' Track Sectional**

**Sterling 97.5, Freeport 74, Sycamore 74, Aurora Central Catholic 60, Sandwich 53, Mendota 39.5, LaSalle-Peru 38, Byron 37, Stillman Valley 37, Rochelle 34, Aurora Rosary 31.5, Galena 31, Illinois Math & Science Academy 28.5, Plano 27, Dixon 24, Pecatonica 16**

**Mendota 1st place:** Mariyah Elam, 300m hurdles, 47.40; Elam, triple jump, 35-9

**Mendota 2nd place:** Elam, high jump, 5-4.5

**Mendota 3rd place:** Elam, 100m hurdles, 15.87

**Mendota 4th place:** Rylee Woods, high jump, 5-0.5

**Mendota 8th place:** Aby Buettner, long jump, 15-5.5

## MHS drops to 1A in boys' golf

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for a special meeting virtually on May 13, where the Board completed the multiplier waiver process for fall and winter sports, allowing the IHSA to release classifications for fall and winter sports for the 2025-26 school year.

The 2025-26 fall and winter sport classification information is available [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

The only change for Mendota High School is in boys' golf, where it went from Class 2A to Class 1A.

The waiver process for spring sports will be completed at the Board meeting on Aug. 25.

## Trojans win regional opener over Stillman V.

MENDOTA – The Mendota Trojans kept their baseball season alive with a 7-2 triumph over Stillman Valley in a play-in game of the Stillman Valley Class 2A Regional on May 19 at the MHS field.

The Trojans scored an unearned run in the bottom of the first inning before Stillman Valley grabbed a 2-1 lead in the top of the second.

Mendota retook the lead for good in the bottom of the third, getting back-to-back RBI singles by Evan McPheeters and Brody Hartt.

The Trojans added four insurance runs in the fourth with Dane Doyle delivering a clutch two-out, two-run bases loaded single to push the lead to five and complete the game's scoring.

McPheeters got the pitching win for Mendota (9-17-1), allowing two runs on three hits over 6 1/3 innings. He struck out nine and walked three. Esten Otero got the final two outs.

Mendota's season will continue when it travels to Stillman Valley to face No. 1-seeded Byron in the semifinal round on Wednesday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m. A Trojan win will vault it into the championship game at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 24 against either Rock Falls or Oregon.

## Mendota softball season ends with regional loss

SOMONAUK – Mendota's softball season came to a close after a 12-2 loss at Somonauk in a play-in game of the Princeton Class 2A Regional on May 19.

The Lady Trojans scored a run in the first a single by Ava Eddy and doubles by Cassie Gonzalez and Addison Perryman, the latter plating the run.

Somonauk responded with a nine-run second inning to take the lead for good.

Eddy singled and later scored on a passed ball in the third for Mendota's only other run of the contest. After three hits in the first, the Lady Trojans' only other safety was a Leah Henkel single in the third.

Somonauk added three runs in the fourth to go up by 10 and won by the 10-run rule.

Eddy was the losing pitcher for Mendota, which ended the season with a 2-19 record.

## S. Carlos claims conference championship in 400m dash

SHERRARD – The Mendota boys' track team went up against 11 other schools in the Three Rivers Conference Meet on May 16 at Sherrard. The Trojans were 10<sup>th</sup> in the team standings with 37 points. Orion was first with 91.5 points.

MHS junior Sebastian Carlos is the conference champion in the 400-meter dash after he arrived at the finish line before the rest of the competition in a time of 50.92.

Anthony Kelson had a solid day in

the track as he took second place in the 800-meter run (2:07.60) and third place in the 1600-meter run (4:52.13).

**May 16 – Three Rivers Conference Meet @ Sherrard**

**Orion 91.5, Kewanee 88, Mercer County 87, Princeton 76, Riverdale 70, Sherrard 68, Erie-Prophetstown 50, Monmouth-Roseville 48, Newman 37.5, Mendota 37, Rockridge 33, Hall 16**

**Mendota 1st place:** Sebastian Carlos, 400m dash, 50.92

**Mendota 2nd place:** Anthony Kelson, 800m run, 2:07.60

**Mendota 3rd place:** Kelson, 1600m run, 4:52.13

**Mendota 4th place:** Komen Denault, pole vault, 10-11.75

**Mendota 6th place:** Gavin Stevenson, 3200m run, 11:14.79; 4x100m relay (Jamal Lesley, Carlos, Jayden Lesley, Ethan Escatel), 46.35

**Mendota 7th place:** Carlos, 200m dash, 23.97

## Sandwich, IVC topple Trojans

Sandwich scored early and late to down Mendota, 10-4, in a non-conference varsity baseball game on May 13 at the MHS field.

