



A polar plunge from 2022 is on his way to total submersion. This year’s Mendota plunge is set for Feb. 25.

Be cool: Raise money for Illinois Special Olympics

❑ Polar Plunge set Feb. 25 at Lake Mendota

MENDOTA – This winter, the Mendota community invites you to be cool and take the plunge for the 2023 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics Illinois athletes. Mendota’s Polar Plunge will take place at Lake Mendota, 1901 Tom Merwin Drive, on Saturday, Feb. 25. Prior to the event starting, registration will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the plunge starting at noon. Participants can find additional information at plungeillinois.com.

This year, participants may choose from two ways to take the plunge. They can attend one of the many in-person plunges hosted by Special Olympics Illinois, or they can choose to Create Your Own Plunge in their local community. Registration for both options is available at plungeillinois.com.

Participants are asked to use the hashtag #PlungeIllinois to showcase their efforts through pictures and video, as well as to tag Special Olympics Illinois on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok at @specialolympicsillinois.

Registered participants must raise a minimum of \$100 to plunge and receive the highly-coveted 2023 Po-

lar Plunge sweatshirt. Those who raise more than \$100 may earn other incentives and prizes.

For more information, contact the Region A Plunge Director, Katie Risley, at krisley@soill.org.

Special Olympics Illinois is the only entity in Illinois accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. and authorized by license to use the Polar Plunge® trademark and logo. Please feel free to contact Special Olympics Illinois at mmayer@soill.org with any questions.

The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is proud to be the statewide presenting sponsor for the 2023 Polar Plunge. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® has raised more than \$61 million since 1986 while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments.

Capturing a comic

❑ B. Sondgeroth takes his art outside of the classroom

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Brock Sondgeroth had a fan boy moment.

When he met his favorite comic book writer and artist, Alex Ross, he went speechless. Sondgeroth was so amazed with the opportunity to speak to the man that he had marveled at his work for decades that he couldn’t speak.

Eventually, he did get a few words in.

Now, the Mendota High School art teacher looks back at it as a special moment that he would never have experienced if a change didn’t come in his life.

“I’ve been trying to get out there and do a little more art since I’ve been doing coaching football and track and field,” said Sondgeroth, who last coached the Trojans in 2017. “Not coaching opened me up to be able to do something I’ve wanted to my entire life, which was to get into my own art and get it out there for people. Being an art teacher and a coach, I wasn’t able to do it.

“I loved coaching and I gave it my heart and soul, so much so, that I kind of put off other ambitions that I had, which were some of my artistic ambitions. To be honest, my last couple years of coaching, I was burnt out. It kind of hurt at first when I was told they



didn’t want me back as a coach, but looking back a few years later, it was a blessing in disguise and one of the best things that could have happened to me.

“It’s so cool to be a fan again where you can sit back and watch. I’ve been to many high school football games and track meets. It’s cool to be a fan and not be the one under the pressure of calling plays.”

Not only does Sondgeroth get to be a sports fan, but he also gets to be a full-time artist.

At first, he was lost.

After being used to preparing detailed practice plans and having the responsibility for each player and member of his coaching staff, he didn’t have any duties.

Art filled the void and has become his No. 1 priority.

“Being an art teacher, you need to know about every kind of art. You can look at my website – www.artofbrocksondgeroth.com – and I have a little bit of everything. I have ceramics, paintings, drawings, digital drawings, and more. I love to do it all. Right now, I’m focusing on Copic markers, acrylic paint, and digital art.

“My wife, Kimberly, and I have a business together called, That Quirky Couple. We’re into all of the nerdy and geeky stuff. We go to comic cons to sell my artwork and her sewing and embroidering work. We’ve mixed it together to where I’ll design something, and she will embroider and put it on things. She’s taken some of my artwork, had it printed on fabric, and sewed it onto purses and T-shirts.



When his coaching career at Mendota High School came to an end in 2017, Mendota High School art teacher Brock Sondgeroth turned to comic book art to fill the void. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

brocksondgeroth.com – and I have a little bit of everything. I have ceramics, paintings, drawings, digital drawings, and more. I love to do it all. Right now, I’m focusing on Copic markers, acrylic paint, and digital art.

“My wife, Kimberly, and I have a business together called, That Quirky Couple. We’re into all of the nerdy and geeky stuff. We go to

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See Comic, Page A5

Dept. of Revenue offering Senior Citizens Tax Deferral program

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) reminds senior citizens about the availability of the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program, which allows qualified seniors to defer all or part of their property taxes and special assessment payments on their principal residences. Seniors needing assistance paying their property taxes have until March 1, 2023 to apply for the program.

The program, which works like a loan, allows qualified seniors to

defer a maximum of \$7,500 per tax year (including both first and second installment payments), increased from \$5,000 last year. Deferred amounts are borrowed from the state, who pays the tax bill to the County Collector’s Office. The program was also expanded this year to increase the household income threshold qualification from \$55,000 to \$65,000.

Interest on the amount paid by the state accumulates and a lien is placed on the property for all deferred tax pay-

ments and interest, payable upon death of the homeowner, at the time the home is transferred to a new owner, or sooner, if the program participant chooses to pay off the deferred tax payments and interest.

“We encourage all eligible seniors who need help in paying their property taxes to look into this program and apply by the March 1 deadline,”

See Tax, Page A5

Pritzker’s second-term agenda buoyed by ongoing strong revenue expectations

By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker proposed a state budget Feb. 15 that anticipates continued strong revenue receipts even as federal COVID-19 stimulus funds dry up, allowing for increased spending across all levels of education and most of state government.

Giving his annual speech from the state House chamber for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic upended daily life across the globe, the governor asserted that the actions of his first term laid the groundwork for the new

spending he outlined.

“Fiscal responsibility isn’t easy, nor is it a one-time fix,” Pritzker said. “It’s an annual effort that requires persistence. It requires conservative revenue estimates, as all of my budget proposals have. But when done right, consistent



Pritzker

balanced budgets strengthen the institutions our residents rely upon, creates new opportunities for success, and makes life easier for the

people of Illinois.”

All told, the governor outlined a Fiscal Year 2024 budget that anticipates \$49.9 billion in general revenues, a \$1.4 billion decrease from current FY 23 estimates. Excluding current-year contributions to the state’s “rainy day” fund, the \$49.6 billion in approved FY 24 spending represents a drop-off of about \$350 million.

New spending

Much of the spending growth proposed by Pritzker would remain on the books beyond Fiscal Year 2024, unlike recent one-time spending approved over the

“As of Fiscal Year 2023, all our state’s short-term and medium-term liabilities will have been eliminated. All of it. Our budgets are built on a solid foundation of normalized state revenue and more efficient management of state resources.”

–Gov. JB Pritzker

past two budget years.

The spending plan allocates a \$250 million funding increase to expand child care, a more-than \$500 million increase for K-12 education-related spending, and a combined \$200 million for state college operations and low-income scholarships.

The governor also proposed adding \$54.6 million from the General Revenue

Fund to the Department of Children and Family Services budget for provider rate reforms, programs to protect workers and boosting staffing by 192 new hires.

The plan also ups the GRF contribution to the Department of Human Services by more than \$650 million, a number that includes some of the new early childhood spending.

The Department of Healthcare and Family Services, meanwhile, would see an increase of more than \$700 million in GRF spending.

“The investments we’ve made in social service agencies over the past four years and that we are proposing for the coming year will finally

See Budget, Page A5



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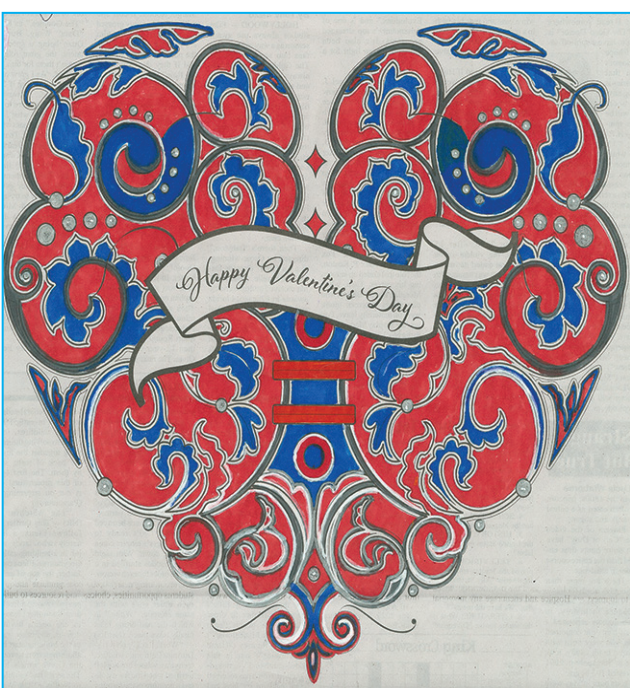
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LOCAL AND AREA

