



City attorney Mike Guilfoyle gives the oath of office to city officials, left to right, Mark Peasley, Jay Miller, Rob Letterly, John Holland and John Hessenberger at the May 1 council meeting. (Reporter photo)

Council OKs budgets; General Fund in black

List of streets and alleys given for summer maintenance program

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The approval of budgets and the designation of streets to be repaired this summer were among the items handled by the Mendota City Council at its May 1 regular meeting.

A reorganization meeting was held prior to the regular meeting in which elected and appointed city officials were sworn in. Re-elected aldermen that took the oath were John Hessenberger, John Holland, Jay Miller and Mark Peasley. Rob Letterly, who was appointed the new city treasurer, also was sworn in.

During the regular meeting, Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick presented several items for the council's consideration. The council approved the FY24 Water and Sewer budgets as given by Fitzpatrick. The water fund shows expected revenue at \$1,501,500 and expenses at \$1,738,930 for a deficit of \$237,430. The sewer fund revenue is projected at \$1,959,500 and expenses at \$2,320,700 for a negative balance of \$361,200.

In other action from Fitzpatrick's

report, the council approved a motor fuel tax resolution in the amount of \$500,000 for municipal maintenance of streets and alleys. Streets to be resurfaced this year include: 16th Street from Indiana Avenue to Illinois Avenue; 12th Street from Guiles Avenue to Stroble Avenue; Michigan Avenue from Burlington Street to Chicago Street; Jefferson Street from Illinois Avenue to Main Street; Second Avenue from Third Street to Fourth Street; Ninth Avenue from First Street to south end; Fifth Avenue from Cherry Street to Division Street; Third Avenue from Cherry Street to Division Street. Alleys to be done are east of Third Avenue from Eighth Street to Ninth Street and Ninth Street to 10th Street.

Also, the council agreed to a resolution authorizing the city clerk to enter into an electric contract for streetlights and approved a request from Mendota VFW Auxiliary Post 4079 to hold Poppy Days on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at the intersection of Main and Meriden streets.

Alderman John Holland presented

the FY24 General Fund budget, which was adopted by the council. Revenue is anticipated to be \$8,379,000 and expenses are projected at \$8,168,000 for a positive balance of \$211,000.

The council also approved the TIF 17A, TIF 17B and 2022 TIF fund budgets.

In other action from Holland's report, the council approved a recommendation from the Revolving Loan Fund Committee to loan \$45,000 to Andy Krause, Jason Hoehn and Joe Stegbauer for the purchase of Borelli Cycle LLC. The loan is for seven years at an interest rate of 5 percent.

Alderman Kyle Kim gave the Mendota Civic Center budget, which was approved. Revenue is estimated to be \$144,900 and expenses are anticipated at \$180,164 for a deficit of \$35,264.

Chief Greg Kellen reported that the second Dodge Durango has arrived for the police department. The purchase cost was \$41,009 with payment through the state drug fund. Kellen emphasized that the purchase of the two vehicles does in no way affect the city taxpayers.

Medicaid renewals resume for first time since start of COVID-19 pandemic

Thousands may no longer be eligible

By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Medicaid recipients in Illinois should be on the lookout for correspondence from the state regarding their coverage as the normal renewal process resumes for the first time in three years.

Medicaid is a health insurance program for low-income and disabled people that is jointly funded by the federal government and the states. Throughout the pandemic, people who were enrolled in Medicaid did not have to go through the normal process of reapplying every 12 months to determine whether they were eligible, even if there were changes in their income or household that would normally make them ineligible.

That rule has ended due to a change approved by the federal government in its December spending plan. Redetermination letters will be sent to Illinois Medicaid recipients in waves over the next 12 months, with letters going out to the first group this week.

State officials are urging all Medicaid recipients to update their information within the Illinois Medicaid program to ensure their benefits are not wrongly ended due to the state being unable to contact them. Medicaid recipients can do so, and can check their enrollment status, by visiting abe.illinois.gov and clicking "Manage My



Case" to set up an online account.

Recipients can also call 1-800-843-6154 or find more at Medicaid.illinois.gov, which includes answers to frequently asked questions and other resources.

In June, according to the governor's office, approximately 113,600 cases in Illinois are up for renewal. Of those, 51 percent have been automatically renewed as a result of screening by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, which administers Medicaid at the state level. Still, customers with June renewal dates are urged to watch for correspondence from the state to see if they have been renewed automatically or will need to take action by June 1.

Customers who do not respond or who are no longer eligible will lose Medicaid coverage a month after their due date, the administration said in a news release. Those losing eligibility will be notified and will receive information about enrolling in alternative coverage.

DHFS said that Illinois' Medicaid enrollment grew by about 1 million enrollees during the COVID-19 pandemic, to 3.9 million.

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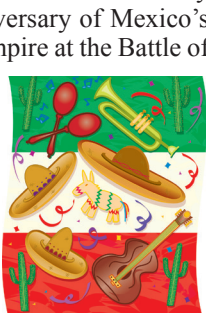
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta set for May 5th in Mendota

MENDOTA – The IL Valley Hispanic Partnership Council (IVHPC) celebrates its annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on Friday, May 5, from 5 to 9 p.m. at 1201 Main St., Mendota.

Cinco de Mayo is a yearly celebration held on May 5, which commemorates the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. The IL Valley Hispanic Partnership Council celebrates Mexican-American culture through authentic Mexican food and traditional folkloric dances, kids' activities, agency information, pageant, mini-queen & king, music, raffles, prizes, and fun.

This is a great opportunity to connect and distribute information to the Hispanic community. Last year, IVHPC had a successful event with over 250 people attending and over 20 agencies, businesses, educational, and political organizations from the Illinois Valley reserving booths. More popular in the United States than Mexico, Cinco de Mayo has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture in the IL Valley.

To reserve a space, participate or donate, please contact Mario Espinoza at 815-830-2547 or by email at mario@ysbiv.org. All proceeds benefit future cultural events and fund scholarship opportunities.



What is a mortgage loan?

Eureka Savings Bank and MHS team up to educate students

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Toward the end of senior year, most students are thinking about the end of their high school career and the beginning of the summer.

Unless you're a Mendota High School student in Aaron Sester's consumer economics class where he is teaching financial education until the last day possible.

And he has some help.

"I call consumer economics adulting 101," said Sester, who has been teaching the economics class since fall 2021. "We're trying to teach the senior class what happens with our taxation unit, what you're responsible for paying, how the process works, insurance, mortgages, car payments, budgeting, and all the financial stuff."

"Anytime you can get real, outside-of-the-school professionals to come in and

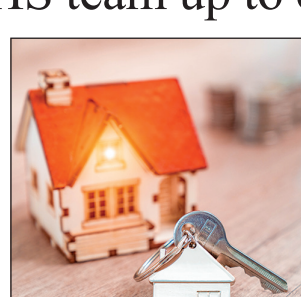
talk about the banking world, the car world, or the insurance world, I like to do that. I really think the students get a lot of perspective having an actual loan officer come in and talk about the nuts and bolts of financing a home."

For the last two years, Eureka Savings Bank Loan Officer Rachel Balestri has presented Sester's students educational information on home mortgages.

This year Balestri came to Sester's classroom just before Spring Break on March 30.

As usual, Sester and his students enjoyed the education Balestri provided.

"It's been interesting over the last couple of years with interest rates and just trying to tell the kids how it matters to your overall payments," Sester said. "A couple of years ago we were at historical lows and now it's kind of creeping back up with



the Fed (Federal Reserve System) raising the interest rates. It's interesting to show them how much interest rates can raise monthly payments.

"I think they take a lot out of it. We typically always have a question-and-answer session at the end and the kids always have some really good questions. I think they're really enjoying it. Most kids nowadays are not ready to buy a home right out of high school, but at least they have an idea about the process and how long it could take. I think a lot of kids are initially surprised

that it is a process and it takes multiple months to agree on a price, loans, and go through closing."

Balestri brings 20 years of banking experience to the classroom as she started banking at 18 years old filing insurance in a loan department. She worked through many positions in the loan department to become a loan officer in Eureka's Peru office.

The funny thing is, the 2002 Leland High School graduate didn't initially want to go into banking and loans.

"I didn't think I was going to get into the banking industry. When I graduated high school I wanted to be an attorney," Balestri said. "When I was attending IVCC, I realized that wasn't the plan that was going to work for me. My sister

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LOCAL AND AREA



Jazz & Show Choir Concert

The Mendota Fine Arts Department presented the Jazz & Show Choir Concert on Saturday April 29 in the Mendota High School Auditorium. The Jazz program featured songs such as the Mudbug Strut, Late Night Diner, Cajun Chili Peppers, and All About That Bass. The Choir program featured Help, Great Balls of Fire, Lean on Me, Holding Out for a Hero, and Walking on Sunshine. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



REACH Award

The following students are the April recipients of the Lincoln School REACH Award. In the first row, left to right, Isabel Reyes, Marshal Brown, Julian Rojas, Miah Gober, and Valerie Espinoza. In the second row, left to right, Draco Figueroa, Nina Escatel, Brody Gilkerson, Maddox Chaon, and Julian Garcia. In the third Row, left to right, Chance Rowe, Jesse Lopez, Jacob Ryan, Emma Renoud, and Antonio Artega. (photo contributed)



Graduation Concert

The Mendota High School Band and Chorus held their Graduation Concert on Sunday, April 30. The concert puts an emphasis on the senior class, their skill, and what they've meant to the MHS Music Department. The seniors performing at the show were Laura Arenz, Elijah Arjes, William Bentley, Clay Buffington, Riley Cocanour, Jordan Coney, Johnathan Cortez, Alexis Finley, Zach Giberson, Daniel Hanson, Albert Harris, Abigail Kunz, Neal Linden, Karli Miars, Alayna Nosalik, Carlos Olivias, Owen Ossman, Mia Raya, Samuel Sondgeroth, Theron Stanford, and Kekai Witty. (Reporter photo by Jamie Stanford)

The 35th Excellence in Education Awards Banquet set for Ottawa May 4

OTTAWA — The 35th annual Excellence in Education Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, May 4 at the Knights of Columbus in Ottawa. The event is presented by the LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Regional Office of Education.

The presentation of awards will be conducted by Christopher B. Dvorak, regional superintendent, and Ryan Myers, assistant regional superintendent.

Among the award recipients are:

Earlville Community Unit #9 — Kirsten Sweeney, Kris Foley, Holly Baker, Educator Awards; Gary Ayala, Support Staff Award; Carol Goodbred, Retiring Educator Award; Cheryl Meyer, Donna Corrigan, Retiring

Support Staff Awards.

Leland Community Unit #1 — Kristen Flewellin, Lisa Featherston, Educator Awards; Matt Miller, Support Staff Award; Jim Spring, Retiring Educator Award; Jim Johnson, Posthumously.

Mendota High School District #280 — David Roden, Gary Barrera, James Younger, Educator Awards; Sheila Weiler, Support Staff Award; Jeff Prusator, Retiring Educator Award; Gary Kettleborough, Retiring Support Staff Award.

Mendota Elementary School District #289 — Beth Novak, Tara Huffaker, Kari Shaw, Paula Daley, Educator Awards; Guy VonHoff, Support Staff Award; Amy Prusator, Retiring Educator Award.

Stage 212 to hold Audition Prep Workshops

LaSALLE — Stage 212 in LaSalle is offering audition preparation workshops for kids in grades K-4 and 5-9 Saturday, May 6 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Participants will learn the process of auditioning for plays and musicals in a low-risk environment. Grades K-4 will be instructed by Kevin Alleman. Grades 5-9 will be instructed by Tori Duttlinger. The cost for the workshops is \$10 per person.

Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Registration and more information are available online at www.stage212.org.

Munchkin auditions set for Stage 212's "The Wizard of Oz"

LaSALLE — Director Jessica Kreiser will be holding Munchkin auditions for Stage 212's Summer 2023 production, the timeless and endearing musical "The Wizard of Oz," Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at Stage 212, 700 First St. in La Salle.

Kreiser is looking to cast up to 50 current kindergarteners to 4th graders. The 50 Munchkins will be split into two casts. Munchkin auditions will be done in time slots. A sign-up link and more information are available at stage212.org. Please note there will be no video submission option for Munchkin auditions.

Questions may be submitted to Kreiser at jkreiser@lway1.org. "The Wizard of Oz" will be presented July 13-30, 2023.




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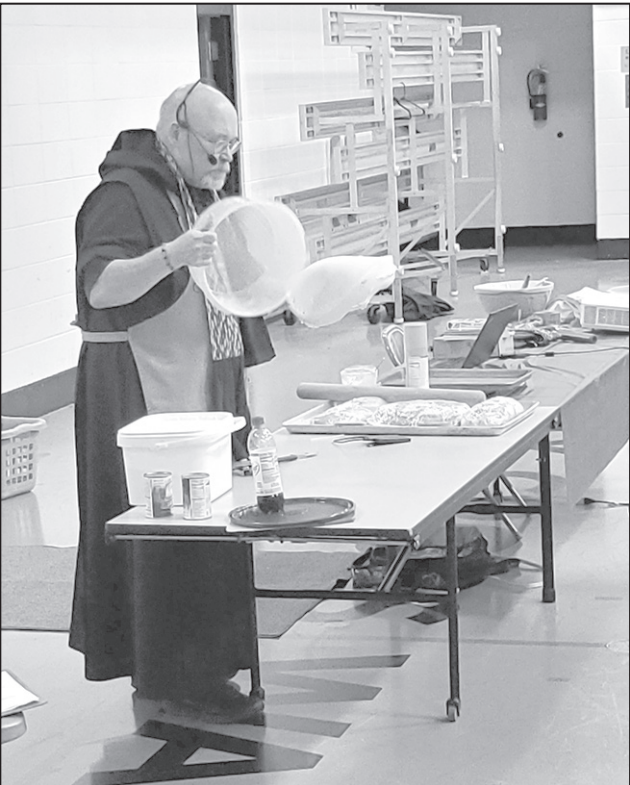
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LOCAL AND AREA



Fr. Dom bakes at Holy Cross
Father Dominic Garramone presented how to make three basic recipes such as braids and rolls from a simple sweet dough at the Holy Cross Gymnasium on Saturday, April 29. Fr. Dom did not go to culinary school as he learned how to bake from his mother (Mary Garramone), cooking shows on TV, and the library. Although he has had a baking show on PBS and has published 13 books (11 cookbooks), Fr. Dom still considers himself a baker for family, friends, and community as his top priority is teaching. He has taught at St. Bede Academy since 1983. (Reporter story and photo by Brandon LaChance)

Krosoczka, New York Times bestselling, visiting libraries

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will be joining libraries across Illinois in virtually hosting New York Times bestselling author and illustrator, Jarrett J. Krosoczka, on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. Perfect for the entire family, this live, virtual drawing workshop is sure to inspire the inner artist in everyone. Krosoczka creates books with humor, heart, and deep respect for his young readers – qualities that have made his titles perennial favorites on the bookshelves of homes, libraries, and bookstores over the past 20 years.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Library at 815-223-2341. Register – <https://bit.ly/Draw-with-JarrettKrosoczka>.

IVSO playing Celebrate Culture! May 7 at IVCC

OTTAWA — The Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, directed by Daniel Sommerville, is excited to present its season-ending concert, “Celebrate Culture!” The concert, which starts at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at the Dr. Mary Weeg Cultural Centre at Illinois Valley Community College, features mezzo-soprano soloist Kate Tombaugh and is a musical celebration of Spanish and Latino cultures.

The cultural experience goes beyond the music as Ballet Folklórico De Colores from Mendota will be there to share their art of Mexican folk dancing and Mary Ann Roedl will have artifacts from Latin American countries on display.

To round off the evening of cultural appreciation, there will be a reception following the concert with the dancers and Hispanic-inspired hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$5 for college students (with ID), and free for kids through 12th grade. To see the full program, buy tickets and read more about the orchestra and soloist Kate Tombaugh, visit ivso.org.



