



Spooky scene
Residents of Mendota have gotten into the Halloween spirit as spooky decorations can be seen all over town, like this one on Sixth Street. The big day is almost here for children, and adults alike, to dress in their favorite Halloween costume and collect yummy treats. There will be many opportunities for trick-or-treaters in Mendota, including the Chamber-sponsored event at participating businesses from 3-5 p.m. Oct. 31 and then the city-wide period from 5-7 p.m. on Halloween. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Food Pantry reaches 50 percent of goal

❑ \$200,000 raised for new building

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry announced it was going to build a new pantry, chose the location, and asked for donations for a \$375,000 price point in July.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the goal for the building of the new pantry has raised to over \$400,000.

Thanks to the community and gracious donations, the food pantry has raised over \$200,000 – 50 percent of the goal.

“The community has been great about it. We are reaching out to businesses now and trying to get them a little more involved,” said Tracy Cooper, the food pantry director. “We are grateful for every cent that has been donated. Donations started on July 11 when we had the groundbreaking for the new location. We are hoping to break the ground in the next two weeks before the weather and the ground gets too cold.”

Many fundraisers are taking place now or in the immediate future.

H&H Builders, the contractors who are building the new food pantry at 710 Sixth Ave., is holding a raffle, \$20 a ticket, for contractor work.

The winner of the raffle will have an H&H Builders employee for eight hours (\$1,000 value) to build or repair anything the winner needs. The ticketholder will

“The community has been great about it. We are grateful for every cent that has been donated.”

–Tracy Cooper,
Food Pantry director

have to buy the supplies. The money from the tickets goes to the food pantry.

A live Facebook drawing will take place Thursday, Oct. 26.

El Zarape is holding two fundraisers for the food pantry. On Oct. 30, there will be a \$17 buffet table at the Mexican restaurant in which all proceeds after the price of the food will go to the food pantry.

El Zarape is also holding a Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin Contest where tickets are \$2 and half of the money will go to the correct weight guesser and the other half of the funds will go to the food pantry.

If you’re hungry for chicken, you can also help the cause.

The LaMoille Lions Club is opening its doors on Nov. 18 for a \$12 chicken dinner with funds after the cost of food going to the food pantry.

See Pantry, Page A5

Dist. 280 Board gets clean report from auditor

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education heard an audit report and handled several personnel items at its Oct. 16 regular meeting.

Russ Rumbold from Gorenz and Associates provided the board with the FY23 audit report. In the opinion of the auditors, the district had a clean audit. It was noted the district’s financial recognition is the best rating it can receive at a perfect 4.0.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Joe Masini presented the Athletic Committee spring budget and it was approved. He noted that the track pit covers need

to be replaced, which is a significant expense for the spring budget.

The Curriculum Committee recommendations were given and approved. There were some recommended changes to driver’s education and business courses.

The board reviewed early graduation criteria, with no changes made, and Masini provided a recap of parent/teacher/student conferences and the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. The next BPAC event is Friday, Nov. 3 and coordinated with the Ballet Folklorico Dancers in the auxiliary gym.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The district is seeking bids for snow removal. Superintendent Denise Aughenbaugh said it has been several years since the district attempted the bid process. Snow bid information is available online at www.mendotahs.org. The maintenance staff will continue to remove snow as needed.

In other action from Aughenbaugh’s report, consideration and approval was granted for the non-certified seniority list.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

A closed session was held to discuss employment, compensation and the performance of specific employees. Following the closed session,

the board took the following action:

- Accepted the resignation of bus driver Kenneth Hahn Jr. He will continue as a substitute driver.

- Approved volunteer coaches for the winter sports season: Charles Watson, Arturo Serrano and Matt Hanaman, wrestling; Drake O’Donnell and Austin O’Sadnick, boys’ basketball; Anna Weber and Katrina Flahive, cheerleading; John Holland, Jen Holland and Mandi Bauer, boys’ and girls’ bowling.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board of Education will be Monday, Nov. 20 at 6 p.m.

New management opens Country Ranch doors

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – For a few years, The Country Ranch looked like it was no longer in business.

The location (199 N. 38th Road, south of Mendota on Hwy 251) at one point, held rodeos, concerts, dancing, weddings and quinceaneras with its full bar, food preparations, and a big, comfortable, eloquent ballroom and stage on a regular basis.

Although the regular events had slowed down, The Country Ranch never closed and always allowed events.

Now, The Country Ranch has reopened its doors and turned on the lights with frequent hours of operation.

“We own the property and are now renting it out to two people who really want to make it work,” said Sandra Sanchez, who lives outside of Woodridge, a suburb of Chicago. “My dad, Raudel Sanchez, is now retired, and I work in education and have three children. I wasn’t able to put the effort into The Country Ranch that I wanted to put into it to make it thrive. We had some people who wanted to take it over for us. They have venues in Rockford.

“We were very excited to have them manage it for us. We own the ranch, but it’s under new management. They’re two younger guys who really want to be part of the community, get people excit-

“The community has responded so well with the new management. It’s good to see people excited to go out, socialize, and have fun.”
– Sandra Sanchez

ed, and bring back The Country Ranch to how it was known in the 1990s.”

The new management of Roman Valzquez and Genaro Hernandez took over The Country Ranch on Aug. 1.

Since then, they have started country line dancing every Thursday and are open at 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday according to Google. The Country Ranch Facebook page lists them open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 a.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m.-2 a.m. on Sunday for all bookings and events at 815-538-3426.

Sanchez and her family are extremely excited with the new direction Hernandez and Valzquez are taking the ranch.

“I’m glad that these two gentlemen are motivated to really get the word out there and give people a place to get out of their house, come together with other people, and have fun,” Sandra Sanchez said. “We tried to lift it up when I moved back home, Illinois is home to me, but

we saw less people were getting married and less people were having parties. It wasn’t until after 2020 and COVID-19 that all of us started to think about the importance of socialization and people coming together. We knew how important it was for there still to be a place for people to have a social life.

“That’s why we wanted The Country Ranch to launch again. We just needed somebody who was going to be more dedicated. I have my kids and I’m always running around with my kids for different sports and activities.

“We met with Genaro and Roman, and we talked about our business plan and what we wanted to see in the community. We have all the licenses that we need to have the business, and we wanted it to continue. Our visions of The Country Ranch aligned and they’re really excited and happy for the way the community has responded.”

Raudel Sanchez, who has been in business since 1985 and owns a country apparel store in the suburbs called Sanchez Brothers, bought the Country Ranch in 1999 under the family corporation Country Ranch Inc.

With the help of Sandra and other family members, they kept the tradition of rodeos, weddings, and quinceaneras going.

See Ranch, Page A5



After only hosting events occasionally or when contacted for a venue to hold an event, The Country Ranch has opened its doors more regularly since August 1 when property owners, The Country Ranch Inc., began renting the property at 199 N. 38th Road (south of Mendota on 251). (Photo contributed)



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LOCAL AND AREA

OnCall Imaging offers retail approach to scans, tests

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

ROCK FALLS – OSF OnCall and Imaging Centers of Illinois LLC have joined forces to bring something new and unique to the area.

OnCall Imaging, located at 1609 1st Avenue in Rock Falls, held a ribbon cutting and a blessing on Thursday, Oct. 19 to introduce the modern imaging center that is going to allow tests and scans to be done on a more patient, customer, retail value approach.

“It’s a low-cost alternative to non-invasive, diagnostic imaging. It’s state of the art for mammography, X-rays, ultrasounds, CT scans, MRIs, and DEXA scans for bone density,” said OSF OnCall Senior Vice President, Jennifer Junis. “It’s all under one roof. We’re focused on the region, and we felt there was a gap across the region. I feel like we’ll draw from a pretty rural dynamic. There are a lot of small towns that come to the Sterling/Rock Falls area to shop, eat, visit, or to work.

“We feel like we’ll pull from a pretty large geographical area. Some of our equipment is one of a kind or very few, so we’re offering something unique.”

Junis is serving OnCall Imaging as a board member representing OSF’s investment in the partnership and imaging center, which is set to officially open its doors Oct. 30.

The idea behind the imaging center is to make tests and scans easier for everyone.

“A lot of the scans and



imagery is usually done in hospitals. Hospitals take care of patients in the hospital and they’re always the first priority because they’re the sickest,” said Junis, who has helped OSF OnCall position for the last four years focusing on digital and consumer-facing healthcare. “Hospitals also take care of outpatient services when you need to go in and get the test or the scan done without staying at the hospital.

“This allows us to have a more retail approach where you can self-schedule, you can just walk in, and you can have same-day durability. Since hospitals are taking care of sick

patients, those aspects are not always available at a hospital. OnCall Imaging is centered more on the patient experience from a retail standpoint in thinking about how our lives have changed and we want convenience first.”

With healthcare, the number one concern for most is cost.

OSF OnCall and Imaging Centers of Illinois LLC addressed the issue.

“We don’t have a lot of overhead that a hospital does so our costs are lower. It’s a lower cost and there is cost transparency,” Junis said. “In healthcare, a lot of times you

don’t know the cost of the services you’re receiving until after the fact. Our prices are public and transparent on our website, oncallimaging.net.”

The Imaging Center will also take care of the doctor/hospital side of things when walk-ins come in.

For mammograms, there is no need for an order so a person can come in and get a diagnosis screening for breast cancer.

However, there are other tests and scans that need a doctor check/permission first. The imagery center will facilitate the need and merge the two together without hassle.

With anything new and modern, there is doubt and the urge to stay clear of the unknown.

The OnCall Imaging administration and staff understands it may take time for some people to walk through its doors, but they also think the services they’re offering are a need and want in the community.

“We really encourage people to try it because it’s a different look and feel. It’s really focused on the patient experience,” Junis said. “We’ve been thinking about this for quite some time and thinking about how healthcare has changed over the years and continues to change. For us, we really felt like it was a challenge to say, ‘How can we really make this better and different?’ We found a great partner who is invested in this community, so it really felt like it was a great opportunity.”



Scary, funny, sexy to be awarded at Halloween Costume Party

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Halloween is right around the corner.

This means parties and costumes come with it.

Marc Lopez, who organized Drip Fest this summer, is party planning once again as he is hosting a 21-over Halloween Costume Party from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, October 27 at the Country Ranch (199 N. 38th Rd. in Mendota).

“It’s a Halloween event I’ve put on for the last two years at the Country Ranch. I’ll have a few DJs and there will be a costume contest,” Lopez said. “I try to do an event every Halloween because it’s a big

holiday for people who want to party and celebrate. Dressing up is the funnest part; that’s why we include the costume contest.

“We’re going to have funniest, scariest, and sexiest best dressed competitions. People love to dress up.”

There will be a cash prize for first, second, and third in each category.

Lopez will be scratching as DJ Skidmarc, and he’ll be joined by three local DJs in DJ Laina Lauren, DJ Meachy Roach, and DJ Zalez.

The event is \$5 for women and \$10 for men.

The first 100 attendees will receive their first drink on the house.

Happy Halloween
from the
Mendota Reporter

LaSalle Public Library joins the LaSalle Hometown Halloween festivities

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will join the City of LaSalle’s Hometown Halloween festivities on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Youth may come to the library for a gift book, a glowstick, and a goodie bag.

The goodie bags will be marked with either a teal pumpkin, indicating the items are non-food items, or an orange pumpkin, indicating that the items are food items.

A professional seasonally-themed photo background will also be available to capture wonderful family memories.

The library is a proud supporter of the Teal Pumpkin Project. The project, launched in 2014 by Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), provides non-food items for trick-or-treaters with allergies. For more information on the project, visit www.teal-pumpkinproject.org.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Thank you to those parents that attended parent/teacher conferences on Oct. 17 and 19. We appreciate that you took time out of your busy schedules to come talk about your child's progress so far this school year. If there were any parents unable to attend on these two days provided, please contact your child's teacher to set up a different conference time. Our goal is to meet with each child's parents to keep the communication open between home and school.

Thank you to all of our students and their families for supporting our Club Choice fundraiser these past couple of weeks. The items that have been ordered will be delivered on Monday, Nov. 20. We appreciate your continued support of our schools!

Blackstone students recently completed their October kind deed for the community. We will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week Oct. 23-27 in Dis-

trict #289. We will be sharing age-appropriate lessons about saying no to drugs. Our students colored fliers with this message and community members will find them in grocery bags when shopping at Sullivans during Red Ribbon Week. Thank you to Sullivan's for helping us spread this important message to our community!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Bella Frey, Emma Ridge, Mila Gunn, Alex Perez, Anthony Jefferson, Noah Garcia, Clara Sanchez and Emma Oraha. The winners were Zeke Hansen, Pablo Mendez, Shea Sheppard and Sharon Videz-Lucero. Congratulations to all of you!

Students recently brought home information on Halloween activities that we will have at Blackstone on Oct. 31. Parents should read through the information and let us know if you have any questions.



Daryl Mosley to entertain LaMoille

LaMOILLE – Singer, songwriter, and storyteller Daryl Mosley will perform at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Community United Methodist Church at 73 N. Main St. in LaMoille.

From countless appearances on "The Grand Ole Opry" to classic shows at the famous Bluebird Café to a touring schedule of over 150

concerts per year, Mosley has been sharing his songs and his stories with America for over 30 years.

Mosley has written four Song of the Year award winners, 11 of his songs have made it to No. 1, and he has been named the Songwriter of the Year three times.

His songs have been recorded by dozens of artists ranging

from bluegrass legend Bobby Osborne to country star Lynn Anderson to Southern Gospel's The Booth Brothers and have been featured on TV shows ranging from "American Idol" to "The View."

The concert is free to the public, but a love offering will be taken. For additional information, contact Patty Lindley at 502-262-0428.

Community input meeting planned Nov. 1 at MASS

MENDOTA – Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging is holding a Community Input meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Mendota Area Senior Services. A light lunch will be provided.

WIAAA wants to hear from the LaSalle County community about its needs for aging and caregiving services.

If you are interested in joining in on the community input meeting discussion, please RSVP to Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (Rock Island) at 309-793-6800.

About Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging

The Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA) was founded in 1973 under an amendment to the Older Americans Act of 1965. The Act is a federal law created to help older Americans live in their homes with safety and dignity as long as possible with appropriate services and support. There are approximately 629 area agencies across the nation, 13 in the State of Illinois. WIAAA is part of a vast, national network of services and programs to protect the rights and support the needs of older Americans.

Stage 212 to hold "Bonnie & Clyde" auditions

LaSALLE – Auditions for Stage 212's Winter 2024 production, the Tony-nominated musical "Bonnie & Clyde," will be held Friday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. at the theater, 700 First St., LaSalle.

Director Samantha Farb will be casting three men and two women in lead roles, and one boy and one girl, both age 12-14. Supporting and ensemble roles will also be available. Auditioners should come prepared to sing a portion of a song that showcases their abilities.

Songs must be sung without accompaniment or backing tracks. There will be no dance audition, but those auditioning will be asked to read from the script. Scripts may be perused in advance by contacting sm-farb@gmail.com.

Auditions will be conducted by appointment only. For more information or to sign up for an audition appointment, please visit stage212.org. Questions may be directed to Farb at the email address above. "Bonnie & Clyde" will be presented Feb. 2-11, 2024.