The Mendota Reporter Adult Coloring Contest Winners



First Place
Carol Wendel, age 84, of Mendota



Second Place
Kari Huff, age 68, of Mendota



Third Place Tie
Josephine Grabowski, age 93, of Mendota



Third Place Tie
Rose Kobilsek, age 89, of Mendota

Blackstone School Report Stacy Kelly, Principal

We can't thank our families and community enough for the recent support of our last fundraiser of the year. We sold over 6,000 Nothing Bundt Cakes and we are so grateful for the support. Thank you also to the parent volunteers and staff who had the monumental task of counting, organizing and distributing all of the cakes. We greatly appreciate the overwhelming support! □□□

Mrs. Lamps and her students recently completed a community kindness activity. They made 140 Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Stonecroft and Heritage Health in Mendota. Attached to each card were some candy kisses. We hope this kind gesture brought a smile to many faces! Thank you to Mrs. Lamps, her students and their parents for their role in this kindness project. □□□

Valentine parties were held on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The students enjoyed opening their cards from their friends and all of the delicious treats. Thank you to the parents who donated items for the students. They had a great day. □□□

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Rayla Nagy, Liam Robison, Joaquin Otero, Brielle Scudder-Taylor, Richard Vazquez, Spencer Nelson, Renata Falcon, Greyson Gleim and Mateo Escatel. The winners were Emmett Mellott, Jonathan Morato, Kennedy Piller and Quentin Montecinos. Congratulations to all of you! □□□

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up on Monday, Feb. 27 and Wednesday, March 1. It is important that all parents sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher to discuss academic and social growth through the second trimester. If parents haven't signed up for a conference time yet, please contact the teacher as soon as possible.

Beginning Beekeeper Workshop March 11 in Ottawa

OTTAWA – The Illinois Valley Beekeepers Association is offering a Beginning Beekeeper Workshop on Saturday, March 11 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University of Illinois Extension Building, 1689 N. 31st Road, Ottawa.

Come and learn about the fascinating honey bee and how to manage them and their new home, the beehive.

The workshop, taught

by experienced beekeepers, will prepare you to keep and care for honeybees.

The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for young adults under 18. Lunch will be served and raffles conducted at the end of the workshop.

To register, contact the University of Illinois Extension Center, pay at the door or call to pre-register at 815-357-3292.

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LOCAL AND AREA

National Honor Society to put the volleyball nets up for MASS

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA — Before COVID-19, the Mendota High School National Honor Society hosted an annual dodge ball game and donated the funds to a local organization, group, or club.

Getting back in the groove of holding a fundraising sporting activity, the NHS decided against dodgeball this year because the MHS Student Council is holding a dodgeball game of their own.

Then an idea of a volleyball tournament rose to the surface and became the winning option as the MHS

National Honor Society will have a volleyball tournament at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 in the big gym.

Each of the registered teams is allowed 6-8 people and it's \$5 per each member of the team. Entry for spectators is \$3.

In the fundraising spirit, all funds will be donated to Mendota Area Senior Services.

"Alex Casas and Isabelle Escatel wanted to give the funds to MASS. I thought it was a perfect project," said Alisa Stewart, who is Interact Club staff supervisor and the first-year sponsor of the MHS NHS after Matt Gehm was the

sponsor for 11 years. "They're supposed to do two projects a year. The Interact Club and National Honor Society are doing a blood drive in the spring. They had another project they needed, and they decided the volleyball tournament would be great and a lot of fun."

"I love inner connecting the different generations. I think it's really fun. There is nothing better than an older resident hanging out with some of the younger ones. And for the younger generation to give back to the older generation. They need to be thinking about that more than they should

be thinking of themselves.

"Working with both the Interact Club and NHS, I think it's a unique group of kids that are very committed to giving back."

MASS Director Rayanne Sester was shocked but excited when she received the phone call.

She is asking every member of the MASS Board and the registered area seniors to mark the volleyball tournament on their calendar to show support for the students and other players who are helping support MASS.

"When they contacted us, I was surprised, but I

thought it was a great idea. We've always pushed for the intergenerational activities," Sester said. "It hasn't always been well received until we started working with Alex Casas and Isabelle Escatel."

"They've come and helped us with a lot of our fundraisers, especially the pork chop dinner. They just add some brightness everywhere they go. The first time they came, they were standing at the door waving to all of the people who drove through the drive thru."

"It's nice to find teens that want to have that interaction with the older people in our

community and that they want to help out the older people with something like a volleyball tournament where the funding is going to MASS."

Sester added MASS had an extremely challenging year last year and has struggled financially. She appreciated Casas, Escatel, and the Mendota High School National Honor Society for thinking of the senior services.

"It's just a really cool thing," Sester said. "I don't know what to expect, but I'm going to be there to cheer on the girls and the team. I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

LaSalle Public Library, Peru Public Library virtually hosting different guests throughout March

LaSALLE — LaSalle Public Library will be joining libraries across the state of Illinois in virtually hosting entertaining and hilarious New York Times bestselling science author, Mary Roach, on Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. In this event, Roach will discuss her frank approach to science, and the importance of humor, and explore the weird, wonderful world in which we live.

Roach is the author of *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, *Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal*, *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*, and *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*.

The virtual event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341. Register — https://bit.ly/ILP_MaryRoach.

The event is presented in partnership with Illinois Libraries Present, which is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Peru Public Library is also a part of this event. To register, visit

https://bit.ly/ILP_MaryRoach For more information, visit <https://perulibrary.org/> or call (815) 223-0229.

LaSalle Public Library will be hosting licensed storm chaser Nick Bartholomew from Illinois Storm Chasers on Tuesday, March 21, at 6 p.m., for a virtual presentation on the science of severe weather. In his presentation, he will discuss local climatology and past tornadic events, while providing photos and videos of his own storm-chasing experiences.

Bartholomew has been obsessed with the weather for as long as he can remember. When he was younger, he was interested in the weather but was terrified when thunderstorms would roll in. As he grew older that fear turned into a burning desire to understand severe weather, and as soon as he got his license, he would go on local chases to see Mother Nature up close. In 2016, he decided to kick it up a notch and start traveling to Tornado Alley, having documented over a dozen tornadoes so far in his career.

The program will be presented virtually and is free and open to the public. To register, please use the fol-

lowing link — <https://bit.ly/3YAzgZ0>. For more information, please contact the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341.

LaSalle Public Library will be virtually hosting Father Dominic Garramore aka the Bread Monk, on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation on the history of scones, from medieval times to the present day. The presentation will include basic techniques for a classic scone recipe with some easy variations, and more advanced recipes, like Norfolk scones with a layer of raspberry filling, and savory scones with bacon, cheddar, and chives.

Father Dominic Garramore, OSB, is a monk at Saint Bede Abbey in Peru. He was the host of the PBS cooking show, *Breaking Bread* with Father Dominic, from 1999 to 2001. He has written 10 cookbooks. Father Dominic says he got his culinary education "between my mother's kitchen, PBS, and the public library."

The program will be presented virtually and is free and open to the public. To register, please use the following link — <https://bit.ly/3Y-F4KNM>. For more information, please contact the LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341.

GROWMARK System offering pollinator garden program

BLOOMINGTON — Honey bees and other pollinators play an important role in the agricultural ecosystem. These same pollinators are under stress from a number of factors: pests, disease, lack of habitat, and more. The GROWMARK System would like to help youth organizations do their part to help sustain and increase honey bee populations.

This is the eighth year of the program, open to 4-H clubs, Ag in the Classroom groups, FFA chapters, and other youth organizations throughout the United States. Groups who previously participated in the program have been automatically re-enrolled.

Organizations are asked to locate a public place and secure permission to plant a pollinator garden prior to filling out an application. This could be in a park, near a school, along a well-traveled road, at the county fairgrounds, or any visible location. GROWMARK will provide enough seed to plant approximately a 700-square foot area, as well as educational signage to be placed around the garden.

"More than 300 youth organizations have been part of the program since 2016," said Karen Jones, GROWMARK Youth and Young Producer Specialist. "Growing the number of pollinator gardens this year will help provide even more habitat for bees and other beneficial pollinator species."

Clubs wishing to participate should fill out the online application by March 8, 2023: <http://bit.ly/2023GMKPollinator>. Questions may be directed to Karen Jones, kjones@growmark.com or 309-557-6184.

GROWMARK is an agricultural cooperative serving almost 400,000 customers across North America, providing agronomy, energy, facility engineering and construction, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services.



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Sharon D. Nurnberg

OGLESBY — Sharon D. (Larsen) Nurnberg, 79, of Oglesby and former longtime resident of Mendota, passed on Feb. 17, 2023, at Heritage Health, Mendota surrounded by all her family.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota, with the Rev. Sandy Smith officiating. Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. until time of services.

Sharon was born April 15, 1943 in Aurora to Howard and Marjorie (Wach) Biehl.