Sandwich jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first, but Mendota tied it with single runs in each of the next three innings.

The Indians went up 4-3 in the fifth and the Trojans pulled even again in the bottom of the frame when Collin Coss led off with a single and later scored on a single by Jack Gillespie. That was the final run of the game for Mendota.

Oscar Castaneda, one of four pitchers for the Trojans, took the loss in relief.

Gillespie had two of Mendota's six hits.

The Trojans ended the regular season with a 15-0 loss at Chillicothe IVC on May 16.

Mendota did not get a hit in the game that was called after four innings.



## College baseball signee

Braiden Freeman, a 2025 graduate of Mendota High School, signs a letter of intent to continue his baseball career at East Central College in Union, Mo. Looking on in front are his parents, Steve and Brooke Freeman. In back are MHS head baseball coach Cody Zinke and Karissa Freeman, Braiden's sister. The baseball recruit is expected to be utilized as a two-way player between pitcher and utility. East Central College is a member of the Missouri Community College Athletic Conference and is affiliated with the National Junior College Athletic Association. (Reporter photo)

# SPORTS

## Holy Cross Warriors have three athletes medal at IESA state track meet

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

**EAST PEORIA** — Thomas Makranksy was hopeful this year's Holy Cross track and field team would have more state qualifiers than it had last year in his first year as coach.

His hopes paid off. The Warriors had 11 state qualifiers and four alternates for the IESA State Track and Field Meet May 16-17 at Eastside Center in East Peoria.

"We had three athletes advance to state last year. To have such a big jump means absolutely everything to me and the program," said Makranksy. "We had a lot more kids come out for track this year. Just getting them out was the first thing. Also, the culture, where I connected with the kids a lot more this year than last year."

"We almost doubled the count of total kids who were in the program. We had 11 or 12 kids last year, and this year we had 25. Everybody bought into the program. I made it fun, and they capitalized on it."

Of the Warriors state qualifiers, three of them medaled as eighth

grader Quinn Eddy finished second in boys' Class 1A pole vault with a vault of 10 feet, 7.5 inches, seventh grader Linda MacDonald was seventh in Class 1A girls' discus with 75 feet, 6 inches, and seventh grade boy Leo Engels vaulted 7 feet, 2.5 inches to take eighth in pole vault.

"We were expecting a few more to medal, but there isn't anything to complain about," Makranksy said. "With Quinn, we were looking at the rankings all season. There were about three guys who were at 10 feet in the pole vault, so he was right in the mix to win it."

"Leo, we expected him to medal. He hit the mark we thought he would reach. Linda had a great day. She didn't set her personal record, but she was only an inch under it. The expectations for those three were right on the mark."

Also qualifying for state were eighth grade girls Eva Beetz (400-meter dash and long jump), Reagan Atherton (400 and long jump) and Abby Delao (pole vault), and fifth-grade girl Bridget Cackley performed in

seventh-grade pole vault.

In relays, the boys' eighth grade 400-meter relay team and the 1,600-meter relay team consisted of Eddy, Cal Doyle, Will Aughenbaugh, Joe Cackley, and alternates Liam Jones, and Engels.

The girls' 400-relay featured Beetz, Delao, Atherton, Yulissia Quintana, and alternates Bridget Cackley and Juliana Ortiz, while the 1,600-relay had Atherton, Delao, Quintana, Beetz, and alternates Samantha Escatel and Sofia Lemus.

"We had a fantastic season. I have nothing to complain about," Makranksy said. "From last year to this year, I think I improved so much as a coach. I took a giant step forward. I hope to do the same going into next year."

"I learned so much in the last two years, especially in terms of time management and communication. I was better about organizing my pole vaulters, field events, and sprinters at the same time. Every practice I was the only coach with over 20 athletes, so I did my best to balance everything."



Holy Cross advanced 11 athletes to the IESA State Track and Field Meet May 16-17 at the Eastside Center in East Peoria. Three Warriors medaled as eighth grader Quinn Eddy, right, was second in pole vault, eighth grader Leo Engels, center, was eighth in the pole vault, and seventh grader Linda McDonald was seventh in discus. (Photo contributed)



### Northbrook state track qualifiers

Northbrook Middle School competed in the IESA Class 3A Sectional Track Meet on May 16 at Oregon. Nine Spartan athletes qualified for the IESA State Track Meet to be held May 23-24 at the Eastside Centre in East Peoria. Left to right, are Dane Williams (discus), Aliya Delao (relay), Laurali Thompson (100m relay), Ariana Francis (100m relay, 100m, high jump), Graci Bloomfield (800m), Jeniah Francis (100m relay, 100m, 200m, high jump), Tatj Rucker (relay alternate), Lexie Saylor (relay alternate) and Seriyah Elam (shot put, discus). (Photo contributed)

## MHS softball ends regular season with 3 Three Rivers setbacks

Mendota dropped an 11-1 decision to Erie in a Three Rivers Conference softball contest on May 12 at Erie.