ROMEIOVILLE – The US Air Force Band of Mid-America (USAFBoMA) will present a series of Veteran's Day concerts in the Chicago metro area at the following locations:

- Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.: Lewis University's St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall, Romeioville.
- Friday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.: East Leyden High School, Franklin Park
- Saturday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.: Elgin Community College's Blizzard Theater, Elgin

These 90-minute concerts will feature the unit's 45-member concert band and will honor



our nation's veterans, share stories of their sacrifices, and reflect on all that makes us flourish as individuals and as a nation. In addition to the usual marches

and patriotic music, other selections will include Broadway tunes, orchestral transcriptions, and solo literature.

Admission to these perfor-

mances is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Please go to afbandtix.com for all show information.

The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America represents the professionalism and excellence found every day throughout the United States Air Force. All musicians are active-duty airmen stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. The band recently won the 2022 NATAS Mid-America Emmy for Arts & Entertainment Long Form Content for their "Spirit of the Season" holiday program that was broadcast on over 30 TV stations across the Midwest.

Do You Know An AMERICAN HERO?

The Mendota Reporter is again putting together a section featuring Veterans and military personnel and would like you to send or bring us a military picture of yourself or favorite military hero along with a short biography of their service history, present or past.

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserves or Merchant Marines.

Our **FREE** special section featuring your own local heroes will be published on Nov. 8th.

Deadline for submitting Photos/Information is Thursday, Nov. 2.

If you submitted a photo last year, there is no need to resubmit. We have it on file! Just tell us to honor your hero again this year.

Name: _____

(Optional Information)

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

Present Address: _____

Location of Training: _____

Dates in Service: _____

Tours of Duty: _____

Any Other Interesting Information: (limit 50 words, please)

Phone Number for questions (will not be published): _____

Mendota Reporter • 703 Illinois Avenue • P.O. Box 300 • Mendota, IL 61342 • (815)539-9396

Photos may be picked up at The Mendota Reporter office after November 8th, or send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and your photo will be returned.

Christmas Through the Eyes of A Child

The Mendota Reporter would like to announce we are bringing back our popular "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child" promotion.

Two children, one boy and one girl, between the ages of 4 and 7 who live in Mendota and the surrounding area will be selected to have their pictures taken at various stores to promote Christmas gift ideas!

Each child selected will receive a \$25 CASH PRIZE. For a child to enter the contest, the Reporter needs a picture of the child (which may be picked up after Nov. 30) along with the child's name, age, address, telephone number, parents' names and the times the child is available for pictures.

Entries can be brought to the Reporter office at 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, or mailed to The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.

Deadline for entry is Noon Friday, Nov. 3. Winners will be notified by phone. Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, Nov. 15 and the Christmas section will be published on Wed., Nov. 29.

For more information, contact The Mendota Reporter at 815-539-9396

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Suzanne E. Rich

MENDOTA – Suzanne E. Rich, 79, of Mendota passed away unexpectedly Oct. 17, 2023, at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center emergency room.

Visitation was Friday, Oct. 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Services were Saturday, Oct. 21 at 9 a.m. at the church. Rev. Mary Bohall officiated, and burial followed in Troy Grove cemetery. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Suzanne was born Oct. 5, 1944, in Mendota, to Richard and Herberta (Champlin) Rhea. She graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1962, and on July 7, 1963, married the love of her life Loren K. Rich.

Suzanne will be sadly and forever missed by her son, Allan (Beth) Rich of Mendota; daughters, Janette Smith of Stuart, Fla., Martha (Chris) Dalton of Stuart, Fla., Lorene (Raul) Diaz of Mendota; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; four grand dogs; brother, Richard (Sharon) Rhea Jr. of Sandwich and sister Phyllis Hardersen of Evansville, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Loren on Aug. 31, 2020.

Suzanne was the consummate wife, mom and grandma. She took care of her family first and then her garden. She loved all flowers and for many years tended the strawberry patch on their family farm so others could enjoy the experience of "picking your own." Suzanne was a part of all that Loren participated in as well. When he was working the family farm, she would do her part whether it was driving, hauling or preparing meals during harvest. She was a fabulous grandma and enjoyed every moment spent with her grandchildren, and her furry grandkids. Suzanne was a country girl, happier to spend her days outside in the garden or field.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church and volunteered for Amputee Resource Network of Rockford.

Pallbearers were Chris Dalton, Raul Diaz, Adam Gerard, Tyler Mahar, Mason Rich, Guy Mann and Mike Mann.

Memorials may be directed to Nightengale's Closet or Mendota Area Senior Services MASS.

Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Betty A. Gard

MENDOTA – Betty Ann Gard, 88, of Mendota, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 5-7 p.m. with the rosary recited at 5 p.m. all at Wasmer Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial will be Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church with Rev. Jeff Windy officiating. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Betty was born Aug. 23, 1935, in Geneva to Arthur and Kathryn (Geiken) Lootens. She graduated from West Chicago High School in 1953. On June 25, 1960, she married the love of her life, James H. Gard in West Chicago.

She will be forever missed by her daughter, Patricia (Kyle) Kim of Mendota; two sons, John (Linda) Gard of Utica and Brian Gard of Mendota; six grandchildren, John Gard Jr., Christopher Gard, Nathaniel Kim, Allyson Kim, Allen Gard, Gabrielle Gard; and a brother, James (Janet) Lootens of West Chicago.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jim on Nov. 8, 2022; and her sister, Nancy Heyden.

During her work career she had a variety of different jobs, including Richelieu Pickle Factory of West Chicago, Hotpoint Appliances of Cicero, and locally at Classon's grocery, Schimmer Pontiac, The Mendota Reporter and Gish Jewelry, which she retired from in 2000.

Betty was very active in her community. She was a member of Holy Cross Church, formerly served the parish as a "Distributor of the Eucharist," St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society in which she served as treasurer for two years and as president. She served as past president of Holy Cross Parents Club, past Den Mother for Cub Scout Pack 4102, B.S.A.

Betty was an avid bowler at the Elks, and accompanied her husband Jim to watch all the kids and grandkids in all their extracurricular activities. She and Jim enjoyed traveling together. At home Betty loved knitting, sewing, ceramics, and crosswords. Betty was a breast cancer survivor.

Memorials may be directed to Holy Cross School, St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society or Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation.

Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Derek N. Sheaves

MENDOTA – It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the unexpected passing of our beloved Derek Nicholas Sheaves. Derek passed away Oct. 19, 2023, at the age of 43 where he was surrounded by his loving family.

A visitation will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, from 1-3 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota followed by a funeral service at 3 p.m., officiated by Reverend Earl Wiseman. Cremation rites will follow and private burial will be at a later date.

Derek was born on Dec. 30, 1979, to Larry and Leah (Edgar) Sheaves in Alton. He married the love of his life, Kelly (Keller) Sheaves on Nov. 7, 2015.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Kelly; parents, Larry and Leah (Edgar) Sheaves; siblings, Jennifer (Sean) Pappas and Jared Sheaves; children, Nevaeh, Liberty, Quinn, and Dreyden Sheaves; step-children, Grace, Morgan, Bryan Keller, Christian and Cayla Colby; step-grandson, Walker Alexander; and nieces, Taylor, Madison, and Sophia Pappas. Derek was also expecting his first granddaughter, Blakely Kay Nicole Sheaves, in late November.

He was predeceased by paternal grandparents, Ben and Gertrude Sheaves as well as maternal grandparents, Isaac and Ella Edgar.

Derek was a 1998 graduate of Mendota High School, and later earned his Associate Degree in Fire Science at Sauk Valley Community College. Derek passionately and selflessly worked as a firefighter/EMT for several surrounding fire departments and taught fire sciences at Sauk Valley Community College and Amboy Fire Department for many years. Derek then obtained his Associate Degrees in Cybersecurity and Computer Networking Administration at Illinois Valley Community College. Derek was currently employed at Ingersoll Rand, Princeton division.

Derek was a precinct committeeman with the LaSalle County Republicans. He also enjoyed and supported YANA (You Are Not Alone) as well as the launch of a second YANA organization in Southern DeKalb County. The simplest pleasures brought great joy and peace to Derek's life. He enjoyed fishing, working the dive team for Black Diamond Rescue, the St. Louis Cardinals, serving at New Covenant Assembly of God, and spending time with his family. His life was led by providing, protecting, and loving his family.

Memorials may be directed to the family to cover final expenses. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Darlene M. Dempsey

MENDOTA – Darlene M. Dempsey, 91, of Mendota, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, in her home surrounded by family.

A private family graveside service will be held at Restland Cemetery, Mendota with Rev. Brian Kelly officiating. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

She was born Oct. 29, 1931, in Earlville, to Alfred and Clara (Kelly) Matheisus. She attended Mendota High School and graduated in 1949. She married Jerry Dempsey on June 30, 1950, in Mendota. They shared 59 years together.

She was survived by her children, Barb (Jerry) Fischer of Cincinnati, Ohio, Terri (Lynn) Holzner of Mendota, Rick (Marcia) Dempsey of Suquamish Wash., and Candi (Phil Bridges) Reppin of Mendota; her grandchildren, Tami, Jennifer, Scott, Krissi, Hollie, Rachel, Brian, Susan, Jonathan, Chris; 15 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; brother-in-law; a niece and two nephews.

Darlene was preceded in death by both parents, her husband,



band, sister and an infant great-grandson.

While most of her life was spent working in the insurance industry, her last held working position was at Blackstone School as a cafeteria assistant. She enjoyed all the little smiles and high fives from the kids. This soon became her favorite job as it was more than just opening a milk carton, she looked forward to seeing the kids. She always found time to go to volleyball and basketball games. She was a season ticket holder for many years watching Mendota football. Darlene really was a true Trojan fan and wore her purple and gold with pride. It wasn't just high school games, you could often find her watching a college or professional basketball, volleyball, or football game. Darlene was an avid sport fan.

Darlene was a fan of music. She herself played drums and piano. During Rick and Candi's high school years she enjoyed listening and watching them perform in band competitions. She enjoyed the Big Band type tunes but never missed a chance to listen to Tom Jones.

Special thank you to the caregivers Michelle, Debbie and Bonnie who provided great care over the last several months. We will be forever grateful for the times you put your lives on hold to be here to care for our loved one.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota High School Band. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

• Please see more Obituaries on Page A5 •

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Artistic Memorials

The Mendota Reporter
Publication No. (USPS 339-100)
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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Don C. Gooden

MENDOTA—Don Charles Gooden, 89, of Mendota, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023.

A private family service will be held at a later date and burial will be at Rosemond Grove Cemetery in Pana.

Don was born March 1, 1934, in Pana, to Charles and Mary Elizabeth (Kuhn) Gooden.

He is survived by his daughter Jan Hamilton of Murphysboro; two grandchildren, Trace (Melissa LaHaye) Gooden and Teague Elizabeth Gooden, both of Federal Way, Wash.; sisters Dottie Ann Hrabak of Pana and Darlene (John) Reiss of Granite Bay, Calif.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife Carol on May 15, 2023; his son Scott in 2005; his parents; his daughter-in-law Michelle Gooden in 2022; and his beloved dog Tara.

Don grew up in Pana and graduated high school in 1952. He attended Southern Illinois University from 1952-1956. It was during this time, on one of his many trips back to Pana, where he met his sweetheart, Carol Hatfield. The fell in love and married on Christmas day, Dec. 25, 1955. They had two children, Jan and Scott, and they enjoyed 67 years of marriage.

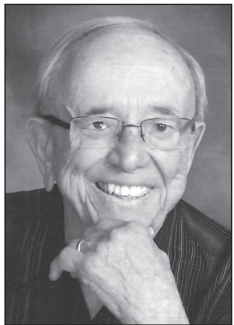
They moved to Carbondale until Don completed bachelor's degree in August 1956. They immediately moved to Mendota where he began his 34-year teaching career at Mendota High School. He earned his master's degree from Northern Illinois University in June 1968. His entire teaching career was devoted to General Science, Earth Science and Environmental Studies. Don was heavily involved in the high school athletic program, where he was a coach of track and field for all 34 years. He also coached football off and on for many years. In 1997 the Don Gooden Invitational track meet was established in his honor. He truly enjoyed coaching and this was a special accomplishment. Don retired from Mendota High School in 1990. Their beloved dog entered their lives as did their grandchildren.

Don and Carol, along with Tara, loved spending the winters in sunny Florida and summers with the grandkids. Don enjoyed hunting and fishing, watching the Chicago Bears and Cubs on TV, his long coaching career and most of all - spending time with friends and family. He will be greatly missed by all of those that knew him.

A very special thank you to his caregivers Nicole, Jaylin and Sherry, to OSF Hospice and to our special friend, Dale Roedl.

Memorials may be directed to OSF Hospice.

Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Linda Heiston

EARLVILLE — Linda Heiston, 74, of Earlville, passed away Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, at her home, with her loving husband and dog by her side.

A visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at Hanley-Turner-Eighner Funeral Home in Earlville. A Celebration of Linda's life will be held at noon on Nov. 4 at the funeral home in Earlville. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Mendota.

She was born July 29, 1949, in Mendota, the daughter of Claude and Victoria (Pavlock) Baker.

Linda attended Holy Cross School before graduating from Mendota High School in the class of 1967. She married Arvis Nantz and had two sons. She later married Rick L. Heiston on Feb. 8, 1979, in Ottawa.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Heiston of Earlville; her sons, Arvis (Angela) Nantz, Jr. of Texas and Eric Nantz of Mendota; her grandchildren, Avory and Ian; her sister, Patty Klaffer of Wisconsin and Wanda (Richard) Weber of Mendota; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Jerry Baker.

Linda worked a variety of factories in the area. She enjoyed spending time in her yard, mowing and manicuring her yard with her dog, Charles William, close by. Linda also enjoyed camping and all the fun the outdoors provides. Most of all Linda loved spending time with her family.

For more information or to sign the online guest book, go to www.EighnerFuneralHomes.com.



Jeremiah J. Coonen

VEROBEACH, Fla. — Jeremiah J. "Jerry" Coonen, 91, of Vero Beach, Fla., formerly of Beverly, Mass., and formerly of Mendota, passed away Sept. 26, 2023, at his home in Massachusetts.

Visitation will be at 1 p.m. until services at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the United Pentecostal Church in Mendota. Rev. Charles Yeakel will officiate, and burial will follow in Restland Memorial Gardens with Full Military Honors by V.F.W. Post #4079. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Jerry was born Jan. 19, 1932, in Mendota, to Jeremiah W. and Adele M. (Biolchini) Coonen. He graduated Mendota High School in 1950, and against his father's wishes entered the United States Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed in Seoul, Korea. Upon discharge, he graduated IVCC in 1956, and the University of Kentucky in 1958 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering.

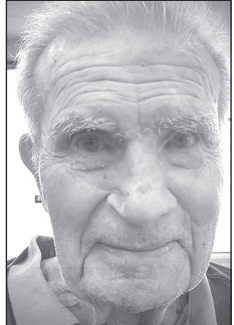
Jerry will be sadly missed by his three sons, Steve (Jessica) Coonen of LaHabra Heights, Calif., Kevin Coonen of Azusa, Calif., and Jeremiah J. (Priscilla) Coonen of Vero Beach, Fla.; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; two sisters, Joanne (David) Jones of Wilmington, N.C., and Sheila (Sholar) Powell of Wilmington, N.C.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Howard Coonen of Meriden; two sisters, Thelma Bloomquist of Peru and Mary Clayton of Ashton; and Jeanette "Jan" former wife and mother of their three boys.