Sharon is survived by her children, Jim (Shelby) Larsen of Mendota, Melody (Jim) Stremlau of Oglesby, Kevin Larsen of Oglesby and Bart Larsen of Mendota; three brothers and three sisters; seven grandchildren, Joshua Larsen, Alyse (Max) Briddick, Anthony (Janessa) Larsen, Krista (Jordan Gunia) Miller, Amber Knox, Karli Larsen and McKinzie Larsen; six great-grandchildren and the father of her children, Bob Larsen of Mendota.

She was preceded in death by her father, Howard Biehl, her mother and stepfather, Marjorie (Arnold) Larsen, and two grandchildren, Dank Miller and Dusty Miller.

Sharon grew up in Hinckley and attended Hinckley High School. She worked at Ziggy's Family Restaurant in Mendota from 1975 until her retirement. Many knew she was a force to be reckoned with. She had a huge and giving heart especially when it came to her family.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where Sharon was a longtime donor to. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com

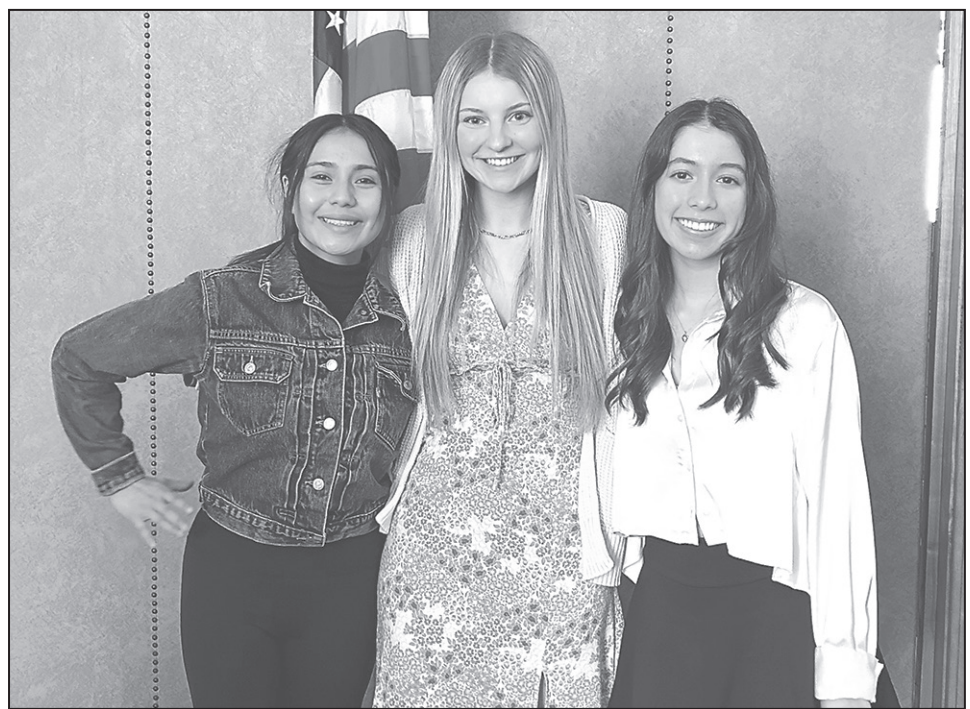


DAR Chapter holds breakfast for area Good Citizen winners

MENDOTA — The Fort du Rocher Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a continental breakfast on Feb. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church to honor the DAR's Good Citizens from area schools.

The DAR Good Citizen program and scholarship contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. The program is open to all high school seniors. Each school nominates one student who exemplifies the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

This year's DAR Good Citizens were Isabelle Escatel from Mendota Township High School, Taylor Martyn from LaSalle-Peru Township High School and Noreily Hernandez from Earlville High School. Escatel was selected as the chapter winner for the DAR Good Citizen contest. Her essay went on to the district level for com-



The Fort du Rocher Chapter of DAR recognized Good Citizen winners from area schools. Left to right, are Noreily Hernandez of Earlville High School, Taylor Martyn of LaSalle-Peru High School and Isabelle Escatel of Mendota High School. (Photo contributed)

petition. Essays won at the district level advance to the state and national levels. The winner at the national level

receives \$5,000.

DAR is a service organization with 3,000 chapters worldwide. Members are

women 18 years of age or older who can prove lineal descent from a patriot in the American Revolution.

Stage 212 is offering audition preparation workshops March 4

LaSALLE — Stage 212 in LaSalle is offering audition preparation workshops for children in grades K-4 and adults 18 and over on Saturday, March 4 from 10-11:30 a.m. Participants will learn the process of auditioning for plays and musicals in a low-risk environment.

Children will be instructed by Serena Rogers. Adults will be instructed by Ellen Marincic. The cost for the workshops is \$10 per person. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. Registration and more information are available online at www.stage212.org.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

UW-Milwaukee names Dean's List students

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has named its Dean's List students for the Fall 2022 semester.

Among the students achieving the honor, all from Mendota, are Aaron Brandner, engineering & computer science; Grace Brandner, nursing; Reiss Buettner, business; Emma Guelde, education; and Maren Wise, letters & science.

UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 23,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Augustana College names Dean's List members

ROCK ISLAND — Aliza Salinas-Cervantes, of Mendota, was named to Augustana College's fall semester Dean's List.

The college named more than 1,000 to the Dean's List for the 2022-23 fall semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

Known for sparking passionate curiosity, Augustana College is an empowering home to explore over 90 areas of study. Augustana's innovative program, Augie Choice, transforms students into global citizens, thinkers and doers with a \$2,000 grant to explore the world, complete an internship or conduct research with a professor. Augustana students achieve a balance inside and outside of the classroom; ranking top ten in all divisions for Academic All Americans. Transformed to be different, current students and alumni include healthcare heroes, Nobel Prize winners, CEOs, college presidents and leaders across all continents. The college enrolls 2,500 curious changemakers who get energized by four years as part of a community that reflects the diversity of the United States.

Mendota student on UW-Platteville Dean's List

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the fall 2022 semester.

Among the students earning the honor is Madeline Hoelzer of Mendota, Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies.

College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Education require grade-point averages of 3.75 and above for Dean's List honors, while the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science requires students to reach at least a 3.50.

Paw Paw students receive scholarships

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Foundation is pleased to announce the student scholarship recipients for the Spring 2023 semester. The Foundation awarded 280 scholarship awards totaling \$181,845.

Scholarship funds are made possible through generous gifts from members of the community, local businesses and industry, and area agencies and associations. Students are selected on a competitive basis, according to each scholarship's specific requirements.

Among the Kishwaukee College students receiving awards are Jessica Solis of Paw Paw, Ruth I. Hall Nursing Endowment, and Brennen McNally of Paw Paw, Emma Anderson Fund.

K. Meloy on Illinois Wesleyan Dean's List

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

Meloy was among 757 students from 28 states and 28 countries named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List.

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

Founded in 1850, Illinois Wesleyan is a nationally recognized, highly selective liberal arts university. The University is exclusively undergraduate and enrolls approximately 1,700 students from across the nation and around the globe. Illinois Wesleyan prides itself on producing graduates who are well-rounded, broadly educated individuals with a spirit of inquiry who can successfully adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing, complex world.

Earlville student honored at UW-Stevens Point

STEVENS POINT, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Among the students achieving the honor is Paige Marks of Earlville, Honors.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Budget

Continued from Page A1

have reversed the hollowing out that occurred in human services under the previous administration if we are able to hire up enough staff in this tight labor market,” Pritzker said. “We are cautiously optimistic that we can do so.”

The spending increases sparked concern from Republicans as the proposal heads to lawmakers in the General Assembly for their consideration over the next several months.

“Last year, the Democratic majority added another \$4 billion in spending on top of the governor’s proposed budget. This year, the governor’s proposal seeks to build upon that spending,” Senate Minority Leader John Curran said in a statement. “We must heed the warnings of Comptroller (Susana) Mendoza and be disciplined in our fiscal approach at a time when we are likely to experience a recession.”

Mendoza, meanwhile, told Capitol News Illinois that after seeing Pritzker’s proposal, she was supportive of the new spending, which she called “strategic, targeted” investments in the state’s future.

Increased deficit?

In announcing some of the new spending, Pritzker downplayed the potential that it could lead to a deficit in future budget years.

The Governor’s Office of Management and Budget predicted in November that by 2025, Illinois could be facing a deficit of up to \$384 million, potentially increasing in the following years.

“I’ve been working very hard to make sure that we’re not going to have deficits going forward,” Pritzker said. “And it appears that we’re doing better than expected.”

While senior budget officials declined to give an updated revenue projection for FY2025 in a briefing prior to the budget address, they noted that the current-year budget isn’t reliant on “one-time” revenues.

And their \$49.9 billion revenue projection factored in a “mild recession” that could occur this year, they noted.

Still, the appropriated spending remains relatively close to the past two years, indicating a level of confidence that the economy will at least temporarily continue to perform at a pace that budgeting forecasters had previously characterized as “amazing” amid pandemic-related stimulus.

