

## ‘Painting is the most relaxing thing I can do’

Sublette native Don Dinges has had a paint brush in his hand since 1947

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Sublette native, Don Dinges, has worn many hats for his community. Dinges worked at Farmer’s State Bank, now Pioneer State Bank, for 57 years. He’s been a board member for Sauk Valley Community College and the Mendota Community Hospital. He’s still active in the Sublette Business Association and is still the Economic Development Coordinator for the Village of Sublette, which he has been for the last 20 years. Oh, and he paints.

“Sublette had a new fire truck and they built a new fire station. The town offered our Boy Scouts troop the old, little fire station for a shop and a meeting room,” Dinges said. “Our scout master decided that we needed a sign in front of the building. He told me to paint it. I made a stencil and a sign that said, ‘Sublette Boy Scouts.’

“The guy across the street saw me and wanted to know if I’d paint him two signs for the restrooms for his tavern. He wanted one that said, ‘Ladies’ and one that said, ‘Gents.’ I painted those. That’s where it started, and it kept moving from there.”

Dinges, 87, painted the Boy Scouts sign in 1947.

The restroom signs were his second job, which led to many, many, many more jobs.

Dinges Signs is still in operation this very day.

“A guy bought a real old Chevrolet truck at Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet. He didn’t want to pay much to have it lettered,” Dinges said. “Paul Vaessen was the dealer at the time. He said, ‘Well, why don’t you let the kid paint it?’ I painted the truck. I worked all day to get the name and the address. At that time, you had to put the

**“It’s relaxing. That’s why I still do it; I just enjoy it. I paint, zone out, and don’t worry about anything else.”**  
–Don Dinges

empty weight on the truck. I got \$2 for the job. From there I lettered a lot of old farm trucks.

“I was a sophomore in high school when Walter Erbes got a real nice Chevrolet truck. He bought it on Dec. 31. He wanted the truck by Jan. 2. This old-time painter couldn’t do it because he didn’t have time. He also told him to have the kid do it. He chalked out the layout on the door for me and I painted it.

“Walter Erbes was pretty generous to have some kid work on his truck. It was a really nice truck.”

As he was taking his own paint jobs, Dinges studied the work of John Faber, a sign painter in Mendota. Dinges met Faber and the veteran painter gave the novice some brushes and some old paint.

The support and advice from a mentor figure pushed Dinges even further into the sign painting world.

In high school, Dinges painted banners for bands coming to Mendota’s Kankasha Park. As a sophomore in college, he painted 40 semi-trucks and trailers for a company, which paid him enough money to pay for a year of Dinges’ schooling at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

The painter did work for Conkey Partners in Mendota, lettered trucks for the Chevrolet dealer in Sublette and



**Don Dinges, 87, a Sublette native, has been painting signs since 1947. Painting helped him get through Boy Scouts, high school, St. Ambrose University, career changes, society evolution, and a stroke. (Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance)**



Mendota, the Ford dealer in Mendota, the Ford, Chevrolet and International dealer in Amboy, and GMC in Ottawa.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Dinges taught calligraphy for 20 years at IVCC and Sauk Valley Community College.

All of his signs, stories and memories happened

because he couldn’t find an advertising job out of college.

“I went to school to major in art. I thought I’d go into advertising, but I couldn’t get a job anywhere. I came back

See Dinges, Page A5

## Impending Medicaid changes could leave 700,000 uninsured

Pandemic-era program to expire March 31

By **PETER HANCOCK**  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – As many as 700,000 Illinoisans may lose Medicaid coverage in the months following March 31, but the Department of Healthcare and Family Services says it is working to reduce that number and help those affected find health insurance elsewhere.

Medicaid is a health insurance program for poor and disabled people that is jointly funded by the federal government and the states.



A spending bill that Congress passed in December put an end to a pandemic-era rule that sent billions of additional federal dollars to states that kept Medicaid patients continuously enrolled in the program through the end of the public health emergency.

Under the program that will expire on March 31, those enrolled in Medicaid did not have to go through the normal process of reapplying every 12 months to determine whether they were eligible, even if there were changes in their income or household that would normally make them ineligible.

Because that law separated the Medicaid rules from other emergency actions, the program will end sooner than the May 11 date on which both the White House and Gov. JB Pritzker plan to end their emergency declarations.

The change means many who have been receiving continuous Medicaid coverage throughout the pandemic will have to reapply for benefits, potentially leading to loss of coverage if the individual would no longer qualify for benefits or if they fail to complete a reapplication.

Nationwide, the federal government estimates that 15 million people, or 17.4 percent of Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program enrollees, will lose their coverage as a result of ending the continuous enrollment program. That would translate to roughly 700,000 people in Illinois if it follows the national pattern, but DHFS officials believe they can mitigate the impact of the rule change.

The department also noted that those individuals will be subject to redetermination over a staggered timeline over the next 12 months, not all at once when the program ends.

“At the state level, we estimate a total of roughly 384,000 will lose coverage because we believe in doing everything we can to help eligible Medicaid customers

See Medicaid, Page A5

## Rivian R1T truck is selected the ‘Coolest Thing’ made in Illinois

Normal-made truck beats out Fruit by the Foot and more

By **GRACE KINNICUTT**  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Rivian’s all-electric R1T truck is 2022’s “Coolest Thing Made in Illinois.”

That was the result of the third annual Makers Madness bracket-style tournament hosted by the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association, which allows Illinoisans to vote for the “coolest” product made in the state.

The year 2022 winner was announced at the Governor’s Mansion. The contest is sponsored by Comcast Business.

Manufactured in Normal, the R1T is the first electric truck in production that features four motors, eight driving modes and up to 400 miles of range on a single charge, combining off-road capabilities with the driving style of a sports car.

It can accelerate from zero to 60 in three seconds and has a towing capacity of up to 11,000 pounds.

James Chen, public policy vice president and chief regulatory counsel for Rivian, said the company’s mission is keeping the world “adventurous in technology,” innovation and collaboration while providing jobs that support the Bloomington-Normal community.

“We are proud to call Illinois home and honored to accept this year’s award. So much credit goes to the plant team members who make the R1T every day and who made this accomplishment possible today,” Chen said.

Normal is home to the company’s first manufacturing campus where they build R1

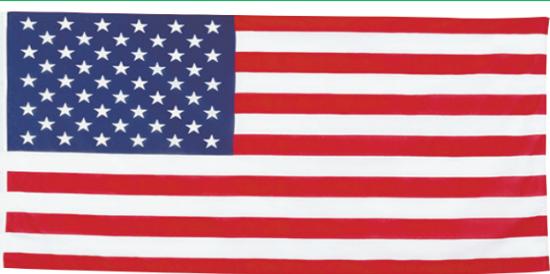
See Coolest, Page A5



**A Rivian all-electric R1T truck, manufactured in Normal, sits outside of the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield. The truck won the title of the “Coolest Thing Made in Illinois” at a contest held by the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Jerry Nowicki)**



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb. 9th. Our kindergarten students dressed up like 100-year-olds and enjoyed many fun lessons and activities around the number 100 in their classrooms and PE. The students really enjoyed this fun day!

We were gearing up for the Super Bowl on Friday, Feb. 10. It was Sports Day at school. Thank you to all of the students and staff that dressed up for this day.

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Anthony Castaneda, Emiliano Valdez, Maggie Larson, Nova Marez, Micah Farley, Jayden Escatel, Thomas Feurer and Mateo Gonzalez. The winners were Parker Krager, Noah Garcia, Quincy Ryan and Angel Figueroa. Congratulations to all of you!

Thank you to all of our families that ordered Nothing Bundt Cakes for our final fundraiser of the year. The pick-up date is Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 3-6 p.m. at Northbrook. We appreciate the support!

Students recently brought home a flyer to order a 2022-2023 elementary yearbook from Inter-State Studios. The yearbook cost is \$16. Orders are due on Friday, March 3. You can also order online. That order information is on the flyer. The elementary yearbook includes all students in preK-4th grade.

There will be an early dismissal on Wednesday, Feb. 15 for a teacher in-service. Kindergarten students will dismiss at 11:25 and 1st graders at 11:35. No lunches will be served on this day. Also, there will be no school on Monday, Feb. 20 for President's Day.

## Dominican Sisters welcome the curious to weekend events

SPRINGFIELD – “Even if you are just a little bit curious, you are welcome,” said Sister Denise Glazik about two upcoming opportunities for single Catholic women to explore religious life.

The “Come & See” weekends are planned for Feb. 17-19 and March 10-12, 2023 at Cor Unum House – a convent nestled into one of Springfield’s friendliest neighborhoods. Single Catholic women ages 18-40 are welcome to register for either event.

Participants will experience first-hand the rhythms of prayer and daily for sisters active in ministry and living in a small convent setting. There will also be time for private prayerful reflection and one-to-one conversations with a sister.

“For many women, a Come & See event is the first step toward deciding whether they want to further consider God’s invitation to join God’s mission to the world as a Catholic sister,” explained Sister Denise. “But coming to a weekend doesn’t commit you to anything. It gives you an opportunity to explore and the space to ponder and pray.

# Come & See

An introduction to religious life for single Catholic women 18-40

## You are welcome!

It’s really a great introduction to our Dominican way of life.”

Cor Unum House, located at 925 N. Fifth in Springfield’s historic Enos Park neighborhood, is the ministry site for the Dominican Sisters’ outreach to young adult women, who gather regularly at the house for prayer, study, and social events. Each weekend will include an opportunity for participants to experience the Dominican Sisters’ mission-in-action.

Events are free of charge and housing and meals are provided. Space is limited,

so those who are interested should register soon at [springfieldop.org/become-a-sister/](http://springfieldop.org/become-a-sister/).

“If you are interested but, on the fence, please call me,” Sister Denise said. “This is really a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know yourself better and to meet other women who, like you, are wondering whether God would be able to use your gifts for the life of the world.”

For questions contact Sister Denise at 217-787-0481 or email her at [dglazik@spdom.org](mailto:dglazik@spdom.org).

The Dominican Sisters

of Springfield are part of a worldwide Dominican family, the Order of Preachers, and in 2023 are celebrating 150 years of ministry For the Life of the World. Their sisters minister in the United States and Peru. For more than 800 years, Dominicans have communicated the Gospel in word and action. Today, thousands of Dominican sisters, nuns, priests, brothers, associates, and laity minister in more than 100 countries around the world. To learn more about the Dominican Sisters of Springfield visit [springfieldop.org](http://springfieldop.org).

## St. Bede opens up academy for 8th Grade Shadow Days through March to help students feel like a Bruin

PERU – In preparation for its 134th school year, St. Bede Academy is hosting its annual 8th Grade Shadow Days throughout the month of March. These days allow local 8th grade students to see what it’s like to attend St. Bede Academy. The day includes meeting current St. Bede students and teachers, observing freshmen classes, and getting a feel for what it’s like to be a Bruin.

“We are very excited to welcome students into

our school and show them what it’s like to be a member of the St. Bede family” said Jon Steben, director of enrollment management. “This is the most effective way for kids to get a sense of what a school day here looks like, and our students love showing others what makes this school special.”

To sign your child up for an 8th Grade Shadow Day, call Jon Steben at 815-250-0279, or contact via email at [jsteben@st-bede.com](mailto:jsteben@st-bede.com).



## Golden Thirteen presentation at LaSalle Public Library on Feb. 23

LaSALLE – LaSalle Public Library will be welcoming back Tricia Menke, curator of education at the National Museum of the American Sailor, for a presentation on the Golden Thirteen on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m.

In 1944, 16 African-American sailors arrived at Great Lakes for a groundbreaking officers’ training course.

Thirteen of those men would become the first African-American commissioned officers’ in Navy history.

Menke explores the experiences of the Golden Thirteen at Great Lakes, their time in the fleet, and the lasting legacy of these pioneers in this program.

It is free and open to the public. Register - <https://bit.ly/3DqF8vm>.

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## EASY

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Local organizations provide engineering fun for youth at Discovery Center Museum

ROCKFORD – The snowboard, water slides, running shoes, the Ferris wheel and virtual reality... all things invented by engineers. Engineers play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.

Local engineering feats will be showcased at Discovery Center Museum on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate National Engineers Week, which is Feb. 19-25, 2023.

Discover Engineering features engineers from local companies, along with members of the local professional engineering societies and high school robotics teams, providing demonstrations, hands-on activities and general information. The event offers elementary and middle school-age children the opportunity to take part in numerous experiments and hands-on activities such as designing and testing bridges, experimenting with circuits and motorized gears,

participating in chemistry experiments, building and launching catapults, and much more! So set your brain on "try-it mode" and prepare for some fun challenges!

Discover Engineering is sponsored by TAC Rockford, the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers – Rockford Chapter, and the Illinois Space Grant Consortium. Cost is included with Museum admission - \$10 adults; \$10 children ages 2-17; and free to Museum members and children age 1 and younger.

About Discovery Center Museum

Discovery Center Museum is a children's science museum providing hands-on math, science and art experiences for all ages with over 250 hand-on exhibits and an award-winning outdoor park. Discovery Center Museum is the nation's 5th Best Museum for Families according to USA TODAY/10Best.com, one of 12 museums included in Forbes.com's article, The 12 Best Children's Museums in the U.S. Discovery Center and earned a 2020 Trip Advisor "Traveler's Choice" award. Discovery



Center Museum is located inside Riverfront Museum Park, 711 N. Main St., Rockford. General admission to the Museum is: \$10 adults, \$10 children (ages 2 to 17) and free to Museum members and children age 1 and

younger. Museum hours: 9:30 am-4:30 pm Tuesday – Sunday. For additional information regarding Discovery Center Museum, call (815) 963-6769 or log onto our website at [www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org).

## Illinois Conservation Police recruiting new class of trainees

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Law Enforcement is seeking applicants for the position of conservation police officer trainee.

Conservation police officers enforce state laws intended to protect Illinois' natural and recreational resources. They are vested with full state-wide police authority and are trained to the highest standards for law enforcement professionals in Illinois. Conservation police officers serve as an important link between IDNR and its constituencies, and they are often called upon to assist other agencies in emergency situations and rescue operations.

IDNR's Office of Law Enforcement currently has a staff of 148 conservation police officers and is looking to expand its ranks by 25 with the newest class of trainees. Applications must be submitted electronically by March 3. Instructions for applying can be found at <https://bit.ly/2023CPOtrainees>. Criteria to be considered:

- Must be not less than 21 years of age, or at least 20 years of age and have successfully completed an associate degree or 60 credit hours at an accredited college or university;
- OR three or more years of active-duty military service, honorably discharged prior to applying;
- OR military service (active, Reserve, or National Guard), currently serving or honorably discharged, with one or more of the following medals: Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal.

