



The new tax structure will help farmers and be better for the environment.

Sales tax incentives to promote E15 gasoline approved in Illinois

By ZETA CROSS

The Center Square contributor

SPRINGFIELD – Tax incentives for retailers to sell gas with a higher ethanol blend is now law in Illinois.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed Senate Bill 1963 that gives gas stations a 10% sales tax exemption to sell gasoline with a higher blend of ethanol. The sales tax incentive is designed to boost sales of gasoline with 15% ethanol blend, said Russ Orrill, public policy manager for the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

“In Iowa, there are a lot more stations that sell gas with an E15 blend. We’re trying to increase the need and the want for E15 here in Illinois,” Orrill said.

Most Illinois motorists buy gas with a 10% blend of ethanol. In May, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a waiver to allow the sale of 15% ethanol blend gasoline this summer.

The EPA is expected to permit year-round sales of E15 gasoline in seven Midwest states, including Illinois, starting in 2024. The sales tax incentives are voluntary. Retailers can use them to increase market demand for E15 blend gas.

“Ethanol is a commodity that our farmers grow in our backyards throughout the state of Illinois. It’s renewable and sustainable,” Orrill said. “It lowers the carbon intensity of gasoline. It reduces the CO2 emissions by 40 to 50%.”

The new rule provides a 10% sales tax exemption for the E15 blend that most vehicles can use. There is a 20% sales tax exemption for fuel with a 20% to 50% blend of ethanol, and a 100% tax exemption for vehicles that can run on fuel with an 85% blend of ethanol.

State Sen. Pat Joyce, D-Essex, introduced the legislation earlier this year with the backing of Sen. Celina Villanueva, D-Chicago.

“They were both tremendous to work with,” Orrill said. “Joyce is a farmer himself.”

The new tax structure will help farmers and be better for the environment, Joyce said.

“When the demand for ethanol-based fuel goes up, we see the demand for Illinois corn rise as well,” Joyce said in a statement.

The sales tax measures were written into a larger tax omnibus bill that passed the Illinois House on a 79-25-2 vote and the Senate on a 53-1 vote.

The sales tax exemptions are set to expire in 2028. Joyce’s original legislation would have extended them through 2030.

District 280 OKs issuance of bonds

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education heard a report on summer school and passed a resolution to issue working cash bonds at its June 20 regular meeting.

The bond resolution is for the issuance of not exceeding \$2.5 million general obligation bonds, Series 2023, and for the levy of direct annual taxes sufficient to pay the principal and interest on such bonds. Superintendent Jeff Prusator said that action is being taken in anticipation of replacing the flat roof on the school in the next few years. He added that with the retirement of a current working cash bond, the tax rate will not increase for district taxpayers with approval of the Series 2023 bonds.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh gave an update on summer school. Currently,



Workers stretch the field turf into place at the MHS athletic stadium in July 2011. The original turf will likely be replaced within the next three years.

credit retrieval attempts include 43 for math and science and 48 for English. There are 21 driver’s education classroom students and 32 behind-the-wheel-only students. The dual credit IVCC speech courses have 55 registered students.

In regard to registration, Aughenbaugh said parents

are strongly encouraged to watch for a school mailing that will be sent in July. She said it is very helpful if parents and their students complete registration forms and free and reduced lunch forms if needed. All of the necessary information and forms will be posted for download at [\[dotahs.org\]\(http://dotahs.org\). Aughenbaugh noted that there will be a combination of online and in-person registration this summer.](http://www.men-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Detailed information will be sent out regarding an incoming freshman and new

See Dist. 280, Page A5

Craft Show & Flea Market set Aug. 12-13 during Sweet Corn Fest

MENDOTA – The very popular Crafters Market Place and Flea Market will again be featured at Mendota’s 76th Annual Sweet Corn Festival. The dates have been set for Aug. 12-13.

Artists, craftsmen and flea market dealers from around the Midwest are expected to fill the 200 spaces at this year’s event. Reserved spaces for the show are available and applications are being accepted.

Anyone wishing a space must reserve it in advance by calling, e-mailing or writing the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce office, phone (815) 539-6507, bbiers@mendotachamber.com, P. O. Box 620, Mendota, IL 61342.

Spaces are approximately 10x10 and are \$80 for the weekend. Sending in your application and check will reserve your space. The

hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. There are also one-day spaces available for Saturday only at \$40 per space.

The event will be held in Veterans’ Park on U.S. 34 and in the Mendota Elks Lodge parking lot on Indiana Avenue as well as on the adjacent Jefferson Street. The two show areas are about one-half block apart and are in downtown Mendota, right in the heart of all the Sweet Corn Festival activities.

Dealers are asked to provide their own props for display, and no food will be served in the craft and flea market areas.

The event is open to the public at no charge.

The Mendota Chamber also has Street Booth Space for the three and a half days of the Fest for food, merchandise, commercial vendors,



etc. These spaces are on the Midways, beginning at \$200 for a 10-foot frontage for the three and a half days.

The Midway will open Thursday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. and the festival will continue through Sunday evening Aug. 13. A detailed calendar of events can be found on their web site at www.sweetcornfestival.com. The Sweet

Corn Festival is one of the largest harvest festivals in the State and attracts over 55,000 people. It peaks on Sunday with serving tons of free hot buttered sweet corn.

A 50/50 drawing will be held again this year and tickets are on sale at the Mendota Chamber Office or at some participating local businesses.

LaSalle County among four counties in Illinois to report West Nile Virus

□ IDPH encourages to ‘Fight the Bite’

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is reminding the public that along with the start of summer, mosquito season is getting underway in Illinois and that positive batches of West Nile virus (WNV) have been reported in four counties around the state.

While no human cases of West Nile virus have been reported in Illinois so far this year, there were 34 human cases (which are significantly under-reported) and eight deaths attributed to the disease in the state in 2022, the most in any year since 2018, when there were 17 deaths. A total of 10 batches of mosquitos that tested positive for West Nile virus

have been reported this year in Cook, LaSalle, Morgan and St. Clair counties.

IDPH supports mosquito control efforts throughout the state by providing a total of \$2.5 million in funding to the 97 local health departments in Illinois for vector surveillance and control activities. This includes purchasing and applying larvicide, working with local municipal governments and local news media for WNV prevention and education, and investigating mosquito production sites and nuisance mosquito complaints. Local health departments collect mosquitos for West Nile virus testing and also collect sick or dead birds for West Nile virus testing.



“Diseases such as West Nile virus pose a serious health threat, especially to our seniors or individuals who have weakened immune systems,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “We have already identified ten mosquito batches that are positive for West Nile virus, and this underscores why it

is important for Illinois residents to protect themselves this summer. Please ‘fight the bite’ by wearing insect repellent while outdoors and eliminating standing water around your homes where mosquitos can easily breed.”

Updates on where cases have been reported can be found on the IDPH West Nile

Virus Surveillance page.

The first batch of mosquitos to test positive for WNV this year was reported on May 30 in Evanston. In 2022, the first batch of mosquitos to test positive were collected on May 24 in DuPage County. Last year, 44 counties in Illinois reported a West Nile virus positive mosquito batch, bird, horse, and /or human case. The youngest person to report a case of West Nile virus in Illinois last year was 26 years old, while the median age of human cases was 64.

Monitoring for West Nile virus in Illinois includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches, dead birds, as well as testing sick horses and humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who see a sick or dead crow,

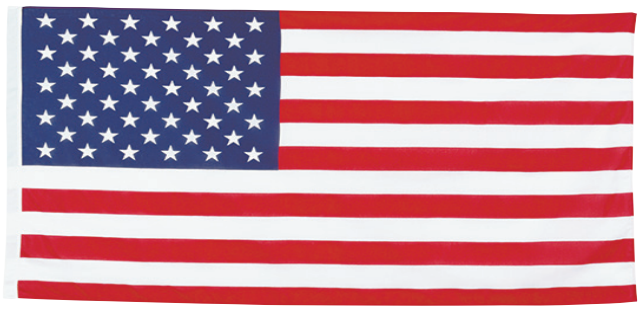
blue jay, robin or other perching bird should contact their local county or city health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a Culex species mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. Most people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms; however, in rare cases it can lead to severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis,

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LOCAL AND AREA

Special Afternoon for Special Kids at Sweet Corn Fest

MENDOTA – Windy City Amusements of St. Charles will again be setting up on the midway at this year’s Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. They will be having a Special Afternoon for Special Kids on Thursday, Aug. 10 from 3-5 p.m.

“We love being able to give families this opportunity to enjoy the carnival when it would normally not be as feasible. This has been a huge success in years past and we are so pleased to be offering it once again,” Chamber President and CEO Sam Setchell stated.

The carnival will open early for only those kids and adults with special needs on the opening day of the Sweet Corn Festival. This promotion is essentially a free carnival for those with special needs and their immediate family members only. The midways will be



less crowded with no long lines to wait in, nor any charge to ride as much as they wish. At 5 p.m., the carnival will close and re-open again at 6 p.m. for the general public.

It does not matter where the family is from, if they would like to participate they are welcome. The Chamber asks the family to pre-register online at sweetcornfestival.com by clicking the calendar tab and downloading the form and getting it to the Chamber office or just stop by the Chamber office to fill out

the form. Families are to check in at the registration tent beginning at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 10.

Most adult rides will be unavailable during this special time and the lights will be dimmed and music lowered for those who would be uncomfortable with it.

“We hope that everyone will take advantage and help spread the word about the ‘Special Afternoon for Special Kids’ promotions offered by Windy City Amusements here at the 76th Annual Sweet Corn Festival,” added Setchell.

LaSalle Public Library returns to in-person programming

LaSALLE—LaSalle Public Library is delighted to announce its first adult in-person program since 2020. Dennis Stroughmatt, Musician/Educator/Historian, will be at the library on Saturday, July 8 at 1 p.m., for “Play That Hot Fiddle: Old Time Radio, Rural Music, and the Life of Southern Illinois Swing Fiddler ‘Pappy’ Wade Ray.”

Presenting the fast-swing fiddling and humorous stories of his mentor Wade Ray, Stroughmatt will lead the audience through the early years of Old Time Radio, its growth because of farming families, and share how music brought America through The Great Depression, WWII, and beyond. Additionally, he will explore the history of Old Time Radio in Illinois, the effect of hillbilly stereotypes on country music, and the influence that Jazz and Dixieland music

had on the country music scene of Illinois via the journeys of Wade Ray.

This program is free and open to the public. No need to register - just come and enjoy the concert. Refreshments will be served. This program is supported by Illinois Humanities.

She has had over 250 inspirational careers including astronaut, pilot, firefighter, journalist, and entrepreneur. Find out about America’s most famous doll when LaSalle Public Library hosts Leslie Goddard, historian, for her virtual presentation on the Barbie doll, Tuesday, July 11 at 6 p.m. This program is free and open to the public.

Register: <https://rb.gy/cyp8f>.

If you plan a watch party, please let the library know the final tally of attendees on the survey that pops up at the end

of the program. Please note that this program will not be recorded per agreement with the presenter.

The library will virtually host NASA Solar System Ambassador, Gregg Ripley, for a discussion on the history of the Race to the Moon, the astronaut teams that flew and what the future holds of human exploration on the lunar surface. The event is set for Tuesday, July 18 at 6 p.m.

Ripley has served as a Solar System Ambassador for Jet Propulsion Labs and NASA for the last five years. He is also a Scout Leader and a member of the Rock Falls Public Library Board of Trustees.

This program is free and open to the public. Register: <https://rb.gy/q48d2>. For more information, contact the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341.

“Wizard of Oz” is coming to Stage 212

LaSALLE – This summer, Stage 212 invites you to follow the Yellow Brick Road to see “The Wizard of Oz,” the delightful stage adaptation of the iconic Hollywood musical.

“The Wizard of Oz” will be presented July 13, 14, 15 (two shows), 16, 20, 21, 22 (two shows), 23, 28, 29 and 30 at Stage 212, 700 First St., LaSalle. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available to the general public for \$20 each beginning July 3, and may be purchased by visiting the box office Monday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon or by calling 815-224-3025 during those hours. Tickets may also be purchased online by visiting stage212.org.

Appearing in the cast are Isaac Alvarado as Uncle Henry/Doorman, James Hoehn as Hickory/Tinman, Andrew Beer as Hunk/Scarecrow, Fredrick Davis as Zeke/Lion, Ella Bergfeld as Aunt Em/Glinda/Esmerelda, Olivia Bergfeld as Dorothy, Christin Mitchell as Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch of the West, Bob Philip as Professor Marvel/The Wizard of Oz, Brittan Bradley as Mayor, Chase Kosteretz as Vicar, Emma Mavity as Vicar’s Wife, Dylan Kofoid as Barrister, Rhyen Westerman as Coroner, Seth Edwards, Jacob Roller, April Selvig as Crows, Aliha Diaz, Emily Kmetz, Ivy Soens as Featured Tree-o, Rhyen Westerman as Nikko, Jacob Roller as Headguard, Seth Edwards as Guard 2 and Brittany Muller as Guard 3.

