



Temporary no parking signs have gone up near Northbrook School. (Reporter photo)

## Council approves requests

By KIP CHEEK  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council approved several requests and handled other items of business at its Feb. 21 regular meeting.

Alderman Mark Peasley said there is some concern about traffic and parking in the Northbrook School area. Peasley said temporary ‘no parking’ signs have been put up at the southeast corner of the Northbrook property in an attempt to deal with the issue.

Alderman Jay Miller presented two license requests, both of which were approved by the council. They are for a Class G liquor license for El Rey Del Taco and a raffle license for the Mendota Rotary Club.

During Alderman John Holland’s report, the council approved an ordinance for an intergovernmental agreement with Illinois Valley Community College in

regard to the Mendota 2022 TIF District.

During Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick’s report, the council agreed to a request from the Mendota Museum & Historical Society to close part of Eighth Street from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 17 for the annual Railroad Crossing Day.

Alderman John Hesseberger presented a petition from Black Bros. Co. to vacate part of an alley between Eighth and Ninth avenues south of Fifth Street. A public hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 6 in the council chambers.

In another item, Police Chief Greg Kellen informed the council that police officer testing will be done on Saturday, March 4 at Mendota High School.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m.

## Mendota in need of some heart & soul

City looking to secure community grant to help reimagine, rebuild and thrive

By KIP CHEEK  
Staff writer

MENDOTA—After a pair of devastating fires changed the identity of Mendota’s downtown district, the city is yearning to put some heart and soul back into the community. One way it’s hoping to do that is with a Community Heart & Soul seed grant.

Mendota native Annie (Pollard) Short – backed by other citizens who have already been working toward the revitalization of Mendota – laid out the details of Community Heart & Soul to the Mendota City Council at its Feb. 21 regular meeting. Along with describing the program to the city leaders, Short also asked for the city’s blessing and financial assistance in seeking to secure this seed grant.

Short, who is the director of a non-profit and has experience in grant-writing, said the Community Heart & Soul seed grant program provides start-up funding for resident-driven groups looking to implement the Community Heart & Soul model. Grant funding is \$10,000 and requires a 1:1 cash match. Eligible use of funds includes Heart & Soul coaching, project coordination and project-related expenses.

Short said Community Heart & Soul is based on three principles: involve everyone, focus on what matters most and play the long game. Many small towns have numerous downtown stores that are empty, but unlike other communities, Mendota has suffered major building losses due to deteri-



Demolition of the Illinois Avenue buildings destroyed by a December fire continues. The Mendota City Council heard about a grant that is being sought to help put some heart and soul back into the community. (Reporter photo)



oration and fires. This leaves Mendota in a unique position to reimagine, rebuild and thrive.

Fortunately for Mendota, Short said, the city already has established the Reimagine Mendota organization. But the success of a community is dependent on the entire population of the town. Community Heart & Soul is a resident-driven process that engages all residents in

identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it and how to achieve it.

In hoping to land the seed grant and gaining the required 1:1 match, Short asked the city for a \$2,500 contribution toward that cause. The council agreed to support the effort behind seeking the Community Heart & Soul seed grant and to the \$2,500 donation. After

roll call approval, Alderman Jay Miller then made a motion to increase the donation amount to \$5,000, which was approved by the council.

Short said \$2,500 would be used toward a coach that will help serve as a trainer and consultant through the entire process as information is gathered for not only what is wanted and will be supported for the downtown area, but for the entire city. Other dollars would be used to cover costs of events, supplies for activities, marketing materials, signage and other pieces needed to gather information to establish value statements, identity, priorities and vision.

The seed grant application was submitted this week and it is expected to be decided upon by the end of March.

## Mendota museums opening new exhibit

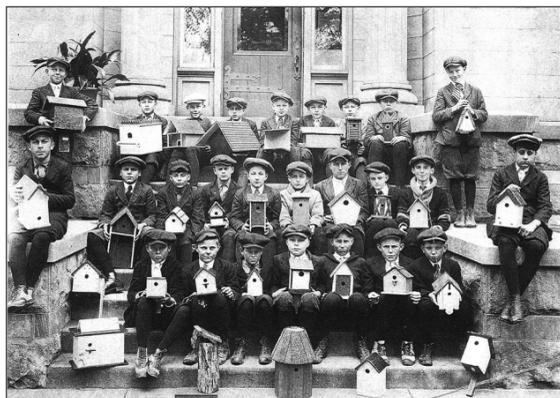
Bird house-making contest scheduled to begin March 19

By BRANDON LaCHANCE  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Tis the season for the Mendota museums to open a new attraction.

On March 3, the Mendota Museum and Historical Society will open up a new exhibit called “Timber & Talent.” The exhibit, which will have different elements available at the Hume-Carnegie Museum, the Union Depot Railroad Museum and the Breaking the Prairie Collection, will showcase wooden farm items that were made out of wood.

“It started from one of our volunteers, Dan Baxter. He had made several instruments from wood including string instruments and drums,” said Hume-Carnegie Museum President Chris Stamberger, who has been with the Mendota museums for 20 years.



BIRD HOUSE CONTEST held at Graves Public Library in 1918. Left to right, front row: Perry Lewis, Frank Morrill, Oscar Kaminsky, Hart Walter, George Burkhardt, Alvin Schildberg, Arthur Meyer; second row Lynn Yount, Harry Steve, Michael Smith, Samuel Haight, Arthur Bush, Oscar Turk, Robert Gardner, Willard Merritt; third row: Willis Hueter, unknown, William Houk, Harold Pepiot, Frank Gillette, Jr., Francis Wells and Henry Sauer. Boys to the left are Howard Shirk and Theodore Henning. At right are Arthur Muzzy and Earl Flanagan.

“He got us thinking about the wood idea. First, it was the craft people who do wood crafts and projects.

“We started asking around and found other people. Then we thought about all of the things that people make with wood. We’ve found wooden

hand washboards that were manufactured in Mendota at Mother Hubbard Washboards. There are really old wood bowls and an antique cabbage cutter.

See Museum, Page A5

## Mendota District 280 could issue a working cash bond to offset expenses

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education discussed the possibility of issuing a working cash bond at its Feb. 21 regular meeting.

The working cash bond would be used to help offset the future expenses of some upcoming capital projects. The bond covers expenses that districts cannot cover through normal federal, state or local revenues. It does not need to be approved by referendum.

- Future capital projects include:
- Bus garage roof repairs this fiscal year (\$50,000)
  - Flat roof repairs within the next two-four years (\$2.5 million)
  - Stadium track resurfacing within the next three-five years
  - Stadium turf replacement within the next seven-nine years
- If a new bond is issued, the anticipated tax rate would not increase for District 280 taxpayers.

Currently, the MHS District 280 tax

rate of \$2.2033 is the third lowest of any high school district in LaSalle, Bureau and Whiteside counties.

In other items from Superintendent Jeff Prusator’s report, the board let bids to seal the back parking lot, stadium area and main drive to the back lot.

An intergovernmental agreement with the city of Mendota was approved to rehire Chad Hochstatter as the school resource officer.

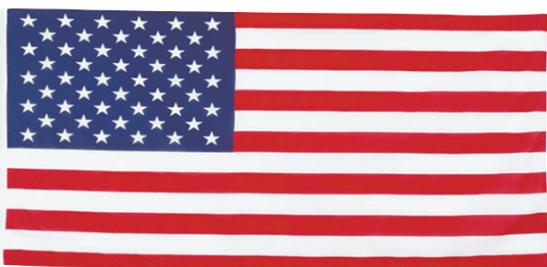
### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh informed the board of upcoming multiple state tests to be taken by students. Incoming freshmen will test on ACCESS later this spring. Juniors will take the SAT test on March 22. Juniors and seniors interested in earning the State Seal or Commendation of Biliteracy will test the first week of March. The state is requiring all juniors to be tested on the Illinois Science Assessment

See District 280, Page A5



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Elizabeth Nielsen brings Udder Chaos to Graves-Hume Library

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Chaos will be taking place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4 at the Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota.

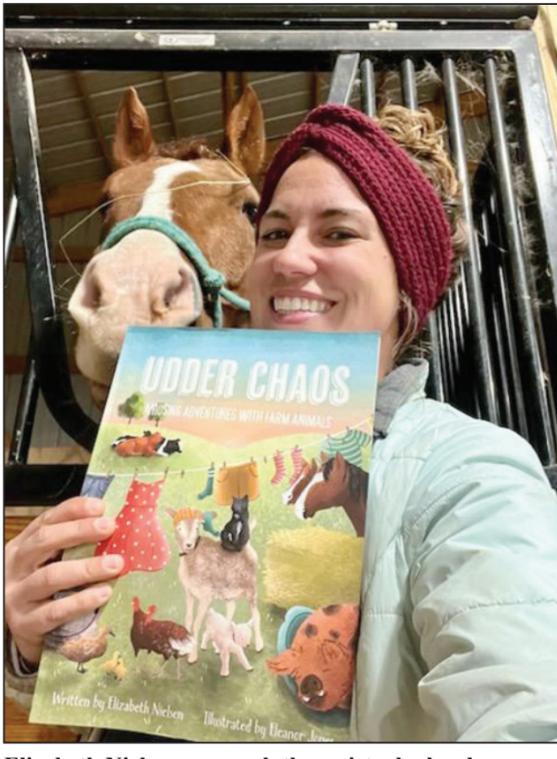
Not illegal chaos. Or pandemonium. More like, “Udder Chaos Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals” type of chaos as Elizabeth Nielsen is reading her children’s story.

“I incorporate books so much in my therapy sessions. It has been a dream of mine to write my own story,” said Nielsen, who is a certified, licensed speech therapist.

“There is enough adventure that happens on the farm that it was kind of easy to write the story of my life on the farm.”

“The way that I read stories to kids, I wanted to incorporate some of those aspects into my story. I use lots of repetition, rhyming, different animal sounds, and different environmental sounds because all of those things really help increase speech and language skills.”

Nielsen, who grew up in Plainfield, lived in Waterman for 10 years and currently resides in Elburn, obtained a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree from Northern Illinois University to help her accomplish her goal of starting her own practice.



**Elizabeth Nielsen, a speech therapist who has her practice Tiny Voices Therapy Services in Elburn, will read her children’s book “Udder Chaos Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals” at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4 at the Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota. (Photo contributed)**

Through life’s journey, she put her experiences and desires together to open Tiny Voice Therapy Services in 2014 at her home.

In 2019, she and her family found a property with two

houses where she was able to convert one building into her speech therapy clinic.

A barn was built at the end of 2020 to complete her dream of bringing horses and other farm animals into her practice.

“My older sister (Kathy) has disabilities. When I was in middle school, my mother (Barb) worked in a preschool and she wanted me to observe some speech therapists there,” Nielsen said. “I knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I also liked nursing and the medical aspect of things. Once I observed the speech therapists there, I kind of fell in love with what they were doing. My mother and I got certified to be therapeutic horseback riding instructors. My mom wanted to find a place for my sister to ride at that provided therapeutic horseback riding.”

“That’s what motivated me for this type of work. When I was in undergraduate school, I knew right away that I wanted to open my own practice and to eventually incorporate horses.”

After graduating from NIU with her master’s degree in 2012, Nielsen worked at a couple of different barns and worked with Hippotherapy, which utilizes the gait and the movement of a horse to provide motor and sensory input.

Now, Hippotherapy is a main part of Nielsen’s practice as it brings happiness and positive responses to her clients.