Vita Tone Cleaners is NOT closing

Cathy (Weber) Ellis, the owner of Vita Tone Cleaners, located at 918 Main St. in Mendota, is not closing her doors. After word spread that other businesses on the 900 block of Main Street were moving, the phone has been off the hook at Vita Tone to inquire if the dry cleaners is closing. Ellis, who has also been asked by many customers while dropping off or picking up clothes, said she signed a lease with building owner Salvador Hermosillo in 2022. The lease is withstanding for five years, which means she has the space for Vita Tone until 2027. Ellis, who began working for Vita Tone Cleaners in August 1969 and continued as part of the Mendota High School COE (Cooperative Occupational Education) Program in 1970. Ellis bought the business on April 18, 1974 and moved it to its current location on July 1, 1977. (Reporter story and photo of the MHS 1971 yearbook by Brandon LaChance)

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal


National Library Week was April 23-29. During this special week, all kindergarten and first grade students were able to visit Graves-Hume Library in Mendota. Two classes went at a time and had the opportunity to tour the library, hear and see what they have to offer and participate in some fun activities. Many of our students have never been to our local library so we are hoping that this visit sparked some excitement and more of our students utilize this great community resource. We're thankful for the amazing visit that the Graves-Hume Library staff organized. Our students really enjoyed it!

As part of a community kindness project, Mrs. Kramer and her first grade students chose to recognize the Graves-Hume Library staff during National Library Week. Mrs. Kramer, her students and their families put together a basket of treats for the staff labeled “Nacho Average Librarians.” Thank you to Mrs. Kramer, her students and their families for this kind gesture to thank some very important people in our community and all they do for our students.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Gavin Foltyniewicz, Shea Shepperd, Zaylee Josephson, Laurel Dunfrund, Jaxx Fromherz, Ed Kofoid, Aubrianna Muro, Ximena Salinas and Jack Humphries. The winners were Dean Hayward, Eduardo Villagomez, Carter Stallings and Jaxon Stamberger. Congratulations to all of you!

The April principal award pizza lunch was held on April 28. The students invited to the lunch were Waylon Brewer, Merakim Riniker, Bentley Baxter, Abby Ocampo, Dean Hayward, Eduardo Villagomez, Ellie Sester, Abel Gonzalez, Paola Arteaga, Ana Neilsen, Carter Stallings and Jaxon Stamberger. The students enjoyed their celebration lunch.

Information came home regarding online registration for the 2022-2023 school year. All registration will be completed online again this year. This registration process online is very simple to complete and does not take much time. If parents do not have access to a computer to complete registration, please contact our office at 539-6888 to set up a time to come to the school to use a computer. If parents have any questions regarding the registration process at all, please let us know!



In Loving MEMORY

On Memorial Day, we remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us. Our time to remember will be published Wednesday, May 24th, devoted to those who are gone, but not forgotten.

JANE DOE

MAY 1, 1950 - APRIL 23, 2012

You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.

Write your own or select one of the following verses below to accompany your tribute.

- We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.*
- May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.*
- Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand*
- Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.*
- The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always remain.*
- May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.*
- May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.*
- You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.*
- May God's grace shine over you for all time.*
- May the Lord bless you with His grace and warm, loving heart.*

To remember your loved one in this special way send \$10 per listing. Your special tribute will become a lasting memorial record in the May 24th issue of The Mendota Reporter. Deadline is Thursday, May 18th at Noon.

Please publish my tribute in the special Memorial Day page on May 24.

Name of Deceased: _____

☐ Please use Verse # _____ ☐ I have included my own Verse (write below)

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Passing: _____

Signed by: _____

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

James R. Johnson

MENDOTA – James (Jim) Ronald Johnson, 85, of Mendota, passed away Monday, April 24, 2023, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford while surrounded by his daughter and four grandsons.

Funeral services were Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Burial was at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was Friday, April 28 from 4-7 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Jim was born March 19, 1938, in Durand to Orval and Fern (Williamson) Johnson. He grew up and went to school in LaMoille and was a graduate of LaMoille High School. He married Shirley Dalton on Nov. 12, 1963, and welcomed their only child Katherine in September of 1966.

He is survived by his daughter Katherine (Jim) Gross of LaMoille; four grandsons, James (Elyssa) Albers of West Brooklyn, Justin (Hollie) Albers of Compton, Jacob Albers of Rochelle and Jordan (Abby Hochstatter) Albers of Mendota; great-grandchildren Raelynn and Nash Albers of Compton, David Albers of West Brooklyn and Jaclynn Ridge of Mendota; sisters-in-law Judy Stewart and Joan (Ray) DeVault, both of Mendota and Mary Sue Johnson of Sparta; special cousin Judy (Delbert) Gehrke of Iowa; nieces and nephews and his faithful dog Reba, who will be cared for by his daughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Shirley in 2021 and his brother Donald Johnson.

Jim's first job was caring for and showing Ayrshire cattle for the Anderson family. He went on to serve in the National Guard then worked for Hume's and Hart Carter where he helped design equipment that is still in use today. He later worked at Agricultural Building Company where he was a draftsman and fabricator. Jim finished his career working at Lake Holiday where he was in charge of dredging the lake. Among all of Jim's accomplishments he was the most proud of being a fireman. He served on the Mendota Volunteer Department and Troy Grove Rural Department. He was a fireman for 40 years spending many of those years as Fire Chief for Mendota.

Jim had a great love of gardening and planted many fruit trees, strawberries, raspberries and grapes, which he shared with family and friends. He was a lifelong member of the NRA and taught his daughter and grandsons how to shoot. He and his wife Shirley also enjoyed vacationing with family, spending many years snowmobiling in Wisconsin and summers in Arkansas, fishing and boating with their daughter and grandsons and then their great-grandchildren. Jim loved to collect Massey Harris toy tractors.

Memorials may be directed to the Mendota Fire Department, Illinois Valley Animal Rescue or the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



James E. Walters

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. – James E. "Smoke" Walters, 78, of Port Charlotte, Fla., and formerly of Mendota, passed away on April 21, 2023, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 4-8 p.m. at the Mendota VFW Lodge 4079, 610 Sixth St. Burial will be held at a later date at Restland Cemetery, Mendota with military honors by Mendota VFW Post 4079.

Smoke was born June 4, 1944, in Rochelle, to Frederick Sr. and Margaret (Holloway) Walters. He married Ruthann Sorenson on Nov. 30, 1968.

He is survived by his wife Ruthann of 54 years; three children, Audra (Dan) Pond of Ottawa, Jim (Julie) Walters of Dayton, Texas and Kyle Walters of Mendota; seven grandchildren, Alex (Samie) Pond, Haley Walters, Chrissy Pond, Lexie Pond, Cole (Chasity) Walters, Austin Walters and Jake Walters; four great-grandchildren, Scarlett, Lauryn, Adri and Blakely; sister Barbi Purvis and sister-in-law Diane (Walters) Ayers. Additional survivors include a loving extended family including in-laws, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Fred Walters; sister, Betty Eich; brothers-in-law, Keith Eich and Ken Purvis; and a great-niece, Taryn Pakenham.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather as well as a friend to many known for being counted on to lend a helping hand or provide support by participating in many parades and veteran events throughout the area. He grew up in Mendota, graduated from Mendota High School in 1963 and then joined the United States Army. He served his country from 1966-1968 including service during the Vietnam War. He later ran his own plumbing business and was a member of the Plumbers Union prior to his retirement. Smoke was a proud military serviceman and member of the VFW, American Legion and Am Vets. He was also a member of the Mendota Moose, Elks and Masonic Lodges.

Memorials can be made to the family in honor of James (Smoke) Walters for dissemination at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Roger V. Cavan

WEST BROOKLYN – Roger Virgil Cavan, 87, of West Brooklyn, passed away Saturday, April 29, 2023, at his home after a long illness.

Funeral services will be Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Visitation will be Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until time of services. Cremation rites will be accorded after the funeral and private burial will be at Restland Cemetery, Mendota at a later date. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to be determined.

Roger was born April 4, 1936, in Chicago to Charles Virgil and Elizabeth (Nagle) Cavan. He met Nancy Sills in 1961 and they were married on April 21, 1963 in Marion, Ind. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his wife Nancy; his children, Cheryl (Jim) Evans of Machesney Park, Linda Duke of Phoenix, Ariz., and Charles Cavan of Roselle; and two grandchildren, Hailey Evans and Jackson Evans, both of Machesney Park.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister and brother-in-law, Patricia (Richard) Chamberlain.

Roger served in the United States Army with the rifle team serving in Germany. He was an auto mechanic at Gateway Chevrolet in Chicago and Celozzi-Ettleson Chevrolet in Elmhurst. After retiring in 2000, they moved from Mt. Prospect to the farm outside West Brooklyn, becoming a full-time farmer, which his father had bought in the 1940s. He worked at Del Monte seed house in Mendota and was a part time helper for the Lee Township road commissioner, the late Cliff Walter, snow plowing in the winter. Roger enjoyed hunting, gardening and planting flowers.

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



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.

Festival 56 in Princeton has summer opportunities for students

PRINCETON – Festival 56 in Princeton has an exciting opportunity for high school students coming up this summer. It will offer up to three high school students and this year's graduates the opportunity to work as paid apprentices with the resident professional company with various aspects of theatre production. This program is made possible through federal funds and sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Over eight weeks, each high school student will be assigned to work in one or more of the following areas: Scenic Design (including properties and scenic art), Technical Direction (and scenic construction), Costume Design (including construction and wardrobe), Directing (including choreography and/or music direction), Lighting and Sound Design (including electrics and engineering), Production and Stage Management, and Public Relations (including marketing and audience

services).

Apprentices will work a minimum of 15 hours per week at a wage of \$13 an hour and will have the opportunity to enter into a mentorship with one of the company's professional artists. Apprentices will also have the opportunity to volunteer additional time in one or more area of theatre production. Applicants must be available to work for an eight-week period between June 5-Aug. 1.

To apply, please submit a cover letter (including contact information) stating previous experience, goals relating to future studies or a career in the theatre arts at the college or professional level, and a personal artistic statement. Letters may be mailed to the theater (316 S. Main, Princeton, IL 61356) dropped off at the box office or emailed to learning-stage@festival56.com with the subject, "Apprentice."

Following a review of the applicants, those moving on to the next level will be interviewed. One letter of recommen-

dation will be required from a teacher or artistic mentor.

The Illinois Child Labor Law (820 ILCS 205/1 et seq.) regulates the employment of minors under the age of 16 years and requires all minors to have employment certificates. Should one of these minors be hired, the Princeton Theater Group will follow these procedures:

Required Procedures For Teens under 16

- "Letter of intent to hire" must be obtained from all prospective employers. The letter must outline hours worked.

- Teen and parent or guardian must bring this letter to an issuing officer at minor's school or school district to obtain the required work permit.

- The issuing officer will review criteria and verify safety before issuing the work permit.

Applications should be received by 5 p.m. Friday, May 12.

Visit www.festival56.com for more information.

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC graduation to be May 13

OGLESBY – Longtime Illinois Valley Community College President Jerry Corcoran will keynote the college’s 57th annual Commencement at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13 in the gymnasium. About 200 graduates are expected to participate.



Corcoran Dr. Corcoran, president since 2008, is retiring June 30 after 15 years as president and 33 years at the college. Dr. Tracy Morris, begins her presidency

July 1.

Starting in 1990 as a part-time farm grant coordinator, Corcoran rose through several positions to the presidency in 18 years. Noteworthy accomplishments of his presidency include:

- Construction of the \$30.5 million Peter Miller Community Technology Center project;
- Building the Truck Driver Training facility;
- Opening the Ottawa Center satellite campus;
- Awarding a record number of scholarships and increasing Foundation assets more than \$5 million;



• Leaving the college a debt-free, fiscally strong institution.

Also, at commencement:

Nena Wright of Seneca will read her winning Paul Simon Student Essay; Corcoran will welcome graduates and confer certificates and degrees; Vice President

for Academic Affairs Gary Roberts will present the Class of 2023; Board chair Everett Solon will introduce trustees; 2022-23 Student Government Association President Nicolette Kendall will present the invocation; and 2023-24 student trustee Libby Boyles will present the benediction.

Auditions for “Annie” set May 12 & 13 in Mendota

MENDOTA – Leapin’ Lizards! The irrepressible comic strip heroine takes center stage in one of the world’s best loved musical.

All roles are open. The Mendota Education Foundation (MEF) is setting the stage for the July 28, 29, and 30 performances of “ANNIE” and will host auditions at Mendota High School on Friday, May 12 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, May 13 from 8 a.m. -3 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium.

Production officials are looking for orphans – girls, and some boys. Need are a Rooster, a radio announcer, some singing sisters, and a beloved President. Plus,



Annie, Warbucks, Grace, the colorful Mrs. Hannigan, Lily, a team of servants, Hooverville residents, some Presidential Cabinet members, a NY street cop, and many extras. MEF is even looking for a dog.

Auditions are open to males and females ages 8 to 88. Come join the fun, it’s going to be a wonderful show. For more details and audition information, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/MEFSS/>.

NSDAR to hold annual meeting

MENDOTA – Fort du Rocher Chapter of NSDAR will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m. at the west pavilion at Lake Mendota.

Installation of new officers will be the highlight of the meeting. A catered picnic lunch will follow the meeting. Reservations are required for the lunch.

Call 815-228-7730 for a reservation.

Continued from Page A1

But the state also received an additional \$3 billion in federal funding through the enhanced matching rate.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimated that about 9.5 percent of Medicaid enrollees nationwide, or 8.2 million people, could lose coverage because they are no longer eligible. Another 7.9 percent, or 6.8 million people, could lose coverage despite still being eligible due to issues with the application process.

That would translate to roughly 700,000 people in

Illinois. In February, IDHFS said in a news release the department believed it could mitigate the impact to result in roughly 384,000 losing coverage, acknowledging “nobody knows for sure” how many individuals would be affected.

“Illinois has taken a proactive, multi-faceted approach to try to make sure that everyone who is eligible for Medicaid can continue coverage through the program without disruption,” IDHFS Director Theresa Eagleson said. “Medicaid customers have not had to renew coverage in over three years, and we have engaged

in many levels of outreach to prepare people for when their renewal date comes up. We believe these efforts will have a significant impact in preserving coverage.”

The department has been building up staff and has conducted a multi-platform outreach campaign called “Ready to Renew” to ensure recipients are prepared for their renewals. The state is also collaborating with community health centers and local organizations to publicize the restarting of renewals.

The governor’s COVID-19 disaster declaration, which has been ongoing

in 30-day increments since March 2020, expires on May 11. That will coincide with the conclusion of the federal government’s disaster declaration.

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

Medicaid

Continued from Page A1

(Nina Anderson) worked at the bank that I used to work for and she told me to apply because they work well with school schedules.

“They hired me to work part-time while I was attending IVCC. While I was there, I decided that I wanted to become a loan officer because I wanted to help people. It took me 10 years, but I worked my way up to the position.”

Although 10 years could provide a long moan, Balestri looks back and is thankful for her journey because she got to learn every step of the loan process and why they’re important.

IVCC gives P-T faculty award

OGLESBY – Criminal justice instructor Kevin Hermes was selected by students, teaching colleagues, administrators and staff this spring as the winner of Illinois Valley Community College’s 2023 Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Award.

Hermes was IVCC’s criminal justice program coordinator from 2018 to 2021 following 31 years as a police officer/sergeant. He brings that experience to courses in Criminal Investigation, Evidence and Criminal Procedure, and Ethics in Criminal Justice, among many others.

He was nominated for the award by student Elizabeth Bradley who wrote, “When Mr. Hermes responds to us, he adds lessons that are not in the book; they’re usually life lessons from his own experiences. I have never had more respect for a teacher in my life.”

Students also appreciate the hands-on nature of his classes that often include crime scene and court case reenactments.

An innovative program coordinator, he created IVCC’s first online criminal justice courses, was the first to bring criminal justice courses to the satellite campus in Ottawa and offered police officers nine credit hours toward a degree for completing police academy.

Hermes will also be nominated for the Illinois Community College Trustees Association state award.

Now she shares how important they are to students at not only MHS, but at LaSalle-Peru High School and to eighth grade classes in Oglesby.

“I always tell the students when I’m in Aaron’s class, I actually bought my first home when I was 18,” Balestri said. “When I bought it, I had absolutely no clue what I was doing. I didn’t know what the terms were or what they were telling us. We actually got denied from the first bank we went to. I went to a second bank, had to have a co-signer, and were actually able to purchase the home.”

“It went through, but I had no clue what I was doing. I

also always tell the students, ‘I know you think that it’s so far off before you’re actually purchasing your first home, but things happen and your maybe doing it sooner than you realize.’”