Individual income tax revenues are expected to grow by \$778 million in FY 24 while corporate income tax revenues shrink by \$175 million. Sales taxes and all other sources are expected to remain relatively level, while the only major decrease — of nearly \$1.3 billion — comes in the category of “transfers in.” That’s because strong

income tax performance in FY 22 created a \$1.4 billion transfer into the general fund for the current year that isn’t expected to repeat.

Drivers of ‘new’ revenue

Pritzker chalked up the strong revenue performance at least partially to a number of laws signed in his first term. Those included eliminating certain corporate tax exemptions to raise about \$655 million annually and streamlining collection of online sales tax to increase revenue collections by hundreds of millions as well. He also cited general revenue transfers from recreational marijuana taxes as helping make budgeting easier.

But Pritzker cited another “new” revenue source made available by recent state actions — general funds that are no longer going to interest payments because the source of debt has been repaid.

“As of Fiscal Year 2023, all our state’s short-term and medium-term liabilities will have been eliminated. All of it,” Pritzker said in his speech. “Our budgets are built on a solid foundation of normalized state revenue and more efficient management of state resources.”

He specifically noted the state paid down \$900 million in group health insurance debt, \$230 million in College Illinois debt, \$4.5 billion in borrowing to keep the Unemployment Trust Fund afloat and \$1.3 billion in previous interfund borrowing.

Pritzker’s office estimated that nearly \$3 billion in savings to the state’s coffers has been realized through the early debt repayment and other debt refinancing, a pension buyout program, changes to collective bargaining for state employee health insurance costs and other actions.

In the FY24 budget, the governor proposed allocating \$450 million to defease debt taken on through the Railsplitter Tobacco Settlement Authority to pay bills during the Great Recession. It could save an estimated \$60 million in interest.

Pritzker also proposed using an updated current-year surplus to contribute an additional \$200 million to the state’s pension fund beyond the amount required in law. That would bring the total pension liability savings resulting from recent changes to law to \$4 billion, although the state’s unfunded pension liability remains at roughly \$139 billion.

“We have used our surpluses to chip away at our long-term liabilities too, including \$500 million more into our pension stabilization fund over the last two years and my proposal this year to increase that by another \$200 million,” Pritzker said. “The percent of the budget needed to meet our statutory obligations has declined as our revenues have grown and our fiscal fortunes have improved.”

Tax

Continued from Page A1

said Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) Director David Harris. “Not only has the income threshold been increased this year but the program has also been expanded to allow seniors to defer a greater amount of their property tax payments.”

To qualify for the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral, a property owner must:

- be 65 years of age or older prior to June 1 of the year that the application is being filed with the County Collector’s Office,
- have a total annual household income of no more than \$65,000,
- have owned and occupied the property or other qualifying residence for at least the last three years,
- own the property, or

share joint ownership with a spouse, or be the sole beneficiary, or the property owner and spouse be the sole beneficiaries of an Illinois land trust,

- have no unpaid property taxes and special assessments on the property, and
- have adequate insurance against fire or casualty loss.

To apply for the program, seniors need to contact their local County Collector’s Office to receive an application. Once completed, the application must be filed with the Collector’s Office on or before March 1 of each year they wish to defer their property taxes or special assessments.

For general questions concerning the program, taxpayers may visit IDOR’s website at tax.illinois.gov or contact their local County Collector’s Office.

IVCC Wind Ensemble to present concert March 2

OGLESBY—Illinois Valley Community College’s Wind Ensemble will offer a free concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 2 in the Dr. Mary Margaret Weeg Cultural Centre.

The performance will include the music of Malcolm Arnold, Jonathan Dagenais, Charles Ives, Claude T. Smith, John Philip Sousa and Omar Thomas. Selections include “Four Scottish Dances,” “Mouvement Frenetique,” “Variations on America,” “Emparata Overture,” “The Invincible Eagle,” and “Shenandoah.”

Under the direction of conductor Phil Whaley, the ensemble includes IVCC students, local and regional



Under the direction of Phil Whaley, the IVCC Wind Ensemble will hold a free concert on March 2.

music educators, and community members dedicated to the promotion of quality wind and percussion music.

Sublette Village Board OKs several purchases

By TONJAGREENFIELD
Publisher

SUBLETTE — The village of Sublette Board approved a few purchases during its monthly meeting.

The board met in session at 7 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 13, in the Ellice Dinges Center. All members were present except for village board member MacKenzie Belan.

The board approved a purchase of a Hach meter for the water department at a cost of \$2,085.50. The meter will be used to test water.

The board also approved a motion to purchase an eight-foot and a 14-foot step ladder for the Ellice Dinges Center.

In other board news:

- The board approved a temporary liquor license for Sublette 365’s event on Feb. 25.
- Don Dinges reported to the board that he and Sublette Village Trustee Julie Kessel compiled a list of Sublette events for 2023. He also said he has lined up a speaker for the Memorial Day service.
- Stenzel reported that all

Cross Connection/Service Line water surveys and Comprehensive Plan surveys were sent out. As of the previous Saturday, 34 water surveys were returned and 44 comprehensive plan surveys were returned.

- The board has approximately \$57,000 to use as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. They discussed using the money for playground equipment for toddlers, speed signs and/or speed bumps for the village, or downtown projects. Board members will continue to look into options.
- On the April 4 Consolidated Election, there will be three village board seats up for election. On the ballot are: incumbent MacKenzie Belan, Linda Klaser, Brigantia O’Sadnick and Richard Klaser. Two candidates are officials write ins — incumbents Scott Hanson and Jeff Myers.

The next Sublette Village Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m., on Monday, March 13, at the Ellice Dinges Center.

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Comic

Continued from Page A1

“It’s been really cool to see what we do kind of grow. We’re always looking to expand some of things that we can do. It’s awesome to go to some of these comic cons to see the vested interest and respect into their fandom. They go nuts over the stuff that you bring.”

Sondgeroth has sold his art at the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, the Burgoo Festival in Utica, and other small, local craft shows. His artwork is also sold at True North in Morris.

But what he looks forward to the most is comic cons and Harry Potter art festivals, such as the ones him and Kimberly traveled to in Omaha, Neb., and Detroit.

“When I went to college, my professors looked at comic book art as not real art. They had us focus on all of the impressionist art and the other types of traditional art,” Sondgeroth said. “They pushed comic book art off to the side because they thought it was kind of taboo.”

“I’ve always loved it, but the older I’ve gotten, the more I realize how unbelievably creative comic book artists have to be to come up with a pose for the character, a background, and a story. They’re literally telling a story in a picture.”

“And, also, you have to make it look cool. If it doesn’t

look cool, people won’t like what it is.”

The Vincent van Gogh and Leonid Afremov fan enjoys painting, drawing, and creating any character whether it’s a DC or Marvel likeness.

He is currently working on a portfolio he plans to submit at C2E2 on March 31-April 2 at McCormick Place in Chicago.

The portfolio is helping his brain and artistic talents run wild, while also helping his students and opening their minds to the power of their abilities.

“I’m creating the portfolio because I am an art teacher and I am in the high school I want students to see that they should push themselves to see what they can do,” Sondgeroth said. “I’ve had students ask me if I’m putting the portfolio together to get a job and leave. I am not.”

“If you can get an interview with Marvel, they will sit down with you and tell you what they like about your art and what they don’t like about your art. I want to hear their opinion of it. It would be great to take that information back to my students and tell them what Marvel and other studios are looking for.”

Until then, he’s going to keep creating and try to find the right words to say to Alex Ross the next time he sees him.



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New lawmakers' top priority should be tax relief for Illinoisans

By **BRYCE HILL**
Illinois Policy Institute

New Illinois lawmakers who were sworn into office Jan. 11 would serve their state well if they started their terms by providing overtaxed Illinoisans with economic relief.

Early into 2023, Illinoisans continue to pay many costs that residents of other states do not. Those costs include the highest cell phone taxes and second-highest property taxes in the nation.

Illinois' excess taxes and fees further hurt the state's families, who are already struggling to pay the ongoing costs of rampant, nationwide inflation. Lawmakers' inertia on tax reform over time may be discouraging, but the new legislative session offers hope for change. New lawmakers looking to make a difference could do so by eliminating some of the unnecessary costs that make Illinois a less affordable place to live.