“I work with a lot of autistic individuals who might be dis-regulated. Incorporating the movement of the horse

is very regulating for them. I did that at a few different places, but I knew I wanted to open my own practice,” Nielsen said. “I think having a sister with disabilities, it made me want to help other kids. Just seeing how impactful it can be when kids are around horses and the interaction between a horse and an individual, it’s just very therapeutic. The horses provide a natural environment for the kids, where they don’t feel like they’re stuck at a table working on worksheets that are not meaningful to them. It’s not motivating.”

“The Hippotherapy really helps create an environment where they can take what the skills they learned through me and be able to transition it to at home or at school. If I’m not getting a certain response from the child when they’re sitting forward, I might have them sit on the horse backward. That wakes up the child’s system and they respond a little better. We may also have them kneel on the horse or sit sideways. The different positions and the movement help kids because they learn through movement and play.”

The tales of the farm animals, which include horses, cows, pigs, turkeys, ducks, and cats, through her clients made writing a book easy.

Nielsen published “Udder Chaos” in October of 2022 and has read it to schools in DeKalb and Sandwich as well as a few local businesses such as a candy store.

As she travels to read her book a couple of times a month, she scheduled Graves-Hume Public Library because she has had clients from Mendota.

“It’s kind of hard to describe how animals help children. Even the other day, I have a cat that doesn’t like to interact with me, but he was out in the barn with one of my clients and he was meowing at him and batting his paw at him trying to play,” Nielsen said. “It’s a weird connection like the animals know and they try to take care of these kids. It’s just an amazing connection.”

Hear Nielsen read “Udder Chaos Amusing Adventures with Farm Animals”, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4 at Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota.

To purchase the children’s story, it is available at [www.authorspots.com](http://www.authorspots.com), as well as all other providers.

Nielsen and Tiny Voice Therapy Services, or Little Cottage on the Farm—which rents out the farm in a BNB fashion—can be found on Facebook and Instagram.

The website is [www.tinyvoicetherapy.com](http://www.tinyvoicetherapy.com).

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We are nearing the end of trimester two of the 2023-2024 school year. This trimester, our students have been trying to earn Paw Pride certificates for good behavior to get a game and snack time with me. I’m proud to announce that the following classes have already met their goal. Congratulations to the

students in Mrs. Lindenmeyer, Mrs. Mikolasek, Miss Akre, Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Klein and Mrs. O’Sadnick’s students for reaching their goal before the end of the trimester.

□□□  
The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Laken Weber,

Leonel Orozco, Camden Wickstrom, Grayson Dean, Kenia Fernandez, Addilyn Hendricks and Athena Aquino. The winners were Addyson Fahr, Natalie Bodie, Charles Smith and Olivia Mathieu. Congratulations to all of you!

□□□  
The February principal

award pizza lunch was held on Friday, Feb. 24. The students invited to attend included Melanie Montes, Anthony Jefferson, Parker Krager, Noah Garcia, Emmett Mellott, Jonathan Morato, Addyson Fahr, Natalie Bodie, Abraham Garcia, Asriel McGee, Quincy Ryan, Angel Figueroa, Kennedy Piller,

Quentin Montecinos, Charles Smith and Olivia Mathieu. A picture will appear in an issue of The Mendota Reporter.

□□□  
Looking ahead on the calendar, there is a four-day weekend coming up. There will be no school on Friday, March 3 or Monday, March 6.

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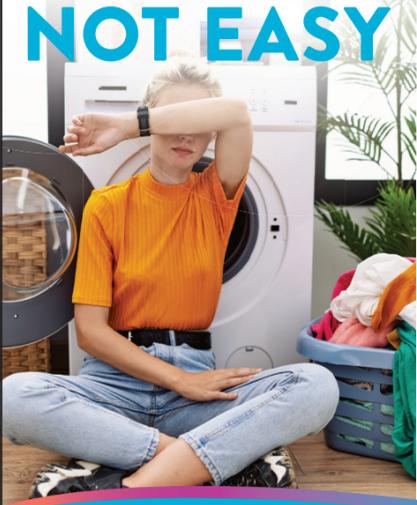
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# LOCAL AND AREA



**Mardi Gras party at MASS**  
Mendota Area Senior Services brought 50 people together to celebrate Mardi Gras on Fat Tuesday, February 21. The partiers enjoyed snacks, pizza, card games, Mardi Gras Trivia, and Mardi Gras Pictionary. (Photos by Brandon LaChance)



## The remarkable story of the Walt Disney Company to be presented virtually by LaSalle Public Library

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will be hosting Brian Rose, Professor Emeritus, at Fordham University, author, television and film historian, on Tuesday, March 7, at 6 p.m., for a virtual presentation on the remarkable story of the Walt Disney Company.

Over the last nine decades, the Walt Disney Company has transformed every facet of the entertainment business – from the creation of feature length cartoons like Snow White, Bambi, and Pinocchio, to television programming like The Wonderful World of Disney, from theme parks that span the globe to Broadway musicals like the Lion King,

from challenging Netflix with their new streaming service, Disney+, to ownership of the greatest collection of franchise movies under the control of a single studio in Hollywood history. This presentation will look at how the Walt Disney company grew from a small cartoon studio in 1923 to become the most powerful force in worldwide entertainment.

Rose is a professor emeritus at Fordham University, where he taught for 38 years in the Department of Communication and Media Studies. He has written several books on television history and cultural programming and has conducted more than a hundred

conversations with leading directors, actors, and writers for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Screen Actors Guild, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, and the Directors Guild of America. His virtual lectures on film and television history have been presented at the Smithsonian, the 92nd St. Y., and at JCCs, and libraries throughout the country.

This program will be presented virtually and is free and open to the public. To register, please use the following link – <https://bit.ly/3IvCAir>.

For more information, contact the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341.

## Preschool screenings March 7 at First United Methodist Church

MENDOTA – L.E.A.S.E. will be holding free preschool screenings on Tuesday, March 7 in the morning at First United Methodist Church, 100 E. Sixth St., Mendota.

An appointment can be made by calling Jean at 815-433-6433. The screenings are for children who are 3 or 4 years old. L.E.A.S.E. will screen key developmental areas such as motor development, speech, language, vision, hearing and general readiness. It is asked that only one parent/caregiver bring the child to

the appointment.

All children must be screened to be eligible for the Mendota District #289 Preschool Program. If your child is currently enrolled in the Mendota District Preschool for All Program, he/she does not need to be screened again. Applications for Mendota District #289 Preschool will be at the screenings. The applications and screenings will be reviewed by the preschool team, and you will be contacted as to whether your child qualifies for preschool.

## IVSO's "Celebrate Youth!" presents young performers March 11 at Ottawa High School

OTTAWA – The Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra will present its annual young performers concert "Celebrate Youth!" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 11.

The concert will take place at Ottawa Township High School under the baton of music director Daniel Sommerville and highlights winners of the junior and senior divisions of the IVSO Concerto Competition held January 7th.

Senior division winner Emily Kmetz is a mezzo-soprano from La Salle who will be performing the Recitative and Aria "Che faro senza mi Euridice?" from Orpheus and Euridice by Christopher W. Gluck.

Kmetz has been an active young performer in the La Salle-Peru area including appearances in Stage 212 productions Annie, White

Christmas and Into the Woods. She is also set to star as Wednesday Addams in La Salle-Peru High School's upcoming spring musical, The Addams Family.

Seventh-grader Jadyne Leone is the junior division winner. Leone attends Peru Catholic School and is a resident of Spring Valley. She has performed in the Mendota Education Foundation show Matilda, Stage 212's production of The Lion King, Jr. and placed as an honorable mention in the IVSO Young Performers Competition in 2021. She will be performing the Recitative and Aria "Angels, Ever Bright and Fair" from Theodora by George Frederic Handel. Both Leone and Kmetz study voice with Jenilyn Roether.

Saturday's concert will also feature several other

works, including "Overture to The Wasps" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, "Scherzo Fantastique" by Josef Suk and "Appalachian Spring" by Aaron Copland.

Tickets are available online at [ivso.org](http://ivso.org) and at the door. Adult tickets are \$20, college student tickets are \$5 with ID and students K-12 are free.

All IVSO concert venues are ADA accessible. Questions about accessibility can be sent to [accessibility@ivso.org](mailto:accessibility@ivso.org).

This program is partially supported by a grant from The Arts of Starved Rock Country Fund and the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional sponsorships from the Miller Group Charitable Trust and Ottawa Radio (WCMY/WRLX).

## The Everly Set to pay tribute to Simon & Garfunkel

OTTAWA – Revel in an evening of music celebrating the best-selling duo in rock 'n' roll history, Simon & Garfunkel.

The Everly Set, featuring award-winning singer-songwriters Sean Altman and Jack Skuller will be coming to Ottawa on March 10 at 7:00 PM at Central Intermediate School.

With humor, soaring energy, charm, and laser-precise harmony, Sean Altman (founder of Rockapella) and Jack Skuller (Songwriters Hall of Fame Buddy Holly Prize) will lead the audience on a journey through Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel's teenage roots, their early success as a groovy folk act, their global dominance as hit-makers, and the best of Paul Simon's solo career.

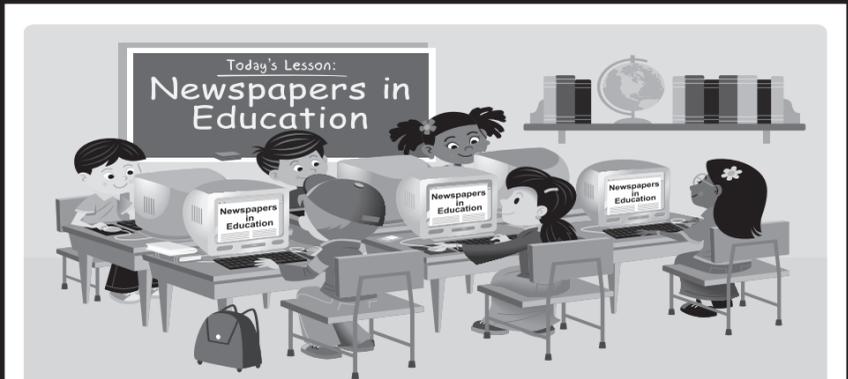
Be captivated by the incredible catalog of hits



such as The Boxer, Sound of Silence, America, Mrs. Robinson, 59th Street Bridge Song, Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover, and Cecilia among so many others.

Be sure not to miss this

amazing tribute. The Ottawa Concert Association would be delighted to help you with tickets to this performance if you are not already a member. Please contact Beth Mangold at 815-228-6474.



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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Joyce Schmitt

STURTEVANT, Wis. — Joyce “Jet” Schmitt, nee Truckenbrod, 96, received the greatest of God’s blessings on Feb. 19, 2023 at St. Monica’s Nursing Home.

By Joyce’s choice, cremation has taken place. Burial of the cremains will take place at the Dewey-Worsley family cemetery in Ophir Township, Mendota, next to her husband, “Smockey.” This will be in a private family service at a later date.

Memorials to your church or your favorite charity have been suggested.

Online condolences may be left at [www.Miller-Reesman.com](http://www.Miller-Reesman.com).

