

Reimagine Mendota begins Phase 2 of Heart & Soul

Repair work to start soon on Illinois Avenue building

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Reimagine Mendota has advanced to the second phase of the Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program with the Phase 2: Connect meeting on June 1 at the City Council chambers.

The Mendota organization was formed to aide Mendota in advancing the town in a prosperous, developing, uniting direction.

In an attempt to do so, Annie Short and Amy Brewer formed a partnership to spearhead the Heart & Soul grant and install their proven methods.

After an April 19 Phase 1 meeting, which gathered 36 people to learn about the Heart & Soul Program, Phase 2 advanced Mendota into the story gathering and organizing stage.

“The focus was on getting deeper data than our “think” data from our question cards. We’ll set up some interviews making sure to get representation from as many demographics as possible,” Brewer said. “We practiced getting useful data from what people said. This is a big qualitative social research project.

“It is also rewarding to get to talk to people and the community building part of that will be great.”

Connect, the name of Phase 2, is built on four objectives.

The first objective Reimagine Mendota and all involved will complete is



After a street sale aided in clearing the building, repair work will begin on the structure that was damaged in the December fire on Illinois Avenue. (Reporter photo)

to plan community story gathering activities such as interviews.

The second is to identify and categorize the data collected from stories to formulate what matters, hopes, concerns, and ideas for action.

Thirdly, the group will need to explain the importance of sharing info from gathered stories with the broader community.

And last but not least, use gathering, listening, and sharing to strengthen the community relationships.

“At the meeting, we did practice interviews to give an example of how we’re going to obtain information that will help us build the community,” Short said. “We also gave a sample of how we’re

going to combine and present the gathered information to the community.”

The process of gathering stories from people during interviews is designed to bring people together, form an understanding of each other, and learn about different people and ideas.

The interviews will be individual and constructed by many members of Reimagine Mendota and any volunteers who want to join the effort to improve Mendota.

Questions geared toward Mendota residents about what they want in the community have been channeled through Facebook. There will also be tables at all town events to garner the attention of all Mendota demographics.

Illinois Avenue Street Sale

The City of Mendota and Reimagine Mendota held a sale on Illinois Avenue June 3 to help clear the building damaged by the December fire.

The city owns the building that was partially destroyed to help prevent the fire from spreading through the downtown area.

At the time of the fire and the destruction, the City of Mendota was offering the space to Nightengales Thrift Shop to store furniture and items that wouldn’t fit in the store.

With the street sale emptying the first floor, plans to

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Fun activities planned for RR Crossing Day

Event set for June 17 at museum sites

MENDOTA – The Annual Railroad Crossing & Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both sides of Eighth Street on the grounds of Union Depot Railroad Museum and the Breaking the Prairie Museum. The Mendota Museum & Historical Society is planning a fun day with displays and activities for all ages.

Tours include two museums and vintage rail cars including the Milwaukee Combine Car, the IL Central Bulk Mail & Express Car, the Golden Trencher Dining car, the 4978 Steam Locomotive and the CB&Q Caboose. The volunteers work hard to keep the rail cars and museum in great shape! Remember to visit the agricultural artifacts and reminisce the days of long ago while viewing the Phaeton horse drawn buggy or the 100-year-old horse drawn sleigh.

Children can ride the rails on a vintage Speeder Car and/or the “Union Depot Express” barrel street train. Attend the event while listening to Ray Tutaj Jr. on guitar and playing outdoor games from an earlier time.

Lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. with proceeds going to the Historical Society. BPW group will serve delicious homemade desserts in the Dining Car. The winning 50/50 raffle ticket will be drawn at 3 p.m.



Gov. Pritzker puts final stamp on \$50.4 billion state spending plan

By **ANDREW ADAMS & JERRY NOWICKI**
Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO – Gov. JB Pritzker signed the state’s operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year on June 7, marking the first spending plan of his second term as governor.

The \$50.4 billion spending plan anticipates about \$50.6 billion in revenues for the fiscal year that begins July 1, making for a projected surplus of roughly \$183 million, according to the governor’s office. That revenue estimate would be slightly below or roughly

equal to what’s collected in tax revenues for the current year, depending on June’s final revenue collections.

The bill signing’s venue, typically chosen to highlight an important aspect of the budget, was the Belmont Cragin campus of Christopher House in Chicago, a charter school that mostly serves low-income Hispanic families.

The signing was attended by a who’s who of state Democrats, with the governor, House Speaker Emanuel

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Northbrook grants diplomas

MENDOTA—Northbrook Middle School in Mendota held its commencement program for the Class of 2023 on June 6 at Mendota High School. A total of 107 students received their diploma.

The eighth graders entered the gymnasium to Pomp & Circumstance. Class members Madrick Musgrove and Emily Sondgeroth led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the welcome and introductory remarks from Paula Daley, principal.

Next, awards were presented to students. Megan Gatza, guidance counselor, announced the President’s Education Awards. Daley presented the next three awards. Delila Kent was the recipient of the Reed D. Rydberg Memorial Award, Brianna Russell and Gavin Stevenson were named the American Legion Award winners, and Cesar Casas was chosen for the James D. Hume Citizenship Award.

Emory Burdette, assistant principal, presented the Class of 2023, after which the students were granted their certificates of promotion by K. Bradley Cox, superintendent, Theresa Komitas, Board of Education

president, and Daley.

After the final diploma was given, the students exited the gymnasium with the next step being high school.

Members of the Class of 2023 are: Ashley Aranda, Daniela Arteaga, Karla Ascensio, Brooklyn Baxa, Drew Becker, Michael Bedford, Kaleb Bodie, Ivan Botello, Abygail Buettner, Toby Bulen, Blake Bute, Alexa Carlos, Melanie Carlos, Cesar Casas, Briza Cervantes, Evelyn Cervantes, Miley Chavez, Monserrat Chavez;

Ava Christmann, Lexi Cocanour, Devin Cooper, Julisa Coronel, Bailey Corrigan, Emma Corrigan, Collin Coss, Donovan Cox, Michelle Cuevas, Emma Dearing, Meghan Dewey, Isaac Diaz, Reushawna Durr, Mariyah Elam, Adan Estrada, Kelly Falcon, Arihanna Figueroa, Gianni Figueroa;

Jocelynn Figueroa, Karen Flores, Harlow Foltyniewicz, Karissa Freeman, Caleb Ganther, Damien Garcia, Gael Garcia, Hunter

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Award recipients from the Northbrook Middle School Class of 2023, left to right, are Delila Kent, Reed D. Rydberg Memorial Award; Brianna Russell, American Legion Award; Gavin Stevenson, American Legion Award; and Cesar Casas, James D. Hume Citizenship Award. (Reporter photo)



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LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota’s Sweet Corn Festival Carnival to include special promotions

MENDOTA—Windy City Amusements of St. Charles will be setting up on the Midway again this year at Mendota’s Annual Sweet Corn Festival.

They will be bringing approximately 21 rides to the Midway that should please children of all ages. For the little ones there is the Dragon Wagon, Carousel, Train, Slide, Mini Enterprise, Bear Affair, Motorcycles & Fun House, and for the older kids and adults, Zipper, Himalaya, Century Wheel, Cliffhanger, Zero Gravity, Sizzler, Rock Star, to name just a few. For the whole family is the Century Wheel, a very large Ferris Wheel with gondola cars.

Not only will the carnival be bringing exciting rides to Mendota, but is offering a

host of special promotions. The popular Mega Pass will be offered again this year. The Mega Pass will let you ride every day Aug. 10-13, as many rides as you want, as many times as you want. The cost of the Mega Pass is \$85 if purchased before Aug. 9 at noon. Mega Passes can be purchased at the Mendota Chamber office or at WindyCityAmusements.com. After the Aug. 9 date the price will be \$100 and will be available at the carnival ticket booth.

According to Chamber officials, you will be able to ride the entire Sweet Corn Festival from 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13 for less than \$22 per day.

There will still be Regular Unlimited Ride Armbands

available:

- Thursday: 6-10 p.m. for \$30; Friday & Saturday: noon-4 p.m. for \$30
- Prime Time Specials are available:
- Friday & Saturday: 6-10 p.m. for \$35; Sunday: 1-6 p.m. for \$35

Another promotion offered by Windy City Amusements is a “Special Afternoon for Special Kids” on Thursday, Aug. 10. The carnival will open early for only those kids and adults with special needs from 3-5 p.m. This promotion is essentially a FREE carnival, for people 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 reopen again at 6 p.m. for the general public.

Families wishing to participate in the special afternoon for kids are asked to pre-register by calling the Mendota Chamber office at (815) 539-6507. Families may check in at the registration tent beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10.

Not all rides will be available during this special time and the lights will be dimmed and music lowered for those who would be uncomfortable with it.

The Mendota Chamber hopes that everyone will take advantage of the Mega Pass and the ‘Special Afternoon for Special Kids’ promotions offered by Windy City Amusements at the this year’s Sweet Corn Festival.



Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

The KIND KID winners for the month of May were Isabella Holley, Leilah Quijas, Isabella Becker, Isla Full, Leonel Orozco, Brielle Scudder-Taylor, Jonathan Morato, Ed Kofoid, Jonah Randolph, Sofia Garcia, Meredith McNutt, Alban Aliu and Tanya Munoz. We’re so proud of all of the kind kids at Blackstone!

Blackstone’s annual Field Day was held on Monday, June 5. For lunch we grilled out and had a school picnic. Thank you to the parents who made donations for our picnic. Throughout the day, students went outside to the playground to participate in various games. Thank you to Mrs. Gallagher for organizing the activities and to all of our staff that helped out. All students were able to enjoy a popsicle to end the fun day!

I’m very excited to announce that all of our kindergarten and

first grade classes earned their year-end goal of a Bounce House Party for Paw Pride certificates. Tuesday, June 6 was our party at Blackstone. This was a Trimester 3 reward incentive for students that was funded through our successful fundraisers this year. The students had a great time enjoying the bounce houses/inflatable obstacle course throughout the day.

Trimester 3 report cards went home with all students on June 7. Parents are able to see their child’s academic and social growth throughout the 2022-2023 school year on this report card. If your child was not in attendance on the last day of school, parents will need to stop in our office to pick up their child’s report card. They will not be mailed. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

It seems like yesterday I was writing my first Blackstone report

of the 2022-2023 school year. I cannot believe how quickly this school year has gone! I want to thank the Blackstone staff for their continued tireless efforts in educating our students in this community. We have an incredible staff that I’m thankful to work with each and every day. Thank you to the parents for a wonderful year and I hope you continue to support your child throughout their school years. Thank you doesn’t begin to express my appreciation for all of the wonderful volunteers we’ve had this year. I will miss our first graders moving on to Lincoln School next year for second grade. I’m confident that they are prepared for their next adventure. I’m looking forward to our kindergarteners becoming the “big kids” of the school next year and being good role models for our incoming kindergarten students. I hope everyone has a fantastic summer vacation! Thank you for a wonderful school year!

OSF Medical Group in Ottawa collaborates with new providers

OTTAWA—OSF Medical Group-Obstetrics & Gynecology in Ottawa is pleased to be working in collaboration with Aishling Obstetrics and Gynecology Group physicians Brett Cassidy, MD, James Hawkins, DO and Bryon Sweeney, DO. This collaboration will provide patients with comprehensive obstetrical care, annual wellness exams, treat all medical and surgical issues in women’s health care, and deliver babies at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center.


Dr. Cassidy pursued his medical degree at Emory University and completed his residency at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago. Following his residency, he practiced as an obstetrician in the United States Air Force and has over 20 years of experience.

Dr. Hawkins is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist who has

been practicing for over 30 years. He was born in Evergreen Park, and received his medical degree from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Hawkins completed his residency at Cook County in Chicago and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he completed a fellowship in adult reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Sweeney grew up on the east side of Aurora, and received his bachelor’s in science from Aurora University. Dr. Sweeney went to Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and did his residency at Resurrection Hospital in Chicago.

Patients will be seen at the OSF Medical Group-Obstetrics & Gynecology office at 1614 E. Norris Drive, Ottawa. As of June 5, new or existing patient appointments with Drs. Cassidy, Hawkins and Sweeney can be made by calling (815) 431-0435.




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LOCAL AND AREA

It's Not a Game: Safe driving campaign reboots for Year 2

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is once again breaking out the virtual joysticks and retro graphics for Year 2 of “It’s Not a Game,” its multimedia safety campaign that plays on the old-school video game theme combined with key messaging to educate the public on traffic safety.

“You don’t need a quarter to play and find out the decisions you make behind the wheel are not a game,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “This campaign will be our most extensive effort yet to spread the message that you can play a role in getting Illinois fatalities down to the only acceptable number: Zero.”

