

2016 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

HISTORIC STEP FOR CLINTON

Roll call makes it official: Hillary Clinton becomes first woman ever nominated to lead a major-party ticket into the fall campaign for president.

Clinton, Obama on same page: The collaboration, which has been underway for months, has been a huge boon for the Democratic nominee. Coverage, Page 5

Still backing Sanders: A convention delegate from Aurora discusses his anger over the direction of the Democratic Party. Denise Crosby, Page 2



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California, center, is joined by the Democratic Women of the House as they take the stage Tuesday during the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, where Hillary Clinton officially received the party's nomination for president.



DENISE LINKE/BEACON-NEWS PHOTOS

Two players wheel around to chase the ball down the field during a recent polo match at Blackberry Polo Club near Batavia.

BRINGING POLO TO THE PEOPLE

Matches at Blackberry Polo Club near Batavia source of family fun

By DENISE LINKE
The Beacon-News

The sport of polo often evokes images of mounted players dashing about a field in a country club atmosphere, while elegantly dressed spectators enjoy high tea as they watch.

But the audience at the recent Central Circuit PTF Seniors championship match in an unincorporated area near Batavia were anything but pretentious. For them, it was all about old-fashioned American fun.

"This is kind of like 'Field of Dreams,' only with polo instead of baseball," Peggy Miller, of LaGrange, said as she put the finishing touches to her red, white and blue tailgate display. "You drive down a dirt road through a cornfield, and suddenly you're here."

Nearly 50 people navigated that dirt road that day to reach Lake Run Farm, which contains the Blackberry Polo Club grounds as well as cornfields, soybean fields and pastures for owners George and Barb Alexander's prized Clydesdale horses.

A plywood scoreboard and

weathered wood announcer's stand left plenty of room for families to set up their picnics on country-casual table linens.

Parents and children played with flying discs on the field between chukkas — preset playing periods — or lined up for free rides around the field in a farm wagon pulled by four Clydesdales. Raffles and an admission fee raised money for the Batavia Arts Council and Batavia MainStreet's Shakespeare on Clark program.

"We've come to the matches here several times just because they're fun to watch, but having the charity event added in makes it that much more fun," said Miller's friend, Karen Yoch, of Batavia.

"The fundraising activities do enhance the match," said Frank "Buzz" Rackley, a retired professional polo player who still breeds and trains polo ponies on his Batavia farm. "We don't normally get a lot of spectators, so the players love having a crowd to cheer them on."

While the teams were sponsored by two local firms — A Mirror Image and Bulldog Plumbing, both in Batavia —



Bulldog Plumbing team member Tony Sekera poses with several young fans during a recent polo match at Blackberry Polo Club.

the players came from all over North America, including North Carolina and South Carolina — and even Canada. That made Hinsdale resident Tony Sekera practically a hometown boy.

"Serious players go all over the world to get the best competition," Sekera said.

"You have to play wherever you find a field and a place to stable your horses. I've played in Italy, Jamaica and South Carolina, and my son Matt has played in a lot more places because he plays polo for a living."

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Elgin water back to normal

Issues with odor, taste clear up

By MIKE DANAHEY
The Courier-News

The issues Elgin had been having with its drinking water recently subsided.

According to Elgin Water Director Kyla Jacobsen, the recent episode concerning an odor and an off-taste lasted 26 days. Similar issues arose for three weeks in July 1996.

Recent visits by The Courier-News to Baker Hill Pancake House on the northeast side, Paul's Family Restaurant on the west side and Smooth Fox downtown confirmed the water at all three establishments tasted much as it did before the recent matter.

The taste and odor problem came from MIB — 2-methylisoborneol — a byproduct of some types of algae blooms. Jacobsen said that while its presence is harmless to people's health, people can detect the presence of MIB with as little as 5 parts per trillion. During the recent issue, there were as many as 70 parts per trillion, she said.

Jacobsen said there actually was a record amount of algae in the Fox River during its 2015 growing season, but it didn't have the bloom like this year's.

"And it's difficult to predict when there might be a taste and odor issue," Jacobsen said.

She hypothesized that the taste and odor issue this time may have been due to a very wet April, with rains falling after phosphorous-laden fertilizer had been put on lawns and farm fields, providing a nutrient source and the right conditions for creating the blooms that caused the trouble.

Phosphorus — found naturally and in agricultural and lawn care products and the wastewater stream — feeds algae, contributing to its rapid growth. The EPA is tightening standards for phosphorus put into the river, and the Fox River Study Group to which Jacobsen belongs is working to find ways for local towns to comply.

The city gets most of the water it treats for use from the Fox River, and during the problem, it blended in water from well

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FOOTBALL

Lovie Smith is just what Illinois needs

After three chaotic years under Tim Beckman and another season under Bill Cubit, the Illini need some stability. Column, Page 15

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