He worked four years with Western Electric working in the U.S., then Jerry took a position with GTE Sylvania that began 30 adventurous years working for several governments in Thailand, Nigeria, Vietnam, and France. Jerry divided his time between Beverly, Mass., and Stuart and Jensen Beach, Fla. He travelled back and forth 30 years. He was an Honorary Lifetime Member of Jubilee Yacht Club in Beverly, Mass.

Memorials may be directed to donor's choice.

Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



State officials recommend gas price increase for 4.1 million consumers

By ANDREW ADAMS
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Utility customers throughout Illinois will likely see higher natural gas bills beginning in January after staff at the state's utility regulatory agency recommended rate increases for four gas companies.

Those recommendations — made by administrative judges at the Illinois Commerce Commission — next go to the appointed five-member commission itself. Over the next two months, the ICC will weigh whether to approve rate hikes for the 4.1 million customers of Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas.

Estimates on the consumer cost of the rate increases, which go into effect in January, vary.

Nicor, which serves 2.2 million Illinoisans, estimates that their original request would increase customer bills by about \$9.28 per month. Ameren customers' bills are expected to increase by several dollars per month as well. Peoples Gas claims that, due to the falling price of natural gas, customer bills will remain at similar levels to last winter.

The proposed rate increases have drawn criticism from consumer and environmental advocates. Consumer advocacy groups, like Illinois PIRG, oppose the increases and have argued the utilities are spending money irresponsibly.

PIRG's director, Abe Scarr, said that he expects the commission to modify the recommendations "to be more consumer conscious, more climate conscious."

"The big question is what changes will the commissioners actually make," Scarr said.

Scarr and other advocates have been watching the commissioners closely throughout the rate case process for hints as to how they might rule. The commissioners are all relatively recent appointees of Gov. JB Pritzker, with three having joined the board in the spring.

One of the major concerns in the gas cases — and the infrastructure spending driving the rate increases — is the electrification of residential heating and cooking across the U.S. Advocates say this could lead to a future where companies create "stranded assets," meaning infrastructure that is no longer used.

But the gas companies have defended their requested increases by pointing to the fact that much of the infrastructure spending is required for safety reasons and by federal law.

"The company's cost of service is now increasing due to continued investments in our system infrastructure to meet new federal compliance-related regulations and industry best practices that help ensure system-wide reliability," Allison Gregoire, a Nicor Gas spokesperson, said in an email to Capitol News Illinois.

Higher prices, higher profits

The ICC has several levels to control the price of gas utility bills, with one of the most significant being setting utilities' "return on equity" — in other words, the profit that's returned to shareholders.

This has been a major point of contention throughout the 11-month rate case process,

with advocates, companies, the state's attorney general, and the staff of the ICC all proposing different potential rates.

Ultimately, the administrative judges overseeing the cases sided with ICC staff on their recommended profit rates. For Nicor and Ameren, they recommended a 9.89 percent return to shareholders. For Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas — which are owned by the same parent company, the administrative law judge recommended a 9.83 percent return.

While lower than the companies' requested profit rates — all of which were above 10 percent — the recommended rates were higher than any proposed by consumer advocates.

The Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit created by the General Assembly in the 1980s to advocate for consumers before the ICC, was part of a coalition of organizations that argued for a 9.5 percent profit rate for Peoples Gas and Ameren and 9.4 percent for Nicor.

"Too often, they (the ICC) side with utilities, especially when it comes to the profit rates for shareholders," CUB director Sarah Moskowitz said in an interview.

Utilities also say a wider profit margin allows them to more easily attract investments and conduct business transactions.

"The requested rate of return will give us access to affordable project financing with lower debt costs, and those savings will be passed on to our customers," Tucker Kennedy, Ameren's director of communications, said in a statement.

ICC's busy year

Beyond the gas rate cases, the ICC is also considering two complex cases that will determine the price of electricity for Ameren Illinois and Commonwealth Edison, the two largest electric utilities in the state.

These cases involve multi-year rate plans as well as a grid planning process, both of which were outlined in the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

These multi-year plans are expected to increase electricity rates for most Illinois utility customers over the next four years, with ComEd's plan increasing rates by \$200 per year by 2027 and Ameren's increasing rates by \$300 per year over that span. The ICC commissioners will likely lower these increases somewhat by the time they vote on a final order in these cases later this year.

The commission is also considering permitting two controversial pipelines that are designed to transport carbon dioxide for eventual sequestration in underground geologic structures in central Illinois.

In addition to ideological and political fights surrounding the pipelines, there is also an ongoing legal question of what role states should play in regulating CO2 transport. While the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Material Administration has the authority to determine safety, some states factor that into their regulatory structures.

This was one of the main concerns cited by South Dakota regulators when they quashed a permit application from Navigator CO2 for a pipeline that would have terminated in Illinois. Last week, Navigator withdrew its Illinois application from ICC consideration but noted it may reapply.

Pantry

Continued from Page A1

White chicken, dark chicken, or chicken strips are the main entree options, while French fries or a baked potato, cole slaw, a desert, lemonade or water are also included. A full bar will be available for other drink selections.

The Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry is also selling 50/50 tickets as \$1,000 is already in the pot.

The tickets, which can be purchased at the food pantry, are \$1 each, \$5 for a half sheet, or \$10 for a full sheet.

A live Facebook drawing will be held Jan. 9 at the food pantry.

Ranch

Continued from Page A1

Sandra, who was 19 in 1999 when the family took over the Country Ranch, moved to Colorado for a few years and business slowed down in Mendota.

Now, the Sanchez family is more than happy to re-launch The Country Ranch with the help of new management in Valzquez and Hernandez.

"The community has responded so well with the new management," Sandra Sanchez said. "It's good to see people excited to go out, socialize, and have fun."

Prohibited Parking

MENDOTA — The City of Mendota reminds citizens that Chapter 41.49 of the Mendota Municipal Code in regard to Prohibited Parking reads as follows:

- Parking is prohibited along both sides of First Avenue for the entire length of the avenue.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Sixth Avenue from Second Street to Fifth Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Main Street from Sixth Street to Washington Street.
- Parking is prohibited on the south side of Washington Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Iowa Street.
- Parking is prohibited on both sides (north and south) of Washington Street from Iowa Street to U.S. Route 251.

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Venison Processing Prices as of Sept. 2023

\$100 per deer for cutting, wrapping and freezing
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Pork Added.....\$2.19/lb.	Breakfast Sausage Links.....\$1.50/lb.....\$1.70/lb on trimmings
Beef Added.....\$4.49/lb.	
Beef Suet Added.....\$1.00/lb.	
When bringing trim in, there is a charge of \$0.85/lb. for grinding venison and above item total weight.	
We add 1/3 pork to all our sausage at \$2.19/lb. (The total finished weight, 2/3 is venison and 1/3 pork)	
Processing prices per pound on total finished weight of VENISON AND PORK are:	
Bratwurst.....\$1.25/lb.....\$1.45/lb on trimmings	Cheese Hot Dogs...with 50% Pork Adde...\$2.60/lb
Jalepeno Cheddar Brat.....\$2.00/lb.....\$2.20/lb on trimmings	Smoked Polish Sausage.....\$2.35/lb
Mild Italian.....\$1.25/lb.....\$1.45/lb on trimmings	Salami.....\$2.10/lb
Hot Italian.....\$1.25/lb.....\$1.45/lb on trimmings	Salami w/Hot Pepper Cheese.....\$2.60/lb
	Summer Sausage.....\$2.10/lb
	Summer Sausage w/Hot Pepper Cheese.....\$2.60/lb
	Beer Sticks.....\$2.35/lb
	Sticks w/Hot Pepper Cheese.....\$2.85/lb
	Sticks w/Ghost Pepper Cheese.....\$2.95/lb
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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

Award-winning Newspaper
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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.

Politicians' portraits

By Scott Reeder

As I stood on the Australian shore this summer, I pondered the majesty of the Pacific, but when I looked down, I couldn't help but think of Rod Blagojevich.

There at Rex Lookout in the Australian state of Queensland stood a plaque that once identified the politician who made the scenic overlook possible.

But an acetylene torch had been used to melt away the name of that elected official. After 35 years of covering politics, I didn't need a tour guide's explanation to figure out what had happened.

Nonetheless, our guide informed us that the fellow whose name was obliterated was an Aussie pol who was mired in scandal in the 1980s. His name was Martin Tenni. He didn't go to prison but a number of his buddies did. Despite this, someone in power removed his name.

This is a lousy practice.

Take a walk on the Illinois Capitol's second floor and you'll see 42 portraits of the state's chief executives. All but one of the state's past governor's stares out onto the marble hallway. At least three of the men represented there went to prison: George Ryan, Dan Walker and Otto Kerner.

Others such as William Stratton and Len Small, were indicted but never convicted. And more than likely there are others who should have gone to prison – but were never caught.

And then there is Rod Blagojevich. He served eight years in prison on corruption charges and is the only Illinois governor to be removed from office. His portrait is the one missing from the statehouse.

Why? Shortly after removing him from office, Illinois lawmakers passed a measure prohibiting the state from spending money to create a portrait for Blago. So, portraits in the hall of governors skips from No. 39 to No. 41.

It's as if Blagojevich never led the state for six years. His absence ignores that Illinois voters twice selected him as their leader. He did some bad things while he was governor, but he also did some good things. No one is all good or all bad.

For the record, I wasn't a fan of Blagojevich while he was in office. This column frequently criticized him. I never voted for him.

But denying him a place in the hall of governors is petty. Little is accomplished by scraping his name off of the state's collective memory.

Please note there is a difference between honoring someone and acknowledging their role in history.

I talked to Blagojevich about this recently. He said he has had several potential donors approach him about paying for the creation of a portrait. But he said he is holding off.

"The question is going to be what color my hair will be," he said of his helmet-like mane that turned snow white during his period of incarceration. Hair dye is not allowed in federal lockups.

"Well, I don't want the white hair. It was never black, by the way. It was sable brown, No. 47D. ... I'm not pushing for it. It's not a priority. It is true people have come up to me and offered to actually pay for it. And there will be a time when I think my portrait will be up there. I do believe there will be a time where I'll be vindicated. I do believe there will be a time where the truth will be exposed on what was happening. And I think these things are happening now."

Blagojevich's archnemesis Mike Madigan faces corruption charges of his own. Madigan, who led the Illinois House longer than any leader of any state legislative chamber in the history of the United States, also does not have a portrait hanging in the statehouse.

Even Paul Powell, the corrupt speaker who hid \$800,000 in shoeboxes in his hotel closet, has a painting hanging in that building. Whether he is convicted or not, Madigan should be recognized as well. It's about history, not canonization.

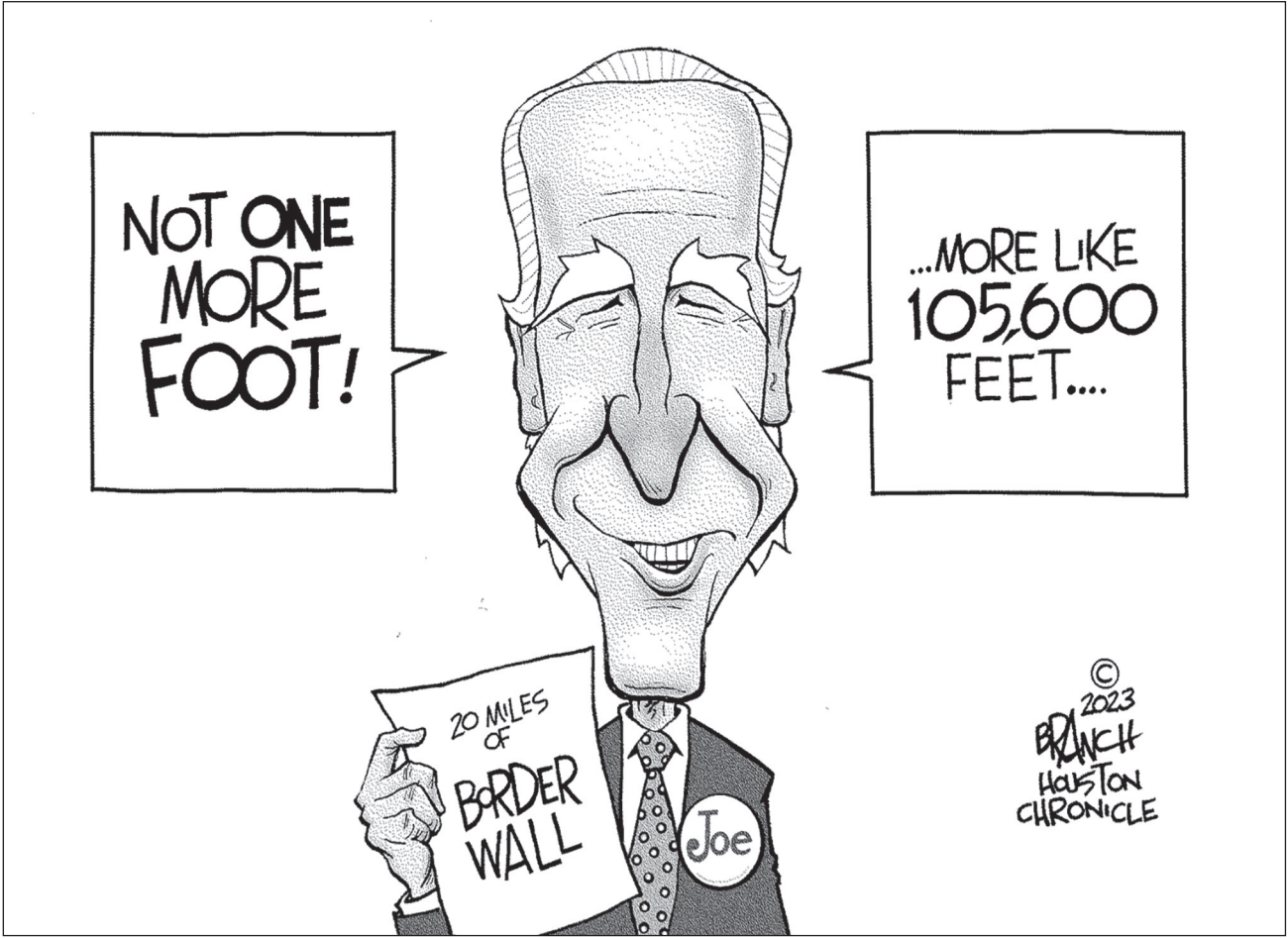
In the wake of the Commonwealth Edison scandal, lawmakers are scared voteless on the matter.

Over the years, I've taken family members and friends on tours of the state Capitol. When I walk by the paintings of governors, I point out the ones that went to prison – and the others who probably should have.

I remember taking my then 19-year-old niece up into the balcony of the House and pointing out Powell's portrait. I told of how his closet was full of ill-gotten loot and how he died of a heart attack in a Minnesota hotel room he was sharing with a woman not his wife.

As we walked away, I reached out and gave the frame a nudge. Some politicians just deserve to be remembered crooked.

(Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.)



CCS joins Donnelley family – 1992

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Oct. 30, 2002.)

By Jessica Nashold

It was 10 years ago, on Oct. 22, 1992, that workers at Combined Communication Services met at the Mendota Civic Center to hear an important announcement. CCS president Robert Sanderson introduced Ed Lane, president of the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Magazine Group. He extended an official welcome to become part of the Donnelley family of publications. Other Donnelley people present that day were Ron Garrison, director of the Mendota facility, John Campanelli, senior vice president of the Donnelley Magazine Group, Robert Hildebrand, vice president for employee relations, and Steve Koral, vice president of sales. Each gave a summary of the ways in which he would be involved with the Mendota plant. The employees were told Donnelley would look to them for ideas and plans to implement them.