On May 9, 2000 Joyce wrote the following poem:

Joyce’s Blessings  
Every tiny wildflower, each quiet rustling tree  
Is the spirit of God’s blessing that allows me to be free.  
Each morel mushroom hiding, every bird which sang to me  
Is the spirit of God’s blessing that allows me to be free.  
Every hour of time for fishing, each eagle I chance to see  
Is the spirit of God’s blessing that allows me to be free.  
Each sunrise and a sunset every friend, and one yet to be  
Is the spirit of God’s blessing that allows me to be free.



## Sandra Lucas

MENDOTA — Sandra “Jeanie” Lucas, 85, of Mendota, passed away Feb. 22, 2023 at OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Ottawa surrounded by her family.

A private family only service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Burial was at Lutheran Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

Sandra was born Dec. 17, 1937 in LaSalle to Edwin and Elizabeth (Newell) Mitchell. She married Richard “Luke” Lucas on Aug. 29, 1964 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Mendota.

She is survived by her four daughters, Elizabeth Lucas of Spring Valley, Lee (Steven) Lemmer of Plymouth, Connie Lucas of Mendota and Carol (Randy Reimann) Lucas of Utica; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Barbara Mitchell of Peru; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her father Edwin Mitchell; her mother and stepfather, Elizabeth (Chester) Barnhart; two sisters, Martha Sloan and June Mitchell; two brothers, James Mitchell and Edward Mitchell and great-granddaughter Izzabella Lemmer.

She helped operate Luke’s Tap in Mendota with her husband for several years. She enjoyed gardening, attending to her flowers, canning and baking especially at Christmas when she made cookies and candy for gifts.

Memorials may be directed to the donor’s choice. Online condolences may be left at [www.merrittfh.com](http://www.merrittfh.com).



## The benefits of having a tax refund direct deposited

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Receiving a tax refund is happy news to any taxpayer; getting it quickly is even better. Direct deposit is the safest and most convenient way to receive a tax refund. The IRS encourages taxpayers to file when they are ready and choose direct deposit to receive any refund they may be owed.

Benefits of choosing IRS direct deposit

- It’s fast. The fastest way for taxpayers to get their refund is to file electronically and choose direct deposit. Visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) for details about IRS Free File, Free File Fillable Forms, free tax return preparation and more. Taxpayers who file a paper return can also choose direct deposit, but it will take longer to process the return and get a refund.
- It’s secure. Since refunds are electronically deposited, there’s no risk of having a paper check stolen or lost in the mail.
- It’s easy. Taxpayers can simply follow the instructions when selecting direct deposit as a refund method and enter their account information as directed. They must enter the correct account and routing numbers when they file.
- It provides options. Taxpayers can split a refund into several financial accounts. These include checking, savings, health, education and certain retirement accounts. They should use IRS Form 8888, Allocation of Refund, Including Savings Bond Purchases to deposit a refund in up to three ac-

counts. This form cannot be used to designate part of a refund to pay tax preparers.

Taxpayers should deposit refunds into U.S. bank accounts in their own name, their spouse’s name or both. They should avoid making a deposit into accounts owned by others. Some banks require both spouses’ names on the account to deposit a tax refund from a joint return. Taxpayers should check with their bank for direct deposit rules.

### Get a bank account

Taxpayers who don’t have a bank account can visit the FDIC website for information on banks that let them open an account online and how to choose the right account. Veterans can use the Veterans Benefits Banking Program for access to financial services at participating banks.

### Mobile apps may be an option

Some mobile apps and prepaid debit cards allow for direct deposit of tax refunds. They must have routing and account numbers associated with them that can be entered on a tax return. Taxpayers should check with the mobile app provider or financial institution to confirm which numbers to use.

Taxpayers must have their routing and account numbers for direct deposit available when they are ready to file. The IRS can’t accept this information after a return is filed.

There is a limit of three direct deposit refunds made into a single financial account or prepaid debit card.

## Lego Mania continues at LaSalle Library

LaSALLE — Lego Mania will continue through March at LaSalle Public Library.

Open to youth ages 5 and up, this program is for those who love to build, design, and create, and will be held on Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Legos are for in-library use only, and contain small pieces that may pose a choking hazard to young

children.

The program is free and open to the public. Children under 8 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The LaSalle Public Library is located at 305 Marquette, LaSalle, and is ADA-compliant and welcoming. For more information, call the library at 815-223-2341.

## LaSalle County mobile home tax bills mailed; due on May 1

OTTAWA — The LaSalle County Treasurer’s Office mailed mobile home tax bills on Feb. 17. The due date for mobile home local services tax is Monday, May 1.

The tax payments options are as follows:

- Pay at the Treasurer’s Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. by cash, check or credit card. A convenience fee of approximately 2.5 percent is charged by the credit card processors when paying by credit card.
- Drive-through drop box, open 24 hours. The drop box is located in the north part of the east parking lot at the Government Complex, 707 E. Etna Road, Ottawa.
- Mail to the LaSalle

County Treasurer’s Office, P.O. Box 1560, Ottawa, IL 61350.

• Pay by telephone with credit card or Echeck by calling 1-833-975-2500. A convenience fee of approximately 2.5 percent is charged by the credit card processors when paying by credit card. There is a \$1.50 per parcel fee when paying by Echeck.

It is especially important that the mobile home local services tax be paid in a timely fashion. The penalty for delinquency is \$25 per month up to \$100 beginning May 2.

For questions or more information, contact the LaSalle County Treasurer’s Office at 815-434-8219.

### 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](mailto:editor@mendotareporter.com).

**Wisner Cemetery Association will meet and hold annual election of officers at 7 PM April 10th, 2023 at the Earlville Museum, downtown Earlville.**

The association is also accepting bids for the mowing of the cemetery. Contact Rich Goodbred at 815-228-4231

**See the latest obituaries on The Reporter website.**

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## Mendota Police Dept. reminds citizens to secure their property

MENDOTA — Help prevent yourself from being the victim of a burglary or theft. The Mendota Police Department would like to remind all citizens to secure their property. Always lock your vehicle when it’s parked outside. Lock the doors to your home, garage and sheds even while you are home. Don’t let yourself become a victim by being an easy target.

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Lisa Quest

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## District 280

Continued from Page A1

to be completed by April 29. Freshmen and sophomores will test on the PSAT 9 and PSAT 10 on March 25. The Advanced Placement Exams, which are optional tests that can earn college credit for students, will be given in AP Biology and AP Calculus in May.

The Board of Education and National Honor Society will host the annual Academic Honors Assembly on March 15. Honored students and parents will be treated to a breakfast and assembly. Students who have earned honor roll status for one, three, five or seven semesters will be recognized. This year's honorees include 52 seniors, 38 juniors, 59 sophomores and 68 freshmen.

Twelve students for 2023 membership were inducted into the Spanish Honor Society. They include Madelyn Becker, Logan Dewey, Olivia Eddy, Bria Frey, Vanessa Gomez Rico, Ava Jones, Lilly Leifheit, Ana Ramirez, Ryleigh Sondgeroth, Jessica Terrazas, Valerie Valdes and Grace Wasmer.

Nineteen students for 2023 membership were inducted into the National Honor Society, which is based on four pillars representing scholarship, character, service and leadership. They include Melaina Bierwirth, Camilla Costas, Madelyn Becker, Kamdyn Becket, Em Clark, Logan Dewey, Kylie Donovan, Joshua Figueroa, Bria Frey, Bryan Herrera, Ava Jones, Lilly Leifheit, Izaiah Nanez, Emma Pierce, Natalia Salinas, Haden Shakespeare, Jay Sims, Ryleigh Sondgeroth and Grace Wasmer.

Aughenbaugh told the board that a request has been received to form a dance team. More information will be available after pending numbers and interest among students.

### PERSONNEL

Steve Hanson was hired as assistant principal/athletic director for the 2023-24 school year. With the retirement of Prusator at the conclusion of the current year, one administrative position (freshman dean of students) will be eliminated because of a significant decline in enrollment.

The resignation of Ali Eddy was accepted as football and basketball cheerleading sponsor.

Kyler Davis was approved to the position of assistant baseball coach and Steve Freeman was approved as volunteer baseball coach.

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

## Amid 'unprecedented' prolonged revenue boom, state finds budget breathing room

Billions in budget surpluses have led to repayment of old, new debt

By JERRY NOWICKI  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Sustained higher-than-predicted state tax revenues have in recent months given lawmakers a level of budgeting flexibility that is, at least in modern times, without precedent in a state with a reputation for perilous finances.

For the current fiscal year and the one before it, that's led to another uncommon Capitol occurrence: budget surpluses in the billions of dollars.

Over those two budget years, lawmakers have increased pension contributions by \$500 million beyond required levels, paid off hundreds of millions of dollars in interest-accruing debt and saved nearly \$2 billion in a budget stabilization fund—all while increasing education and human services funding and even providing tax relief for most Illinoisans last year.

"Balancing the budget in Illinois is a relatively new thing, you know, over the last four years, and so we're proud of the fact that we've focused on that," Gov. JB Pritzker said.

The current-year expected surplus has been driven by the state's "big three" revenue sources — sales tax and personal and corporate income taxes — which have continued to outperform even their robust growth from the year prior even without increases to the base tax rates.

The governor attributed the strong revenue performance at least partially to conservative initial budgeting estimates, changes to corporate tax exemptions and collection of online sales tax. Others have cited such factors as inflation and wage growth, as well as changes in consumer spending amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pritzker and Comptroller Susana Mendoza have frequently pointed out that recent budgets have not been balanced by the \$8.1 billion in direct federal COVID-19 stimulus funds sent to Illinois through the American Rescue Plan Act. But the comptroller noted in a recent interview with Capitol News Illinois that the economic

effects of broader federal stimulus — such as added unemployment benefits and direct checks to Illinoisans — have been a main driver of state revenue growth nationwide.

"The stimulus that went directly into people's homes was significant in terms of its help, not just in Illinois, but across the country," Mendoza said. "These numbers could be replicated in any other state, where instead of collapsing the economies, those states saw that their residents who received this direct stimulus did not save it in most instances, but they actually spent it in the marketplace."

Low unemployment rates continue to boost revenue performance, she said.

### 'Genuinely surprising'

Former Rep. Tom Demmer, the House Republicans' longtime budgeting point man and the party's unsuccessful candidate for state treasurer last year, said the revenue trends are something he hadn't seen in his decade in Springfield.

"It is genuinely surprising to see not just a slight revision upward, but really multiple consistent revisions upward in what we think we're going to collect this fiscal year," Demmer told CNI. "That's really unprecedented."

For the fiscal year that ended in June, revenues soared past the state's initial \$42.3 billion approved budget by nearly \$8 billion when excluding ARPA fund transfers.

In the recently concluded lame duck session, Democrats passed a surplus spending plan that allocated an additional \$3.6 billion in unexpected revenues beyond the initial \$46.5 billion budget approved last spring. That included nearly \$2.7 billion in debt repayment and long-term savings and about \$925 million in new, one-time spending.

"I mean, it is weird because we're not used to seeing this, right?" Mendoza said. "And when I say that, it's sarcastically because this is a very good thing. If (lawmakers are) going to have new spending, it should be for responsible

fiscal measures, and this is a perfect example of that."

Mendoza specifically referenced a \$1.8 billion cash infusion into the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund that was included in the plan.

Her office recently sent about \$1.4 billion of that to the federal government to repay the last of a \$4.5 billion debt taken on to keep the state's unemployment system afloat amid the pandemic.

The debt had already cost the state \$60 million in interest. Repaying it saves about \$20 million in interest and prevents greater increases to employer tax rates and a disruption of benefits for individuals claiming unemployment.