For additional eligibility information, visit <https://bit.ly/CPOrequirements>. IDNR offers competitive pay and benefits, including affordable, employer-sponsored health care; dental and vision insurance; pension; employer-furnished equipment; take-home patrol vehicle; flexible scheduling; and more.

The hiring process will consist of:

- application submission
- physical fitness and swimming proficiency tests
- in-person interview
- medical examination
- psychological examination
- background investigation

Unless previously certified as a police officer in Illinois, selected applicants will be required to complete a paid, 16-week police certification at the Illinois State Police Academy. An additional paid, 14-week Conservation Academy must be completed as a condition of employment. During these training academies, selected applicants will be provided meals and lodging on site Monday through Friday.

For more information, applicants may call or email a recruiting officer: Conservation Police Officer Tom Davis, [thomas.davis@illinois.gov](mailto:thomas.davis@illinois.gov), 847-404-3596; Conservation Police Officer Isaac Gerard, [isaac.gerard@illinois.gov](mailto:isaac.gerard@illinois.gov), 309-214-0203.

## Local economic growth leads to reduced real estate tax rates for Kish College

MALTA – The Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees voted to certify the College's 2022 tax levy at its November meeting at a level that will continue a 10-year trend of lower Kishwaukee College real estate tax rates for residents and businesses within the Kishwaukee College district, which encompasses parts of DeKalb, Ogle, Lee, Boone, Kane, Winnebago and La Salle counties. Kish's share of a typical district real estate tax bill is approximately 7%, depending on the tax rates of other local taxing bodies.

"As stewards of Kishwaukee College, the Board and College

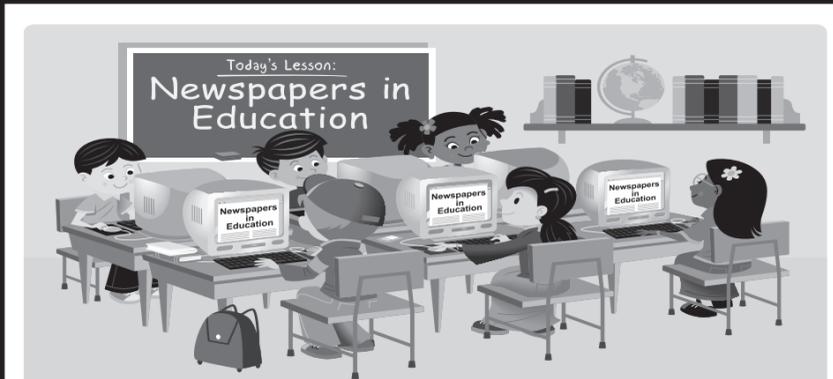
leadership will always look to make responsible financial decisions to benefit our students and our constituents," said Bob Johnson, Board Chair. "This year's tax levy is another example of the strong health of our institution."

Several factors benefitted this year's levy decision, including higher student enrollment, federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) dollars, which assisted the College in keeping costs affordable for students through a challenging period dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and a growing district equalized assessed

valuation (EAV) as a result of increased construction, particularly on the south side of DeKalb. For the first time in 11 years, Kishwaukee College saw an increase in enrollment for the Fall 2022 semester.

The Kish Board continues to seek opportunities to improve the financial health of the College while benefitting both students and taxpayers. The College has not increased tuition rates in three years and helped save taxpayers approximately \$14 million in bond financing in 2020.

For more information on Kishwaukee College, visit [kish.edu](http://kish.edu).



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# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Paul E. Scott

MENDOTA — Paul Edmund Scott, 77, of Mendota, passed away Feb. 5, 2023 at Heritage Health, Mendota.

Memorial visitation was held on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023 from 5-7 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. Mendota VFW Post 4079 conducted a flag presentation before visitation.

Paul was born Sept. 27, 1945 in Mendota to Edward and Wilma (Schmidt) Scott.

Paul is survived by his two daughters, Mindy (Mark) Kellen and Cristy (Tom) Stevens; his siblings, John (Beth) Scott of Wisconsin, Mike (Kay) Scott of Mendota, Sue Scott of Princeton, Edward (Andi) Scott of West Brooklyn and Amy Scott; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Vicki, his sisters Marsha and Wanda, and brothers Rich and Steve.

Paul attended Mendota High School and served in the United States Marines. He was stationed in Hawaii and fought in the Vietnam War. Paul enjoyed being outdoors fishing, boating, camping and traveling in his motor home. He also played bass guitar in a few bands on the weekends.

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



## Survey pushes for greater focus on teacher recruitment and retention amid shortages

State board data shows unfilled classroom positions reached a five-year high in 2022

By NIKA SCHOONOVER  
*Capitol News Illinois*

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois schools are still grappling with a teacher shortage that seems to only be getting worse, a recent survey by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools shows.

This mirrors the state's own data, which shows Illinois' teacher shortage is at the highest level in the last five years. More than 5,300 classroom positions, including administrative and support personnel, went unfilled in 2022, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

As a result, teachers often have to absorb unsupervised students into their existing classes or fill in for subject areas in which they have no background.

"No matter how much we're trying, we're not filling all the positions and the ones we are filling are people who aren't necessarily qualified to teach what their assignment is," IARSS President Mark Klaisner said in a recent interview.

The IARSS, a trade group for the public officials who serve as an intermediary between local school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education, has surveyed nearly 700 school districts on the state of the teacher shortage crisis for the past six years. But this year's survey focused more intently on short- and long-term solutions proposed by school districts statewide.

According to their 2022 survey, 68 percent of districts reported fewer teacher applicants than the year before. And 45 percent of districts reported the shortage in their school had worsened from the year prior.

Klaisner said everyone involved in education needs to be heard when considering policy changes, as problems with teacher recruitment and retention have different causal mixes in different parts of the state.

"There are lots of people working on how to come to solutions," he said. "Some of it is related to money but a lot is related to reestablishing the teaching profession and, whatever that takes, we need to work with higher ed, we need to work with early childhood and everywhere in between."

One area of focus, Klaisner said, is improving the pipeline between education institutions and Illinois' K-12 schools by starting educator recruitment earlier. That could include programs

that allow middle schoolers to shadow teachers.

Other policy recommendations in the IARSS report include making college more affordable for prospective educators and increasing the pool of substitute teachers.

### Improving the pipeline

The report emphasized the importance of making the teaching profession more desirable for prospective educators, outlining policy recommendations that would lessen financial burdens and encourage greater diversity.

Along with job shadowing programs, he advocated for dual credit programs that allow students to earn some college credit while in high school.

"We need to look for expedited routes that are going to be less expensive," Klaisner said.

The report also calls for direct state funding to key areas to encourage more diversity within the profession. This includes increasing funding from \$4.2 million to \$7 million annually for the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship; investing more money into the Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program, which helps pay down student loan debt for Illinois college students that qualify to teach in low-income areas; and further increasing the state's Monetary Award Program by \$50 million.

Those MAP grants go to eligible college students and do not need to be repaid. While the program's funding has grown to \$601 million from about \$400 million in the past four years, the report suggested increasing it by \$50 million will ensure more teachers from minority communities will receive the grants.

To better fill gaps in the short term, Klaisner pointed to incentivizing teachers to complete additional subject endorsements, which can be done through the ISBE website.

"If you've got a good teacher who's willing to try something new, give them the appropriate endorsement, but then give them three years to be able to complete the coursework to be fully certified in that area," Klaisner said.

By giving teachers the time and space to complete supplemental endorsements, Klaisner said it will better equip them to fill in potential staffing gaps.

Other recommendations include observing how districts have used federal pandemic-era Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief,

or ESSER, funds to help teachers get provisional licenses in shortage subject areas. Additionally, the survey recommends strengthening the state's educator prep programs by showing which paths have stronger results in teacher placement and success.

Several survey respondents also noted that a 2010 state law creating a lower tier of pension benefits for new employees has made the teaching profession less desirable from a compensation standpoint.

### Increasing substitute teacher accessibility

When it comes to filling short-term gaps, the report focused on increasing the pool of substitute teachers.

"When you don't have enough classroom teachers, and then you don't have enough subs, then you've got classrooms that are literally empty. I mean, the children are in the room but there's no teacher," said Rep. Sue Scherer, D-Decatur, who was also a teacher for 34 years in Decatur and Maroa-Forsyth.

Last April, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a package of four bills to address the shortage, including House Bill 4798, which allows currently enrolled teaching students with at least 90 credit hours to be licensed as substitute teachers.

According to the survey, 60 percent of respondents said HB 4798 has helped recruit and retain teachers.

In addition, 80 percent of districts support a plan that would increase the number of days retired teachers can substitute from 120 days to 140 days without impacting their retirement benefits.

The number was increased to 120 from 90 in a bill signed in April, Senate Bill 3893, but it was scheduled to expire in 2023. The idea was supported by 79 percent of IARSS survey respondents, and the report advocated for making the extension permanent.

The laws allowing college students to serve as substitute teachers is also scheduled to expire, and the report suggested making it permanent as well.

*(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.)*

## Howard L. Demoret

MENDOTA—Howard L. Demoret, 94, of Mendota, passed away Feb. 7, 2023 at OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Ottawa.

There will be no local services. Private graveside services will be held at Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City, Kan. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Howard was born March 17, 1928, in Dodge City, Kan., to Lester and Vera (Wright) Demoret. He married Donna Taylor on May 7, 1948 in Dodge City.

Howard is survived by his wife, Donna of Mendota; his son-in-law, Russell Volkert; three grandchildren, Tim (Penny) Volkert, Kelly Gomez and Kimberly (Dan) Truckenbrod; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Jim, his daughter Sherry Volkert and his great-granddaughter Lauren Volkert.

Howard worked for Mayrath in Dodge City and then Compton, which brought him to Illinois. His hobby was HAM radio.

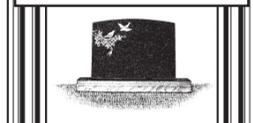
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## The Mendota Reporter

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## Mendota Snowmobile Routes

MENDOTA—For those individuals who are operating snowmobiles throughout the city of Mendota, please obey all traffic laws and show respect for private and public property. Remember, routes are in the curb edge of the roadway only, not the shoulder, through yards or on sidewalks. Those found in violation will be subject

to any and all applicable fines, including restitution for any damage done.

Designated snowmobile routes are as follows:

- Cherry Street from First Avenue west to Seventh Avenue
- Seventh Avenue from Cherry Street north to Fifth Street
- Fifth Street from Seventh Avenue east to

alley between Seventh and Sixth avenues

- Alley between Seventh and Sixth avenues north to Seventh Street
- Seventh Street to Front Street
- Front Street north from Seventh to Eighth streets
- Eighth Street west crossing BNSF railroad tracks
- 15th Street from First

Avenue west to Lincoln Avenue

- Lincoln Avenue from 15th Street south to 12th Street
- 12th Street from Lincoln Avenue west to E. Main Street
- E. Main Street from 12th Street north to Illinois Route 251
- Third Street from W. Seventh Avenue west to

12th Avenue

- 12th Avenue from Third Street south to Second Street
- Second Street from 12th Avenue west to 14th Avenue
- 14th Avenue from Second Street south to Division Street
- Division Street from 14th Avenue west to west city limits

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Medicaid

Continued from Page A1

keep their benefits,” DHFS spokesperson Jamie Munks said in an email. “The truth is, nobody knows for sure. What we do know is that we are committed to ensuring everyone who is eligible maintains their coverage, and that those who are not are given information about alternative coverage.”

To avoid losing coverage, DHFS strongly urges Medicaid enrollees to fill out their renewal forms as soon as possible. The agency will resume regular verifications starting in late April, and people with a June renewal date will be the first ones to go through the restarted process. Those people will need to submit their renewal forms before June 1 so they can maintain coverage without disruption.

Munks said Illinois has been preparing for the eventual end of continuous coverage for months and has been communicating with Medicaid beneficiaries about the importance of updating their contact information on file with the Medicaid program. “The state has and continues to increase customer service staff and enhance our systems,” she said.

Munks said customers can complete their renewal by phone, although online is the preferred method.

The agency will try to reach affected individuals by mail, email, text messaging, phone calls and paid advertising, she said. It will also work with partner providers, advocacy organizations, nonprofits and other government entities, she added.

Munks said people who are found to be ineligible may still have other options for low-cost insurance, including individual plans sold through the Affordable Care Act marketplace, which operates in Illinois under the name Get Covered Illinois. People who meet certain income guidelines can receive tax credits to pay all or part of their premiums.

**Who is most affected?**  
DHFS says that Illinois’ Medicaid enrollment grew by about 1 million enrollees during that period, to 3.9 million. But the state also received an additional \$3 billion in federal funding through the enhanced matching rate.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that when the continuous enrollment program ends, about 9.5 percent of Medicaid enrollees nationwide, or 8.2 million people, will lose coverage because they are no longer eligible. The most common reasons for losing eligibility are changes in income or household makeup or moving out of the state in which they were covered.

But another 7.9 percent, or 6.8 million people, will lose coverage despite still being eligible for Medicaid because they don’t complete their applications properly or the state is somehow unable to process the application—a process called “administrative churning.”

Children and young adults, ages 18-34, make up the largest categories of people expected to lose coverage. The change is also expected to disproportionately affect the Latino community, which makes up one quarter of those predicted to be ineligible and one-third of those expected to experience churning.

Black individuals make up 14 percent of those expected to lose Medicaid eligibility and 15 percent of those expected to experience churning.

*(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.)*

## Dinges

Continued from Page A1

to Sublette and decided to open the sign shop,” Dinges said. “At the time, there was a law in Illinois that every truck in Illinois, no matter who owned it, had to have the name, address, and empty weight painted on the truck.”

“In 1958, the law was taken away, and the only trucks that needed to be painted were trucks that were owned by trucking companies. It basically put me out of business.”

Rather than starve, Dinges accepted an offer to work at Farmer’s State Bank.

During his 57 years of

banking, before retiring early at 80 years old, Dinges continued to paint signs for any and all customers in the evenings and on Saturdays.

As he’s gotten older, he hasn’t slowed down. Over the last few years, barn quilts have been Dinges’ No. 1 priority as truck lettering has gone to computer-generated vinyl signs.

His brush stroke is still straight.

The I’s are dotted the same, as well as, the T’s crossed.

And the peaceful smile still remains.

“Painting is the most relaxing thing I can do. I

never really cared for golfing. Instead of picking up a golf club, I’d rather come home and pick up a paint brush,” Dinges said. “It’s relaxing. That’s why I still do it; I just enjoy it. I paint, zone out, and don’t worry about anything else.”