The Lady Trojans took a quick 1-0 lead in the first when Ava Eddy led off with a walk, stole two bases and touched home on an error.

But the lead quickly evaporated when Erie tallied four runs in the bottom of the first on its way to the 10-run rule victory. The Panthers scored in every inning after that.

Mendota had just two hits — singles by Leah Henkel and Cassie Gonzalez.

Henkel took the loss.

\*\*\*

Riverdale had a huge first inning and defeated Mendota, 15-5, in conference action on May 13 at the MHS field.

The Rams sent 15 batters to the plate in the top of the first and nine of them scored.

Eddy led off the bottom of the first with a single and later scored. The Lady Trojans got two more runs in the second on a single by Gonzalez and doubles by Karissa Freeman and Alexis Nave.

Riverdale added a single run in the second and two in the third, while Mendota completed its scoring with a pair of tallies in the bottom of the third. Henkel started the inning with a single and Charlee Dankenbring walked. Karson Doyle doubled to bring home both runs.

The Rams tacked on three more runs in the fifth to go up by 10 as the game ended in the bottom of the inning.

Eddy started in the circle and took the loss.

\*\*\*

The Lady Trojans were topped by league opponent Sherrard, 11-1, in a 10-run rule game on May 15 at Sherrard.

The Tigers grabbed a 5-0 lead in the first and built the margin to 9-0 after four innings.

Mendota scored its lone run in the fifth when Dankenbring walked and later touched home. Sherrard scored twice in the bottom of the fifth to end the game.

The Lady Trojans managed just one hit, a single by Henkel in the first inning.

Henkel, Eddy and Sydney Tolley were in the circle for Mendota.

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# SPORTS

## IHSA collaborates with state lawmakers to expand opportunities for student-athletes

BLOOMINGTON – State Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, State Rep. Janet Yang Rohr, D-Naperville, and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) are announcing their work together to expand opportunities for student-athletes to compete in local and national sporting events, based on their work on the Right to Play Act (House Bill 3037).

“Through this measure, we are helping to connect youth in our communities to further opportunities, such as college scholarships, and allowing them more time to play a sport they enjoy before they graduate,” said Sen. Villivalam. “I am grateful for the continued collaboration between Representative Yang Rohr, IHSA and advocates who are working to address the concerns of many athletes.”

Currently, IHSA by-laws prevent in-season IHSA student-athletes from competing in the same sport for a non-school team or event during the high school season, with exceptions made for competing for that sport’s national team (e.g., Team USA in basketball). House Bill 3037, known as the Right To Play Act and sponsored by Sen. Villivalam and Rep. Yang Rohr, would provide more opportunities for non-school participation for high school students during their IHSA season.

“We recognize that IHSA by-laws require occasional modifications,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “We appreciate Senator Villivalam and Representative Yang Rohr’s focus on serving their constituents. Their willingness to incorporate feedback from IHSA coaches and stakeholders and work within the existing IHSA framework was equally important, as the IHSA has been governed by member schools for over 100 years.”

A proposed IHSA by-law update would address the issues raised by student-athletes by expanding the number and type of special events in which a student-athlete would be able to participate. Each November, administrators from IHSA member schools attend Town Hall meetings to provide feedback on by-law changes submitted by fellow schools. The IHSA’s elected Legislative Commission then votes on each proposal, putting those that receive majority support onto an all-school ballot, where each member school has one vote.

“High school athletes and their families from across the state have raised their voices about the challenges they face,” Rep. Yang Rohr said. “IHSA’s guidelines help prevent overuse injuries and support high school sports, while also giving student-athletes more flexibility. I appreciate Sen. Villivalam and IHSA representatives for their work to create solutions that work for parents, schools and communities.”

The IHSA is a private, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Bloomington, Illinois. The Association was founded in 1900 and has grown to include over 800-member high schools in Illinois.

## Holy Cross girls see bowling at another level

□ Team participates in the IESA State Bowling Tournament against tough competition

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – For most of us, bowling is a game we can play for fun with friends and family.

Others compete on the lanes at a high level as a sport.

The Holy Cross girls’ bowling team saw it firsthand when it competed at the IESA State Tournament on April 11 at Town & Country Lanes in Joliet.