The city council hears that the ambulance could no longer be certified. Also, the pumper on the fire truck had been manufactured by a company no longer in business. Parts were almost impossible to find. It was decided to get specifications and include a new pumper in the 1993 budget. It was also decided to check computer systems to handle billing for the ambulance department.

Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement require "a lot of paperwork."

Volunteers Rose Biederstedt and Ellen Carr were busily stocking shelves at the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry, in anticipation of filling Thanksgiving baskets. Director Beatrice Artega said baskets would be going to 275 needy families in Mendota, LaMoille, Sublette, West Brooklyn, Compton, Earlville, Triumph and Troy Grove.

Donations of food and cash would be accepted through Nov. 16. Baskets for small families would go out Nov. 19, for middle-sized families on Nov. 23 and large families, Nov. 24.

Beginning in 1987, students in third,

Backtracks & Sidetracks

sixth and eighth grades in Mendota had been tested in reading, writing, math and science. A total of 1,186 students took the tests on Sept. 30, 1992. It was reported that 12% were Hispanic and 21% were from low-income families. In previous years, Mendota students had always tested above the state average.

Scores for 1992 not yet tabulated.

Since Lincoln School had received computers, Earl and Linda Olsen were arranging to conduct in-service workshops for teachers. They indicated they might later make a workshop on computers available to the public.

The final section of Interstate 39 between Rockford and Bloomington opened to traffic Oct. 31, 1992. The 12-mile stretch from I-116 to I-39 was opened by Gov. Jim Edgar. Gov. Jim Thompson had presided over the opening of the Rochelle-Mendota segment in October 1986.

AWARDS

DAR – Christy Porter
SAR – Chad Rosenwinkel

The Mendota Reporter added to its list of awards during the fall conference of the Northern Illinois Newspaper Association in DeKalb, Oct. 23, 1992. It captured first place in Makeup & Appearance. A Special Section in Advertising took second place. In the category of Family & Home, Audrey Lawrence, social editor, placed third. Kip Cheek earned a third in the Best Local Sports Section competition.

Journalism professors were judges.

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary presented copies of "A Child's View of World War II" to Holy Cross and Northbrook Middle School libraries.

Red Ribbon Week was observed in Mendota schools, Oct. 24-Nov. 1. The slogan was "The Choice for Me is Drug Free." At Lincoln, red balloons were released with names attached. At Blackstone, a red ribbon was tied around a tree in the school yard.

Linda Dinges was named 1992 Woman of the Year by the Business & Professional Woman's Club. She was director of the OB Department at Ottawa Community Hospital. She had also been named to the Diocesan Education Commission in Peoria, because of her sponsorship of cheerleaders for the Holy Cross Athletic Association.

For Homecoming, on Oct. 16, 1992, the theme was "Oh, What a Night." It proved prophetic when Mendota outscored Princeton, 34-25. The Trojans took the NCIC title in 1992, for the third time.

The Spikers won their 25th straight match against Geneseo on Oct. 23, 1992. They, too, earned the NCIC title.

MHS sophomores could sign up for tests in English, math, reading and science, on Oct. 24, 1992, in the high school cafeteria. Registration was in the guidance office with a fee of \$60, payable in advance. It was believed the results would help students plan courses for their junior and senior years.

Tests require 1 hour, 55 minutes.

MASS members enjoyed a costume party in the Feik Senior Parlor at the Mendota Civic Center. The party was Oct. 29, 1992.

Karen Happ's third grade class at Lincoln School tie-dyed T-shirts orange and decorated them with Jack-O-Lantern faces. They posed for a group picture in The Mendota Reporter, and wore the shirts to school on Halloween.

Harold Faber, Harold Bell and Harry Mahar were caught on film as they occupied their customary seats on a park bench in the city park. They agreed it was the ideal spot to discuss the news of the day.

The superpower that can't arm itself

By Rich Lowry

No matter how much we'd like to believe in the inevitability of human progress and the spread of enlightened norms, we've learned the past couple of years that we still need artillery shells -- lots of artillery shells.

The Hamasterror attack, together with the ongoing Ukraine war and the looming Chinese threat to Taiwan, is putting a spotlight on the pitiful state of our capacity to manufacture the weapons necessary to the defense of our allies and ourselves.

According to a CNN report, an Israel ground invasion of Gaza would "create a new and entirely unexpected demand for 155 mm artillery ammunition and other weapons at a time when the U.S. and its allies and partners have been stretched thin from more than 18 months of fighting in Ukraine."

We are learning to our regret that we are using an attenuated post-Cold War, "end of history" defense-industrial base to try to meet the security needs of a newly threatening international environment with the real risk of Great Power conflict.

As it turns out, the peace dividend was very expensive.

It now should be a matter of the highest national priority to use every lever of government and the private sector to bolster the defense-industrial base in all its aspects.

The Biden administration should care about this at least as much as incentivizing the production of electric vehicles most people don't want to buy.

We aren't being asked, by the way, to fight a three-front war in Europe, the Middle East and Asia ourselves. No, the call is simply to provide arms to allies under attack or threat. If we can't do that, what does it say about our status as the world's preeminent power?

In Ukraine, the hopes of Moscow for a lightning victory and of the West for a sweepingly successful Ukraine counteroffensive both appear to have come a cropper. Now, it's a grinding artillery war.

Ukraine is estimated to need 1.5 million shells a year, and has been firing as many as 6,000 a day. Russia was firing

even more at the peak of its offensive.

The U.S. has supplied 2 million artillery shells to Ukraine as of July, and has been scrounging around -- along with other Western powers -- to feed whatever supplies it can find into the maw of the war.

It's not that we have been completely asleep. The U.S. was making 14,500 shells a month at the beginning of 2023, and has roughly doubled that. We hope to get to 100,000 a month in 2025. Still, highly sanctioned Russia is more proficient at producing shells.

If we can't supply Ukraine, what if we become embroiled in a major war with China?

War games conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies have the U.S. firing 5,000 long-range missiles in the first weeks of war, instantly depleting our stocks. According to CSIS, the U.S. would expend all its Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles within the first week of a conflict -- when it requires almost two years to manufacture one of the missiles.

We are also in the bizarre position of being dependent on our potential enemy for the materials we'd need in a war with that enemy. China has a dominant position in the market for rare earth metals -- so important to the production of high-end weapons -- and is the world leader in cast products.

There is no easy way out of the hole we've dug ourselves. It will require more spending on defense; more reliable, long-term contracts for the production of key weapons; a focus on securing the supply chain necessary to the production of high-tech munitions; and assistance to manufacturers in training workers, among other things.

The history of empires and nations that don't mind the need for up-to-date weapons at the scale necessary to defeat or deter adversaries isn't a happy one. It's in our power to avoid this fate -- if we have the will and don't waste more time.

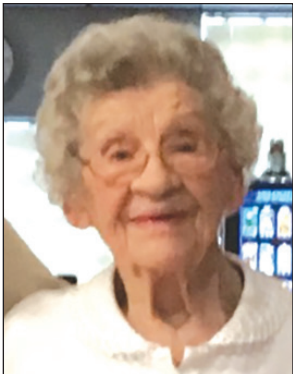
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Mendota City Officials

- FIRST WARD ALDERMEN**
James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...815-538-2474
John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,815-539-9934
- SECOND WARD ALDERMEN**
John Holland, 902 West Lawn,815-528-5367
Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,630-841-1315
- THIRD WARD ALDERMEN**
Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave.,815-538-2414
Jay Miller, 702 First Ave.,757-412-9374
- FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN**
Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,815-252-7243
Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,815-866-5558

SOCIAL NEWS



Arlene Schmitt

A. Schmitt to observe 100th birthday Nov. 3

MENDOTA – A 100th birthday card shower is planned for Arlene Schmitt. Her birthday is Friday, Nov. 3.

If you would like to send her well-wishes on her milestone birthday, cards can be mailed to Arlene Schmitt, 901 First St., Mendota, IL 61342.



Lucille Buettner

Card shower set for L. Buettner's 99th birthday

MENDOTA – In celebration of Lucille Buettner's 99th birthday, her family is hosting a card shower in honor of her special day.

She was born Nov. 6, 1924, to George and Louise Althaus. She married Clayton Buettner in 1948 and was a farmer's wife for her entire life. Lucille has one son, Ken, three grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

Lucille and Clayton retired from the farm in 2002 and moved to Mendota. Widowed in 2013, Lucille stayed in their home on Monroe Street until 2018 when she moved to Stonecroft Village.

Please wish her a happy birthday by sending well-wishes to Lucille Buettner, 1700 Burlington St., Apt. 12, Mendota, IL 61342.

Windy City Dueling Pianos to perform at Ottawa fundraiser

OTTAWA – The LaSalle County Friends of Extension & 4-H is hosting an annual dinner fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 11 at Knights of Columbus Hall in Ottawa. The night will feature a performance from the Windy City Dueling Pianos, dinner from The Cheese Shop, and a silent auction. Proceeds for the event will benefit the LaSalle County Extension and 4-H programs.

Doors open at 5 p.m. followed by dinner from The Cheese Shop served at 6 p.m. The music begins at 7 p.m. from the Windy City Dueling Pianos, a dueling piano performers group.

Tickets can be purchased in advance and are available until Nov. 3 for \$60. Tickets will not be available at the door. To secure tickets, visit the LaSalle Extension/4-H



office at 1689 N. 31st Road, Ottawa, or call the Extension office at 815-433-0707. Tickets can also be reserved by reaching out to Gail Hayward at 815-257-6266. Table sponsorship is available for \$175, which includes two tickets, or \$550 providing front-row seating and eight tickets.

Join in for an energetic evening for a great cause. The numerous programs in 4-H, Nutrition and Wellness, Agriculture, and Master Gardeners would not be possible without the sup-

port of the annual funders, numerous volunteers, individual donors, and caring businesses.

For more information or if you need an accommodation to participate, please contact LaSalle County Friends of Extension & 4-H at lcf4h@gmail.com or call 815-433-0707.

Extension offices are located in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry, and in Oglesby on the IVCC campus. Illinois Extension leads public outreach for University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes and opportunities. Visit the Extension website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/blmp>.

F. Hahn to mark 80th birthday with special event on Nov. 4th

MENDOTA – Fran Hahn will celebrate his 80th birthday on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Anyone interested in helping him celebrate this special occasion can come to Ziggy's Family Restaurant in Mendota for an open house from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4. Cake and refreshments will be served.

A Dutch dinner will be enjoyed immediately following the event.



Fran Hahn

It's Trick-or-Treat time in Mendota

□ Lots of chances available for children

MENDOTA – Children in costume are invited to "Trick-or-Treat" at participating Mendota Businesses and Shops throughout the city on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Shop owners will be passing out treats from 3-5 p.m.

Parents are reminded to have their children look for the orange Halloween poster on the door of those businesses that will be participating. The signs say "Trick-or-Treat Here" and have the date and time on them.

This promotion is sponsored by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce. Businesses wishing an orange "Trick or Treat"

poster for their doors are welcome to pick one up at the Mendota Chamber office.

Some other trick-or-treat opportunities for children in Mendota include:

- Mendota Elks Lodge – Trunk or Treat in the parking lot from 3-5 p.m. Oct. 31.
- Allure of Mendota (formerly Heritage Health) – In front of the building from 3-5 p.m. Oct. 31.
- United Pentecostal Church – Trunk or Treat in parking lot from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 31.
- City of Mendota – City-wide trick-or-treat from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 31.

Authors of books on Cherry Mine Disaster to present program Nov. 4

CHERRY — The Bureau County Historical Society announced it will collaborate with the Cherry Mine Disaster Museum for an upcoming program in Cherry featuring writers and authors of books about the 1909 disaster.

The free event will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, in Holy Trinity Hall, 103 Main St. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m.

"The Cherry Library is excited to bring so many authors to town to talk about something so important to our residents," said Jennifer Ring, head librarian at the Cherry Mine Disaster Museum. "We hope that people will come listen to the authors tell their stories and then visit our museum and library to learn more about the Cherry Mine Disaster."

The fiery disaster, which occurred on Nov. 13, 1909, claimed the lives of 259 men and boys.

"The Cherry Mine Disaster was an event that changed the course of labor in the United States," said Lex Poppens, executive director for the Bureau County Historical Society. "We are excited to work with our peers in Cherry to inform the community on this important event."

Authors scheduled to appear are:

- Sally M. Walker, author of "Underground Fire: Hope, Sacrifice, and Courage

in the Cherry Mine Disaster," 2022.

- Steve Stout, author of "Black Damp: The Story of the Cherry Mine Disaster," 1979.

- Karen Tintori (appearing electronically), author of "Trapped: The 1909 Cherry Mine Disaster," 2003.

- Ron Bluemer, author of "Fire Below! The Story of the 1909 Cherry Mine Disaster," 2007.



who will speak on surprising and newly discovered bits of Cherry history.

A quantity of signed and dated books from author Jim Ridings, who is not available to attend, will also be for sale. His book, "The Illustrated History of the Cherry Mine Disaster of 1909," was published in 2020.

Each author will speak on their books. Their comments will be followed by questions and answers from the audience. Attendees will be able to meet the authors as well. All authors' books will be available for purchase at the event.

For more information, contact Lex Poppens at 815-875-2184, or email Jennifer Ring, Cherry Mine Disaster Museum at ringo12525@yahoo.com. Additional information is available at www.bureauhistory.org.

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Bundle of assorted branches (7lbs)	\$25.00
Grave Blankets 18-36 inch	\$65.00

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THE BACK PAGE

CARDS OF THANKS

I'd like to sincerely thank family, friends and everyone for their thoughtfulness, the cards, the monetary donations and delicious food. I'd like to thank Heritage in Walnut for taking excellent care of my husband, Harry James Kessinger, while he was there.

**Judy Kessinger
Doug & Chris Kessinger**

Burn Pit hours

MENDOTA—Incinerator (burn pit) hours for the city of Mendota are as follows:

- Monday – 3-6 p.m.
- Tuesday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Friday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The incinerator is located south of Mendota near the sewage treatment plant.

POLICE BLOTTER

FAILURE TO REPORT ACCIDENT

Tonya R. Ramsey, 38, of Eldridge, Iowa, was charged with failure to report an accident after Mendota police responded to the 700 block of 13th Avenue for the report of a hit and run traffic accident at 3:45 p.m. Oct. 17. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Paige R. Bainbridge, 24, of 904 1/2 Washington St., Mendota, was arrested at 6:48 p.m. Oct. 17 on two Lee County warrants for failure to appear/contempt. The subject posted bond and was released with Lee County court dates.