“I had a stroke a number of years ago. It was a pretty bad stroke. I was in the nursing home for therapy. One of the therapists asked about me painting signs. She said that she thought painting may be good therapy.”

“I started painting at the nursing home and it helped. It became part of my therapy. It worked.”

## Cooler

Continued from Page A1

products as well as commercial vans. They began production of the R1T in September 2021.

Over 400 products were submitted to this year’s Makers Madness competition with over 200,000 votes cast.

The all-electric truck bested a diverse group of challengers, including General Mills’ Fruit by the Foot snack, which is made in Belvidere.

Another product in the final four was the Orion Spacecraft Capsule’s Aft Bulkhead and Barrel and Tunnel, which was made for deep-space travel missions planned by NASA. It is manufactured by Ingersoll Machine Tools Inc. in Rockford.

The other product in the finals, custom blazed diffraction gratings, allow for the creation of ultra-high line density and high precision patterning of surfaces, and are used in virtual reality headsets, semiconductor manufacturing and X-ray

technology. Its manufacturer is Inprentus Precision Optics of Champaign.

Gov. JB Pritzker presented the award and said the company has established itself as a national leader in the EV industry and that he “couldn’t think of a more fitting winner” in the wake of a new state law that aims to put 1 million EVs on state roads.

Pritzker said the R1T is a “game-changer” in the auto industry and that through investments made in the Reimagining Electric Vehicles Act that incentivizes EV production in Illinois, the state can open more doors to “access 21st century manufacturing careers.”

In 2021, Pritzker signed the Reimagining Electric Vehicles Act into law, providing tax credits for manufacturers of EVs and their parts.

The tax credits range from 75 percent to 100 percent of income tax withheld for creating new jobs or 25 percent to 50 percent for

retained employees and will depend on factors such as location and the number of employees hired. A 10 percent credit for training expenses would also be available.

In the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, REV credit eligibility was expanded to battery recyclers, hydrogen and solar powered vehicles, and makers of the products’ component parts.

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA, set the goal of putting 1 million EVs on state roads by 2030.

“The mission of sustainability through investment in zero-emissions transportation technology and economic growth is evident throughout our operations in Illinois,” Chen said.

*(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)*

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### A new – and faster – way to request a Social Security card

By Mike Weilt

Do you need an original or replacement Social Security Number card? We now have a new – and faster – way for you to start online.

When you go to our Social Security Number and Card webpage at [www.ssa.gov/ssnumber](http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber), we now ask you a series of questions to determine whether you can:

- Complete the application process online.
- Start the application process online, then bring any required documents to your local office to complete the application, typically in less time.

Once you complete your application (online or in-person), we will mail the card after we process the application. Please understand that we don’t issue cards at our offices.

**Finish your application in the office**

If you need to visit an office, please follow these steps to complete the application:

- Learn what types of

documents you need to bring to your local office.

- Print and save the online control number shown once you complete the online application.

- Bring the online control number – along with the documents – to your local office within 45 days to finish your application. Find your local office using our Office Locator at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)

- Check in at the kiosk when you arrive.

- Meet with one of our employees to verify the information that you completed online and review documentation.

That’s it! You’ll receive the card in the mail, usually within 7-10 business days.

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*(Weilt is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)*

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### Paw Paw Board reminds its residents about waste disposal

PAW PAW – The Paw Paw Village Board met on Feb. 9.

Residents are reminded not to flush “Flushable” items (wipes, diapers, etc) down the toilet. Kitchen grease and oils should be contained in an old jar, lid on when

full, and put that in your regular garbage.

The village has hired a new auditing firm, Lauterbach and Amen, of Naperville, as its new auditors.

A new pump is being installed on Wabansi Trail.

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# OPINION

## The Mendota Reporter

Award-winning Newspaper IPA/NINA Ill. Press Assoc./No. Ill. Newspaper Assoc.

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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.

## None of your business

By Scott Reeder

“Why aren’t you drinking?”

My former boss slurred those words as he looked across a table while he and my co-workers downed a pitcher of beer at a mandatory staff pizza party.

Drinkers ask that question. Not only is it off-putting and rude, it’s ubiquitous.

I’ve never quite understood why that’s anyone’s business but my own; but it’s asked continually in the circles where I have worked: politics and journalism.

I don’t care if someone drinks around me. Why should they care if someone doesn’t drink around them?

Please note, I’m not talking about beer and burgers fellas or those who enjoy an occasional sip of wine. I’m talking about those who lack an on/off switch, who don’t know when is when.

My first exposure to alcoholism was my maternal grandfather. He started the day with a shot of whiskey before breakfast and couldn’t function without some amount of alcohol flowing through his veins.

My recollections of him are primarily as a sad drunk, always in a stupor in his red recliner, smoking Marlboros and playing solitaire. Did I ever see him fully sober? I don’t know.

Neither his wife nor three children drank alcohol. Growing up, my mother remembered hellacious arguments as Grandpa disappeared with his drinking buddies to spend money on booze rather than food or rent.

Addiction is a pernicious disease. My mother, a registered nurse, was convinced a genetic predisposition for alcoholism lurked in our DNA. Recent scientific studies have since found there is a genetic component to substance abuse. So, maybe she was onto something 40 years ago.

Regardless, I chose not to start drinking. I’m 58 years old and have never tasted alcohol. That’s not a badge of honor or disgrace. It’s just a choice. Interesting enough, both presidents Biden and Trump make the same claim about lifelong abstinence from alcohol. Both men also have a history of family substance abuse.

In school, I was hassled a bit for not engaging in the hard-drinking lifestyle. I chose friends who didn’t care.

But it’s in the workforce that I’ve found the pressure to conform to a particular behavior the most extreme. When I was a young reporter, my abstinence from alcohol was mentioned as a detriment during a formal job-performance evaluation.

The boss said a good reporter has to be a drinker to really understand the world. It would be easy to mark this off as one bad boss among many good ones. But it’s a situation I keep encountering.

Years later, I found myself in another state sitting next to another boss, as I sipped my Diet Coke, and he slurred, “Is this some sort of religious thing, you know, that you don’t drink?”

No, it isn’t. But if it were, would it be any of your business?

By that time in my career, I was supervising people, some of whom had substance abuse problems.

During one out-of-state meeting, I saw one particular reporter’s hands shake and he’d shift uncomfortably in his chair. He’d then announce that he forgot something in his hotel room and disappear for a fix.

When I expressed concern, I was told, “He’s not an alcoholic – they go to meetings.” Not a compassionate way to deal with someone who is suffering – or a smart way to deal with a team member who is impaired.

The organization claimed it couldn’t afford an employee assistance program but hosted plenty of events with open bars. Usually before opening the bar the boss would point to one fellow who would often get sloshed at lunch before returning to work and announce, “Don’t get in front of him on the way to the bar, he’ll run you over.”

Where he saw amusement, I saw a problem. Alcoholism isn’t a matter of bad character. It’s a disease and should be treated as such.

But when I’d raise concerns to those above me about employees in my charge, it was dismissed with a wave of the hand as if to say, “You’re a teetotaler, what do you know about alcohol?”

Yeah, the problem is the folks who don’t drink – not the ones who can barely function. Privately, I guided one of my co-workers into a 12-step program.

At future work gatherings, he’d be sipping coffee while others were downing cocktails.

Inevitably, someone would ask, “Why aren’t you drinking?” He’d shift uncomfortably from foot to foot and try to come up with a response.

How about: It’s none of your business.  
(Scott Reeder, a staff writer for *Illinois Times*, can be reached at [sreeder@illinoistimes.com](mailto:sreeder@illinoistimes.com).)



## Electing mayors in Mendota – 1945-1985

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Feb. 16, 2000.)

By Jessica Nashold

The year 1985 was a mayoral election year in Mendota. Reporter editor Flint Stephens had been in Mendota a relatively short time, and to acquaint himself as well as other newcomers with past elections, he checked on contests beginning in 1945. There had been 11 elections between 1945 and 1985.

In 1945, incumbent Les Oester decided not to run again. Glenn Momeny was persuaded to be a candidate and ran unopposed. Lacking the excitement of a contest, only 757 votes for mayor were tallied in 1945. In 1949, Momeny had three opponents and was re-elected with 1,052 votes.

The other candidates were John A. Woods, a grocer, 754; Joseph Selby, a railroad man, 347; Frank Seno, popular sports figure, 29.

In 1953, Momeny was not a candidate. John A. Woods tried again and was joined on the ballot by Christ Troupis, an attorney, and Jerry A. Dempsey, a businessman. Troupis was an easy winner with 1,291. Woods secured 755 votes, one more than in the 1949 election. Dempsey received 41. In 1957, Troupis ran unopposed and was accorded 1,436 votes. In 1961, he decided not to seek a third term and seven candidates entered the field.

This time, the campaigning was energetic. The final count gave Louis Koopersmith the victory with 1,123 votes. Other would-be mayors were Adolph Rave, 744; William Marmion, 326; Hubert Crow, 314; Stan Kordek, 272; George Yost, 51; William Thomas, 12.

Koopersmith earned a second term in 1965 with 1,639 votes, defeating George Baumann Jr. with 526. In 1969, Koopersmith had been running unopposed until two weeks before the election, when Hubert Crow declared himself a write-in candidate. Koopersmith won with 1,329, but during his two weeks of seeking write-ins, Crow amassed 597 votes.

There was a change in administration in 1973 when Koopersmith, a candidate for a third term, as opposed by Murray Reeser, a popular auctioneer. This time, it was Reeser with 1,509 votes and Koopersmith with 1,270. Reeser did not seek a second term, but

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

Koopersmith was elected for a fourth time with 1,886 votes. His competition in 1977 included Marjorie B. Carroll, First Ward alderman, 827 votes, and Thomas Marmion, 313.

Mayor Koopersmith died two years into his fourth term and a special election was held in 1979. Four candidates were on the ballot with the following result: Ken Roling, 716; William Widmer, 589; Larry Martens, 532; Joseph Rodriguez, 211. A regular election in 1981 returned Roling to office without opposition. Then, in February 1983, Roling resigned because his employment was being shifted to another city. Alderman James Strauss of the Third Ward was named acting mayor. Although Roling’s transfer was not finalized, he was unable to withdraw his resignation. In 1985, Strauss was a candidate for re-election. His opponent was James Troupis, an attorney, son of Christ Troupis.

In concluding his account of past mayoral elections, editor Stephens made a prediction –

**The next mayor of Mendota will be Jim.**

\*\*\*

On Feb. 8, 1985, new U.S. 51 east of Mendota was given a new designation –

**Interstate 39**

\*\*\*

Father Anthony J. Becker, pastor of St. Patrick’s in Amboy, was scheduled to present two pro-life programs on Channel 39 – Feb. 10 at 8:30 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

\*\*\*

The Mendota Camp Fire Council was granted additional territory on its charter. Beginning Jan. 28, 1985, its jurisdiction was extended over the following townships: Dimmick, Earl, LaSalle, Mendota, Meriden, Ophir, Peru and Troy Grove. Also, it covered Bureau and Putnam counties and Lee County with the exception of Alto Township.

**Next activity will be a roller skating party at Princeton on Feb. 12.**

\*\*\*

In honor of Valentine’s Day, editor

Stephens devoted space in *The Mendota Reporter* to “The Importance of Love; One of Life’s Necessities.”

**Everyone needs it.**

He suggested kind words, a hug or pat on the back.

\*\*\*

Mendota Community Theatre was preparing a presentation of “The Sound of Music.” Pat Wagner was director and lead roles had been assigned to Patti Daugherty and Alan Peters.

\*\*\*

Six Conco-Tellus employees completed a course on “Interpretation of Engineering Design,” taught by John Marzetta, manager of manufacturing engineering at Conco-Tellus in coordination with Illinois Valley Community College. The six who took the course were David Bond, Roger Bryan, Connie Stouffer, Betty Wickstrom, Sandy Gay and Kevin Moore.

\*\*\*

Three volunteers in the Community Ambulance Service were recognized for their contribution as they retired in 1985. Curt Truckenbrod and his wife, Peg, and Marion Skaggs, had served since the unit was organized in 1974.

\*\*\*

The Mendota Grade School district was considering options on ways to cut costs. Mike Worman, chairman of the Committee on Educational Priorities, welcomed input from the audience as various possibilities were considered. Worman conceded a referendum might be inevitable, but not right away.

**We’re trying to get it down the road a little.**

\*\*\*

Little League sign-ups began Feb. 14, 1985, at Bonnell’s Barber Shop. First-timers were required to bring a birth certificate. To be eligible, players had to be at least 9 years old and no more than 13 on Aug. 1, 1985. Boys who had played during the 1984 season were to report to Stymie Schmitt, also at Bonnell’s.

\*\*\*

Junior Woman’s Club sponsored a Valentine Baby Contest. Voters dropped coins in canisters each carrying a photo of the contestant and placed in the First State Bank and National Bank of Mendota. Winners were Randy Minor of Paw Paw and Brooke Janelle Horning of West Brooklyn.

There were 44 entries – 17 girls and 27 boys.

## Trump’s futile attack on DeSantis

By Rich Lowry

Donald Trump hasn’t been impressing anyone with his political acuity lately, but at least he is fully aware of one of his own vulnerabilities.

His early attacks on the COVID-19 record of Ron DeSantis show that he knows the Florida governor has outflanked him on the populist right -- indeed, outflanked him in general -- regarding one of the most central issues of the last couple of years.

In typical style, Trump isn’t tiptoeing around the issue, but driving right at the governor in an attempt to take away one of his foremost strengths.

The “free state of Florida”? No, despite what you might recall, it was really the “shut down Sunshine state.”

“Florida was actually closed, for a great, long period of time,” Trump told reporters during his first campaign swing. “Remember, he closed the beaches and everything else? They’re trying to rewrite history.”

This is brazen even by Trump’s standards. It will take all of his powers as a political sloganeer, marketer and wrecking-ball to counter the DeSantis brand on the coronavirus, which has the advantage of being grounded in reality.

For Republicans, the DeSantis approach of getting out of shutdowns as soon as possible and resisting mandates and restrictions has been vindicated and has appeal to nearly all factions.

For populists, he resisted the elites and self-appointed experts. For limited-government conservatives, he (although this is complicated) lightened the heavy hand of government. For everyone right of center, he forged his own path in the face of conventional wisdom and got attacked for it in the media and the left -- demonstrating the paramount GOP virtues of having courage and the right enemies.

DeSantis would have much to brag about in his record in Florida absent COVID-19, but it is his response to the pandemic that sets him apart and makes him, for the moment, a near-legend for many Republicans.