Balestri added it’s important for students to know how important it is to pay your bills and make sure your payments are made on time.

If a home buyer’s financial history is solid, so will the home buying process.

If not, well, there may not be a process.

“It’s a big part of our bank’s mission to provide financial education to not only our customers but to

all members of our community,” Balestri said. “We do it through me speaking to the high schools and junior highs, but we also have a free program called Banzai that we offer to teachers.

“It’s a virtual financial literacy program that is supported by our financial education objective to help the students understand all aspects of money management. It’s a really great program.”

Eureka Savings Bank sponsors Banzai in 22 area schools including Mendota High School, Northbrook School, Holy Cross School, and Lincoln Elementary School.

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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 book ban debate

By Scott Reeder

I like to read things that I disagree with.

Doing so not only gives me greater empathy for those with whom I differ, but every once in a while it changes my own viewpoint.

A movement is afoot to censor what books libraries and schools can offer.

Such efforts are pernicious malignancies that metastasize from community to community, from state to state.

Dr. Sarah Bonner, who until last month taught in Heyworth school district, learned about this evil firsthand.

The English teacher in the rural McLean County, Illinois, school district became the subject of a school board meeting because of one of the books offered in her class.

The tome in question is titled “This Book Is Gay.” It explores topics teenagers encounter as they navigate through adolescence: dating, sex and safe sex practices.

And, no, it wasn’t required reading. It was one of more than 100 books that students in her class could choose from.

According to the reporting of my friend Edith Brady-Lunny, the debate went viral after a pupil published images of certain pages on social media.

More than 80 people attended the next school board meeting. They didn’t come bearing pitchforks and torches, but they certainly wanted Bonner’s head. And before the meeting was over, she was forced to quit.

“Our kids deserve learning experiences that prepare them for our world and not just our town,” she told the school board.

Ironically, Bonner quit the same week Illinois legislators voted to withhold funding from public schools and libraries that ban books. The bill has passed the House and is pending in the Senate.

Unfortunately, pressure to censor comes from both the left and the right.

Last year, my own daughter’s class was reading “To Kill a Mockingbird” in a Springfield school when a parent complained about a racial epitaph used in the book. A school administrator ordered the class to discontinue studying the classic. Some of the youngsters never learned how the anti-racist tome ended.

Increasingly, our society is losing any sense of nuance.

In the book, the lawyer Atticus Finch tells his young daughter, “Don’t say n-----er, Scout. That’s common.” She responds that everyone at school says it. He retorts, “From now on it’ll be everybody less one.”

In the context of the book, a life lesson is being taught – that even though a particular slur is common, it shouldn’t be said.

Isn’t that the lesson we want our youngsters to learn, in this age where that racial vulgarity increasingly finds its way into music and popular culture?

According to the American Library Association these are some of the most banned books:

“To Kill a Mockingbird,” by Harper Lee

“The Catcher in the Rye,” by JD Salinger

“The Grapes of Wrath,” by John Steinbeck

“The Color Purple,” by Alice Walker

“1984,” by George Orwell

“Brave New World,” by Aldous Huxley

“Native Son,” by Richard Wright

“Slaughterhouse-Five,” by Kurt Vonnegut

“A Separate Peace,” by John Knowles

“The Lord of the Flies,” by William Golding

The Illinois legislation would prohibit libraries from banning books or other material because of partisan or doctrinal pressure.

House Bill 2789 is being pushed by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, whose office oversees the Illinois State Library and administers grants for public and school libraries.

It’s a measure whose time has come.

Most of the opposition to the bill came from Republican lawmakers who said it takes control away from local library and school boards.

But my prediction is that in coming years if this bill becomes law, folks on the left as well as the right will be frustrated because they won’t be able to remove books they don’t agree with from library shelves.

It is commendable that parents are monitoring what their children are reading. But it’s deplorable that some adults believe they can use government to keep other people’s children from reading something they disagree with.

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



Referendum fails; cost-cutting at MHS – 1987

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from May 7, 1997.)

By Jessica Nashold

Failure of a referendum to authorize additional funds for Mendota High School resulted in a board meeting devoted principally to cost-cutting suggestions. Although the board was determined to continue its efforts to get a referendum passed, something had to be done to decrease expenses in the 1988-89 school year.

A suggestion to eliminate the spring athletic programs was protested by athletic director Paul Kimrey and track coach Don Gooden. They said it would not be fair to college-bound athletes as they worked to expand their athletic resumes. Superintendent Morris Morgan said spring sports at MHS cost \$25,000.

In a partial concession to financial realities, the athletic department reduced its request for supplies from an estimated \$10,253 to \$5,855.

Mendota hosted an invitational track meet on May 8, 1987, which drew contestants from Sterling, Hall, St. Bede, Mt. Morris and Amboy. Mendota earned 82 ½ points, taking first place in the meet. Especially noteworthy were the relay teams, with firsts in four events.

In the 400- and 800-meter relays, the team was comprised of Tony Bond, Dennis Klatt, George Needs and Brian McPheeters. In the 1600-meter relay, Needs and Klatt were joined by Scott Aughenbaugh and Mike Robison. The 3200-meter relay was captured by Tim Sondgeroth, Scott Ansteth, Keir Sexton and Robison.

At the opening meeting of the city council in May 1987, Paul Blumhorst was confirmed as fire chief although the volunteers had voted for Dale Cunefare. Mayor James Troupis said Blumhorst had been active in fire groups at the county and state levels for 23 years.

His qualifications can’t be matched.

Unable to win confirmation of Don Parks as police chief, Troupis named a committee of aldermen to conduct a search for a new chief: Marty Ma-

Backtracks & Sidetracks

sear as chairman, James Strouss, Paul Norris and Donna Johnson. These were aldermen who had voted against confirmation.

Troupis stipulated that the committee give him names of three candidates who met the criteria previously required – satisfactory physical exam, credit check and background check. The mayor would then make the selection from the three candidates proposed by the committee.

He should not be a member of the current police department.

The appointment would be for one year from the date of confirmation at a salary of \$2,177 per month.

Meantime, Parks continued to serve while the search was in progress.

A summer recreation sports program was approved in which participants would pay a \$5 fee. Coaches were Mike Kilmartin, Dean Lubbs, Randy Weibel and Mary Stephenitch. They would be paid \$152.50 each.

Kim Pohl sparked a plan to present Thursday night outdoor movies using the wall of Leo’s Studio as a screen. Film and projection equipment would come from Northern Illinois University with costs shared by Penny Pincher Gift Shoppe and First State Bank. The audience would be allowed to bring chairs for seating to the bank parking lot.

Donations would be accepted and divided between the swimming pool and civic center. The first movie would be “Huckleberry Finn.”

If successful, more may be scheduled.

It was hoped Thursday night shopping would be stimulated by this venture.

On May 1, 1987, four Mendotans were included in a group becoming new

United State citizens. They were Nejat Jakupi from Yugoslavia, and Uvaldo Escatel, Antonio Cortez and Reyna Salinas from Mexico. Twenty-five classmates of Salinas, who was attending MHS, witnessed the ceremony.

Radio station WGLC chose Mrs. Frank (Fern) Weygand as Mother of the Year. She was nominated by her daughter, Pat Garrison. Mrs. Weygand, in addition to having five children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, had, over the years, opened her home to 54 foster children.

At Heritage Manor, Patricia Ritzheimer was crowned Mother of the Year by director Marilee Holzner. Mrs. Ritzheimer had been chosen by votes of staff, residents and visitors.

A new scoreboard was unveiled for the Little League baseball diamond. Local organizations and businesses as well as individuals provided funds for the purchase.

Among new businesses opening in May 1987 were Waddle Inn, a gift shop in the former pants factory on Sixth Street, east of the Burlington tracks, and Tri-County Veterinary Service at 1205 Sixth Ave.

Waddle Inn was managed by Judy Schmidt. Doctors Dwight Becker and Wayne Brown conducted the veterinary service.

At Del Monte, a fork lift rodeo with five participants was won by Harlan Eames. He was now eligible to compete in a national rodeo in California against winners from other Del Monte plants.

Six Rotarians from Italy visited Rotary District 642 under an exchange program. While in the area, they visited Time Was Village Museum.

The Supreme Court had recently ruled that Rotary could admit women to membership “without violating the rights of other members.”

The local club will follow guidelines set by Rotary International.

Letters

Where has the country’s Democratic Party gone?

Dear Editor:

Where is the Democratic Party, where did it go? Oh, it didn’t go anywhere, they so called Democrats let a handful of Socialists take over the party while they were spending years trying to impeach President Donald J. Trump with all their lives. They have lied so much they have forgotten how to tell the truth. You wonder where these Socialists came from. They must have been in the

woodwork and when Barack Obama came to power they crawled out in the open.

Remember when Obama got to the White House it seemed that he couldn’t say enough bad things about America and her people. He blamed everything that was wrong in the world on us. He also shoved his political correctness on us. Obama was the first president to let Americans die without even trying to help them. Remember Benghazi?

Why were the Socialists so hard against Trump? Maybe it was because he did more for the middleclass, working folks and the country than the so-called Democrats and Reno Republicans had done in 50 years.

Seems like everything that Biden does is wrong. He shut down our oil production, which is making Russia wealthy while we pay near \$4.00 a gallon. If he had any brains, he could have put Russia in the poor

house. He has two things in mind – green energy and putting the U.S. under world order with China in charge.

If anyone thinking that would be good for the US of A needs their head examined. The first thing we need is to have Donald Trump back in the White House to get our country back where she belongs and get rid of these jokers that are destroying her.

Bob Anderson, Amboy

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LOCAL AND AREA

Bill calls for review of teacher licensing standards

By **PETER HANCOCK**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Some Illinois lawmakers are calling for a review of one of the tests prospective teachers must pass in order to be licensed in Illinois.

The test is known as the Teacher Performance Assessment, or “edTPA,” and it is intended to determine whether a prospective teacher has the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective in the classroom. It has been a requirement for teacher licensing in Illinois since 2015.

State Sen. Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City, said he started hearing concerns about the test from people in his district, and he later learned that those concerns were shared by other lawmakers.

“And it was over and over again,” he said in an interview. “I was only hearing from a few folks that thought it was the best thing since sliced bread, which, okay, but then I hear from the other side. It’s like, I’m not hearing the same thing from people in my district.”

Every state has its own criteria for licensing teachers and every school of education uses its own curriculum for training teachers. Developed at Stanford University, the edTPA was intended to be a standardized way of measuring an aspiring teacher’s knowledge and abilities, regardless of what state they came from or which college or university they attended.

The assessment is given at the end of a prospective teacher’s student teaching experience. It’s a performance-based assessment that, among other things, requires applicants to submit a portfolio that includes actual lesson plans and tests that they’ve administered, examples of their students’ work, and other material that demonstrates their knowledge and competence.

The portfolios are then scored by teachers and teacher educators with expertise in the subjects and grade level in which the applicant is seeking a license.

Bennett said that having outside evaluators who have never met or worked with the applicant scoring their portfolios is one of the issues that concerns him about edTPA.

“They’re weighing in, and their weight is pretty heavy,”

he said. “If they pass, great. If they don’t, it’s based on this evaluation from these folks that don’t understand the whole situation. So that just got my attention.”

Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel, D-Shorewood, a co-sponsor of the bill, said she has concerns that edTPA is so rigorous and intensive that it could deter some people from ever trying to become a teacher.

“You will have someone that wants to be a math teacher, and then they get to the point where they have to do all this work for their student teaching and all this additional rigorous testing and projects,” she said. “And what you end up having is, they’re like, ‘Why would I go through all of this and maybe not even make it, only to make \$40,000 coming out (of college) when I could stop what I’m doing right now as a junior, take a couple extra classes and become an accountant and come out making \$60,000 or \$65,000?’”


During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. JB Pritzker issued an executive order suspending use of the edTPA

but that executive order will expire when the disaster declaration is lifted on May 11.

Bennett is the lead sponsor of Senate Bill 1488, which passed unanimously out of the Senate March 30 and now awaits action in the House. It would continue the suspension of the edTPA through Aug. 31, 2025. It would also establish a task force to evaluate teacher performance assessment systems and make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly by Aug. 1, 2024.

“I think this is a good time to sit back, let’s review it, see what we got, and I’m very grateful for bipartisan support from a number of Republican and Democrat senators really feeling the same way,” Bennett said.

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)




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We carry loose tobacco and flavored tobacco for hookahs, cigarettes, cigars, water pipes, e-cigs, vaporizers and e-juices.



1001 Main St. Mendota
815-539-3499
Mon. - Sat. 8AM-8PM, Sun. 9AM-7PM

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS NICOTINE. NICOTINE IS AN ADDICTIVE CHEMICAL.

Chat, text or stop by. It's called service.

Get a quote today



Kurt Bruno
Agent

1103 Main Street
Mendota, IL 61342-1668

Bus: 815-539-3878
Fax: 815-538-5878
kurt@kurtbruno.com



State Farm
Bloomington, IL

Community Calendar

MAY 2023

MAY 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22 & 25

EXERCISES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
8 AM
Feik Parlor
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 1, 5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22 & 26

BINGOCIZE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Bingosize combines exercise
and bingo together. Lead by our
instructor Laurie.

MAY 1, 8, 15 & 22

DOMINOES
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 1

COMMUNITY BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
2 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Everyone welcome to attend.

MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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

MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

EUCHRE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
Pay \$3 at beginning of play. Cash
prizes paid out at end of games.
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 2

PLAYER'S CHOICE BOARD GAME
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 2

WEATHER & STORM CHASING
WITH ILLINOIS STORM CHASERS
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6:30 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Join us as we take a dive into the
basics of severe weather. Topics
include: storm chasing, local
climatology, past tornadic events,
severe weather safety, preparedness
and Q&A.

MAY 3

SHAKE RATTLE & READ
“GROWING”
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings
welcome). Join us for books, songs,
and play. Call to register.

MAY 3, 10, 17, 23 & 31

FITNESS WITH DENNIS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Dennis is a fitness instructor who will
provide instructions for your health,
well-being and fitness. Please join us
for informational sessions.

MAY 3

SMALL FRIES “TEETH”
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Audience: 3 years - Kindergarten.
Join us as we welcome special
guest Westside Family Dentistry as
we celebrate dental awareness. Call
to register.

MAY 4 & 18

HEARING CLINIC
Sponsored by Civic Center &
M.A.S.S.
9:30 AM - 1 PM
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
May contact Sterling Hearing - Kelly
for more information (815) 626-3220.
Hearing aid batteries available at
M.A.S.S.

MAY 4, 11 & 25

POKENO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 4

LEGO CLUB
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: 1-8th grades. Come build
legos with friends. Call to register.

MAY 4, 11 & 25

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
If you like to knit, crochet,
embroidery, hand sewing, cross
stitch, etc., join other crafters. Bring
your own supplies.

MAY 5 & 26

BINGO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 9 & 23

BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD
SUGAR CHECKS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 12 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 9

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

MAY 11

SHAKE RATTLE & READ
“GROWING”
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: Birth to 2 years old
(siblings welcome). Join us for
books, song and play. Call to register.

MAY 12

MOTHER'S DAY TEA
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Parlor
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Please RSVP by May 9th. Honoring
all mothers and ladies of any age.
Wear your favorite hate and bring
your favorite tea cup. Enjoyable
event. Join us.

MAY 15

LEGO CLUB #2
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: 1-8th grades. Come build
legos with friends. Call to register

MAY 16

CAREGIVER COUNSELOR -
OFFICE HOURS
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM - 12 PM
Feik Parlor
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
New at M.A.S.S. - Alternatives
will be offering free caregiver
counselor hours every third
Tuesday of the month. May call
the office for more information or
to set up an appointment.

MAY 16

3RD TUESDAY BOOK
DISCUSSION
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
1 PM & 6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Reading: “Cinder” by Marissa
Meyer.

MAY 16

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

MAY 17

SHAKE RATTLE & READ
“LET'S GET PHYSICAL!”
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: Birth to 2 years old (siblings
welcome). Join us for books,
songs, and play. Call to register.

MAY 19

JEWELRY, BOOK & BAKE SALE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center

For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Will accept donations May
16 - 18. Jewelry and books (no
magazines), baked goods by 1
PM Tuesday, May 18th.