The recent spending plan also included an \$850 million allocation to the "rainy day" fund, which will bring it to its highest-ever balance of \$1.9 billion — a far cry from its \$60,000 balance when the pandemic hit.

It's the type of budgeting practice that even some Republicans can support, even if they remain reticent to vote for what they view as spending increases that could prove problematic when recent revenue trends subside.

"I do give credit to the administration for their prioritizing paying down any of the debt that we incurred," Demmer said. "On the other hand, I'm still concerned about some of the spending growth relative to what we expect our economic and revenue growth is going to look like."

Demmer referenced the Governor's Office of Management and Budget's five-year state budget projection. The November report noted after an expected surplus this year and next, Illinois could be in for a deficit of about \$384 million in Fiscal Year 2025 and beyond.

"Unlike some years in the past where we could point to one thing — sometimes it was just pensions or Medicaid growing too fast — I think that by contrast, now there's spending growth across the board on existing programs," Demmer said. "And then add

on to that any new legislative initiatives that come on, that's where it gets to be real concern."

Demmer said he was concerned by the prospect of two new major spending areas floated by Pritzker in his inaugural address in January: an expansion of access to free child care, preschool and college education for Illinoisans.

### New one-time expenditures

Mendoza said there will always be pressure on legislators to deliver new programs and spending, but for the most part recent spending plans have focused excess revenues on one-time expenditures with a heavy emphasis on debt repayment.

"What I would be opposed to is seeing new funding items — unless you can really sell that this is an extreme necessity for the state at this time — we want to stay away from funding new programs that are going to have to be funded year to year," she said.

In the recent supplemental plan, contained in House Bill 969 and Senate Bill 1720, lawmakers authorized about \$925 million worth of spending beyond the debt and savings measures.

See Revenue, Page A7

## Museum

Continued from Page A1

"They made things, they didn't just go and buy things at the store."

The Hume-Carnegie Museum also has four antique pump organs that were made by the Western Cottage Organ Company in Mendota.

The exhibit will run through the summer.

Along with "Timber & Talent," Frank Kobilek will wood turn on Sunday, March 19 to show the intricacies of the creative procedure.

Also, the Mendota Museum and Historical Society wanted to find a way to make it interactive and youthful. After finding a photo of children and their results from a 1918 bird house-making contest, Stamberger and crew thought a 2023 version of the contest would be fitting.

"We thought it was such a neat idea. And the picture we found speaks volumes," Stamberger said. "We want to get the youth involved more and we thought this would be a great way to do so."

The contest will begin Sunday, March 19 as contest entrants, ages 6-12, can pick up supplies such as scrap lumber, patterns, and instructions to create their bird house.

The houses for birds need to be turned into the Hume-Carnegie Museum by Saturday, April 15.

Although not announced yet, there will be prizes awarded for the contest.

# DIRECTORY

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# OPINION

## The Mendota Reporter

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Letters to the editor should be typed or handprinted. 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.

## Those mysterious balloons

By Scott Reeder

The Northern Illinois Bottlecap Balloon Brigade is a hobby club with a couple dozen members – some adults, some children – who like to watch balloons circle the globe.

For \$12 apiece, they buy balloons from a California manufacturer, rig them with radio transmitters and send them skyward, Aviation Week reported. One of their projects has circled the globe seven times.

But the U.S. Air Force may have this group of Land of Lincoln nerds in its crosshairs.

It seems one of the club's projects disappeared off the coast of Alaska, the same day the U.S. Government announced shooting down an unknown object in the same area.

Pentagon spokesman Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder told reporters that the object had been travelling at an altitude of 40,000 feet and was about the size of a car.

But they didn't know what the object was, its origin or purpose. President Joe Biden ordered it shot down.

So, a \$216 million F22 jet loaded with \$433,000 missiles was sent to intercept the object and send it crashing to the earth.

When I read this, I couldn't help but wonder, "Why are we shooting at things if we don't know what they are?"

It would be like if I saw something running across my backyard in the middle of the night and I pulled out my gun and started blasting away.

I could be arrested – and rightly so. After all, it's stupid to shoot at something if you don't know what it is. But our government didn't do it just once. It did it three times – in a week's time – in the airspace over Alaska and Canada.

Each time the Pentagon reported not knowing what they destroyed. If you are going to fire a \$430,000 missile at something, shouldn't you at least find out what it is first?

For the price of those three missiles, we could have bought more than 338,000 school lunches, 75,882 library books or provided a year's tuition for 258 community college students.

Talk about money going up in smoke.

A White House spokesperson felt the need to say that none of the unidentified flying objects, UFOs, are believed to be extraterrestrial in origin.

Of course, what launched this stratospheric level of stupidity is the previous week a Chinese balloon carrying a payload the size of two school buses was allowed to drift across the continental United States.

The Pentagon said it was a spy balloon. China says it was an off-course weather balloon.

Republicans in Congress were quick to condemn Biden for allowing China to violate our "national sovereignty." The president responded to the ballooning controversy by ordering it shot down -- after it had already crossed the entire country.

Pieces are still being pulled from the ocean.

Back on the farm, we'd call that shutting the gate after the hog ran out.

But in all seriousness, our nation sends spy satellites over China and they send them over our country. Is a balloon in the upper reaches of the atmosphere all that different?

And even if it were, does it justify shooting down three other objects that don't appear to pose any military threat? In fact, one may well be from Illinois.

If that is indeed the case, no Illinois balloon has conjured so much attention since Lauren Staab stabbed the giant inflatable rat outside her family's Springfield funeral home last year.

But what of the Illinois youngsters who launched their balloon aloft?

Instead of learning about wind currents and radio waves, these junior scientists got a lesson in international politics.

If they want their \$12 back, they should send a bill to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

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



## Quelling rumors on the street – 1903

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from March 3, 1993.)

By Jessica Nashold

In 1903, rumors were flying on the streets of Mendota that our aldermen had been helping themselves to the city's coal supply and that Mayor E.S. Browne was collecting water rents without accounting for them.

At a council meeting on March 2, 1903, two resolutions were introduced and passed. The first would empower a committee composed of Aldermen James Skiles, J.M. Momeny and James Keeler to investigate the charges against the aldermen. The second would empower the same committee to investigate the charges against the mayor.

The committee was instructed to appoint four citizens to assist in the investigation. The men chosen were C. Fischer, F.E. Cavell, C.A. Harbaugh and William Hensler. The Reporter heartily endorsed this group.

**All citizens can have implicit confidence in its fairness and impartiality.**

The Reporter also approved Alderman Keeler's action in submitting the resolutions.

**It was for the purpose of either setting rumors at rest or proving wrong doing if there were any. The fact that finally an alderman took the bull by the horns only redounds to his credit.**

The investigation continued for several weeks and in April the committee was ready to report to the council.

**The little room upstairs was packed to suffocation.**

If those who filled the council chamber were hoping for disclosures of misdeeds by mayor and aldermen, they were doomed to disappointment.

**The charges that the mayor had collected water rents were not substantiated.**

As for the aldermen –

**The city was not defrauded of a cent.**

It was conceded, though, that some aldermen had taken advantage of their position to purchase their "private supply" of coal at wholesale rates.

Former mayor A.J. Lamberton, who had served from 1887-1889, announced

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

he had been persuaded to be a candidate in the 1903 election. He said his 1887 inaugural address would be his platform. The Reporter reprinted that address with a comment –

**Although 16 years old, good sentiment and principles are not affected by age.**

Lamberton had stated that the usefulness of municipal officers did not depend upon "the fortunate possession of wealth" or "the capacity for paying taxes." He said a mayor's chief duty was to enforce the laws as provided by city ordinances.

**I shall not willingly permit any business to be done at times or in a manner contrary to law.**

This may have been an indirect reference to the practice of serving tavern customers after the closing hour.

Lamberton had been aware that "the people" were interested in public improvements.

**If there is anything in the heavens above the earth or the waters beneath the earth which is within the power of this body lawfully to grant, it should be done.**

However, in the 1903 election, Mayor E.S. Browne was returned to office for a fourth two-year term.

The Mendota chapter of the YMCA held a reception for its new secretary, Floyd Widmer. Entertainment was a debate on the topic "Resolved: That the United States Should Establish Free Trade."

The CB&Q Railroad had trouble finding qualified applicants for positions open to firemen. They required men be between 21 and 25 years of age, not less than five feet, eight inches in height, not less than 140 pounds in weight. Applicants also had to be in perfect health with no physical defects.

Surveyors for a new railroad rented rooms above the Herbert meat market as

headquarters. The route had not yet been decided upon as much would depend on securing the right of way.

The Illinois Central advertised special one-way second class "Settlers Tickets" for Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and several Canadian provinces.

The Mendota post office received a "wonderful cancelling machine." It was capable of cancelling 500 postcards or 300 letters per minute – "probably 10 times as many as could be cancelled by hand in that time."

**It gives the employees many minutes each day for other work heretofore consumed in the cancelling of cards and letters.**

A meeting to discuss rural roads was held in Eckart's Hall on March 10, 1903, attended by 50-60 farmers. They heard that gravel was available at \$1.24 per cubic yard. A road nine feet wide and one foot deep would cost \$2,200 per mile for the gravel, plus hauling, grading and other labor.

Oliver Seaton of Princeton was called to Mendota with his trained bloodhound to track a missing man. However, "he turned up before the hunt started."

The March 13, 1903 issue of The Reporter carried the news that Jack & Conkey had purchased the ice business from H.E. Biers. They were prepared to supply customers with "Pure River Ice."

The marriage of Ruth Chrisler to Dr. O.P. Harris on Feb. 26, 1903 was reported. The Harrisses would later build a hospital on East Sixth Street, which served the community from 1918 to 1951, when Mendota Community Hospital opened.

Ladies of the Cemetery Improvement Association gathered to make plans for keeping Restland Cemetery in a "clean and tidy condition." As some of the members had died and others had moved away, they urged more women to join them in this work.

**It is a sacred duty we owe our departed friends.**

## The ignorant and racially charged attacks on Nikki Haley

By Rich Lowry

Only in 21st-century America can you call yourself the "proud daughter of Indian immigrants" and get accused of whitewashing your background.

For the left, the verdict is in and has been for a long time -- Nikki Haley is not Indian American enough.

The offenses of the former South Carolina governor are myriad, from using an easily pronounceable name to converting to Christianity, to once checking "white" on a voter registration card, to touting the value of hard work in getting ahead, to defending America against charges of racism.

This has subjected her to ignorant, highly personal, racially charged attacks.

The NAACP activist (and pastor!) Talbert Swan tweeted that she said say her "real" name and asked if she's too afraid of "white folks" to do it.

This is long-running criticism. When Haley came on an episode of "The View" last year, Sunny Hostin asked derisively, "What is her real name again?" Hostin, whose given name is Asuncion, called her a "chameleon" and remarked that it might be different "if she leaned into being someone of color."

This is dumb and ill-informed. As a USA Today fact-check noted, Haley's name at birth was Nimrata Nikki Randhawa. Rather than being a westernization, "Nikki" is a common nickname in Punjab, where her parents are from. She used the name Nikki since she was young, and then took the last name of her husband Michael Haley, in what is still the common practice in the U.S.

All that aside, the Hostin critique gets to the bottom of the real indictment of Haley from the race obsessives -- she's not obsessed with race enough. Or, as "South Asian American experts" cited by NBC News put it, she has "an on-and-off relationship with their Indian identity."