“It’s Not a Game” continues the comprehensive approach by IDOT to reduce injuries and fatalities associated with motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians, seat belts and work zones, as well as impaired and distracted driving.

For 2023, a new element has been added: Speeding.

Building on the success of the campaign’s first year, the creative material relies on the appearance of an arcade-style video game platform to educate drivers that safety is not a game and everyone is a winner when “wreck-less” driving is the shared goal.

The campaign is running throughout the year, with increased frequency during the peak summer driving season.

Media placement includes bars, restaurants, gas stations, social media, summer festivals, stadiums and online platforms, as well as traditional radio and TV channels. Ads will be running in Spanish as well.

More information is available at www.itsnotagameillinois.com, where the public can follow the campaign and access additional resources. The site includes an online quiz to inform the public on safety statistics and provide them with results they can share on social media.

According to provisional data, 1,269 people died on Illinois roads in 2022, the seventh consecutive year of more than 1,000 traffic fatalities in the state, mirroring a national trend. This year, there have been 439 deaths in Illinois, based on preliminary statistics through May 30.

“It’s Not a Game” is made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by IDOT.

K9 Officer Nemo to get donation of body armor

DIXON – Lee County Sheriff’s Office K9 Nemo will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Delivery is expected within eight to 10 weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 5,043 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated



30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1800.00, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-

year warranty.

For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

Of the Earth exhibition debuts at The Morton Arboretum

LISLE – Five large-scale sculptures fashioned from reclaimed tree branches and other natural materials by Polish-American artist Olga Ziemka is the newest outdoor exhibition at The Morton Arboretum.

Of the Earth, the first major sculpture installation by a woman artist at the Arboretum, is Ziemka’s largest exhibition to date anywhere in the world. The exhibition will be free with advance purchase of daytime admission and will remain through spring 2025.

Preston Bautista, Ph.D., the Arboretum’s vice president of learning and engagement, said that the Cleveland-based sculptor’s creations reflect the 1,700-acre site’s natural surroundings and serve as a link between people and place. “Olga drew from an array of inspirations and lived experiences, including her Polish background and as a woman in the art world, as well as the essence of the Arboretum itself,” he said. “Her works also demonstrate her deep interest in examining the intersections of science, art and philosophy.”

All five sculptures — Strata, Oculus, Ona, Hear: With an ear to the ground and Stillness in Motion: The Matka series — pay homage to the Arboretum landscapes while exploring Ziemka’s central and reoccurring theme, “We are nature.”

“I use art as a tool to better understand the things we often overlook,” said Ziemka, whose Polish surname translates to “of the earth” or “earthly.” “Humans have a complex relationship with the natural world, but there is no separation between people and nature,” she said, adding, “Everything on Earth is of the Earth.”

The sculptures are made of both organic and man-made materials, including steel and glass-fiber reinforced concrete necessary to withstand the Midwest’s weather variations, and range in size from 5- to 14-feet tall and 45 feet in length. Arboretum volunteers spent several weeks laying the groundwork for creation of the unique pieces by collecting, pruning and preparing natural materials such as fallen tree branches from sugar maple, hackberry, linden, willow, elm and wild black cherry trees at the Arboretum.

Stillness in Motion: The Matka series, Of the Earth’s signature piece, is the newest in Ziemka’s Matka (“mother” in Polish) series, following versions in Romania and Poland. Located outside the Arboretum’s Visitor Center, the 6-foot-tall female figure

is composed mostly of wild low tree branches.

Ona (“she” in Polish) is the sole sculpture situated on the Arboretum’s West Side. The 14-foot-tall piece depicts a woman with windswept tree branch hair and mirrored eyes.

Oculus comprises two 10-foot-tall human head profiles fit with hundreds of varying sizes of tree cookies, or the cross-section of a tree, and mirrored eyes that reflect the surrounding Maple Collection.

Inspired by a recurring theme in Ziemka’s work that considers the “body as landscape,” Strata is a 45-foot-long reclining female figure emerging from the ground at the base of a hill in the Crabapple Collection.

Thousands of white river rocks pattern the surface of Hear: With an ear to the ground, a 5-foot-tall horizontal human head that appears to be at rest in its natural surroundings with Meadow Lake as its backdrop.

Active duty military are free every day by showing current military identification. Discount tickets are also available through the Museums for All program. Tickets are not available at the gatehouse and must be obtained in advance. For tickets, visit mortonarb.org/visit-the-arboretum.

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The Mendota Reporter

Juneteenth

Officially known as Emancipation Day and also called Juneteenth Independence Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is a portmanteau word for June and nineteenth and commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas and the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the Confederate South. Juneteenth National Independence Day is a US federal holiday and was signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021.

In observance of Juneteenth, these financial institutions will be closed on Monday, June 19.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Carral A. Supan

MENDOTA — Carral A. Supan, 83, of Mendota, formerly of Paw Paw, moved on from this life Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Her funeral will be held at the Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. with Pastor William Clark performing services. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of the funeral. Cremation rites will be accorded and private burial will be at Cochran Cemetery in Lone Hill, Mo.

Carral was born May 27, 1940, in Naylor, Mo., to Virgil G. Pennington and Lillie M. Harris. She married John Supan on April 29, 1966, in Sycamore. He preceded her in death on Dec. 21, 2008.

She is survived by her two daughters, Casandra (Gil) Richard of New Iberia, La., and Jonnita (Keith) Vogel of Fairbury; her son, Shawn (Blair) Supan of Knoxville, Tenn.; one step-daughter, Judy (Jim) Price of Streator; three step-sons, Mike (Linda) Supan of Tonica, James (Rita) Supan of Ardmore, Okla., Terry Joe (Marsha) Supan of Rochester; 12 grandchildren, Wesley, Justin, Desiree, BJ, Andrea, Viktor, Tyler, Kylie, Danielle, Joslyne, Evan and Zayla; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, step-daughter Dorothy A Supan and step-son John I. Supan.

Carral worked as a waitress, worked at Automatic Electric, The Hoka Turkey Farm followed by becoming co-owner of J&C Siding Co. of Paw Paw for over 30 years and owned her own successful crafting business for over 14 years. She volunteered for the Mendota First United Methodist Church garage sale for many years, where she was a member and was baptized Nov. 2, 2017. She volunteered at Mendota Area Senior Services in Mendota, assisting with their annual community sale.

Over the years, she enjoyed being a member of a kitchen band that played on holiday floats, camping, playing bingo, reading mysteries, piecing together hundreds of puzzles and taking trips with family and friends. She was involved in the Paw Paw PTA and a Boy Scout troop leader for several years.

Carral was a loyal friend who was always supportive and encouraging. She was willing to give a hand in any task including crafting flowers for weddings, caring for friend's family members during illness, as well as baking and decorating cakes for baptisms and birthdays. She was up for fun all the time...playing card games, going dancing, and hosting family and friends for the holidays. In her later years, she would go gambling on the boat occasionally with her girlfriends, and drink coffee with the crew at Ziggy's.

Carral was the piece that held the family together. She maintained the household, ran the kids to and from their activities, raised a garden, canned, butchered, roofed houses, put up siding, kept the books for J&C Siding, did estimates and taught her children core values. She was a strong woman that set an example for her family and friends.

Carral had a spitfire personality that everyone was drawn to. Although she was little in stature, she was large in heart, and larger in attitude. She was the first to tell you "big things come in small packages."

Memorials may be directed to the Shriners Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Harry D. Schaller

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Harry David "Fritz" Schaller, 97, formerly of Mendota, passed away peacefully at his home in Jacksonville, Fla., on June 2, 2023.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at 11 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church Te Deum Chapel with Vicar Anthony Windau officiating. Burial will be at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is handling arrangements.

Harry was born May 11, 1926, in Mendota to Harry F. and Pearl (Faber) Schaller. After attending Mendota schools, Harry graduated from high school at Western Military Academy, Alton, and graduated from Purdue University in 1950. He married Inger Sandberg of Joliet, on April 1, 1956. The Schallers lived in Allentown, Pa., from 1965-1992.

He is survived by his children, Greta Bates of LaMoille and Kurt (Denise) Schaller of Jacksonville, Fla.; grandchildren Kyle (Faith) Schaller, Christopher Scanlon, and Leslie (Jacob) Weber; and two great-grandsons, Caleb and Ethan Weber.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Inger in 2019 and his son-in-law Michael Bates in 2021.

Harry was in the heavy equipment sales business: International Harvester Co., Truck Division, Branch Manager, Thew Shovel Co., Lorain, Ohio, District Manager; Crane & Shovel Sales; Mack Trucks, Inc., Sales Manager, Off Highway Truck Division; Orenstein & Koppel AG, Dortmund, Germany, Director of Major Account Sales, USA, selling hydraulic shovels, quarry trucks, and front-end loaders. He was a member of The Presidents Council, Purdue University; Chairman, National Limestone Institute, 1979; Director, Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association, 1975; Director, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, 1976-78; and a lifemember, Elks Lodge 1212, Mendota. He was active with the WK&S Railroad, Kempton, Pa. 1970-1982; the Mendota Museum & Historical Society, President of Union Depot RR Museum, 1995-2001 and Mendota Sweet Corn Festival Parade Marshal, 2004.

Memorials may be directed to the Mendota Museum & Historical Society, PO Box 433, Mendota, IL 61342 or Mendota Cemetery Association, c/o Merritt Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Daniel J. Boyle

MAYTOWN — Daniel James Boyle, 70, of Maytown, passed away June 9, 2023.

At Dan's request, no services will be held.

He was born March 8, 1953, to William and Lois Boyle, the second born of six children.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda, who he married in 1979, who was not only his best friend but also his companion on all of their many adventures together; two sons, William (Rebecca) Boyle and Cody (Erica) Boyle; grandchildren, August and Everly Boyle; sisters, Patricia Seloover, Peg (Ken) Jones, Teri (Rich) Klein and Mary (Jeff) Lovgren; and brother, Marty Boyle.

He was always in search of the next adventure, never really content unless he was fishing, searching for mushrooms, or just going for a ride down the backroads looking for wildlife and other sights to see, usually while listening to Gordon Lightfoot. He was a master storyteller, going into detail and even mimicking the voices of the people involved in the story, so much so as to make you feel like you were there as well. He had an affinity for making friends with even complete strangers, like he'd known them his whole life.

He had many jobs in his lifetime, from traveling around in Minnesota in his younger years, assembling silos to cutting meat in Sublette at the butcher shop. For the majority of his career, he repaired pallets, first behind Corrine and Tiny Morrissey's barn, then moving his operation to his home and property in Maytown until hanging up his hammer in 2005.



DEATH NOTICES

The Mendota Reporter will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$75 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to editor@mendotareporter.com.

Milton L. Olson

MENDOTA — Milton L. Olson, 76 of Mendota, passed away June 5, 2023, in his home surrounded by his loving family.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Wasmer Funeral home is privileged to care for the family. A memorial gathering will take place this fall at the Olson home.

Milt was born Sept. 14, 1946, in Mendota to Harlow and Esther (Haefner) Olson. Milt married Rebecca Langley on Aug. 16, 1969, at the First United Methodist Church of Mendota. He graduated Mendota High School in 1964 then continued his education at Luther College achieving a B.A. in Art in 1968.

Milt will be forever missed by his wife Becky of Mendota; two sons, Matthew (Krista) Olson of Red Bud and Mitchell (Amanda) Olson of Clarksville, Tenn.; daughter Kathi (Chuck Oplaski) Inman of Edgerton, Wis.; eight grandchildren, Amanda, Jessica, Alexandra, Chloe, Trevor, Zain, Annika, Wyatt; and twin brother Melvin Olson of Hudson, Wis.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Edmund Olson.

Milt began playing the cornet in fifth grade at the Compton Grade School under the direction of Eben Campbell and continued to play in the Mendota High School Band under the direction of Robert Baile. During his career he worked at Conkey's for five years, A&B Auto Body Supply, crafted stained glass, taught art at Northbrook Middle School, and since 1981 has owned and operated Division St. Signs.

Milt was involved in the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra for more than 30 years, the DeKalb Municipal Band for 24 years, the I.V.C.C. Wind Ensemble for more than 30 years, the Class Act Big Band, the Mendota Methodist Brass, the Doodledorphers, Mendota Generics Big Band, and the FISAF Bunny Band. He continued to play with the adult pit bands of the MHS Rhythm Express, the MHS musical productions and the summer musicals of 3M Productions.

Memorials may be directed to the family to establish a memorial. Condolences can be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



John C. Tompkins

TUCSON, Ariz. — John C. Tompkins, 69, of Tucson, Ariz., passed on June 2, 2023.