MAY 23

BUNCO
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MAY 23

COOKING CLASS “BLUE ZONE
MEALS” (ZOOM)
Sponsored by M.A.S.S. /
University of IL
2:30 PM
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota
Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
May come to M.A.S.S. to view or
contact office for link to watch at
home.

MAY 23

ILLINOIS MASTER GARDENER
PRESENTS: CARNIVOROUS
PLANTS
Sponsored by Grave-Hume Public
Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St.
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Carnivorous plants are unique
and fascinating plants that have
captured peoples' imaginations
for years. This presentation
discusses why carnivorous plants
have evolved to “eat” meat,
the different ways carnivorous
plants go about capturing their
prey, as well as their unique care
requirements.

MAY 24

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

MAY 24

MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S.: “GOING
IN STYLE”
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library & M.A.S.S.
3 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Snacks & beverages provided by
M.A.S.S.

MAY 25

SHAKE RATTLE & READ
“LET'S GET PHYSICAL!”
Repeat of May 17 Program
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: Birth to 2 years old
(siblings welcome). Join us for
books, song and play. Call to
register.

MAY 26

SPRING POTLUCK
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM
Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700
Bring a dish to pass, table setting
and utensils.

MAY 26

4H @ THE LIBRARY WITH
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION “PAPER AIRPLANE
CHALLENGE”
Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library
4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142
Ages: 8-18. Registration is required.
Call to register.

MAY 30

YAHTZEE
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM
Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota
Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

**The Community
Calendar Is Brought To
You By
Mendota Area Chamber
of Commerce & The
Mendota Reporter.
These are some of the
local businesses who
belong to your Chamber
of Commerce:**

Valley-Coin-Jewelry-Pawn
Walter Brothers Plumbing,
Heating and Cooling
Waltham Curling Club
Wasmer Funeral Home
West Side Family Dentistry
Win Stoller Illinois State
Senator 37
Windy City Amusements, Inc
Woodhaven Association



Mendota Police Department

Chief Gregory Kellen
Deputy Chief Tyler Kent
Sergeant Amy Oscepiniski
Sergeant Josh Sarver
Sergeant Zach Urbanski
Patrolman Brad Martin
Patrol/SRO Chad Hochstatter
Patrolman Daniel Hernandez

Patrolman Seth Martin
Patrolman Randy Tucker
Patrolman Will Hansen
Patrolman Austin O'Sadnick
Patrolman Jacob Dubois
Patrolman James Shankle
Patrolman Ashton Dossett
Patrolman Logan Eppard

Part-Time Patrol
Patrolman Ben Bentley
Patrolman Ryan Krewer
Patrolman Robert Cessna
Patrolman Michael Hammen
Patrolman Brandon Hornung
Patrolman Clint Thulen



NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

We Salute The Area's Finest For Going Above And Beyond The Call Of Duty!

First State Bank
706 Washington St. and
1403 13th Ave., Mendota
800.362.9623
Member FDIC

Carriage House Electric
105 12th St.
Mendota
815-538-5598

Merritt Funeral Home
800 Monroe St.
Mendota
815-539-7211

Lundquist-Merritt
Funeral Home
208 Railroad St.
LaMoille
815-638-2121

Black Bros. Co.
501 9th Ave.
Mendota
815- 539-7451

City of Mendota
800 Washington St.
Mendota
815-539-7459

Mendota Monument Co.
606 S. Main St.
Mendota
815-539-7276

Sullivans Foods
1102 Meriden St.
Mendota
815-539-9341

Purpose Nutrition
1108 Meriden St.
Mendota
815-503-3853

First State Insurance
715 Washington St.
Mendota
815-539-5651
114 Railroad St. • Earlville
815-246-8261

First State Bank of Van Orin
200 N Main St.
815-638-2111
Member FDIC
Malden Banking Center
302 W. Main St.
815-643-2121
Member FDIC

Financial Plus Credit Union
1905 13th Ave.
Mendota
815-539-3444
Member NCUA-ESI

Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Inc.
505 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Sublette
815-849-5232 or 800-227-5203
www.vaessenbrothers.com

Ramer Automotive & Towing
Paul & Matt Ramer
4266 E. 4th Rd.
Mendota
815-539-5321

Homestead Realty
1316 Lakewood Plaza
Mendota
815-539-3811

McConville Realty and
Auctioneering
612 S. Main St.
Mendota
815-539-5673

Kerr Diesel Sales
and Service
134 E US 34
Mendota
815-780-7369

Triple Service Inc.
801 Monroe St. Mendota
815-539-3828

McDonald's
2701 12th St. & 1503 13th Ave.
Mendota

Pizza by Marchelloni's
1210 Meriden St.
Mendota
815-538-2145

ARS Auto Repair
307 Plaza Dr.
Mendota
815-538-2412

The Last Alarm
43 S East Ave.
Amboy
815-857-3483

Farmhouse Designs
Landscaping & Greenhouse
391 N 38th Rd.
Mendota
815-910-0507

The Come Up Smoke Shop
617 Main St.
Mendota
815-878-2537

Police • Fire • Ambulance
Mendota Police Department
(non-emergency)
815-539-9331

LaSalle County Sheriff's Department
815-433-2161
Lee County Sheriff's Department
815-284-6631
Bureau County Sheriff's Department
815-875-3344

Illinois State Police District 17 • Emergency: 911 • Non-emergency: 815-224-1171

MOTHER'S DAY



Dear Mom,
Thank you for buying me stuff on toca boca. Thank you for buying me robucks. Thank you for helping me clean my room. Xoxoxo. I love you.
Candice

Dear Mom,
Thank you for taking care of me. Thank you for making meals. Thank you for driving me to school. Thank you for loving me all the time.
Love,
Adan

Dear Mom,
Thank you for buying me martocart. Thank you for making food and my lunch. Thank you for the house. Thank you for buying me stuff. Thank you for helping me with my homework.
Love,
Daniel

Dear Mom,
Thank you for paying for school. Thank you for getting me things. Thank you for making me meals. Thank you for everything you do. There are so many things to be thankful for you.
Love,
McKenna

Dear Mom,
I love you because you paid for me to go to school and making sure I stay health. I love you also because you plan fun things. And also thank you for keeping the house clean. Thanks for cleaning every day. You know how I love clean.
Love,
Shay

Dear Mom,
Thank you for my meals. Thank you for helping me clean my room. Thank you for reading to me.
Love,
Morgan

Dear Mom,
Thank you for paying for holy cross school. Thank you for buying shoes, shirts and pants. Thank you for cleaning my bedroom. Thank you for doing all that you do for me.
Love,
Kyle

Dear Mom,
Thank you Mom for cleaning the house. Thank you for making my food. Thank you for making me smile. Thank you for helping me when I'm scared. Thank you for going to the store. Thank you for being you. Thank you for being the rose of my heart.
Love,
Frank

Dear Mom,
Thank you for buying me stuff. Thank you for helping me with games. Thank you for taking us places.
Love,
Will

Dear Mom,
Thank you for helping me when I had strep throat and my blister. Thank you for all the pokemon cards you gave me. Thank you for all the snuggles you gave me. Thank you for all the wii games you gave me. I love you.
Love,
PJ

Dear Mom,
Thank you for cleaning. Thank you for cooking. Thank you for playing with me. Thank you for taking me to movies. Thank you for giving me a bath.
Love,
Alexia

Dear Mom,
Thank you for making me food and getting me books at the library. Thank you for paying for paying for school so I can learn. Thank you for buying me stuff I need. And most of all making me happy.
Love,
Cecilia

Dear Mom,
Thank you for making the best cookies and brownies. Thank you for taking me on vacation. Thank you for making me food. Thank you for giving birth to me.
Love,
Brooks

Dear Mom,
Thank you for cleaning up. Thank you for helping me. Thank you for everything.
Love,
Kohen

Dear Mom,
Thank you for making me food. I love the muffins. Thank you for the VBuk. You make the best brownies and most of all make me smile.
Love,
Connor

Dear Mom,
Thank you for helping me with my homework. Thank you for buying me stuff and putting meals on the table.
Love,
Jase

Dear Mom,
Thank you Mom for buying me crafts and helping me with it. Thank you for baking me stuff. Thank you for cleaning, organizing my room. Thank you for buying me books. Thank you for getting me a phone. Thank you.
Love,
Savy

Dear Mom,
Mom helps me with my holy communion. Mom helps me in the hardest times. Thank you mom and dad for a great cook. Thank you for making the best cookies. Mom helps me with my homework.
Love,
Tiberius

Dear Mom,
Thank you for taking me on vacation. Thank you for the clothes. Thank you for all the stuff you give me and the food you give me. Thank you for paying for holy cross school.
Love,
Ella



Dear Mom,
I love when you are kind to me. My favorite thing about you is you are great at cooking. You teach me to be independent. You make me happy when you are fun. You take me to the store. My favorite thing to do with you is to go to the park.
Love,
Ava Kelly

Dear Mom,
I love when you make me my favorite cake on my birthday. My favorite thing about you is when you do puzzles with me. You help me when I am stuck on my homework. You make me what I would like on my birthday. You take me to the park when it is warm out. My favorite thing to do with you is to play a game with you.
Love,
Michael Dykstra

Dear Mom,
I love when you spend time with me after school when we make our food. My favorite thing about you is that you do puzzles with

me. You help me with home-work when I'm struggling. You teach me how to make blankets and to help me with words. You make me happier when I'm sad or upset. You take me to the park to play with my brothers. I like when we make food. I love you because you are sweet, and you love me and both of my brothers.
Love,
Grace Piskie

Dear Krista,
I love when you give me warm hugs when I'm sad. My favorite thing about you is when you make sloppy joes. It rocks. You help me when I get hurt and when I get bullied. You teach me to be a very good listener. You make me smile all the time. You take me on trips like Michigan. My favorite thing to do with you is play games like Checkers and Connect Four.
Love,
Maddaux Brown

Dear Mommy,
I love when you hug me and kiss me. My favorite thing about you is everything! You help me when I need help. You teach me stuff that I need to know. You make me delighted when I'm hungry. You take me where I want to go. My favorite thing to do with you is spend time together! I love you always,
Love,
Lily Grace Weathers

Dear Mom,
My favorite thing about you is you clean. You help me with my homework. You teach me to clean up my own mess. You make me steak for dinner. You take me to the jumping park. My favorite thing to do with you is to go to the store with you.
Love,
Zariy Rucker

Dear Mom,
I love when you play cool games like tag. You make pizza all the time. You help me when I need help. You teach me homework. You make me happy when you tickle me. You take me somewhere fun like Goodwill. My favorite thing to do with you is play with me. I love you mommy.
Love,
Jeannella Borelli

Dear Mom,
I love when you hug me goodnight. My favorite thing about you is when you tell me you love me. You help me when I get scared. You teach me math and volleyball. You make me happy when I am sad. You take me sometimes to get me toys. My favorite thing to do with you is to watch a movie.
Love,
Somaya Adkins

Dear Mom,
I love when you hang out with me and watch a movie. My favorite thing about you is when you help me with my homework. You help me do my questions on my homework. You teach me how to blow up a balloon. You make me quesadillas. You take me to the bar.
Love,
Cason Jordan

Dear Mom,
I love when you give me hugs. My favorite thing about you is you let no one hurt you. You help me with my reading. You teach me how to cook and more. You make me laugh when I am sad. You take me everywhere with you. My favorite thing to do with you is bake. I love you because you are you.
Love,
Miah Gober

Dear Mom,
I love when you make sloppy joes for me and my

brother Dylan. My favorite thing about you is me and you watch a movie together. You help me to clean my room and Dylan. You teach me how to walk and stand and talk. You make me the best food ever. You take me to Wal-Mart and Target. My favorite thing to do with you is snuggle and sleep with you.
Love,
Landyn Welch

Dear Mom,
I love when you smile and when you are happy. My favorite thing about you is when you cook dinner. My favorite meal is steak. You help me with homework. You teach me how to tie my shoes. You make me smile when you hang out with me. You take me to stores and the park. I love you mom.
Love,
Delilah Hermosillo

Dear Mom,
I love when you hug me and squeeze me so tight. My favorite thing about you is your pretty brown eyes and your beautiful face. You help me when I am sad and help when I get hurt. You teach me how to play things and to say hard words. You make me feel happy and proud of me. You take me to places I always wanted to go. My favorite thing to do with you is playing outside and to watch TV. I love you the most.
Love you,
Brynlee Carden

Dear Mommy,
I love when you dress pretty wait you're already pretty. My favorite thing about you is that you care about me. You teach me how to do math facts. You make me as special as possible. You take me to my hospital visits. My favorite thing to do with you is my homework because we spend time together. Roses are red, violets are blue, you love me, and I love you.
Love,
Rey Cervantes

Dear Mom,
I love when you make me pancakes. My favorite thing about you is you play catch with me. You help me with homework. You teach me multiplication. You make me happy when we go to the park. You take me to the trampoline park. My favorite thing to do with you is play catch. You're the best mom ever!
Love,
Jaxon Brown

Dear Mom,
I love when you play outside with me. My favorite thing about you is when you cook me rice. You help me with my homework. You teach me how to climb. You make me laugh. You take me to Wal-Mart. My favorite thing to do with you is to cook hotdogs for supper. Mom I love you so much.
Love,
Aaron McLain

Dear Mom,
I love when you play with me with dolls and take pictures together every day. My favorite thing about you is when you help me, teach me. You help me with my homework and learn me how to roller skate. You teach me how to tie my shoes. You make me laugh sometime and make me smile. My favorite thing to do with you is mother and daughter date night. Mom you're the best mom ever.
Love,
Carly Smith

Dear Mom,
I love when you play shop with me. My favorite thing about you is you help me when I get hurt. You help me do homework that is hard. You teach me how to be kind and help people.

You make me so joyful when you play with me. You take me to school whenever it snows. My favorite thing to do with you is read together. I love when you make white noodles for supper. Love you mom.
Love,
Erin Sheppard

Dear Mother,
I love when you make potato tacos. My favorite thing to do with you is when you take me places. You help me learn math. You make me help you clean. You take me places like Disney World. My favorite is when you take me to sports games.
Love,
Anthony Morales

Dear Mom,
I love when you help me with softball. My favorite thing about you is when you do stuff for me. You help me with homework if I need it. You teach me always be thankful for when someone does something for me. You make me happy when I see you. You take me to softball when I need to go. My favorite thing to do with you is when you take me on a walk.
Love you,
Ariana Arteaga

Dear Mom,
I love when you help me when I get hurt and sad. My favorite thing about you is when you help me do my homework. You help me ride my bike when I was little. You teach me to learn my letters and math. You make me feel safe and comfortable and cozy. You take me when the tornado was happening.
Love,
Gynna Kaufman



Dear Mom,
I love when you can help me with my homework. My favorite thing about you is you made me laugh and you say you love me. You help me to not be scared of the dark. You teach me to be a good person and to help others. You make me feel love. You take me to the hospital sometimes I sick and hurt. My favorite thing to do with you is to play around the park with you. I love you mom. I hope you feel better.
Love,
Manuel

Dear Mom,
I love when you say nice things to me. My favorite thing about you is when you spend time with me when I had an ear infection. You help me feel better when I don't feel good. You teach me how to be a nice kid. You make me happy. You take me spending time with you. My favorite things to do with you is spending time with you. You're the best mom ever.

Love,
Brooklyn

Dear Mom,
I love when you go to the store. My favorite thing about you is when you make me laugh. You help me to places. You teach me to accept. You make me feel proud. You take me to school. My favorite thing to do with you is playing games. I love you mom.
Love,
Ajla

Dear Mom,
I love when you let me sleep with you when the power goes out. My favorite thing about you is that you take care of me when I'm sick. You help me do my homework. You teach me how to be a good person. You make me feel so happy. You take me to the grocery store. My favorite thing to do with you is play don't break the ice with me. When you wake me up for school you make me feel so happy. Happy Mother's Day.
Love,
Gage

Dear Mom,
I love when you take me to the movie. The other my favorite thing about you is when you make me macaroni and cheese. You help me with my clothes. You teach me to sew and to cook.
Love,
Rowen

Dear Mom,
I love when you go fishing. My favorite thing about you is you're the best. You teach me how to work on a farm. You make me happy. You take me fishing. My favorite thing to do with you is to be together. I love you.
Love,
Eva

Dear Mom,
I love when you take me to dinner. My favorite thing about you is you love me so much. You help me clean the home. You teach me how to ride my bike. You make me so happy. You take me to school. My favorite thing to do with you is spending time with you. I love you so much, you love me so much. Happy Mother's Day.
Love,
Ashlynnn

Dear Mom,
I love when you watch TV so I can smile. My favorite thing about you is in this day you make me happy. You help me with my spelling words so I can spell it. You teach me how to be kind to friends. You make me smile and happy and proud. You take me somewhere fun. My favorite thing to do with you is going to the beach and make me have fun. Happy Mother's Day.
Love,
Aribella



Please join us for a

Mother's Day Tea Party

Hosted by ~ Mendota Area Senior Services
When ~ Friday, May 12, 2023 * 12 Noon
Where ~ Felt Senior Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
RSVP by ~ May 9th * 815-539-7700

Wear your favorite hat and bring your best teacup!
For Mother's & Women of any age!