WARRANT ARREST

Dane M. Towne, 27, of 904 Washington St., Mendota, was arrested at 6:59 p.m. Oct. 17 of a DeKalb

County warrant for failure to appear/driving while license suspended. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

FAILURE TO REPORT ACCIDENT

David D. Chinchilla Rosales, 68, of Houston, Texas, was charged with failure to report an accident after Mendota police were called to the 1300 block of Raymond Drive for the report of a hit and run traffic accident at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

FAILURE TO REPORT, LEAVING SCENE

Ramiro Torres-Hernandez, 45, of 1104 Third St., Mendota, was charged with failure to report an accident and leaving the scene of an accident after police officers

investigated the report of a possible hit and run accident in the 1000 block of Sixth Avenue at 12:18 a.m. Oct. 20. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

JUVENILE DUI

A 16-year-old male juvenile was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and 22nd Street at 1:54 a.m. Oct. 21. The subject was released to a parent with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Shavon M. Ramos, 43, of Jacksonville, Fla., was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Washington Street at 3:49 a.m. Oct. 21. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

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SPORTS

Heartbreak in Chillicothe

❑ Trojans fall to Quincy Notre Dame in soccer sectional on tiebreaker shootout

CHILLICOTHE - Even though a long stretch of road separates Mendota and Quincy, quite a rivalry has developed between the Mendota and Quincy Notre Dame soccer programs.

The two teams knocked each other out of the post-season the last two years, with Mendota's victory in 2021 propelling it to its first-ever sectional championship and Notre Dame's win over the Trojans in 2022 leading it on a path to the state title.

When this year's post-season pairings were released, they pointed to another sectional showdown between the two squads, and when it came to fruition, it turned out to be the most breathtaking match-up yet.

The Trojans and Raiders needed regulation, two overtimes and a tiebreaker shootout before deciding the winner, and it was Quincy Notre Dame that came away with a 3-2 thriller in the semi-final-round of the Chillicothe IVC Class 1A Sectional on Oct. 21 at Chillicothe. Mendota closed out a banner season with a 21-3-2 record.

The two teams battled to a 1-1 deadlock after 80 minutes of play to send the game into two 10-minute overtime periods. The first OT was scoreless, then QND broke the tie when Leo Cann drilled a shot into the upper left corner of the goal to make it 2-1 with 6:36 left on the clock.

The Raiders then tried to play keep away from the Trojans, dumping the ball into the Mendota zone every chance it could to slice precious seconds off the clock. The strategy worked for five minutes until the Trojans went on the attack and got the ball into QND territory, where a Raider player was whistled for a foul that gave Mendota a free kick. With players from both sides lined up just outside the goalie box, Mendota's Johan Cortez booted a shot toward the crowd that found the head of Izaiah Nanez and somehow found the back of the QND goal to amazingly tie the score at 2-2 with 1:35 left in the second OT.



Mendota's Bryan Herrera gets a leg up to the ball on Quincy Notre Dame's Tedros Berhorst during sectional soccer action on Oct. 21 at Chillicothe. (Reporter photo)

Neither team was able to score over the remaining minute and a half, and the game went to a tiebreaker shootout.

In the tiebreaker, each team gets five kicks at the goal, alternating kickers. QND shot first, and Cann was good on his effort to make it 1-0. Cortez was up first for the Trojans, and Raider goalie Max Frericks made an incredible diving stop to keep it at 1-0.

QND made it 2-0 when Rylan Fischer scored and Mendota's Isaac Diaz hit the top crossbar with his offering.

Each team scored on the third kick - Brody Jones for the Raiders and Cesar Casas for the Trojans - to make it 3-1 with two shots left.

Frericks went from goalie to kicker on QND's fourth

attempt, and his shot found the back of the net for a 4-1 Raider advantage and a QND victory.

After losing to QND 7-1 in last year's sectional, Mendota coach Nick Myers was ecstatic with the effort his young Trojans put forth.

"We played a tremendous game and with a lot more confidence this year," said Myers. "We held our own against the defending state champions."

"I thought we had numerous chances to score that we didn't convert, but super kudos to our kids for getting this game into overtime. Tiebreakers are tough and it was a tough way to go, but I'm super proud of our boys."

The game started with what appeared to be a Mendota goal by Nanez off of a corner kick just one minute

in, but the goal was denied when Nanez was penalized for pushing off of a player.

The game remained scoreless until the 12:17 mark when a Nolan Heck goal gave the Raiders a 1-0 lead.

Just over three minutes later, the Trojans tied the count at 1-1 on a Diaz goal.

Mendota had the best chance to score over the remainder of the first half, but a shot clanged off the crossbar at the 2:28 mark, and then the second half saw no goals from either team and the contest went to overtime.

With just five seniors departing the team, Myers is looking forward to 2024.

"We have such a young team and they play with such poise," noted Myers. "I'm super excited for next year already."

MHS claims 5th straight regional soccer title

MENDOTA - Regional championships are beginning to become commonplace for the Mendota boys' soccer team.

The Trojans added their fifth straight regional title when they cruised past Kewanee, 4-0, in the Mendota Class 1A Regional on Oct. 18 at the MHS field. The win vaulted the Trojans into the Chillicothe IVC Sectional.

The game was scoreless until just under the nine-minute mark of the first half when Mendota's Isaac

Diaz floated a shot from about 70 feet that arced down just above the outstretched arms of the Kewanee goalie and just below the crossbar. The first half ended with the Trojans on top, 1-0.

Mendota pulled away from Kewanee with three second-half goals. Diaz rammed home another, while Johan Cortez and Sebastian Carlos also got shots past the Boiler goalkeeper.

Cortez and David Casas had assists for Mendota, while Mateo Goy was

between the pipes and picked up four goalie saves.

While the Trojans boast a young squad on paper, they carry a veteran presence on the field.

"Our kids have done a great job carrying on the tradition of working hard and being coachable players," said MHS coach Nick Myers. "Each group every year including this young group wants to do as well as the previous teams and keep on the tradition of winning."

MHS harriers qualify for sectional run

SENECA - The Mendota High School boys' and girls' cross country teams extended their seasons by at least another week after they competed in the Seneca Class 1A Cross Country Regional on Oct. 21.

The Trojans finished third in the team standings with 91 points. The top seven teams move on. Aurora Central Catholic grabbed the team title with 17 points and Seneca was second with 90. Also qualifying for the sectional were Henry-Senachwine (92), Dwight (100) and Princeton (133).

Two Trojans raced to top 10 finishes. Anthony Kelson was fourth overall with a time of 18:01.3 and Dagen Setchell took ninth place in 18:52.6.

Also part of the sectional-qualifying Mendota team were Carlos Toribio (36th, 22:34.7), Hector Gonzalez (44th, 23:53.6), Travis Mumm (46th, 24:37.4)



Newman's Isaiah Williams knocks the ball away as Braiden Freeman of Mendota is in position to make the catch on Oct. 20 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

Newman thumps MHS in football finale, 50-0

❑ Trojans close season with 1-8 mark

MENDOTA - Sterling Newman's six wins coming into its game with Mendota were far from impressive, with the six coming by a combined margin of 53 points.

The Comets nearly reached that total against the Trojans as they raced to a 50-0 win in the Three Rivers Conference and season finale for Mendota on Oct. 20 at the MHS field.

The Trojans closed out the 2023 campaign at 1-8 overall and 0-5 in league play, while Newman heads into post-season action with a 7-2 mark.

Newman did a bulk of its scoring in the first half. While the Comets didn't reach the necessary 40-point margin to activate a running clock to start the second half, they did produce 33 points in the first 24 minutes of play. For Mendota, the offense struggled mightily for the third straight game as the busiest man on the field for the Trojans was punter Braiden Freeman.

The Comets started the game with a big play on the opening kick as Matt Blackert ran it back 40 yards to the Mendota 36-yard line. During its first possession, Newman quarterback Evan Bushman ran for 34 yards down to the Mendota 1 yard line. The drive was momentarily sidetracked when Bushman was sacked for a 6-yard loss by Xzavior Orozco, but two plays later, Blackert gathered in a 5-yard touchdown pass from Bushman to open the scoring. The PAT kick was blocked.

Mendota's first offensive series of the night resulted in a punt and Newman took over at its own 46. It needed just five plays to go 54 yards as Brady Grennan ran in from the 2-yard line and Ana Jungerman booted the extra point for a 13-0 Comet lead.

The Trojans punted twice and Newman once on their next possessions. Mendota

Erasing the chalk

When I looked at the Major League Baseball post-season bracket before the first non-regular season first pitch, I rubbed my hands together like some do before making a large bet or striving for a life changing accomplishment.

Then I smiled and said one word, chalk.

In sports, chalk means the significant favorite.



Not the Last Chance
By Brandon LaChance

Every single matchup in the bracket seemed like the favorite was not only going to win but sweep their counterpart. So, I took the finest white virtual chalk throughout the entire bracket for the first time 25-plus years I've been filling out sports tournament and playoff brackets.

Ugh, was the chalk the ugliest, most hard to see, transparent, gritty, never should have bought into chalk of all time.

In the eight matchups in the wild card and divisional rounds, only three of the top seeds beat the higher seed. No. 3-seeded Minnesota Twins beat No. 6 in an American League Wild Card series but then became the lower seed to lose against the No. 2 Houston Astros in an AL Divisional Round series, and in a National League Wild Card series the No. 4-seeded Philadelphia Phillies swept No. 5 Miami Marlins.

This means five lower seeds prevailed as No. 5 Texas Rangers beat No. 4 Tampa Bay in an AL Wild Card and then swept No. 1 Baltimore Orioles in an ALDS.

In the National League, No. 6 Arizona Diamondbacks beat No. 3 Milwaukee Brewers in the Wild Card and then shocked the word by sweeping the No. 2 Los Angeles Dodgers in a NLDS.

The Phillies 3-1 NLDS upset victory over the Braves was as equally mind-blowing.

The explosion sucked in my bracket and reduced it to dust.

The Rangers have been a good team, but the Rays and the Orioles had dismantled teams all year.

Who are the Diamondbacks? Where are they from? If you played the game Who Doesn't Belong, when you see the funny A with squiggly lines on the bracket, those are the very questions you'd ask yourself, a bookie, or your buddy.

But then they beat Milwaukee, who held strong atop the National League Central Division and the Chicago Cubs.

And to sweep the Dodgers? Yes, L.A. had multiple injuries, but they were still able to field a team of competent players being paid millions of dollars to swing a bat and field a glove.

Atlanta. Oh ATL. How dare you disappoint the entire baseball world except the monstrous, and the never will be quiet for a minute Philadelphia fans.

The Braves were favorited, chalk, to win the World Series in early October. Not just win, but the odds were highly, highly in their favor.

Nope, the chalk was washed away. Amidst the AL and NL Championship Series, the favorites continue to wipe away.

While writing this at 12:32 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, Texas is ahead of Houston 2-1 in the best of seven AL Championship Series as the Rangers are trying to make their third World Series (2010, 2011) and win for the first time.

The No. 4 Phillies are holding strong against No. 6 Diamondbacks with a 2-0 lead in the NLCS as Kyle Schwarber continues to make Cubs' fans miserable and Bryce Harper moves in as the face of the MLB.

But is 50 percent chalk with two series much better than 37.5 percent in the eight matchups in the first two rounds.

As a gambler, it's maddening. My sincere condolences to anyone who picked a majority of the favorites.

Good thing my bracket went nowhere except the desktop of my work computer.

As a baseball fan, it's awesome to see upsets and the advancement of teams that no one thought had business being in the playoffs, let alone erasing the chalk.

SPORTS

Football

Continued from Page B1

ta's second punt during the stretch gave the ball to the Comets at the Trojan 46-yard line and they needed just one play on the drive to get back into the end zone. It was the aerial attack that did it for Newman as Bushman hooked up with Cody McBride on a 46-yard TD strike, followed by a Jungerman PAT kick to open the margin to 20-0.

The Comets tacked on two more scores in the final 2:30 of the half. Newman marched 68 yards in 10 plays, the final play being a 6-yard touchdown run by Brady Williamson. Jungerman added the extra point. The Comets picked up a fourth-and-two from the Trojan 25-yard line to keep the drive alive.

When Mendota went back on offense, a Justin Randolph pass was picked off by Isaiah Williams, who returned it 25 yards to the Trojan 38-yard line. A nicely executed screen pass from Bushman to Bren-

nan went for 33 yards to the 5, then Bushman finished off the drive with a 5-yard run with 55 seconds left in the half. Newman botched the extra-point attempt and settled for a 33-0 halftime lead.

The Trojans got the ball to start the second half, but their first series resulted in a punt. When Newman took over, it made the spread 40 points when the Bushman-to-Blackert connection went for 23 yards to the end zone. Jungerman's successful kick made it 40-0 and the rest of the game was played with a running clock.

Jungerman booted a 23-yard field goal as time expired in the third period, then Williamson bolted 42 yards for a score with 15 seconds left in the game. Jungerman converted the PAT kick to complete the scoring.

Mendota had 43 plays from scrimmage and generated just 33 yards of total offense after gaining 21 yards last week at Princeton. Newman accumulated 355 yards in 42 plays.

• Trojan Yardstick •

STERLING NEWMAN 50, MENDOTA 0						
Newman	13	20	10	7	-	50
Mendota	0	0	0	0	-	0

SCORING SUMMARY

SN - Blackert 5 pass from Bushman (kick failed), 9:21 1Q
SN - Grennan 2 run (Jungerman kick), 4:33 1Q
SN - McBride 46 pass from Bushman (Jungerman kick), 9:14 2Q
SN - Williamson 6 run (Jungerman kick), 2:30 2Q
SN - Bushman 5 run (run failed), 0:55 2Q
SN - Blackert 23 pass from Bushman (Jungerman kick), 7:24 3Q
SN - Jungerman 23 field goal, 0:00 3Q
SN - Williamson 43 run (Jungerman kick), 0:15 4Q

	ME	SN
First Downs	4	18
Rushes-Yards	29-21	31-226
Passing Yards	12	129
Passes	5-14-1	7-11-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Punts-Avg	4-28	1-29
Penalties-Yards	5-35	6-40

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing – MENDOTA: Freeman 8-23, Tillman 2-10, Furr 3-3, Ossman 2-2, Serrano 1-(minus 1), Randolph 13-(minus 16); NEWMAN: Williamson 8-88, Bushman 4-53, Grennan 12-52, Rude 4-37, McDonnell 3-(minus 4).
Passing – MENDOTA: Randolph 5-13-1-12, Freeman 0-1-0-0; NEWMAN: Bushman 7-11-0-129.
Receiving – MENDOTA: Ossman 3-14, Freeman 1-2, Beetz 1-(minus 4); NEWMAN: McBride 1-46, Grennan 1-33, Blackert 2-28, Williams 2-21, Hanrahan 1-1.

Harriers

Continued from Page B1

and Spencer Kain (54th, 26:09.3).

Patrick Hilby of Aurora Central Catholic captured first-place honors with a clocking of 17:52.2.

The Mendota girls just snuck into the sectional after finishing seventh in the team standings with 187 points. Seneca claimed first-place honors with 31 points, followed by Stark County (42), Aurora Central Catholic (57), Princeton (104), Amboy (141) and Somonauk (155).

Five Lady Trojans traversed the course, led by Anna Valdes in 44th place with a time of 30:20.9. Samara Hernandez was 45th in 30:45.1, followed by Emily Banks (50th, 32:38), Payton Stavropoulos (51st, 34:29.7) and Hayden Senders (54th, 36:48.8).

Evelyn O'Connor of Seneca crossed the finish line first in the girls' race with a time of 20:02.2.

Mendota will compete in the Oregon Sectional on Saturday, Oct. 28. The girls will race at 10 a.m. and the boys will compete at 11 a.m.