“The girls went into sectional extremely nervous, but they did very well as a team to advance to state. We bowled against 13 teams at sectional and 28 teams at state, on our shift,” said Holy Cross coach Debbie Moench. “The level of competition from the bigger cities and Chicago really opened our girls’ eyes. They realized how much more they could do with bowling.”

“I know seeing girls in junior high bowling games of 260 and 270 was a learning curve. They got to see the difference between small, local meets compared to the state tournament. We held our own. After the first two games, we were still in it, but in the third and fourth games, we fell apart as a team.”

Holy Cross finished 21st with 2,063 points, while Harlem Middle School (Loves Park) won with 7,150.

Catherine Moench led the Warriors at state with a four-game score of 566, Eva Beetz posted a 522, Elesea Denk had a 513, and Yulissia Quintana tallied 426.

The four scoring bowlers are eighth graders, while seventh-grader Olivia Frank was an alternate.

Moench, who has been coaching the Warriors for four years, began bowling when she was 2. The coach was excited with how the team took to her coaching and soaked up everything they could.

“The girls were very open to learning what they needed to learn in terms of proper



The Holy Cross School girls’ bowling team competed in the state tournament in April. Left to right, are Yulissia Quintana, Elesea Denk, Eva Beetz and Catherine Moench. (Photo contributed)

techniques of bowling,” said Moench, who lives in Earlville and is the Mendota Post Office postmaster. “They actually listened to me and moved their hands or feet when they needed to. It was easy to teach them and get them where they needed to be.”

Holy Cross advanced to the state meet by placing fifth at the Sectional Section B with 1,888 points. Denk, who rose her average from 78 to 119 throughout the year, led the Warriors with a 573.

“I’m very proud of what the girls were able to do. They all improved as the season went on,” Moench said. “They were a good team and I hope they continue to bowl because it’s a sport you don’t have to stop playing. Next year, I’m hoping to take the boys to state. I think they’ll be able to pull it out.”

The Holy Cross boys’ bowling season ended at Section B Sectional with a 17th-place finish of 1,511 points.

## Mendota Quarterback Club fundraiser golf outing set for June 13

MENDOTA—The Mendota Quarterback Club will be sponsoring a public fundraising event on Friday, June 13 at the Mendota Golf Club.

Join the club for its 24th annual QB Club Golf Outing. Cost is \$100 per person with steak dinner included. The four-person scramble starts with sign-in and lunch at 11:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 1 p.m. with dinner to follow at 5:30 p.m. If you choose not to golf, the steak dinner is available for \$20 per person.

There will be course games on various holes such as closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc. It is sure to be a fun time for golfers of all skills.

Entry forms are available online at

The Mendota QB Club Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaQbClub or at the Mendota Golf Club. Come join in for a great time and to support your local Mendota Trojans!

Each year, the club donates thousands of dollars to both the Mendota High School and Mendota Youth Football programs.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** What ever happened to actor Shia LaBeouf? I remember hearing bad things about him. Was he canceled? -- *D.E.*

**A:** While Shia LaBeouf’s film career isn’t what it used to be with blockbuster hits like “Transformers,” he’s still getting acting gigs. In 2024, he actually co-starred in a movie starring Adam Driver (“Ferrari”) and directed by Francis Ford Coppola (“The Godfather”) titled “Megalopolis,” but it was no blockbuster, having grossed only \$12.5 million worldwide.

Coppola and LaBeouf also butted heads while filming, with Coppola later saying that “[Shia is] so talented, but he’s had a string of problems. And on set, he does create tremendous conflict. His method was so infuriating and illogical; it had me pulling my hair out.”

LaBeouf was also fired from the film “Don’t Worry Darling,” but despite all the bad press, he does have one upcoming project called “God of the Rodeo.” It’s based on the true story about inmates in the 1960s who

participated in a prison rodeo. \*\*\*

**Q:** When is “Resident Alien” coming back? I know it was renewed, but is there a premiere date? -- *K.S.*

**A:** Mark June 6 on your calendar because this is when your favorite alien played by Alan Tudyk returns for an all-new season! Based on the comics from Dark Horse, the series was originally going to move to the USA Network, but SyFy decided to renew it as well. “Resident Alien” was originally facing cancellation on the network due to budget concerns, but I’m guessing that the show increased in popularity after season three recently aired on Netflix.