The ensemble includes Brittan Bradley, Emily Kmetz, Brittany Muller, Aliha Diaz, Dylan Kofoid, Jacob Roller, Seth Edwards, Chase Kosteretz, April Selvig, Vincent Guerrero, Christian Limberg, Ivy Soens, Ella Johns, Caydence Luke, Rhyen Westerman, Lainey Johns and Emma Mavity.

Cast as Munchkins are (Ruby Group): Aubree Lamps, Aubrey Ebner, Averie Saepharn, Calissa Kohut, Charlotte Hughes, Emma Stone, Evelyn Lind-say, Hayden Davis, Leightyn Anderes, Liam Guskusky, Lucy Christopherson, Lyza Harty, Maddux Bell, Myles Schneider, Olivia Angulo, Piper Forrest, Rosalie Villarreal, Salem Shown; and (Emerald Group): Alli

Ellis, Anna Gahan, Cecelia Baird, Genavieve “GG” Riva, Jenavieve Pfleeger, Juliet Newell, Mia Orozco, Nia Jarosz, Nickolas Selvig, Penelope Newell, Phaelynne Messick, Piper Mitchell, Sam Girard, Sophia VanBuren, Vivian Mae Rose Carlson, Waverly Oda, Wizard M. Byrd and Zendaya Kennedy. The Lullabye League and Lollipop Guild will be played by Aleeah Smith, Giuliana Riva, Kinley Goode, Blake Maggi, Carson Testa, Kyran Price, Nova MacDiarmid.

Production staff includes director Jessica Kreiser, co-producers Becky Christopherson and Caryn Brown, music director Kevin J. Alleman, choreographer Tori Duttlinger, production assistant Mary Mauck, stage manager Dominic Passini, stagehand Shane Guskusky, music operator Caryn Brown, mic operator Zoe Piano, spotlight operators Grace Gahan and Haevin Britt and light operator Rachel Bradley.

“The Wizard of Oz” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. www.concordtheatricals.com.

It’s time to celebrate like it’s 1968

MENDOTA—The Mendota High School Class of 1968 is planning its 55th year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 5-10 p.m. at Jacks in Spring Valley.

A dinner and brief program is planned as well as much conversation. A cash bar will be available. The cost is \$20 per person, payable at the door.

To confirm attendance at the reunion, call or text Jay Allen at 815-488-9154 or Wayne Kleckner at 541-729-4452 as soon as possible.

There will also be a golf

outing at the Mendota Golf Club on Aug. 12 with tee times of 10-10:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in playing golf, contact Kleckner.

An informal gathering of classmates is planned for Friday, Aug. 11 at the Mendota Elks Lodge.

If anyone knows of a Class of 1968 member that has moved in the last five years, contact Allen or Kleckner. Several of the early invitation notices were returned and the committee would like to notify them as well as update the address data base.

4-H raffle winners

PRINCETON—Friends of 4-H & Extension who help to support outreach educational programs for the Extension Service and 4-H/Youth Development Programs in Bureau County is pleased to announce the winners of the cash raffle fund raiser. The drawing was held June 17 in Princeton.

Gerri Frank of Beck Oil Company drew the winning tickets. Four cash prizes were awarded: Bev Wooden of Bradford, \$2,500; Anne Norris of LaMoille, \$1,000; Fred Faber of LaMoille, \$500; and Bonnie Bangert of Princeton, \$250.




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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

James C. Thomson Sr.

UTICA—James C. Thomson, Sr., 76, of Utica, passed away Sunday, June 18, 2023, at his home.

Services will be Saturday, July 1, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Waltham Presbyterian Church, with Rev. Joel Stevenor officiating. Visitation will be Friday, June 30, from 5-7 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota and one hour prior to services at church.

James Charles Thomson was born in LaSalle on June 23, 1946, to Charles and Helen (Lucas) Thomson. He married Laurel (Laurie) Lynn Roth of Roscoe, on Feb. 8, 1970, at the Old Stone Church in Rockton.

He is survived by his wife Laurel; sons John (Angela) Thomson of LaSalle and James (Beckie) Thomson of Tonica; grandchildren Katherine Thomson (Michael Leatherman) of Granville, Sgt. Zachary Thomson currently serving in the U.S. Army overseas and Mollie and Haylie Thomson, both of Tonica; great-grandson Anthony Leatherman of Granville; sisters Mary Jo (Gary) Schmidt of Strafford, Mo., and Linda (Stan) Zapf of Spring, Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He lived his early childhood in Triumph until they moved to the family farm in Waltham Township. He attended Ophir and Waltham elementary schools and graduated from LaSalle-Peru Township High School in 1964.

He began his enlistment in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1963 while still in high school and was honorably discharged in 1971. He attended the Graham School for Cattlemen in Kansas City after returning home from the U.S. Army Reserves.

He was a member of the Waltham Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Illinois Holstein Association, the National Holstein Association, and the Illinois Farm Bureau. He was also a member, past president and past vice-president of the Rock River Holstein Club. During his membership of the LaSalle County D.H.I.A., he had held the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. He had been a long-time member of the Waltham Curling Club.

Once he returned home from his service in the Army Reserves, he became a dedicated dairy farmer, raising and showing registered Holsteins at various county, state, and national dairy shows. It was at the Boone County fair where he met a competitor, who became the love of his life and future wife and who also loved raising and showing dairy cattle. He enjoyed being on the farm and operating it with his grandparents, parents, sisters, wife, sons, and grandchildren and would have loved seeing his great-grandson become involved with the family farm.

He was an avid fan of the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cubs. The only sport he may have loved more was curling. He was widely known as a very good and a very competitive opponent and a true sportsman of the game. He competed at four national curling championships including Chicago, Utica, N.Y., Superior Wis., and Duluth Minn.

In his later years, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandson and tried to never miss any of their events.

Memorials may be directed to Waltham Presbyterian Church or American Cancer Society. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Pastor Ian H. Griffith

LaMOILLE – Pastor Ian Hunt Griffith, 59, passed away peacefully at home in LaMoille, on June 14, 2023.

A memorial service will be held for Pastor Griffith on Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarion, 27182 3320 East St., LaMoille. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until time of services. A luncheon will be held immediately following the service in the fellowship hall. Thank you to the Zion congregation for hosting the luncheon. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is handling arrangements.

He was born on Aug. 1, 1963, and raised by adoptive parents Elizabeth (Meyer) Fitch and James Griffith.

He is survived by his wife Barbara Norris Griffith and children, Jason Griffith, Michael Norris, Matthew Menart and Sophia Griffith; his sister, Alison Gail Griffith; father James Griffith; and grandchildren, Gabriel, Olivia, Breanna and Isabella Griffith.

Ian was preceded in death by his mother Elizabeth Fitch and birth father William E. Meade.

Memorial contributions can be made to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarion, LaMoille, IL 61330. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Carol Widolff

WEST BROOKLYN – Carol Widolff, 89, of West Brooklyn, passed away Thursday, June 22, 2023, at her home surrounded by her family.

Funeral services were Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon. Lunch followed at the Holloway Center. Burial was at St. Mary Cemetery in West Brooklyn at 3 p.m. Visitation was on Monday, June 26, from 4-7 p.m. with scripture service at 6:30 p.m. at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Visitation was also from 10-10:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 27, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon.

She was born on May 3, 1934, in Mendota, the daughter of Raymond and Eva (Fahler) Mann. She married Joseph Widolff on Nov. 26, 1955, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mendota.

She is survived by her children Diane (James) Devine of Dixon, Michael (Janet) Widolff of West Brooklyn, Lois (Brian) Donovan of Winter Haven, Fla., Randy (Shelley Mink) Widolff of West Brooklyn and Steven (Paula) Widolff of Amboy; 15 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and one brother-in-law, William Widolff of Sterling.

Carol is preceded in death by her husband on Feb. 14, 2019; six brothers, George, Oren, Cecil, Carleton, Wayne and Glenn Mann; and three sisters, Catherine Mann, Ina Garland and Lela Rich.

Carol was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in West Brooklyn, and Altar and Rosary Society.

A memorial has been established to Serenity Hospice and Home. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.



Janet M. Small

WALTHAMTOWNSHIP—Janet Mae Small, 86, of Waltham Township, passed away Saturday, June 24, 2023, at LaSalle County Nursing Home, Ottawa.

Funeral services will be Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Waltham Presbyterian Church with Rev. Joel Stevenor officiating. Burial will be in Waltham Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. until time of services at the church. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Mrs. Small was born Dec. 28, 1936, in Oglesby to Edward and Marie (Argubright) Towne. She married Norman Small on Sept. 4, 1954.

Mrs. Small is survived by two daughters, Janet (Mary) Delaney and Peggy (Doug) Fieldman; two sons, Gary (Martha) Small and Tom (Barb) Small; nine grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; one sister, Marie Phillips and one brother, James Towne.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 2008, one grandson, one sister and two brothers.

Mrs. Small was a member of Waltham Presbyterian Church. She volunteered for several years at Illinois Valley PADS Shelter and Lily Pads Resale Store.

Memorials may be directed to Public Action to Delivery Shelter (PADS). Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Elizabeth Henkel

SUBLETTE—Elizabeth (Theiss) Henkel, 98, of Sublette, died peacefully at her home on June 24, 2023.

Funeral services will be arranged at a later date.

She was born on June 4, 1925. Betty was a lifelong resident of Sublette, married Cletus F. Henkel on April 27, 1943, and enjoyed 58 years of marriage before he died. She was the mother of 10 children who blessed her with 19 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Known as Betty, she recently celebrated her 98th birthday with a large gathering of family and friends. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Betty is survived by nine of her children, Judith Henkel of Sublette, Stan (Susan) Henkel of Oak Creek, Wis., Michael (Karen) Henkel of Sublette, Martin (Janda) Henkel of Dixon, Paul (Susan) Henkel of Sublette, Sheryl (Keith Gray) Joel of Longmont, Colo., Edward (Barbara) Henkel of Sublette, Joan Henkel of Darien and Jane (Joseph) Schmidt of Tonica. Betty was the oldest of six and is survived by her sisters, Sr. Joan Theiss OSF of Clinton, Iowa, Ellen (Jim) Flores of Santee, Calif., and Janet (Galen) Wright of Madera, Calif.; a brother, Dr. Edward Theiss of Boulder Colo.; and sister-in-law, Elaine (Gilbert) Theiss of Riverside, Calif.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gilbert P. and Ruth Theiss; husband, Cletus; a son, David; a brother, Gilbert L. Theiss; a granddaughter, Catharine Henkel and a grandson, Mathew Henkel.

Faith, family, and hard work were the central tenets of Betty's life. She was a life-long parishioner of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette, and, with her husband, raised a large loving family and farmed for a living.

Hard work was her brand, and she couldn't stay idle even in her spare time. Over the many years of her long life, she enjoyed many pastimes, including playing ball on the Sublette Cublets women's softball team, playing cards, fishing, gardening, bee keeping, making apple cider and canning and preserving the fruits and bounty of her many gardens and orchards. She was a member of OLPH Church St. Anne's Society and an activist on local community issues. She was a quintessential farm wife and homemaker and a faithful prayer warrior on behalf of others. Betty relished the life she lived. She was well loved and will be dearly missed. Peace be with you, Betty, Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma, Big Sister, Aunt, Neighbor, Friend.

The family will be making memorial contributions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (mass intentions), OSF Hospice of Ottawa, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls of Chicago and Sublette 365. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



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District 289 recognizes employee milestones

MENDOTA—Employees of Mendota Elementary District 289 reached milestone years during the 2022-23 school year. The administration would like to recognize the following staff members for achieving years of service:

5 years – Tyler Pearce, Lauren Akre, Lindsey Zidow, Kaitlyn Thanepohn, Stacie O'Brien, Lauren Mehrkens, Kaitlynn Sond-

geroth, Kenneth Zink, Jessica Allen, Rebecca Hansen, Sofia Komitas, Mallary Setchell, Lacey Full

10 years – Lannette Cleary, Sara Schaefer, Cheryl Sterling

15 years – Regina Perryman, Danielle Buettner, Stephanie Kleckner

20 years – Diane Klein, Kelly Becker, Katie March

25 years – Denise Woods

Where is it...
in Mendota?

HOW TO ENTER:

If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday.

One correct answer will be drawn each week. Prizes must be picked up at the Mendota Reporter Office.