What does "on-and-off" mean except that, while expressing pride in her background, she doesn't let it wholly define her? In what world is this not a healthy, well-adjusted attitude?

Was her announcement video, which did acknowledge the difficulties of growing up as an Indian American in the South Carolina of that time, supposed to be a screed about all the terrible things that have been done to her by the country her parents chose to come to?

The answer for her woke critics is basically "yes." Again and again, critiques of Haley mention that she's perpetuating the "model minority myth," by which they mean she extols up-from-the-bootstraps hard work instead of painting a picture of immigrant futility in a fundamentally racist country.

The other charges against Haley are as meritless. She reportedly checked "white" on a voter registration card more than 20 years ago. Apparently, the card only offered the options of white, Black/African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American or other. These categories, an unavoidable aspect of American life, are insanely reductive and imprecise. Asian is often taken to mean East Asian, not South Asian, and if Haley didn't want to "otherize" herself, she might have checked white as one of a number of not-accurate options.

Regardless, what's the allegation here? That she thought no one would find out about her Indian heritage if she checked a certain box on a card no one knew about?

Haley also converted to Christianity, which she has explained thoughtfully and sensitively. It's a feature of Christianity, not a bug, that it is open to all, from every nation and every background. And she's not the first person to convert to Methodism.

At the end of the day, the left is willing only to accept the legitimacy of minorities who toe the party line and are adherents of the worst sort of identity politics and of "The 1619 Project" version of America.

This is why Justice Clarence Thomas is never considered truly Black and why it doesn't matter how often Haley says she is proud of her heritage. She'll still be assailed as a false Indian American working to support white supremacy.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Revenue

Continued from Page A5

That included \$400 million to create a business attraction or “closing” fund under Pritzker’s authority that the administration hopes will help lure new or existing businesses to expand in Illinois. That was part of a broader expansion of several economic incentives.

Other appropriations included \$196 million in temporary payments to hospitals and community mental health providers through the state’s Medicaid program, \$110 million for the Department of Human Services to support asylum seekers, and \$100 million to the Department of Innovation and Technology to pay interest-accruing bills.

The plan also included added funding for DHS-run mental health centers and for the courts to cover costs associated with the SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform among other expenditures.

During the lame duck session, Republicans criticized the inclusion of a list of more than 100 violence prevention grants totaling \$45 million that were concentrated in Democratic districts. Demmer cited such perceived partisan spending as another reason many recent spending plans passed without Republican support.

### Lessons from the past

Along with Demmer on the Republican side, two of the House Democrats’ budgeting leaders recently retired from the General Assembly – Reps. Greg Harris, of Chicago, and Mike Zalewski, of Riverside.

“I came in during this toxic cloud of three things happening,” Zalewski told CNI. “One, the Great Recession. Two, I would say, a spending base that didn’t

meet the existing revenues. And three, this political upheaval of Gov. (Rod) Blagojevich getting arrested and then Gov. Pat Quinn coming in.”

The end of Quinn’s term coincided with the expiration of a temporary four-year income tax hike, sending state revenues plummeting by billions of dollars in the first year of Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner’s term. That suddenly exacerbated structural deficit laid the groundwork for a crippling two-year budget impasse between Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly, eventually leaving Illinois with a nearly \$17 billion backlog of unpaid bills.

The impasse finally ended when lawmakers—including a group of Republicans—overrode Rauner’s veto on a spending plan that included a tax increase nearly to the level of the 2011 temporary tax hike.

Two years later, Pritzker defeated Rauner in a landslide, bringing what Zalewski called a more “pragmatic” approach to state budgeting that’s been made easier by revenue growth.

Both Harris and Pritzker noted that, in recent years, lessons from the past have led lawmakers and the administration to take a conservative approach to revenue estimates.

“We don’t ever want to get into a situation where you get near the end of the year, and then it turns out revenue isn’t meeting your expenditure needs,” Pritzker said. “And so we’ve been conservative about it and as a result, you know, we’ve balanced budgets and run surpluses.”

In the current fiscal year’s budgeting process last April, for example, lawmakers planned for an 8 percent

decrease from their final base revenue levels from the previous year. As those revenues continue to perform well, lawmakers have considered the supplemental spending plans.

Harris, meanwhile, pointed to a recent report from the legislative Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, which noted a slight decline in base revenues in December could be an indicator that the economy is beginning to slow.

“You’re beginning to see a downturn in numbers,” he said. “And it’s too early to tell yet if this is a one-time thing, or if this is the beginning of a weaker economic period that people have been saying could be coming. So we’ll see what the future holds.”

But Zalewski and others maintain Illinois is likely better equipped to handle the unforeseen after its recent budgeting actions and because the state’s required pension payment—which generally exceeds 20 percent of general revenue fund spending—is leveling.

“I think we’re way better prepared than we would have been eight years ago,” Zalewski said. “We have a rainy day fund. And I think we have a leadership structure in place that understands that adding spending during those times is not a good idea. So I’m overall sort of cautiously optimistic we can weather whatever’s coming our way.”

*(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.)*



Mendota High School has been recognized for achieving an exemplary rate of financial aid applications completed by the class of 2022. MHS’s Mitch Landgraf, right, and Rachel Tarr, left, national-board-certified school counselors (MS,NCC,NCSC), are congratulated by Jenna Glassman, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission ISACCorps representative who serves IVCC district schools/students. (Photo contributed)

## Mendota H.S. receives exemplary rate of financial aid applications

MENDOTA—The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) notified Mendota High School that over the previous financial aid cycle, MHS achieved an exemplary rate of financial aid applications completed by the Class of 2022.

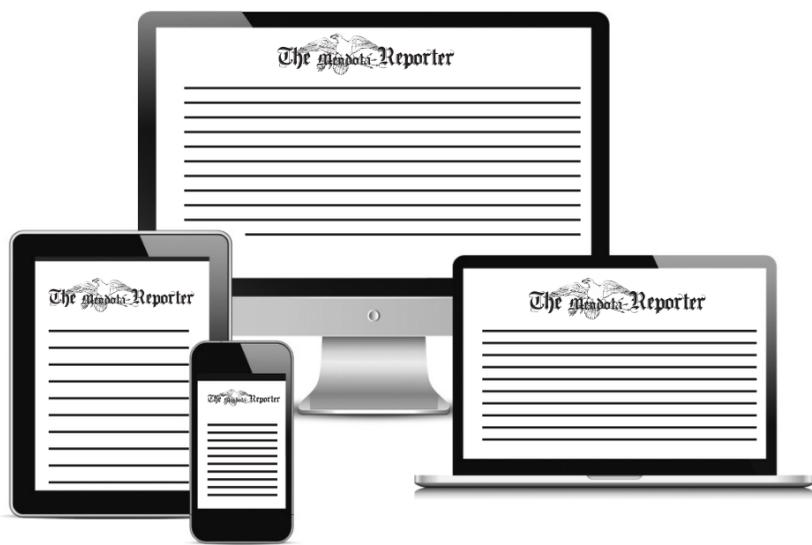
Jacqueline Moreno, Managing Director of College Access and Outreach of ISAC, stated that “Filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or Illinois Alternative Application is often the first step in helping students and their families make their aspirations for education beyond high school a reality. A student may be eligible to receive financial aid from both the federal government and the state of Illinois, and from

many colleges and universities and private foundations after submitting their financial aid application. The highest need students may be eligible for over \$14,000 in-state and federal need-based grants simply by completing the FAFSA.”

She congratulated MHS on earning the Bronze Honors for schools that achieved a completion rate of 65% or higher.

Mitch Landgraf and Rachel Tarr, MHS school counselors, were commended on assisting students in their students’ endeavors to reach and finance postsecondary education. The MHS administration is grateful for their support of MHS students and families.

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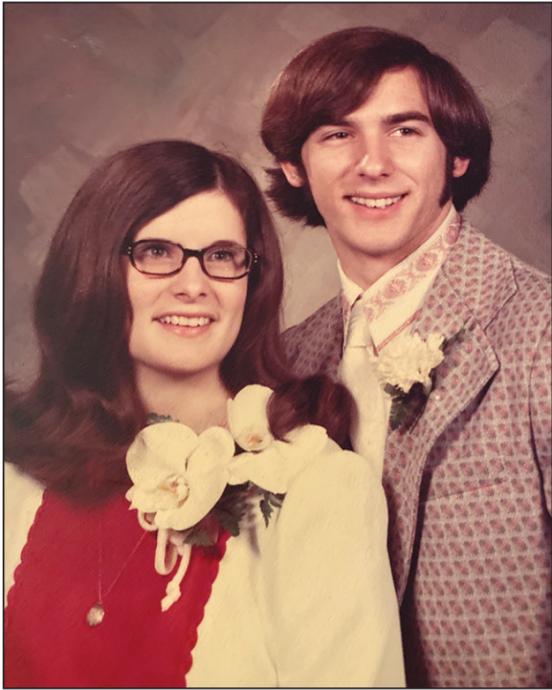
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# SOCIAL NEWS



Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Jones

## Couple to celebrate 50th anniversary on March 10

MENDOTA – Kevin and Melvette (Damm) Jones of Mendota will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on March 10. They were joined in marriage at St. John's Lutheran Church Mendota, on March 10, 1973.

Now that they are retired, they enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. They have also started traveling the United States in their camper with Millie, the dachshund.

Anyone wanting to wish them a happy anniversary may send cards to Kevin and Melvette Jones, 97 N. 46th Road, Mendota, IL 61342.

## "More in Bureau County" garage sales set for June

PRINCETON – "More in Bureau County" county-wide garage sales return Father's Day weekend, June 16 & 17.

The Bureau County Tourism committee encourages each of the communities in Bureau County to hold their town-wide sales that weekend. Formerly called More on 34, now this event is just centered locally and allows towns that weren't on U.S. 34 the opportunity to participate.

To sign up your town to be on the participating locations, email kathybc-tourism@yahoo.com or

call 815-866-3606 after 5 p.m.

A map listing individual sales will also be created to be handed out the weekend of the sale. Listings will be accepted for the map after May 25. Email them to kathybc-tourism@yahoo.com. Sales will also be listed on the Bureau County Tourism Facebook page.

In addition to individual sales, Bureau County Fairgrounds will hold a two-day garage sale on June 16 & 17. There will be inside and outside vendors at the sale. Sign-up sheets will be on the fair website.

## Pancake & sausage breakfast planned

ARLINGTON – St. Patrick Arlington will hold a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, March 12 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church hall.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10 years and free for 5 years and under.

The menu includes pancakes, Nuco's homemade sausage, eggs, toast and drink.



## The thrill of the chill

A group of men from Wallace Grade School near Ottawa have stunned looks on their faces after emerging from the chilly waters of Lake Mendota during the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics Illinois athletes on Feb. 25. Plungers from all over the area took to the waters of the lake to aid this special cause. (Reporter photo)

## Oglesby Elks assists new Lighted Way facility

OGLESBY – Oglesby Elks Lodge recently made a \$70,000 donation to assist Lighted Way Children's Developmental Center in La Salle with its new facility opening in August.

Under their theme, "Elks Care, Elks Share," the Lodge No. 2360 gift will help pay for a special outdoor playground at Lighted Way's new home at 1445 Chartres St., La Salle.

In an emotional ceremony at the lodge at 800 E. Walnut St., Ken Ficek, Elks Past Exalted Ruler, grant coordinator and Children's Care Committee member, said, "In our 57 years of existence we cannot recall another event of this importance."