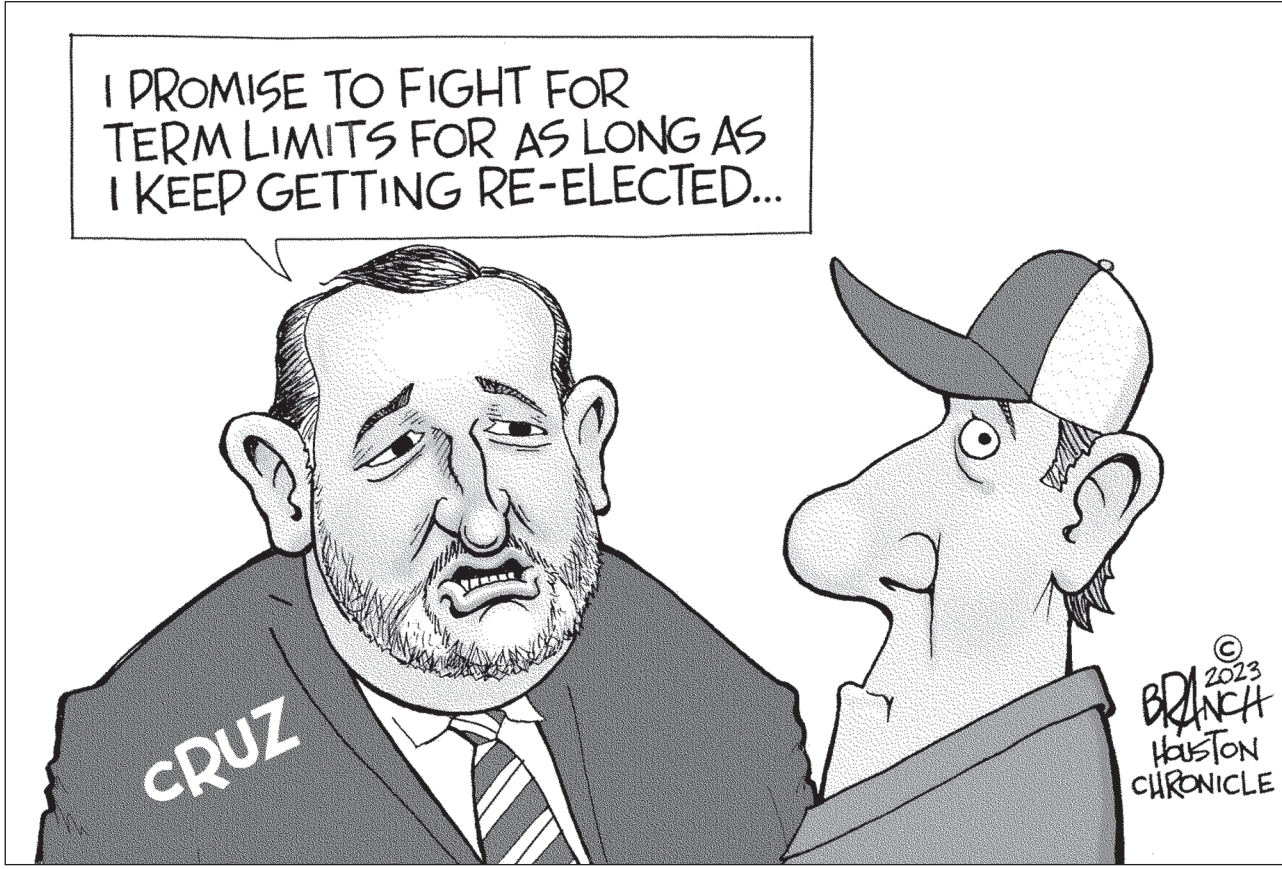
Here are three potential solutions Illinois' leaders could pursue:

1. End automatic gas tax hikes.
Lawmakers can start by alleviating Illinoisans' pain at the pump, which far surpasses that of other states. Thanks to Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's doubled gas tax and automatic, annual gas-tax increases, Illinoisans pay the highest gas taxes in the Midwest and the second-highest in the nation. Pritzker added to Illinoisans' burden for 2023 by delaying last year's gas-tax hike until after the November 2022 election. The postponement forced Illinoisans to start the new year with a 3-cent increase, which brought the gas tax total up to 42.3 cents per gallon. The regularly scheduled hike that will follow on July 1, 2023, is expected to raise the state's gas tax to more than 44 cents per gallon.
- Meanwhile, residents of other states saw relief from high fuel prices heading into 2023. National gas prices reached a 15-month low before the turn of the year.
- New lawmakers could help Illinoisans by ending automatic gas tax increases, which would force lawmakers to vote on tax hikes. Taxpayers should have more say in how and when their money is spent, not less.
2. Adopt hold-harmless pension reform to reduce Illinoisans' property tax burden.
The second-highest property tax burden in the nation could be much lower. During Pritzker's tenure alone, annual property taxes have increased by nearly \$4 billion.
- While Illinois' nation-leading \$139 billion in unfunded pension liabilities in the five state retirement systems eat at the state budget, local governments are accountable for approximately another \$70 billion in local government pension debt, which consumes significant chunks of property tax dollars.
- Adopting a hold-harmless pension reform plan would uphold the state's pension promises to current workers and retirees and allow for adjustments to future benefits. This could put the state's financial affairs in order and help offer property tax relief.
3. Loosen regulations on small businesses.
Small businesses are the lifeblood of Illinois, and alleviating pressures on them is a must when it comes to attracting new jobs and signaling Illinois is open for business. Businesses with fewer than 20 employees are the only companies that saw job growth since the pandemic hit, according to Illinois Policy Institute research.
- How do Illinois' leaders reward small businesses for their contributions? With more regulatory hurdles than other states. Illinois has the third-highest number of state regulations with 278,475 individual restrictions and requirements, more than double the U.S. average. More entrepreneurs apply to start but then fail to open businesses in Illinois than nearly every other Midwestern state, indicating there is something unique in Illinois' regulatory process that holds back entrepreneurs.
- Trimming Illinois' costly regulations would free up resources that small business owners could use to reinvest in their businesses.
- First-time Illinois lawmakers have a chance to start anew and take on the issues that their predecessors did not. Adopting these reforms would signify true change in the state and foster an improved, much more affordable quality of life for Illinoisans. Now that's a way to start off a new job.

(Bryce Hill is director of fiscal and economic research with the Illinois Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research organization.)

Mendota City Officials

MAYOR	David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive,815-538-3924
CITY CLERK	Emily McConville, 1404 Ben Mar Ave.,815-539-7459
FIRST WARD ALDERMEN	James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...815-538-2474 John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,815-539-9934
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FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN	Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,815-252-7243 Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,815-866-5558



Check on progress in Mendota – 1985

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Feb. 22, 1995.)
By **Jessica Nashold**

The Mendota Reporter for Feb. 29, 1985 – 10 years ago – carried a progress section. It mentioned that building in Mendota during 1984 had approached the \$1.5 million mark. This included a street department building for the city of Mendota, a warehouse and officer for Kerr McGee and new single-family residences, garages, out buildings and additions to both businesses and private homes.

Ground had been broken in December of 1984 for a 23-bed addition to Heritage Manor, increasing capacity to 99 beds.

Hart Carter had secured North American manufacturing and marketing rights for Dyna Drive, equipment capable of one-passage seedbed preparation. The Dyna Drive had been developed in England and Hart Carter expected to "go metric" when going into production in the Mendota plant.

Hart Carter hopes to eventually produce about 1,000 Dyna Drives each year.

Heico Inc. sold its material handling division to Conco Tellus, but maintained a corporate office on Route 34 east of Mendota. Heico still handled Spartan Tools and Field Controls.

Conco Tellus, Inc. was awarded a contract from General Motors in excess of \$20 million for production of special vehicles to be produced in 1985-86.

They replace the conventional conveyor type of system.
Conco Tellus had 220 employees.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Time Was Museum expanded to 10 buildings south of Mendota on Route 251.

More than 80 motor coach groups visited Time Was in 1984.
The museum was operated from May through October.

Combined Communication Services with five divisions, including former Wayside Press, was involved in more than 200 publications.

The Mendota Reporter changed to six columns during 1984 and reported the arrival of Kip Cheek to take charge of sports reporting.

Del Monte reported a full-time staff of 100 with a peak of 600 part-time and regular workers during the summer of 1984. Del Monte still provided sweet corn for Mendota's annual Sweet Corn Festival and, with The Reporter, co-sponsored a 10K run during the festival. There were 261 runners.

Don Carr, Mendota postmaster, announced his retirement to be effective March 1, 1985. He began as a mail carrier in 1948 and saw volume rise to \$4.5 million in business at the Mendota office, largely because of Wayside and later Combined Communications. Said Carr –

Abig operation for a small town.
Carr explained that Harry Haley

of Rockford would serve as officer in charge until a new postmaster could be appointed.

Volunteers in the Mendota Fire Department were pleased with the response to their annual fundraising party and dance in 1985. Fire Chief Jim Johnson said proceeds were going toward the rescue van and equipment for the men. The equipment included a \$300 pager, \$65 boots, \$120 coats and \$45 helmets. Said Johnson –

The clothes don't last because of heat, water and ice.
Plaques were presented to the following volunteers: Jim Johnson, 21 years; Ken Kessinger, 20 years; Jim Poisel, 12 years; Butch Worsley, 10 years; Rich Ugolini, 12 years; Chuck Huss, 12 years.