A memorial service will be at held at 11 a.m., on Thursday, June 15, 2023, in the City First Church Chapel, 5950 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, with Pastor Dan Qualls officiating. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until the start of the service on Thursday at the church.

Born Aug. 2, 1953, in Greensboro, N.C., John attended Culver Military Academy, Illiana Christian High School, and Calvin College.

John is survived by his children, Trina (Stephen) McNeilly, J.J. (Lindsay) Tompkins, and Amy Tompkins; former wife and life-long friend, Cindy Tompkins; grandchildren, Ella, Luke, Liam, and Rocco McNeilly, Grace Wolfe, Hope and Lily Tompkins; sister, Patricia (Bob) Van Til; brother, Michael (Mary) Tompkins; cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He is pre-deceased by his parents, John Edward Tompkins and Hilda Tompkins, and nephew, David Tompkins.

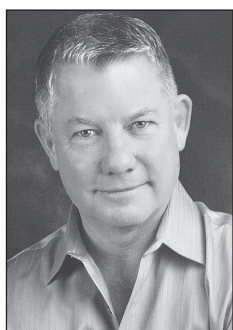
John grew up in a newspaper family and at the young age of 21 purchased The Rochelle News-Leader in 1975. For the next 48 years, John grew News Media Corporation to over 75 publications spanning across nine states.

John was not only a newspaperman, he was a visionary entrepreneur and gifted strategist who was not afraid to take risks. John loved his "business family" and the unique communities that NMC serves. Anyone who knew John would concur that he was larger than life and an extremely generous man.

John was also a man of great faith and spent many years teaching Sunday School at City First Church and mentoring young men. He was a voracious reader with a wealth of knowledge on copious topics. If you ever met with John you likely left with a book in hand. John had many hobbies; he loved rodeo, Kung Fu, sailing, and his beloved dog, Roscoe.

John spent his final years "Out West"—where he felt most at home. John taught his children God's Word, to walk in faith, and to trust in the finished work of the cross—this is his greatest legacy.

To express condolences online, visit www.fitzgeraldfh.com.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Budget

Continued from Page A1

“Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, and various members of the legislature’s Democratic leadership and budget negotiation teams.

Several of them highlighted the budget’s investments in education.

“Birth-to-five services and kindergarten readiness are the foundation for the rest of our children’s educational experiences,” Pritzker said.

The budget includes funding to launch Pritzker’s “Smart Start Illinois” early childhood education program. Earlier this year, he toured the state to promote the increased spending on pre-K and kindergarten, which includes \$130 million to fund a new system of contracts for early childhood workers and upping state funding for early childhood block grants by \$75 million. “Smart Start” also includes added funding for early intervention and home visiting programming.

The budget also increases state dollars going to the K-12 funding formula by \$350 million – the amount called for annually in state law – and puts \$45 million toward a three-year pilot program to fill teacher vacancies and provide scholarships to future teachers. It’s less than the \$70 million for that program that Pritzker included in his February budget proposal.

Higher education, a long-time budget priority of Pritzker’s, will also see increased funding. These include a \$100 million funding increase to the state’s Monetary Award Program, which provides need-based scholarships. It marks a 75 percent increase in funding for MAP grants since 2019. The budget also includes a \$15 million increase to the AIM HIGH merit-based scholarship program and a \$3.8 million increase to the Minority Teacher Scholarship program.

Despite praising Republican involvement in budget negotiations throughout the legislative session, Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, criticized the overall budget in a statement while noting it included some common ground between the two parties.

“We negotiated in good faith, and as a result, there are some joint priorities in this budget, specifically to support the developmentally disabled and invest in education,” Curran said.

No Republicans in either chamber voted for the plan.

In the House, debate was more tense. Republican budget negotiator Norine Hammond, of Macomb, said the GOP was essentially cut out from the budget process by House Democrats. She had previously noted Republicans participated in more frequent budget talks with the governor’s staff.

“Another budget filled with broken promises, accounting gimmicks, and a lack of structural reforms to address the systemic outmigration of Illinois families,” House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said.

McCombie also contradicted Curran’s read of the budget and said that it “short-changes” the direct service professionals, or DSPs, that serve disabled people in community settings.

A state-commissioned 2020 study of the industry recommended increasing DSP wages to 150 percent of the state’s minimum wage, which is currently \$13 per hour and is set to increase to \$14 in January.

The budget includes provisions increasing DSP wage base rates by \$2.50 per hour, to \$19.50, beginning in January. That would still fall short of the \$4 per hour needed to meet the study’s recommen-

dation as of next year. Still, it marks a \$1 increase beyond what Pritzker had proposed in February.

Home workers who assist the elderly are also slated to receive a rate increase of \$24 million.

The budget also includes \$75 million for the Department of Children and Family Services. Pritzker’s office said this is expected to pay for 192 staff positions, expanded training, facility improvements and scholarships to children in DCFS care.

Services aimed at preventing homelessness are set to receive an increase of \$85 million through the Home Illinois program, a multi-agency initiative that will provide housing and services to homeless people.

The more than \$350 million in funding includes \$118 million for shelter and transitional housing services, \$50 million for rapid rehousing services, \$40 million in capital funds for permanent supportive housing units and \$37 million in funds to build new shelter units.

While Republicans have been critical of the budget, the House’s lead budget negotiator, Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said compromise was an essential part of the process.

“The budget is a reflection of our priorities,” she said. “It’s a reflection of everybody getting wins, but nobody got everything.”

Earlier, Pritzker noted the budget would exempt businesses from the first \$5,000 in liability under the corporate franchise tax, up from \$1,000. He called it a \$50 million tax cut that addressed at least one Republican budget priority. Pritzker and leaders in the General Assembly negotiated a phaseout of that tax in

this only bipartisan budget passed in 2019, but Democrats ultimately reversed that action in a future budget year.

During debate last month, Republicans in both chambers were also sharply critical of the budget because it allowed for the expiration of the \$75 million Invest in Kids scholarship program for private school students. The program initially passed as part of a bipartisan agreement in 2017 with support from the school-choice movement and Republican lawmakers.

Pritzker said the conversation around funding that program is “ongoing,” and “there’s time still for that program to be considered,” potentially in the fall veto session, before its Jan. 1, 2024, expiration.

Democrats also alluded on several occasions to a two-year budget stalemate between Republican then-Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the legislature that lasted from July 2015 into August 2017. During that time, the state did not approve a full budget, causing havoc in education and the social services industry, both of which rely heavily on state funding.

“It’s no longer about how to keep the doors open and scrape by,” Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said of the budget process.

At the bill signing, Pritzker also addressed a state-funded health care program for noncitizens, which his administration at one time projected would cost over \$1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year.

The program offers Medicaid-style benefits to noncitizens age 42 and older who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid if not for their legal residency status. It was launched in

2021 and expanded twice to its current size. Because the individuals enrolled in the program are not eligible for standard Medicaid, which is jointly funded by the state and federal governments, Illinois covers its entire cost.

A separate Medicaid-related bill, which Pritzker has not yet signed, will give him authority to rein in costs through the creation of administrative rules. His office has said options include limiting future enrollment, requiring copays from program participants, maximizing federal reimbursement and possibly moving participants to the Medicaid managed care system.

Pritzker noted that the program does not apply to asylum seekers, who are eligible for other federally funded benefits. He also said it is ultimately cheaper to provide preventative care to noncitizens rather than making them rely on emergency room visits to treat conditions that have gone undiagnosed and untreated due to a lack of health care benefits.

Pritzker’s February budget proposal accounted for about \$220 million in costs for the program, and the final budget did not include a measure sought by the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus that would have expanded it to noncitizens aged 19 and over. Those 18 years and younger are already covered under the Illinois AllKids program.

Pritzker’s signing included one change to the budget as it was approved by lawmakers last month. Lawmakers, agency directors and others in state government who would have received raises of 5.5 percent under an automatic pay formula will be capped at 5 percent to comply with state law.

Reimagine

Continued from Page A1

repair the damaged building can begin.

“Masons from Otto Baum Company (out of Morton) are coming the week of June 26 to start the repairs on the north side of the building. After that is complete, we are 100-percent positive that the building is salvageable,” said Mendota City Clerk Emily McConville. “If something were to happen right now, like a bad windstorm, the front corner is pretty delicate.”

“Once that is repaired, we can further move into the project, which includes putting a temporary front on the building to close the building in and work on inside issues like electric wiring and plumbing.”

“We’re not sure what we want to do with the building. The goal is to sell it. We don’t want to make too many decisions of what the front should look like depending on what happens inside the building and who buys it. We’re going to push that off to the last thing that we do.”

McConville added the city has thrown around the idea of turning the building into an incubator for start-up businesses since the first floor would be open and could offer modular business areas.

The repairing and ideas for what the building will be next is still in the beginning process as there are many intangibles the city has to consider with a project that will be costly.

Northbrook

Continued from Page A1

Goellner, Laina Gonzales, Christian Gonzalez, Julian Gonzalez, Alyna Guerra, Benoni Hernandez, Javier Hernandez Jr., Ryan Holley, Berat Imeri, Marcelah Jackson, Jayleen Jordan;

Layla Karahalios, Delila Kent, Cole Kleckner, Abbie Kreiser, Ada Krull, Layla Kundert, Jamal Lesley, Jayden Lesley, Vanessa Loera, Rashaad Mayfield, Dawson McPheeters, Adan Medina, Alexys Melendez, Erica Miller, Aurora Montecinos, Madilyn Muller, MaKenzie Mumm, Madrick Musgrove;

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OPINION



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

The environmentalist movement needs to get back to its roots

By Karen I. Shragg

Americans recently celebrated the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day. The holiday has changed drastically over the past half-century – and so has the natural environment that activists are seeking to protect.

Today’s green activists tend to mark Earth Day by focusing on ways to minimize their personal impact on the environment – through regular recycling, cleaning up local parks, planting trees, driving hybrids, or shopping with reusable bags. These environmentally friendly behaviors are all welcome, of course.

But the activists who celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970 had a broader focus – they were primarily concerned about our collective impact on the environment.

In particular, they feared – with good reason – that America’s rapidly growing population was overtaking fragile ecosystems. As Senator Nelson later noted, the U.S. population had soared from 98 million the year he was born in 1916 to 200 million by the first Earth Day, and “tremendous ecological damage occurred as a result of this growth” since vast expanses of green space had to be cleared to make room for houses, offices, malls, roads, and all the other trappings of civilization.

Since then, America has added over 130 million additional people to its population. That growth has taken a toll on the environment and the wildlife that live there. Our nation lost 68,000 square miles of open space from 1982 to 2017. That’s an area the size of Florida. And 67% of that habitat destruction resulted from population growth, with the remaining 33% due to increases in per-capita consumption.

And there’s no end in sight. In the next 30 years, our population is projected to hit 373 million, primarily due to immigration, according to the latest projections from the Congressional Budget Office.

The resulting future loss of habitat, and increase in pollution, will measurably harm the natural environment and limit Americans’ access to nature.