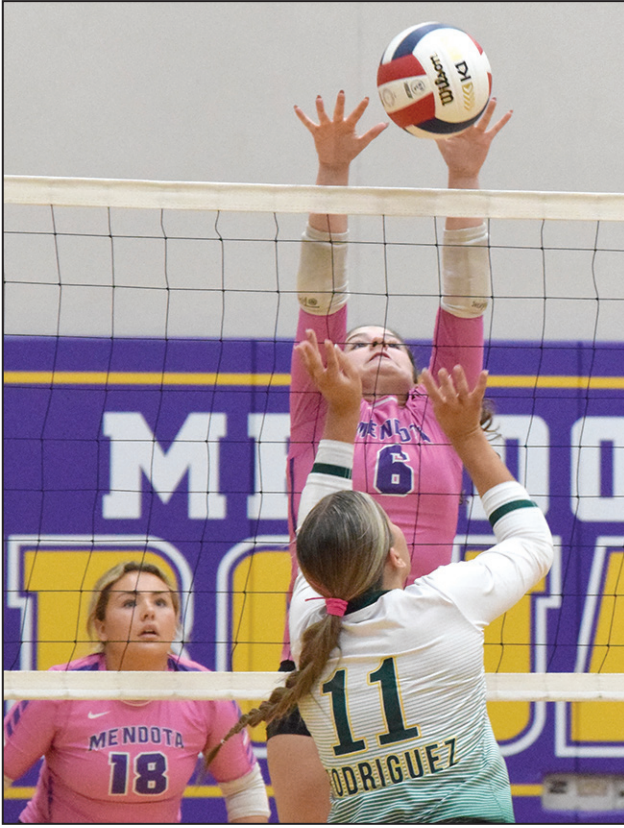
Spikers beaten in regional

MENDOTA – Coal City captured a 25-17, 25-23 victory over Mendota in the opening round of the Mendota Class 2A Regional Volleyball Tournament on Oct. 23 at the MHS gym.

After an Ella Coss kill gave Mendota a 1-0 lead in set one, Coal City took the lead at 2-1 and held the advantage until the Spikers tied the game 13-13 on an Emma Pierce kill. Coal City ran off three straight points, but Mendota did the same on a service error by the Coalers and two straight ace serves by Laylie Denault.

Coal City held an 18-17 lead when Aubrey Mellen stepped to the service line for the Coalers and served out the match with seven straight points.

Set two featured 14 ties and several lead changes. The final tie was 19-19, and after Coal City went up 20-19, it never relinquished the lead. Two kills by Reanna Brant brought Mendota within one point, the latter being 24-23, but the Coalers got a middle row kill from



Mendota's Madelyn Becker gets a hand on a dink shot from Coal City's Emma Rodriguez during the Mendota Regional on Oct. 23. (Reporter photo)

Emma Rodriguez to close out the match.

The Spikers ended the season with a 12-20-1 record.

F-S Trojans close season with 1-8 record

Princeton struck early and often on its way to a 54-6 triumph over Mendota in freshman-sophomore football action on Oct. 16 at the MHS field.

The Tigers tallied all of their points in the first half. Princeton found the end zone three times in the opening stanza on runs of 30, 1 and 31 yards, and it converted all three two-point attempts.

Princeton tacked on four more touchdowns in the second quarter to take a 54-0 halftime lead. The Tigers crossed the goal line on runs of 12, 25 and 36 yards, while they also added a six-pointer on a 76-yard interception return.

Mendota avoided the shutout when Jayden Lesley scored on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

The Trojans picked up 93 total yards in the contest compared to 266 for Princeton. Mendota quarterback Javier Hernandez

completed seven passes for 84 yards. Cam Wasmer gathered in three aerials for 57 yards.

Mendota concluded the season with a 32-8 setback to Newman on Oct. 23 at Sterling. The Trojans ended with a 1-8 record.

Newman opened the scoring with a 54-yard touchdown run in the first period, then tallied three TDs in the second quarter on runs of 19, 2 and 51 yards. The Comets completed their scoring with a 69-yard pass play in the third quarter.

Mendota scored its lone touchdown with 6:28 left in the game on a 1-yard run by Lesley. Hernandez added the two-point conversion run.

The Trojans had 132 yards and Newman generated 322 yards. Lesley carried 19 times for 85 yards and Wyatt Ossman gained 53 yards in nine attempts.

Spikers end Three Rivers play with win over Hall

MENDOTA – The Mendota Spikers concluded the regular volleyball season on a winning note with an 18-25, 25-19, 25-12 triumph over Hall in Three Rivers Conference action on Oct. 18 at the MHS gym.

Reanna Brant drilled 15 kills and put up three blocks, while Laylie Denault walloped seven kills and added nine digs for the Spikers. Madelyn Becker set up the offense with 30 assists and 12 digs, Ella Coss delivered four kills, Lilly Leifheit picked up 20 digs, Ryleigh Sondgeroth had eight digs and Ava Eddy served three aces.

Final Three Rivers standings: Newman 10-0, Princeton 6-4, Bureau Valley 6-4, Mendota 4-6, Kewanee 4-6, Hall 0-10.



Final Three Rivers East Division Football Standings

	TR	OA
Princeton	5-0	8-1
Kewanee	4-1	8-1
Sterling Newman	3-2	7-2
Bureau Valley	2-3	4-5
Hall	1-4	3-6
Mendota	0-5	1-8

Friday, Oct. 20

Newman 50, Mendota 0
Kewanee 50, Aurora CC 0
Princeton 54, Hall 0
Morrison 38, Bureau V. 13



Mendota's Johan Cortez slides in toward the ball as Quincy Notre Dame goalkeeper Max Frericks tries to cover it up during the semifinals of the Chillicothe IVC Class 1A Sectional on Oct. 21. (Reporter photo)

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OCT. 14 OHIO

OCT. 21 EASTERN MICHIGAN

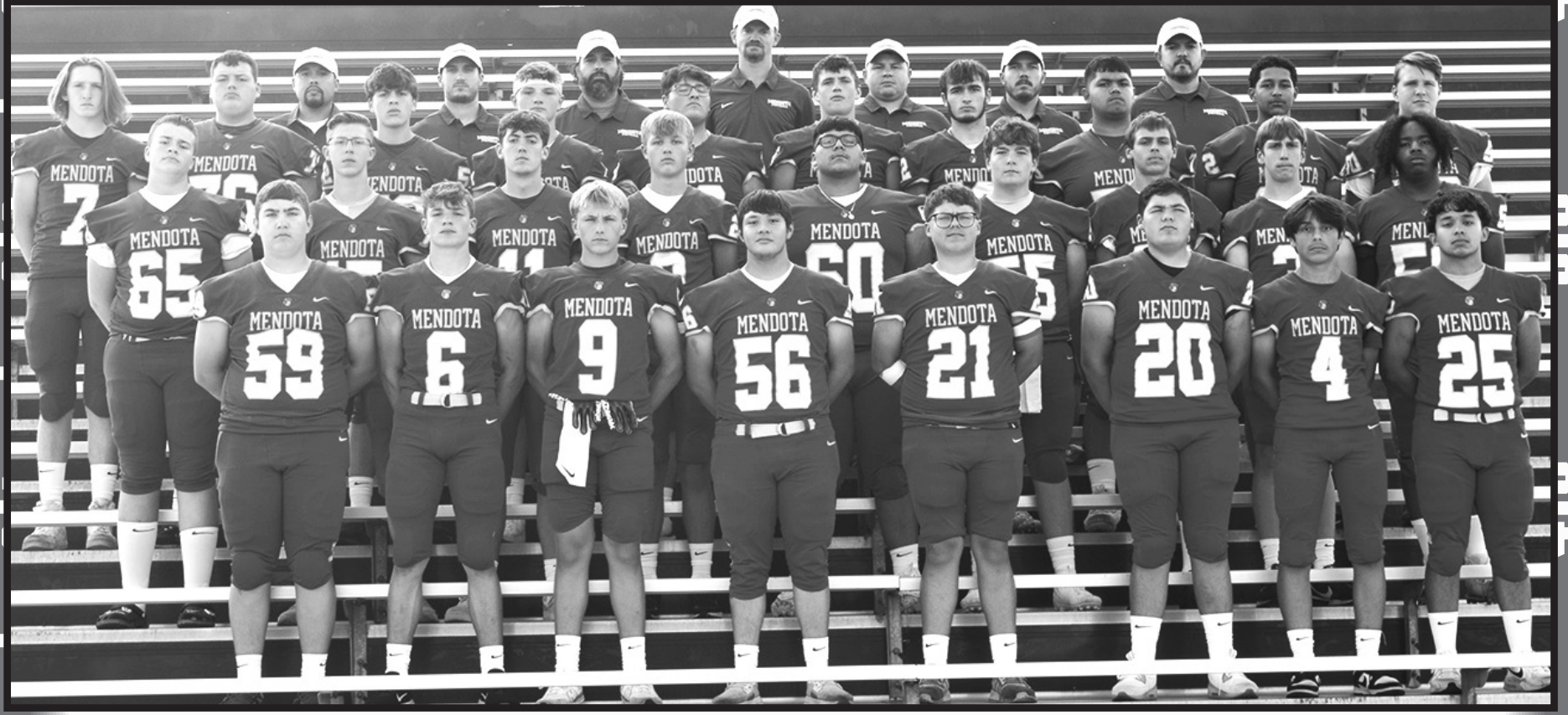
NOV. 7 BALL STATE

NOV. 14 WESTERN MICHIGAN



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**Way to Go,
Trojans!**

ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Glenn Close has become a Netflix darling. Her first and most recent film for the streaming service was "Heart of Stone," co-starring Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan, which dropped Aug. 11. Then comes the horror thriller "The Deliverance," with Mo'Nique and Omar Epps, followed by the comedy "Back in Action," with Jamie Foxx, Cameron Diaz and Kyle Chandler.
In addition, she also co-stars in "Brothers," a comedy with Josh Brolin, Peter Dinklage and Oscar winner Brendan Fraser, which will be released in theaters.

We've had biopics on "Elvis" (the Priscilla Presley biopic drops Nov. 3) and we've seen one on Whitney Houston, but a Michael Jackson biopic is long overdue. So, Lionsgate is taking on the task. Simply called "Michael," it'll star Jaafar Jackson, son of Michael's brother Jermaine. The film will cover Michael's life, minus anything relating to the alleged sexual abuse of children, since the film's

being made with the blessing of Jackson's estate.
Jaafar is 27 and was raised in Encino, California. His debut song, "Got Me Singing," was released in 2019. The edge he brings may be that he grew up with Michael's children and knew his uncle well.

Richard Gere is back at work with the comedy "Longing," co-starring Diane Kruger. He's then set to star in Paul Schrader's drama "Oh, Canada" with Uma Thurman and up-and-coming superstar Jacob Elordi.
In addition to playing Elvis Presley in "Priscilla," Elordi will star in the drama "On Swift Horses," with Daisy Edgar-Jones and Will Poulter. He has completed two steamy seasons of "Euphoria" and is prepping for season three, which won't be released until 2025.

Have the powers that be in the black tower of Universal Studios completely lost their minds? What could have possessed them to shell out \$400 million to acquire the rights to "The Exorcist" franchise? Their plan is to create a new

trilogy of "Exorcist" films after the first one -- "The Exorcist: Believer" (costing \$30 million and grossing \$85.2 million so far) -- was released on Oct. 6. The film afforded critics a field day that may not make it a big box-office bonanza.
It stars Leslie Odom Jr. (of "Hamilton" fame and currently on Broadway in "Purlie Victorious"), Ann Dowd and Jennifer Nettles. It also features a cameo from Ellen Burstyn, star of the original "Exorcist" (1973). The second installment, "The Exorcist: Deceiver," isn't due until sometime in 2025.
Universal's only hope to recoup their investment may be waiting after November 2024 when their big-screen version of the Broadway megahit "Wicked" opens. However, there's no telling how audiences will feel about waiting a year for part two (like with "Dune"). It stars Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh and Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard of Oz. Universal's going to have a "Wicked" time trying to recoup their "Exorcist" money.

Couch Theater

"Reptile" (R) -- In this crime thriller starring Benicio del Toro and Justin Timberlake, a detective (del Toro) with a past of uncovering crooked cops is put on the murder case of a young real estate agent. Her body was found by her boyfriend (Timberlake) in their home, painting him as a prime suspect. But with one trail leading back to her ex-husband (Karl Glusman), and another leading to a mentally unstable man seeking revenge for a corrupt real estate deal, solving the case won't be an easy feat. Del Toro's acting prowess is what easily carries the film, along with a refreshing performance from "Clueless" star Alicia Silverstone. Out now. (Netflix)
"Five Nights at Freddy's" (PG-13) -- Based on the video game franchise of the same name, this horror film follows security guard Mike Schmidt (Josh Hutcherson) as he starts working the night shift at Freddy Fazbear's Pizza. Abby, Mike's little sister, is in his care and accompanies him to the abandoned family fun center, where she soon discovers a few animatronics that all seem to have a mind of their own. Although a local police officer (Elizabeth Lail) comes around to warn him of Freddy's sinister past, it's only a matter of time before Mike and Abby find out for themselves. You won't look at a Chuck E. Cheese the same after this. Premieres Oct. 27. (Peacock)
"Susie Searches" (NR) -- College-aged student Susie is the host of a true crime

podcast that doesn't really get much traction. Determined to make her podcast succeed, she covertly takes advantage of an opportunity to get herself more clout when a student at her college, Jesse, suddenly disappears. After Jesse does eventually get found by Susie, she gets praised as a hero, and her social status instantly begins to climb. But when another student finds incriminating evidence of Jesse's kidnaper, Susie realizes that she might be way in over her head. Kiersey Clemons ("The Flash") plays the titular character in the film, with appearances by Alex Wolff, Jim Gaffigan and Alex Moffat. Premieres Oct. 27. (Hulu)
"Surrounded" (R) -- "Black Panther's" Letitia Wright plays Moses "Mo" Washington, a female Buffalo soldier disguised as a man on a treacherous ride west in search of a gold mine after serving in the Civil War. When the stagecoach that Mo is smuggled on gets ambushed by thieves, she narrowly escapes death. But after deputies of the sheriff arrive at the scene, Mo is forced to stand guard for one of the thieves -- legendary outlaw Tommy Walsh (Jamie Bell) -- until they return with the sheriff. Knowing that other bandits from Tommy's gang are riding in search of him, Mo must continue her endless plight of survival with all the odds against her. This Western film, out now, features Michael K. Williams in his final appearance before his tragic death. (Amazon Prime Video)

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: I read that Martin Scorsese's new movie is more than three hours long. Will it have an intermission? What is the longest movie ever made anyway? -- **K.K.**
A : **Scorsese**
Widely considered one of America's greatest film directors, Martin Scorsese is known for making films that are anything but short. His latest release, "Killers of the Flower Moon," clocks in at three hours and 26 minutes, and he makes no apologies for not having an intermission. He recently told the Hindustan Times that if viewers at home "can sit in front of the TV and watch something for five hours," people can sit and watch a movie in theaters for more than three hours.
However, he doesn't mention that many Broadway plays and musicals do include intermissions, and those who prefer the couch to their local moviehouse have the option to hit pause for a bathroom break. But if "Killers of the Flower Moon" turns out to be as great as the initial reviews



are stating, you won't want to take a break, even if your bladder has other ideas.
According to Guinness World Records, the longest film ever made is the aptly titled "The Cure for Insomnia," an 85-hour experimental movie that was released in 1987. Before that film, 1963's "Cleopatra," starring Elizabeth Taylor, premiered at four hours and three minutes, but was then edited down to three hours and four minutes.
When "Titanic" came out in 1997, the debate about intermissions was brought up. Director James Cameron didn't seem concerned, though, and even went beyond that length last year with his film "Avatar: The Way of Water," which audiences flocked to see despite it being three hours and 12 minutes.