According to Deadline, the USA/SyFy simulcast model was previously used for the series “Chuck.” “Resident Alien” is the only scripted series on USA at the moment, whereas it’s one of four scripted shows on SyFy. All the core cast members from the prior seasons are returning to “Resident Alien,” along with two new additions: Jewel Staite (“Firefly”) and Stephen Root (“Barry”). \*\*\*

**Q:** Is there going to be

another season of “ Fargo”? I always look forward to hearing which time period the new season will take place in and who will star in it. -- *A.D.*

**A:** Inspired by the Coen Brothers’ film of the same name, Noah Hawley created the anthology series “ Fargo,” which has won a total of seven Emmys over five seasons. The most recent season with Jon Hamm and Juno Temple ended in January 2024, but there doesn’t appear to be another one on the horizon.

Hawley has a new upcoming series on the same network, FX, that is also based on a film. “ Alien: Earth” will serve as a prequel to the 1979 sci-fi film “ Alien” and will star Timothy Olyphant (“ Justified”), Sydney Chandler (“ Don’t Worry Darling”), and David Rysdahl (season nine of “ Fargo”).

Hawley also has a feature film in the works called “ No-where Fast,” which sounds more like “ Fargo.” He wrote the original screenplay and will also direct Chris Pine in the film. It’s about a small-town criminal in Texas who inadvertently kills his boss’ nephew.

## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** -- “ Top Gun: Maverick” director Joseph Kosinski is planning to remake “ Miami Vice,” the hit series that ran from 1984-1990 and starred Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas. This is despite Michael Mann’s film version bombing in 2006, which starred Jamie Foxx and Colin Farrell. It cost \$150 million but only grossed \$164.2 million.

I met Johnson in 1969 when he starred with Sal Mineo in a Hollywood theater production of “ Fortune and Men’s Eyes.” I remember we did several photo sessions together, and he told me about his aspirations for his future. Forty-four films later and the series “ Nash Bridges” (with Cheech Marin), he’s starring in ABC’s “ Doctor Odyssey,” which appears to be a hit.

Johnson has been married to Melanie Griffith and dated Nicolette Sheridan, Patti D’Arbanville, Barbra Streisand, Uma Thurman and Penelope Ann Miller. He got back together with Griffith (producing actress Dakota Johnson), and hisvarious

relationships gave him five children in total. What a tell all book that’ll make! \*\*\*

Brad Pitt jumped from “ F1,” which opens on June 27, into “ La La Land” director Damien Chazelle’s “ Heart of the Beast.” He’ll star opposite Oscar winner J.K. Simmons and play a former Navy SEAL who is trying to adjust to civilization after surviving the Alaskan wilderness.

Next, Pitt will head to Europe for “ The Riders” (directed by “ Conclave’s” Edward Berger), in which he searches Europe for his missing wife. Then he’ll follow “ The Riders” with Netflix’s “ The Continuing Adventures of Cliff Booth,” which was written by Quentin Tarantino.

Pitt’s publicly discussed struggling with what he believes is prosopagnosia (aka “ face blindness”) -- a neurological disorder that makes it difficult to recognize faces, including people you know. They know him, but he may not know them from Adam! \*\*\*

In 1978, I saw a little stoner

film called “ Up in Smoke” about two potheads and their marijuana adventures. The stoners were Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong, aka Cheech and Chong. They wanted to make a movie so badly that they were railroaded by Paramount Pictures into a terrible deal for six low-budget films they had to write, produce, direct and star in.

In their current documentary “ Cheech & Chong’s Last Movie,” they revealed that the film cost \$2 million to make and grossed \$104 million. But they were only paid a pair of lime-green shoes and \$100, which eventually turned into \$25,000 for each of them on the back end. Talk about the short end of the lollipop!

“ Up in Smoke” was followed by “ Cheech and Chong’s Next Movie” (1980), “ Nice Dreams” (1981), “ Things Are Tough All Over” (1982), “ Still Smokin” (1983), and “ Cheech & Chong’s The Corsican Brothers” (1984). They were so naive that you might say their profits went -- what else? -- “ Up in Smoke!”

## • Trivia Test •

1. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the acronym URL stand for?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the ghost that haunts the girls’ bathroom at Hogwarts (“ Harry Potter” series)?
3. HISTORY: Which decisive battle ended the Revolutionary War?
4. LITERATURE: What is the pseudonym of the author Eric Arthur Blair?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which of the national parks is the most visited in the United States?
6. TELEVISION: Which medical series is based at Princeton Plainsboro Teaching Hospital?
7. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Denmark?
8. U.S. STATES: In which state is Glacier National Park located?
9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first vice president to die in office?
10. SCIENCE: What are elements like neon, helium and radon called?

Answers

1. Uniform resource locator.
2. Moaning Myrtle.
3. The Battle of Yorktown.
4. George Orwell.
5. Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
6. “ House, M.D.”
7. Copenhagen.
8. Montana.
9. George Clinton.
10. Noble gases.