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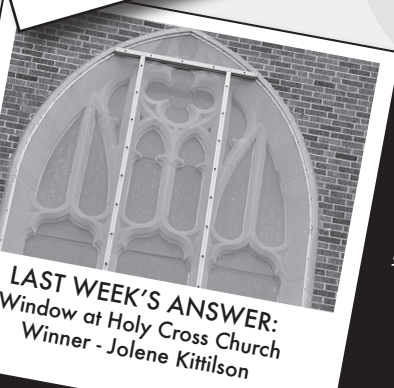
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06/27/2022

LOCAL AND AREA

Dist. 280

Continued from Page A1

student orientation event scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 9.

She issued a reminder about student physicals, dental exams and mandated vaccinations.

The District is requiring all parents and students to return a signature page that verifies they have access to the online handbooks.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

During Prusator's report, the board authorized the purchase of an activity bus.

Prusator reported on future building projects. He shared that the flat roof replacement cost estimate is close to \$2.5 million. Future building and ground needs include paving the athletic stadium parking lot and replacement of the stadium field turf. The field turf is 12 years old, which is the usual life span of the turf, however, the District was informed that because of the excellent maintenance and care given to the turf by the maintenance staff, the current turf has at least three years left before replacement.

The replacement cost for the turf is approximately \$500,000 and it is anticipated this will be done within the next three years. The turf will have a deep cleaning and minor repairs in early August at an estimated cost of \$3,000.

PERSONNEL

In personnel matters, the board accepted the resignation of Mitch Landgraf as Director of Guidance and Counseling department head and approved Rachel Tarr as department head replacement.

The board accepted the resignation of Rey Arteaga as girls' junior varsity soccer coach.

The board accepted the resignation of Dustin Kent as assistant maintenance director and hired Jarred Johnson to fill the position.

OTHER ITEMS

Jim Lauer, board president, announced board committee assignments.

Following the meeting, a retirement program was held for Prusator, who presided over his final meeting as superintendent. He served the district for 27 years as principal and superintendent.

Aughenbaugh, who will take over as superintendent starting July 1, said Prusator's financial leadership

and management skills influenced the district and numerous careers. He was a visionary in overseeing the construction of the complete athletic complex at the new high school. His guidance was also spent enhancing the agriculture buildings and vocational walkways.

Academically, Prusator oversaw the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards and the incorporation of technology into daily use for the district. The district offered 1:1 learning devices and numerous technology enhancements for classroom instruction. Prusator continued to put students first in all the decisions.

"As a visionary leader, Mr. Prusator worked with others to creatively solve problems, and he also helped to build leadership capacity with others on staff. He has looked for ways to build long-range and sustainable growth in District 280," stated Aughenbaugh.

Aughenbaugh said that over the years, Prusator led the district through the financial crisis times in and after 2008. He used this time to closely analyze every policy, practice, and expenditure in the district. Having to make budgetary-cut decisions was not easy, and he was sure to make the hard decisions to assure financial stability for many more years.

Aughenbaugh noted that the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2023 was also a challenging leadership period.

"It was his dogged determination that the school would remain open. Jeff had to lead effectively and efficiently and rely upon relationships with staff and stakeholders. There was never a time that placed more demands on leadership than the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic demanded the Superintendent provide academic, technological, operational, and interpersonal support for the district. You had the power of persuasion.

"As we move on without your physical presence, you can be sure that you have left a mark on all of us. Your fingerprints are all over this district. We are in a much better position moving forward for having both worked with you and learned from you. We wish you the best of luck and some actual vacation time in the future."

The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m.

Drought continues to expand; crop conditions deteriorate

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

The expanding drought and crop condition ratings continue to trend in opposite directions as many farmers nervously await what should be the pivotal corn pollination period.

All 102 counties in Illinois are now fully engulfed in drought and abnormally dry conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor released last week.

Nearly one-third of the state is in severe drought, mostly from the Interstate 72 corridor to just north of Interstate 74 and along the eastern border of the state from northern Edgar to Lake County. And more than half the state (51%) is in moderate drought.

"This is something we haven't seen in a long time — really intense dryness," Trent Ford, state climatologist with the Illinois State Water Survey, told FarmWeek. "We're about 8 to 10 inches below normal (precipitation)

in some parts of Illinois. We're flirting with 1988 as far as precipitation totals."

In fact, average precipitation for the entire state from April 1 to June 10 was the second lowest on record dating back to 1951, according to the state climatologist. The only year it was drier in the past 72 years was 1988.

"The one thing that's been a saving grace is we had moisture in the ground before this drought started," Ford said. "It's been the one thing keeping things alive. The crops are just kind of hanging on in some places."

But many farmers wonder just how much longer crops can hang on with no considerable moisture. The portion of crops rated good to excellent in Illinois as of June 20 plummeted to just 36% for corn (down 12 points from the previous week) and 33% for soybeans (down 14 points), the National Agricultural Statistics Service

Illinois field office reported.

Nationwide, just 55% of corn was rated good to excellent as of June 20, which is the lowest rating for the week since 1992.

"We're heading to a catastrophe if it doesn't rain soon," said Gary Steward, FarmWeek CropWatcher from Stark County. "I'm more worried about corn than beans, because August rain may make a few beans."

Early-planted corn that was able to tap into some of the soil moisture generally looks better than later-planted corn in many areas. But growth of all crops has slowed in recent weeks, regardless of planting date, according to Gabe Glotzbach, crop specialist with Heritage FS in Iroquois County.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)

Water trees and plants to prevent drought stress

LISLE – This summer is getting off to an unusually dry start, with The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, recording its driest period from April 1 to mid-June since 1936 and the Illinois State Climatologist reporting it as the second driest on record statewide.

To help keep trees and all plants healthy through this dry spell, Arboretum experts are urging homeowners and others to water trees and plants more often than usual to prevent drought stress, which happens when soil water becomes limited.

Under drought stress, young roots on many trees are weakened and some are killed outright, reducing the plant's ability to absorb sufficient water. If landscape plants—including trees, shrubs and ground covers, especially evergreen types—do not receive adequate rainfall or supplemental watering, damage to or loss of foliage, or even all-out mortality, is likely.

"In this stressful time for trees and plants, it's important to understand and provide the special care they need," said Spencer Campbell, the Arboretum's Plant Clinic manager. "Wilting leaves are a sign of drought stress, but it's better to keep plants supplied with enough water before they get stressed enough to wilt."

Depending on air temperatures, trees and shrubs need at least 1 inch of water applied deeply through a long, slow soak every week to 10 days to cope with lack of rain, Campbell noted. Larger, established trees have wide-spreading root systems and need not be watered as frequently, perhaps



every two to three weeks. Let the top few inches of soil dry out between watering to avoid saturation and to allow roots and soil organisms to breathe, Campbell said.

Here are additional tips from The Morton Arboretum for watering trees and plants during drought conditions.

1. Check for soil moisture. Rather than watering on a set schedule, check the garden soil for moisture. This practice is better for the plants and helps conserve water. Since plants absorb water through their underground roots, the amount of water in the soil is what matters to them. Dig down a couple of inches, and if the soil feels dry, it's time to water. Bear in mind that soil conditions may not be the same in all parts of a yard.
2. Use proper watering techniques. Trees and plants can only absorb water through their roots. Because much of tree roots are below the surface, it's important to apply water relatively slowly so there's deeper infiltration. Soaker hoses, which are laid on the

soil surface to slowly seep water, are more efficient than sprinklers, although a sprinkler can cover a wide area. Be aware that the spray from a sprinkler can be blocked or diverted by trees, shrubs or even the large leaves of some plants such as hostas. When watering by hand with a hose nozzle or watering wand, direct the water toward the base of the plant.

3. Certain plants need more frequent watering. Containers, vegetable gardens and newly planted perennials may need watering every couple of days or even more often in hot weather.
4. Young plants need more help accessing water. It's especially important to provide more water for young, newly planted trees, which don't have many roots yet. Let the hose dribble slowly into the soil, moving it around to moisten the soil around the trunk. A good dose for a young tree a few feet tall is about 10 gallons—roughly the amount resulting from a hose running at medium pressure for five minutes.
5. Mature trees need watering too. Even mature trees need watering in hot, dry weather. If the hose won't reach, pour several buckets of water slowly into the soil

around the tree.

The Morton Arboretum's scientists are closely monitoring the drought and its impacts. Through a recently awarded grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Arboretum is collaborating with three other major Illinois research institutions to improve urban forest drought resilience.

"With the region currently experiencing abnormal drought conditions, and climate change likely to make droughts and excessive heat events more common, we must ensure urban trees are healthy," said Christy Rollinson, Ph.D., the Arboretum's forest ecologist and the drought resilience project leader. "Trees help keep cities cooler in the summer and provide many more valuable ecological services to help mitigate impacts of climate change. Many of these services are dependent on trees having access to water, so proper watering and care are essential to climate resilience."

More information about how to keep plants healthy during drought is available on the mortonarb.org website or by visiting, emailing or calling the Arboretum's Plant Clinic during operating hours.

Virus

Continued from Page A1

or even death. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

IDPH encourages the public to Fight the Bite by practicing the three "R's" — reduce, repel, and report:

- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut.

- **Eliminate**, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - when outdoors,

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

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

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

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OPINION



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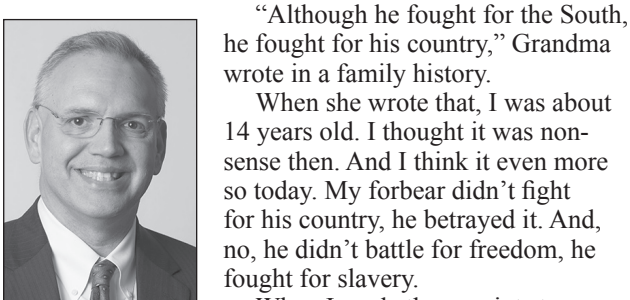
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Civil War still divides

By Scott Reeder

When I was in high school, my Grandma Wanda fought a battle with the American Legion to have a veteran’s marker placed on the grave of her husband’s grandfather. Eventually, the Legion post relented and put a veteran’s stone over John Beckerdite’s earthly remains. What gave the veteran’s organization pause is that John hadn’t served in any branch of the United States Armed Forces. He fought for the Confederacy.



Reeder

“Although he fought for the South, he fought for his country,” Grandma wrote in a family history. When she wrote that, I was about 14 years old. I thought it was non-sense then. And I think it even more so today. My forbear didn’t fight for his country, he betrayed it. And, no, he didn’t battle for freedom, he fought for slavery.

When I made these points to Grandma, she wouldn’t hear of it. She had bought into the myth of the Lost Cause.

I was thinking of that long ago argument this past week, as the U.S. armed forces began renaming military bases that had been named after Confederate generals.

For example, Fort Bragg will become Fort Liberty. Fort Hood will become Fort Cavazos. Fort Benning will become Fort Moore. And Fort Gordon will become Fort Eisenhower.

Some traditionalists are hopping mad about the change. They say the Biden administration is erasing history.

Baloney. The administration is eradicating the remnants of a fable.

It’s the myth that the Southerners fought a noble fight for independence. They will tell you – with a straight face – the Civil War was fought not over slavery but state’s rights.

It’s just not true. All 11 Southern states said in their individual articles of secession that they were departing the Union over the issue of slavery.

One Southern friend concedes that the South may have left the Union over slavery. But he adds the North didn’t fight the war to end slavery.

Well, I guess you can ignore the Emancipation Proclamation or Abraham Lincoln’s moral opposition to slavery, but what about this line from the “Battle of the Republic” that Union soldiers sang marching into battle: “As Christ died to make men holy, let us die to make men free?”

Whose freedom do you think they were dying for? No one wants to believe their ancestors died and sacrificed for something as reprehensible as the right to own another human being. But men like Braxton Bragg, John Bell Hood, Henry Benning and John Brown Gordon did just that.

It’s shameful that our nation named its military bases after these and other traitors. And make no mistake about it, these men betrayed their country. They took up arms against a nation that they once pledged to serve.

Worse yet, they did it in support of an issue as abhorrent as slavery.

My father spent a miserable few months at Fort Gordon, where he went through Army basic training during the Korean War. He never spoke well of his time as a draftee. There was no nostalgia directed toward his time in the service.

But I can’t help but think he would be pleased that the base where he suffered is now named after the first person he supported for president – Eisenhower.

Unlike, Gordon, who is believed to have headed the Georgia Ku Klux Klan, Ike fought for individual liberty. He and his troops defeated Nazism and liberated concentration camps. While president, he sent the 101st Airborne to Little Rock, Ark., to force the integration of public schools.

Those are actions worthy of praise. And no, Eisenhower wasn’t perfect. He made mistakes. But the thrust of his life’s work was moving the nation in the right direction.

Some will say that renaming the bases is rewriting history. That’s silly. What we are rewriting is who we choose to honor in our history.

The bases got their names as part of a political compromise. As the Army was expanding during World War I, it wanted to establish training bases in the South. To get local buy in, it allowed state legislatures to choose the names of the bases. Lawmakers – just 49 years after the Civil War – chose to name the bases after Confederate generals.