Trump is correct that DeSantis issued shutdown orders like nearly everyone else at the outset of the pandemic. In March 2020, the governor issued statewide restrictions and

then more far-reaching measures in Palm Beach and Broward counties. Beaches, as Trump said, were shut down.

The trouble Trump has is that DeSantis was initially acting in keeping with the guidance of the federal government that Trump led.

Despite some grouching, Trump had at his right hip during the entire pandemic the man that has come to represent for Republicans all that was wrong with the pandemic response -- Dr. Anthony Fauci.

It tends to be forgotten, but Georgia went first in reopening in late April 2020 and Trump hit Brian Kemp for it.

At his coronavirus briefing, Trump said, “I told the governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp, that I disagree strongly with his decision to open certain facilities.”

When DeSantis, too, moved to reopen, Fauci attacked the state for moving too quickly.

By May 2020, Florida had a clearly distinguishable approach to the pandemic. DeSantis was already skeptical of shutdowns and focused on protecting the most vulnerable rather than population-wide measures. Crucially, the state was absolutely insistent that schools return to in-person instruction.

Over time, DeSantis shifted from simply lifting restrictions to using the power of his office and the state to block further COVID-19 restrictions by localities, school boards and private businesses. He kept localities from obstructing businesses from opening or fining people for violating mask ordinances. He forbid vaccine passports. He prevented schools from forcing parents to mask their children.

DeSantis’ response to the coronavirus isn’t going to be decisive in a prospective 2024 primary battle with Trump. It is, however, what has put him in the game. It also is a large part of the reason that Republicans feel vested in and defensive of the governor, making it harder for Trump to mock and belittle him -- not that he isn’t going to try.

Trump accuses DeSantis of disloyalty and, if developing an issue that is going to be almost impossible for Trump to counteract counts, he’s guilty as charged.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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## Mendota City Officials

MAYOR

David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive, .....815-538-3924

CITY CLERK

Emily McConville, 1404 Ben Mar Ave., .....815-539-7459

TREASURER

Heath Davis, 912 14th Ave., .....815-539-7459

# LOCAL AND AREA

## Free income tax preparation assistance available to qualified persons in Illinois

**CHICAGO** – Low-to-moderate income families and older adults needing assistance filing their 2022 income taxes can receive free help through several trusted programs across Illinois.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), American Association of Retired Persons' (AARP) Foundation Tax-Aide Program, and the Ladder Up Tax Assistance Program, provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in select locations statewide.

"It is important for Illinois taxpayers to know they can receive help from qualified volunteers certified by the IRS at various locations statewide," said Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris. "These individuals are ready and willing to assist taxpayers in filing their state and federal tax returns accurately and on time by the April 18 deadline."

How taxpayer assistance is provided and when services are available varies by region, based upon volunteer capacity.

"Even modest tax refunds can be a significant boost to older adults' household budgets," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta. "By seeking free tax

**APRIL 18**  
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preparation from a trusted local program, you have the best likelihood of getting your full refund and of getting your taxes done on time, correctly and hassle-free."

The IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals needing assistance in preparing their own tax returns. People making \$60,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers can take advantage of this service. In addition, the TCE program offers free tax help, particularly for those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations across the country.

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program provides free tax assistance, with a special focus on taxpay-

ers over the age of 50 or who have low-to-moderate income. Availability is determined at the local or community level. AARP membership is not required to receive assistance.

In Chicagoland, the Ladder Up Tax Assistance Program (TAP) provides free basic tax return preparation for families earning up to \$60,000 and individuals earning up to \$32,000 annually. IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers assist in filing federal and state returns.

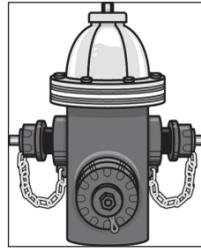
Taxpayers can search for a free tax assistance provider closest to them by visiting IDOR's website tax.illinois.gov. Individuals with questions should contact IDOR's Taxpayer Assistance Division at 800-732-8866.

Taxpayers may also visit any of IDOR's offices located in Chicago, Des Plaines, Fairview Heights, Marion, Rockford, and Springfield to receive assistance. Staff at these locations can help with any Illinois state income tax filing inquiries and are available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Mendota to conduct fire hydrant flushing beginning February 21

Activities should continue for approximately 15 days

**MENDOTA** – The city of Mendota Water Department will begin its annual fire hydrant flushing activities on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The work will continue approximately 15 days and will be performed between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



The Mendota Water Department wishes to remind everyone that red or rusty-colored water can occur even when flushing activities are not in your immediate area. Residents are encouraged to check their water prior to routine household activities such as laundry. If laundry

staining does occur, do not dry the affected clothing as this will "set" the stain. Clothing should be kept wet until laundry aids that can remove the stain are applied.

Fire hydrant flushing is an important part of the Mendota Water Department's maintenance program of the water distribution system. The most important aspect of this program is the assurance of properly operating fire hydrants in the event of an emergency. Unfortunately, during this necessary maintenance procedure, discolored water can occur.

The Water Department officials appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience that may result from flushing activities.

For more information regarding this program, contact the Mendota Water Department at 815-539-6307.

## TCCO offering scholarships to income-eligible students

**ROCK FALLS** – At least 12 scholarships will be awarded by Tri-County Opportunities Council to income-eligible students residing in the agency's service area. The scholarships are worth up to \$1,250 and have been made available by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCEO) through its Community Services Block Grant funds.

To be eligible for the scholarship competition:

- The applicant must be a member of an income-eligible household.

- The applicants must attend an Illinois-accredited post-secondary educational institution of higher learning during the fall of 2023.

- Applicants must be a resident of Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, or Whiteside county in Illinois.

- Students must be considered full-time (minimum of 12 semester hours) to

qualify for the full \$1,250 scholarship. Part-time students will be considered in the competition. However, scholarship awards will be pro-rated if they are selected as a winner.

The application deadline is Friday, March 24, 2023.

Further information and application forms may be obtained by contacting the office at 800/323-5434, extension 710, or on the website at www.tcochelps.org.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## IVCC Board grants tenure to three instructors; accepts retirement requests from 15 individuals

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College trustees approved tenure recommendations for three instructors at the Feb. 9 board meeting – Nancy McDonnell in cybersecurity; Ricky Pretzsch in economics; and Kaity Ritter in Medical Assisting.

McDonnell founded the cybersecurity program three years ago and has taken on many computer networking courses. “Nancy is great at connecting with students,” said Dean of Workforce Development Shane Lange.

Dean of Natural Sciences and Business Ron Groleau credited Pretzsch for his ability to engage students by relating classroom topics to real-world applications. He also credited Pretzsch for advising the successful student economics club. Pretzsch himself said, “I am a firm believer in active learning.”

Ritter founded the Medical Assistant program three years ago and one day hopes to expand it to offer an associate degree. She began her college studies at IVCC, went on to earn a bachelor’s and in April will begin pursuit of a master’s.

In other action, the board approved fee increases on 153 courses.

Several full-time faculty, administrators and support staff were approved for a retirement program offering a 5.9 percent increase to their base salary each year until retirement or up to three years post-retirement health benefits paid by the college at a rate equal to 80% of the then-current employee single plan rate.

Retirement dates were approved by the board for 15 individuals, each retiring sometime in the next three years. They are faculty Margie Francisco, Christine Blaydes, Richard Mangold and David Kuester, and administrators and support staff Fran Brolley, Walter Waligora, Judy Day, Matthew Suerth, Cynthia Cardoso, Karen Gregorich, Lynn Moore, Marla Forbes, Marlene Merkel, Mark Quincer, and Steve Gillio.

Trustees also approved:

- The appointment of Dental Assisting Program Coordinator Heather Seghi as interim Dean of Health Professions. Seghi is completing a doctoral degree focused on community college leadership.

- The retirement request of Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board Judy Day effective June 30. In her letter to IVCC President Jerry Corcoran, Day said, “Upon retirement I will have been at IVCC for 38 years and worked in Student Services, Academic Affairs and the President’s Office. It has been a privilege to serve the students, staff, faculty, administration and board and an honor to serve the district with you.”

- The retirement request of Executive Director of Community Relations and Development Fran Brolley effective April 28 after 34 years. In a letter, Brolley noted “indelible memories” such as the 1994 celebration of the Spetzler family, the “magical” 1988-89 men’s basketball season, the \$1.2 million bequest from the estate of Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg, “noon-ball” basketball in the gym, and the 2015 IVCC-LPO Hall of Fame induction of his father Ray, benefactor Ralph Scriba and local band Buckacre.

- The appointment of Demonica Kemper Architects of Chicago as architects for phase 2 of the ag complex, a classroom and lab building. A \$3.5 million U.S. EDA grant will cover 80% of the cost. Ag hopes to be in the building for classes in 2024.

- The \$92,511 bid from PerkinElmer Health Sciences of Shelton, Conn., for an “inductively-coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer” to upgrade the ag program’s soil nutrient testing.

- Seeking proposals for a website Content Management System (CMS) to include design, search engine optimization (SEO) and migration of existing content to the new format.

- An intergovernmental agreement with the city of Mendota regarding a new tax increment financing (TIF) district.



IVCC faculty granted tenure on Feb. 9 were, left to right, Nancy McDonnell, Ricky Pretzsch and Kaity Ritter. (Photo contributed)

- Designating the 2024 fiscal year as July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and budget calendar.

- Closed session minutes from Jan. 12.

Trustees learned:

- The Jan. 24 agriculture job and internship fair attracted 17 companies and 49 ag students. Employers included ADM, Ag View FS, Birddog Workforce Scouting, Corteva Agriscience, DeKane Equipment Corporation, Facilitating Coordination Agricultural Education (FCAE), GRAINCO FS, Marquis Energy-Illinois, LLC, Northern Partners Cooperative, Nutrients Ag Solutions, Prairie State Tractor (John Deere), River Valley Cooperative, Strategic Business Solutions (SBST), Sun Ag Inc., and USDA Farm Service Agency.

- Congressman Darin LaHood visited Jan. 18 as part of the college’s effort to meet with district lawmakers.

- The Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce’s Feb. 2 celebration of its move into IVCC’s Ottawa Center attracted about 80 guests. Chamber offices are in the northwest corner of the facility facing Main St.

- Hall, Marquette, Mendota, Ottawa, Seneca, St. Bede and Streator competed in the Feb. 3 Regional Academic Challenge.

Corcoran credited Ron Groleau, Danielle Jackson, Marlene Merkel, Samantha Manahan, Dawn Watson and Chad Brokaw for successfully hosting the testing competition that drew more than 130 students.

- Last fall, 158 graduates earned a total of 190 degrees and certificates compared to 149 graduates earning 191 degrees and certificates in fall 2021.

- IVCC received an additional \$39,007 appropriation to facilitate student mental health wellbeing. Pending future appropriations, IVCC will receive \$93,000 a year for three years for continued mental health support.

- Samantha Manahan was hired as interim marketing coordinator effective Jan. 30. She recently earned a master’s in digital marketing from Northern Illinois University.

- Noting Day’s and Brolley’s retirements, Corcoran closed his report saying, “Together, they have given 73 years to IVCC and are so much alike: gifted, dependable, professional, respectful and respected. We all go our separate ways in a few short months, but I’ll never forget all they have done to make IVCC a wonderful place in which to work and change peoples’ lives.”

## MHS students place in Regional Academic Challenge at IVCC

OGLESBY – Ottawa High School, Seneca High School and Marquette Academy each won their respective team divisions at the Feb. 3 Illinois Valley Community College Regional Academic Challenge sponsored by Eastern Illinois University.

Ottawa won Division 1500 (enrollments of 701-1500) followed by Streator; Seneca captured Division 700 (enrollments of 301-700) followed by Mendota and Hall; and Marquette took Division 300 (300 or less).

In all, 133 students from seven schools competed.

Teams finishing first or second, along with individuals finishing first or second in each division and testing category, advance to the Eureka College sectional. State finals are April 10-13 at EIU, said IVCC Academic Challenge coordinator Ron Groleau, Dean of Natural Sciences and Business.

Each participant took two exams from among seven possible disciplines: biology, English, math, computer science, physics, engineering graphics or chemistry.

Division 300 winners: Biology: Mary Lechtenberg, Marquette, first; Greyson Marincic, St. Bede Academy, second. Chemistry: Jacob Witthuhn, Marquette, first; Bella Hagenbuch, St. Bede, second.

Computer Science: Darby Morganflash, Marquette, first; Jacob Smith, Marquette, second. Engineering Graphics: Charlie Mullen, Marquette, first; Ella Biggins, Marquette, second. English: Madelyn Torrance, St. Bede, first; Bella Hagenbuch, St. Bede, second.

Mathematics: Greyson Marincic, St. Bede, first; Gianna Grivetti, St. Bede, second. Physics: Madelyn Torrance, St. Bede, first; Steven Wang, Marquette, second.

Division 700 winners: Biology: Jay Sims, Mendota, first; Lexi Sprinkel, Seneca, second. Chemistry: Anthony Kelson, Mendota and Elizabeth Haff, Hall, first; Nathan Grant, Teagan Johnson and Carter Thomas, Seneca, second.

Computer Science: Aidan Campbell, Hall, first; Jacob Hasselbring and Payton McDonald, Seneca, second.

Engineering Graphics: Colin Collett, Seneca, first; Avery Pierce, Mendota, second. English: Lauren Hogan, Hall, and Jay Sims, Mendota, first; Ashlin Jackson, Seneca, second.

Mathematics: Chris Poyner, Seneca, and Neal Linden, Mendota, first; Lily Bokus, Mendota, second. Physics: Chris Poyner, Seneca, first; Tyler Lapp, Hall, second.

Division 1500 winners: Biology: Ethan Cela, Ottawa, first; Hannah Galletti, Ottawa, second. Chemistry: Emily Swanson, Ottawa, first; Karcin Hagie, Ottawa, second.

Computer Science: Carter Snook, Ottawa, first; Katie Passwater, Ottawa, second. Engineering Graphics: Katie Passwater, Ottawa, first; Totus Keely, Ottawa, second. English: Karcin Hagie, Ottawa, first; Ryan Seaton, Streator, second.

Mathematics: Carter Snook, Ottawa, first; Reagan Bush and Parker Phillips, Streator, second. Physics: Nick Miller and Emily Swanson, Ottawa, first; Lily Kupec, Sophia Pence and Ziara Webb, Streator, second.

Academic Challenge coaches were Andrew Jackson, Seneca; Glenn Weatherford, Ottawa; Dan Fitzpatrick, St. Bede; Doug Harris, Streator; Theresa Sartain, Hall; Kathryn Ewers, Marquette; and Eric Straughn, Mendota.