Lighted Way Executive Director Jessica Kreiser and Jim and Amy Bolelli, parents' of a former Lighted Way student, also spoke. The Bolelli's daughter Gabby graduated from Lighted Way in May and passed away at age 22 in October. A piece

in the new playground will be named the "Gabby Go Round."

A contribution to the Elks from the estate of Anita Copeland of Peru "was instrumental in our being able to make this donation," Ficek said. Copeland died in April 2018 at age 91.

Ficek credited attorney Jim McPhedrin and Hometown National Bank's Philip Slevin, Tammy Humpage and Peter Corgiat (retired) for helping facilitate the Copeland bequest.

Ficek lauded the work currently being done for 47 students at Lighted Way.

"If you visit Lighted Way you will see very special people working with children who need help. When we heard they purchased the former nursing home on Chartres Street – Airport Road to us old-timers – we asked how can we help?"

The gift covers the entire cost of

the playground's flooring.

"Elk members feel our donation fulfills Anita Copeland's wishes that her funds be used to assist children, especially those with Special Needs," Ficek said.

Ficek was joined by Elks Exalted Ruler Lisa Fultz, in-coming Exalted Ruler and Children's Care Committee member Sam Sankovic, and former Treasurer and Children's Care Committee member Paul Danekas.

"Elks invest in their communities through grant programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans, support the local Food Pantry, local schools, fire departments, 'Shop with a Cop' programs, Horizon House, PADS Homeless Shelter, and improve the quality of life where they recognize the need," Ficek said.

"New members are welcome. Be part of a benevolent organization that 'Cares and Shares.'"

## Guilfoyle & Stevenson LLP

GENERAL PRACTICE



L-R: Kathleen M. Stevenson  
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# THE BACK PAGE

## POLICE BLOTTER

### DUI, STOP SIGN VIOLATION

Timothy R. Buckley, 42, of Amboy, was charged with driving while under the influence and disobeying a stop sign after a traffic stop at Third Avenue and Eighth Street at 11:43 p.m. Feb. 22. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Bryan L. Weekly, 51, of 616 1/2 Main St., Mendota, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at Sixth and Main streets at 2 a.m. Feb. 23. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### WARRANT ARREST

Brexton A. Wilson, 19, of Freeport, was arrested at 5:07 p.m. Feb. 23 on a valid Freeport Police Department warrant for violation of bail bond after a traffic stop at Sixth Street and Fourth Avenue. The subject was unable to post bond and was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

### NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Jose L. Herrera, 72, of 203 Eighth Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Sixth Avenue and 11th Street at 8:15 a.m. Feb. 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Mokeece C. Townsend, 27, of Rockford, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and Raymond Drive at 11:20 a.m. Feb. 24. The subject was released with a

LaSalle County court date.

### WARRANT ARREST

Kareena L. Harrison, 26, of 506 10th Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 24 on a valid Kane County failure to appear warrant for a traffic offense. The subject posted bond and was released with a Kane County court date.

### NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Maria C. Reyes, 55, of 1201 13th Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Seventh Avenue and Sixth Street at 9:25 p.m. Feb. 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### BATTERY

Christopher A. Escatel, 21, of 168 E. U.S. 52, Mendota, was charged with battery after police officers responded to 713 Illinois Ave. for the report of a disturbance at 2 a.m. Feb. 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

Colton A. Lunn, no age given, of Henry, was charged with no valid driver's license after police officers were dispatched to the 2700 block of East 12th Street for a call for service at 7:53 p.m. Feb. 25. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

## Make sure to remember your pet when putting together a disaster supply kit

SPRINGFIELD - While every household should have a disaster supply kit stocked with food, water, flashlights and batteries, homes with pets need to take additional steps when planning for disasters. Whether an emergency forces people to seek shelter within the home or evacuate, advanced planning can ensure the safety of your animals.

"A family's disaster supply kit should address the needs of every family member, including your pets," said a spokesperson for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). "Every emergency situation is stressful, particularly for animals. But if you have a kit and a plan, you can help

your pet stay safe."

The IEMA recommends that pet owners should stock a pet preparedness kit with items such as:

- At least a three-day supply of food and water
- Extra supplies of pet medicines
- Copies of pet registration, vaccinations and other important documents
- Photo of your pet in case you are separated during an emergency
- Pet first-aid kit, including cotton bandage rolls, tape, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention and

isopropyl alcohol

- Collar with ID tag, harness or leash
- Crate or other pet carrier in case of evacuation
- Pet litter and box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach for pet's sanitation needs
- Toys, treats or other familiar items to help lessen your pet's stress during the emergency

For more information about pet preparedness, visit the Ready Illinois website at [www.ReadyIllinois.gov](http://www.ReadyIllinois.gov).

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# SPORTS

## BOWLING

### Elks 4 Youth League

Standings as of Feb. 16  
 - 1. Team 5 35-9; 2. Team 2 27-17; 3. Team 4 26-18; 4. Team 3 12-32; 5. Team 1 10-34  
 High team game (scratch)  
 - Team 5 322, Team 4 271, Team 2 219  
 High team game (hdcp)  
 - Team 5 691, Team 4 630, Team 2 624  
 High team series (scratch)  
 - Team 5 933, Team 4 683, Team 2 605  
 High team series (hdcp)  
 - Team 5 2040, Team 2 1820, Team 4 1760  
 Boys' high game (scratch)  
 Parker Ramer 181, Jaxen Daley 119, Kaden Young 105  
 Boys' high game (hdcp)  
 - Parker Ramer 271, Jaxen Daley 232, Kaden Young 229  
 Boys' high series (scratch) - Parker Ramer 494, Jaxen Daley 331, Bentley Bejster 267  
 Boys' high series (hdcp)  
 - Parker Ramer 764, Jaxen Daley 670, Bentley Bejster 663  
 Girls' high game (scratch)  
 - Brooklyn Mauch 68  
 Girls' high game (hdcp)  
 - Brooklyn Mauch 215  
 Girls' high series (scratch)

- Brooklyn Mauch 172  
 Girls' high series (hdcp)  
 - Brooklyn Mauch 613

### Elks 6 Youth League

Standings as of Feb. 16  
 - 1. Team 1 23-21; 2. Team 3 12-32; 3. Team 2 4-40  
 High team game (scratch)  
 - Team 3 469, Team 1 352  
 High team game (hdcp)  
 - Team 3 613, Team 1 599  
 High team series (scratch)  
 - Team 1 1371, Team 1 980  
 High team series (hdcp)  
 - Team 3 1803, Team 1 1721  
 Boys' high game (scratch)  
 - Alex Holland 208, Kooper Novak 161, Toby Bulen 124  
 Boys' high game (hdcp)  
 - Alex Holland 236, Toby Bulen 211, Kooper Novak 203  
 Boys' high series (scratch) - Alex Holland 562, Kooper Novak 461, Toby Bulen 328  
 Boys' high series (hdcp)  
 - Alex Holland 646, Toby Bulen 589, Kooper Novak 587  
 Girls' high game (scratch)  
 - Lauren Holland 170  
 Girls' high game (hdcp)  
 - Lauren Holland 217  
 Girls' high series (scratch)  
 - Lauren Holland 403  
 Girls' high series (hdcp)  
 - Lauren Holland 544

### Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Feb. 20  
 - 1. Split Happens 30-15; 2. CM Farm 25-20; 3. Sports-N-Stuff 22-23; 4. Leagal Beagles 21-24; 5. Bad Kats 20-25; 6. Ramer Inc. 17-28  
 High team game (scratch)  
 - Sports-N-Stuff 704, Split Happens 679, Leagal Beagles 660  
 High team game (hdcp)  
 - Bad Kats 968, Sports-N-Stuff 964, Leagal Beagles 923  
 High team series (scratch)  
 - Sports-N-Stuff 2085, Leagal Beagles 1884, Split Happens 1844  
 High team series (hdcp)  
 - Sports-N-Stuff 2865, Bad Kats 2809, Leagal Beagles 2673  
 Men's high game (scratch) - Tyler Schmitt 217, Mike Smith 208, Ron Westphal 207  
 Men's high game (hdcp)  
 - Brendan Ramer 265, Mike Smith 254, Carl Reistad 247  
 Men's high series (scratch) - Tyler Schmitt 600, Ron Westphal & Mike Smith 569  
 Men's high series (hdcp)  
 - Brendan Ramer 723, Mike Smith 707, Carl Reistad 698  
 Women's high game (scratch) - Sarah Westphal

202, Emily Thomas 186, Gail Sessler 182  
 Women's high game (hdcp) - Sarah Westphal 279, Debbie Berger 264, Brenda Westphal 259  
 Women's high series (scratch) - Gail Sessler 534, Sarah Westphal 524, Hannah Westphal 497  
 Women's high series (hdcp) - Sarah Westphal 755, Debbie Berger 739, Brenda Westphal 732

### Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Feb. 21  
 - 1. Black Bros. 64-36; 2. Team 2 51-49; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 45-55; 4. Age Old Organics 39-61  
 High team game (scratch)  
 - JJ&L Carpentry 1032, Black Bros. 1004, Team 2 978  
 High team game (hdcp)  
 - Black Bros. 1130, JJ&L Carpentry 1115, Team 2 1047  
 High team series (scratch)  
 - JJ&L Carpentry 2947, Team 2 2862, Black Bros. 2817  
 High team series (hdcp)  
 - JJ&L Carpentry 3196, Black Bros. 3195, Team 2 3068  
 High individual game (scratch) - Scott Novak 289, Eli Otterbach 258, Zach

Meyers 255  
 High individual series (scratch) - Scott Novak 715, Eli Otterbach 628, Luke Ross 624

### Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Feb. 22  
 - 1. Boelk Truck Lines 54.5-41.5; 2. First State Bank 48.5-47.5; 3. Mendota Monument 48-48; 4. O'Donnell Excavating 41-55  
 High team game (scratch) - Mendota Monument 1087, Boelk Truck Lines 1069, O'Donnell Excavating 1006  
 High team game (hdcp)  
 - Boelk Truck Lines 1199, O'Donnell Excavating 1186, Mendota Monument 1117  
 High team series (scratch)  
 - Mendota Monument 2992, Boelk Truck Lines 2953, First State Bank 2741  
 High team series (hdcp)  
 - Boelk Truck Lines 3343, O'Donnell Excavating 3218, First State Bank 3095  
 High individual game (scratch) - Drake O'Donnell 258, John Hanson 257, Joe Dimmig 256  
 High individual series (scratch) - John Hanson 694, Drake O'Donnell 669, Joe Dimmig 649

## Mornings may be the best time for your workout

The right time to exercise is a different time of day for everyone. But there is good reason to consider moving your workout to the morning. The health experts at Healthline say that morning workouts are less vulnerable to distractions as phone calls and texts will typically take place later in the day. There are mental health benefits of exercise, including the secretion of neurotransmitters that promote mental clarity and improve attention span. Working out first thing in the morning can help you focus and take charge at work or in school soon after. Since exercise can boost metabolism, it starts the day out on a good foot, and may help you make healthier decisions throughout the day, including choosing more nutritious foods. Healthline also says that cortisol is a hormone that keeps you awake and alert. Cortisol increases in the morning, peaking around 8 a.m. Working out around this time may make workouts more efficient and effective.