Please note, Southern African Americans couldn’t vote during this era. They had no say over who was honored. Illinoisans should be proud of our heritage. The two individuals most responsible for defeating secession and slavery – Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant – both hailed from the Prairie State.

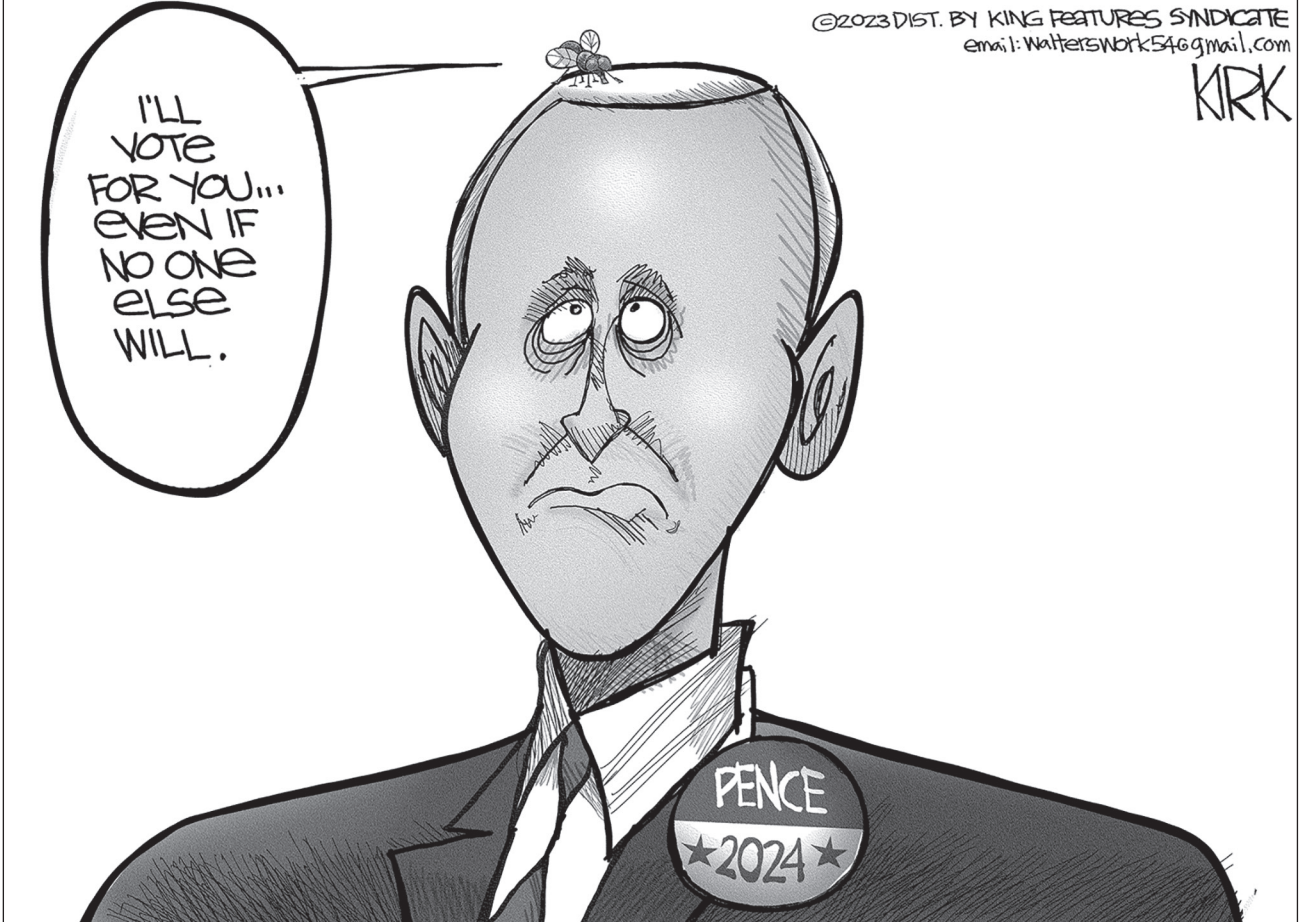
So why does the Civil War still divide us? The best answer is that we haven’t come to terms with its causes. Race still divides our nation.

In 2017, we saw the deep divisions of the Civil War manifest themselves in Charlottesville, Va. where riots ensued after a statue of Robert E. Lee was to be taken down. Those who supported the statue remaining said it wasn’t about race, but their heritage, which they contended was being marginalized.

But if it wasn’t about race, why would neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members and other white supremacists be there rioting?

We should be proud that our military has expunged the names of secessionists from their places of honor.

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



Moose baseball field dedicated – 1954

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from June 30, 1999.)

By Jessica Nashold

It was on Sunday, June 27, 1954 – 45 years ago – that the Mendota Moose baseball and recreation field was dedicated. Organizations taking part were the Mendota High School band, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Blue Birds, Little Leaguers, Pony Leaguers, Softball Leaguers and the Moosettes. The field was located in the area south of 12th Street and east of Main, commonly known as the Illinois Central Y. Ted Helbig was credited with negotiating use of this land. On the day of the dedication, Bob Wilson, commander of the American Legion, presented an American flag to Fritz Politsch, governor of the Mendota Moose, and Carlos Parsons, past governor. The flag was raised for the first time on a standard at the southwest corner of the field.

Mayor Christ Troupis threw out the first ball in the first game between Humes and Mendota Building Service. Humes won by a score of 9-4. In the second game between Mendota Moosettes and the Maryettes of LaSalle, the Mendota team piled up a one-sided score of 33-5. Harold Entwistle announced the plays.

Abig wind from the west on Tuesday afternoon, June 29, 1954, cut a swath through Mendota at about four o’clock in the afternoon. An annex to Lorack’s Chevrolet, under construction on West Washington Street, and new building underway at Wayside Press, were extensively damaged. Downed trees snapped power lines and transformers were struck by lightning. One big tree toppled on and totaled Laurence Joerger’s car, parked on Indiana Avenue while he did some shopping in downtown Mendota.

A dinner to benefit the Kanteen was held at the Lions Den on Sunday, June 27, 1954, with serving starting at 11:30 a.m. The menu served to adults for \$1.50 and to children for 85 cents included –
Baked ham, parsley potatoes,

Backtracks & Sidetracks

buttered peas, cabbage salad, relish, hot rolls, pie and coffee. It was made clear that out-of-town boys working at CalPack were welcome to the Kanteen during its regular hours – 7:30-10 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 7:30-11 p.m. on Saturday. **Closing hours may be extended at the discretion of chaperones.**

Baptist pastor Rev. Eugene Holcomb and Evangelical United Brethren pastor Rev. Frank J. Unger conducted a two-week summer school at the Baptist church. At its conclusion, girls and boys presented separate programs to which the public was invited.

Six local dealers submitted bids to supply a new police car. Low bid was by Serup Motors for a black Ford V-8 with heavy duty equipment at \$1,569.75. Other bidders were Jones Motor Sales (Studebaker), Widmer & Sons (Buick, Olds), Lorack (Chevrolet), Schimmer (Pontiac) and Prescott (Plymouth). Radio and other equipment from the old police car would be installed in the new one. Serup would also install an alternator instead of a generator.

The alternator is more efficient when two-way radio equipment is used. The council voted to get bids on two-way radio systems to be used jointly by the city, police and fire departments.

Fourteen Mendota or former Mendota residents were defendants in a Dram Shop suit in Circuit Court asking \$210,000 for injuries to Barbara Kreiter of Earlville. The injuries were sustained in a highway accident in which the driver of the car that struck Kreiter’s vehicle had been served at four taverns in Mendota – Hub’s, Biers’, Skeet’s and Red Rose. The suit was brought by the Rev. Otto H. Kreiter, father of the victim,

There should be no “woke” in baseball

By Rich Lowry

It’s not unusual for prayer to play a role in sports. “Spahn, Sain, and pray for rain!” was the famous refrain of Boston Braves fans in 1948, when they wanted their exceptional pitchers Warren Spahn and Johnny Sain to start as many games as possible.

A couple of years ago, the team chaplain of the Loyola Chicago men’s basketball team, Sister Jean, prayed before a game against Illinois in the NCAA Tournament, “As we play the Fighting Illini, we ask for special help to overcome this team and get a great win.” (Final score: Loyola Chicago 71, Illinois 58).

In the long history of sports, though, it seems unlikely that anyone has ever felt compelled to pray over the spiritual hurt caused by a team -- until now. Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez dedicated a service to praying for “healing due to the harm caused by” the Los Angeles Dodgers.

And he’s not referring to the team’s disappointing exit from the playoffs last year at the hands of the San Diego Padres or its relatively soft 38-30 start this year. No, rather its “decision to honor a group that intentionally denigrates and profanes the Christian faith.”

He’s speaking of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a group of drag queens who dress up as Roman Catholic nuns and mock their faith. In the most embarrassing to-and-fro since Yankee owner George Steinbrenner fired and rehired manager Billy Martin multiple times, the Dodgers announced that they’d honor the “Sisters” on the team’s “LGBTQ+ Pride Night,” then backed off when people of faith were offended, then decided to honor them after all in response to LGBTQ backlash to the backlash.

This shameful cowardice comes courtesy of one of baseball’s most storied franchises, one that used to hold “Nun’s Day” at the stadium.

It’s a symptom of the sheer unavoidability of “woke” cultural politics that they’ve come to baseball, once the most mainstream and arguably still the most traditional of major sports league.

The Toronto Blue Jays just cut one of their relief pitchers, Anthony Bass, for not getting with the LGBTQ program. He thus became the first player in major league history to be DFA’ed for associating himself with traditional Biblical morality.

On May 29, a day that will live in Blue Jays infamy, right up there with the collapse in the 1985 ALCS, Bass shared a video from Bible-themed Instagram page supporting the boycotts of Bud Light and Target. In response to the resulting furor, he apologized and promised to do better, but that wasn’t close to being enough.

The last straw came when he tried to explain himself again about two weeks into the controversy. He said, “I stand by my personal beliefs,” adding -- very naively, as it turns out -- “and everyone is entitled to their personal beliefs, right?”

The demand of Bass wasn’t that he say bland and nice things but that he repudiate part of his belief system as a Christian.

Fans were booing him, and sports journalists were out for blood. The Athletic huffed, “It was clear that Bass still did not grasp how harmful his actions and words were.”

Preposterously, as part of his forced rehabilitation, Bass was scheduled to catch the ceremonial first pitch to open up the team’s Pride Weekend, which included a drag queen performing the national anthem.

Instead, he got fired. No one can accuse the Blue Jays of not fully embracing the spirit of pride ideology, including the illiberalism.

Back in the early 1950s, before the Dodgers had moved from Brooklyn, the team’s churchgoing first baseman Gil Hodges entered into a terrible slump. Instead of turning on him, the fans encouraged him. Father Redmond of St. Francis Church famously said one day: “It’s too hot for a sermon today. Go home, keep the commandments, and say a prayer for Gil Hodges.”

Hodges eventually found his groove, making for a nice piece of Dodgers lore. These days, he’d presumably have to watch what he said.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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who was a minor. *** Showing in the cool, air-conditioned State Theatre on June 29-30, 1954, was Kirk Douglas in “Act of Love.” ***

Air conditioning was gaining in business houses and 12 Mendota merchants sponsored a half page in The Mendota Reporter to let it be known they were now cool: Ben Franklin Store, Faber Hotel Café, Gish Jewelry & Gifts, Hi-Way Café, Mendota Candy Kitchen, Mendota Maid, Mendota Sport Shop, Mendota Trouser Sales Room, New Waldorf Café, Preston’s, R.T. Hall Clothing and Westernman’s. ***

A portable roller skating rink called Treasure Island was set up under a tent at the airport. A Kanteen skating party was arranged for July 1, 1954. If tickets were purchased in advance from Kanteen members, a portion of the admission price would benefit the Kanteen treasury.

Tickets bought at the gate will not. ***

Richard Carroll opened an office at 808 Washington St. for the convenience of his customers. The warehouse for his insulation and roofing materials remained at 812 ½ Washington. ***

George Rapp took over Coss Cab and moved his headquarters to Vita-Tone Cleaners on Jefferson Street. ***

The West End Club planned a 50th anniversary celebration to be held July 15, 1954, in the house where it was organized in 1904. There were 10 members in the original group.

They called themselves the Larkin Club.

When the club organized, that house was the home of Mrs. George Prescott. Fifty years later, it was the home of Mrs. Beryl Althaus. ***

With the Fourth of July near at hand, there was a ready sale for fireworks. At Burk’s News Agency and Corner Store, cap guns and caps were available in a price range from 59 cents to \$2.49.

LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois expands use of police surveillance drones

□ New law allows event surveillance, building inspections, search and rescue

By **ANDREW ADAMS**
Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO – Next time you attend a parade, there might be an eye in the sky.

A new law signed by Gov. JB Pritzker expands local police departments' authority to use drones to surveil certain events, respond to certain 911 calls, inspect buildings and participate in public relations events.

House Bill 3902 passed 56-1 in the Senate and 84-7 in the House with three members voting "present." The law drew some concerns from civil liberties groups, which ultimately led to added privacy protections and disclosure requirements.

The push to expand when police drone authority originated after a 2019 mass shooting at the Henry Pratt Company in Aurora, according to the bill's House sponsor, Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora. She and others received renewed calls after a 2022 shooting at a July 4th parade in Highland Park.

"I hope people are safe and that this can prevent anything else from happening," Hernandez said.

Kenny Winslow, executive director of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, supported the measure and is already planning to offer training on the new law to police departments. He said drone technology could save lives and expects more departments to use them moving forward.

But he added that the protections contained in the bill—including requirements that police post notices if they are surveilling an event and keep a record of flight paths—were an important part of the final product.

"We're trying to be as transparent with the public as we can," Winslow said.

The ACLU of Illinois—a civil rights organization that has long been a voice of opposition to unrestricted drone use by police departments—took a neutral stance on the bill. ACLU staff were key architects of a 2013 state law referred to as the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act that placed significant restrictions on police drone use.

"Our concern is that this kind of technology can be



A new law signed by Gov. JB Pritzker expands local police departments' authority to use drones to surveil certain events, respond to certain 911 calls, inspect buildings and participate in public relations events.

used in fairly invasive ways that intrude on our constitutional and privacy rights," ACLU attorney Liza Roberson-Young told Capitol News Illinois.

These concerns led to some key protections in the bill, including limitations on what circumstances warrant the use of drones and how long the information collected by drones can be stored.

"We wouldn't want this to be a first step to a slippery slope to chipping away at the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act," Roberson-Young said.

Under the new law, drones may only be used at outdoor, government-hosted events. These include events such as parades, walks, races, concerts or food festivals. These events must meet minimum size requirements depending on the size of the municipality in which they are hosted in order for police to use drones.

The law explicitly bars drones from being used to monitor "any political protest, march, demonstration, or other assembly protected by the First Amendment."

The law also allows police to use drones when responding to 911 calls to find victims, to assist with health or safety needs or to coordinate emergency personnel.

The information collected using drones, which could include video, images, sounds or other data, may only be stored temporarily and must be deleted within 24 hours after a parade or other special event and within 30 days for most other uses. There are some exceptions

where police may retain that information, such as if there is reasonable suspicion that the information contains evidence of criminal activity, if the information is relevant to an ongoing investigation or if it will be used for future training.

The Illinois Attorney General's office can investigate police departments' patterns and practices of drone use and compel their compliance by seeking a court order. Departments can lose drone authority for at least six months the first time they are found to violate the law and up to one year for subsequent violations.

In an interview, Hernandez encouraged people to reach out to the attorney general if they find police violating the new regulations.

"I hope people get to see that there are clear instructions in the law to prevent people from violating privacy," Hernandez said.

The law also explicitly bans police from equipping drones with weapons, such as firearms, chemical irritants or lasers.

The law also places significant restrictions on the use of facial recognition technology in conjunction with drones, barring police from using it during a flight and only allowing it to counter a high risk of a terrorist incident based on U.S. Department of Homeland Security intelligence or to prevent "imminent harm to life or to forestall the imminent escape of a suspect of the destruction of evidence."

But some in the digital rights world say that the law

still leaves the door open for police to use other surveillance technologies that encroach on people's civil liberties.

Beryl Lipton is a law enforcement technology and surveillance researcher at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital rights advocacy group. EFF was not engaged in the process of drafting HB 3902.

"It's good that they have protections on facial recognition technology, but there are other biometric technologies that could be used," Lipton said, pointing to gait analysis as one example.

Although Lipton said that her organization has concerns any time police use drones, she added that there are good reasons for drones to be used in some circumstances.

Ultimately, however, Lipton said that local governments should be involved in determining appropriate use of police technologies for their communities.

"There should be a municipal, local conversation about surveillance," Lipton said.

The law went into effect immediately after Pritzker's signature.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.)

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Area students graduate from Iowa

IOWA CITY, Iowa – This spring, more than 6,500 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students earned degrees. These Hawkeyes have engaged, excelled, and stretched to reach their goals.

Among the graduates are:

Curt Fitzgerald of Mendota, Bachelor of Science in Engineering; Jack Massey of Mendota, Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance; Katherine Anderson of La Moille, Bachelor of Arts in English and Creative Writing; and Megan Kneebone of Mendota, Graduate Management Programs Certificate in Leadership.

T. McNally graduates from Monmouth

MONMOUTH – Timothy McNally of Paw Paw graduated from Monmouth College on May 14 with a degree in elementary education. McNally is the son of Kristina McNally of Paw Paw.

The featured speaker at Monmouth's 166th Commencement Exercises on was former U.S. Congressman Richard A. Gephardt, a two-time presidential candidate.

Mendotans on U. of Iowa Dean's List

IOWA CITY, Iowa – More than 7,100 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean's list for the 2023 spring semester.

Dean's list status was earned by 968 first-year undergraduates during the 2023 spring semester at Iowa, only 1,604 second-year students, only 1,922 third-year students, and only 2,630 fourth-year students.

Among the students making the list are Curt Fitzgerald of Mendota, College of Engineering, and Madison Mikolasek of Mendota, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Area students on UW-M Dean's List

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Area students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for the Spring 2023 semester. UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Among the students achieving the honor are Aaron Brandner, Engineering & Computer Science; Grace Brandner, Nursing; Emma Guelde, Education; and Maren Wise, Letters & Science, all of Mendota.

Earlville student on Aurora U. Dean's List

AURORA – Aurora University has named its Dean's List students for the spring 2023 semester. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher.

Among the students making the list was Kylie Congdon, health science, of Earlville.

Earlville student on IWU Dean's List

BLOOMINGTON – Kennedy Meloy of Earlville was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year at Illinois Wesleyan University. Meloy is a senior majoring in Nursing.

Meloy was among 731 students from 30 states and 29 countries named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight A's.

Keep up on your hometown news with a subscription to The Reporter!
For information, call 815-539-9396.

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Janko Realty currently has **1, 2 and 3 bedroom and studio units** available for rent in Mendota.

Please check out our available rentals and applications online at **www.jankorealty.propertyware.com** or call **815-830-4422**.

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Thursday: 8:30-12 & 1-4
*Dr. Kelly in office from 1-4
Friday: 8-12 & 1-4
**with Dr. Kelly in office for provider appts.
Closed Sat/Sun.

Dr. Kelly is also in the Rochelle office (1212 Currency Ct.) on M, W and Th. Call 815-561-8500.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Community Calendar

JULY 2023

test their skills and provide interpretations for a selection of displayed bouquets.

JULY 11, 18 & 25
Wii BOWLING
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10:30 AM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JULY 11 & 25
BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD
SUGAR CHECKS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
July 25 - date may be subject
to change. Please call office for
availability.

JULY 11, 18 & 25
EUCHRE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
\$3 paid at beginning. Cash
prizes awarded at end of play.
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JULY 11
UNO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JULY 12
SHOPPING TO PERU
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
\$12 - round trip. Please call
M.A.S.S. office to set up
transportation.

JULY 12
DR. DILISCA XCEL ORTHO
ROCHELLE HOSP.
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM - 11 AM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Informative meeting with Dr.
Dilisca Orthopedic options

JULY 14
HUGO'S ELVIS: TRIBUTE
ARTIST
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

All are invited to join us for a
family fun night at the Library.
No registration. No library card
required. For the enjoyment
of life-long Elvis admirers and
to introduce the music legend
to a brand new generation of
fans!

JULY 15
ANIMALS AROUND THE
WORLD
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

The Library is closed....but not
for you! Come to this special
Saturday program of "Animals
Around the World" showcasing
bats, a sloth and an armadillo.
All are welcomed to attend.
No registration. No library card
required.

JULY 18
CAREGIVERS COUNSELING
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM - 12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Counseling provided by
Alternations. Please call if
interested in setting up an
appointment.

JULY 18
SCRABBLE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Bring some friends and enjoy the
challenge.

JULY 18
3RD TUESDAY BOOK
DISCUSSION
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
1 PM OR 6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
July we'll be discussing "The
People We Keep" by Allison
Larkin. All are welcomed to
attend. No registration. We
are always happy to have new
members.

JULY 21
DAVE DINASO'S TRAVELING
WORLD OF REPTILE
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
This is their 3rd time back and
crowd favorite. Their up-close
and personal showing of reptiles
is one you don't want to miss!
All are welcomed to attend.
No registration. No library card
required.

JULY 25
LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

JULY 25
ZOOM - COOKING CLASS
"PRESERVING YOUR FOOD"
Sponsored by M.A.S.S. /
University of IL
2:30 PM
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
May watch at M.A.S.S. or
contact us for link to watch at
home.

JULY 26
SHOPPING TO OTTAWA
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
\$12 - Please call office to set
up transportation.

JULY 26
MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S. -
"INDEPENDENCE DAY" (1996)
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library & M.A.S.S.
3 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
July we'll be watching
"Independence Day". Snacks
and beverages provided by
M.A.S.S. All are welcomed to
attend. No registration.

JULY 28
SUMMER POTLUCK
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
This potluck will be "Build your
own Chef Salad". Please sign
up for what you wish to bring
at senior center. Bring your
own table service & utensils.

JULY 28
PRE CIVIL WAR QUILTS:
SECRET CODES TO
FREEDOM FROM THE
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Join Connie Martin as she tells
the stories passed down to her
Great Grandmother Lizzie of
how her family survived the
Antibellum period through trials
and tribulations, and how they
used quilts that contained hidden
codes and secret messages to
assist abolitionists; white and
black, to guide slaves to freedom
through the Underground
Railroad to Canada. All are
welcomed to attend. No
registration. No library card
required.

JULY 29
SUMMER READING FINALE
WITH "HALAU HULA O
PUANANI" HAWAIIAN
ENTERTAINMENT
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Join us as we watch hula
dancers share their culture
and their words with dance
and music. Summer Reading
prizes will be announced at 6
PM. All are welcomed to attend.
No registration. No library card
required.

*The Community
Calendar Is Brought To
You By
Mendota Area Chamber
of Commerce & The
Mendota Reporter.
These are some of the
local businesses who
belong to your Chamber
of Commerce:*
Barkman Concrete Construction
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Basil Construction
Becker Chiropractic
Beck's BP
Beck's 1-39 Auto/Truck Plaza
Big Uproar
Black Brothers Co.
Boelk Truck Lines
Buckman Iron and Metal
Business Employment Skills
Team

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation launches "Mailbox Challenge" fundraiser

LaSALLE – Starved
Rock Country Community
Foundation has launched a
"Mailbox Challenge" fund-
raiser that will culminate in
early November with one
donor winning as much as
\$10,000.

Former Ottawa mayor and
Foundation board member
Bob Eschbach announced the
initiative at a recent reception
in the lobby of the old La
Salle Post Office, now home
to CLRED and SRCCF at
241 Marquette St.

The Foundation hopes to
'sell' over 300 boxes for \$100
each or a dozen for \$1,000. If
all boxes are sold, a \$10,000
grand prize will be drawn
Nov. 4 at the Foundation's
second annual Disco Ball in
the Auditorium Ballroom,
109 Wright St., La Salle.

While the prize amount
will be determined by the
number of boxes sold, the
payout will be at least \$5,000.

When an individual or or-
ganization purchases a box,
they reserve it by placing
a sticker on it and register
the box number with the
Foundation.

To purchase a box, stop
in the SRCCF office to see



Donor Susan Monroe, left, of McNabb selects her entry in the "Mailbox Challenge" fundraiser sponsored by Starved Rock Country Community Foundation with SRCCF Director of Operations Janice Corrigan looking on. The Foundation is 'selling' the former mailboxes for \$100 each as part of a fundraiser. (Photo contributed)

Director of Operations Janice
Corrigan during business
hours. For information,
contact Corrigan at (815)
252-2906 or via email at
info@srccf.org.

"The Foundation pro-
motes initiatives supporting
education, the arts, health-

care, disaster relief, entre-
preneurship, conservation,
the environment and more,"
said SRCCF President and
CEO Fran Brolley. "We are
confident the public will
continue to generously sup-
port our mission through this
challenge."