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**FFAWEEK**

# THE BACK PAGE

## POLICE BLOTTER

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Adam H. Lincoln, 41, of 208 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 4:21 p.m. Feb. 7 on a valid Winnebago County warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. The subject was unable to post bond and was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

**DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED**  
Jamie L. Lewis, 38, of 4413 E. 694th Road, Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at East 525th Road and U.S. 34 at 8:04 p.m. Feb. 7. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DUI, IMPROPER LANE USAGE**  
Ambra N. Walker, 37, of Rochelle, was charged with driving while under the influ-

ence and improper lane usage after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and Raymond Drive at 2:11 a.m. Feb. 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**DOMESTIC BATTERY**  
Conor E. Shukstor, 29, of Streator, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to the report of a man physically holding a woman to the ground at U.S. 34 and the I-39 southbound on-ramp at 7 p.m. Feb. 11. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

**NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE**  
Anahi L. Alanis-Castro, 19, of West Chicago, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at First Avenue and 12th

Street at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 12. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

**WARRANT ARREST**  
Sundae M. Smith, 57, of 815 Washington St., Apt. 3, Mendota, was arrested at 11:50 p.m. Feb. 12 on a valid Grundy County warrant for failure to appear/dangerous drugs. The subject was unable to post bond and was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

**NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE**  
Edgar E. Barrera Limon, 30, of 100 S. Ninth Ave., Apt. 114, Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at First Avenue and 12th Street at 5:46 a.m. Feb. 14. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

## Man wanted on nationwide warrant arrested in Paw Paw

**PAW PAW** – The Lee County Sheriff's Office received information that an individual residing on Howlett Road in rural Paw Paw was wanted on a nationwide warrant out of the State of Montana. Thomas W. Jessberger, 48, formerly of Missoula, Mont., was wanted on a Violation of Conditional Release – Absconder warrant from the Montana Department of Corrections. The original charges stem from an arrest for 15 counts of cruelty to animals.



Jessberger

On Feb. 10, Lee County Sheriff Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the area of Howlett Road and Woodlawn Road. The driver, Jessberger, was taken into custody without incident. He was transported to the Lee County jail where he was being held awaiting extradition.

Jessberger was also charged with driving while license suspended and issued a court date. Citizens are reminded to call the Lee County Sheriff's Office at (815) 284-6631 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-Caught-U. Callers can remain anonymous and receive rewards of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

## City Ordinance

### Animals-Pet Waste Ordinance

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

## MHS prohibits snowmobiles, ATVs on its property

**MENDOTA**—Public notice from Mendota High School: Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are not allowed on any District 280 school property. Violators will be prosecuted.

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# SPORTS

## Sandwich upends MHS girls in regional opener

Season ends after 59-26 setback

SANDWICH – A less-than-full-strength Mendota Lady Trojan squad fell to Sandwich, 59-26, in the opening round of the Aurora (Rosary) Class 2A Regional Basketball Tournament on Feb. 11 at Sandwich. Mendota concluded the season with a 5-23 record.

Playing without their leading scorer and rebounder, Reanna Brant, the Lady Trojans had difficulty keeping up with Sandwich from the opening tip. The Lady Indians got scoring from five different players in the first period as they doubled the score on Mendota after one, 16-8.

Sandwich continued to pull away in the second quarter and led 31-15 at intermission. In the second half, the Lady Trojans went without a field goal as they scored all 11 of their points from the free throw line.

Katie Jenner tallied 10 of her team's 11 second-half points and finished with a game-high 20 markers. She was 12 of 17 from the free throw line and con-

nected on two shots from three-point territory. Naitzy Garcia had three points and 11 rebounds for the Lady Trojans.

"We were short-handed again tonight," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "Katie (Jenner) put us on her back for her final game in a Lady Trojan uniform."

SANDWICH 59, MENDOTA 26				
Mendota (26)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Jenner	3	12-17	2	20
Wasmer	0	2-2	3	2
Gonzalez	0	0-2	3	0
Garcia	1	1-4	11	3
Frey	0	0-0	1	0
Sondgeroth	0	1-2	2	1
Schultz	0	0-0	3	0
Totals	4	16-27	25	26

Sandwich (59)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Treptow	5	3-4	3	14
Sexton	1	0-2	1	2
Herren	3	0-0	2	6
Geltz	3	0-2	2	7
Allen	5	4-6	3	15
Meyers	0	0-0	1	0
Freeman	2	0-2	0	6
Frieders	0	0-0	2	0
Dudzik	0	0-0	1	0
Sexton	1	1-2	1	4
Olson	1	3-4	4	5
Totals	21	11-22	20	59

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Mendota	8	15	19	26
Sandwich	16	31	53	59

Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 2; Sandwich - Treptow 1, Freeman 2, Sexton 1, Geltz 1, Allen 1

## Kewanee outlasts Trojans

KEWANEE – A dismal fourth quarter doomed Mendota in a 48-35 Three Rivers Conference varsity boys' basketball game on Feb. 7 at Kewanee.

The Trojans started fast, getting a pair of three-pointers from Cale Strouss to take a 12-6 lead after the opening stanza. Strouss added another triple in the second period and Mendota owned a 21-17 halftime advantage.

The Boilers were able to make up the deficit in the third quarter and the game was tied at 31-31 heading to the final frame. In the final eight-minute session, the Trojans managed just one field goal and two free throws while Kewanee poured in 17 points to win going away.

Rafael Romero's 11 points paced Mendota's offense, while Cale Strouss finished with nine markers and Isaac Guzman added seven.

The loss was the Trojans' seventh in a row and dropped their records to 8-22 overall and 2-9 in league play.

KEWANEE 48, MENDOTA 35				
Mendota (35)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	3	0-2	3	9
Guzman	3	0-1	2	7
Romero	3	5-6	4	11
Nanez	1	2-2	1	4
R. Strouss	1	0-0	4	2
Stamberger	1	0-0	3	2
Baird	0	0-0	1	0
Aughenbaugh	0	0-0	1	0
Dewey	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	12	7-11	20	35

Kewanee (48)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Lewis	4	4-4	2	13
Reed	3	2-4	2	8
Rumbold	0	0-0	1	0
Little	2	0-2	1	4
Clark	7	1-7	3	15
Campbell	1	0-0	0	2
Cazares	0	0-0	1	0
Jordan	1	0-0	2	2
Johnston	2	0-0	2	4
Totals	20	7-17	14	48

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Mendota	12	21	31	35
Kewanee	6	17	31	48

Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 3, Guzman 1; Kewanee - Lewis 1



Mendota's Katie Jenner drives to the basket while being closely guarded by Newark's Taylor Kruser on Feb. 9 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

## MHS to face Rock Falls in opening round of Byron Class 2A Regional

BYRON – The Mendota Trojans have been assigned to the Byron Class 2A Boys' Regional Basketball Tournament to be held Feb. 18, 22, 24.

The Trojans will play one of the two play-in games when they travel to Rock Falls for a 6 p.m. tip on Saturday, Feb. 18. The winner of that game will advance to the semifinals against Eureka on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at Byron. The other play-in game will be between Oregon and Winnebago, with that winner facing Byron at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

The two semifinal-round winners will meet for the regional championship at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

The winner of the Byron Regional will advance to the Orion Sectional where it will

square off against the champion of the Taylor Ridge (Rockridge) Regional on Wednesday, March 1. The other sectional participants will come from the Bureau Valley and Savanna (West Carroll) regionals and will play on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

### Byron Class 2A Boys' Regional Basketball Tournament

- Saturday, Feb. 18**  
 1 – (9) Mendota at (6) Rock Falls – 6 p.m.  
 2 – (12) Oregon at (5) Winnebago
- Wednesday, Feb. 22**  
 3 – (2) Eureka vs. Winner Game 1 – 6 p.m.  
 4 – (3) Byron vs. Winner Game 2 – 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 24**  
 5 – Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4 – 7 p.m. (championship)

## Newark quick start sinks Lady Trojans

MENDOTA – The Mendota Lady Trojans closed out the regular season with a 53-19 loss to Newark on Senior Night Feb. 9 at the MHS gym.

Newark was hot from long range to start the game as three successful shots from beyond the arc propelled it to a quick 9-0 lead. The first quarter ended with the visitors in front, 23-3. A smothering press by Newark caused fits for the Lady Trojans, who ended the game with 23 turnovers.

The Lady Norsemen scored the first eight points of the second period as the lead ballooned to 31-3, and the two teams went to the locker room with Newark on top, 33-10. The count was 43-19 after three quarters and then the Lady Trojans did not score in the fourth frame.

Katie Jenner had a pair of three-pointers and finished with eight points for Mendota, while Reanna Brant added six points and hauled down six rebounds.

Newark also claimed the sophomore game, 40-33. Newark rallied from a six-point halftime deficit by outscoring Mendota, 17-6, in the third period. Cassie Gonzalez supplied 11 points and Kennedy Knaff collected nine tallies for the Lady Trojans.

NEWARK 53, MENDOTA 19				
Newark (53)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
DeClementi	3	2-3	3	9
Wesseh	5	0-0	0	10
Kruser	2	0-0	3	6
Hatteberg	4	0-2	0	8
Carlson	0	1-2	1	1
Snyder	3	0-0	0	6
Sittler	2	1-2	1	5
Ness	2	0-0	0	5
Peshia	1	0-0	0	3
Totals	22	4-9	8	53

Mendota (19)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Jenner	3	0-2	0	8
Zinke	0	0-0	2	0
Wasmer	0	0-0	2	0
Brant	3	0-0	6	6
Garcia	0	1-2	4	1
Frey	0	0-0	1	0
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	3	0
Reel	0	0-0	1	0
Gonzalez	2	0-0	1	4
Totals	8	1-4	20	19

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	1	2	3	4
Newark	23	33	43	53
Mendota	3	10	19	19

Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 2; Newark - DeClementi 2, Kruser 2, Ness 1

## Season comes to end for Mendota wrestling teams

Serrano's state tourney hopes dashed in Oregon Sectional

The Mendota High School wrestlers saw their season come to a close in post-season action on Feb. 10-11.

For the boys, Angil Serrano competed in the Oregon Class 1A Sectional Wrestling Tournament. He wrestled two matches at 285 pounds and was beaten in both. Cade O'Dell of Princeton pinned Serrano in 5:38 in the opening round and then Jacob Hosler of Rock Falls pinned Serrano at the 2:26 mark to eliminate the Mendota sophomore from the tournament.

Three Mendota girls participated in the Geneseo Regional Wrestling Tournament.

Cadence Thornton had three matches at 110 pounds. She was pinned by Esmeralda Martinez of Kewanee at 1:24 of her

opening match. Thornton bounced back to score a pin of Jaelin Hawkins of Erie at the 3:35 mark, but Thornton was pinned by Minooka's Holli Coughlen at 1:46 in her final match.

Lea Turner also won one of three matches at 145 pounds. She opened the action by losing to Amanda Rogers of Kaneland by pin at 4:59, but turned around to pin Elaina Mitchell of Camp Point at 37 seconds to remain in the competition. Turner had her season end when Dylanie Cecala of Minooka claimed a 9-2 decision.

Brooke Bailey competed for the Lady Trojans at 155 pounds and was pinned by Lexie Carden of Durand in 41 seconds of her only match.

## Soph cagers improve to 16-11

KEWANEE – Mendota pulled away from Kewanee in the second quarter en route to a 49-34 win in a Three Rivers Conference sophomore boys' basketball game on Feb. 7 at Kewanee.

The smoke cleared in the first quarter with the Trojans

owning a 10-7 lead. By the time halftime rolled around, Mendota had upped the margin to double-digits, 24-14. The Trojans outscored Kewanee, 25-20, in the second half to secure the victory.

Aden Tillman had the hot hand for the Trojans, pump-

ing in 25 points. He burned the nets for three triples and sank 10 of 12 free throws. Dane Doyle was next with nine tallies, while Cam Kelly added seven markers.

Mendota improved its records to 16-11 overall and 7-4 in the conference.

## IHSA launches March Madness App

BLOOMINGTON – No one does March Madness bigger or better than the Illinois High School Association, and America's Original March Madness will get unprecedented levels of coverage in 2023 with the release of the IHSA's new March Madness phone/tablet app.

The IHSA March Madness app is a must-have for prep hoops fans in Illinois, as it features schedules, scores, brackets, conferences, rosters, ticketing, broadcast info, and much, much more.

The IHSA March Madness app is currently available for download in the Apple App Store

and will appear in the Android App Store in the coming days. Fans can also view all the app content at MarchMadness.org.

The IHSA Girls' Basketball State Series is now underway and culminates with the State Finals at Red-bird Arena on the Illinois State University campus on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 2-4.

The IHSA Boys' Basketball State Series follows suit with Regional play beginning on Feb. 18 and caps the season with the State Finals at the State Farm Center on the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 9-11.