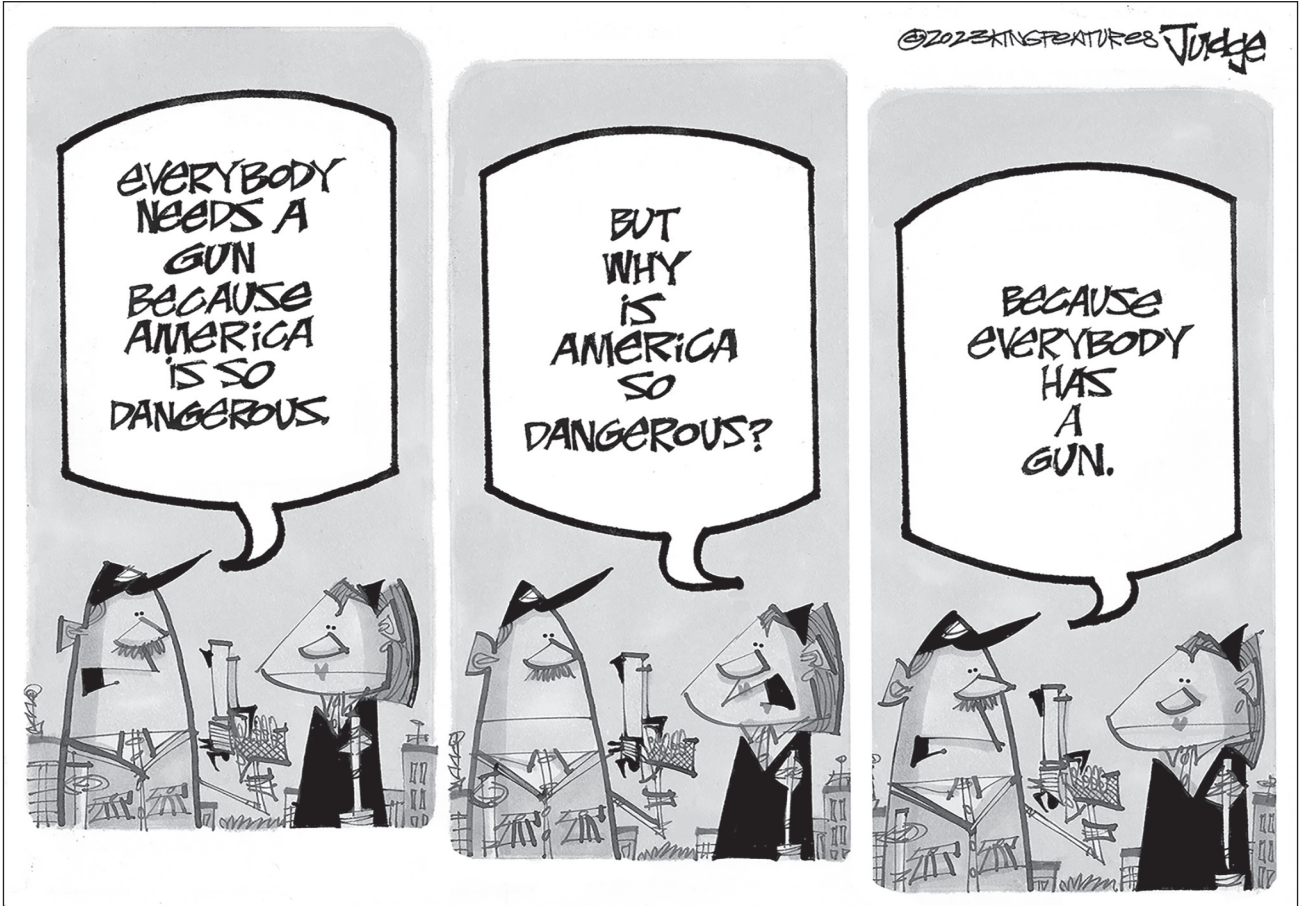
Politicians sometimes dismiss these environmental and quality of life concerns, saying that the benefits of economic growth and technological advances outweigh the drawbacks. Essentially, they argue that “We don’t need to worry about how to slice the pie to serve more and more people, we just need more pie.”

But sometimes, there simply isn’t more “pie” when it comes to our inherently limited resources. There isn’t more fresh water to divide up between more and more Americans who use an average of 80 gallons per day to meet their eating, drinking, and cleaning needs.

There isn’t more pie when it comes to wildlife habitat that supports threatened and endangered species. There isn’t more pie when it comes to ending the light pollution that makes it impossible to see the magic of the night sky. There isn’t more pie if we want to preserve land for parks and keep some for farming instead of losing it to housing.

It’s time for environmentalists to realize that electrifying the grid, or planting trees, or buying cloth bags, is all good – but it isn’t enough. We also need to stop slicing the limited pie of America’s resources to the point of no return. Increasing our population of 334 million by millions more each year simply undermines all our traditional Earth Day activities.

(Karen Shragg is an author and environmental consultant.)



Catching tagged fish at Lake Mendota – 1948

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from June 17, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

It was an exciting time for the boys and girls who were fishing Lake Mendota 50 years ago. The Illinois Department of Conservation in cooperation with the Mendota Coon, Rod & Gun Club, placed a number of fish with aluminum flags in the lake. The tags were numbered and each number corresponded to a prize that could be claimed by taking the tagged fish to the city clerk’s office where the number would be officially registered and a certificate issued entitling the angler to an award.

Prizes ranged from an outboard motor or boat to an assortment of baits and “many smaller prizes.” Bass, bluegills, croppies, perch and bullheads had been tagged. The size of the fish was of no consequence – only the number on the tag.

A tiny bluegill may be tagged for an outboard motor.

The contest, which began June 15, 1948, would continue through Sept. 15. Johnny Merritt was first to catch a tagged fish – a croppie – on June 15. He followed the instructions, taking his fish to the city clerk’s office and receiving the award certificate. Regrettably, some fishermen removed the tags when fish were caught instead of leaving them on until registered.

City clerk Yost asks that the rules as presented be complied with.

The third Speedway race for Midget cars on the Mendota track was held Sunday, June 20, 1948. One of the contestants, George Vann, flipped end over end in the semifinal, fracturing his shoulder. The accident occurred as he tried to avoid hitting Cliff Adams.

There were 34 cars entered, the biggest field ever on the Mendota track. Fans could enter their predictions as to the top four. Three Mendotans were among those choosing correctly in this Win-A-Race competition: Mrs. Forrest Coffey, Mrs. Joe Shirey and Alexander Wylie.

The Midget fans of Mendota know their winners.

Frank Seno, Mendota athlete, who

Backtracks & Sidetracks

was a halfback with the Boston Yanks, signed his 1948 contract. He was regarded as one of the key men on the 1948 team. In the previous season –

Seno led the Yanks in ground gains and catching passes.

He tied for the NFL leadership in pass completions.

Fitzgerald Air Service alerted veterans to the possible termination of government sponsored flight training. However, students enrolled prior to June 30, 1948, would be allowed to complete their training.

Veterans – Now is the time to act.

Wayside Press employees and friends enjoyed a dinner-dance at Juls Danish Farm in Rock Falls on June 20, 1948, with 130 attending. Music was provided by Bob Ellingen on Novachord, piano and organ.

Adam Luchetti, who headed the art department for Kenneth B. Butler & Associates, entertained with several solos. Luchetti was also lead tenor with the LaSalle Barbershop Quartet.

Following dancing, a smorgasbord was served.

Illinois State Employment Service advertised that it was registering applicants for work as detassellers from July 16 to Aug. 10. Approximately 3,500 workers were needed.

Boys and girls, help with your family’s budget by earning from \$50-\$80 in a two- to three-week job.

A group of Boy Scouts enjoyed a canoe trip on the Green River from a point north of Annawan to Geneseo, about 20 miles. The Scouts were Jack Keefe, Francis Henkel, Jerry Hochstatter, Jack Shanyfelt, Don Richert, Max Fayen and Billy Gardner. Captain for the trip was Ivan Smith.

Dr. Hein announced he had purchased the optical practice of C.C. Burkhardt. Elmo Steele was listed as the jeweler at Etzbach’s Jewelry & Gift Shop. The Ben Franklin store advertised fireworks, which could still be legally purchased in Illinois in the summer of 1948.

California Packing Co. opened an office in the Jacob Coal Co. building and was ready to receive applications from workers from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. A representative from the Land Leasing division would be on hand from 1-2 p.m. daily.

The city council heard a petition from residents of North Main Street, asking that the city prevent buses from traveling on Main from the Faber Hotel to Route 51.

When the franchise was granted, buses were told which streets to use. They should use them.

Mayor Glenn Momeny will meet with the bus company to outline a route between the hotel and Route 34, which will not be on Main Street north of Eighth Street. Buses can proceed north on Route 51 from its intersection with Route 34.

The city has a legal claim against property on which owners refused to pay assessments for improvements. When titles can be cleared, this property will be advertised for sale.

Doing its bit to steer clear of the so-called “gray market” in the sale of new cars, Widmer & Sons at 814 Illinois Ave., published its policy. No padding of prices. No unwanted accessories. No compulsory trade-ins. No collusion with “gray market” dealer. Many conditions exist encouraging “gray marketing.” You don’t like them and neither do we.

New teachers hired in 1948 for the fall term: Reeve Norton, chemistry, physics & math; Theodora Dahl, home economics; Leonard L. Pourchot, speech, debate & social science; Glen Collins, junior high math; Ross Harrington, junior high music.

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Democrats are making a crazy bet

By Rich Lowry

President Joe Biden’s fall at the end of the Air Force Academy graduation ceremony was a brief event. He tripped, got helped up, and walked off under his own power.

Sometimes, though, a small thing is fraught with meaning -- and with peril.

Biden’s stumbles are not minor incidents, or a laughing matter. We aren’t talking about a manufactured narrative about President Jerry Ford’s alleged clumsiness played up on “Saturday Night Live.” Biden is 80 years old, is in decline, and has a stiff, shuffling gait that makes you hold your breath when he’s negotiating stairs or any place with potential obstacles. At his age, once the falls start, they usually don’t stop.

Democrats should be thinking long and hard whether this is the vessel they want to ride into 2024 -- and to portray as up for performing the job of president of the United States in a second term extending all the way until January 2029.

A couple of weeks ago at the G-7 summit in Japan, Biden lost his balance going down steps at the Itsukushima Shrine to greet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. He managed to right himself with some focus. He stuck the landing and could shake the prime minister’s hand like nothing happened.

But how close was he and the United States to major international embarrassment and a seismic political event? A couple of inches either way?

If Biden were to do a face plant, even down a few steps, it could be very ugly. It’d be a symbol of U.S. decrepitude. It’s one thing to have a senior senator from California who obviously should have hung it up several years ago; it’s another to have a U.S. president lacking the agility to get around easily and safely anymore.

He also could get seriously hurt. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, 81, fell a couple of months ago and had to be hospitalized. He suffered a concussion and a broken rib.

I don’t say this with any pleasure. Anyone who has dealt

with an elderly parent in decline knows aging and its attendant loss of capacity are frustrating, heartbreaking and humiliating.

In their apparent willingness to acquiesce to another Biden nomination, Democrats are looking away from the enormous risk his frailty poses to their prospects.

A bad fall or some other health event could happen on a catastrophic political timetable -- if something happened to Biden in late October 2024, it could easily throw a close race to his Republican opponent. Hillary Clinton’s polling took a hit in 2016 after her fainting spell on Sept. 11.

While the public often sympathizes with politicians with health troubles (see Sen. John Fetterman), any adverse Biden event would confirm widespread doubts about his capacities and the wisdom of him running again. Rather than simply the victim of circumstances out of his control, he’d likely look foolhardy for having taken on, once again, at age 80 or 81, the physically, mentally and emotionally taxing enterprise of a national campaign.

Moreover, it would make Biden the issue in the campaign when the whole idea is supposed to be that he can repeat his role as the default candidate, making the other guy, especially Donald Trump, the focus of the race.

All of this should be factored into any calculus of how electable Biden is or how strong a candidate he is against Trump. It’s understandable that Democrats feel they are stuck -- there’s no good way to leverage an incumbent out of office and there aren’t readily evident strong candidates waiting in the wings.

The conservative intellectual James Burnham famously said, “If there’s no alternative, there’s no problem.” There may be no good alternative to Biden for Democrats, but having to hold your breath every time he climbs or descends the steps of Air Force One is a big problem and one that isn’t going away from now until Nov. 5, 2024.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

HONOR ROLL

Northbrook Middle School

MENDOTA – Students have been named to the Northbrook Middle School trimester 3 honor roll.