Illinois offers new, competitive Homeownership Assistance Program

❑ New down payment assistance program provides
\$10,000 to make buying a home more affordable

CHICAGO – Governor
JB Pritzker announced the
opening of a new homebuyer
program designed to help
increase home purchase
accessibility for low- and
moderate-income individ-
uals, families and seniors
interested in purchasing a
home in Illinois. Adminis-
tered by the Illinois Hous-
ing Development Author-
ity (IHDA), Illinois HFA1
provides \$10,000 for down
payment and/or closing cost
assistance to make buying
a home more affordable.
By offering a competitive
interest rate and limiting the
total fees charged to the bor-
rower, IHDA programs are
designed to be as affordable
as possible. This can allow
for substantial savings over
the life of the loan. Funding
for Illinois HFA1 is expected
to assist more than 1,500 new
homebuyers.

"Every individual, family,
and senior in Illinois deserves
to have a stable and safe
home," said Governor JB
Pritzker. "That's why my
administration is ensuring
that homeownership is ac-
cessible and attainable for
every resident. Through
Illinois HFA1, we'll be able
to support a new generation
of homebuyers and set them
up for long-term financial
success."

"Illinois is stepping up
and standing in the gap to
create a pathway for people to
achieve the dream of owning
a home," said Lt. Governor
Juliana Stratton. "When we
say housing is a right for all,
that also includes committing
to providing the assistance
and support that eases the
burden of being able to afford
home ownership. Illinois
HFA1 is the groundwork to
do just that."

Under Illinois HFA1,
IHDA will provide a 30-year
first mortgage with a fixed
interest rate and \$10,000
in down payment and/or
closing cost assistance. The
down payment assistance is
provided as an interest-free
second mortgage with pay-
ments deferred for 30-years,
meaning funds do not need to
be repaid until the borrower
sells the home, refinances,
or pays off their mortgage.
Illinois HFA1 is not exclu-
sive to first-time buyers,
may be used by buyers in
any county in the state, and
in some circumstances can
be used in conjunction with
other down payment assis-
tance programs to increase
homebuyer leverage.

"Illinois is a great place to
call home and this program is
going to allow more people

**"Every individual, family, and senior in
Illinois deserves to have a stable and
safe home Through Illinois HFA1, we'll
be able to support a new generation of
homebuyers and set them up for long-
term financial success."**

–Gov. JB Pritzker

to live and work here," said
State Senate President Don
Harmon (D-Oak Park). "We
are constantly exploring new
opportunities to make hous-
ing more affordable in order
to provide opportunities to
buy that first home and raise
a family in the great state of
Illinois."

Illinois HFA1 was devel-
oped through a multi-year
coordination effort between
the Mortgage Bankers As-
sociation, National Council
of State Housing Agencies,
other industry stakeholders
and Housing Finance Agen-
cies from Alabama, Arizona,
California, Colorado, Idaho,
Illinois, Iowa, Massachu-
setts, New Mexico, South
Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and
Washington. The goal of this
effort was to make it easier
for lenders to partner with
IHDA and other Housing
Finance Agencies in provid-
ing affordable mortgages and
down payment assistance to
lower-income homebuyers.
Towards this end, the HFA1
program features a number
of operational improvements
that allow mortgage lenders
to partner more efficient-
ly with HFA programs,
including reduced and/or
eliminated loan overlays,
common documents to re-
duce operational differenc-
es, and aligned affordable
mortgage and down payment
assistance requirements in
numerous areas.

"A large hurdle to buying
a home is saving enough
money for a down payment,
which has become more
difficult with home values
increasing, rising interest
rates, and other obligations
such as taking care of a
family," IHDA Executive
Director Kristin Faust stated.
"If you have been on the
fence about buying a home,
don't hesitate and reach out
to one of our lenders today
to discuss your options. You
may be surprised how much
you can save today and final-
ly have the opportunity to
put down roots in a commu-
nity and build household wealth."

Even with historically low
inventory and interest rates
continuing to rise, IHDA is
seeing its strongest start ever
in homeownership produc-
tion with more than 4,500

new loan reservations since
the beginning of the year. The
number of homebuyers who
applied for IHDA Mortgage
programs was 58 percent
higher in the month of April
compared to a year ago. In
2022, IHDA's down payment
assistance programs helped
more than 5,200 households
purchase a home in Illinois.

"When you buy a home,
you are putting down roots
in a community surrounded
by friends and neighbors
and have the ability to build
household wealth," said As-
sistant Majority Leader Bar-
bara Hernandez (D-Aurora).
"The Illinois HFA1 program
will help reduce a large
barrier to homeownership
by drastically reducing the
down payment costs making
buying a home affordable.
This will provide opportu-
nities for so many working
families to find a permanent
place to call home."

All IHDA Mortgage pro-
grams offer safe and reliable
down payment assistance
to first-time homebuyers,
qualified veterans and non-
first-time homebuyers. All
mortgage products are sub-
ject to income and purchase
price limits. Eligibility for
each product is based on
the borrower's credit profile,
household income and the
purchase price of the home.
Pre-purchase homeown-
ership counseling is required
in order to participate in an
IHDA Mortgage program.

"The Illinois HFA1 pro-
gram is not only helping
people find a place to call
home, it is investing in
Illinois' people and com-
munities," State Senator
Mike Simmons (D-Chica-
go) said. "This assistance
also includes free housing
counseling to ensure you
are making the best decision
for yourself and your family
concerning your financial
future. Don't hesitate and
reach out today if you think
the time is right to buy your
first home or it is time to find
a new home."

Illinois HFA1 is funded
through housing bonds is-
sued by IHDA. Interested
homeowners can find addi-
tional information and a list
of participating lenders at
www.ihdamortgage.org.

SOCIAL NEWS



Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution officers for 2023-2025, left to right, are Amanda Simpson, Betty Baumann, Andra Goy, Donna Jungnickel, Ruth Meinhardt, Carolyn Schultz, Bev Richardson, Diane McCully, Margaret Carr, Alice Giberson. (Photos contributed)

Fort du Rocher DAR elects officers

MENDOTA – The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its annual meeting, May 6 at Lake Mendota Park. Regent Linda Byrd recognized Amanda Simpson as a 20-year member of the D.A.R.

Officers for 2023-2025 were installed. They are Donna Jungnickel - Regent; Beverly Richardson - Vice Regent; Carolyn Schultz

- 2nd Vice Regent; Alice Giberson - Chaplain; Andra Goy - Treasurer; Margaret Carr - Recording Secretary; Amanda Simpson - Corresponding Secretary; Ruth Meinhardt - Registrar; Diane McCully - Historian; and Betty Baumann - Librarian. Members then were quizzed on DAR trivia by Byrd, after which they enjoyed a catered lunch.

The next meeting will be

10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at Lake Mendota Park shelter.

Any woman over 18 years of age who wishes to learn more about Daughters of the American Revolution is invited to attend the meeting or go online to dar.org.



Linda Byrd, right, recognizes Amanda Simpson for 20 years as a D.A.R. member.

The Invention of the Year

The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation ... **The Zinger.**

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough ... a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"
-Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the **Zinger** is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum so it weighs only 47.2 lbs. It features one-touch folding and unfolding - when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a



Available in Green, Black and Blue (shown)

The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

Why take our word for it? Call now, and find out how you can get a **Zinger** of your very own.

journey zinger
Call now and receive a utility basket absolutely FREE with your order.
855-321-3653
Please mention code 601449 when ordering

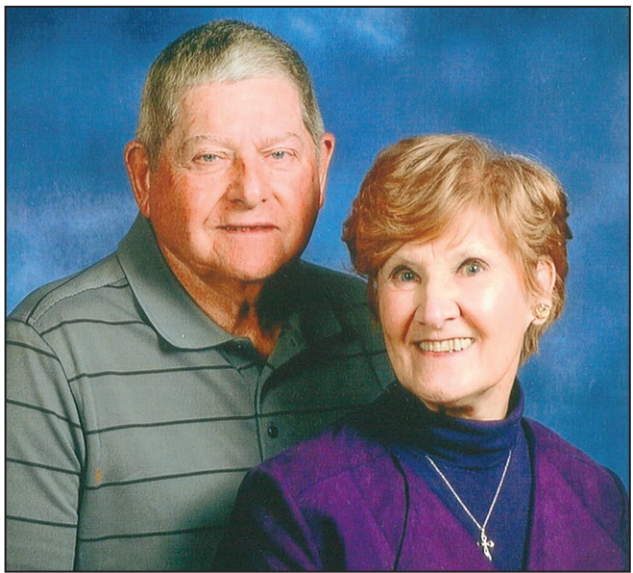


Eichs to celebrate 65th anniversary

MENDOTA – Mr. and Mrs. Gerald (Sandra) Eich of Mendota will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on July 6. They were married on July 6, 1958, at St. John's Lutheran Church.

They have shared their happy life together living in the LaMoille and Mendota areas. They have been blessed with five children, Brian, Steve of Surprise, Ariz., Melody of LaMoille, Jim of New Lenox and David of Peru. They share six wonderful grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to honor their parents with a surprise card shower. Family and friends are invited to send cards with happy thoughts, cherished memories, photos and/or stories to 808 14th



Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Eich

Ave., Mendota, IL 61342. The omission of gifts is requested.

The Eichs plan to celebrate this very special occasion with their family.

LaSalle Public Library hosting ice cream enthusiast on July 25th

LaSALLE – LaSalle Public Library will be virtually hosting ice cream enthusiast, Natalie Martin, on Tuesday, July 25, at 6 p.m. for a delicious program that celebrates National Ice Cream Month.

Martin will demonstrate traditional methods

as well as options that you make with standard kitchen equipment. Recipes will be provided.

This program is free and open to the public. Register: <https://shorturl.at/rtLQ3>. For more information, contact the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341.

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, the Mendota Reporter will have an early deadline for the issue of July 5th. All advertising must be received by noon on Thursday, June 29.

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THE BACK PAGE

BLESSED EVENTS

ISLA C. BUCHANAN
Joseph and Rachel (Simonton) Buchanan of Dixon are the parents of **Isla Catherine**, born Feb. 19, 2023, at CGH in Sterling. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was welcomed home by big sisters Evelyn and Sienna. Maternal grandparents are Jeff and Lori Simonton of Mendota. Paternal grandparents are Chuck and Anne Buchanan of Mendota. Great-grandparents are William and Marlene Simonton, Herbert and Sue Buchanan, and Jack and Sharon Herbert, all of Mendota.

NASH H. HITCHINS
Nathaniel and Tiffany (Kathol) Hitchins of Dorchester, Neb., are parents of **Nash Hugo**, born on June 20, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Seward, Neb. He weighed 7 pounds and was welcomed home by brothers Trace, 14, Zayd, 3 1/2, and Brek, 1 1/2. Nash has his middle name Hugo after his maternal great-grandfather, Charles Hugo Rogers. Maternal grandparents are Duane and Connie Kathol of Hartington, Neb. Paternal grandparents are Joseph and Debbie Hitchins of Eureka, and the late Phyllis Rogers Hitchins. Paternal great-grandparents are Myrtle Setchell Hitchins of Bloomington and the late Joseph Wayne Hitchins, and Bonnie Timm Rogers of Sycamore, and the late Charles H. Rogers and the late Phyllis Durham Rogers.

Sign Ordinance

MENDOTA – The city of Mendota reminds you that it is unlawful under city ordinance 42.34 to hang, lean, or place any advertising materials on any street lamp, post, telephone or electric light pole within the city limits of Mendota. This includes garage sale notices. This statute was designed to keep our neighborhoods clean and free of trash and debris. The city of Mendota officials ask for your cooperation in this matter.

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

HUGE GARAGE SALE
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GARAGE SALE/NOTICE DEADLINES
• Thursday 3 p.m. to appear in Monday's Money Saver.
• Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

CARDS OF THANKS

We can't thank everyone enough for helping put on the pancake breakfast fundraiser for our family. We want to thank every single person who donated items to the silent auction, to the bake sale, everyone who worked the event and every single person who came out to support us. We are blown away by all the support and prayers for Gavin and our family. There was a large amount of money raised for us and it will help so much with medical bills and all of our travels between Iowa City and Philadelphia over the next year or more. If you'd like to continue to follow Gavin's journey, his Facebook page is Gavin Strong 111. Thanks again.
Gavin Springsteen and family

ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE HERE

MHS Class of '68 plans reunion

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School Class of 1968 is planning its 55th year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 5-10 p.m. at Jacks in Spring Valley. A dinner and brief program is planned as well as much conversation. A cash bar will be available. The cost is \$20 per person, payable at the door. To confirm attendance at the reunion, call or text Jay Allen at 815-488-9154 or Wayne Kleckner at 541-729-4452 as soon as possible. There will also be a golf outing at the

Mendota Golf Club on Aug. 12 with tee times of 10-10:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in playing golf, contact Kleckner. An informal gathering of classmates is planned for Friday, Aug. 11 at the Mendota Elks Lodge. If anyone knows of a Class of 1968 member that has moved in the last five years, contact Allen or Kleckner. Several of the early invitation notices were returned and the committee would like to notify them as well as update the address data base.