Mendota's Naitzy Garcia puts up a shot as Taylor Kruser of Newark attempts to block her shot from behind on Feb. 9 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

# SPORTS

## BOWLING

### Elks 4

#### Youth League

Standings as of Feb. 2-1. Team 5 31-9; 2. Team 4 23-17; 3. Team 2 23-17; 4. Team 3 12-28; 5. Team 1 10-30  
 High team game (scratch) - Team 5 282, Team 4 279  
 High team game (hdcp) - Team 5 654, Team 4 641  
 High team series (scratch) - Team 5 773, Team 4 759  
 High team series (hdcp) - Team 5 1889, Team 4 1845  
 Boys' high game (scratch) - Parker Ramer 168, Gavin Stamberger 109, Landon Kent 108  
 Boys' high game (hdcp) - Parker Ramer 260, Landon Kent & Kaden Young 231,

### Gavin Stamberger 224

Boys' high series (scratch) - Parker Ramer 395, Gavin Stamberger 302, Kaden Young 289  
 Boys' high series (hdcp) - Parker Ramer 671, Kaden Young 667, Gavin Stamberger 647  
 Girls' high game (scratch) - Gabby Diaz 104, Brooklyn Mauch 58  
 Girls' high game (hdcp) - Gabby Diaz 249, Brooklyn Mauch 206  
 Girls' high series (scratch) - Gabby Diaz 256, Brooklyn Mauch 165  
 Girls' high series (hdcp) - Gabby Diaz 691, Brooklyn Mauch 609

### Elks 6

#### Youth League

Standings as of Feb. 2-1. Team 1 23-17; 2. Team 3 8-32; 3. Team 2 4-36  
 High team game (scratch) - Team 3 451, Team 1 338  
 High team game (hdcp) - Team 3 594, Team 1 583  
 High team series (scratch) - Team 3 1339, Team 1 988  
 High team series (hdcp) - Team 3 1768, Team 1 1723  
 Boys' high game (scratch) - Kooper Novak 180, Alex Holland 171, Oliver Turner 148  
 Boys' high game (hdcp) - Oliver Turner 231, Kooper Novak 227, Alex Holland 193

### Boys' high series (scratch)

- Kooper Novak 510, Alex Holland 481, Oliver Turner 382

### Boys' high series (hdcp)

- Kooper Novak 651, Oliver Turner 631, Alex Holland 547

### Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Feb. 6-1. Split Happens 25-10; 2. Bad Kats 18-17; 3. CM Farm 17-18; 4. Sports-N-Stuff 17-18; 5. Leagal Beagles 16-19; 6. Ramer Inc. 12-23  
 High team game (scratch) - Split Happens 714, Sports-N-Stuff 691, Leagal Beagles 651

### High team game (hdcp)

- Bad Kats 962, Sports-N-Stuff & Split Happens 954, Leagal Beagles 912

### High team series (scratch)

- Split Happens 2013, Sports-N-Stuff 1926, Leagal Beagles 1858

### High team series (hdcp)

- Bad Kats 2736, Splits Happens 2733, Sports-N-Stuff 2715

### Men's high game (scratch)

- Luke Ross 238, Mike Smith 217, Matt Ramer 215

### Men's high game (hdcp)

- Raul Diaz Jr. 279, Brendan Ramer 265, Mike Smith 262

### Men's high series (scratch)

- Luke Ross 643, Ron Westphal 562, Mike Smith 558

### Men's high series (hdcp)

- Brendan Ramer 727, Raul Diaz Jr. 724, Bob Moench Jr. 702

### Women's high game (scratch)

- Jessica Robinson 204, Hannah Westphal 197, Emily Thomas 192

### Women's high game (hdcp)

- Dessa Collings 287, Hannah Westphal 272, Emily Thomas 261

### Women's high series (scratch)

- Jessica Robinson 523, Emily Thomas 515, Hannah Westphal 509

### Women's high series (hdcp)

- Dessa Collings 760, Hannah Westphal 734, Emily Thomas 722

### Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Feb. 7-1. Black Bros. 58-34; 2. Team 2 44-48; 3. JJ&L Carpentry

### 42-50; 4. Age Old Organics 39-53

### High team game (scratch)

- Team 2 1045, JJ&L Carpentry 980, Black Bros 968

### High team game (hdcp)

- Team 2 1114, JJ&L Carpentry 1100, Black Bros 1091

### High team series (scratch)

- Team 2 3013, JJ&L Carpentry 2835, Black Bros, 2791

### High team series (hdcp)

- Team 2 3220, JJ&L Carpentry 3195, Black Bros. 3166

### High individual game (scratch)

- Luke Ross 279, Nate Bradford 265, Scott Novak 243

### High individual series (scratch)

- Nate Bradford 735, Luke Ross 698, Todd Smith 650

### High individual series (hdcp)

- Nate Bradford 735, Luke Ross 698, Todd Smith 650

### Wednesday Night Men's League

#### Standings as of Feb. 8-1.

Boelk Truck Lines 48.5-39.5; 2. First State Bank 46.5-41.5; 3. Mendota Monument 44-44; 4. O'Donnell Excavating 37-51

### High team game (scratch)

- Mendota Monument 1050, O'Donnell Excavating 1022, Boelk Truck Lines 1014

### High team game (hdcp)

- O'Donnell Excavating 1212, Boelk Truck Lines 1131, Mendota Monument 1082

### High team series (scratch)

- Mendota Monument 3061, Boelk Truck Lines 2975, First State Bank 2801

### High team series (hdcp)

- Boelk Truck Lines 3326, O'Donnell Excavating 3239, Mendota Monument 3157

### High individual game (scratch)

- Nate Bradford 268, Joe Dimmig 247, Matt Novak 231

### High individual series (scratch)

- Nate Bradford 759, Joe Dimmig 670, Erik Schmitt 666

### High individual series (hdcp)

- Nate Bradford 759, Joe Dimmig 670, Erik Schmitt 666

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- Nate Bradford 759, Joe Dimmig 670, Erik Schmitt 666

### High individual series (hdcp)

- Nate Bradford 759, Joe Dimmig 670, Erik Schmitt 666

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|---|---|---|--|

### Softball clinic set at IVCC February 18-19

OGLESBY - Illinois Valley Community College's softball team will host the 24th annual IVCC Eagles Softball Clinic Saturday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 19 in the IVCC gym.

Coaches and current players will offer softball instruction in hitting, bunting, fielding, throwing, base running and communication.

There are two sessions each day. On Saturday, participants in grades 2-4 meet 8 to 10:30 a.m. Grades 5-8 meet 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Sunday, grades 2-4 meet 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with grades 5-8 meeting 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$40 per player and includes five hours of instruction and a T-shirt. If a player can only come one day, cost is \$25.

All players should bring a glove and tennis shoes (no spikes or cleats allowed). If a player has her own bat, she is allowed to bring it. Please make sure all items have the player's name on them for identification purposes.

To register, contact softball coach Cory Tomasson at (815) 224-0471 or the athletic department at (815) 224-0472.

### LaMoille boys' hoops

#### Feb. 7 @ IMSA

IMSA 58, LaMoille 25  
 Stats: Eli Keighin 10 points, 5 rebounds; Logan Dober 5 points; Josh Martin 3 steals

#### Feb. 10 vs. Indian Creek

Indian Creek 56, LaMoille 55  
 Stats: Dober 16 points, 6 rebounds; Tyler Billhorn 13 points, 10 rebounds; Keighin 12 points, 10 rebounds, 5 assists; Brayden Klein 8 points, 6 rebounds

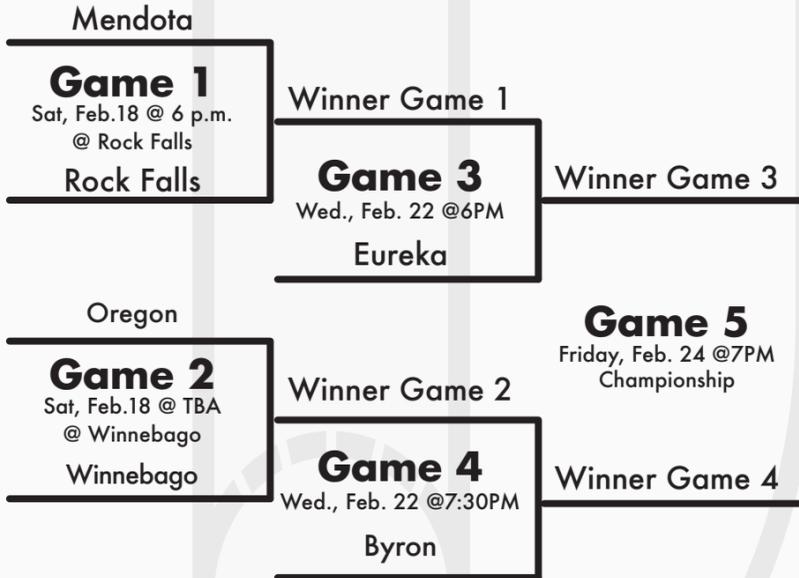


The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, established in 1945, is a not-for-profit organization of businesses, representing industry, retail service, professionals and agriculture in partnership with tourism and government to further promote economic growth and quality of life in Mendota and the surrounding area. The strength of the Chamber lies in the active involvement of its membership. The Chamber office makes referrals of its members, and promotes them through a variety of activities, making the public aware of the goods and services available here in Mendota from its membership. The Mendota Chamber is a voice for business and is devoted to strengthening the business community and maintaining the exceptional characteristics of life here in Mendota.

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  - Evan Wixom - Chair of the Board
  - Marion Quintana - Vice Chair
  - Jesse Arellano - Secretary
  - Erica Henry - Treasurer
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Hollywood

**By Tony Rizzo**  
**HOLLYWOOD** -- Oscar-winning actor Rami Malek has been cast as silent film legend Buster Keaton. It'll be a far cry playing the deadpan, physical-comedy genius that it was playing rocker Freddie Mercury in "Bohemian Rhapsody." Most people don't know who Buster Keaton was. He was second only to Charlie Chaplin and is best remembered for the 1926 classic "The General" and "Steamboat Bill, Jr." (1928) that were often featured in many anthologies about the silent film era. Donald O'Connor played him in "The Buster Keaton Story" (1957). In 1959, Keaton received an honorary Oscar.

The next year, when Keaton was busy rehearsing for the national company's production of "Once Upon a Mattress," with Dody Goodman (of "Grease"), I watched him rehearse and was thrilled to meet this comic genius. He has two stars on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, and a 1987 documentary on his life won two Emmys. In 1994, the U.S. Post Office put

his face on a stamp, and in 2022, two new books came out celebrating his work and life. Keaton died in 1966 from lung cancer at age 70. \*\*\*

The best kept secret in Hollywood is Ray Stevenson -- who can currently be seen in the Indian box office hit "RRR," which just received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song. Stevenson was one of the stars in the "Thor" franchise, with "Thor" in 2011, "The Dark World" in 2013 and "Ragnarok" in 2017. He was also Porthos in "The Three Musketeers," (2011), and then starred in "G.I. Joe Retaliation" as well as the "Divergent" franchise.

In 2022, Stevenson starred opposite Liam Neeson and Guy Pearce in "Memory." "Accident Man: Hitman's Holiday" was released in October, and he's currently shooting the Disney+ limited series "Ahsoka," of the "Star Wars" franchise, starring Rosario Dawson and Hayden Christensen (who portrays Anakin Skywalker in the franchise). The 58-year-old Stevenson has been tapped to

replace the 63-year-old Kevin Spacey in "1242: Gateway to the West" following the news of more sexual assault charges brought against Spacey. Sounds like Stevenson should hire a publicist so people know who he is. \*\*\*

The nightmare that would have been a Madonna biopic has died. Allegedly, Madonna was set to direct, but couldn't come to an agreement with the script, which was so long that Universal Pictures first considered making it two movies. But, finally, they just pulled the plug! Actresses Julia Garner, Florence Pugh and Odessa Young were in the running to play her, but Garner ended up nabbing the role.

Madonna, ever the perfectionist, said, "I [wanted] to convey the incredible journey that life has taken me on as an artist, a musician, a dancer -- a human being, trying to make her way in the world." Picture their auditions: "Can you act ... 'Like a Virgin'?"

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## Celebrity Extra

**By Dana Jackson**  
**Q:** I saw that Natasha Lyonne has a new show on Peacock. Does this mean "Russian Doll" has been canceled? -- **Y.B.**

**A:** With so many networks and streaming platforms available now, actors aren't limited to just one show anymore. Look at Adam Scott, for example. He had major roles on three shows in the past year ("Severance," "Loot" and the upcoming third season of "Party Down").

Lyonne has been just as busy since she had a career resurgence playing an inmate on Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black." She followed that up with the Emmy-nominated "Russian Doll," and while a third season is still in limbo, Lyonne has gone on to film another series, "Poker Face." Hopefully she can juggle both shows if Netflix comes calling again. \*\*\*

**Q:** My 90-year-old mother's favorite drama is "Chicago Med." She especially loves the handsome actor



Lyonne

who plays Dr. Marcel. Can you tell us what else he's been in? -- **A.K.**

**A:** Dominic Rains plays Dr. Crockett Marcel on the hit series "Chicago Med," which airs on NBC on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. ET. (It's part of what's billed as the One Chicago lineup, followed by "Chicago Fire" at 9 p.m. and "Chicago P.D." at 10 p.m.) He joined the ensemble cast as the trauma surgeon in its fifth season.

Rains, 40, was born in Tehran, Iran, but grew up in a Dallas suburb called The Colony. His first role on camera was in the TV movie "Saving Jessica Lynch." He went on to play Dr. Leo Julian on the daytime soap "General Hospital" as well as its spin-off "General Hospital: Night Shift." He's had a slew of primetime guest-star appearances on shows like "NCIS" and "24" before landing a recurring role as a character named Kasius on "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D."

Rains was born Amin Nazemzadeh, but didn't change his name until he got the role on "GH." His brother, Ethan, got him into acting in the first place, and the two both had roles on the short-lived Heather Locklear

series "LAX." \*\*\*

**Q:** What happened to "Yellowstone"? I keep waiting for more new episodes, but the last one was in early January. Is it done for the season? -- **M.M.**

**A:** According to "TV Guide," "Yellowstone" decided to split season five into two parts, with the remaining six episodes to come. Viewers have been on the edge of their seats during the first half, as a "civil war has broken out among the Duttons, with Jamie (Wes Bentley) and Beth (Kelly Reilly) at each other's throats." Kevin Costner's character, John Dutton, is also at risk of being impeached as governor.

"Yellowstone" originally began as a summer series on the Paramount Network, and the latter half of season five will air sometime during the summer of 2023. No official air date has been announced yet, however. Joining the cast this past season is actress Dawn Olivieri, who played Claire Dutton in the "Yellowstone" prequel series "1883." Her new character, Sarah Atwood, is a complete 180 from Claire. Look for her to continue to stir things up in Montana.