MOTHER'S DAY



Dear Mom,
I love when we go out for my birthday. My favorite thing about you is your funny personality. You help me ride my bike. You teach me how to be kind and brave. You make me laugh and smile when I am sad. You take me to Target. My favorite thing to do with you is spending time with you. I love you so much, mom, and I hope everything is going good.

Love,
Layla

Dear Mom,
I love when you buy toys, give me food and take care of me.

Love,
Jaxson

Dear Mom,
I love when you take me and Joaquin to the pool. My favorite thing about you is when I get scared you're always with me. You help me with homework. You teach me how to play soccer. You make me happy when I am sad. You take me to Dick's Sporting Goods. My favorite thing to do is watch TV. I love you very much.

Max

Dear Mom,
I love when you make up jokes. My favorite thing about you is your nice personality. And you help me when I'm stressed. You also teach me how to be brave. And you make me laugh when I'm sad. Also you take me to the Mendota pool. And my favorite thing to do with you is going to the library. I love you because your personality.

Love,
Gwen

Dear Mom,
I love when you tuck me in and give me the remote. My favorite thing about you is when you make me laugh. You help me fold my clothes. You teach me how to spell words. You make me feel loved. You take me to the store sometimes. My favorite thing to do with you is to watch movies with you. You love me when I come home sad.

Love,
Julian

Dear Mom,
I love when you make food for me. My favorite thing about you is when I get mad then you calm me

down. You teach me how to be strong. You take me to McDonald's. My favorite thing to do with you is cuddle with you. I love you so much. You mean so much to me, mom.

Love,
Lyly

Dear Mom,
I love when we go to the pool. My favorite thing about you is when you cook fish. You help me on a difficult problem. You teach me that making mistakes that you learn from them. You make me happy my making funny voices. You take me to the Y for my birthday. My favorite thing to do with you is getting our nails done.

Love,
Kaidyn

Dear Mom,
I love when you get Starbucks, it is a lot of fun. My favorite thing about you is you always make me happy when I'm scared. You help me by always caring for me when I'm sick or hurt. You teach me how to feel confident in myself. You make me believe in myself so I should never give up. You take me to the nail salon. My favorite thing to do with you is to go to the park. I love you.

Love,
Lyla

Dear Grandma,
I love when you make me roman noodles and when you take me to McDonald's. My favorite thing to do with you is go to the pantry.

Love,
Devlin

Dear Mom,
I love when we play games together. My favorite thing about you is when we go to my friend's house together. You help me calm down when I'm mad. You teach me why I can't sleep sometimes. You make me laugh when I am sad. You take me to the library. My favorite thing to do with you is going to the Renaissance Fair at the Sweet Corn Festival. I will always love you even if I say I hate you or if I am mad at you.

Love,
Rosalynn

Dear Mom,
I love when you hug me tight. My favorite thing about you is when you make me pizza. You help me pick out by clothes. You teach me how

to be kind. You make me happy and excited. You take me to school. My favorite thing to do with you is washing the dishes because it makes me happy. I love you mommy.

Love,
Robert



Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama juega con mi go peritos. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su comida y su pelo y su ropa. Ella me ayuda a mi tarea y me ayuda a limpiar. Ella me ensena a ser mis matematicas y a leer. Ella me hace mi camida y ayuda a escojer mi ropa. Ella me lleva a la casa de mis primas y las tiendas. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es jugar con migo y a cosinar.

Escrito por,
Nayeli

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama se mira bonita. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es cuanda juega con migo. Ella me ayuda a hacer mi tarea. Ella me ensena leer. Ella me hace reir. Ella lleva ha mi practica. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es jugar afuera con ella.

Escrito por,
Jayden

Por que quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me gusta cuando me hace comida. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su cara. Ella me ayuda a ir a la escuela. Ella me ensena a limpiar mi ropa. Ella me hace lonche para la escuela. Ella me lleva a comprar ropa. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es ir al parque.

Escrito por,
Valerie

Por que quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me hace comida. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su ropa. Ella me ayuda a doblar la ropa. Ella me ensena a cocinar. Ella me hace comdia. Ella me lleva de compras. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es pintar mis unas.

Escrito por,
Syomara

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama limpia. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es sus unas. Ella me ayuda a limpiar me cama. Ella me ensena a escribir. Ella me hace mi lonche todos los dias. Ella me lleva a la Wal-Mart. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es cuando me lleva a comer pancakes.

Escrito poor,
Kevin

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me cuidd mi plantar. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es como cocina. Ella me ayuda a ser mi tarrea. Ella me ensena cocinar y lavar mi ropa. Ella me hace me comida favorite. Ella me lleva de compras. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es pasar el tiempo juntas viendo peliculas.

Escrito por,
Jocelyn

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me da un brazos porque se siente bonita. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es sus tacos de asada. Ella me ayuda a con mi tarea. Ella me ensena aser comida como tacos. Ella me hace comida como taco y sopa. Ella me lleva me ye va a la tiendas. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es ire n las bisicletas y a caminar.

Escrito por,
Francisco

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama limpia el cuarto. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es sus blusas. Ella me ayuda a leer. Ella me ensena a escribir. Ella me hace go lletas. Ella me lleva a la Wal-Mart. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es ir pa fuera y jugar.

Escrito por,
Jorge

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama limpia la cama. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su pelo marron. Ella me ayuda a mi tarea. Ella me ensena a leer un libro. Ella me hace sandwiches. Ella me lleva a la Target. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es ir de compras.

Escrito por,
Julian

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama tiede la cama y la sala. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su pelo. Ella me ayuda a ser la tarea. Ella me ensena a cocinar quesadilla. Ella me hace pan con chocolate. Ella me lleva a Mexico. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es a jugar con ella.

Escrito por,
Camilo

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me lee libros. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es pelo. Ella me ayuda a hacer mi tarea. Ella me ensena a leer. Ella me hace el desa y ano. Ella me lleva de compras. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es pasar el rato en casa con ella.

Escrito por,
Natalia

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama hace sopa d mayonesa y su pelo. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es me abraza me ayuda hacer mi tarea. Ella me ayuda a practicar andar en bicidadeta. Ella me ensena a hacer donas. Ella me hace taquitos. Ella me lleva a escuela a McDonald's. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es cosinar plantar a viajar a Florida.

Escrito por,
Alyson

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama cocina. Porque hace chorizo con huevo. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es cuando limpia casa. Ella me ayuda a hacer huevos estrellados. Ella me ensena como puedo hacer una buena persona. Ella me hace comida como tacos y huevos. Ella me lleva cartas de Pokemon. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es mirar peliculas con ella.

Escrito por,
Daniel

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me da de comer sopa. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es estar con ella. Ella me ayuda a ser mi tarea. Ella me ensena a leer libros. Ella me hace regalos para mi. Ella me lleva a la casa. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es cuando hablamos de como fue mi dia.

Escrito por,
Jessica

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama cuando me hace papas con salchicha y huevos. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su tacos de chorizo y cebo ya y cilantro. Ella me ayuda a plantar mi planta. Ella me ensena a lavar mi ropa. Ella me hace un regalo que es caro. Ella me lleva a comer a China. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es cuando you y mi mama, relajamos y aver una pelicula.

Escrito por,
Christian

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama juega commigo y coloriar con migo. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es que me ayuda con la tarrea. Ella me ayuda a ser mi pelo. Ella me ensena leer y matematicas. Ella me hace de comer. Ella me lleva al la mall. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es jugar con mi mama.

Escrito por,
Gulianna

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me lleve anca la casa de mis amigos. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es su cabello. Ella me ayuda mi tarea todos las dias. Ella me ensena a usar mi bicicelta. Ella me hace comida. Ella me lleva con mi papa. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es jugar con mi mama.

Escrito por,
Fernando

Porque quiero a mi mama, Me gusta mucho cuando mi mama me concia mis comidas favoritas como al bondigas. Lo que mas me gusta de mi mama es cuan do you me pego con algo duro me da una curita. Ella me ayuda con mi tarea cuando yo no sabia. Ella me como usar un electrico scooter. Ella me hace content cuando me dia cosa que quiero. Ella me lleva a unas lagares que necesito que ir importante. Lo que mas me gusta hacer con mi mama es planear una fiesta y cuando va a terminar hablamos con ella y las personas que estan alli.

Escrito por,
German



Let me tell you about my mimi. My mimi has as pretty as a dandelion and as sweet as a Skittle. She likes to do puzzles. The best thing she cooks is chicken rice casserole. Her favorite food is chex mix. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to sit on the couch. We like to paint together. My mimi is really good at baking cakes. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mimi for taking care of me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to listen. My mimi deserves a vacation for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Kayleane Barrett-Galloway

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as a lollipop. She likes to go out with her friends. The best thing she cooks is her spaghetti. Her Favorite food is a burger. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay down and watch my tablet. We like to bowl together. My mom is really good at baking. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for all of her love for me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to snuggle together. My mom deserves a new iPhone 14 for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Finley Bonnell

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a sunflower and as sweet as the icing on a cupcake. She likes to read. The best thing she cooks is shrimp alfredo. Her favorite food is soup and salad. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to sleep in. We like to go to the library together. My mom is really good at cooking. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for always being kind to me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be on my best behavior. My mom deserves a plane ticket to Hawaii for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Joree Bowne

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as a donut. She likes to sleep. The best thing she cooks is her fish. Her favorite food is popcorn. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay in bed and watch episodes on her phone. We like to do word searches together. My mom is really good at cooking. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for putting a roof over my head. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to clean the living room and organize my toys. My mom deserves a massage for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Emily Cervantes

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a rainbow and as sweet as a jolly rancher. She likes to clean the house. The best thing she cooks is her roast. Her favorite food is blue moon ice cream. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to take a nap. We like to go on car rides together. My mom is really good at doing the laundry. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for raising me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to help clean my room and behave. My mom deserves a brand new car for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Liam Christmann



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MOTHER'S DAY



HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY



HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as a strawberry. She likes to remodel the house. The best thing she cooks is spaghetti. Her favorite food is McDonald's pie. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch TV. We like to make tortillas by hand together. My mom is really good at helping me with my homework. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for all of the things that she does for me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to clean the house. My mom deserves a new Tesla for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Ruby Diaz-Santos

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a princess and as sweet as a donut. She likes to play with me. The best thing she cooks is chicken nuggets and fries. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch TV. We like to go shopping together. My mom is really good at cleaning the house. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for cleaning my room. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to behave and listen. My mom deserves coffee for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Averie Falcon

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as an ice cream cone. She likes to hang out with us. The best thing she cooks is noodles. Her favorite food is spaghetti. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay in bed. We like to get manicures together. My mom is really good at helping me with dance class. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for always helping me with my homework. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to listen and clean up. My mom deserves Reese's peanut butter cups for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Avary Foltyniewicz

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet as a lollipop. She likes to do art. The best thing she cooks is pizza. Her favorite food is chips. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch TV. We like to play together. My mom is really good at cleaning the house. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for always being kind. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to act good. My mom deserves a blanket for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Joshua Garcia

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a dandelion and as sweet as a fruit roll-up. She likes to play games with us, like Phase 10. The best thing she cooks is her lasagna. Her favorite food is salad and chicken. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch movies with us. We like to play outside together. My mom is really good at typing in one second and cursive. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for all of her love. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be on my best behavior, the best I've ever been. My mom deserves a pink santa statue for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Luis Granados

Dear Grandma,
I like you care for us. When we go shopping I like it. I like you when you help me with my homework.

Going to the store with you is fun.

Love,
Jaxson Holley

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a flower and as sweet as a cherry. She likes to go on vacation. The best thing she cooks is bacon. Her favorite food is salad. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch TV. We like to watch movies together. My mom is really good at helping me. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for going to the store and buying us groceries. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to give you a card. My mom deserves all my love for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Logan Jones

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as sugar. She likes to go for drives. The best thing she cooks is her hamburgers. Her favorite food is sopa. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch a good movie. We like to go out to eat together. My mom is really good at cooking. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for everything she has given to me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to do stuff for my mom all day. My mom deserves a pretty candle for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Abel Olivas

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as candy. She likes to rest. The best thing she cooks is chicken legs. Her favorite food is pizza. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch her phone. We like to play outside together. My mom is really good at cooking. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for always making good food. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to not make her do a lot of work. My mom deserves a shopping spree at Marshall's for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Isaiah Orozco

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a rose and as sweet as a marshmallow. She likes to sleep. The best thing she cooks is lollipops. Her favorite food is Chinese food. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to sleep. We like to play together. My mom is really good at cooking. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for always taking care of me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be really good. My mom deserves a toy dolphin for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Mia Phillips

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a garden and as sweet as a tulip. She likes to collect flowers. The best thing she cooks is hot dogs. Her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch TV. We like to take naps together. My mom is really good at taking care of her plants. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for being the best mom. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be on my very best behavior. My mom deserves beautiful plants for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Santiago Raya

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a butterfly and as sweet

as a gumbdrop. She likes to ride dirt bikes. The best thing she cooks is her homemade pizza. Her favorite food is bugels. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to do a puzzle. We like to play soccer together. My mom is really good at baking cookies and cupcakes. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for being the world to me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be really good all day long. My mom deserves a brand new dirt bike for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Isabel Reyes

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a dress and as sweet as a flower. She likes to bake cakes. The best thing she cooks is Mexican food. Her favorite food is soup. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to watch her phone. We like to go shopping together. My mom is really good at baking cakes. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to clean my room every day. My mom deserves a fancy house for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Rodolfo Romero

Let me tell you about my mom, Jessica. My mom is as pretty as a queen and as sweet as a cupcake. She likes to play games on her computer. The best thing she cooks is shells and white sauce. Her favorite food is ranch Doritos. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay in her bed and watch TV. We like to bake together. My mom is really good at her job. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for everything that she does. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to be good. My mom deserves hugs all day long for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Kinsey Wofford

Let me tell you about my mom. My mom is as pretty as a tulip and as sweet as a cake. She likes to work outside when it's very sunny. The best thing she cooks is pizza. Her favorite food is hot dogs. Her favorite thing to do to relax is to lay down and watch TV. We like to play outside together. My mom is really good at taking care of plants. As you can see, my mom is so special to me. I would like to thank my mom for all of the toys that she bought for us. On Mother's Day this year, I promise to go outside and play with her. My mom deserves to live by family for Mother's Day this year.

Love,
Colton Wynne



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0501-2023

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0508-2023

THE BACK PAGE

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2t17msr



Be alert for bicyclists on roadway

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department urges motorists to pay attention, be alert for bikes and share the road. MPD urges bicyclists to be predictable and observe traffic laws. Your actions affect public opinion.

Illinois Bicycle Laws

Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists riding on a highway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, with few exceptions.

Lane Positioning – When riding on roadways and bicycle paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable and safe to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway, except, when overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or, when preparing for a left turn, or, when reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, motorized pedal cycles, pedestrians, animals and surface hazards.

Lights on Bicycles – For night riding, a front lamp with a white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible from 100 feet to 600 feet are required. A rear light visible from 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector.

Two or More on a Bike – Bicycles shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack device or sling.

Parental Responsibility – The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize the child or ward to violate any of the provision of this code.

The Mendota Police Department encourages bicyclists to wear a helmet for protection against head injuries.

Always lock your vehicle

MENDOTA – Members of the Mendota Police Department would like to remind citizens of an important safety tip. Whether your vehicle is in your garage, driveway or parked on the street, always keep it locked.