Fifth Grade

High Honor Roll: Isaac Baltazar, Karly Beetz, Bentley Bejster, Bristol Bonnell, Billy Bromenschenkel, Austin Brown, Kenna Brown, Kathleen Clark, Holden Coss, Lila Coss, Jonathan Dore, Taylor Erlenborn, Aliya Escatel, Janelly Escatel, Samantha Foltyniewicz, Kendal Fromherz, Olivia Gallagher, Aubri Gonzalez, Dominic Gonzalez, Gage Hanson, Herlinda Huizar, Albana Imeri, London Jones, Chloe Klein, Cooper Klein, Kathryn Loutsch, Sebastian Magallanes, Eli Martinez, Dianely Mendez-Santana, Kendra Milus, Kendra Mullins, Jordan Olivarez, Charlize Pena, Viridianna Perez, Hunter Piller, Maggie Price, Camilo Ramirez, Lyla Rodriguez, Henry Schroeder, Fiona Sheppard, Adalynn Sondgeroth, Maycie Sprouton, Gavin Stamberger, Harper Stamberger, Kennie Stremlau, Raelynn Sundberg, Armando Valdes, Elyse Waldron, Wyatt Zimmerman

Honor Roll: Kailani Akau-Witty, Fidarina Aliu, Isayanna Arreola, Brandon Benehaley, Jose Bravo, Jose Chavez Vidal, Alex Coronel, Caroline Correa, Bellalyn Escatel, Natalia Estrada,

Isabelle Figueroa, Jayden Figueroa, Alivia Furar, Jerini Garcia, Jowell Garcia, Genesis Gonzalez, Mateo Gonzalez, Karter Grim, Ashley Guzman, Skyler Kenny, Tyler Kenny, Derek Kundert, Lilliana Leek, Yoshua McGee, Kaylee McLain, Sophia McLain, Maddux McPheeters, Mario Membreno, Elaina Ohlen-dorf, Kayne Phillips, Parker Ramer, Lydia Rinaldo, Brooklyn Russell, Santos Salinas, Victor Solorzano, Carmen Spitz, Shane Trahan, Delaney Tucker, Carson Walzer, Bailey Work-Sibley, Ricardo Yuquilima

Sixth Grade

High Honor Roll: Aisaac Arteaga, Candie Arteaga, MiaArteaga, Madison Baxa, Mallory Beck, Brianna Betz, Lila Bielema, Kylee Bonnell, Jacqueline Bryson, Bella Bute, Arian Chavez, Leighton Davis, Gabriela Diaz, Gina Diaz, Ari Gambrel, Aleeya Garcia, Illan Garcia, Valeria Gomez, Vania Gomez, Felipe Gonzalez, Joshua Granados, Brandon Hougas, Callum Indigo, Eli Kaecker, Delilah Karahalios, Ava Mahaffey, Allison McNutt, Alana Melendez, Aileen Perez, Olivia Perryman, Christopher Salazar-Loera, Alexis Saylor, Juliana Seabloom, Lumen Setchell, Derrick Snyder Jr., Liam Strait, Samantha

Stremlau, Gavin Tolley, Cindy Valdes, Camila Vallejo, Emerson Van Horn, Dylan Welch, Maci Winn

Honor Roll: Samuel Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Charles Beaty, Annalee Becerra, Hayden Cedillo, Pryar Christmann, Sergio Correa, Aliya Delao, Kannon Delao, Isaac Espinoza, Evangeline Flores, Elizabeth Francis, Jeniah Francis, Bradley Fultz, Kaitlyn Giberson, Brianna Gonzalez, Abriana Klein, Christopher Komitas, Yuliza Magallanes, Anally Martinez, Mikayla McLain, Fayte Michael, Elizek Milus, Benjamin Montgomery, Azaria Morris, Kenneth AdenMullins, Ryan Negron, Jacob Nelson, Elizandro Orozco, Giselle Perez, Astarra Price, Samuel Reyes, Ivory Rodriguez, Tatjana Rucker, Axel Ruiz, Georgia Schwaegerman, Abigail Sindel, Laurali Thompson, Sophia Vargas, Brayden Wilhelm

Seventh Grade

High Honor Roll: Mia Barringer, Cooper Beetz, Abigail Botts, Jorge Castaneda, Tanya Cervantes, Cannon Chaon, Cruz Chavez, Olivia Corrigan, Hayden Cunefare,

Riley Erlenborn, Zariah Escatel, Dalton Gallagher, Kevin Herrera, Klaire Knaff, Savannah Lenert, Trevor Lengsfeld, Anthony Martinez-Morales, Daisy Mendez-Santana, Abel Nanez, Karlee Organ, Anahi Perez, Guadalupe Sandoval, Collin Sheppard, Paola Solorzano, Haylee Stevens, Trinitie Thompson, Parker Waldron, Rylee Woods

Honor Roll: Viktor Angulo, Bezzali Cadenas, Isaac Caracheo, Daniel Correa, Raul Gonzalez, Gage Griffith, Cesar Hernandez, Joseph Muller, Isaac Murillo, Samantha Nelson, Ignacio Ortega, David Reyes, Mason Rich, Grace Schlesinger, Germain Serrano, Gracie Smith, Ashtyn Stamberger, Tori Stevens, Adrian Trejo, Samantha Tunk, Fernanda Valdes, Jovan Washington

Eighth Grade

High Honor Roll: Brooklyn Baxa, Drew Becker, Abygail Buettner, Melanie Carlos, Cesar Casas, Evelyn Cervantes, Monserrat Chavez, Lexi Cocanour, Julisa Coronel, Michelle Cuevas, Karen Flores, Harlow Foltyniewicz, Karissa Freeman, Berat

St. Margaret's to close all its facilities June 16

SPRING VALLEY – Tim Muntz, President and CEO of St. Margaret's Health, released the following statement in regard to the status of the establishment:

"Today (June 9), the SMH Board of Directors met and made the painful decision that St. Margaret's no longer has sufficient resources to continue operations and will close Friday, June 16, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. This includes all current operations – hospital, clinics and other facilities, at both SMH-Spring Valley and SMH-Peru. This is not the outcome any of us wanted and it is due to many circumstances beyond our control.

"While I write this with great sadness and regret, I want to thank all of you and our community for supporting the Mission of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation for the last 120 years."



FARM ESTATE AUCTION

LIVE AND ONLINE AUCTION

Saturday, June 24, 2023

Starting @ 9:00 am (rain or shine)

Online items will start at 10:30 am

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VEHICLES, UTV'S & BOAT

1999 Ford F250 Super Duty 7.3 POWERSTROKE DIESEL, 4 Wheel Drive, 5 Speed Man. Trans, 315/75 R16 On Aluminum Rims, 238390 miles, Hypermax Turbo, Fass Fuel System, Adrenaline High Pressure Oil Pump, Newer Paint, All Paperwork and Service notes included. 2003 Ford F150 Pickup, Heritage Edition, 350K miles, Sport 4x4, Ext. Cab, Power Win and Locks Mirrors, 4.6 L. Triton, Hard top on Bed, 1993 Ford F350 Dual Wheel w/10' Dump Bed, 5.8L V-8, Manual 5 speed Trans., some elec. Issue. 1982 Chevy C700 Grain Truck, w/Knapheide box, Mazda Miata Convertible 154568 miles, Soft top, Manual transmission, 2021 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 NorthStar Crew Edition UTV, Full Cab, 1180 miles, Heat/Air, Front/Rear Cameras, Power Front window, Power Front Winch, Power lift Bed, Power Steering, Loaded, 2014 Polaris Ranger XP 900 UTV, EFI, 6802 miles, Front and Rear Glass, Turn Signals, Power Steering, Maxxis Bighorn Tires, Rear Reece Hitch, 2018 Polaris Sportsman XP 1000 4-Wheeler, On Demand AWD, Electronic Power Steering, 2103 miles, Front and Rear Racks, Under Rack Storage, 2016 StarCraft 176, 17' Fish & Ski Boat, Yamaha Precision Blend 70 & Yamaha 9.9 hp. Four Stroke, Hummingbird Fish finder on StarCraft Trailer

COMBINE AND FARM EQUIP

JD 9500 Combine sn.HO9500X667636, 3576 sep./5077 eng. hrs, Firestone 24.5x32F/14.9x24R, Chopper, Vittetoe spreader, used last year, JD 920 Grain Platform Hyd. reel speed and height w/ poly skid, sprocket hook up, JD 643 Corn Head 6 row used last year, sprocket hook up, AG Chem Big A 2600 Floater, Turbo, 1600 gal. S.S. Tank, 60' Boom, Trimble EZ Guide 250 System; JD 7000 Front Fold Planter, 12 row, Finger units and Kinze bean plates, JD monitor, Row cleaners, Box extensions, Updated firming wheels, Yetter markers, JD 960 Field Cultivator 26' Hyd. fold, Walking tandems on mainframe, Single-Point depth, 5 bar flex harrow, JD 512 Disk Ripper 5 shank, 12' 6", walking Tandems, EZ Depth Control, front and rear disks, 5 bar harrow, JD 2700 Vari-Width 5 Bottom Plow steerable tail wheel, JD 400 Rotary Hoe 30' end transport W/rock guard, JD RM 1230 Row Crop Cultivator Hyd. flat fold, Rolling shields, Krause 21' Hyd. Fold Disc 9" spacing, rear hitch and hyd. needs a couple bearings and blades, (2) DMI Big Little Model 400 Gravity Wagons side dump w/chutes, Hardi 500 Gal. Sprayer, triple nozzles, Poly Ind. Tank, Foamer, 20" spacing, PTO pump, Hyd. Height adjust, J&M Gravity Wagon, Side dump, Large tires, M&W 936 Gravity Wagon, Large float tires, Land Pride 1272 72" Rotary Mower w/ laminate tire, Land Pride R1584 Rear Blade Multi position 84", Land Pride BB1272 Box Scraper, 72", weights and spiked teeth, Mayrath 10' x 30' truck auger, 540 pto. Mayrath swing away auger w/hyd lift, 540 pto. IH 3 Bottom Plow Missing Coulter, Hyd lift, 2015 Liberty 2 Axle Trailer, GVWR 7000lbs., Quick Tach pallet Forks

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LOCAL AND AREA

A different kind of basketball camp occurring in Mendota

■ Inaugural Kamp Kromm set June 19-22

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA – There is only one state trophy in the Mendota High School trophy case accredited to a basketball team.

The 1998-99 girls' squad finished 26-7 and took fourth in the IHSA State Tournament.

Jamie Kromm remembers every minute she played in the historical season and in her career, coach Randy Weibel (her first three seasons) and coach Mike Kilmartin's mentorship, her teammates, and how every aspect of basketball gelled together to form a deep passion.

Now, 25-years later, Kromm wants to give back to the community that made her a basketball player, coach, fan for life with Kamp Kromm.

"I grew up playing basketball in Mendota. Thanks to coach Weibel (1986-90 and 1991-98) who started the girls league one summer. As a player in high school, we were expected to come and coach. It was my favorite part. When I went to Illinois Valley Community College and played there, I also coached at Dimmick.

"I'm back in my hometown. I see that we don't have what we used to have. I really want to see our programs flourish. I would love to help jump start it and be a part of it."

The inaugural Kamp Kromm is going to be for girls in grades 4-9 on June 19-22 at Holy Cross in Mendota.

The 4-6 grade participants will have camp from 8-10 a.m. while the 7-9 grade campers will be on the court 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For all girls' basketball players who want to join the camp,

the cost is \$160.

Not only will the girls get court time, but they'll experience a different type of summer basketball camp.

"It's going to be a lot different than most basketball camps; even the camps that I grew up going to because I incorporate a social emotional piece," Kromm said. "It's bringing awareness to the kids' thoughts and actions, and their feelings and emotions. It's learning how to regulate their nervous system, which is huge in a basketball game. This includes the highs and lows in a basketball game and the momentum of a game. If only I had something like this when I was younger to help me get through the ups and downs.

"The downs were the hardest and I think we see it more in kids these days as they try to handle anger, losing, and sportsmanship."

Kromm is passionate about teaching and coaching, and added she wants Kamp Kromm to give kids the tools they need so they can be responsible for their actions, thoughts, and behaviors on the court and in their lives.

She wants them to learn accountability so they can realize their own mistakes and parts of the game they need to improve instead of blaming a coach, referee, teammates, or parents.

Also, the mind and body have to be in agreement.

"This is a whole different aspect of basketball that I think is a missing piece. I can only say that in the younger grades," Kromm said. "I'm almost certain the NBA and colleges have coaches that help with mindset. But what I do isn't just mindset, it's also



Jamie Kromm attempts to block a shot from a game during her playing days at Mendota High School.

embodiment, which is their body having to believe what they want it to do.

"A player can say all of the affirmations, which are great, but your body needs to be in alignment with it. If it doesn't feel it, then it's not whole, and the body doesn't believe. A player can say, 'I'm great. I'm good. I got this.' But, is it actually true? Does your body feel that way?"

"It starts with the kids, but it also trickles down from coaches and parents and how emotionally mature are they. That will also reflect on

the coach's team and on the parent's kids."

Kromm remembers feelings and thoughts not being of importance when she was playing.

However, in 2023, the basketball lifer has seen changes in the game, the players, and society.

Now, the mental game is extremely important and how the players on the court handle certain situations can be the difference between a win, loss, championship, or regional quarterfinal season-ending defeat.

"It's going to be a lot different than most basketball camps; even the camps that I grew up going to because I incorporate a social emotional piece. It's bringing awareness to the kids' thoughts and actions, and their feelings and emotions."

—Jamie Kromm

"I want to open up team huddles to what we're doing right, not just what players are doing wrong," Kromm said. "I also want to address approaching negatives in a positive, welcoming way so they know it's safe to make mistakes. That's the only way we learn and grow. Kids need to be able to do that."

Kromm taught in the public school system for 13 years and is currently a Mendota elementary permanent substitute teacher.

But, she won't be next year, as she will focus on coaching and future camps.

The absence of basketball and coaching built enough to form the idea of Kamp Kromm. The idea was posted on Facebook and told to a few people, and the wheels for the camp to happen kept rolling.

"I miss playing and I miss coaching. The camp started as something I wanted to do for me. I want to coach and play, so why not start a camp and coach and play basketball with them," said Kromm, who also attended University of Illinois-Springfield. "I think it's really important for them that I talk the talk and walk the walk. That's big for me.