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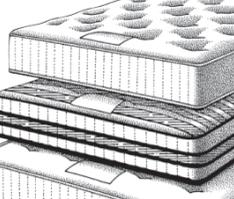
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

### By Dana Jackson

**Q:** Whatever happened to Patricia Heaton? She had two very successful sitcoms, but I haven't seen her in anything since. Is she retiring from acting? -- *L.A.*



Heaton

**A:** The talented Patricia Heaton has been blessed to star in not only one but two hit sitcoms in her life. She played exhausted wives on both "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "The Middle" for nine seasons each and then starred in "Carol's Second Act," but it was canceled after just one season.

Now she's bouncing back with another sitcom, which is yet to be named, with veteran comedy writers Carol Leifer ("Seinfeld") and Andy Gordon ("Modern Family"). According to Deadline.com, Heaton will play "the host of an upscale lifestyle show sent to prison for embezzlement and tax evasion. She gets out after two years, forgotten and broke, and moves to Tennessee to live with her estranged sister."

The show will be filmed in

Nashville, where Heaton has a residence, and will air on Fox. The only thing stopping it is the potential of a writers' strike if negotiations with the Writers Guild of America come to a halt when their contract is up for renewal in May.

While there aren't as many network sitcoms as there used to be, the few that have premiered in recent years have generated quite a loyal audience. "Abbott Elementary," "Ghosts" and "Night Court" all have already been renewed for another season before their current one has been completed.

**Q:** I remember when Chrishell Stause was a soap opera actress, but now she's on a reality show. Is she ever going to act again? -- *N.S.*

**A:** Chrishell Stause, who hails from Kentucky, made her acting debut on the ABC soap "All My Children" back in 2005. She went on to play Jordan on "Days of Our Lives" and Bethany on "The Young and the Restless," the latter soap in which she starred with her husband at the time, Justin Hartley. She supplemented her acting revenue by getting her real

estate license and joined the Oppenheim Group, selling mansions in Hollywood and being featured on Netflix's "Selling Sunset."

Justin Hartley became a household name with the hit drama "This Is Us," but he broke Stause's heart when he left her for another former "Y&R" star, Sofia Pernas. Stause was chosen to compete on "Dancing With the Stars" and is five seasons into "Selling Sunset," but she hasn't given up acting -- she recently starred in the Lifetime movie "A Rose for Her Grave: The Randy Roth Story."

**Q:** Is it true that "Titanic" is returning to theaters? Is it a remake? Who will play the leads? -- *S.M.*

**A:** No remake is on the horizon, but the original "Titanic" has been remastered and made its way to theaters this February. James Cameron, director of the Oscar-nominated blockbuster "Avatar: The Way of Water," has redelivered "Titanic" to the big screen for its 25th anniversary with stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. The running time is 3 hours and 15 minutes, which was an anomaly back in 1997.

## Hollywood

**HOLLYWOOD --** The internet went crazy when Priscilla Presley asked a judge to invalidate a recently discovered document replacing Priscilla and Barry Siegel (manager of Lisa Marie Presley) with Lisa Marie's children, Riley and the late Benjamin Keough, as co-trustees of Lisa Marie's trust. The trolls accused Priscilla of trying to grab control of the estate. But, in truth, Priscilla cited several factors for her request, including that Lisa Marie's signature might be a forgery.



Presley

Back in 1993, Lisa Marie appointed Priscilla and Siegel as co-trustees of her trust. After Lisa Marie's death on Jan. 12, an amendment to her will dated March 2016 was found that would replace them both as trustees upon her death. Priscilla says the amendment was never delivered to her while Lisa Marie was alive, as required by the original document, and that Priscilla's name was misspelled in the document. Priscilla also stated that her signature looked inconsistent

with her usual sign-off. The document was neither witnessed nor notarized, as documents of this nature must be in order to be deemed legal.

In my acquaintance with Priscilla, she has proven to be honest, trustworthy and devoted to Lisa Marie and her children. Can another Presley movie be far behind? \*\*\*

"Top Gun: Maverick's" Glen Powell, who co-starred with the biggest star in the world, Tom Cruise, will now be starring opposite one of the greatest actors of today -- two-time Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins -- in "Locked," a remake of the Argentinian action thriller "4X4." Sam Raimi, who is best known for "The Evil Dead" franchise, "Army of Darkness," the "Spider-Man" franchise, "Oz the Great and Powerful" and "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," has been tapped to direct. \*\*\*

Late-night talk show host James Corden, who has recently gotten a bad rap for being overly demanding in restaurants, announced he'd stop doing "The Late Late Show" at the end of the 2023 season. CBS, in turn, has an-

nounced that they'll replace it with "@midnight with Chris Hardwick," a panel game show series which ran from 2013-17, in his time slot. \*\*\*

After a 40-year absence, Basil Fawcett is returning. Yes, a reboot of the classic British comedy "Fawlty Towers," starring John Cleese, has been developed by Rob Reiner and Castle Rock Entertainment. The new series will be written by Cleese and his daughter Camilla. Reiner admits, "Cleese is a comedy legend, just the idea of working with him makes me laugh." And, while they're at it, Castle Rock and Reiner are planning another sequel to the 1984 film "This Is Spinal Tap."

"Faulty Towers" originally ran a total of 12 episodes in two seasons, with six episodes in each season. Cleese's stay at a screwy English countryside hotel gave birth to the idea for "Faulty Towers." We've all had those traveling nightmares and prefer to enjoy watching someone else suffer while we're sipping tea and eating crumpets! (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Strange But True

### By Lucie Winborne

\* Think money doesn't grow on trees? Try telling that to a certain dog in Colombia. After seeing students pass money to a food stall attendant, the enterprising pooch began a regular practice of "paying" for dog biscuits with tree leaves.

\* In a few American cities, Halloween was originally called "Cabbage Night." The name came from a Scottish fortune-telling game in which girls would use cabbage stumps to predict the identity of their future husband.

\* Best-selling author Maya Angelou was San Francisco's first Black streetcar conductor.

\* Sea sponges, like humans, sneeze to clear their internal filter systems. Unlike humans, such sneezes last about half an hour.

\* In the 18th century, some wealthy folks with gardens decorated their plots with "ornamental hermits" -- actual people whom they paid to dress like a Druid (however they took that to look) and wander around their estates.

\* America's eighth president, Martin Van Buren, tried to keep a pair of tiger cubs given to him by the Sultan of Oman, but Congress made him send them to the zoo.

\* "Chess boxing" is a sport in which opponents alternate between rounds of chess and boxing until either competitor is checkmated or knocked out.

\* In 2004, Alice Pike tried to use a fake \$1 million bill to purchase \$1,675 worth of merchandise at Walmart, expecting to receive change from the undoubtedly startled cashier. Well, she did think the bill was genuine ... as she remarked (from jail), "You can't keep up with the U.S. Treasury."

\* The WD-40 Company never patented the WD-40 formula in order to avoid having to publicly disclose its trade-secret ingredients. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Trivia Test

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which river flows through the European capitals of Vienna and Budapest?
2. SCIENCE: At what temperature are Fahrenheit and Celsius equal?
3. TELEVISION: The comedy series "Frasier" is a spinoff of which sitcom?
4. LITERATURE: Which novel features a character named Katniss Everdeen?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of beans are used in falafel?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a beaver's home called?
7. THEATER: Which musical features a character named Tracy Turnblad?
8. MOVIES: Which actress plays the young Wendy Darling in the movie "Hook"?
9. HISTORY: Who invented the game of lacrosse?
10. SCIENCE: What percentage of the world's population has brown eyes?

Answers  
1. The Danube River.  
2. -40.  
3. "Cheers."  
4. "The Hunger Games."  
5. Chickpeas or fava beans.  
6. A lodge, or a den.  
7. "Hairspray."  
8. Gwyneth Paltrow.  
9. Iroquois tribes in the eastern United States and Canada.  
10. 70%-80%.

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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Pirate's chart  
4 "Shark Tank" network  
7 Clench  
11 Misfortunes  
13 Monk's title  
14 Jeans maker  
15 Grabbed  
16 Sailor  
17 Opposite of "sans"  
18 Lukewarm  
20 Soft shoes, for short  
22 Eggy quaff  
24 Give  
28 Limo alternative  
32 Orange variety  
33 Online auction site  
34 "Kapow!"  
36 Traditional tales  
37 Winter woes  
39 Lauded  
41 Balloon filler  
43 Little rascal  
44 Beseech  
46 Speak one's mind  
50 Big swig  
53 Profit  
55 Alike (Fr.)  
56 Sheltered  
57 - Jima  
58 Activist Parks

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50	51	52			53		54		55		
56					57				58		
59					60					61	

8 Speed (up)  
9 " - had it!"  
10 Photo, for short  
12 Swimmer without a suit  
19 Medico  
21 Biz bigwig  
23 Prattle  
25 New Mexico resort  
26 Shrek, for one  
27 Garden intruder  
28 Georgia or Cal  
29 Bassoon's kin  
30 Humpty's perch  
31 Knock  
35 Hosp. scan  
38 California's Big -  
40 I love (Lat.)  
42 Craze  
45 Evergreen trees  
47 Mr. Stravinsky  
48 "Apollo 13" org.  
49 Panache  
50 Tank filler  
51 Last (Abbr.)  
52 Meadow  
54 Spinning toy

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## Couch Theater

"Shrinking" (TV-MA) -- Therapist Jimmy Laird (Jason Segel) is grieving the loss of his wife and the void she left behind, especially her role as a mother to their daughter, Alice. Since his job mostly consists of making other people feel heard, Jimmy tries his best to swallow his feelings and continue to help his clients. But at a certain point, there's only so much a person can take. So, one day, Jimmy decides to stop holding back his tongue and tells his clients exactly the kind of tough love they need to hear. Is it ethical? Eh. But does it make a difference? Definitely. With this new approach, Jimmy is able to start working through his own grief while assisting others to do the same. The first six episodes of the series are out now, with the upcoming four releasing weekly in the coming days. (AppleTV+)

"The Consultant" (NR) -- Academy Award winner

Christoph Waltz ("Django Unchained") stars in this bingeable comedy thriller series out now. Waltz plays Regus Patoff, a consultant who gets hired to head the mobile game studio CompWare after CompWare's CEO gets murdered mysteriously. Regus' job as consultant is to "observe, streamline and improve," but he starts shaking up the office in a way that confuses and intrigues the studio's employees. His oddness provokes two employees, Craig and Elaine, to start questioning his motives and his ties to the CEO's death, as Regus broadens the lengths necessary for them to keep their jobs. Nat Wolff ("The Fault in Our Stars") and Brittany O'Grady ("The White Lotus") also star in this twisty series, which was originally based on Bentley Little's 2015 novel of the same name. (Prime Video)

"Perfect Match" (TV-14)

-- Move over, "Love Island" and "Too Hot to Handle." Hosted by Nick Lachey, this new series is adding an extra layer of drama to an already dramatic premise -- a reality dating show. A group of contestants staying at a villa must pair up among themselves to share a suite together each night, but the contestants who win at the daily challenges get control of the board, which gives them the power to break other couples up or bring in new people. At the end of their time in the villa, the participants themselves will decide which couple is truly a perfect match. As if that isn't enough chaos, most of the participants have already been featured in other reality dating shows like "The Circle" and "The Ultimatum," so this isn't their first rodeo. The first eight episodes are available to stream now, with the last four premiering Feb. 28. (Netflix)

Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!



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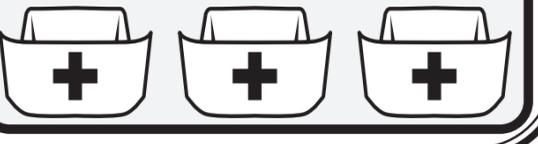
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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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.