Do not leave the keys in the ignition of your vehicle, even if you are only parking it for a short period of time. Do not leave purses, wallets or other valuables in your vehicle, as this attracts unwanted attention from a would-be thief.

POLICE BLOTTER

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Billy J. Jutton, 49, of Princeton, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Seventh Avenue and Fifth Street at 10:45 a.m. April 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI

Zaine M. Williams, 21, of LaSalle, was charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol after police officers investigated a call for service at 805 Fourth Ave. at 11 a.m. April 26. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Kazem K. Saadamandi, 60, of Ottawa, was arrested at 5:29 p.m. April 29 on a valid Champaign County warrant for forgery after a traffic stop at the intersection of 13th Avenue and Meriden Street. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

WARRANT ARREST

Brennon R. Dalman, 19, of Crystal Lake, was arrested at 10:43 p.m. April 30 on a valid Kane County warrant for failure to appear/possession of marijuana after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and I-39. The subject posted bond and was released with a Kane County court date.

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SPORTS



Mendota’s Ryne Strouss slides in to third base while Newman’s Gare Wolfe looks for a throw during baseball action on April 27 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

On paper doesn’t always translate

The headline is kind of ironic isn’t it. I mean, I’m typing on simulated paper and you’re reading this on literal paper.

Hopefully my message translates, but when it comes to sports “On Paper” usually doesn’t.

The term “On Paper” means when you look at a roster or statistics of a team or a player and form an immediate opinion of whether the player or team is awful, bad, OK, or great. Those are my four levels at least.

We see a zero next to how many touchdowns they have heading into Week 10 of the NFL or NCAA season and we automatically think, ‘He’s no good.’

Then in Week 10’s game, that no good receiver, tight end, or running back finds the endzone twice and makes you look like a dummy.

And of course, it works both ways because if you called the player was going to have a big game and he did, you look like a genius.

It happens every day, both sides, with every sport in every town, city, county, region, providence, state, territory on planet Earth.

And still, we will look at the paper, the information provided to us, and make our assumptions.

Some take it to Draft Kings.

Some to bookies.

Some to a bracket with friends clinching their teeth when they donate jellybeans (what I call money, term stolen from Dan Patrick about 15 years ago, so it’s mine now).

Some to water cooler conversations.

I received a couple lousy texts about Chicago White Sox pitchers based on their stats from the beginning of the season. Their numbers heading into this season showed the pitching rotation was solid and Chicago was going to be a great this year.

The games are played and it doesn’t look that way at all except for Dylan Cease, who’s 2.73 ERA is 10th in the American League and he’s tied for 10th in the entire MLB with 34 strikeouts.

But Lucas Giolito’s 4.50 ERA, Lance Lynn giving up 29 hits (tied for 10th most in the AL), and Michael Kopech’s 6.97 ERA and eight allowed home runs, which is second most in the AL, have set every piece a paper with good pitching symbolism aflame and everyone who said it is very quiet.

How about the Chicago Bulls, the Los Angeles Clippers, or the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA?

LeBron James, Anthony Davis, and Russell Westbrook were supposed to lead the Lakers back to the finals, according to on paper.

The gold and purple made the playoffs by winning a play-in game. Why is a team with more than one hall of fame player and one, James, who just became the NBA’s all-time leading scorer, have to play a play-in game and could be bounced in any round because they’re not the favorite?

The paper fooled us.

In the preseason, the Clippers were supposed to be the best team in the Western Conference and one of the best teams in the NBA.

The Clips finished the regular season 44-38 behind Kawhi Leonard, Paul George, and the deepest roster in the NBA, so they say. They’re a five seed and are in dire straits against the Phoenix Suns in the first round.

The Bulls have three players who could be all-stars any season they want in Zach LaVine, DeMar DeRozan, and Nikola Vucevic. On paper, they were a top five team in the Eastern Conference.

Instead, DeRozan is the only all-star, LaVine comes in and out as a good player, and Vuc can’t decide if he wants to be a 6-foot-10 center or a 3-point shot chucking guard.

One last time.

On paper, is just that, on paper.

It’s not official until the games are played. That’s why they’re played.

And why I don’t gamble.



Not the Last Chance
By Brandon LaChance

Mendota to host girls’ soccer regional May 9 & 12

MENDOTA – Mendota will host the Mendota Class 1A Girls’ Regional Soccer Tournament on May 9 and 12.

Two games will be played on Tuesday, May 9, with Rock Island Alleman taking on DePue at 4 p.m. and

Mendota battling Princeton at 6 p.m. The two winners will meet for the regional championship at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 12.

The winner of the Mendota Regional will advance to the Hinckley-Big Rock Sectional to face the cham-

pion of the Byron Regional on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. The other sectional participants will be the champions from the Indian Creek and Stillman Valley regionals.

Mendota Class 1A Girls’ Soccer Regional

Tuesday, May 9
1–(2) Rock Island (Alleman) vs. (9) DePue [Coop]—4 p.m.
2–(3) Mendota vs. (8) Princeton—6 p.m.

Friday, May 12
3 – Winner Match 1 vs. Winner Match 2—4:30 p.m. (championship)

MHS wins 1 of 3 outings

The Mendota Lady Trojans’ soccer team fell to Winnebago, 3-0, on April 25 at the MHS field. Naitzy Garcia had 11 saves for Mendota.

Mendota defeated Stillman Valley, 3-1, on April 27 at Stillman Valley.

Crystal Garcia scored all three goals for the Lady Trojans with assists from Elaina Reddin and Naitzy Garcia.

Naitzy Garcia posted 11 saves in goal.

Orion scored the lone goal in a 1-0 triumph over the Lady Trojans on April 29 at the MHS field.

Naitzy Garcia had 11 goalie saves.

Mendota has an 8-8 record.



Mendota’s Crystal Garcia tries to get around an Orion defender during a soccer game on April 29 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)



Mendota’s Ava Eddy winds up for a pitch during a softball game with Newman on April 27 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

Trojans fall to Newman, Orion

Sterling Newman had a huge first inning and went on to down Mendota, 8-4, in a Three Rivers Conference varsity baseball battle on April 27 at the MHS field. The Trojans are 1-8 in league play.

The Comets knocked out Trojan starter Izaiah Nanez in the first inning on three hits, three walks and some Mendota defensive miscues. Only two of the six runs Nanez allowed were earned.

Newman added two more runs in the second, while Mendota scored single runs in the first and third innings, and two in the seventh.

The Trojans had five hits off of two Newman pitchers. Nanez had a double and two runs batted inning, while Landon Kreiser also picked up a two-bagger.

Kreiser relieved Nanez in the first inning and held Newman in check over 5

1/3 innings pitched, allowing two runs (one earned) and striking out four. Cale Strouss pitched the seventh.

The Trojans fell behind early and never could catch up in a 12-3 setback at Orion on April 29.

The home team scored three runs in each of the first two innings, and after Mendota cut the margin in half in the fifth, the Chargers put five runs on the board in the bottom of the fifth to take control.

Mendota (3-10) managed just three hits. Ryne Strouss had two singles and Nanez had an RBI.

Justin Randolph was the first of four Trojan hurlers and took the loss. He was relieved by Dominik Stamberger in the second, while Braiden Freeman and Owen Aughenbaugh also pitched. Orion had eight hits.

Girls drop two on softball field

Two big innings carried Sterling Newman to a 14-3 triumph over Mendota in a Three Rivers Conference varsity softball contest on April 27 at the MHS field.

A five-run third inning gave Newman a 6-0 lead. Mendota got two runs back in the bottom of the third when Ava Eddy clouted a two-run homer. The Lady Trojans added a run in the bottom of the third on an RBI single by Reanna Brant, but the Lady Comets scored twice in the fifth and six times in the seventh to earn the victory.

Mendota ended with six hits. Katie Jenner had a pair of singles and Emma Schultz collected a double.

Newman had 12 hits, including three home runs.

Eddy pitched six innings and took the loss.

Orion posted a 14-4 triumph over Mendota on April 29 at Orion. The game was called in the sixth by the 10-run rule.

The home team held a 6-0 lead after three innings before the Lady Trojans tallied a pair of runs in the fourth and fifth innings. Orion got three in each of the fourth and fifth frames, and then scored twice in the sixth for the 10-run margin.

Mendota had the bats going with 11 hits, including two each by Schultz (single, double), Jenner (two singles) and Eddy (two singles). Talia White added a double.

Eddy worked two innings in the circle and was tagged with the loss, while Ryleigh Sonderoth finished out the game.

SPORTS

Mendota girls assigned to Sterling Sectional Track meet

STERLING – The Mendota Lady Trojans have been assigned to the Sterling Class 2A Girls’ Sectional Track Meet to be held Thursday, May 11.

Joining MHS will be Belvidere (H.S.), Burlington (Central), Dixon (H.S.), Freeport (H.S.), Galena (H.S.) [Coop], Genoa (G.-Kingston), Plano, Rochelle, Rock Falls, Rockford (Boylan Catholic), Sandwich, Sterling (H.S.), Stillman Valley and Sycamore (H.S.).

First- and second-place winners and those who meet or exceed the qualifying standard in each event, including relay teams, will advance to the State final meet.

The IHSA State Meet is scheduled for Thursday, May 18 through Saturday, May 20 at O’Brien Stadium on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

MHS netters drop 3 meets

Dixon defeated Mendota, 4-1, in boys’ tennis action on April 25 at the MHS courts.

Picking up Mendota’s win was the doubles team of Johnny Diaz and Cameron Escatel.

April 25
Dixon 4, Mendota 1

Singles: No. 1 – Herwig (D) (H.S.) def. Matt Miller (M), 4-6, 6-1 (10-4); No. 2 – Elbzour (D) def. Landon Lee (M), 6-1, 6-0

Doubles: No. 1 - Winters-Miller (D) def. Dagen Setchell-Landon Bauer (M), 6-3, 6-2; No. 2 - Arbuckle-Gingras (D) def. Clay Buffington-Trekker Klema (M), 6-3, 0-6 (11-9); No. 3 - Johnny Diaz-Cameron Escatel (M) def. Babilio-Farster (D), 6-2, 6-1

Princeton blanked the Trojans, 5-0, on April 27 at Princeton.

April 27
Princeton 5, Mendota 0

Singles: No. 1 – Phillips (P) def. Miller (M), 6-0, 6-1; No. 2 – Sims (P) def. Lee (M), 6-0, 6-1

Doubles: No. 1–Sims-Anderson (P) def. Setchell-Bauer (M), 6-1, 6-4; No. 2 – Schneider-Ellis (P) def. Buffington-Klema (M), 6-2, 6-1; No. 3 – Gartin-Orwig (P) def. Diaz-Escatel (M), 6-7 (6), 6-1 (10-6)

Mendota lost to Sterling, 5-0, on May 1 at the MHS courts.

May 1
Sterling 5, Mendota 0

Singles: No. 1 – Peterson (S) def. Miller (M), 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 – Alkhalaf (S) def. Buffington (M), 5-7, 6-2 (10-7)

Doubles: No. 1 – Pham-Jensen (S) def. Bauer-Setchell (M), 6-1, 6-0; No. 2 – Boze-Lofgren (S) def. Klema-Lee (M), 6-1, 6-0; No. 3 – Shank-Zaragoza (S) def. Diaz-Escatel, Mendota, 6-4, 7-6 (4)

Four top finishes power Trojans to 2nd place in Mendota Co-Ed Meet

MENDOTA – Mendota’s track teams competed on their home turf for the final time this season in the Mendota Co-Ed Meet on April 28.

The boys turned in a solid performance, taking second place in the team standings with 143 points. Streator won with 185 points, while LaSalle-Peru (131), Newark (74) and Hall (73) also participated.

The Trojans picked up four first-place finishes. Jose Rocha claimed the discus at 103-8 and Mason Koch captured the long jump at 18-9.

The other two firsts were by relay teams. The 4x400 raced to a winning time of 3:43.15. Competitors were Koch, Kody Chase, Anthony Kelson and Sebastian Carlos. The 4x800 foursome also took first in 9:23.93, with Chase, Jacob Carr, Travis Mumm and Kelson handling the baton.

The Lady Trojans scored 85 points and were fourth in the team standings. L-P (186), Hall (112) and Newark (102) eclipsed the century mark, while Streator was fifth with 82 points.

Mendota had three second-place finishes – Alexis Finley in the 1600-meter run (6:48.53), Kennedy Knaff in the discus (75-5) and the 4x800 relay team (12:18). Runners were Hannah Kunz, Grace Wasmer, Jessica Reel and Finley.

April 28 – Mendota Co-Ed Meet (Boys)

Streator 185, Mendota 143, LaSalle-Peru 131, Newark 74, Hall 73

Mendota 1st place: 4x400m relay (Mason Koch, Kody Chase, Anthony Kelson, Sebastian Carlos), 3:43.15; 4x800m relay (Chase, Jacob Carr, Travis Mumm, Kelson), 9:23.93; Jose Rocha, discus, 103-8; Koch, long jump, 18-9

Mendota 2nd place: Carlos, 400m dash, 52.56; Hector Gonzalez, 1600m run, 5:52.77; Kelson, 110m hurdles, 18.98; Johan Cortez, 300m hurdles, 46.85

Mendota 3rd place: Chase, 800m run, 2:18.27; Daniel Hanson, 1600m run, 6:08.42; Cortez, 110m hurdles, 19.52; 4x100m relay (Corbin Furar, Carlos, Koch, Keegen Stewart), 47.88

Mendota 4th place: Koch, 100m dash, 12.19; Carr, 800m run, 2:28.32; Carlos Olivas, 3200m run, 13:26.25

Mendota 5th place: Spencer Kain, 3200m run, 14:57.73; Lucas Castillo, 300m hurdles, 53.27; 4x200m relay (Brandon Leadley, Aaden Castle, Stewart, Furar), 1:47.63; Albert Harris, shot put, 33-9

(Girls)

Mendota 2nd place: Alexis Finley, 1600m run, 6:48.53; 4x800m relay (Hannah Kunz, Grace Wasmer, Jessica Reel, Finley), 12:18; Kennedy Knaff, discus, 75-5

Mendota 3rd place: Kunz, 800m run, 3:06.02; 4x100m relay (Sofia Duarte, Knaff, Ella Martin, Laylie Denault), 58.49; 4x400m relay (Martin, Knaff, Reel, Vivian Begley), 4:56.14

Mendota 4th place: Wasmer, 100m dash, 15.19; Denault, 400m dash, 1:10.25; Knaff, 300m hurdles, 55.76; 4x200m relay (Martin, Ashley Caracheo, Reel, Wasmer), 2:06.53

Mendota 5th place: Denault, 200m dash, 30.97; Caracheo, long jump, 12-5

J. Cortez grabs first place at G-K JV Invitational

GENOA – The Mendota junior varsity boys’ track team went up against six other teams in the Genoa-Kingston JV Invitational on April 26 at Genoa.

The Trojans scored 52 points and finished in fifth place. The top spot was occupied by Burlington Central with 143 points.

Mendota had one first-place finish and one second-place finish. Johan

Cortez got them both, as he won the 300-meter hurdles in a time of 48.02 and was runner-up in the 110-meter hurdles in 20.48.

April 26 – Genoa-K JV Invite

Burlington Central 143, Genoa-Kingston 130, Oregon 129, Hampshire 125, Mendota 52, Byron 48, North Boone 41

Mendota 1st place: Johan Cortez, 300m hurdles, 48.02

Mendota 2nd place: Cortez, 110m hurdles, 20.48

Mendota 3rd place: 4x800m relay (Hector Gonzalez, Daniel Hanson, Travis Mumm, Carlos Olivas), 10:49.03

Mendota 5th place: 4x200m relay (Anthony Seabloom, Lucas Castillo, Cortez, Brandon Leadley), 1:53.17

Mendota 6th place: 4x100m relay (Corbin Furar, Keegen Stewart, Seabloom,

Leadley), 51.87; 4x400m relay (K. Stewart, Furar, Robert Botello, Seabloom), 4:22.68; Joe Stewart, discus, 77-3; Castillo, triple jump, 30-7

Mendota 7th place: K. Stewart, 400m dash, 1:03.88; Gabe Vallejo, discus, 76-5

Mendota 8th place: Mumm, 800m run, 2:34.84; Castillo, 300m hurdles, 53.66

PET WEEK

What do pets see in color?