## King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Eve’s man
- 5 Agt.’s take
- 8 Summit
- 12 C&W artist McEntire
- 13 Geological period
- 14 Linguist Chomsky
- 15 Magnificence
- 17 Leslie Caron role
- 18 Next in line
- 19 Business goal
- 21 Poetic contraction
- 22 Feudal laborer
- 23 Rx writers
- 26 Actor McKellen

- 28 Cardio-boxing routine
- 31 Nest egg choices
- 33 Vat
- 35 Foolproof
- 36 Picture puzzle
- 38 Diner order
- 40 "Awesome, dude!"
- 41 Muscat’s land
- 43 Summer mo.
- 45 Spud
- 47 Scan again
- 51 Help a hood
- 52 French title
- 54 Go sightseeing

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45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 55 " — you sleeping?"
- 56 Mrs. Nick Charles
- 57 Antitoxins
- 58 Susan of "L.A. Law"
- 59 "Shoo!"

DOWN

- 1 Golden Fleece ship
- 2 "Wild" actress Laura
- 3 "That's not — idea"
- 4 "Olympia" painter Edouard

- 5 Views slyly
- 6 French vineyard
- 7 Infield covers
- 8 Long-haired cats
- 9 Hairdresser
- 10 Creche trio
- 11 Send forth
- 16 Roman 602
- 20 Pensioned (Abbr.)
- 23 Soviet space station
- 24 Dad on "Black-ish"
- 25 1942 Hitchcock thriller

- 27 Gist
- 29 Bikini half
- 30 British ref. work
- 32 Java neighbor
- 34 Total non-sense
- 37 Perched
- 39 Calendar abbr.
- 42 Wanderer
- 44 Big smiles
- 45 Bits of butter
- 46 Reed instrument
- 48 Fair-hiring org.
- 49 Mystique
- 50 "Phooey!"
- 53 Mine material

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## Couch Theater

“ Disney’s Snow White” (PG) -- This live-action adaptation of the 1937 classic “ Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” might finally be the catalyst to get Disney to stop making reboots. Rachel Zegler, who nailed her last role as Lucy Gray Baird in “ The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes,” leads the film as the soft-spoken, kind-hearted princess, opposite Gal Gadot’s Evil Queen. Disney Studios poured about \$270 million into its budget, only for the film to become “ memefied” during its release due to critiques of Gadot’s acting and the film’s spoor CGI. Time to go back to the drawing board, Disney! Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

“ A Minecraft Movie” (PG) -- Unlike the previous film, this adaptation of the video game Minecraft was an incredible box-office success, earning close to \$1 billion and becoming the second highest-grossing film of the year so far. Jack Black, who’s a veteran of game adaptations (“ The Super Mario Bros. Movie”), leads the film alongside Jason Momoa (“ Fast X”). The film follows four characters who get pulled into the Minecraft world through a portal and must find their way back to the real world with the assistance of expert crafter Steve (Black). Danielle Brooks (“ The Color Purple”) and Emma Meyers (“ Wednesday”) co-star in “ A Minecraft Movie,” out now to rent. (YouTube)

“ Drop” (PG-13) -- This new thriller film out now to

rent hails from Christopher Landon, director of a few notable horror films such as “ Happy Death Day” and “ Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones.” He signed on Meghann Fahy (“ The White Lotus”) to play the lead character, therapist Violet Gates. After the death of her abusive husband Blake, Violet is back on the dating scene, hoping to move on from the trauma of her past. She shows up for a fancy restaurant date with photographer Henry Campbell (Brandon Sklenar), but as she waits for him to arrive, she starts receiving threatening messages in the form of “ digital drops” from an unknown person. Even after Henry arrives and the date commences, the threats only escalate, putting her young son Toby in terrible danger. (Apple TV+)

“ Sirens” (TV-MA) -- Meghann Fahy has had quite the busy spring! In addition to leading the previous film, she’s starring in this Margot-Robbie-produced TV series, alongside two other powerhouse actresses -- Julianne Moore (“ Mary & George”) and Milly Alcock (“ House of the Dragon”). Fahy plays Devon, an edgy young woman who pays a visit to her sister, Simone (Alcock), at the beach estate where Simone works. But upon arriving, Devon realizes that Simone’s boss, Michaela (Moore), has an intriguingly odd influence over Simone that has left her acting entirely different from the sister Devon once knew. This five-episode limited series premieres May 22. (Netflix)

## FLASHBACK

1. Name the recording artist born David Goldstein. Hint: He also writes musicals and has penned songs for the Drifters, Dolly Parton and several others.
2. Which Creedence Clearwater Revival song was used in the film “ The Big Chill”?
3. “ With a Little Help From My Friends” was released on which Beatles album?
4. Who wrote and released “ It Might as Well Rain Until September”?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “ Each day I live, I want to be a day to give the best of me.”