The Old Court House in the former city building opened as a sports and fitness center on April 1, 1984. There were 300 members. Tom Kindler was owner.

When the Amboy school district voted to close Ellice Dinges Elementary School in Sublette, a local group worked to find an alternative. They considered the possibility of a private school in the building. Their goal –

We have to figure out what is best for Sublette.

The Mendota Police Department received a hand-signed photograph of President Ronald Reagan as an expression of appreciation for the Mendota department's participation in providing protection during his visit to his old home town of Dixon in February 1984. The photograph was put on display.

We shouldn't cut off Ukraine

By **Rich Lowry**

More and more Republicans are beginning to see the wisdom of John Lennon, and think we need to give peace a chance in Ukraine.

Donald Trump is offering himself as the peace candidate and says he could broker a Ukraine-Russia deal.

The populist and realist right are banging the drums for a negotiated end to the war, and they aren't wrong. The conflict comes with an enormous humanitarian and economic price and is profoundly destabilizing.

So, by all means, let's hope for a deal. The secret to unlocking a potential agreement, though, isn't leaving Ukraine in the lurch and hoping that Vladimir Putin -- just as he begins to make gains -- decides to prudently and modestly stand down because dominating Ukraine isn't so important to him after all.

The only way there will eventually be a (flawed, unsatisfactory, and probably temporary) bargain is if Putin realizes that he has no hope of getting what he wants out of the war.

There are a number of objections and arguments that populist and realist opponents make against current levels of aid to Ukraine:

We've ended up in a proxy war with Russia. True enough. Yet, this is not the situation we sought out. It's not as though we encouraged Latvia to invade Russia, and then began lavishly supplying and training its forces.

The advantage of this proxy war is that the Russians are direct participants, and paying a heavy price, while our role is limited and indirect. We are in the role comparable to the Russians during the Vietnam War or the U.S. during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan -- supporting a highly motivated indigenous force that is doing all the fighting against a bitter geopolitical adversary.

The war is expensive and drawing down our stocks of weapons. This, too, is true. By any measure, the roughly \$30 billion, and counting, that we've spent on Ukraine is real money. It is a fraction of a fraction of the defense

budget, though.

The drawdown of weapons has created shortages in U.S. stocks, but this is more exposing a vulnerability than creating one. If we are strained merely arming Ukraine, we'd quickly reach a breaking point in a direct conflict with China. The answer is to build up our defense industrial base in a way that'd be necessary one way or the other.

NATO expansion provoked the Russians. Everyone knew that Ukraine wasn't going to actually join NATO anytime soon (or probably ever), and Russia didn't rationally have anything to fear from the alliance -- when Russia invaded Ukraine the first time in 2014, the U.S. had brought home all its tanks from Germany. Putin has made it clear that his ideological and geopolitical goal is to reestablish a version of the Russian empire. This is a deeply held ambition that would very likely be the same if NATO had never expanded and if all the Baltic and Eastern and Central European states were blandly neutral and entirely disarmed.

Putin is only pursuing a traditional Russian foreign policy. Well, yes. But just because Russia occupied Poland for 100 years or so or gobbled up various nations of Europe during World War II, doesn't mean similar projects today would have any legitimacy. Yes, Russia has always been concerned with securing and maintaining access to the Black Sea. It should be noted, however, that it already had an agreement with Ukraine to base its Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol. For good measure, in 2014, Russia grabbed all of Crimea. Invading Ukraine and trying to take Kyiv is oversaucing the goose and isn't about the Black Sea but destroying a model of (imperfect) democracy on its border.

In short, cutting off the Ukrainians in the hopes of jump-starting negotiations would be folly and only benefit a Vladimir Putin who, if he had his druthers, would bring a bloody-minded peace of repression and vastation to Ukraine.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Is Tina Fey working on any new shows? Did the one about the mayor get canceled? I really loved "30 Rock," and I'm hoping she'll do a reboot of it someday. -- **S.L.**



Tina Fey

A: It was recently announced that Fey and her former "Saturday Night Live" Weekend Update co-anchor, Amy Poehler, will be going on a comedy tour together. Since they are very busy women, they only have time for four cities, at least for now. According to Deadline.com, they'll kick it off with their first performance on April 29 in Washington, D.C., then on to the improv capital of the world, Chicago, on May 29. From there, Fey and Poehler will appear at Boston's MGM Music Hall at Fenway on June 9 and will cap off their tour in Atlantic City's Hard Rock Live at Etes Arena on June 10. The Tina Fey & Amy Poehler: Restless Leg Tour is calling itself a celebration of "thirty years of friendship

with an evening of jokes, iconic stories and conversational entertainment." Another pair of comedy legends, Steve Martin and Martin Short (who star in Hulu's "Only Murders in the Building"), did a similar stage tour last year. Incidentally, Fey had a recurring role on their series as well.

There aren't any plans for a "30 Rock" reunion, which would prove especially difficult given star Alec Baldwin's recent legal troubles. Her most recent creation, "Mr. Mayor," starring Ted Danson, was canceled after two seasons. Despite recently striking out, I'm sure it won't be long before Fey hits another creative home run. ***

Q: When does the new season of "The Masked Singer" begin? I usually catch it midway through, and I want to watch it from the beginning this time. -- **L.A.**

A: Season nine of the hit singing competition show began on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. ET/PT on Fox. Hopefully, you caught the commercials during the Super Bowl and don't miss any episodes, but if you do, you can catch encore episodes via OnDe-

mand, FOX NOW, Hulu and Tubi.

According to "Entertainment Weekly," this season's theme nights include Abba Night, DC Superhero Night and '80s Night. Returning panelists include Ken Jeong, Nicole Scherzinger, Jenny McCarthy-Wahlberg and Robin Thicke. Also, expect some star cameos. ***

Q: I read a rumor that Sheryl Lee Ralph didn't really sing at the Super Bowl -- that she lip-synced instead. Doesn't she have a fantastic voice? -- **U.J.**

A: Yes, long before she won an Emmy for her comedy chops in the sitcom "Abbott Elementary," Sheryl Lee Ralph was nominated for a Tony Award for her powerful vocals in Broadway's "Dreamgirls." After she wowed ticketholders at the Super Bowl with her rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," viewers at home wondered if she lip-synced the lyrics instead of singing live. The following day, Ralph neither confirmed nor denied, telling "The Hollywood Reporter," "Does it matter? ... No. Thank you."

Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD -- Former California governor and Hollywood superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger is starring in "Kung Fury 2," with Michael Fassbender. He's also starring in the new action-adventure Netflix series "FUBAR," with his "Terminator: Dark Fate" co-star Gabriel Luna. The 75-year-old former Mr. Olympia is still in great shape. And don't forget ... as he promised in "The Terminator" -- "I'll be back!" ... and back again! ***

In 1959, a 26-year-old Carol Burnett starred in the musical adaptation of "The Princess and the Pea," called "Once Upon a Mattress." I was 13 and hung out at a little candy store next to the Phoenix Theater where "Mattress" was playing. Carol got her coffee at the candy store before her shows, and she'd joke with me and my two friends who were always there. I had a huge crush on her, and when "Mattress" moved to Broadway and she became a regular on

"The Garry Moore Show," I commuted to the tapings. She got me a seat for every Friday show.

One night, I was barred from the studio because they said I was cutting tape by laughing and clapping so that I could hear myself on TV. But what they didn't know was that I'd meet Carol after dress rehearsal at the Studio 54 coffee shop and she'd tell me where she needed laughter to put over a routine. There I sat, frantic on the floor outside the studio, and a well-dressed, very handsome guy asked me why. I explained why, and he said, "Wait here -- I'll see what I can do."

He came back a few minutes later and said he'd vouched for me, and we ended up sitting in the fourth row. When Garry Moore did his audience warm-up, he excitedly introduced a celebrity in the fourth row. "Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I'd like you to meet the Yankee Clipper." Joe DiMaggio stood up and waved, and it

was then that I realized he was the man who came to my rescue. After the show, we went to Carol's dressing room and then to dinner at China Song next door.

On April 26, which will be Carol's 90th birthday, NBC will celebrate her in a two-hour special, co-starring her famous friends -- Julie Andrews, Lily Tomlin, Cher, Bernadette Peters, Katy Perry, Vicki Lawrence, "Annie" star Aileen Quinn and too many more to name.

The special features moments from "Once Upon a Mattress," "The Garry Moore Show," "Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall" and "Mama's Family" as well as her films "The Four Seasons," "Pete 'n' Tillie" and "Annie." Of course, it will also feature moments from her 11-year run of "The Carol Burnett Show."

If not for Carol Burnett, I might not be a photojournalist or writing this column now.