"I can tell them how to do all the plays, but I want to be able to show them that I'm doing it too and I'm in

it with them."

Kamp Kromm is setting the maximum number of campers to 15 girls per session.

This is to make the camp feel like they're part of a team, feature more one-on-one personal training with Kromm, and form a sisterhood of hoopers.

Although the first version of Kamp Kromm is for girls only, a boys' camp is in the works for the future. Kromm said she wants to help everyone improve, grow as people and basketball players.

"From experience of playing basketball with guys and coaching males, I think they could use emotional support," Kromm said. "There is a lot of arguing. There is a lot of thinking about the last play instead of moving on to the next play. Sometimes we get caught up in the emotions and don't move on with the game.

"Men and boys need an opportunity to actually be allowed to feel the anger, disappointment, and sadness. I don't feel like we allow that with boys as much as we do with girls."

To find out more about Kamp Kromm or to register a participant, Kromm can be found on Instagram under Jamie Kromm and Facebook under Jamie L. Kromm.

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DOWNTOWN EARLVILLE @ DODGE PARK - PLEASE JOIN US AND CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND W/THE FAMILY!!!

LIONS PORK CHOP DINNER - SAT 17TH - 4PM until 8PM - \$15 includes 2 nice-sized pork chops, potato salad & baked beans - lemonade & water avail at the event - "to go" drive up also available - also: "R's ALL IN BAR & GRILL" - serving up burgers, brats & hot dogs on both SAT & SUN

BEER GARDEN ON BOTH DAYS SAT & SUN - large-sized beer garden serving beers, seltzers, water & sodas available for purchase - bring your chairs to the event. Sorry, no outside beverages or coolers will be allowed into the park - wristbands needed for entry into beer garden area (21 and over only)

- SATURDAY - ALL DAY & NIGHT 12 NOON until 11:30PM
- SUNDAY 2PM until 6PM

2 BANDS ON SATURDAY STARTING @ 5PM until 11:30PM

- 5PM - JOHN KOLAT
- 7:30PM until 11:30PM - FREE BEER & CHICKEN BAND

1 BAND ON SUNDAY:

- 2PM until 6PM - SNAPSHOT

LITTLE MR. EARLVILLE + LITTLE MS. EARLVILLE - SAT @ 1PM

MISS EARLVILLE - SAT @ 3PM

KIDS GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS - ALL DAY SATURDAY 12 NOON until 6PM

KIDS & ADULTS - BAGS GAMES + TOURNAMENT (CORNHOLE) + "WALKING DESSERTS" - SAT 12 NOON until 6PM - served by EHS Class of 2029 - proceeds go toward their Senior Trip & Prom

EARLVILLE PARADE - SUNDAY 18th - 12 NOON until 2PM - to register your groups, clubs, classic cars, marching bands, teams, floats, companies or elected officials, etc., please email Pat Sweeney at pasweeney1975@gmail.com

****50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE ALL DAY SAT & SUN - DRAWING FOR WINNER ON SUN @ 5PM****

****QUEEN OF HEARTS** - and don't forget to get your Queen of Hearts tickets over @ THE LOUNGE BAR in downtown Earlville - weekly drawings held every SAT night @ 8PM**

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LOCAL AND AREA



IVCC Dean of Workforce Development Shane Lange, left, former Executive Director of Community Relations and Development Fran Brolley and President Jerry Corcoran with Hickory Wind’s Dan Churney and Steve Wolfram. Hickory Wind created an IVCC Foundation scholarship for students in electricity, renewable energy and wind. (Photo contributed)

Wind farm company commits to scholarships for IVCC students

OGLESBY – UKA North America’s Hickory Wind, a proposed 80-megawatt wind project in southwestern La Salle County, has committed to establishing a scholarship for Illinois Valley Community College students in electricity, renewable energy and wind studies when the project commences operations.

According to an agreement, when completed, Hickory Wind, which is now in its permitting phase, would award two \$5,000 scholarships annually to cover tuition, fees, books and related expenses.

Recipients would need to be enrolled in IVCC’s Industrial Electrician AAS or certificate or the basic or advanced Renewable Energy Technician certificate. The award would be directed toward La Salle County residents but consideration would be given to residents of Bureau and Putnam counties.

“Hickory Wind is delighted to partner with IVCC in helping educate local students in electricity, renewable energy and wind technology,” said Denis Onwualu, Senior Project Manager at Hickory Wind. “Our hope is that this announcement marks the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship between the college, local residents and Hickory Wind.”

IVCC Executive Director of Community Relations and Development Fran Brolley said, “We are pleased to partner with Hickory Wind to support future electricians and wind technicians.”

Hickory Wind LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the UKA Group, a leading international wind and solar energy developer across the U.S., Germany and Europe. Founded in 1999, UKA has more than 60 wind and solar power plants connected to the grid, and an international project pipeline of four gigawatts.

Construction on Hickory Wind is expected to begin as soon as next year if required county and local approvals are received. Scholarships will begin when Hickory Wind starts commercial operations.

“UKA employs more than 700 people worldwide and has been building renewable energy projects for decades. These projects provide construction jobs, operations jobs, local economic development and new revenue streams for schools, highway districts, the county and other taxing jurisdictions,” said Dan Churney, UKA’s local representative in Peru.

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IVCC held its commencement ceremony on May 13 in which students earned 520 degrees and certificates.

Area students graduate from IVCC

OGLESBY – A total of 395 spring graduates earned 520 degrees and certificates at Illinois Valley Community College. Watch the 57th annual commencement ceremony video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZ-hFiH6rmo> on the IVC-CEagles YouTube channel.

Among the graduates are:

Compton: Mark Fleming, Truck Driver Training (TDT) Advanced Proficiency;

Earlville: Elisabeth Farrell, Associate of Arts (AA); Lindsay Gunier, AAS in Nursing; Morgan Myre, AAS in Dental Assisting;

La Moille: Austin Fischer, TDT; Maddison Gentry, AS; Melanie Harden, AAS in Nursing; Mary Pinter, AAS in Nursing; Abriana Powers, CNA; Tori Sadnick, Associate in General Studies (AGS);

Leland: Erick Cole, TDT;

Mendota: Hector Arredondo, AAS in Criminal Justice; Daisy Arteaga, AA; Vanessa Bailey, CNA; Brittany Carr, AAS in Nursing; Lillian Gehant, CNA; Gabriel Guzman, AS; Megan Henry, AGS; Janeth Hermosillo, AS; Phalen Hessenberger, AA; Wyatt Hindle, AS; Paige Holmes, AAS in Nursing; Yulissa Juarez, AA; Lauryn Kelly,

AAS in Nursing; Samantha McLain, CNA; Izabella Nanez, AA; Natalie Orozco, AA; Lizbeth Quintana, AA; Gerardo Sarabia, AAS in Engineering Technology and Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW); Joshua Schmidt, AS; Justina Schwartz, Basic Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) and Basic Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW); Erica Stuart, CNA; Courtney Tucker, AAS in Nursing;

Ohio: Donald Reuter, TDT; Rachel Rieker, AA and AS;

Troy Grove: Jacob George, TDT;

West Brooklyn: Jacob Swope, AS; and Kevin Swope, TDT.

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THE BACK PAGE

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

GARAGE SALE
First United Methodist Church of Mendota at the corner of First Ave. & Sixth St. Friday, June 16 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fill a bag for \$1.
2t23msr

CHERRY LIBRARY HOLIDAY AND BOOK SALE
June 16 & 17 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
1t24msr

ENORMOUS 10-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
2004 Diana Drive, Mendota June 15 & 16 8 a.m.
Household items, toys, clothing, electronics.
1t24msr

GARAGE SALE
104 E. Burnett, LaMoille Friday, June 16 & Saturday, June 17
Antiques, furniture, treadmill (like new), beauty salon equipment, garden equipment.
1t24msr



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.

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST
Ericka A. Flores, 22, of 202 Cherry St., Apt. B4, Mendota, was arrested at 10:38 p.m. June 8 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear/traffic offense. The subject was unable to post bond and was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

THEFT
Kimberly A. Youssi, 39, of 1007 Sixth St., Mendota, was charged with theft after police officers were called to the Quality Inn for the report of a theft at 8:10 p.m. June 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Mendota City Ordinance

Animals-Pet Waste
• The purpose of this section is to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in the City of Mendota so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.
• Requirement for disposal. All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person.
• Exemptions. Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being used for that purpose.
• Violations and penalties. Any person(s) who is found to have violated the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and no more than \$75.

Rep. Fritts sets tour schedule of district

DIXON — State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) announced his upcoming 2023 Summer Tour of District 74.
“I am thrilled to announce that this summer I will be making my way into almost every town, village, and city in District 74,” said Rep. Fritts. “As an elected official, it is my responsibility to not only make myself available to my constituents but to understand every corner of the district that I represent.”
The tour consists of traveling office hours and coffee and conversation events held on alternating weeks from June 7 to Aug. 30. Coffee and conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants. Rep. Fritts will also be traveling to local businesses and municipal governments to better understand their state needs.
Rep. Fritts continued, “I

look forward to meeting with as many of my constituents as possible this summer, all while spending time at local establishments in an effort to better learn the needs and struggles of the district.”
Traveling office hours:
• Paw Paw — Wednesday, June 21, 10-11:30 a.m. Paw Paw Village Hall, 362 Chicago Road
• Mendota — Wednesday, July 12, 10-11:30 a.m. Mendota City Hall, 800 Washington St.
• Earlville — Wednesday, Aug. 23, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Earlville City Hall, 210 W. Railroad St.
Coffee & Conversations:
• Mendota — Wednesday, July 5, 8-10 a.m. Ziggy's Family Restaurant
• Amboy — Wednesday, Aug. 30, 8-10 a.m. Amboy Family Restaurant
For the full Summer Tour schedule, visit repfritts.com/summertour.

DINING & entertainment guide

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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.

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.

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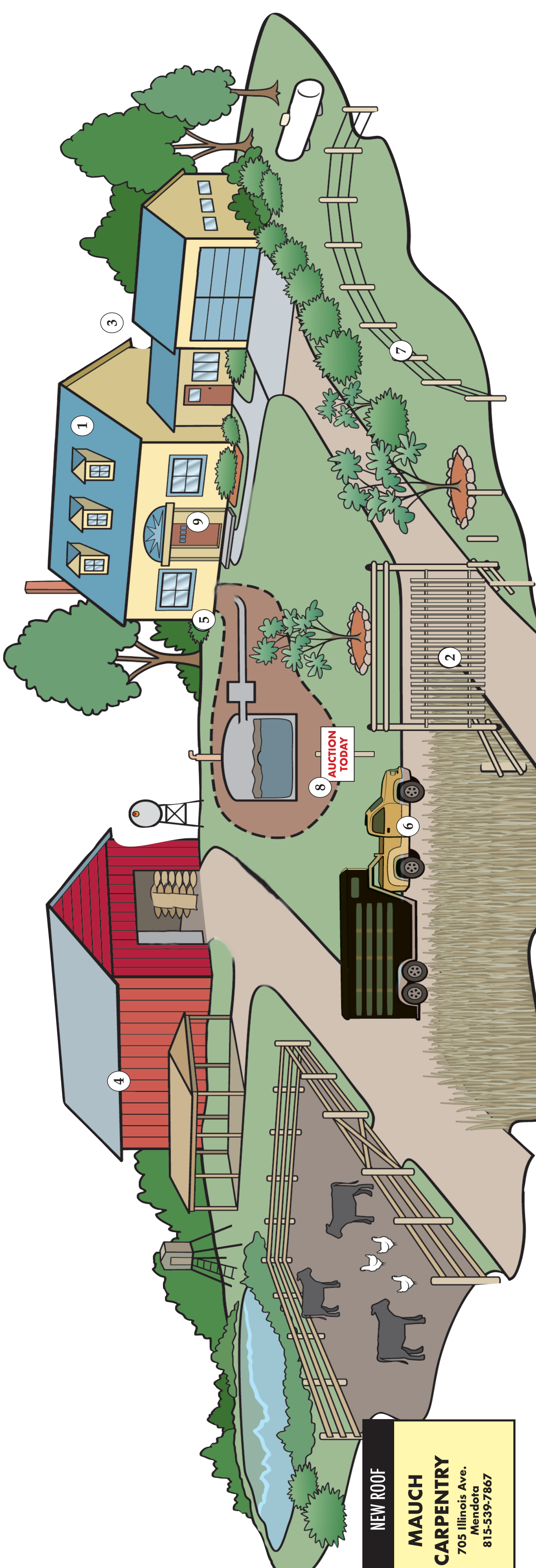
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Cancer Awareness