## Couch Theater

"Your Place or Mine" (PG-13) -- Since the arrival of February marked the beginning of the most romantic time of the year, it is the perfect opportunity to dive into a rom-com! First up is a new film out now from rom-com veterans Reese Witherspoon and Ashton Kutcher. They star as Debbie and Peter, a pair of long-distance best friends who once hooked up on the night they first met. Twenty years later, they're both single, and Debbie's barely gotten a break from taking care of her teenage son, Jack. So, Peter offers to take care of Jack, switching places with Debbie for a week while she stays in this apartment and enjoys a well-deserved vacation. But little do Peter and Debbie know how much this one week will uncover deeply buried feelings from the both of them. (Netflix)

"Spoiler Alert" (PG-13) -- The second rom-com film for this week brings a bit more drama with its comedy. Based on the memoir by Michael Ausiello, this film features Jim Parsons ("The Big Bang Theory") and Ben Aldridge ("Fleabag") as Kit and Michael, and just as the

title suggests, the spoiler comes before the story actually begins. In the first scene of the film, Kit dies in his husband Michael's arms after an 11-month battle with terminal cancer, with the rest of the film depicting their love story through Michael's eyes. As with any relationship, the two go through ups and downs, but every circumstance ends up making them stronger, leading up to that moment where Kit takes his very last breath. Sally Field and Antoni Porowski ("Queer Eye") also star in this very touching film, out now. (Peacock)

"Sharper" (R) -- For those who'd rather skip all the mushy-gushiness, "Sharper" -- with an impressive cast comprised of Julianne Moore, John Lithgow, Sebastian Stan and Justice Smith -- is a psychological thriller that premieres on Feb. 17. Lithgow portrays billionaire Richard Hobbes, who's in a relationship with Moore's character, Madeline. Madeline's son, Max, is a con artist, who's dying to get his hands on the type of money Richard has. This leads Max to convince his girlfriend, Sandra, to get her claws into

Richard's sheepish son, Tom, and make him fall for her so that the two can eventually con him out of Tom's huge inheritance. But don't be fooled -- nobody, not even sweet Madeline, is who they seem to be. (AppleTV+)

"Halloween Ends" (R) -- Did you miss the final installment of the newly re-booted "Halloween" trilogy in theaters? Have no fear ... or maybe have some, because "Halloween Ends" premieres right on Valentine's Day. Jamie Lee Curtis reprises her role as Laurie Strode, who has lived with her granddaughter, Allyson, since the death of her daughter, Karen, by Michael Myers. Michael has "vanished," but his aura is still present throughout Haddonfield. Meanwhile, Allyson begins dating a man named Corey, who increasingly begins to show signs of malicious intent. Corey discovers Michael hiding in a sewer, and Corey's so entranced by him that he starts making plans to follow in his footsteps. While this is the least impressive film in the series by far, at least we got to tie a bow on the end of Michael Myers' terrifying reign. (I hope.) (Prime Video)

## • Trivia Test •

- TELEVISION: What was the name of the saloon in the 1960s series "Gunsmoke"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: To date, how many people have walked on the moon?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Canadian province Nova Scotia?
- MOVIES: How many "Police Academy" movies have been produced?
- U.S. STATES: Why is Indiana known as "The Hoosier State"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What percentage of a cucumber is water?
- HISTORY: Which company published its first mail-order catalog in 1872?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What does the armadillo's name mean in English?
- LITERATURE: What is

author Mark Twain's real name?

10. CELEBRITIES: What is one of singer/actor Frank Sinatra's famous nicknames, based on a physical attribute?

Answers

- Long Branch Saloon.
- 12.
- Halifax.
- Seven, including the original movie and six sequels.
- The name became popular in the 1800s, likely from the poem "The Hoosier's Nest," 6, 96%.
- Montgomery Ward.
- Little armored one.
- Samuel Langhorne Clemens.
- Ol' Blue Eyes.
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## Strange But True

**By Lucie Winborne**

\* Nintendo was founded in 1889 as a playing card company.

\* Garbage collectors in Turkey have filled their own library entirely from books thrown away by residents. Originally destined for landfills, around 6,000 tomes are now safely housed on shelves, waiting to be reread -- or discovered -- by the public.

\* Gray cats are frequently the result of a diluted black fur gene.

\* The World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things is a museum in Lucas, Kansas, created by Erika Nelson. It consists of miniatures created from photos of the world's largest objects.

\* On May 9, 1945, reports that Nazi Germany had surrendered to the USSR triggered a 22-hour celebration that caused the country to temporarily run out of vodka!

\* An Arizona man didn't realize he was a big winner at a Las Vegas slot machine because its lights and buzzers never went on. Fortunately, an investigation by the Nevada Gaming Control Board resulted in a happy ending and the bestowal of the gentleman's \$230,000.

\* Not only can you be right-handed or left-handed, you can be right or left eared and eyed.

\* "Tartle" is a Scottish word referring to the feeling of hesitation or panic you experience when unable to recall another person's name.

\* Though heavy metal music originated in the U.S. and the U.K., Finland has the most metal bands per capita, with Sweden and Norway tying for second place and Iceland coming in third.

\* There's a name for three consecutive strikes in bowling: a turkey or sizzling turkey. Any additional strike after that is called a bagger.

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15						16			17	
18						19			20	
21	22			23				24		
25				26		27		28		
29				30				31		32 33 34
35						36			37	
38 39 40						41		42		43
44						45			46	
47						48			49	50 51
52						53			54	
55						56			57	

**DOWN**

53	"Humbul"	7	Burden	30	Overly
27	Grinding tooth	8	Zing	32	Florida city
29	"At once!"	9	Convened	33	Vintage
31	Attention-getting call	10	Justice Kagan	34	Approves
35	Senior member	11	In the -- way (very much)	36	Sultry singer Kitt
37	Lingerie fabric	17	Preambles	38	Queried
38	Houston player	1	HBO competitor	19	Spock tray
41	Sports drink suffix	2	Attorney's field	21	Young seal
43	TV spots	3	Florida city	22	Leb. neighbor
44	Foolproof	4	Pundit's piece	24	-- Paulo
45	Go places	5	"The Chosen"	26	President Jackson
47	Florida city	6	Cuban rum cocktail	28	Carter of "Wonder Woman"
49	Revise				
52	Tokyo, once				

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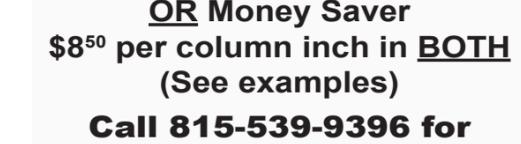
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**Answers**

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

Brought to you each week by



**King Crossword**

Solution time: 26 mins.

**Answers**

E	H	E	T	E	V	B	N	E	D	E
N	E	I	V	I	H	B	A	O	D	E
N	E	A	M	E	S	T	M	A	K	E
E	L	E	T	R	A	V	E	R	S	
S	V	E	D	V	O	I	S	T	S	V
K	T	I	N	E	A	O	D			
O	H	O	S	A	O	A	O	R	P	
B	V	I	T	O	M	V	D	S	N	
I	V	I	S	T	I	K	N	I	P	
S	N	N	S	I	N	O	D	V		
E	T	E	R	I	P	L	E	T	W	O
O	L	E	T	E	N	O				
M	E	P	M	O	P	S	L	O	F	

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Don't waste your time with worry anymore

Worry and I used to be very close companions. We spent a lot of time together and back then, I thought that was a normal way to live. But through the years, God has helped me end my relationship with worry. And He did it with the help of my husband, Dave.

Dave and I have been married for more than 55 years now, and every time I have come to him with a problem, he has had only

one thing to say: "Cast your care."

It's not very appealing to hear those words from your spouse when you're feeling frustrated and upset, but it's exactly what the Bible tells us to do.

First Peter 5:7 says to cast "all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and

watches over you carefully]" (AMP).

The word cast means "to pitch or to throw." I think that description says a lot because if you're going to end your relationship with worry, then you're going to have to get aggressive about it.

For example, we don't have to accept every thought that comes into our head. We can be selective, casting out the wrong ones and helping the right ones take root. Also, I find that my whole outlook changes as I say simple prayers: "God, I believe You're working in my life, and I'm expecting something good to happen today."

I'm not saying we should ignore our problems, wishing they'd just go away. It's good for us to look at our problems honestly, but we can't let them keep us from adopting a hopeful attitude that says, "I believe God is in control!"

### *Timing Is Everything, and Everything Takes Time*

Typically when we have a problem, God will do one of two things: He'll either remove the problem or He'll give us the ability to get through our time of difficulty with a good attitude.

I've found that as I grow in my relationship with God, I become more comfortable leaving that



choice up to Him. Because if He leads me through something I really don't want to go through, then I know for sure He has a purpose in mind.

As a child I experienced years of sexual and emotional abuse, which was absolutely tormenting. The amazing thing is, everything God has done in my life through that horrible situation—all of the healing and restoration—has prepared me to do what He's called me to do today. I didn't always understand why things were happening the way they did at the time, but I learned how to walk by faith and trust God's goodness even when my circumstances didn't make sense to me.

It's absolutely wonderful when we can feel completely comfortable not knowing the "why" behind what's happening in our lives.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]."

We don't always have to know what God is going to do or when He's going to do it. All we really need to know is that God has a plan and He is in control. We can rest in the truth that at the right time, God will execute His plan.

### *Trusting God Brings the Best Results*

Maybe there's something happening in your life right now that you just don't understand, and it's causing you a lot of worry and frustration. Wouldn't it be wonderful to just be able to say, "I don't understand this and it hurts right now, but I believe God is going to work it out?"

If you've already wasted a lot of your time with worry, I encourage you to cast your cares. Instead of giving way to anxious emotions, you can choose to rest in the truth that in time, God's good plan will be revealed.

Romans 8:28 says, "We know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose."

Not everything that happens is good. But it can

work out for good for those who keep loving God and keep pursuing His will in their lives. So don't waste your time worrying, because there's nothing God can't turn around if you'll put your trust in Him!

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *The Fearsome Four*. 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 School Projects to the Big Game, 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



REAL PAPER • REAL INK • REAL NEWS  
Proud member of the Illinois Press Association

1960 ■ 2023

Northern Illinois Antiques Dealers Association

Presents Its

63rd Annual Antiques Show

Forest Hills Lodge ■ Loves Park, IL

Saturday, February 25, 2023  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 26, 2023  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Located 1/2 mile East of Route 251 on Route 173  
1601 West Lane Road ■ Loves Park, Illinois

From I-90, exit Route 172, head West to Forest Hills Lodge

Admission \$8.00 ■ \$7.00 with this ad

Free Parking - E-mail: [NIADA@AOL.com](mailto:NIADA@AOL.com)  
[www.NIADAAntiques.com](http://www.NIADAAntiques.com)

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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

Feb. 16 - 6:30 p.m. Choir practice

Feb. 19 - Transfiguration Sunday; 9 a.m.  
Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship

Feb. 21 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Prayer Walking

Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday; 10 a.m. Pastor  
Mary leads Stonecroft worship; 6:30 p.m.  
Ecumenical Ash Wednesday worship here

#### ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United  
Methodist Church

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.



#### If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today  
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;  
If I can push one needless cloud away  
And help men live as children  
of the King:

If I can lend someone a helping hand  
Or warm a place where friendship  
needs to be;

If I can build a bridge where  
fences stand

And light a lamp that other men  
might see;

If I can open doors of hope this day  
By letting someone know that  
others care;

If I can speak in words that seem  
to say:

I know the heavy burdens that  
you bear.

If I can guide a pilgrim on his way  
Or pause to bid him stay for food  
and rest;

If I can do these, Father, this I pray:  
"O let me do them with my very best."

#### UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Route 251 North  
(815) 539-6861

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

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:

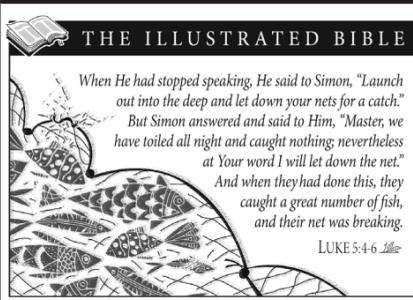
www.stjohnsmendota.org

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.



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#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1003 5th St.  
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com

Accessible

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Feb. 16 - 6:30 p.m. Webelos

Feb. 19 - 10 a.m. Worship;

11 a.m. Fellowship

Feb. 20 - Newsletter deadline

Feb. 22 - 6:30 p.m. Ecumenical Ash

Wednesday service at First UMC

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

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

1107 Main St.

(815) 993-2462

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

### COMPTON

#### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

398 Church Road, Compton

Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger

(815) 539-6567

Wheelchair accessible

Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran  
compton@live.com

"Living in God's Grace as a  
Neighbor to the World"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel

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

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Feb. 15 - 7 p.m. Confirmation

at Immanuel

Feb. 16 - 5:15 p.m. Church Council

Feb. 17 - 9:30 a.m. Bible study

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

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist  
to glorify God through the equipping  
of His saints, teaching of His Word  
and raising of His name.

We would love to have you join us  
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 Valentin (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. From 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in ..." Hope, Abundance, Touch, Truth
  3. In Proverbs 10:12, "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all ..." Sins, Beings, Creation, Enemies
  4. Which Old Testament book reads like a love story? Ruth, Daniel, Habakkuk, Song of Solomon
  5. Where does one find the phrase "God is love"? Genesis, Nehemiah, Hebrews, 1 John
  6. From Hebrews 13:4, what is honourable in all? Love, Trust, Marriage, Worship
- ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Truth, 3) Sins, 4) Song of Solomon, 5) 1 John (4:8, 16), 6) Marriage
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The Merchants  
on this page urge  
you to attend a  
house of worship  
this week.

EUREKA SAVINGS BANK  
1300 13th Ave., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-5656

FIRST STATE BANK  
706 Washington St., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 538-2265

MENDOTA MONUMENT CO.  
606 Main St, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-7276

MERRITT FUNERAL HOME  
800 Monroe St., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-7211

SPORTS-N-STUFF, INC.  
804 Washington, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-6354

STEPHENITCH DO IT BEST HARDWARE  
1204 13th Ave., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-9394

TRIPLE SERVICE, INC.  
801 Monroe, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-3828

WASMER FUNERAL HOME  
2112 W. Main St., Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-8500

ZIGGIE'S RESTAURANT  
Rte. 34 East, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-5060



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### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF SALE OF TIMESHARE ESTATE OR ESTATES UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE TIMESHARE LIEN AND SECURITY INTEREST ACT

By virtue of Section 10 of the Timeshare Lien and Security Interest Act, 770 ILCS 103/1 et. Seq., and in execution of certain mortgages on the timeshare estates given by the owners of the timeshare estates set forth below for breach of the conditions of said mortgages and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at public auction starting at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at the east entrance of Etna Road Government Complex, LaSalle County, Illinois, 707 Etna Road, Ottawa, IL 61350, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgages.

Each timeshare estate is a 1.923% and/or 0.9615% undivided interest (each, a "Unit") as tenant-in-common at Fox River Resort, a vacation ownership project in LaSalle County, Illinois, as per the recorded plat(s) thereof and according to the Amended and Restated Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions recorded under File No. R2000-31258 and any Supplemental Declarations recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, LaSalle County, Illinois, as supplemented and amended from time to time (the "Declaration"), together with the exclusive right to occupy the Unit during the designated Use Period Number(s), as said Use Period is defined in the Declaration, upon and subject to all of the terms, restrictions, covenants, conditions and provisions in the Declaration.

