

Three Sheets in The Wind . . . by Mary

The news is that February is on the way out, and the wonderful Winter Olympics are over. Weren't they great!?

I don't watch each and every event. Some are not televised. Some are shown at inopportune times. And to be perfectly honest, some are boring. It's hard to watch much "luge" without yelling at the T.V., don't do this! There's no way to stop. You can't slow down. You are laying on your back going down a twisty ice hill. Once the sled hits the track there's not much the rider can do to help except scream.

As you might have guessed, my favorite is the ice skating and particularly, the figure skaters. Like most of the "baby boomers" who skated on our vacant lot rink when we were kids, I thought I was a really good skater, definitely Olympic medal material. That childhood rink was miles away from what these athletes do today. And our figure skating champions are not only winners for their performances, but for the gracious way they lost and the humble way they won.

After his flawless win in the "team" figure skating, helping to win Team USA the gold medal, Ilia Malinin had a disappointing performance in the individuals and did not reach the podium. Instead of storming out, disgusted with his loss, he congratulated his competitor gold medal winner with hugs, shoulder shakes and genuine Camaraderie. A true champion.

At the other end of the spectrum was 20 year old Alysa Liu who skated a perfect gold medal performance. Before she knew her score, before she had the medal in hand, she celebrated, not the win, but the performance she gave. She jumped, she spun, that was both during the skate and later as she waited her fate. When her win was announced, she reached out to the other skaters with hugs and tears and well wishes. A true champion.

The USA came away with 32 medals, including the overtime men's hockey win. Who could

have a dry eye after watching their celebrations?

There is no way to compare one win to another. Everyone of our athletes gave it their "all." Everyone was a winner. There were so many stories like our "couples" competing, both silver medal winners. The curling couple, Cory Thiesse and Korey Dropkin, (not a married couple) sparked interest in a sport most of us, definitely me, know nothing about. Who would actually consider that a "broom" could be so important. (Not bragging, but I'm pretty good with a broom.)

We expected our "ice dance" couple, Madison Chock and Evan Bates (married couple), to bring home a medal and they did. After a beautiful skate that brought new elements, lifts and moves to the routine, they stood in second place on the podium.

I am in awe of all the skiing, and snow boarding. It's hard enough for me to imagine standing at the top of an enormous mountain looking down. It's kind of a sickening view. And then to imagine charging down that hill with sleds strapped to your boots. If that doesn't terrify you, just think about jumping up in the air, flipping over, twisting 360 degrees while hanging onto a board, landing on the board, standing up.

All of the sports and all of the athletes competing were champions before they arrived in Italy. It is a uniting two weeks for those who are there and for those of us who are watching from our homes. Everyone has a favorite moment. I have many, but one of the best is not a sport. It's the parade of athletes. It's wonderful to see the flag bearers, so proud of their countries; the participants dressed in appropriate, matching outfits. They are rowdy and ready.

It was a good two weeks of sports. It's impossible to mention them all, but as I said before, everyone participating in their particular sport or event, was a champion already. I'm proud of all of our Olympians.

Create A Miniature Ecosystem At The Master Gardener Terrarium Workshop March 27th

Get creative and connect with nature at our Terrarium Workshop, a hands-on program taking place Friday, March 27, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Marshall-Putnam Extension Office, 509 Front Street, Suite 4, Henry, IL 61537.

This interactive workshop will guide participants through the process of creating their own terrarium—a small, enclosed garden featuring plants and moss. Terrariums are a fun and approachable way to bring greenery indoors, and they make great decorative pieces or gifts. During the program, participants will learn basic principles of terrarium design, plant selection, and care while assembling a unique miniature ecosystem to take home.

The workshop is designed for

beginners and plant enthusiasts alike. No prior experience is necessary, and all materials needed to create a terrarium are provided. This program is made possible in part through support from a Thrivent grant, which covers a portion of participants' registration costs.

Registration cost is \$20. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Register online at go.illinois.edu/terrariumworkshop.

For questions or if you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Emily Hansen at emhansen@illinois.edu or 815-224-0896. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Girls Basketball

(From Lacon Front Page)

22-16 at the half. It was a 36-28 lead heading into the final quarter. Emma Franks hit two big 3-pointers in the final quarter and Midland converted 7 of 10 free throws down the stretch to take the 52-45 win.