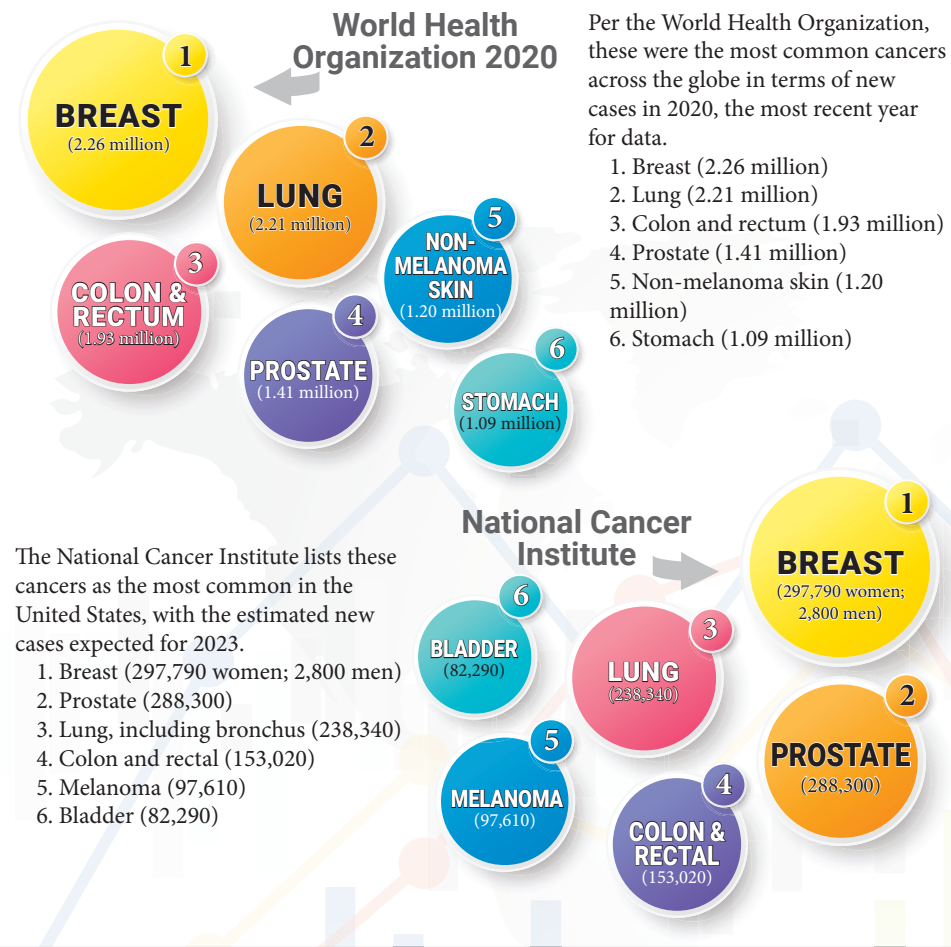
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THE MOST COMMON CANCERS

More than 200 different types of cancer have been identified. However, the vast majority of cancer cases across the globe are attributed to a handful of types. Cancer is a leading cause of death around the world and a major contributor to health disabilities. Recognition of the most

common cancers may raise awareness of which cancers pose the biggest threat and how to reduce risk for these diseases. The following are the most common global cancers as well as the rankings for the most frequently diagnosed forms of the disease in the United States.



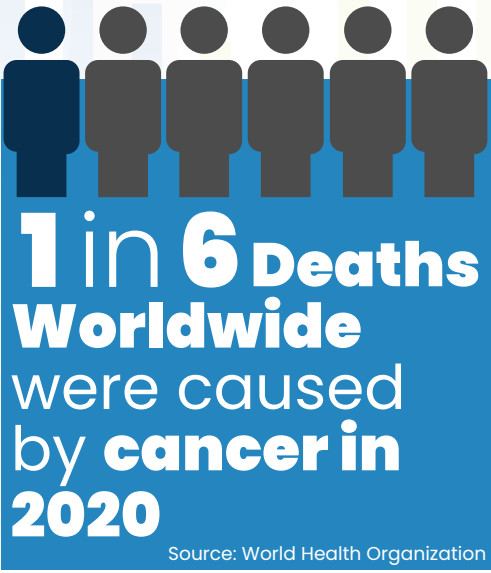
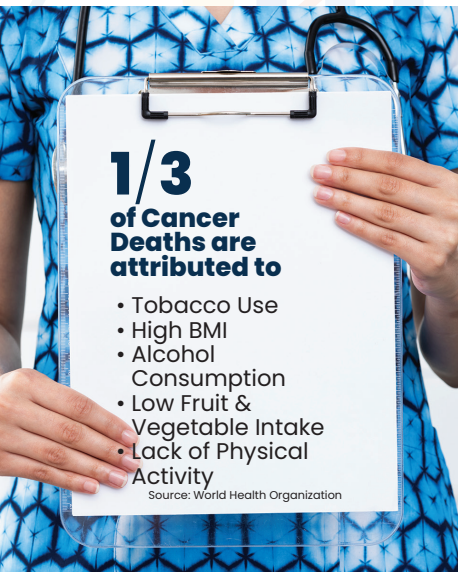
15 FACTS about CANCER

Cancer is a word no one wants to hear. However, cancer affects millions of people across the globe, and no one is immune to it.

The impact of cancer can be staggering to behold. The following cancer facts, courtesy of the American Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute, World Health Organization, and the Mayo Clinic, highlight the far-reaching nature of this potentially deadly disease.

1. Cancer is the leading cause of death worldwide. In 2020, it accounted for more than 10 million fatalities.
2. Cancer can start in almost any part of the human body, which is comprised of trillions of cells.
3. Tumors are formed when abnormal or damaged cells grow and multiply when they shouldn't. Many cancers cause solid tumors, but blood cancers do not.
4. Cancer cells can grow in the absence of bodily signals telling them to grow. They also ignore signals to stop dividing or to die off. Cancer cells can tell blood vessels to grow toward tumors helping to supply tumors with oxygen and nutrients.
5. Signs and symptoms of cancer will vary depending on which part of the body is affected. However, lumps (tumors), fatigue, weight changes, skin changes, and changes to bowel or bladder habits are symptoms often associated with cancer.
6. The word "cancer" comes from the Greek word for "crab." It likely stems from the finger-like spreading protrusions of cancer being likened to the shape of a crab.
7. Tobacco usage is one of the leading causes of lung cancer and many other forms of the disease. Tobacco can be linked to the death of at least 50 million people in the last 10 years.
8. Gene mutations that result in cancer can be present from birth or occur after birth from lifestyle behaviors or exposure to carcinogens.
9. Certain lifestyle choices increase the risk for developing cancer. These include smoking, drinking alcohol, excessive exposure to the sun, being obese, and having unsafe sex.
10. In 2020, the most common cancers worldwide included breast, lung, colorectal, prostate, and non-melanoma skin cancers.
11. Lung cancer accounted for the most cancer deaths in 2020.
12. Cancer that has spread from the place where it first began to another place in the body is called metastatic cancer. The cancer is always called by the initial cancer, not where it has spread. So breast cancer that spreads to a lung is known as metastatic breast cancer.
13. Carcinomas are the most common types of cancer. They form in the epithelial cells that cover the inside and outside surfaces of the body.
14. Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, at least 42 percent of newly diagnosed cancers in the United States are potentially avoidable, particularly those caused by smoking, obesity and alcohol consumption.
15. While anyone can get cancer, 88 percent of Americans diagnosed with cancer are age 50 or older.

Cancer is prolific. Learning more about the disease may encourage people to take more active measures in improving their health.



3 Ways to Lower Cancer Risk

Screening Tests

Regular screenings can lead to early detection of many common cancer types, when treatment is likely to work best.

Vaccines

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine helps prevent most cervical cancers and several other types of cancer. The hepatitis B vaccine can help lower liver cancer risk.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices

Maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding tobacco, limiting alcohol intake and protecting skin can all help lower cancer risk.

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: What is next for the great Jeremy Strong now that “Succession” is over? -- *C.L.*

A: Before landing his Emmy-winning role of Kendall Strong on the recently concluded HBO series “Succession,” actor Jeremy Strong had several film credits under his belt. It wouldn’t be surprising if he was aiming for an Oscar next. But before that, he’s headed to Broadway, so perhaps a Tony will be awarded first. In an adaption of Henrik Ibsen’s 1882 play “An Enemy of the People,” he’ll play a whistleblower.

Strong, who grew up admiring the work of Al Pacino and Dustin Hoffman, is no stranger to the stage. He’s studied at Yale and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. In 2008, he appeared on Broadway alongside Frank Langella in “A Man for All Seasons.” Look for “An Enemy of the People” to open in early 2024.

Q: Is “The Winchesters” returning for a second sea-

son? I heard a rumor it was canceled, but that the network changed its mind. -- *L.E.*

A: Surprisingly, “The Winchesters,” a prequel series to the wildly successful series “Supernatural,” didn’t wow audiences like its predecessor. The CW network canceled it and other promising shows because of a retooling of its business plan; shows like “Kung Fu,” a reboot of the 1970s series of the same name, and “Walker Independence” have also been given the axe. Meanwhile, “Walker,” which stars Jared Padalecki, who previously co-headlined the above-mentioned “Supernatural,” will be back on the CW for its fourth season.

According to an article in The Hollywood Reporter, ever since CW was bought by Nexstar, it’s earned the unflattering nicknames “Cast-offs Wanted” and “Curated Wreckage.” Most of its content will soon consist of shows that originally aired in other countries, such as the Canadian series “The Spencer Sisters,” with Lea Thompson (“Caroline in the City”), and “Sullivan’s Crossing,” with Chad Michael Murray (“One Tree Hill”). Other programming

this fall includes unscripted shows that previously streamed elsewhere, like Netflix’s “Down to Earth With Zac Efron.”

Perhaps “The Winchesters” will be saved by another network or streamer once the WGA Writers Strike is resolved, but for now, consider the show a one-and-done. ***

Q: Whatever happened to “The Partridge Family” actor Danny Bonaduce? He was everywhere in the early 2000s, but I haven’t heard anything about him lately. -- *K.E.*

A: The 63-year-old former child star has been busy co-hosting a morning radio show in Seattle for the past 11 years. However, he recently had to take a leave of absence to undergo brain surgery. According to Entertainment Weekly, Bonaduce has had a mysterious neurological issue for more than a year, saying a doctor finally diagnosed him with hydrocephalus, which is when fluid builds up in the brain. Bonaduce admits he’s done “so many stupid things on reality TV,” including celebrity boxing, that could have contributed to his brain injury; however, he can’t pinpoint the exact cause.

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Amazon founder Jeff Bezos originally wanted to name the company Cadabra, but thought better of it after people kept mishearing the moniker as “cadaver.”

* The unenviable record for longest sneezing fit belongs to U.K. resident Donna Griffiths, who began “ker-chooing” Jan. 13, 1981 and by July 26 broke the previous record of 194 days. Griffiths sneezed an estimated million times in the first 365 days and finally stopped on Sept. 16, 1983, after 977 days.

The exact reason behind her ordeal is still not fully clear.

* Scientists believe Earth’s core, made up primarily of iron and nickel, may be even hotter than the surface of the sun, with temperatures reaching up to 9,932 degrees F.

* Smoking a cigarette causes damage not in years, but minutes.

* Speaking of smoking, a Japanese company awards employees who don’t indulge in the habit an extra six days of paid leave per year. The incentive was launched after it became clear that workers who took smoke breaks had more than 15 minutes of extra time away from their desks each day.

* Platypuses may be cute, but are also so odd-looking that when scientists first discovered them, they thought the animal was a hoax.

* People are 30 times more likely to laugh at something if they’re with someone else.

* In the early 20th century, radium was commonly mixed with water, sold as an over-the-counter “energy” drink under the brand name Radithor, and marketed with the slogan “A Cure for the Living Dead,” until the federal government stopped its production in 1932.

* Ancient Roman soldiers sometimes wore breastplates encrusted with diamonds in the belief that the gems offered them extra protection.

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King's Crossword
Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers

1. TIT 2. K 3. R 4. Y 5. D 6. O 7. E 8. G 9. L 10. E
11. U 12. N 13. O 14. K 15. E 16. S 17. U 18. A 19. V 20. O
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LOCAL AND AREA

Keeping the peace in your relationships

God created you to be a unique individual. You've probably noticed that every person is not the same; we all have different personalities with various likes and dislikes. And while we are often drawn to people who are different than we are, it's these differences that can lead to strife in our relationships.