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST

Fredy Perez, 43, of 300 Eighth Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 8:30 p.m. June 21 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for contempt of court. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Taivon D. Miles, 29, of 506 10th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at North 4250th and East Fourth roads at 5 a.m. June 23. The subject

was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Dionna J. Buchanan, 32, of 701 Meadowview Drive, Mendota, was arrested at 8:40 p.m. June 23 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear/obstruction-failure to identify. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI

Alan D. Bauer, 67, of 710 Burlington St., Mendota, was charged with driving while under the influence

after police officers responded to the report of a subject that had fallen asleep behind the wheel at the intersection of Second Street and 13th Avenue at 9:50 p.m. June 23. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI

Charles L. Buck, 33, of Danville, Iowa, was charged with driving while under the influence after a traffic stop at East First Road and Meriden Street at 9:34 p.m. June 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DINING & entertainment guide



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LOCAL AND AREA

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS

10 ways to protect your personal information

By Mike Weitz
PERU – Identity theft affects millions of people each year and can cause serious harm. Protect yourself by securing your personal information, understanding the threat of identity theft, and exercising caution.
Here are 10 things you can start doing now to protect yourself and your loved ones from identity theft:
• Protect your Social Security number by keeping your Social Security card in a safe place at home. Don't carry it with you or provide your number unnecessarily.
• Be careful when you speak with unknown call-

ers. Scammers may mislead you by using legitimate phone numbers or the real names of officials. If they threaten you or make you feel uneasy, hang up.
• Create strong, unique passwords so others can't easily access your accounts. Use different passwords for different accounts so if a hacker compromises one account, they can't access other accounts.
• Never give your personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited call or message, and never post it on social media.
• Shred paper documents that contain personal in-

formation, like your name, birth date, and Social Security number.
• Protect your mobile device from unauthorized access by securing it with a PIN, adding a fingerprinting feature, or using facial recognition. You can also add a password and adjust the time before your screen automatically locks.
• Regularly check your financial accounts for suspicious transactions.
• Avoid internet threats by installing and maintaining strong anti-virus software on all your devices—including your mobile device and personal computer. Use a virtual private

network (VPN) to stay safe on public Wi-Fi. Do not perform certain activities that involve sensitive data, like online shopping and banking, on public Wi-Fi networks.
• Protect yourself on social media by customizing your security settings and deleting accounts you no longer use. Also, double-check suspicious messages from your contacts, as hackers may create fake accounts of people you know.
• Never click on any link sent via unsolicited email or text message—type in the web address yourself. Only provide information

on secure websites.
We encourage you to create your own personal my Social Security account to track your earnings record. For more information, please read our publication, Protecting Personal Information, at [oig.ssa.gov/files/21-540_Protecting_Personal_Information.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/files/21-540_Protecting_Personal_Information.pdf). Contact us if you see suspicious work activity on your record—you could be a victim of identity theft.
Please share this information with your family and friends.
(Weitz is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)



SSI: 50 years of financial security

By Mike Weitz
PERU – The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program helps support many American families. As we celebrate 50 years of SSI, it is a great time to briefly share the history of SSI and information on how to apply.

On October 30, 1972, President Nixon signed SSI into law. In January 1974, we began paying SSI to people who met the eligibility requirements. Fifty years later, SSI remains a lifeline program for millions of people and households with limited income and resources. SSI also helps children and adults under age 65 who have a disability or are blind and who have income and resources below specific financial limits. People age 65 and older without disabilities—who meet the financial qualifications—may also receive SSI payments.

You can let us know that you want to apply for SSI online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/start.html. This process only takes about five to ten minutes, and no documentation is required to start. We will need the following basic information about you or the person you're helping:

- The name, date of birth, Social Security number, mailing address, and phone number of the person who is interested in applying for SSI. (Providing an email address is optional.)
- If helping another person, we need your name and phone number. (Providing an email address is optional.)

Once you provide this information and answer a few questions, we will schedule an appointment to help you apply for SSI. We will send a confirmation with the appointment date and time by mail and email (if provided). In some cases, we may call you to schedule the appointment.

If you're unable to begin the process online, you may schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact your local Social Security office. You can find the phone number for your local office on our website.

Once your SSI application is submitted, you can check the status online by creating a personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. SSI will continue to support families for many years to come.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it – and share it on social media.
(Weitz is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)



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Gadini Delisca, MD, Orthopedic Surgeon and *Harrison Swalla, MPAS, PA-C* with XCEL Orthopedics at Rochelle Community Hospital will be presenting at the Mendota Area Senior Services Center on Wednesday, July 12 from 10-11 am.

Meet Dr. Delisca and Harrison Swalla to learn how they and the XCEL Orthopedics team's customized care can help you relieve pain, regain mobility, and return to a happier, healthier, more active life!

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SPORTS

IDNR announces 2023 schedule of waterfowl blind site drawings

SPRINGFIELD – Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming waterfowl hunting blind drawings that will take place at numerous public hunting areas throughout Illinois in July and August.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host traditional blind drawings at all sites scheduled for this hunting year. Participants are advised to follow any site-specific drawing procedures.

Duck and goose hunters must register in person for waterfowl blind site drawings and must be present at the drawing held at each location designated below immediately after the registration period to claim their blind sites. Mail-in or pre-registrations are not accepted. Blind allocations for these sites are good for one year or two years, as listed below.

To participate in a drawing, all applicants must present a 2022 or 2023 regular Illinois hunting license; a 2022 or 2023 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp at the time they register, unless exempted by law; and valid photo identification. Applicants must be at least 16 years old by the date of the drawing. No apprentice licenses and no youth licenses will be accepted unless the youth license holder also presents hunter safety certification.

Applicants needing to purchase new licenses and stamps should do so prior to the drawing. Most blind drawing locations will not have license sales available. Licenses and stamps are available at any IDNR license and permit vendor or through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

Registrants are no longer required to possess a valid



Illinois Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card from the Illinois State Police to participate in blind drawings. Also, to be an eligible applicant for the drawing, participants must not have their hunting privileges suspended or revoked by IDNR or any other jurisdiction at the time of the drawing. Out-of-state residents must have an annual 2022 or 2023 non-resident hunting license for Illinois and a 2022 or 2023 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp. Five-day licenses will not be accepted.

Individuals with a disability precluding them from hunting from a waterfowl blind may be accommodated

through issuance of a Standing Vehicle Permit from IDNR. Please visit <https://bit.ly/IDNRSVP> application for an application.

Saturday, July 29 (Blinds allocated for one year)

- Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area, DeKalb County: Registration 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the park office. Directions: Go 2½ miles south of Shabbona on Shabbona Road, turn east on Shabbona Grove Road and go ½ mile. Office is on left side of the road.

- Sinnissippi Lake, Whiteside County: Registration 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Harry Oppold Marina, on Stouffer Road on

the east edge of Sterling Sunday, July 30 (Blinds allocated for one year)

- Lake DePue State Fish and Wildlife Area, Bureau County: Registration 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oak Grove Park, ¾ mile west of DePue on Illinois 29.

- Starved Rock State Park, LaSalle County: Registration 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Buffalo Rock State Park (large picnic shelter area). Three miles west of Ottawa on Dee Bennett Road.

Additional hunting information and maps on the above sites can be accessed at <https://huntillinois.org/hunt-planner>.

Notable moments in MLB All-Star Game history

The first All-Star game in Major League Baseball was held on July 6, 1933, at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Since then, many a notable moment has marked the game known as the Midsummer Classic. This year's game will be played on July 11 at T-Mobile Park, which is the home of the Seattle Mariners. The game is sure to feature its fair share of great plays, and fans can watch to see if any of those match up with these memorable moments from past MLB All-Star games.

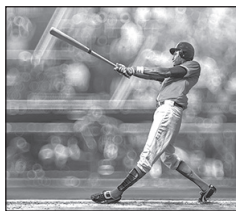
- July 8, 1941: The 1941 season is widely remembered for the exploits of New York Yankee Joe DiMaggio. DiMaggio's record-setting 56-game hitting streak during the 1941 season still stands, but that year's All-Star Game featured heroics from another Hall of Famer. The game had the first walk-off homerun in Midsummer Classic history thanks to Boston Red Sox great Ted Williams, whose three-run blast gave the American League a 7-5 win.

- July 9, 2002: It didn't take long for fans to be dazzled during the 2002 All-Star Game. With two outs in the bottom of the first inning, San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds drove a ball that seemed destined to land beyond the wall in center field. But Minnesota Twins center fielder Torii Hunter had something else in mind, leaping at the wall to rob Bonds of a homerun. The catch remains one of the more memorable grabs in Midsummer Classic history.

- July 13, 1999: Future Hall of Famers combined to make the 1999 All-Star Game an instant classic, though several of those vaunted ballplayers may not remember the game too fondly. Pitching in front of his own fans at Fenway Park in Boston, Red Sox legend and future Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez struck out five of the six batters he faced. Among the victims of Pedro's dominance were Barry Larkin, Larry Walker and Jeff Bagwell, each of whom would ultimately be enshrined in Cooperstown.

- July 17, 1979: Strikeouts, homeruns and unbelievable catches might stand out in All-Star Game history, but in 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Dave Parker made the game memorable thanks to his prolific arm. Parker earned the game's Most Valuable Player honor after throwing out Jim Rice at third base in the seventh inning and then taking it one step further an inning later, keeping the game tied with an incredible throw from deep right field to nab Brian Downing at home.

- July 13, 1971: Tape measure homeruns were a hallmark of the Hall of Fame career of Reggie Jackson. But in 1971 Reggie's career was still very much in its early stages. The 1971 Midsummer Classic was just the second of Jackson's 14 All-Star Game appearances, but it might have produced his most memorable Midsummer Classic moment when he hit a ball onto the roof of Tiger Stadium in Detroit. The ball traveled an estimated 520 feet, going so far that it was not even in the frame on the television broadcast by the time it officially departed the stadium.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Candace Cameron Bure, who has starred in more than two dozen Hallmark movies and 18 "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" films, announced in April 2022 that she was leaving Hallmark to take on an executive role at Great American Media to develop, produce and star in original rom-coms and holiday fare. In November, she told the Wall Street Journal that she left Hallmark because it was a completely different network than when she started.



Bure

Bure explained, "My heart wants to tell stories that have more meaning and purpose and depth behind them. I knew that the people behind Great American Family were Christians that love the Lord and wanted to promote faith programming and good family entertainment." Her remarks were believed to allude to Hallmark's trend toward progressive themes, including recognition of the LGBT community in their productions.

Well, "Aurora Teagarden Mysteries" moved on with-

out her. Mutiny is a witch! It now stars 29-year-old Skyler Samuels, who had a recurring role in "Wizards of Waverly Place;" starred in the films "The Stepfather" (2009), "Furry Vengeance" (2010), "The DUFF" (2015) and "Scream Queens" (2015); and played the Frost sisters in the Fox series based on "X-Men," titled "The Gifted." She co-stars with Jason Statham in "Meg 2: The Trench," due later this year.

"Spider-Man" Tom Holland learned the hard way that playing a good guy is a piece of cake compared to playing a criminal. During the production of the AppleTV+ crime series "The Crowded Room," in which he's arrested for a shooting in Rockefeller Center, Holland admitted, "We were exploring certain emotions that I've definitely never experienced before, and then on top of that, being a producer dealing with the day-to-day kind of problems that come with any film set just added that extra level of pressure."

Juggling producing chores while playing a character in a severe mental state apparently pushed him to a breaking point, so he's decided to take a year off

from acting. Amanda Seyfried co-stars, and it dropped June 9.

Many were shocked when James Corden announced last April that he was ending his hosting stint of "The Late Late Show" on CBS, which he'd done since 2015. Everyone wondered why he walked away from a yearly paycheck of \$6 million. But CBS, who stuck by him when there was a ton of backlash from his bad behavior at restaurants, decided for him. The show, which cost \$65 million a year, was only making \$45 million a year in advertising revenue.

A CBS executive confessed "It was simply not sustainable. CBS could not afford him anymore." His show averaged 971,000 viewers during the 2020-21 season, while his competition, "Late Night With Seth Meyers," at NBC was pulling in 1.01 million viewers. Add in the fact that CBS is vacating their longtime Fairfax Television Center and would've needed to relocate his show, and it's a no-brainer. While Carpool Karaoke is probably what most viewers will miss, he's back home in London, and our crosswalks are once again safe from his crosswalk musicals!

By Dana Jackson

Q: I know that HBO's "Succession" got a lot of praise and will probably clean up at the Emmy's, but I enjoyed the show "Billions" much more. When does it return with new episodes? -- M.F.



Lewis

A: Showtime's "Billions" will return for its seventh and final season this August. Damian Lewis, who left the series at the end of season five, is back for several episodes, reuniting with cast members Paul Giamatti, Corey Stoll and Maggie Siff.