Q: Is it true that "Monk" is coming back? Will it still have the same cast and, obviously, Tony Shalhoub? -- **L.S.**
A: Tony Shalhoub is soon returning to his three-time Emmy-winning role of Detective Adrian Monk, but in the form of a movie, not a new series. "Mr. Monk's Last Case: A Monk Movie" reunites the cast for the first time since the series ended

in 2009. Returning are Ted Levine as Leland, Jason Gray-Stanford as Randy and Traylor Howard as Natalie. Bitty Schram is also expected to appear as Sharona in flashback scenes.
Also, despite its definitive-sounding title, the series' creator, Andy Breckman, says that he hopes to follow it up with another movie someday. "A Monk Movie" premieres Dec. 8 on Peacock.

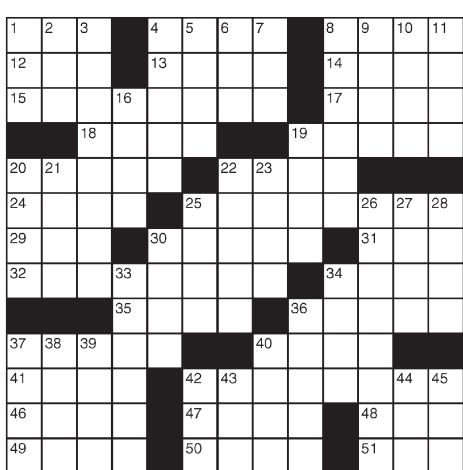
Q: Is it true that Michael Caine is retiring from acting? What was his final movie? -- **B.N.**
A: Yes, the acclaimed two-time Oscar winner Michael Caine is now 90 years old and is done accepting roles. He's starred in more than 100 films and wants to end his career on a high note, having earned great reviews for his current and final film "The Great Escaper." In the movie, he plays a nursing home resident who breaks out to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy.
However, Caine isn't done exploring art. He's written his first work of fiction, a thriller called "Deadly Game," and plans to keep writing. "Deadly Game" will be released on Amazon and in stores on Nov. 23.

• Trivia Test •

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a male duck called?
 2. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Pride and Prejudice"?
 3. ASTRONOMY: In which constellation are the gas and dust clouds called the Pillars of Creation located?
 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president died at his retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia?
 5. MOVIES: Which 1999 movie features a character named Neo?
 6. MEDICAL: Which part of the human body is affected by Bright's Disease?
 7. TELEVISION: In which state is the sitcom "Newhart" set?
 8. GEOGRAPHY: What is the tallest mountain in Africa?
 9. HISTORY: Which politician made the phrase "Iron Curtain" famous in a speech about eastern Europe?
 10. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of South Dakota?
- Answers
1. A drake.
2. Jane Austen.
3. Serpens.
4. Franklin Roosevelt.
5. "The Matrix."
6. The kidneys.
7. Vermont.
8. Mount Kilimanjaro.
9. Winston Churchill.
10. Pierre.
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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Lass
4 Choose
8 Beanies
12 Historic time
13 Actor's quest
14 Theater award
15 Contingency funds
17 Goddess of victory
18 Orange veggies
19 Pursuing
20 Cellist Casals
22 Innocent one
24 New York canal
25 Misfortune
29 Balloon filler
30 Pal
31 Big D.C. lobby
32 Melancholy melodies
34 Alike (Fr.)
35 Aftermath
36 Condition
37 Of the Arctic
40 Chinese dynasty
41 Egg
42 Believed
46 Ganges wrap
47 Skip
48 Apprehend



49 BPOE members
50 Lectern locale
51 Sticky stuff
DOWN
1 Prized possession
2 Altar constellation
3 Small beetle
4 Teaser ad
5 Charged bits
6 The Browns, on scoreboards
7 Lock opener
8 Have a huddle
9 Slightly
10 Toll road
11 Crystal gazer
16 Like ganders
17 Tosses in
19 "Dear —"
20 Stew veggies
21 Operatic solo
22 Police ID
23 Tosses in
25 Nonsense
26 Attractive
27 "I smell —!"
28 Hardy cabbage
30 Sow's mate
33 Hindu teachers
34 Sicilian volcano
36 Prepares flour
37 Sit for a photo
38 Ellipse
39 Hide in the bushes
40 1502, in Old Rome
42 Brick carrier
43 "I — Rock"
44 Eastern "way"
45 "Game of Thrones" ailer

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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			I	T	A	S	K	E	A	M
L	A	V	E	S	G	N	O	S	S	A
A	G	B	A	A	O	N	B	S	D	I
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K	E	I	N	E	A	N	O	M	A	V
			L	F	A					
G	A	L	P	I	C	K	O	B	A	S

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword

Happy 21st
Birthday
Michelle!

We love you!
Mom, Dad,
Billie & Susie

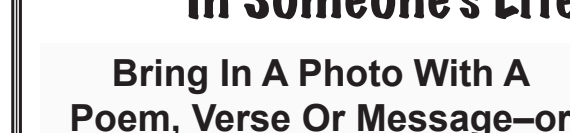


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Carol Ann Smith, RN
Love, Joey



NIE FUN PAGE



What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. "Zanzibar" missing from brownish envelope 2. Black stamp bottom left row of book upside down 3. Extra stamp on envelope above book 4. Missing stamp top left corner left book

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

• **1636:** THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY VOTES TO ESTABLISH A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, WHICH WOULD LATER BECOME HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

• **1726:** "GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" BY JONATHAN SWIFT IS PUBLISHED.

• **1971:** PROSPERO BECOMES THE ONLY BRITISH SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED BY A BRITISH ROCKET.



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How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Stamp

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ITALIAN: Francobollo

FRENCH: Timbre

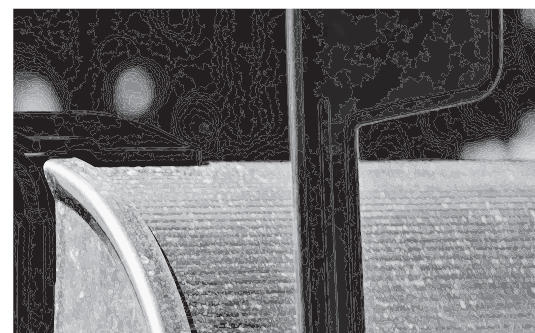
GERMAN: Briefmarke

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LOCAL AND AREA



Deer prudence: Avoid the urge to swerve during their mating season

SPRINGFIELD – Fall in Illinois includes high school football, spectacular scenery as the leaves change colors and... the arrival of deer mating season. The Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are reminding motorists to be alert for deer, which are entering their peak active season, especially at dawn and dusk now through December.

“While your natural instinct is to steer quickly out of the way when you see a deer, remember to not veer

suddenly because you could lose control of your vehicle and swerve into another lane or off the road,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Always prepare for the unexpected. A deer might stop in the middle of the road or double back. They also frequently travel in groups so when you see one there likely are others nearby.”

In 2022, there were 14,524 crashes involving deer in Illinois. Of those, 13,892 resulted in damage to property or vehicles, while

629 caused injuries. Four of the crashes resulted in fatalities.

Although a collision with a deer can happen any time, Illinois is approaching the time of year when the most crashes with them occur. Last year, more than 40% of crashes involving deer in Illinois occurred in October, November and December, with November being the highest-risk month. Rural areas were the site of more than 70% of crashes involving deer, with most occurring at twilight or nighttime.

Safe driving tips for deer-mating season:

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially in areas with deer crossing signs.
- Scan the sides of the road for eye shine – the reflection of headlights in their eyes.

- Slow down if you see a deer and anticipate others could be following.

- Prepare for the unexpected. Deer may stop in the middle of the road and not move for oncoming vehicles.

- If a collision is inevitable, don't veer. Try to glance your vehicle off the deer and avoid swerving into the opposite lanes of traffic or off the road.

Deer can often appear suddenly in some surprising environments, so be on alert, slow down and pay attention in areas where they are known to travel.

The top 10 Illinois counties for crashes involving deer in 2022: 1. Cook 542; 2. Madison 396; 3. McHenry 351; 4. Lake 350; 5. Will 344; 6. Peoria 323; 7. Fulton 313; 8. Kane 286; 9. Sangamon 282; 10. Macoupin 271.

“Deer are a part of the Illinois landscape, and drivers should be mindful of their presence,” said Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Natalie Phelps Finnie. “Drive cautiously this time of year, especially at dawn and dusk, when deer are particularly active for the fall mating season.”

If you hit a deer, pull off to the shoulder, turn on your hazard lights and call 911. Do not exit the vehicle to check on an injured deer or pull it from the road.

For information on how to claim a deer involved in a crash, or to report possession of a deer killed in a crash, visit the IDNR website.



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THE FARMER'S REPORT

Illinois engages with national program to advance soil health

□ Dept. of Ag signs MOU for Illinois to utilize national metrics

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a state-wide program to standardize soil health practices and set clear levels of achievement for farmers engaging in best practices. The program enables IDOA to implement legislation passed this year to increase use of cover crops, strip till, no till, and erosion and sediment control practices. This is another step forward in encouraging agriculture partners to capitalize on conservation practices.

“Agriculture is the heart of who we are as a state, and it’s our biggest industry,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “Three-quarters of our state is farmland, and as we look to the future of farming and conservation, we’re ensuring that Illinois farmers have the necessary tools to succeed. That’s why I’m proud to establish the STAR program to further support our agricultural economy, families, and community.”

Saving Tomorrow’s Agricultural Resources (STAR) is a model program started in Illinois by the Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District. It provides a free tool for farmers and landowners and encourages the use of best practices and decisions that will reduce nutrient and soil loss on their fields. Farmers are evaluated on their crop rotation, tillage, nutrient applications, and use of conservation practices to generate their overall field score. The program will align with the goals established in P.A. 103-0494 passed by Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) and Rep. Michael Kelly (D-Chicago) after years of negotiations between the environmental and the farming communities. The initiative moves Illinois forward to meet the goals of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Resources for the initiative will come from Conservation 40, a new IDOA partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and the Sangamon County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). By leveraging \$3.5 million in state dollars to capture \$9.8 million in federal funds, IDOA envisions expanding the playing field to support voluntary efforts by farmers to reduce nutrient loss, build soil health, manage water resources, increase yields, profits, and climate resilience.

“This is a great step forward for Illinois agriculture,” said Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. “I applaud not only our staff for utilizing existing programs to meet the goals established by the legislation, but also Sen. Villivalam and Rep. Kelly for their due-diligence and good-faith efforts to make this a reality. Combining the resources of our successful Conservation 40 program with the metrics within the STAR program to achieve the goals set forth in state legislation is a creative way to achieve meaningful progress.”

STAR provides scientific validation for P.A. 103-0494 because all STAR applicants are providing the Department with accurate metrics of performance. Scores are converted to a STAR rating of 1 to 5 STARS, with 5 STARS indicating commitment to a suite of practices proven to improve soil health and water quality.

“Working in partnership with state STAR Affiliates and their producers, state agencies, conservation districts, universities, non-profits and other conservation focused entities, STAR has the potential to cost-effectively impact a majority of production acres in the US,” said STAR Executive Director Caroline Wade. “The standardized STAR framework provides producers, investors, and supply chain part-

ners a clear roadmap for increasing conservation outcomes and evaluating progress. By providing producers a straightforward entry into conservation practice adoption and an easy on ramp to in new value-driven programs and opportunities, STAR can then bridge the gap between producers’ perceptions of sustainability and the many outcomes-based market programs and supply chain initiatives.”

“The Illinois Environmental Council is proud to stand with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and Governor’s Office in celebrating the passage and implementation of SB 1701, said Eliot Clay, IEC’s Land Use Programs Director. “It’s great to see the administration taking a tested, science-backed approach to wisely aligning resources invested in improving the soil health and water quality we need to make progress on our 2025 NLR goals. We look forward to the work ahead and hope this is a major step in Illinois becoming a national leader in regenerative, responsible agriculture production.”

“We are very supportive of the quick effort by Governor Pritzker, Director Costello, and the Department of Agriculture to implement the new law. P.A. 103-0494 allows federal funds to be leveraged, to continue pursuing our shared goals for conservation, while providing more direction on soil health duties to SWCDs,” said Rich Guebert, President of Illinois Farm Bureau. “It is exciting to know that the hard work that all the parties who worked on this new law is coming to fruition. Our goal has always been to bring forward successful conservation practices to reduce nutrient losses in a voluntary manner.”

“Agriculture is far and away Illinois’ largest industry, with over 75% of our state’s land area under cultivation,” said State Rep. Michael Kelly, D – Chicago. “That’s why a program to ensure we keep our soil rich and fertile is so important. The STAR initiative will help keep Illinois agriculture a source of prosperity and enrichment for generations to come.”



Adam Goodey, of Bayer, discusses the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and weather stations at crop plots and research sites to enhance the value of data in the variety selection process. (Photo by Daniel Grant)

Accelerated plant breeding yields results

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

Finding the best genetic characteristics of a crop one season at a time through traditional plant breeding was like finding, “a needle in a haystack,” according to Michael Kovach, head of North American hybrid product development for Bayer.

But with technological developments that make precision breeding now possible along with the use of greenhouses to create multiple crop seasons in a single year, researchers can accelerate plant breeding to deliver more benefits to farmers and consumers.

“We’re leveraging multiple sources of data to improve the precision of our (variety) selection approaches,” Kovach said at a recent DEKALB/Asgrow media field day in Jerseyville.

“We can do multiple cycles per year in greenhouses. It allows us to go 15 times faster with breeding cycles than in the past.”

Bayer plant researchers also utilize seed chipping and genotyping to test every seed before it is planted in research trials. The process involves removing a small chip from each seed and extracting its DNA.

“We can screen millions of individual seeds. Before it germinates, we can tell what the potential will be,” said Maria Monteros, North American varietal

breeding lead at Bayer. “The beauty is, you can take only the (seeds) you want to the field. It accelerates breeding.”

Meanwhile, the onset of precision breeding allows researchers to double the rate of product development and match those products to specific growing environments.

Bayer’s precision breeding uses customer data and insights, a vast germplasm library, cutting-edge genomic selection models and artificial intelligence to select and design the seed.

“We have to know what our customers’ needs are,” Kovach said. “We build selection models based on grower needs. Where we test the products needs to match where our customers are.”

Adam Goodey, Bayer regional lead for field testing in Illinois, said unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are used at each crop testing site along

with weather stations to greatly enhance data generated from research sites.

“We can do early season stand counts and measure plant height (with UAVs),” Goodey said. “We can cover a 10-acre field in 10 to 15 minutes.”

UAVs with high fidelity imaging are so precise the technology can measure traits with a new level of accuracy.

“We can see a disease emerging before it even appears on the leaves. We can take the temperature of the leaves. We can take counts of all the plants in a plot, and for corn, we get a much better understanding of plant height,” Kovach said.

The combination of all the accelerated plant breeding techniques shortens the time it takes to develop a new crop trait from about seven to eight years down to less than five years in the future pipeline, he noted. This does not count the regulatory process.

Bayer invests about \$2.6 billion annually for ag research and development. Advancements in crop breeding allow farmers to produce more on less land and with fewer resources, which helps the planet, Monteros said.