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Difficulty This Week: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Discover how to be joy-filled every day

Back in the 1970s, I used to bowl on Friday nights. I remember one night when I wasn't doing very well and I heard the Lord speak to my heart, "Ask Me to help you bowl." I immediately thought, "I can't ask You to help me bowl!" But I went ahead and prayed, "Okay, Lord, please help me bowl better." And He did!

I remember this experience so clearly because it was a great eye-opener that made me realize God cares about every part of our lives, and He wants to be involved in everything we do.

John 10:10 (AMP)

says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]." Jesus died so we can have life—not just a barely-get-by, "I'm hanging on till Jesus comes back" existence.

God wants each of us to have a deep, intimate, personal relationship with Him so we can enjoy our everyday lives and learn how to "do life" with Him. This means we do every single thing in our daily life with and for God. And when we realize we are

just as close to Him at home doing laundry or at the grocery store as we are at church or during our time in prayer, then we are serving Him in everything we do.

### It's All About Balance

The first several years I was in ministry, I didn't enjoy it. I worked too much and was too concerned about what others thought about me. I had a tendency to be this way because growing up, it seemed that the more I worked and the more I accomplished, the happier people were with me. Over time I became a first-rate workaholic.

It took me awhile to realize that "all work and no play" is not healthy, and God wants me to have a life I could enjoy. This meant I had to learn how to balance my priorities so that my relationship with God is always first, and then everything else follows. This includes my relationships with family and friends, along with work and taking time to relax.

It's not wrong to work hard, and I like to work. But if I don't make time to rest and just have fun, it won't take long for me to get out of balance and lose my joy.

### Turn the Ordinary into the Extraordinary

So much of life can become a mundane routine that we only really enjoy it when we do



something out of the ordinary, like go on vacation, go to a special event or do something exciting, like shop for a new dress. And many people have a "working for the weekend" mentality. But this type of enjoyment is based on emotional excitement, not the joy God gives.

The joy of the Lord is much greater than simply feeling happy. It brings peace and contentment to your soul, even when your circumstances are difficult and it doesn't make any sense. Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength."

This kind of joy makes the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday routine enjoyable. And since most of life is Monday through Friday, we need to enjoy it!

### The World Can't Give It to You

In John 15:11 (NIV), Jesus says, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." The Amplified

Bible, Classic Edition translation says "that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing." In the ten verses leading up to this one, Jesus is talking about abiding in Him, because that's the key to living with His joy.

Abiding means "to live, dwell and remain in"; it's not just visiting once a week at church. It's having a personal relationship with Christ, being one with Him and doing life together. The truth is apart from Jesus, we can do nothing of real value, but with Him, we can bear much good fruit (John 15:5).

God wants to abide with you every day, all throughout the day. He doesn't just want you to seek Him when you go to church or when you're desperate. His desire is to have a personal relationship with you, so you can experience His presence in everything you do. That's when your everyday life is truly enjoyable!

\*\*\*  
For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource The Gift of Everyday Joy. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://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 LOVING PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE (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](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Please note: The views and opinions expressed throughout this publication and/or website are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

## Real News



From Hometown Heroes to Golden Anniversaries, we celebrate the events that shape our lives.

We're here to share the stories with you, our friends and all of our readers.

## Real Events



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

### MENDOTA

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Rev. Peter A. Pilon, Pastor  
Ray Fischer, Jose Lopez,  
and Hector Diaz, Deacons

#### HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

Weekday Mass  
Weekend Mass  
Confession

#### STS. PETER AND PAUL, PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass  
Confession

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

100 E. Sixth St.  
(815) 538-5587

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

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

March 2 - 10 a.m. Pastor Mary leads  
worship at Heritage Health;  
6:30 p.m. Choir practice

March 5 - Second Sunday in Lent;

9 a.m. Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship

March 6 - 6:30 p.m. Finance Team meets

March 7 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. LEASE preschool

screenings; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Prayer Walking

March 8 - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sanctuary open

for communion;

6:30 p.m. Confirmation class

#### ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United  
Methodist Church

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.

#### UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Route 251 North  
(815) 539-6861

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

E-mail: mendotaupc@yahoo.com

www.mendotaupc.org

SUNDAY: Christian Education

Sunday Worship

WEDNESDAY

#### VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Faithful & Effective"

505 W. 7th Ave.  
(815) 539-9081

Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY

Sunday school

Worship

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service

#### NEW COVENANT ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rt. 251 at Lake Mendota  
P.O. Box 54

Phone (815) 539-7107 (church)  
(815) 871-5702 (pastor)

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org

www.facebook.com/NCAOG

"Preaching the blood, book and  
blessed hope."

Sunday School

Worship

#### MENDOTA BIBLE CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of  
Mendota

(815) 538-6876

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School

Worship

Evening Service

#### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.  
(815) 539-5626

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:

www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:

9 a.m. Sunday Worship in person  
and online via Facebook and Zoom

Find us on Facebook

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

#### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Yield now  
and be at peace with Him;  
thereby good will come to you.  
Please receive instruction  
from His mouth  
and establish His words  
in your heart.

~ JOB 22: 21-22 ~



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#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1003 5th St.  
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com

Accessible

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

March 5 - 10 a.m. Worship;

11 a.m. Fellowship

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Wednesday Evening Gathering:

Live Zoom at 7 p.m.

https://us02web.zoom.

us/j/86402369150

To call in for audio only, dial

(312) 626-6799 - use meeting

ID: 864 0236 9150

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

#### CHRIST'S CHURCH

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Church . . . That in everything He  
might have the supremacy." Col. 1:18

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Dave Manion Jim McDowell

Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

Sunday Bible Study (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational

Please call for more information

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Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger

(815) 539-6567

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

(Sunday School begins Dec. 4, 9:30)

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

March 1 - 5:30 p.m. Lenten meal at  
Immanuel; 6:30 p.m. Lenten service at  
Immanuel

March 4 - 8-11 a.m. Immanuel & First  
volunteer at N.I.C.E.

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

### LA MOILLE

#### ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion)

4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

Pastor Ian Griffith

(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

#### COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille

(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery available

### TROY GROVE

#### FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,

Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbfchurch20817@gmail.com

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to glorify God through the equipping  
of His saints, teaching of His Word  
and raising of His name.

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to worship and learn about  
our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.  
SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

#### BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Micah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. What perfectly square "new" city is described as having walls made of Jasper? Jerusalem, Jericho, Paphos, Gibeon
  3. From 1 Samuel, what Philistine soldier was slain by a boy? Joab, Abishai, Dan, Goliath
  4. On which "Mount" did Jesus deliver his final discourse? Zion, Olives, Carmel, Pisgah
  5. In which book is the phrase, "Could eat a horse"? TITLE: None, Acts, Ruth, Ephesians
  6. Which friend of Jesus was buried in a cave? Sisera, Joshua, Lazarus, Arioch
- ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Jerusalem, 3) Goliath, 4) Olives, 5) TITLE: None, 6) Lazarus

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Phone (815) 539-9394

TRIPLE SERVICE, INC.  
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Phone (815) 539-3828

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Phone (815) 539-8500

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### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 8, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Faye Meadows Farm located at 2644 N. 3501st Road, Marseilles, IL. 61341.  
Dated: February 8, 2023. Molly M. German Applicant.  
No. 0209  
(Feb. 15, 22 and March 1, 2023)

**NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 7, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Shellas Egg Rolls located at 2998 E. 1520th Road, Ottawa, IL. 61350.  
Dated: February 7, 2023. Shella L. Thompson Applicant.  
No. 0210  
(Feb. 15, 22 and March 1, 2023)

### NOTICE TO BID

Mendota High School is accepting bids to reseal the asphalt parking lot behind the school and the asphalt at the athletic stadium this summer. Bid specs are available by contacting Superintendent Jeff Prusator 815-539-7446 or jprusator@mendotahs.org. Sealed bids should be returned to MHS no later than 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023.  
No. 0303  
(March 1 and 8, 2023)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 31, 2023, at 1:45 p.m., a sale will be held at 2951 St. Vincent's Ave., LaSalle, IL 61301 to sell the following vehicle to enforce a mechanic's lien in the amount of \$1,998.99 pursuant to Chapter 770 ILCS 50/3. Owner: Jose Campos, of Yukon, Okla. 2014 Ford Focus 4-Door VIN# 1FADP-3K25EL108980.  
No. 0304  
(March 1, 2023)

### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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**113 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.

### 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

### 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

### 301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

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### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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FOR SALE Commercial fluorescent light fixtures with bulbs. \$5.00 each. 4 foot and 8 foot units (10 available) in Mendota. Call 630-803-7146 (03-12-23)

### 315 WANTED TO BUY

Wanted to Buy Older Comic Books. 815-481-4922. (03-15-23)

### 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

### 203 HELP WANTED

Mendota High School is hiring a behind-the wheel driver's education teacher for the summer. Approximately 20-25 students. \$28.00 per hour. Please send letter of interest, resume and references to Principal Denise Aughenbaugh, 2300 West Main Street, Mendota, IL. 61342 or email to: daughenbaugh@mendotahs.org

### Ag/Diesel Tech Wanted

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Please e-mail resume to sublettemechanical@yahoo.com



### 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

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2021 Chevrolet Suburban Premier, Media Player, Sunroof, 41K Miles, Gray.....\$61,900	2019 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LT, 4x4, 44K Miles, Black.....\$36,900
2021 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LTZ, 4x4 Z71, 31K Miles, Silver.....\$49,900	2018 Chevy K-1500 Crew, 4x4 High Country, Loaded, 71K Miles, Black.....\$41,900
2021 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LT 4x4 Z71, Leather, 39K Miles, Maroon.....\$42,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD Premier, 47K Miles, Tan .....\$24,900

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2019 Chevy 1500 Dbl Cab RST, 4WD, Z71, Gray.....\$28,900	2012 Ram 1500 Reg Cab Sport Hemi, 4WD, Black.....\$14,900
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### BADGER SQUARE APARTMENTS

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# REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE



**CONTINGENT**

**1402 Guiles Ave., Mendota \$115,000  
MLS#11723290**

**NEW LISTING** One owner, one story home. Well cared for, maintenance free with 1 1/2 car garage attached. Main floor has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room and kitchen. Mud room to garage. Full basement with washer and dryer. Combination front load washer with ventless dryer in main floor bedroom. Appliances stay. Large yard. Furnace 2019, central air 2020, Concrete drive. Enclosed blind newer windows. Call McConville Realty for all the amenities.

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**609 13th Ave., Mendota \$179,500**

Beautiful Old Charm and Craftsmanship. Take a look at this NEW LISTING. First floor consists of eat in kitchen, dining room, living room, den, family room, 1/2 bath and laundry. Open stairway to upstairs you'll find 3 bedrooms with a tandem 12x13 room. Some built ins, hardwood floors with some parquet. Shaded wrap around porch with wicker furniture. Deck on back of home. Detached garage with a man cave above. Must see the mancave to appreciate. Asphalt alley access. Fenced yard. Call McConville Realty for all the amenities and a showing.



**509 W. Winthrop St., Earlvile \$69,000  
MLS #11682529**

2 bedroom home. Selling AS IS. Home is considered 1 1/2 story but there is only living space on the first floor. Nice lot and 2 car garage. Call for an appointment.

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