Unlike "Succession," which appears to be over for good with no announced spin-offs, "Billions" has several planned spin-off series in the works, including the tentatively titled "Millions" and "Trillions." Paramount Pictures president and CEO Chris McCarthy stated, "This final season is packed full of the incredible, complex dialogue and character dynamics fans have come to love, and we are thrilled to partner with them on turning this hit series into a global franchise."

"Billions" will premiere

Celebrity Extra

first for subscribers of Paramount+ with Showtime on Friday, Aug. 11, before airing on Showtime on Sunday, Aug. 13.

Q: I was disappointed to hear that the sitcom "American Auto" has been canceled. Is there any chance it will end up somewhere else? -- T.T.

A: Justin Spitzer, the creative mind behind the NBC sitcom "American Auto," recently revealed on Twitter what he had in store for the third season of his critically acclaimed comedy series. Unfortunately, unless another network or streaming service picks it up, we won't get to see Ana Gasteyer's Katherine Hastings and Payne Motors "finally finding success and taking the world by storm."

NBC also gave the ax to two other beloved sitcoms: "Grand Crew," which starred Nicole Byer ("Nailed It!") and Echo Kellum ("Arrow"), and "Young Rock," which was based on Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's childhood.

On a positive note, NBC has renewed a dozen of its shows, including modern takes on classics like "Magnum P.I.," "Night Court" and "Quantum Leap." The hit futuristic drama "La Brea"

will also return, and the trio of "Law & Order" and "Chicago" shows will all be back with new episodes.

Regarding "Magnum P.I.," it was picked up by NBC after CBS canceled it, and not only has NBC saved it, they've renewed it for not just one, but two seasons! Perhaps "American Auto," too, will get a second chance somewhere, someday.

Q: Where have I seen the actor who stars in "Citadel" with Priyanka Chopra? Has he been in any series I might have seen? -- S.A.

A: Scottish actor Richard Madden has been around for quite a while, but is probably most recognizable as Robb Stark in the first three seasons of the iconic HBO series "Game of Thrones." He went on to star as Prince Kit in the 2015 release of "Cinderella," which also starred Lily James and Cate Blanchett. He was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his title role in the British miniseries "Bodyguard." He played Elton John's manager in the film biopic "Rocketman," and then became part of the Marvel Universe as Ikaris in "Eternals."

"Citadel" has been renewed for a second season by Amazon Prime Video.

Couch Theater

"Run Rabbit Run" (TV-MA) -- Hot off the finale of the series "Succession," Sarah Snook has a new psychological thriller film premiering June 28. Snook plays a fertility doctor, also named Sarah, who has a 7-year-old daughter, Mia. Following the death of Mia's grandfather, the tone of Sarah and Mia's lives is melancholic and grim, which makes Sarah recall the mysterious disappearance of her 7-year-old sister, Alice, years ago. When a white bunny strangely appears in their home, a sinister air subsequently takes over Mia. Sarah becomes increasingly terrified by Mia, who tries to convince her mother that she is a reincarnated version of Alice. Critics have compared Snook's performance in the film to Toni Collette's in "Hereditary" (2018). (Netflix)

"M3GAN" (PG-13) -- The Blumhouse sci-fi/horror success "M3GAN," which premiered in theaters earlier this year, is out on streaming June 27. Allison Williams ("Get Out") plays Gemma, a roboticist whose niece, Cady, comes to live with

her following the death of her parents. Coincidentally, Gemma's latest work project included the development of a child-sized robot doll, nicknamed M3GAN (Model 3 Generative Android). Gemma lets Cady pair up with M3GAN and watches as Cady's emotional struggles dissipate. But since M3GAN's main purpose in her programming is protecting Cady, the robot doll quickly escalates her levels of protection to a deadly category for just about everyone else. A sequel to the film is expected in early 2025. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Hijack" (TV-MA) -- In this new thriller series (we're sticking with the horror genre this week!) releasing on June 28, the stakes have never been higher -- literally and figuratively. On an almost seven-hour flight from Dubai to London, with 200 passengers on board, a group of hijackers gain control over the plane right after takeoff. As the hijackers veer the plane off course and try to keep everyone subdued, business negotiator Sam Nelson (Idris Elba) attempts to do what he

does best and negotiate with the hijackers to get everyone off the plane safe. But, in the event that his way with words doesn't pull off the job, Sam refuses to let the plane go down without a fight: "It's either us or them." (AppleTV+)

"Burial" (NR) -- Taking place in 1945 Berlin, this British war thriller film follows a female Soviet soldier named Brana (Charlotte Vega). A part of the Red Army unit, Brana and her fellow soldiers are assigned to carry, from Berlin to the Soviet Union, a casket of unknown contents that must be buried every night and dug up every morning. When they realize they're in pursuit by several Nazi loyalists, they realize the contents of the casket are none other than Adolf Hitler's remains. Critics have praised the performances of Vega, Harriet Walter ("Ted Lasso") and Tom Felton (the "Harry Potter" films), but also stated that the film lacks a certain vigor to make it all come together. "Burial" premieres June 30. (Hulu)

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• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the tallest building in the world?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does HTTP stand for in a website address?
3. LITERATURE: Which kind of animals are featured in the novel "Watership Down"?
4. HISTORY: When was the first iPhone released?
5. MOVIES: What kind of fish is Nemo in "Finding Nemo"?
6. GAMES: What is the final course on Mario Kart video games?
7. ASTRONOMY: How many planets in our solar system have moons?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was licensed as a bartender?
9. MEDICAL: What is a more common term for somnolency?
10. TELEVISION: How many castaways are on "Gilligan's Island"?

Answers

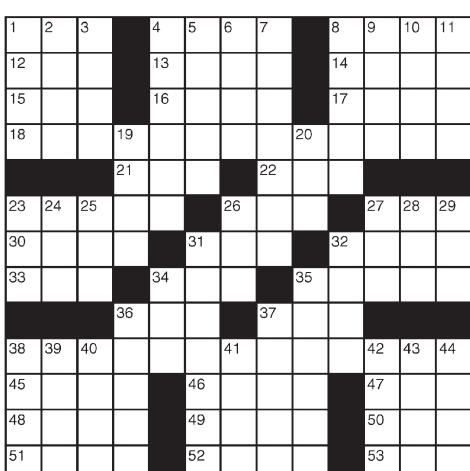
1. Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
2. HyperText Transfer Protocol.
3. Rabbits.
4. 2007.
5. Clownfish.
6. Rainbow Road.
7. Six of the eight planets.
8. Abraham Lincoln.
9. Talking in your sleep.
10. Seven.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 America's uncle
- 4 "Dracula" author Stoker
- 8 Leftovers recipe
- 12 Chinese chairman
- 13 Roof overhang
- 14 Arizona tribe
- 15 Samovar
- 16 On the rocks
- 17 Hurler
- 18 Hershey's
- 21 British ref. work
- 22 Caribou kin
- 23 Gold-loving king
- 26 "See ya!"
- 27 Scale abbr.
- 30 Privy to
- 31 "Of course"
- 32 Cheer (for)
- 33 Joke
- 34 Chic, to
- 35 Five dozen
- 36 Droop
- 37 Iota
- 38 1997 film starring Nicole Kidman and 18-Across
- 45 Only
- 46 Algeria's neighbor
- 47 Granada gold
- 48 "Mamma Mia" group
- 49 La Scala solo
- 50 Apprehend
- 51 Katy Perry hit song
- 52 Adolescent
- 53 Ninny
- 7 Musical mixes to exercise class
- 8 Trembled
- 9 Undecided
- 10 Duel tool
- 11 Sly
- 19 Reddish horse
- 20 Flamenco cheer
- 23 "Top Gun" target
- 24 — jiffy
- 25 Pooch
- 26 Nap site
- 27 Bagel topper
- 28 Automaton, for short
- 29 Hog haven
- 31 Pad you bring
- 32 Ms. Moreno
- 34 West of Hollywood
- 35 Ape
- 36 Asparagus unit
- 37 Prove untrue
- 38 Despot
- 39 Vagrant
- 40 Exile isle
- 41 Give a darn
- 42 Hawaiian coffee
- 43 Historic periods
- 44 Filches



- DOWN
- 1 Overconfident
 - 2 Bern's river
 - 3 Stereo alternative
 - 4 Linen shades
 - 5 Sped
 - 6 Opposite of "sans"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

Answer
Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* The largest volcano in the solar system is Olympus Mons, on Mars, standing at an impressive 13.6 miles high with a diameter of approximately 370 miles. That's nearly three times the height of Mt. Everest.

* During World War II, a U.S. naval destroyer won a battle against a Japanese submarine by throwing -- wait for it -- potatoes at them. The Japanese thought they were grenades.

* Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family.

* Gennaro Pelliccia, a taster for Costa Coffee, had his tongue insured for \$22 million.

* To leave a party without telling anyone is called, in English, a "French exit." And in French? Appropriately enough, it's known as a "partir à l'anglaise," or to leave like the English.

* The rotund Buddha so commonly depicted in statues and pictures isn't at all an accurate representation. Instead, his real-life counterpart was actually quite thin, due to self-deprivation.

* GPS may be free to use, but it still costs \$2 million per day to operate. The funds are supplied by American tax revenue.

* No, the color red doesn't make bulls angry -- they're colorblind.

* One of the World Trade Center towers was purposely built to a height of 1,776 feet to reference the year the Declaration of Independence was signed.

* Want to generate electricity from mud? Crazy as the concept may sound, it is indeed possible, thanks to geobacter sulfurreducens, which belongs to a group of organisms known as electrogenic bacteria that are able to transfer electrons from organic matter to metals or other conductive materials.

* According to a study done by French researchers, if you listen to loud music, you are more likely to drink more in less time.

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

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Happy 21st
Birthday
Michelle!



We love you!
Mom, Dad,
Billie & Susie

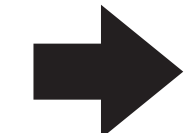
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LOCAL AND AREA

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The Bible teaches us that it's God's will for us to help hurting people. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (NIV). Matthew 22:37-38 says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your

neighbor as yourself." The love message is the power of the Gospel. It's so simple: Love God and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We often think we need someone to love us, but what we really need is someone to love. And the world is desperate for real love, so it isn't hard to find someone who needs to be loved. We live in a society that drives people to selfishness. So much of the advertising we see and hear influences us to want more and more and to never be satisfied with what we have. But

the more selfish and self-centered we are, the less power we have to do good and help others. The good news is we have what we need in Christ to overcome a selfish "What about me?!" mindset and lifestyle. We have the power of God's love! It's the answer to every dilemma and problem in our society today. And as Christians, our goal is to represent Christ in the world and show His love. **What Is True Love?** Love is not just a feeling, or a theory, or a nice word. It's action—it's the way you treat people...what you do for others. Love will always cost you something: time, energy, effort, money, giving up your pride, doing what's right when you don't feel like it, keeping a good attitude when you don't get your way.

Loving the way God loves means you love when there's nothing in it for you; it's all about giving out and not expecting anything in return. We're called to outreach, not in-reach. Real love is about dying to self and living to love others. Now, you have to understand that before you can love others, you have to experience God's love in your own life, because you can't give away something you don't have. Then



you have to be willing to ask God to teach you to love the way He loves. When you do this, God will enable you to reach out and help someone else. I know this works because I've lived it. **Discover the Freedom to Love and Be Loved** I used to be selfish, self-centered, always thinking about how I could get my way. And I was miserable. See, I loved God and wanted to love people, but no matter how hard I tried to be sweet and nice to everybody, all of my trying was getting me nowhere. I was cranky, hard to get along with and impatient. God showed me the problem was that I didn't like myself because of the shame of my past. I grew up in an abusive home, and I felt guilty, condemned and ashamed because of it. I had to accept God's love for me before I could love anyone else. So I decided to study God's love in the Word, pray for God to change my heart, and confess what His Word says about His love for me. Every day I would say out loud, "God loves me,"

and I would say it over and over to purposely keep this truth in my heart throughout the day. After a year of doing this, I finally got a revelation about God's love for me. Now I am able to receive God's love and love others the way Jesus taught us to love. I don't do it perfectly all the time, but I've come a long way and am making progress every day. My prayer is, "God, show me how I can help others. Make me a blessing everywhere I go. I want to live to love You and others." Every day I look for ways to add value to people I come in contact with. I can honestly say that learning how to love others with God's love has made me the happiest I've ever been! The truth is you can't be selfish and also be happy or have peace. Make it your goal each day to pursue God's love and then give it away. First Corinthians 14:1 (AMP) says to "eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]." So go after it with all your might, and ask God to make you a

blessing everywhere you go! You can do something to help someone. You can live to love, just like Jesus. *** For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource What Is Love? 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 THE ANSWER TO ANXIETY (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. Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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