"It was a tremendous team effort from top to bottom to pull off the win," stated Coach Xavier Warren.

Emma Franks and Anna McGlasson shared the scoring honors as they tallied 13 points apiece. Jordyn Pyles added double figures scoring with 10.

Midland now heads to the Shabbona Sectional on Tuesday, February 24 when they square off against Aurora Christian at 6:00. Should Midland pull off the win, they would face the Marquette-Rockford Christian winner in the Sectional Championship game on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00.

MIDLAND 52, HENRY-SEN. 22
FG FT PTS
Jordyn Pyles 7 0-1 17
Anna McGlasson 5 0-1 11
Ella Foster 2 0-0 6
Labelah Rosa 1 1-2 4
Lilly Bean 0 0-0 0
Sydney Miller 0 0-0 0
Adalynn Stickel 2 3-7 7
Emma Franks 1 4-5 7
Norah Keinath 0 0-0 0
TOTALS 18 (7) 7-17 9-17 52

HENRY (9-17) 3 10 4 5-22
MIDLAND (24-7) 14 20 15 3-52

MIDLAND 52., YoRkVILLE CHIST. 45
FG FT PTS
Jordyn Pyles 1 4-5 6
Anna 5 3-4 13
Ella Foser 3 1-1 10
Isabela Rosa 0 0-0 0
Adalynn Stickel 3 3-6 10
Emma Franks 4 1-1 13
TOTALS 16 (7) 13-17 52

YoRkVILLE CHIST (17-12) 4 12 17 - 45
MIDLAND (25-7) 10 12 14 16 - 52

Midland Boys

(From Lacon Front Page)

MIDLAND 96, EARLVILLE 28
FG FT PTS
Brecken 6 0-1 12
Henry Elsasser 4 0-0 8
Caleb Dorsey 5 0-0 10
Landon McFaddon 4 0-0 10
Matthew Bumber 9 2-5 21
Trent Allen 2 0-0 4
Ian White 2 0-0 0
Hayden Grandsart 1 0-0 2
Zach Allen 2 0-0 4
TOTALS 43 (7) 3-7 96

EARLVILLE (1-27) 6 13 3 6 - 28
MIDLAND (14-15) 27 37 20 12 - 96

MIDLAND 56, PuTnAM CO. 40
FG Ft PTS
Brecken Pyles 6 1-2 12
Henry Elsasser 1 0-0 2
Jacob Deffenbaugh 0 0-0 0
Caleb Dorsey 0 2-2 2
Landon McFaddon 4 2-6 10
Matthew Bumber 1 0-0 2
Trent Allen 1 0-0 2
Dom Rosa 6 3-3 16
Ian White 0 0-0 0
Hayden Grandsart 0 0-0 0
Zach Allen 3 0-0 7

MIDLAND (15-15) 17 13 19 7 - 56
PuTnAM CO. (9-22) 5 12 13 10 - 40

There is a demon who puts wings on certain stories and launches them like eagles in the air.

-Alexandre Dumas

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MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL

The Little Mermaid

Join us under the sea for a spectacular musical inspired by Disney. Let's dive into the heart of a young girl who longs for love and belonging.

13TH & 14TH OF MARCH @7:00 PM
15TH OF MARCH @2:00 PM

1830 State route 17
Varna IL, 61375

TICKET ONLY
\$5/PERSON

PETS OF THE WEEK

For more information call The A.R.K. 477 State Route 26, Lacon, at 309-246-4275, or email us at arkanimalshelter@yahoo.com.



Oliver

Oliver is only eight months old, so he is still just a puppy. He only weighs about 40 lbs, and he loves to happily wag his tail and sniff things! He's handsome, curious and gets along very well with other dogs. This lovely, friendly boy is also neutered, micro-chipped and current on all his shots.



Skitter

Cute little Skitter is a cute little ten month old kitten. He is white with a tabby-colored tail, and his unique markings are matched by his special personality. He's friendly, funny and fun, and he gets along well with the other kitties in Molly's Room at the shelter. Skitter is neutered, micro-chipped and current on all his shots.



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