The popular notion that pets see in black and white, notably dogs, is false. People once thought that their furry companions couldn’t see the color spectrum. However, the American Kennel Club reports that new research and conclusions about canine anatomy point to dogs having color vision, after all — it’s just a bit more muted than their human friends. According to Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC’s



chief veterinary officer, dogs have more rods than cones in their eyes, which improves low-light vision. Cones are responsible for

controlling color perception. Due to these anatomical differences, it is believed dog’s vision mimics that of a person with red/green color blindness. Color is perceptible for dogs, but not in the spectrum enjoyed by humans with healthy vision. Cats also can see in color, but similarly not with the same level of detail as people. Furthermore, their vision is much more attuned to up-close sight than to focusing on objects that are far away. According to Birdfact, an online resource about birds, birds have arguably the best eyesight and ability to detect color of any member of the animal kingdom. Birds can see more color than humans because they have a fourth type of light-receiving cone in their retinas (humans have three). Therefore, a pet bird will be in tune with vibrantly colored items in and around his environment. Arizona State University’s Ask a Biologist offers an interesting chart that illustrates colors certain animals can see at <https://askbiologist.asu.edu/colors-animals-see>. People who want to know if their pet rabbit can see color, or what those fish in their home aquariums can see, can consult the chart.

Characteristics of popular dog breeds

Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are two of the most popular dog breeds in North America. Each year, the American Kennel Club releases its top breeds. In 2021, the Lab and Golden held the first and third spots, respectively (the French Bulldog was second).

Why are people drawn to certain dog breeds more than others? The reasons may vary, and include anything from familiarity with a certain breed to the desire to have a dog that performs a certain role — like a herding dog for livestock. Some simply may like the way a dog looks.

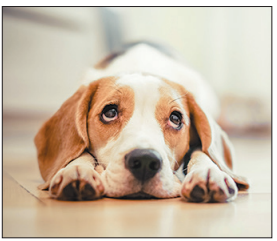
Many people select dogs based on perceived personality traits, which are believed to be breed-specific. Although genetics can go a long way toward a dog’s disposition, how the animal was bred and raised also affects its personality. That said, the following are traits that tend to be common among some specific breeds, courtesy of the AKC.

Labrador Retriever

The Labrador is one of the most popular dogs and often recommended for families. It’s known to be active, friendly and outgoing. Labs have high energy, so they’re not going to be content to sit indoors all day. They also are eager to please their owners, which makes them easy to train.

French Bulldog

The French bulldog is playful, smart



and adaptable. It tends to be affectionate with family and good with other dogs and young children. The dog has moderate energy levels and is more happy to lounge than a Lab. A French bulldog tends to be open to strangers.

Beagle

Beagles are merry, friendly and curious. While not completely independent, they don’t need to be constantly tended to in order to be content. Good with other dogs and children, beagles also make fine family pets. One thing to consider is beagles can be quite vocal, so howling and barking can become an issue.

Boxer

Fun-loving and bright, Boxers have gained popularity in recent years. Good with kids and affectionate, boxers are a little more skeptical of other dogs. Although they are open to strangers, they tend to be watchdogs and protective in nature.

Akita

Loyal and courageous are traits assigned to the dignified Akita. Akitas are large animals that require ample training. Akitas can adapt to family life and are moderately affectionate with family and kids, but are often best-suited to being the only dog in the house. They’re quite reserved and vigilant watchdogs.

English Setter

You’ll find an English Setter to be friendly and mellow. They’re very loving dogs that make good family pets. They prefer a job for mental stimulation and need moderate activity to get their energy out. Setters can be trained well, but prefer positive reinforcement, as their feelings can get hurt.

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Friday, May 5th through Sunday, May 14th (Mother’s Day)

VOTE

Visit <https://noanimalleftbehind.org> for details and rules on entering and voting.
\$1 donation per vote
All proceeds from this pet photo contest will go to Safe House Animal Rescue League for their spay/neuter program.

Winners will be announced Saturday, June 3rd in Utica at the annual Sip ‘n’ Snip Festival.

Utica will host their popular outdoor dining on Mill Street again this year, so bring your dog and have lunch with your best friend. We will also have vendors, music, games, raffles, prizes, The best wine, and much, much more.

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TRI-COUNTY NEWS

Klaser, Belan, Hanson sworn in; Sublette Board approves NCICG

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

SUBLETTE — Election Day has come and gone, but it didn't change an awful lot in terms of trustees on the Sublette Village Board.

At the end-of-the-year board meeting on Thursday, April 27, Richard Klaser and incumbents MacKenzie Belan and Scott Hanson were sworn in for their four-year terms as Sublette Village Trustees.

"They already know the ropes. Richard was previously on the board for at least four years and maybe even eight years," said Sublette Village Board President John Stenzel. "They're all seasoned trustees. I don't know if it happens very often when board members are on, leave, and then come back, but I also did it. It does happen on occasion. "There wasn't a lot of shake up after this election."

Sublette Village Trustee Jeff Myer did not receive enough votes to be re-elected to the board and was given respect for being on the board during his tenure at the meeting, although he wasn't in attendance.

"Myer was real familiar with construction because he worked in the industry for many years," Stenzel said. "He mainly did road construction. He had knowledge and experience that helped the board. He also had his

own business, so he knew about everything owning a business includes.

"He understood for a contractor mobilization is a big thing. For them to come look at things or start working on a project, it costs. You try to get as much work out of a contractor as you can when they mobilize."

Stenzel added Myer knew about permits and insurance needed for Sublette projects and how to go about acquiring representation.

NCICG approved for paperwork

The Sublette Board approved North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) to complete the paperwork for a \$25,000 grant.

The village will initially give NCICG \$500 (which is returnable if the grant doesn't go through) and \$2,000 to complete the paperwork.

"We are paying \$2,500 to receive \$25,000," Stenzel said. "The grant is going to be used on infrastructure improvement for the project we've been working on around the fire station. We're going to replace storm sewer and some of the water main.

"The grant will help, but we don't know what the full cost is going to be. Fixing this issue is huge and we need to get it done because you have to get it done before you can redo the road."

IVCC names Support Staff Award winner

OGLESBY — Business Office administrative assistant Nikki VanNielen is the winner of Illinois Valley Community College's 2023 Connie Skerston Memorial Award for Support Staff Distinguished Service.

For 23 years, the award has recognized an individual who demonstrates a high level of achievement in their work, loyalty, respect and commitment to IVCC.

Within months of her start at IVCC in October 2019, the pandemic struck and IVCC was later the target of a data breach.

"With files lost forever, it was especially devastating for the Business Office," said IVCC Controller Kathy Ross who nominated VanNielen for the award.

"Throughout it all, Nikki worked diligently with those around her to ensure budget books, audit books, ICCB reporting and grant reporting were completed so the college's business could continue as seamlessly as possible," Ross said.

Ross lauded VanNielen for her versatility and willingness to pitch-in whenever and wherever needed "with a positive attitude. She has filled in for accounts payable, helped with board reports and budget worksheets. She is a team player."

VanNielen and business office colleagues were recently awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. GFOA said the award "represents a significant achievement by IVCC."



VanNielen

New Sublette businesses



T&R Sales

The Village of Sublette welcomes its newest business, T&R Sales. Tina and Rusty Sergent purchased the property located at 601 Inlet Road. T&R Sales specialize in park model homes, destination trailers, LSVs (low speed vehicles), scooters and ebikes. A grand opening is planned for 11 a.m.-4 p.m., on Saturday, May 6. Presenting an American flag is Sublette Village Trustee Julie Kessel, right. The business is open Monday-Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Wednesday, open Thursday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sunday. For more information, call 815-849-9089 or visit their website at www.tr-sales.com. (Photo contributed)



Orzech Auto Truck and Tow

The Village of Sublette welcomes its newest business Orzech Auto Truck and Tow LLC. Ethan Orzech purchased the building that formerly housed Leffelman Automotive, located at 301 W. Richmond St., in Sublette. He also has a second location at 114 Third St., Compton. A grand opening is planned for noon-5 p.m., on Saturday, May 27. Presenting an American flag to Orzech, right, is Sublette Village President John Stenzel. The business is an auto/semi-truck and trailer repair shop, with 24-hour towing. The shop will do batteries, oil changes, tires, suspensions, electrical systems, computer diagnostics, brakes, general repairs and maintenance. The business is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and towing is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information, call 815-343-8047 or email orzechtowing@gmail.com, or visit their website at www.orzechautotruckandtow.com. (Photo contributed)

GARAGE SALE TIME!



It's a great time to have a Garage Sale. If you're planning to get together some of the items you no longer use around your home and set up your own sale, be sure you follow some important basic steps!

1. WHAT TO SELL

Anything that still has usability and some value.

2. HOW TO PRICE

Decide the price of each item and then tag that item.

3. LENGTH OF SALE

Sales from Thursday through Saturday seem best.

4. HOW TO SET IT UP

Make it easy for buyers to view the items and have a central place with sufficient change for them to pay.

5. HOW TO ADVERTISE

The most effective place to reach more people is in The Mendota Reporter. We will be happy to assist you in placing your sale ad.

GARAGE SALE DEADLINES*

THURSDAY, 5 PM -

to appear in Monday's Money Saver

MONDAY, 10 AM -

To appear in Wednesday's Reporter

* On a week with a holiday, deadlines may change. Please call to verify.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Can you believe that Arnold Schwarzenegger -- seven-time Mr. Olympia, four-time Mr. Universe, governor of California (2003-2011), Emmy-Award and Golden-Globe winner, and star of over 40 motion pictures -- doesn't own or use a cell phone? Apparently, he uses an iPad, but doesn't text, since he prefers to FaceTime.

To his credit, the 75-year-old superhero (with a net worth of \$450 million) isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, especially to help people in the neighborhood where he lives. Schwarzenegger was so upset about huge apothole that hadn't been filled after a week's time, so he rounded up a posse, grabbed some 50 pound bags of blacktop repair material and repaired the damage himself, to the delight of appreciative neighbors who were sick of getting flat tires and having bicycle accidents. (A Los Angeles city official later stated that the pothole was actually a service trench relating to work being performed by So-Cal Gas, but it's the thought that counts.) ***



Hemsworth

Another he-man making news is Australia's Chris Hemsworth. During a routine physical examination, he discovered he has two of the APOE4 genes (one from his mother and one from his father), foretelling that he is 10 times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, which his maternal grandfather already has.

Understandably, Hemsworth took notice, and then action. He's decided to take a break from filmmaking to spend more time with his wife, Elsa Pataky (married since 2010), and his three children -- daughter India Rose (11) and twin sons Sasha and Tristan (9). They currently live in Byron Bay, New South Wales, Australia, and in 2021, Hemsworth was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia during Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Honours.

While his future as Thor is uncertain, he still has two films, Netflix's "Extraction 2" (dropping June 16) and "Furiosa" (in theaters May

24, 2024) in his future. But how will he support his family if he doesn't work? Not to worry, his net worth is \$130 million. ***

Also slowing down to spend more time with his new family is Blake Shelton. When Shelton announced he'd end his run on "The Voice" after this season (his 23rd), false stories appeared claiming he'd had a heart attack, which was totally untrue. He married Gwen Stefani in 2021 and became stepfather to her three sons.

We won't worry about how Shelton will support his family either ... his annual income has been \$28.5 million, with his total worth around \$120 million. On June 18, Shelton will be 47. What better time to stop and smell the roses? ***

Chris Pratt, title character of "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" had to redo his voice-over because producers thought he sounded more like gangster Tony Soprano than a lovable Italian plumber. Pratt looked in the mirror and channeled his character, saying, "Yeah! It's a Mario time!"

Couch Theater

"White House Plumbers" (TV-MA) -- Woody Harrelson and Justin Theroux lead a new five-part miniseries surrounding the two masterminds in the Nixon Administration who were behind the Watergate scandal. Harrelson plays E. Howard Hunt, who teams up with Theroux's G. Gordon Liddy to join the committee responsible in ensuring that Nixon gets reelected for his second term. The pair are tasked with plugging press leaks and, in turn, end up accidentally sabotaging their president in the process. The first part of this satirical political drama is out now, with the four remaining parts releasing every Monday for the rest of May. (HBO Max)

"Fatal Attraction" (TV-MA) -- The 1987 classic film starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close has been readapted for a limited series on the small screen. Joshua Jackson ("Little Fires Everywhere") steps into the role of Dan Gallagher, a married

man who starts a steamy love affair with a woman named Alex Forrest. However, Alex, played by Lizzy Caplan ("Masters of Sex"), continues to latch on to Dan after he decides to end their affair. As the iconic line goes, Alex isn't a woman who is "going to be ignored," even if it unsettles Dan's entire life. The first three episodes of the seven-episode series are out now. (Paramount+)

"Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story" (TV-MA) -- The "Bridgerton" franchise continues to expand, which means more high-society gossip, drama and romance coming your way! This prequel spinoff of the original "Bridgerton" series follows Queen Charlotte's rise to power as she is arranged to marry King George III. The young Charlotte must attempt to solidify her position as queen on top of an overbearing mother-in-law in Princess Augusta, learning how to handle the nuances of politics and having a pow-

erful new husband. (Should be easy enough.) All six episodes of Shonda Rimes' latest creation release on May 4. (Netflix)

"Alone at Night" (TV-18+) -- In this slasher film hitting streaming services on May 5, Ashley Benson ("Pretty Little Liars") stars as Vicky, a webcam worker who decides to quarantine in a cabin out in the woods after her ex-boyfriend kicked her out of her place. While Vicky continues to model for clients in the cabin, one of her anonymous clients becomes increasingly creepier, and the power in her cabin keeps going out at the same time. (We all know how this goes.) As more odd things take place around the cabin, Vicky's paranoia grows, but it's up to her -- and a very unserious sheriff played by Pamela Anderson -- to face a potential murderer head-on. The rest of the cast of this campy horror film include Paris Hilton and rapper G-Eazy. (Prime Video)

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Whatever happened to the TV show "UnREAL," which was a parody of "The Bachelor"? I thought it was really good, and not overly silly. Is it coming back? -- **H.T.**

A: "UnREAL" originally aired on the Lifetime network for three seasons before concluding with a short fourth and final season on Hulu. It starred Shiri Appleby ("Roswell") as a young producer of a "Bachelor"-style reality show titled "Everlasting." She was directed by an even more unscrupulous executive producer behind the monitors, played by Constance Zimmer.

"UnREAL" was based on the short film "Sequin Raze," which was directed by Sarah Gertrude Shapiro, who once was a field producer on ABC's "The Bachelor." "UnREAL" ended up winning a Peabody Award "for illustrating how masterfully parody can work when it shines its light fearlessly and for smartly blending the dichotomy between high and low culture."

Hulu didn't order any new episodes after the fourth season in 2018, and a return doesn't seem to be in the

works. Appleby recently had a role in the Reese Witherspoon rom-com "Your Place or Mine," but has been more busy directing than acting, having recently directed several episodes of the sitcoms "Young Sheldon" and "Grown-ish." Zimmer, too, had found herself drawn to leadership positions behind the lens. She's returning to Lifetime to direct her first feature-length film, "Boy in the Walls." She also was a regular on the ABC series "Big Sky," a show that remains in limbo as it hasn't been canceled or renewed. ***

Q: Is the police drama "The Rookie" with Nathan Fillion connected in any way to "The Recruit"? My friend told me they were created by the same person. -- **A.P.**

A: It's true that producer Alexi Hawley created both ABC's "The Rookie" and Netflix's "The Recruit," but they are not a shared "universe," according to PopCultureReferences.com. "The Recruit" stars Noah Centineo as an attorney who finds himself in the midst of some international drama involving the CIA, while "The Rookie" stars Nathan Fillion ("Castle") as a member of

the LAPD.

"The Rookie" does, however, have a spinoff series on ABC titled "The Rookie: Feds," which stars Niecy Nash-Betts ("Dahmer -- Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story"). It stands a good chance of lasting as long as its predecessor, which was recently renewed for a sixth season. ***

Q: Is the beautiful New York City apartment building in the series "Only Murders in the Building" a real place, or is it a set? -- **C.C.**

A: It's a combination of both. What is known as the Arconia on the series is a real residential building in Manhattan, located at 86th and Broadway, but it's called the Belnord. It earned recognition when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places back in 1980, and currently, the apartments -- which are being converted into condos -- cost as high as \$11 million. The Belnord is only used for exterior shots on the Hulu series, while the inside scenes where Steve Martin, Martin Short and Selena Gomez's characters live are actually filmed on a set in the Bronx.