Answers

1. Rupert Holmes, of “ Pina Colada” fame.
2. “ Bad Moon Rising,” in 1983. Other songs featured on the sound track included “ I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” “ Joy to the World” and “ The Tracks of My Tears.”
3. “ Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” in 1967. It ranked No. 311 on the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time list. Joe Cocker released a cover a year later.
4. Carole King, in 1962.
5. “ One Moment in Time,” by Whitney Houston, in 1988.

## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* Benjamin Franklin never actually lobbied for the turkey to become the national bird, but he did write that the bald eagle was a fowl of “ bad moral character” and that the turkey was “ a much more respectable bird.”

\* The world’s largest chocolate bar weighed 12,000 pounds.

\* While digging up stones to build a house in 1885, Australian miner George Harrison found gold ore near Johannesburg, beginning the South African gold rush.

\* In terms of galactic years, the sun is around 20.5 years old.

\* Victorian floriography, the practice of assigning codes to flowers to send messages via bouquets and arrangements, associated basil with hatred! The curious link came from the ancient Greeks, who felt basil leaves resembled the opening jaws of a basilisk.

\* In the 1800s, ducks were called “ arsefeet,” as their feet are so close to their posteriors.

\* Painting designs and pictures on fingernails isn’t just a modern trend. It was a familiar practice with the Incas, many of whom sported eagle motifs on their nails.

\* One percent of people are born with a 13th rib.

\* To preserve the quality of the U.S. Constitution, on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., its protective cases contain argon gas and are kept at 67 Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40%.

\* In the U.K., fish and chips were traditionally wrapped in old newspapers, giving the meal a unique newspaper ink flavor. The practice eventually ended for health reasons.

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Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

**Do you know which of the national parks is most visited in the United States? Find out the answer in Trivia Test!**

## Weekly SUDOKU

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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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# 9 Reasons to Shop Local

1

## Shopping Local Creates Jobs:

The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.

2

## Local independent businesses invest more in our community:

They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.

3

## Local businesses sell a wide range of great products

at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.

4

## Shopping Local saves you money and time!

Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.

5

## Shopping Local retains our community:

Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.

6

## Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:

Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.

7

## Shopping Local encourages community growth.

By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Mendota's diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.

8

## Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy.

Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Mendota. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through sales tax. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.

9

## Local shops value you more:

Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.

RELIGION

Is God angry?

I grew up in an angry, unstable home. My father was very angry most of the time, and I didn't always understand what he was angry about. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, I took this experience with my father into my relationship with God. I believed God loved me and forgave me of my sin, but I still had this vague feeling that He wasn't pleased with me and He was just a little bit angry with me most of the time. I lived this way for years until I finally realized the truth: God is not mad at me!

I believe many people

feel like God is mad at them. One day I put a post on Facebook that said, "God is not mad at you." Within a few hours, we literally had thousands of positive responses from people saying things like, "That is exactly what I needed to hear today." Obviously, this is a message we need to hear.

So where does this concept of God come from? Maybe it's because of an angry parent who was difficult to please. Or maybe it's due to the pain of rejection from parents or friends who didn't know how to give unconditional love. Or it could be the

influence of a church or individual who has pressured you to follow rules and regulations in order to make you acceptable to God.

We want to be good and please God, and we may be able to follow the rules for a while, but when we mess up, we feel guilty and condemned again. Because we can't be good enough and do everything right in our own effort and strength. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NIV). Notice this says "while we were still sinners."

Galatians 3:10 (NIV) says, "For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.'" What are you relying on to make you right with God? Are you depending on rules and regulations that you follow or try to keep?

Now I realize you can't live a healthy, productive life without having some guidelines, but this scripture is saying that we will have serious problems if we think our worth and value as human beings are based on following rules and regulations. We are only made right with God through the blood of Jesus. And life is marvelous when you know the true character of God and who you are in Christ!



That's when you feel good about yourself deep down in your heart, not because you do everything right, but because you know you are special to God and He loves you—unconditionally, constantly, completely.

I do want to be clear about something here: Although God loves us unconditionally, He does get angry at sin, wickedness, and evil. But He is not an angry God. God hates sin, but He loves sinners! He will never approve of sin in your life, but He always loves you and wants to work with you to make progress in living a holy life in Christ.

Psalms 103:8 (NIV) says, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." God is compassionate—that's His character. He's gracious—that means He's good. And God is slow to anger.

People who don't know the true character of God—who don't believe He is compassionate, gracious, and slow to anger—can never have a close, personal, intimate

relationship with Him. It grieves me to think there are so many who live in the darkness of constantly feeling guilty and condemned when God is longing to have relationship with them.