Sometimes we try to convince our spouses, coworkers and kids to be more like us, but that's not what the Bible teaches us to do. We're all created for freedom and liberty, and if we want to win with people, we need to give them a right to be who they are.

I can't tell you how many years I tried to

get my husband, Dave, to stop watching sports. But it seemed the more I tried, the worse it got. One Saturday afternoon, I walked into the family room to find him shining his golf clubs while he watched one game on TV and listened to another game using his headphones. I thought, Joyce, your plan is just not working!

The truth is I wanted Dave to do what I wanted to do—I wanted him to be more like me. But trying to change him wasn't accomplishing anything, and it left me frustrated and upset.

I love what Romans 12:16 (AMPC) says: "Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish,

high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things]...."

If we truly want to live in peace and harmony in our relationships, it's going to require some give and take. At times, we'll have to adjust our lives to accommodate someone else's needs or desires.

Sometimes this simply means being patient and understanding with those who don't share your own strengths. For instance, have you ever noticed yourself getting irritated with someone who takes more time to make decisions than you do? Or maybe they don't catch on to things as quickly as you would like.

If we allow ourselves to get into prideful thinking, we can hurt people by acting out of our own self-importance and selfish interests. The Lord doesn't want us to have a lowly opinion of ourselves, but He certainly doesn't want us to think we're better than anyone else.

First Corinthians chapter 12 provides the perfect illustration. It says we are all part of one body, each with our own distinct and important role to play. Verse 25 (AMPC) tells us "there should be no division or discord...but the members all alike



should have a mutual interest in and care for one another."

The truth is we all need each other, and when we learn to recognize and celebrate each other's gifts, it develops a respect that can heal our relationships.

For Best Results, Try This...

When I'm having a hard time agreeing with others, there are a few things I try to do to maintain the right attitude.

- When you need to confront someone about a problem or discuss a negative issue, choose your timing wisely. Pray about what to say and ask God to lead you in each conversation.

- Be respectful, even if the other person doesn't agree with your opinion.

- Listen with an open mind. Be willing to pray about what they say.

- Keep looking for things to agree about, instead of focusing on your differences.

- Use positive body language and voice tones, and choose every word with care.

There will be times

when you won't find a thing to agree on, and in those circumstances, the best thing you can do is trust God, let it go, and become an expert at forgiveness. Yes, some things are very important and you need to stand your ground, but there are so many things in life that really don't make a difference.

I don't agree with Dave about all his opinions or 100 percent of everything he does, but I do agree with Dave. He's a good man, and I love him and agree with his character and principles. Over the years, we've learned how to "disagree agreeably."

You won't always agree with your spouse, family or friends, but you can still respect and appreciate them. As you do your part to "keep the peace," God will not only honor your commitment, but He will also bless your life in greater ways than you can imagine.

I encourage you to trust God with your relationships. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the things you have in common with others.

With God's help, we can begin to set aside our differences and love people for who they are.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource Recognizing and Dealing with Strife. 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.

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Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,
and Hector Diaz, Deacons
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Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Worship

In-person & on Facebook at:
Mendota First United
Methodist Church

June 16 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. One-day garage
sale in Memorial building

June 18 - Father's Day. 9 a.m. Coffee
fellowship in Welker Hall; 9:30 a.m.
Worship

ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.
.....

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School for Preschool - 6th grade
in fellowship hall during worship service
(Parking lot worship available on 90.9 FM
during Sunday services)

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.
FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;
If I can push one needless cloud away
And help men live as children
of the King:
If I can lend someone a helping hand
Or warm a place where friendship
needs to be;
If I can build a bridge where
fences stand
And light a lamp that other men
might see;
If I can open doors of hope this day
By letting someone know that
others care;
If I can speak in words that seem
to say:
I know the heavy burdens that
you bear.
If I can guide a pilgrim on his way
Or pause to bid him stay for food
and rest;
If I can do these, Father, this I pray:
"O let me do them with my very best."

UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

Route 251 North
(815) 539-6861
.....

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com
www.mendotaupc.org

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Worship

WEDNESDAY

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Rt. 251 at Lake Mendota
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Phone (815) 539-7107 (church)
(815) 871-5702 (pastor)
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Larry Sheaves, Pastor

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Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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Worship
Evening Service

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CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.
(815) 539-5626
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Vicar Anthony Windau

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:

9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person
and online via YouTube

Find us on Facebook

NOTE: Please contact your individual church regarding online services or for other church-related information.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

GALATIANS 3:27,28

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603
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Website: fpcmendota.com
Accessible

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

June 15 - 6:30 p.m. Webelos
June 18 - Father's Day. 10 a.m. Worship

Facebook page
www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Wednesday Evening Gathering:

Live Zoom at 7 p.m.
https://us02web.zoom.
us/j/86402369150
To call in for audio only, dial
(312) 626-6799 - use meeting
ID: 864 0236 9150

No passwords required; links &
phone numbers stay the same.

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"He is the Head of the Body, the
Church . . . That in everything He
might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell
Wayne Shuman

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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Church Builders 12:30 p.m.
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Men's Ministry
Ladies & Mens Bible Study
Thursday 6 p.m.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel
(Sunday School begins Dec. 4, 9:30)
10:30 a.m. Worship at First

June 15 - 5:15 p.m. Church
Council meeting

Online "devotional service" videos continue
every Sunday at
facebook.com/ilccompton and
YouTube. Check our website and Facebook
page for more information.



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Pastor Ian Griffith
(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
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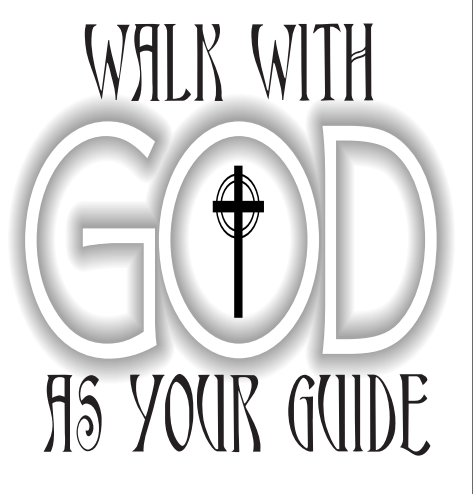
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SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of James (KJV) in the
Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From 2 Samuel 18:18, who
erected a memorial to himself
because he did not have a son?
Onesimus, Absalom, Spartacus,
Isaiah
3. Where is Satan called "the spirit
that now worketh in the children
of disobedience"? Galatians 1,
Ephesians 2, Colossians 3, Titus 4
4. What widowed prophetess was
84 years old on seeing the young
Jesus in the temple? Anna, Jezebel,
Hagar, Abigail
5. Which book foretold of the
Messiah being born in Bethlehem?
Ezra, 1 Kings, Amos, Micah
6. From Genesis 35:22, how many
sons did Jacob have? 1, 3, 6, 12
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Absalom, 3)
Ephesians 2:2, 4) Anna, 5) Micah
5:2, 6) 12

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101

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2023-JD-54

TO: Anthony Murrell, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 6th day of June, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Arionna D. Murrell, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 18th day of July, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

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

Greg Vaccaro, Clerk

Dated June 5, 2023

No. 0603

(June 14, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

No: 2023-JD-56

TO: Giovannie Kiamco, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:

Take notice that on the 8th day of June, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Rianne S. Tago, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 18th day of July, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the Custody and guardianship of the minor.

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

Greg Vaccaro, Clerk

Dated June 8, 2023

No. 0604

(June 14, 2023)

MENDOTA-TROY GROVE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2023

Cash Balance....

April 30, 2022

Money Market Account, First State Bank Mendota.....\$87,449.19

Checking Account,

First State Bank, Mendota.....2,351.79

Cash Receipts..... Schedule I.....319,669.03

.....\$409,470.01

Cash Disbursements...Schedule II....\$181,773.50

April 30, 2023

Money Market Account,

First State Bank Mendota.....219,218.22

Checking Account,

First State Bank Mendota.....8,478.29

.....\$409,470.01

Schedule I

Statement of Cash Receipts for the

Year Ending April 30, 2023

Amount Received From County Collector,

LaSalle County

Tax assessed by District for LaSalle County:

Jul. 5, 2022 42068.49

Aug. 5, 2022 67072.58

Sept. 2, 2022 17051.87

Sept. 30, 2022 39026.21

Dec. 21, 2022 4177.07

Dec. 23, 2022 57.06

\$169,453.28

Amount Received from County Collector,

Bureau County

Tax assessed by District for Bureau County:

Aug. 26, 2022 5542.38

Oct. 31, 2022 3369.33

Dec. 9, 2022 75.51

\$8,987.22

Amount Received from the

Treasurer of the State of Illinois

For Illinois Replacement Tax:

May 11, 2022 37118.72

Jul. 13, 2022 15298.23

Aug. 10, 2022 1746.60

Oct. 12, 2022 20605.70

Jan. 9, 2023 6747.94

Feb. 6, 2023 14885.37

Apr. 10, 2023 7373.87

Apr. 10, 2023 11714.93

\$115,491.36

Interest Received from Money Market Account:

First State Bank.....\$2577.11

\$2,577.11

Miscellaneous Income:

Municipal League 5079.19

Out of Dist. Income 18056.67

Verizon Fund 24.20

\$23,160.06

Total Items of Cash Receipts.....\$319,669.03

Schedule II

Statement of Cash Disbursements for the Year

Ending April 30, 2023

Utility Bills, Troy Grove Station:

Ameren \$3732.77

AT&T FirstNet 421.87

Nicor 1842.54

\$5,997.18

Administration Expense:

First State Bank engine 55548.63

Illinois Finance truck pay 7750.00

Jack Huggins (comp. rpt) 85.00

MABAS 343.00

Mendota Reporter 642.17

\$64,368.80

Expenses \$1000 or over:

Dinges Fire 15753.18

Grainco F.S. 4064.33

MES 8619.80

Mendota Fire Dept. 8136.40

NIAB 1783.89

Sandry Fire 1249.25

SCBAS 3623.67

Visa 5068.88

\$48,299.40

Compensations Paid:

Attorney for Dist. 1500.00

Secretary 3000.00

Mendota clothing 3500.00

Trustees 1800.00

Troy Grove allow.. 21995.00

Troy Grove Chief 800.00

City of Mendota Fire Protection 4100.00

City of Mendota Ambulance Serv 5500.00

Mendota Chief 800.00

Troy Grove Captain 350.00

Troy Grove Lieutenant 200.00

\$43,545.00

Insurance:

Leffelman \$1072.00

Liberty Mutual 1516.00

McNeil 9315.00

\$11,903.00

All other disbursements less than \$1000 each.....

.....\$7,660.12

Total Items of Disbursements.....\$181,773.50

APPROVED

Trustees Mendota Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection

State of Illinois

)

)ss

County of LaSalle

)

I, Barry Sutton, Secretary of the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District in the Counties of LaSalle and Bureau, State of Illinois, Do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year Ending April 30, 2023.

No. 0602

(June 14, 2023)

101

LEGAL NOTICE

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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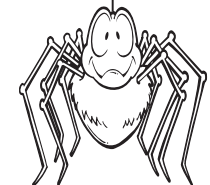
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2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew, LT 4x4, 85K Miles, White.....\$31,900	2016 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LT, Leather, 126K Miles, White.....\$25,900
2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LT, 99K Miles, Silver.....\$28,900	2015 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, 271, 122K Miles, Gray.....\$24,900
2018 Chevy Traverse, AWD, High Country, 99K Miles, White.....\$27,900	2014 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LT Z71, 4x4, 62K Miles, Red.....\$25,900

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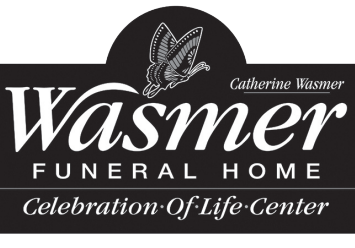
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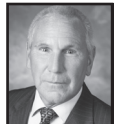
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As soon as you enter this property, you'll feel the warm and welcoming vibe. This one and half story home has so much potential. Features 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and laundry room on the main floor, all appliances, enclosed front porch, and living area. The kitchen is spacious. The home's location is also ideal, as it's close to a variety of amenities, including stores, eateries, and educational. Home is for sale AS IS. Call today for a showing!



302 1st Ave., Mendota

Diamond in the rough! Roll up your sleeves and create your home! Great floor plan, attached garage, large backyard, large deck-needs some work, kitchen with lots of room for a table! Main floor laundry too. Cash or conventional



510 3rd Ave., Mendota

A RARE FIND!! One story living with a 2 plus car Garage!!! Corner lot. Selling AS-IS. Cash or conventional.

COUNTRY PROPERTIES COMING SOON!!!