FRANCIS JAMES BEAUPRE AND HEATHER EVE BEAUPRE, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, PO BOX 5635, DE PERE, WI, 54115, according to the Mortgage dated May 14, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 11115, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 27, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0438 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 02, Phase 7  
FRANCIS JAMES BEAUPRE AND HEATHER EVE BEAUPRE, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 707 EDGE POINT CT, DE PERE, WI, 54115, according to the Mortgage dated May 14, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 11115, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 27, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0438 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 02, Phase 7  
JOSAPHAT H DAYSON AND ANNA LIZA B DAYSON, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 8152 KNOX AVE APT 2, SKOKIE, IL, 60076, according to the Mortgage dated July 24, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 08142, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 08, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0054 Frequency Odd, Use Period Number(s) 36, Phase 1  
EDGAR ALAN FUENTES, A MARRIED MAN, 565 S HOLLOWAY RD, ROMEOVILLE, IL, 60446, according to the Mortgage dated May 02, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 16526, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 18, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0439 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 22, Phase 7  
JAMES P HOWARD AND JANET L HOWARD, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 128 E MILL ST, KEWANEE, IL, 61443, according to the Mortgage dated March 28, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 16045, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 12, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0021 Frequency Odd, Use Period Number(s) 47, Phase 1  
VALENTINA M KERFOOT AND KENNETH W KERFOOT, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1039 WILLOW LN, BATAVIA, IL, 60510, according to the Mortgage dated December 20, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 08649, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 22, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0391 Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 6  
GARY G KOESLER AND NAOMI F KOESLER, HIS WIFE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, TRACY A KOESLER, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 2066 WILLIAM DR, MONTGOMERY, IL, 60538, according to the Mortgage dated November 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 09283, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0375, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 3  
GARY G KOESLER AND NAOMI F KOESLER, HIS WIFE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, TRACY A KOESLER, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1650 BRIDLE POST DR, AURORA, IL, 60506, according to the Mortgage dated November 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 09283, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0375, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 3  
GARY G KOESLER AND NAOMI F KOESLER, HIS WIFE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, TRACY A KOESLER, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 400 E RANDOLPH ST APT 3726, CHICAGO, IL, 60601, according to the Mortgage dated November 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 09283, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0375, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 3  
BARNETT S KOLTON, A SINGLE MAN AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, 9395 LANDINGS LN UNIT 404, DES PLAINES, IL, 60016, according to the Mortgage dated June 16, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 14941, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 05, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0052 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 11, Phase 1  
JENNIFER E MAGANA AND RAPHAEL JEFFRIE AKA RAPHAEL JEFFRIE SR, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1126 KAREN DR, JOLIET, IL, 60431, according to the Mortgage dated April 01, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 10901, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 29, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0206, Use Period Number(s) 16, Phase 4  
JENNIFER E MAGANA AND RAPHAEL JEFFRIE AKA RAPHAEL JEFFRIE SR, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 125 SAINT JOSEPH AVE, JOLIET, IL, 60436, according to the Mortgage dated April 01, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 10901, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 29, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0206, Use Period Number(s) 16, Phase 4  
JAMES J MOORE AND ELLA WARD MOORE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 5248 W CONGRESS PKWY APT 2, CHICAGO, IL, 60644, according to the Mortgage dated May 14, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 14445, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 28, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0284 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 38, Phase 4  
WALTER J RAMOS, A SINGLE MAN AND LAURA PATRICIA NARANJO ESPINOZA, A SINGLE WOMAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1406 BALTZ DR, JOLIET, IL, 60431, according to the Mortgage dated May 07, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 15943, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 11, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0010 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 31, Phase 1  
WILLIE RICHARDSON AND DEBORAH RICHARDSON, TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST AGREEMENT

OF WILLIE RICHARDSON AND DEBORAH RICHARDSON, DATED 12/14/2019, 359 DANIELLE RD, MATTESON, IL, 60443, according to the Mortgage dated June 26, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 12075, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 09, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0440 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 05, Phase 7  
MICHAEL A SAULSBERRY AND JODY L GLEMZA, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1317 DURANT RD, BRANDON, FL, 33511, according to the Mortgage dated May 29, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 17569, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 01, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0440 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 05, Phase 7  
MICHELLE LEIGH TAYLOR AND BRANDON RAY TAYLOR, WIFE AND HUSBAND, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 12107 PALM HARBORWAY, BUDA, TX, 78610, according to the Mortgage dated February 28, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 16496, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 18, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0436 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 7  
RYAN MARC P VIDAL AND JENALYN M MARQUEZ, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1807 W ARGYLE ST APT 104, CHICAGO, IL, 60640, according to the Mortgage dated April 28, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 11787, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 04, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0439 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 01, Phase 7  
NAZERINA T WILLIAMS AND KERRY L WILLIAMS, WIFE AND HUSBAND, AS JOINT

TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 408 LOCUST ST, NORTH AURORA, IL, 60542, according to the Mortgage dated May 29, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 17569, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on November 01, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0088 Frequency Odd, Use Period Number(s) 35, Phase 2  
TERMS OF SALE: At the time and location noted above, the timeshare estates listed above will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash. Purchase price shall be paid in full at the time of sale by cash or certified and immediately available funds. In the event the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent may offset against the purchase price of the timeshare estate(s) an amount equal to all or a portion of the amount due under the mortgage(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction.  
Holiday Inn Club Vacations Incorporated  
A Delaware corporation  
By Deborah A. Quirk  
Its Agent  
No. 0201  
(Feb. 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 53209, according to the Mortgage dated May 08, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2018 02493, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on March 02, 2018, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0088 Frequency Odd, Use Period Number(s) 35, Phase 2  
TERMS OF SALE: At the time and location noted above, the timeshare estates listed above will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash. Purchase price shall be paid in full at the time of sale by cash or certified and immediately available funds. In the event the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent may offset against the purchase price of the timeshare estate(s) an amount equal to all or a portion of the amount due under the mortgage(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction.  
Holiday Inn Club Vacations Incorporated  
A Delaware corporation  
By Deborah A. Quirk  
Its Agent  
No. 0201  
(Feb. 8, 15 and 22, 2023)

gations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.  
Dated: February 8, 2023  
Greg Vaccaro  
Clerk  
No. 0206  
(Feb. 15, 2023)

to take from you - the custody and guardianship of the minor, to terminate your parental rights and to appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption. You may lose all parental rights to your child. If the petition requests the termination of your parental rights and the appointment of a guardian with power to consent to adoption, you may lose all parental rights to the child. You are entitled to have an attorney represent you at all stages of these proceedings. If you are financially unable to afford a private attorney, the court will appoint an attorney for you. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights. Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and an order or judgment entered.  
Dated February 8, 2023  
Greg Vaccaro  
Clerk  
No. 0208  
(Feb. 15, 2023)

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)

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 FOR PUBLICATION NO: 2023-JD-13

To: Michael Johnson, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:  
Take notice that on the 7th day of February, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Tammera J. King, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom, 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 7th day of March, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.  
Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.  
Dated: February 8, 2023  
Greg Vaccaro  
Clerk  
No. 0207  
(Feb. 15, 2023)

#### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION NO: 2023-JD-13

To: Stephanie Mejorado, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:  
Take notice that on the 7th day of February, 2023 a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Tammera J. King, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom, 110 at Ottawa, Illinois on the 7th day of March, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, an Adjudicatory Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.  
Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the alle-

#### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION NO: 2020-JA-17

To: Aaron Marsh, Unknown Fathers, other interested parties, and to All Whom It May Concern:  
Take notice that on the 8th day of February, 2023 a petition to terminate your parental rights was filed under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 by Vicki L. Denny, in the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entitled 'In the interest of Reese Forrest, a minor', and that in the Criminal Justice Center Courtroom 210 at Ottawa on the 22nd day of March, 2023, at the hour of 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a Termination Hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared a ward of the court under that Act. The Court has authority in this proceeding

# Classified Marketplace

## FREE!

Sell your household items for free.  
Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words - one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



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### 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

"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."

### 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

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT firewood for sale. Contact 779-251-0254. (02-20-23)

### 309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

Free Kittens to good homes. Call 815-503-1881. (02-15-23)

### 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.

### 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
Downtown upstairs studio apartment for rent \$450, includes water and garbage, stove and refrigerator. Deposit Required call 815-910-7011

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA**  
1 & 2 Bedrooms, Appliances, A/C. 779-201-0532 815-498-2262.

### 509 HOUSES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath home on 2 acres in Rural Steward. \$1,400.00. Call 815-298-9300. (02/12/23)

### 515 GARAGES FOR RENT

**Mendota MULTIPLE**  
Garages for Rent 815-539-3747

### INFORMATION

**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Monday-Friday)  
**Phone:** 815-539-9396  
**Fax:** 815-539-7862  
**Email:** jgriffith@mendotareporter.com  
**Address:** 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota  
**Mail:** P.O. Box 300 Mendota IL 61342-0300

**DEADLINES:**  
• Mondays at 10 a.m. to start in Wednesday Mendota Reporter  
• Thursdays at 4 p.m. to start in Monday Money Saver

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 high-traffic newspaper websites:  
• Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$15.99 for garage sale ads.

**DISCLAIMER:**  
If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.



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Then imagine the number of readers and consumers in the MENDOTA AREA that noticed it too!  
Advertise your products and services and get noticed by THOUSANDS of readers.  
Call 815-539-9396  
The Mendota Reporter

### 203 HELP WANTED

Mendota High School is accepting applications for a full time bus mechanic. Letter of interest, resume and references should be sent to Gary Kettleborough, Transportation Director, 2300 W. Main Street, Mendota, IL. 61342 or email to: gkettleborough@mendotahs.org. Applications are due by March 10th. Flexible starting date, but no later than May 30, 2023.

Looking for a Director for our Area Museums. 25 Hours a week with some flexibility in scheduling. Should have good organizational and communication skills. Willing to learn PastPerfect software. Require a "people person" whom will be a team player. Send resume or letter to inai1rbw@msn.com. No phone calls please.

### 103 AUCTIONS

**2018 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab LT 4x4**

2018 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab LT, 4x4, GM-Certified, 6.0L Gas, Bedliner, Hide-a-Ball Hitch, Heated Cloth Seats, 55K Miles, Red and More!

**\$43,900**

2021 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LTZ, 4x4 Z71, 31K Miles, Silver.....\$49,900	2018 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab LT, 4x4, 6.0L Gas, 55K Miles, Red.....\$43,900
2021 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LT 4x4 Z71, Leather, 39K Miles, Maroon.....\$42,900	2018 Chevy K-1500 Crew, 4x4 High Country, Loaded, 71K Miles, Black.....\$41,900
2019 GMC Yukon XL, 4x4, DVD, Sunroof, 65K Miles, Gray.....\$45,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD Premier, 47K Miles, Tan .....\$24,900
2019 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LT, 4x4, 44K Miles, Black.....\$36,900	

### QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2022 Nissan Rogue Sport SV, FWD, 3K Miles, Blue.....\$25,900	2019 Cadillac XT4 FWD, 62K Miles, Red.....\$26,900
2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab, LTZ, Duramax Diesel, Z71, 4x4, 81K Miles, Black.....\$59,900	2018 Chevrolet Traverse Premier, AWD, Sunroof, 79K Miles, Black.....\$28,900
2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, Long Box, LT, 4x4, 96K Miles, Red.....\$37,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LT, Z71, 4X4, 120k Miles, Red.....\$26,900
2019 Chevrolet K-1500 Crew, LT 4x4, 85K Miles, White.....\$31,900	2016 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT Z71, 128K Miles, Red.....\$23,900
2019 Chevy 1500 Dbl Cab RST, 4WD, Z71, Gray.....\$28,900	

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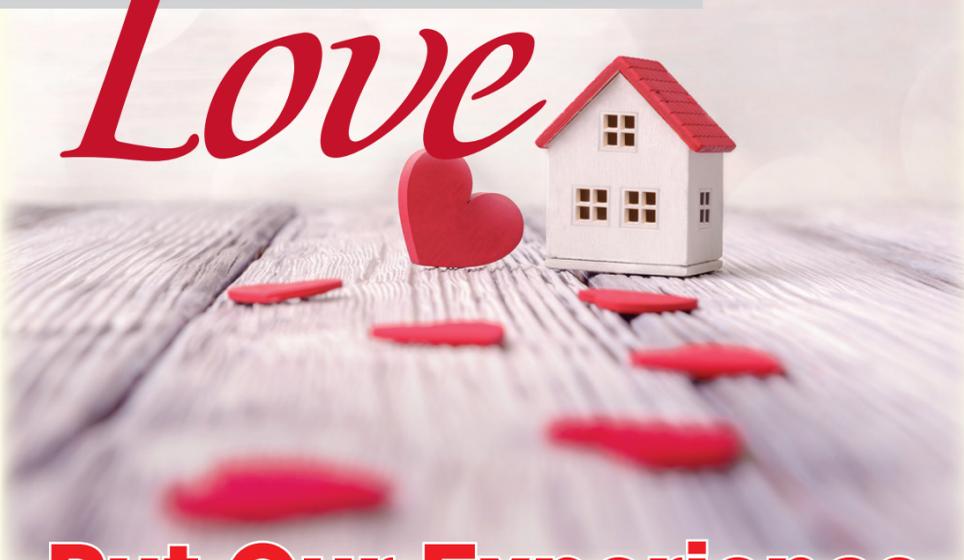
Looking for a large area to start, grow or expand your business? This large square footage building is it!!! Beautiful real hardwood floors on the lower levels. TWO PARCEL NUMBERS, TWO BUILDINGS combined into one great area. Three apartments upstairs. Two small one-bedroom apartments and one bigger apartment. Full basement on both sides. Furnace is approx 10 yrs old. Rubber roof is also approx 10 yrs old. Reinforced floor on the bar side due to the heavy load of the bar (which could be removed.)

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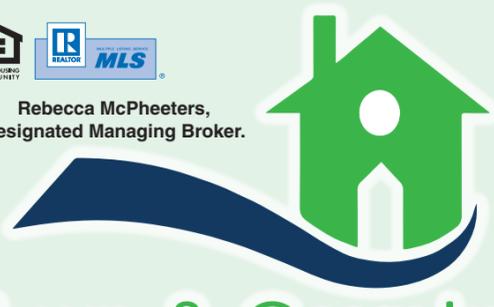


**Sally Corrigan,** Broker  
815-830-8101

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! LET'S FIND THE HOME THAT MELTS YOUR HEART



Rebecca McPheeters,  
Designated Managing Broker.



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**Evening Phone Numbers**  
Becky McPheeters, Designated  
Managing Broker 708-220-3338  
Rita Lilja 815-712-7346  
Jami Bauer 815-993-7751  
Lori Munson 815-228-4852

**Jami Bauer**  
REAL ESTATE AGENT  
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**Lori Munson**  
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**Joe McConville**  
Designated Managing Broker



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Call one of our Agents to set up your private showing.

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- Marty McConville, Broker 815-200-2233
- Richard McConville, Broker 815-539-5673
- Sharon Kimrey, Broker 815-343-3600
- Melody Nanzer, Broker 815-228-2842

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a MATCH**

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