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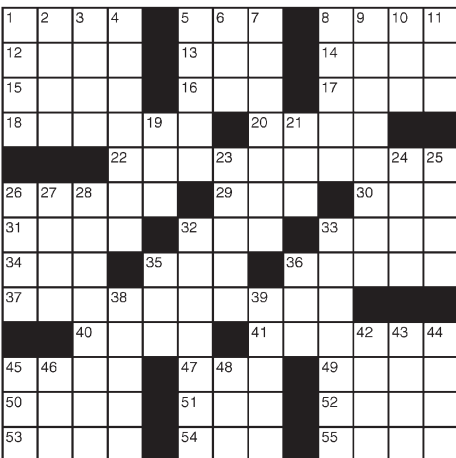
• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states border Canada?
 2. THEATER: The musical "My Fair Lady" is based on which play?
 3. SCIENCE: Who was the first person to win Nobel prizes in two different sciences?
 4. MOVIES: Which 1997 movie featured a character named Jack Dawson?
 5. TELEVISION: What is the name of Ross's pet monkey in "Friends"?
 6. LANGUAGE: How many languages exist worldwide?
 7. FOOD & DRINK: Which country produces Manchego cheese?
 8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many track and field events are in a decathlon?
 9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had the most children?
 10. MUSIC: What is the title of Britney Spears' first album?
- Answers
1. 13.
 2. "Pygmalion," by George Bernard Shaw.
 3. Marie Curie, physics and chemistry.
 4. "Titanic."
 5. Marcel.
 6. More than 7,000.
 7. Spain.
 8. 10.
 9. John Tyler, who fathered 15 children.
 10. "... Baby One More Time."
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cuts off
- 5 Cookout, briefly
- 8 Gridlock sound
- 12 Jacob's brother
- 13 Actress Lucy
- 14 In -- land
- 15 Goatee's spot
- 16 Here (Fr.)
- 17 Saharan
- 18 Submit
- 20 Give temporarily
- 22 Blue blood
- 26 Tour vehicles
- 29 Toe count
- 30 Actress Hagen
- 31 Sciences' partner
- 32 Auction signal
- 33 Urban haze
- 34 Vitamin stat
- 35 Architect I.M. --
- 36 Stinging insects
- 37 Administrative worker
- 40 Lean to one side
- 41 Redacted
- 45 Poker variety
- 47 -- Victor
- 49 Art Deco master
- 50 Carton sealer
- 51 Texas tea
- 52 Albacore, e.g.
- 53 Cold War initials
- 54 '60s war zone
- 55 Once around the sun



- 6 Pen name
- 7 Took part in a
- 8 Mel of many voices
- 9 Hearing aids?
- 10 Inventor Whitney
- 11 Knee protector
- 19 1040 org.
- 21 Many millenia
- 23 Unemotional
- 24 Perched on
- 25 Labels
- 26 Biting remark
- 27 Pakistani
- 28 New companies
- 32 Uncharged particle
- 33 Full feeling
- 35 Crony
- 36 Bankroll
- 38 Duck down
- 39 Kingdom
- 42 Loyal
- 43 Sicilian spouter
- 44 Beloved
- 45 R-V link
- 46 Prof's helpers
- 48 Spy org.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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FIRST STATE BANK

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Competitive swimmer
Tim Duncan grew up in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where he trained for the 1992 Olympics, until Hurricane Hugo destroyed his island's only Olympic-size pool. Since the only alternative was to swim in the ocean, and he was afraid of sharks, he decided to play basketball instead.

* Red Bull was developed in Thailand as an energy drink for truck drivers.

* Georg Gartner, a German POW, escaped his American prison camp near the end of World War II and lived in America for 40 years under a fake name before finally confessing his true identity on "The Today Show."

* History's longest prison sentence, a whopping 384,912 years, was given to a mailman -- for not delivering the mail.

* Johnny Depp dropped out of high school to become a rock musician. When he attempted to return two weeks later, the principal told him to follow his dream of being a musician.

* A shopping center in Zimbabwe uses an air conditioning system inspired by African termite hills. Ventilated and cooled by natural means, it uses less than 10% of the energy of a conventional building its size.

* The largest-known bird nest belonged to a pair of bald eagles and measured 9 feet wide by 20 feet deep, with an estimated weight of 4,400 pounds.

* Colorblind people tend to have better night vision and can sometimes see a luminosity of colors that normal-sighted people can't. As a result, the U.S. Army discovered that they could perceive camouflage colors that are difficult for those with normal color vision to see, giving them the unique ability to better make out hidden enemies at night.

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King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

H	V	E	A	M	L	N	R	S	S	U
N	A	N	I	T	A	O	E	L	A	P
E	T	E	I	E	A	C	O	R	U	L
E	D	I	T	E	D	I	T	I	L	I
T	I	V	A	C	O	N	V	A	L	I
S	P	S	A	M	I	E	P	S	V	L
G	O	M	S	D	O	N	S	L	A	V
T	A	U	N	E	L	S	E	S	U	B
A	T	I	C	O	L	I	S	T	I	R
G	N	E	L	N	I	D	N	A	V	H
D	I	V	A	I	O	I	N	I	H	O
A	L	V	A	L	I	T	U	S	E	V
B	E	E	P	B	O	B	O	L	O	P

HAPPY 21st Birthday Michelle!



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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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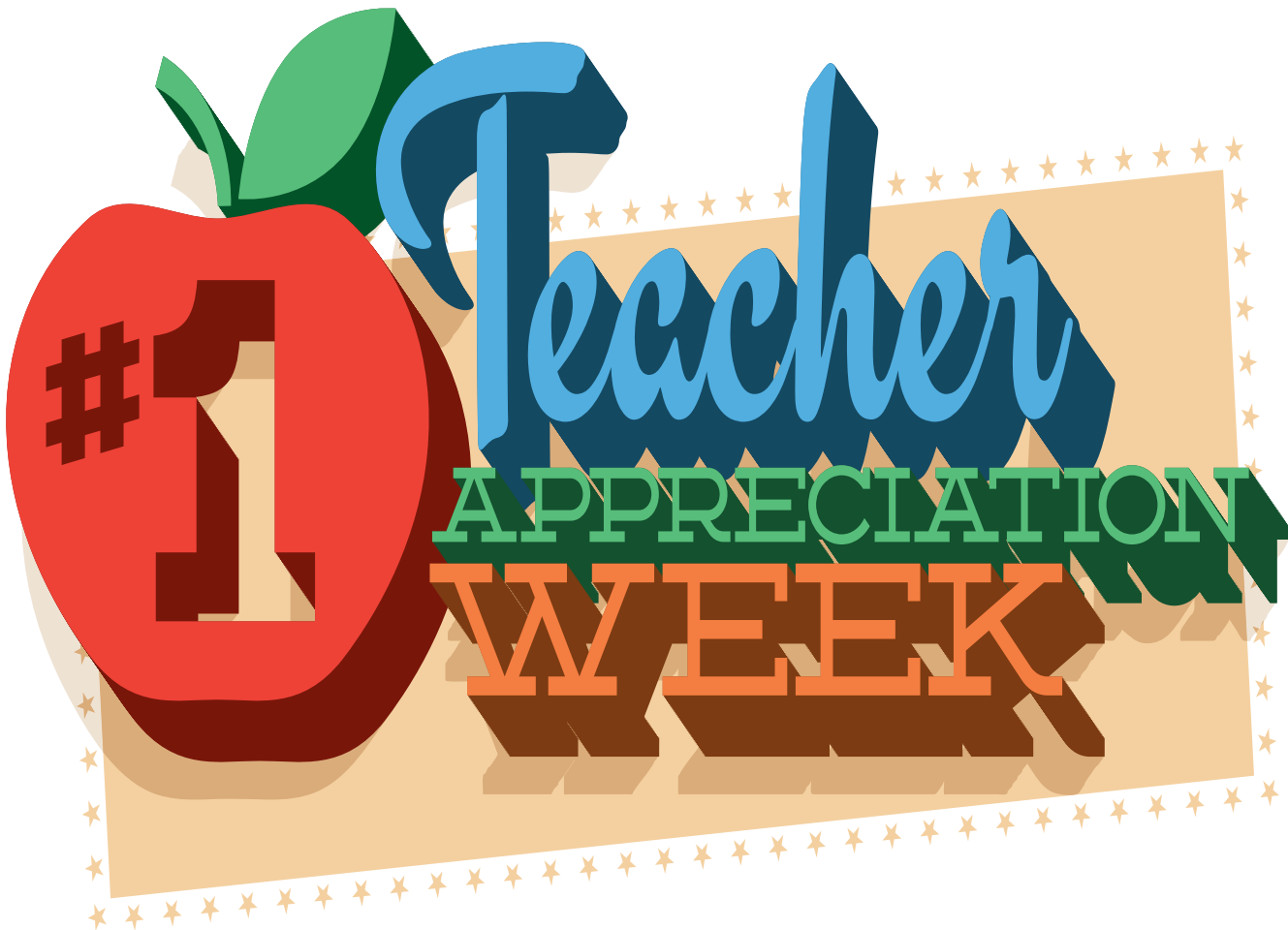
FIRST STATE BANK

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

H	V	E	A	M	L	N	R	S	S	U
N	A	N	I	T	A	O	E	L	A	P
E	T	E	I	E	A	C	O	R	U	L
E	D	I	T	E	D	I	T	I	L	I
T	I	V	A	C	O	N	V	A	L	I
S	P	S	A	M	I	E	P	S	V	L
G	O	M	S	D	O	N	S	L	A	V
T	A	U	N	E	L	S	E	S	U	B
A	T	I	C	O	L	I	S	T	I	R
G	N	E	L	N	I	D	N	A	V	H
D	I	V	A	I	O	I	N	I	H	O
A	L	V	A	L	I	T	U	S	E	V
B	E	E	P	B	O	B	O	L	O	P

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LOCAL AND AREA

The antedote to help you quit complaining

Complaining is dangerous business. It can damage or even destroy your relationship with God, your relationships with other people, and even your relationship with yourself.

It's easy to complain. We likely don't realize how much we do it, and I believe it's one of the most challenging things to overcome.

Philippians 2:14 (NKJV) says, "Do all things without complaining and disputing" (em-

phasis mine). That's a clear command, and not something anyone can do in their own strength.

Think about what you're talking about
It's important to understand that every word you speak has some kind of effect. Proverbs 18:21 says that our words have the power of life or death in them. In other words, the way we speak really does matter. So it makes sense that we should avoid complaining at all cost.

I think of complaining

as the enemy's language. When we do it, we open the door for him to come into a situation and cause trouble. On the other hand, praise and thanksgiving is God's language.

Like I said before, it's easy to complain. There are many things that happen every day that we could murmur about if we let ourselves go there. But they really aren't worth the effort it takes to get upset and gripe about it.

For example, we travel a lot and stay in a lot of hotels. I like to take a hot bath to relax before speaking at our conferences. Once when I went to fix my bath, I discovered there was no hot water. So I called the front desk to see about getting hot water, but they weren't able to fix the problem when I needed them to. And later, I learned that my room was the only room in the hotel that didn't have hot water!

Now, I could have gotten all upset about this at the time. But God helped me to relax and resist the temptation to get upset. And the truth is, complaining wouldn't have changed anything—it would have just made the situation harder.

Check the attitude of your heart

Complaining comes from an ungrateful, prideful attitude of the heart. It causes us to feel that we shouldn't be inconven-



nienced or have bad things happen to us.

It's easy for us to think, "Why are you making such a big deal out of it?" when someone else is inconvenienced or struggling. But when we have to deal with the pain ourselves, it's a different story. That's when we say, "Why is this happening to me?!"

Many people in the western world are spoiled by the conveniences of our culture. We're used to instant gratification, getting what we want when we want it. We don't like discomfort or sacrifice. We don't want anything to be hard. This causes us to have an immature, selfish perspective of difficult situations and say things we shouldn't say.

I've learned that there's a better approach: Look for the treasure in every trial.

The truth is, I've done most of my spiritual growing during the hardest and most painful times of my life. The trials of life have caused me to press in to God. And as I've done that, He's changed me. He's helped me to develop an attitude of gratitude and humility, which has

brought real freedom into my life.

What's real freedom? Real freedom is being able to not have my way and still be just as happy as if I did.

Trust God throughout the process

It's a difficult process getting to the point of having real freedom. But whatever it takes to get there, it's worth it! We just need to accept that gaining spiritual maturity is going to hurt. Growing up in God is not comfortable, and there are times that sacrifice is required. There will be times when God will ask you to do things and you'll feel that you just don't have the strength to do them—but whatever God tells us to do, He always gives us the grace to do it!

Something else that helps me is meditating on scriptures about watching the words of my mouth. I like to pray Psalm 19:14 (NKJV): "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord..." There are many more, and I encourage you to find them and pray them over yourself often. Daily

is a good idea!

Make it your goal to have a constant attitude of gratitude. Resist the temptation to complain and instead praise and thank God for who He is and all He's done for you. By God's grace and through His strength, you can overcome complaining and live each day with a thankful heart!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-part teaching resource The Power of Thoughts and Words. 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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101

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF)Case John G.)No Stephenitch,)2023 Deceased)PR-72
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of John G. Stephenitch of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 5, 2023 to Teresa Dorsey of 2103 Diana Drive, Mendota, IL 61342 and Kathleen Sheridan, of 773 N. 39th Road, Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 20, 2023. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed.
Legal No. 0408 (4/19, 4/26 & 5/3 2023)

NOTICE
Hello! I'm retiring from my 41 year practice; it has been my sincere pleasure to serve and care for you!
My last day of office care will be Saturday, May 20, 2023. If you would like to have your records, they will be available to pick up in the office until then. After that date, please contact me on my Facebook page "Chiropractic Care Center Dr Linnea Person" and I will make them available to you.
Dr. Linnea Person
No. 0410
(April 19, 26 and May 3, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
NO: 2023-JD-36
TO: Michael Frasch, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 24th day of April, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by David A. Greer, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Alana M. Frasch, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 23rd day of May, 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 judgement entered.
Dated April 25, 2023
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0501
(May 3, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
NO: 2023-JD-38
TO: Edward Matos, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 25th day of April, 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 Donovan A. Matos, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 23rd day of May, 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 judgement entered.
Dated April 27, 2023
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0502
(May 3, 2023)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, IL PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF))
ANDREW HARCAR, SR., DECEASED. NO. 2023-PR-000075)

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Andrew Harcar, Sr, of Streator, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 11, 2023, to Veronica Manzella, of Normal, IL, as INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR, whose Attorneys of record are SCHWEICKERT GANASSIN KRZAK RUNDIO, LLP, 2101 MARQUETTE ROAD, PERU, IL 61354. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate, the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill.

Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.
Dated: April 19, 2023
Greg Vaccaro
LaSalle County Circuit Clerk
Ottawa, IL 61350
No. 0503
(May 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JD-39
To: Unknown Father's, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 27th day of April, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Rod'Darion Simmons, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 9th day of May, 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 an order or judgement entered.
Dated: April 28, 2023
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0504
(May 3, 2023)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
No: 2023-JD-40
To: Unknown Father's, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:
Take notice that on the 1st day of May, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Jeffery M. Smego, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 223 at Ottawa on the 6th day of June, 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 an order or judgement entered.
Dated: May 1, 2023
Greg Vaccaro, Clerk
No. 0505
(May 3, 2023)

501

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105

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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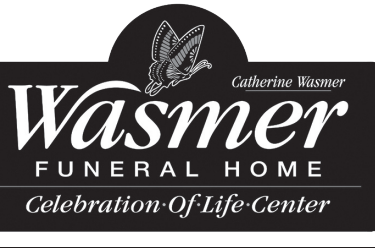
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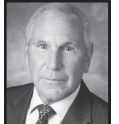
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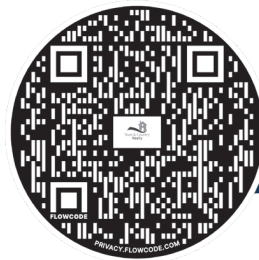
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