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Halloween Safety A to Z

Everything you need to know for a supremely fun and safe Halloween

Local Trick or Treat Times

Compton	5-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31	Ohio	5-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31
Earlville	4-8, Tuesday, Oct. 31	Paw Paw	4-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31
LaMoille	5-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31	Sublette	5-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31
Leland	4-8, Tuesday, Oct. 31	Van Orin	5-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31
Mendota	5-7, Tuesday, Oct. 31	West Brooklyn	5:30 - 6:30, Tuesday, Oct. 31

A *Always carry a flashlight.*

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307 Plaza Drive
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815-538-2412

L *If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.*

3's Company
West Brooklyn
815-628-3330

Q *Never Trick or Treat alone.*

Quality 1st Inspections LLC
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815-503-1696

B *Buy costumes that are made of flame-retardant material.*

Carriage House Electric
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Mendota
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J *Jackets should be worn over costumes on cool Halloween nights.*

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Earlville BP, 907 E US Highway 34, Earlville 815-246-9809
Mendota Shell, 700 13th Ave., Mendota, 815-538-3034

R *Remember to walk, and not run, between houses. Have lots of fun, but be safe, too.*

Scare at the Fair Demolition Derby
Saturday, Oct. 28 - Mendota
Trick or Treating for kids at 1:15 p.m. Derby starts at 2 p.m. Gates opens at 11 a.m. and close at 1 p.m. Grandstand admission \$10, 5 and under free. Rules found at www.ramerinc.com

C *Costumes should not drag on the ground or be too dark to see.*

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815-538-3333

K *Know how and where to contact your parents.*

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114 Railroad St. • Earlville
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S *Slow down and be alert during Trick or Treating.*

Schmidt's Sales and Service
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D *Don't cut across yards or driveways.*

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L *Light your jack-o-lantern with a battery-powered light instead of a candle.*

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T *Trick-or-treat only in familiar neighborhoods close to home.*

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E *Eat dinner before going out to trick-or-treat.*

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M *Make sure your shoes fit and are tied tightly.*

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U *Unfamiliar animals and pets should be avoided.*

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F *Follow all traffic laws & signals.*

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N *Never enter a stranger's home.*

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V *Visit only houses that are lit.*

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G *Go sloooooow, drivers! Be careful all evening if you're behind the wheel.*

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O *Only eat candy after your parents have checked it.*

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W *Wear a watch you can read in the dark.*

ENP Investments, LLC
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H *Give out healthy alternatives to candy, like cheese, crackers, raisins or popcorn.*

Krenz Dental
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P *Props such as a sword or wand should only be flexible toys.*

Purpose Nutrition
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XYZ *Young people of any age should be accompanied by an adult.*

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LOCAL AND AREA

Spotted Lanternfly identified in Illinois in September

Department of Agriculture says nuisance pest does not present human or animal health concerns

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Agriculture has confirmed the first detection of spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) in Illinois. Following a report of a live adult on Sept. 16, state, federal, and local officials coordinated a site visit near the area of the report and identified a moderately populated area of spotted lanternfly (SLF) on Sept. 18. Specimens were collected and submitted for identification, and confirmatory results were received on Sept. 26. The spotted lanternfly does not present any human or animal health concerns.

“If there is a silver lining associated with spotted

lantern fly in Illinois, it is that we have no reason to believe that widespread plant or tree death will result from its presence,” said Scott Schirmer, Illinois Department of Agriculture’s Nursery and Northern Field Office Section Manager. “This is likely going to be a nuisance pest that interferes with our ability to enjoy outdoor spaces and may have some impact on the agritourism industry, including orchards, pumpkin patches, and vineyards.”

“Spotted lanternfly has been inching closer to the Midwest and Illinois for close to a decade,” said Jerry Costello II, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Director. “We have had a multi-agency team working to prepare for this scenario – including efforts on readiness, informing and educating the industry and the public, as well as monitoring early detection,”

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper native to eastern Asia. First found in the U.S. in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2014, SLF has continued to spread throughout the eastern U.S. and recently into the Midwest. Confirmed identifications of SLF have been recorded in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, in addition to some eastern and southeastern states.

SLF feeds on a wide va-



behaviors, potential impacts, and effective management strategies – despite ongoing endeavors to minimize its spread and the associated impact on industry and natural resources.

What can you do to help?

- Report sightings - If you see SLF or suspect it, report it to lanternfly@illinois.edu. A fact sheet, including photos, is available through the University of Illinois Extension.
- Remove and destroy pests – crush nymphs and adults, scrape egg masses into a container with hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol to kill them. Remember to take photos first, and report this!
- Check your vehicles, boat, camper, outdoor articles, etc. - Before leaving an area, do a quick inspection for any life stages. Destroy any eggs or insects found.
- Keep your eyes open and spread the word (not the pest) – We need the public’s help to look for and report this pest, and to also strengthen the outreach about it. It will likely impact everyone in Illinois one way or another, so the more awareness we have the better.

For more information, please visit the following link: Spotted Lanternfly (illinois.gov).

riety of plants, including a strong affinity to the invasive tree of heaven (TOH), grapes (both wild and cultivated), and maple trees. These plants should be targeted for any monitoring activities. When feeding, SLF produces honeydew, which is a sticky liquid that often coats or accumulates on the foliage and other parts of plants.

SLF is believed to move easily on wood surfaces and products, vehicles such as trains, outdoor articles, and more – making it a challenging pest to contain and anticipate. Prevention and early detection are vital to limiting its ability to move and intrude upon new areas. Persons are

highly encouraged to report any believed sightings of SLF to lanternfly@illinois.edu. Photos are necessary to verify a report and to aid in identification.

“IDOA is working with federal and local partners in an effort to determine the full extent of the infestation,” said Dr. Michael Woods, Division Manager of Natural Resources. “Although we cannot determine with any degree of certainty how SLF has arrived here, efforts are being undertaken to better understand its movement and behavior.”

The research and regulatory communities are continuing to learn about SLF, its



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LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois election officials say security capable of thwarting another breach

By KEVIN BESSLER
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois election officials are confident that stop gaps are in place to prevent another international breach.

In 2016, Russian hackers accessed the database for the Illinois State Board of Elections, which included voters' names, addresses and birthdates. An investigation revealed up to 500,000 personal voter records may have been accessed during that breach.

Election databases are attractive targets to hackers because they contain personal information that can be pieced together with other data to help criminals steal money.

During an Illinois House Ethics and Elections Committee hearing Wednesday, Illinois Board of Elections spokesman Matt Dietrich said the hack changed Illinois' approach to election security.

"Virtually everything changed in how data is handled at the State Board of Elections following that incident in 2016," Dietrich said.

The agency has developed the Cyber Navigator Program, which splits the state up into geographic zones and



places two Cyber Navigators in each zone. Their goal is to train the end users in election authority offices to help guard against security breaches.

Illinois does not require election authorities to participate in the Cyber Navigator Program. It is 100% volunteer based.

Dietrich said protecting against hackers is a constant battle.

"Security has now be-

come, and I think not just for us but for all the election authorities, just part of the job," said Dietrich. "We're aware that it is a never-ending concern."

Despite voters in many jurisdictions in Illinois using touchscreen or other electronic voting systems, state law requires that each vote leave behind a paper receipt, so any vote that is disrupted electronically can still be audited.

Illinois Valley YMCA child care service resumes on IVCC campus this fall

OGLESBY — Child care services is being offered to students on IVCC's main campus again this fall through a partnership with the college and the Illinois Valley YMCA.

"We are so thankful for our partnership with the YMCA to provide access to child care for our students," said IVCC President Dr. Tracy Morris. "We hope this will lift a small burden for students of children who are not yet school-age. It is our hope to continue to expand in the future based on student needs."

Vice President for Student Services Mark Grzybowski echoed Morris in praising the successful partnership. "I'm proud of the willingness of the Illinois Valley YMCA to partner with IVCC on this initiative. It is yet another example of working together with partner organizations to best respond to student need."

YMCA's Little Eagles Child Care is available on days when classes are in

session. Hours were determined, in part, from a survey of students who would use the service. Scheduled hours are: 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 7:45 a.m. to noon Friday.

The service is free and available to current IVCC students and students enrolled in Illinois High School diploma courses and English as a Second Language courses. Parents and guardians must remain on campus while the children are in YMCA care.

Prior to enrolling a child, parents/guardians must complete a waiver form by visiting the child care room, CTC-206, on IVCC's main campus. The waiver must be completed in person.

Child care is available for 3- to 5-year-olds. Children must be potty-trained for the health and safety of children and staff.

More information on child care and other community resources is available at special populations resources.

IVCC Planning Committee reviews policy process

OGLESBY — The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees Planning Committee on Oct. 12 reviewed the policy creation and adoption process and set its agenda over the next few months.

College President Dr. Tracy Morris outlined the committee schedule for review and presentation to the full Board, and said policies going forward

will be reviewed on a four-year rotation. With that schedule in mind, the committee will meet once more this year before Board action to have some updates in place by January 2024.

She also plans to make updates and changes available for viewing on a campus network drive.

Of two policies under review, a chronic commu-

nicable diseases policy saw little change but an animals-on-campus policy was redrawn to clearly define service animals and emotional support animals and govern their presence.

Dr. Morris also outlined the committee's role in ongoing comprehensive, strategic, master facility and succession planning, and briefed the committee on the progress on each.

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LOCAL AND AREA

The reality of being more than a conqueror in life

Romans 8:37 (NIV) says, "...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." But do we really know what it means to be more than a conqueror? I know it took many years for me to learn what it means and how to live the victorious life Jesus died to give us as believers.

I remember many years when I went to church faithfully every week, yet my private life was pathetic. It was so frustrating because I really loved God and was a born-again believer, but I wasn't experiencing victory over the problems in my life so that I could really live for God and help people.

As I eventually grew in my personal relation-

ship with Jesus and spent time studying the Word, I came to understand what it means to be more than a conqueror and how I could get there. And if I can do it, so can you.

To be more than a conqueror means that before you ever get a problem, you already know that whatever problem comes your way, you can overcome it through Christ! You live with confidence that God loves you no matter what and He will never leave you nor forsake you. And when you have this kind of relationship with God, you aren't constantly afraid of bad news or of things that may happen that aren't in your plan. When the unexpected happens or you're dis-

appointed, you won't be devastated by it.

See, when you truly understand who you are in Christ—who God says you are and everything that's yours through a relationship with Jesus—you discover there's nothing that can happen that is too much for you...because there's nothing that's too much for Him! First John 4:4 confirms it: "Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world" (AMPC).

It's so important for us to get this truth down in our hearts and see ourselves as more than conquerors through Jesus, because if we don't, then our enemy, Satan, will be able to confuse us and keep us from victory. And all the enemy wants to do is kill, steal, and destroy what God wants us to have (John 10:10). He wants to diminish you—make you small-minded and small in spirit so you'll live a small, frustrated life.

But we don't have to live that way. Every person who declares that Jesus is Lord, repents of their sin, and gives their heart to God is a child of God and belongs to Him (Romans 10:9-11). In Christ, we are forgiven and made right with God. We have the strength and power to



do what His Word says to do and live the full and fulfilling life He has for us.

Do you realize what this means? It means that as we spend time with God in prayer and studying the Bible, we can access the wisdom and strength we need to make right choices and behave right. It doesn't happen all at once or overnight, but we will make progress every day that we seek God this way.

I really want you to understand who you are in Christ as a born-again believer. You were never meant to be frustrated, discouraged, or feel like you're always just trying to get through the day. God has more for you than that!

When you make a mistake and the enemy comes and tells you, "You're no good," you don't have to take on the guilt and condemnation he wants to put on you. No! You can immediately confess your mistake to God, thank Him for forgiving you and cleansing you with the blood of Jesus, and move

forward in the victory of His grace and forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

Here's a scripture that has helped me take hold of who I am in Christ and live with victory over the hardships of this world: "In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us...because as He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17 AMPC).

I encourage you to learn who God really is. Get a deeper understanding of His character and His heart for you. Spend time with Him, read His Word, and let Him love you. Know that He loves you unconditionally. God is good, and He wants to bless you and help you. When we know this truth, we don't have to be tormented by doubts about whether God cares or whether He will take care of us.

Whatever your situation is today, God knows about it. He sees you and hears the cry of your heart. And if you will give Him

your problems and do what He tells you to do, you will access His overcoming love, grace, and power and be more than a conqueror. Because in Christ, as He is, so are we in this world!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's five-part teaching resource *Bold, Confident and Courageous*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page B6!

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If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
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And help men live as children
of the King:
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Or warm a place where friendship
needs to be;
If I can build a bridge where
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And light a lamp that other men
might see;
If I can open doors of hope this day
By letting someone know that
others care;
If I can speak in words that seem
to say:
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DEUTERONOMY 18:10-12

Detail of "Witches Presenting
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(1720)

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SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the
Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What companion of Paul was
commended for his holy scripture
knowledge since childhood?
Timothy, Linus, Trophimus, Jude
3. From 1 John 4:8, "He that loveth
not knoweth not God; for God is
_____." Honor, Love, Everlasting,
Comfort
4. What king unwittingly signed
a decree causing Daniel to be
thrown into the lions' den? Elah,
Jabin, Darius, Agag
5. Because Moses was standing
on holy ground, what did God tell
him to remove? Cloak, Hat, Shoes,
Armor
6. In Judges 16, who said, "Let me
die with the Philistines"? Samson,
Micah, Delilah, Manoah
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Timothy,
3) Love, 4) Darius, 5) Shoes, 6)
Samson

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THIR-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
LASALLE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF
Brian D. Phalen
, Deceased. Case No.
2023-PR-176

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Brian D. Phalen of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 18, 2023 to Holly Phalen of 1204 Pennsylvania Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342, whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 29, 2024. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

No. 1015
(Oct. 25, Nov. 1, and 8, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2023-JA-45
TO: Amber Glack, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 28th day of August, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Andrew Taliani, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 13th day of December, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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.

You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you.

Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered.

Greg Vaccaro, CLERK
Dated: October 20, 2023

No. 1016
(October 25, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2023-JA-45
TO: John Taliani, unknown fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 28th day of August, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Andrew Taliani, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 13th day of December, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child.

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Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered.

Greg Vaccaro, CLERK
Dated: October 20, 2023

No. 1017
(October 25, 2023)

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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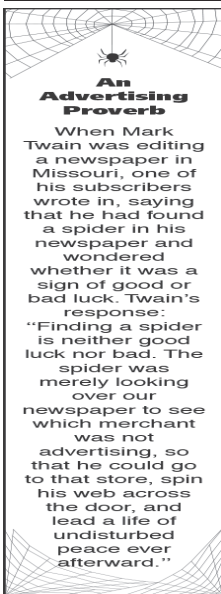
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815-539-7446.

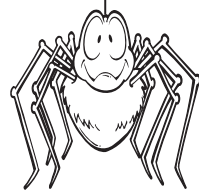
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The First Presbyterian Church is seeking a pianist to become part of a rotating team to play during our Sunday morning service. Please contact us at 815-200-5235 to learn more about this opportunity.

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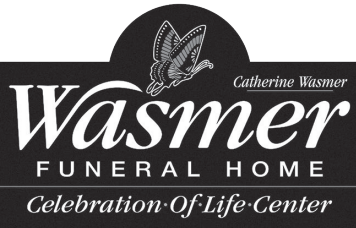


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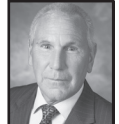
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