The truth is God created us to have relationship with us. He wants to love us and take care of us, and He wants us to love Him. That's where our walk with Christ has to start.

We need to be obedient to God and do the good works He has for us to do, but first we need to understand and believe He loves us. Then we can have a relationship with Him and live by faith in Him with the power of the Holy Spirit in us, giving us the ability to live the way God is calling us to live.

I'm so grateful God opened my eyes to the truth! He has taught me to believe by faith that He is pleased with me, not because I do everything right, but because I believe in Him and trust Him. And this is just as true for you as it is for me.

If you struggle with feeling that God is disappointed in you or angry because you don't do

everything right, I want to encourage you to take hold of this truth today and believe it: God is not mad at you!

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource God Is Not Mad at You. 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 150 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on April 28, 2025 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 KJ&D-Lux located at 1408 Meriden Street Mendota, IL. 61342.  
Dated: April 28, 2025.  
Luguer Desirena, Jesus Enrique Romero Ramirez & Jesus Antonio Martinez Guzman Applicants.  
No. 0501  
(May 7, 14 and 21, 2025)

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 7, 2025 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 Rosales Landscaping (Lawn Service & Landscaping) located at 1102 Jefferson Street Mendota, IL. 61342.  
Dated: May 6, 2025.  
Francisco Reyes Rosales Applicant.

forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Bodmer Repair located at 4019 E. 050th Road Mendota, IL. 61342.  
Dated: May 7, 2025.  
Dennis Bodmer & Crystal Bodmer Applicants.  
No. 0507  
(May 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on May 6, 2025 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 Rosales Landscaping (Lawn Service & Landscaping) located at 1102 Jefferson Street Mendota, IL. 61342.  
Dated: May 6, 2025.  
Francisco Reyes Rosales Applicant.

No. 0508  
(May 14, 21 and 28, 2025)

**NOTICE**  
**NOTICE Of Public Hearing on Mendota Township Budget**  
Notice is hereby given a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township of Mendota, in the County of LaSalle, State of Illinois for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026, is available to the public inspection at Mendota Township 602 S Main St, Mendota, Illinois. Notice is further given hereby that a public Hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at a meeting held at 602 S Main Street, Mendota IL at 5:00p.m. Monday, June 9, 2025.  
Peggie Reddick Supervisor  
Linda Corrigan Clerk  
No. 0509

## 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

"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."

## 113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business

by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"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."

## 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.

## 301 ANTIQUES

**ANTIQUES WANTED:**  
I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any

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Advantage Property Mgmt  
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If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

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**Rochelle News-Leader**  
**ATTN: Will McMacken**  
**P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068**  
or email to [bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com](mailto:bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com)

**ROCHELLE News-Leader**

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**IMMEDIATE PART-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE**  
Assists elderly and disabled clients with various local, state and federal programs.

• Must be self-motivated, organized and enthusiastic. Ability to handle a busy environment with multiple tasks and changing deadlines. Basic computer skills are required and proficiency in Word, Excel and use of online databases is preferred.

• Some occasional travel and a background check is required.

• Previous experience working with aged and disabled population is preferred.

**Submit letter of interest and resume to:**  
Rayanne Sester  
[mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com](mailto:mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com)  
Mendota Area Senior Services  
PO Box 376  
Mendota, IL. 61342

**NO PHONE CALLS ACCEPTED**  
*Deadline is May 30, 2025*

## Employment Opportunity Information & Assistance Specialist

**IMMEDIATE FULL-TIME POSITION AVAILABLE**  
Assists elderly and disabled clients with various local, state and federal programs.

• Must be self-motivated, organized and enthusiastic. Ability to handle a busy environment with multiple tasks and changing deadlines. Basic computer skills are required and proficiency in Word, Excel and use of online databases is preferred.

• Some occasional travel and a background check is required.

• Previous experience working with aged and disabled population is preferred.

**Submit letter of interest and resume to:**  
Rayanne Sester  
[mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com](mailto:mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com)  
Mendota Area Senior Services  
PO Box 376  
Mendota, IL. 61342

**NO PHONE CALLS ACCEPTED**  
*Deadline is May 30, 2025*

## ROCHELLE News-Leader Part-time local delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-time newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

**Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle.**

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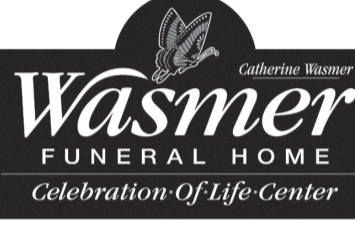
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