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Couch Theater

"The Peanut Butter Falcon" (PG-13) -- Although this film released in theaters back in 2019, it was considered a "sleepier hit," garnering more success in the years to come. Starring Shia LaBeouf and Dakota Johnson, this heartwarming indie film is now out on streaming platforms, which might help give it an even bigger reach. In the film, a young man with Down syndrome named Zak has dreams of becoming a professional wrestler, so he escapes from his assisted living facility to go chase his dreams. On the way, he meets Tyler (LaBeouf), who supports his venture and they begin to travel by water to Zak's dream wrestling school in North Carolina. But Zak's caretaker, Eleanor (Johnson), is close behind them to find Zak and return him back to the facility. (Paramount+)

"Smile" (R) -- One of last year's biggest horror successes releases on streaming Feb. 21! "Smile" stars Sosie Bacon as Dr. Rose Cotter, a therapist at a psych ward. In a meeting with student Laura Weaver, Laura informs Rose

that she saw her professor die by suicide and, since then, has been terrorized by people smiling at her, telling her she will die soon. Laura then commits suicide in front of Rose, who later sees another patient smiling and telling her that she also will die soon. Rose assumes Laura's curse has been passed onto her, and she takes any means necessary to figure out how to break the curse in time. Who would ever think that a movie about smiling would be so creepy? (Prime Video)

"We Have a Ghost" (PG-13) -- This comedy-horror movie, based on a short story by Geoff Manaugh, premieres Feb. 24, and it's a goofy, spooky watch for the whole family. David Harbour ("Stranger Things" and "Black Widow") stars as a ghost named Ernest, who haunts a home called "The House of Death." A family of four moves into the home and the youngest son, Kevin, shortly thereafter has his first encounter with Ernest. But Ernest really isn't as scary as all the town gossip claims and he can't

even speak. Kevin befriends him and begins a YouTube channel featuring Ernest, making them an internet sensation. Kevin's friendship with Ernest prompts him to wonder how Ernest's death truly came to be, so he dives deeper to uncover the truth. (Netflix)

"Liaison" (NR) -- Eva Green ("Casino Royale") and Vincent Cassel ("Black Swan" and the "Ocean's" franchise) star in this new British-French series premiering Feb. 24. Green plays a secret agent tasked with finding out who's behind dangerous cyberattacks taking place in the U.K. Her team tracks the main suspect, who happens to be her ex-lover, Gabriel Delage (played by Cassel). Upon secretly meeting with him, Gabriel provides her with information about the attack and agrees to work alongside her. Their past relationship is full of many secrets that inevitably crop up later and blur lines as she tries to complete her mission. (AppleTV+)

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• Trivia Test •

1. TELEVISION: Which cable TV series features a character named Don Draper?
2. MOVIES: What subject does Professor Minerva McGonagall teach at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry?
3. HISTORY: Where was civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a sign on his desk that read, "The Buck Stops Here"?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the world's largest desert?
6. LITERATURE: What is the real name of the author Lemony Snicket?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What is the fruit that gives the liqueur creme de cassis its flavor?
8. MUSIC: What inspired the

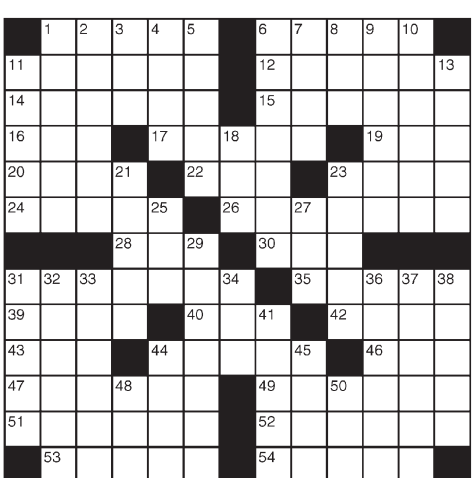
- Beatles' song "Blackbird"?
9. CELEBRITIES: What is singer/actress Judy Garland's birth name?
 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are squirrels' nests called?
- Answers
1. "Mad Men."
 2. Transfiguration.
 3. Memphis, Tennessee.
 4. Harry Truman.
 5. Antarctica.
 6. Daniel Handler.
 7. Black currants.
 8. Civil rights unrest in Little Rock, Arkansas, according to Paul McCartney.
 9. Frances Ethel Gumm.
 10. Dreys.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Shade of blue
- 6 Wanderer
- 11 Physician, slangily
- 12 Lessened
- 14 Veep before Biden
- 15 — del Fuego
- 16 Some fridges
- 17 Egypt's Anwar
- 19 Have a bug
- 20 Sunrise direction
- 22 — Alamos
- 23 Faction
- 24 Cybercommerce
- 26 Pungent relish
- 28 Scratch
- 30 Pub pint
- 31 Passageway for Santa
- 35 "Three Sisters" sister
- 39 — Godiva
- 40 Dict. info
- 42 "Star Trek II" villain
- 43 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 44 Carvey and Delany
- 46 "— had it!"
- 47 Winter, for one
- 49 Lon of horror films
- 51 Inventor's insurance



- 52 Oregon city
- 53 Modern messages
- 54 Actions
- 1 Prepare left-overs
- 2 Black Sea
- 3 Feminine principle
- 4 High cards
- 5 Faithful
- 6 Boris' cartoon partner
- 7 Final notice
- 8 West of Hollywood
- 9 Subway line in an Ellington song
- 10 Mock
- 11 "Me and Bobby —"
- 13 Longtime Chicago mayor
- 18 Elmer, to Bugs
- 21 "Lassie" lad
- 23 Porterhouse, e.g.
- 25 PC linking system
- 27 Einstein's birthplace
- 29 Stinging insects
- 31 Purse fastener
- 32 Attack
- 33 Think up
- 34 Hankering
- 36 Polished
- 37 Sanctuaries
- 38 In the blink of —
- 41 Confronted
- 44 Word of warning
- 45 Actress Elisabeth
- 48 Gender
- 50 Bio stat

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Member
FDIC

Brought to you each week by

FIRST STATE BANK

Happy 21st
Birthday
Michelle!



We love you!
Mom, Dad,
Billie & Susie

1 Column x 4"
\$26 in Reporter Or
Money Saver
\$34 To Run In Both

2 Column x 2"
\$26 in Reporter
Or Money Saver
\$34 To
Run In Both

FUN ADS!

Put A Little Fun In Someone's Life!

Bring In A Photo With A
Poem, Verse Or Message—or
just a verse or message
(No extra charge for photo)

You can run any size ad \$6⁵⁰
per column inch for Reporter
OR Money Saver
\$8⁵⁰ per column inch in **BOTH**
(See examples)

Call 815-539-9396 for
more information

CONGRATULATIONS!

on passing your State Exams
Carol Ann Smith, RN
Love, Joey



* In 2015, a study found that having more than 10 trees on their block made folks feel as healthy as if they were seven years younger or made an additional \$10,000 a year.

* The medical term for ice cream headache is sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia. Now you know why we call it an ice cream headache or brain freeze.

* In the NHL, if both the goalie and backup goalie are unable to play, the team can substitute any available goalie who isn't bound by a professional contract with another team. To date, such replacements have included an accountant, a facilities manager and an equipment manager.

* A course called The Science of Batman was offered at the University of Victoria in Canada in 2016, with the design of examining "how the human body can be adapted and improved based on the metaphor of the caped crusader himself."

* While still a teenager, Dasia Taylor used beet juice to develop surgical sutures that change color to indicate an infection.

* The ant-eating assassin bug piles its victims onto its body to scare predators.

* In 1829, some Victorians were gripped with pteridomania, or "fern fever," and began eagerly collecting the plants after botanist George Loddiges spread the (quite unsubstantiated) claim that they could not only improve mood, but increase both intelligence and virility.

* Asia is bigger in surface area than the moon.

* Ever heard that old claim that watching scary movies will help you burn calories because they get your heart racing? Sorry, but the "study" that produced this finding was meant more for publicity than to be taken seriously. You're more likely to burn the same amount just by lounging on your sofa ... and watching something like, say, "Bambi."

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Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

LOCAL AND AREA

Community Calendar

MARCH 2023

MARCH 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27

8:30

EXERCISES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
8 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 2 & 16

HEARING CLINIC

Sponsored by Civic Center &
M.A.S.S.

9:30 AM - 1 PM
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

May call Kelly @ Sterling Hearing
at 815-626-3220. Hearing aid
batteries available at MASS office.

MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

POKENO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM

Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

NEEDLE CRAFT CLUB

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.

1 PM

Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

New name for craft club. Bring your
knitting, crocheting, embroidery,
cross stitch or hand sewing items
and visit with other crafters.

MARCH 2

LEGO CLUB

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: 1-8th grade. Please
call to register and no library card
required.

MARCH 2

SHAKE RATTLE & READ

"RUFF-RUFF"

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: Birth - 2 yrs old
(siblings welcome). Please call
to register and no library card
required. The program will have
dog interaction – please be aware
of your child's allergies.

MARCH 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24,
27 & 31

BINGOCIZE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Special activity which combines
bingo & exercises, instructed by
Laurie Moore.

MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 6

DRIVER'S REVIEW

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center

Must pre-register by calling the
office. Need at least 5 to participate.
More welcome.
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 6, 13, 20 & 27

DOMINOES

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 6

COMMUNITY BINGO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
2 PM

Feik Parlor - Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28

WII BOWLING

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
10:30 AM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center

MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28

EUCHRE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center

Pay \$3 at beginning of play. Cash
prizes paid out at end of play.
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 7

PICTIONARY

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 8

SHOPPING TRIP TO PERU

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM

Transportation fee of \$10.
New to M.A.S.S. We will be
providing transportation for
shopping in Peru. Call the office
to schedule a ride or for more
information.
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 8

SHAKE RATTLE & READ

"RUFF-RUFF"

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: Birth - 2 yrs old
(siblings welcome). Please call
to register and no library card
required. This is a repeat of the
March 2 program) The program will
have dog interaction – please be
aware of your child's allergies.

MARCH 8

SMALL FRIES "DOGGIE DAY"

Guest Appearance

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: 3 years - Kindergarten.
Please call to register and no library
card required. The program will
have dog interaction – please be
aware of your child's allergies.

MARCH 13

LEGO CLUB #2

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: 1-8th grade. Please
call to register and no library card
required.

MARCH 14

LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 16

SHAKE RATTLE & READ

"MEOW-MEOW"

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

6 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: Birth - 2 yrs old
(siblings welcome). Please call
to register and no library card
required. The program will have cat
interaction – please be aware of
your child's allergies.

MARCH 21

3RD TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

1 PM & 6 PM
@ Mendota Historical Society

For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Reading: "Meet Me at the Museum"
by Anne Youngson

MARCH 21

BUNCO

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Parlor -
Mendota Civic Center
For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 21 & 28

BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD

SUGAR CHECKS

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
11 AM - 12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center

For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 22

SHOPPING TRIP TO OTTAWA

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
9 AM - 3 PM

Transportation fee of \$10.
New to M.A.S.S. We will be
providing transportation for
shopping in Ottawa. Call the
office to schedule a ride or for
more information.
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 22

SHAKE RATTLE & READ

"MEOW-MEOW"

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

11 AM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Audience: Birth - 2 yrs old
(siblings welcome). Please call
to register and no library card
required. This is a repeat of the
March 16 program) The program
will have cat interaction – please
be aware of your child's allergies.

MARCH 22

MOVIES WITH M.A.S.S.:

"WALKING NED DIVINE"

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library & M.A.S.S.

3 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Snacks provided by M.A.S.S.

MARCH 24

ST. PATRICK'S POTLUCK

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
12 PM

Feik Senior Parlor - Mendota
Civic Center

For more info call
(815) 539-7700

Please bring a dish to pass, your
table service and silverware.

MARCH 27

TWEENS

Sponsored by Grave-Hume
Public Library

4 PM - 5 PM
Grave-Hume Public Library

For more info call
(815) 538-5142

Grades 5-8. Explore behind-
the-scenes at Hume-Carnegie
Museum! Get an insider look at
what it takes to create an exhibit
at the museum. Discover the
strange and odd of Mendota.
Meet library staff at the Hume-
Carnegie Museum; program will
last one hour. Tweens will need
to be picked up at 5 PM - No
pizza.

MARCH 28

YAHTZEE

Sponsored by M.A.S.S.
1 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota
Civic Center

For more info call
(815) 539-7700

MARCH 28

COOKING FOR ONE OR TWO

VIA ZOOM

Sponsored by M.A.S.S./
University of IL Ext.

2:30 PM
Feik Senior Parlor –
Mendota Civic Center

For more info call
(815) 539-7700

New program - monthly nutrition
series provided by U of I
Extension. May watch Zoom
presentation at home, contact
us for the link necessary to view.
Will also provide at M.A.S.S. to
watch here.

MARCH 28

AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH

MOVIE: "STRANGE WORLD"

- PG

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

4 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

All youth ages are invited.
Children 6 and under are
required to have an adult
present. Please call to register
and no library card required

MARCH 28

WILD BORE TO BACONFEST:

PIGS IN HISTORY & POP

CULTURE

Sponsored by Graves-Hume
Public Library

6:30 PM
1401 W Main St, Mendota
For more info call
(815) 538-5142

The library is hosting this
presentation in partnership
with the Illinois Humanities
Road Scholar Speaker Bureau.
Join Cynthia Clampitt as she
presents the history of pigs and
pork to examine the impact
these animals had worldwide,
and specifically the Midwest.
Clampitt will explore the topic of
pigs, which is far-ranging as pigs
themselves.

Newly signed laws include the creation of tourism districts, criminal justice reforms

By NIKA SCHOONOVER

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently signed 15 bills into law, tackling policy areas from tourism to prison reform and making it easier for people previously convicted of felonies to legally change their name.

The laws passed the General Assembly in their recently concluded lame duck legislative session in January, and Pritzker's signature came less than a week before his budget address.

Tourism districts

House Bill 268, effective immediately, creates a framework for local governments to increase funding for local tourism projects in collaboration with hotels by creating local tourism districts.

Hotels can qualify for these tourism districts if they can shoulder half of the proposed costs. If petitioning hotels are approved, they can charge up to a 5 percent rate per-room per-night that will go toward a fund overseen by a state-certified local tourism bureau.

State Sen. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, a lead sponsor on the bill, said the law will help create additional resources for tourism promotion, while giving more control to business owners in the state.

"Tourism Improvement Districts put business owners back in the driver's seat to direct marketing spending and spur growth," Feigenholtz said in a statement. "The additional revenues generated by these special districts will be one more tool businesses can use to draw visitors to all corners of the state."

In order to qualify, hotel owners must file a petition outlining a district plan including the boundaries of the proposed district, the length of the proposed term and a brief description of the proposed services and improvements they are requesting. They must also show they can pay more than half of the costs that will be taken on by the district.

The post-pandemic measure is an attempt at spurring economic growth as local communities continue to bounce back from the effects of COVID-19.

"The tourism and hospitality sector is the second-largest employer in Illinois," Feigenholtz said. "Tourism Improvement Districts will enable regions of our state to use this additional tool in an effort to recover from the pandemic and bring visitors back to Illinois."

Felon name changes

House Bill 2542 loosens restrictions for individuals with past felony convictions to change their name.

The new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2024, allows individuals convicted of identity theft or those registered under the Sex Offender Registration Act, the Murderer and

Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act or the Arsonist Registration Act to change their name "due to marriage, religious beliefs, status as a victim of trafficking or gender-related identity as defined by the Illinois Human Rights Act."

The law also lifts a requirement that individuals must wait 10 years after sentencing to change their name.

Advocates of the law say it removes barriers for transgender and gender expansive individuals who want to change their name.

"The bill moves Illinois closer to a fair, modern system regarding the ability of transgender and gender expansive individuals, as well as survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence to change their names," Khadine Bennett, advocacy and intergovernmental affairs director at the ACLU of Illinois said in a statement. "Survivors of human trafficking and transgender people too often are at risk simply because they do not have identity documents that align with their authentic selves. This is corrected under the new law."

Judges make the final decision on the outcome of a name change petition. Additionally, if a petitioner's sentence has not been completed, terminated, discharged or pardoned, they are not allowed to request a name change.

Life sentence for those under 21

House Bill 1064, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2024, changes parole requirements for individuals convicted before they are 21 years old.

Under the new law, if those individuals are sentenced to a term of life in prison, they are eligible for a parole review after serving 40 or more years of their sentence.

Cars and vans as school buses

House Bill 1688, which goes into effect July 1, allows cars, vans and other first division vehicles to operate as school buses with a permit from the secretary of state. First division vehicles are classified as those designed to carry no more than 10 people total, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Additionally, by Jan. 1, 2024, the secretary of state and Illinois State Board of Education would be required to create a course for individuals operating these vehicles as school buses.

The course will be offered in conjunction with ISBE and the state's regional superintendents of schools.

(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.)

New 861 area code coming to the Illinois 309 area code region

SPRINGFIELD – With new telephone numbers in west-central Illinois in high demand, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved the implementation of the new 861 area code to overlay the existing 309 area code region. The 309 area code serves all or part of Bureau, Dewitt, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Mercer, Peoria, Rock Island, Schuyler, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, Whiteside, and Woodford counties. This includes cities and communities such as Bloomington, Canton, Galesburg, Macomb, East Moline, East Peoria, Galesburg, Moline, Normal, Pekin, Peoria, and Rock Island, as well as many other smaller communities.

Starting on Feb. 24, 2023, customers in the 309 area code overlay region may be assigned a number in the new 861 area code when they request new service or an additional line. The 861 area code will co-exist with the 309 area code everywhere in this region. Customers receiving the 861 area code will be required

to dial 10 digits (the area code and phone number) for all local calls, just as customers with telephone numbers from the 309 area code do today.

Telephone customers should know the following key facts about the 861 area code overlay:

- Telephone numbers, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call.
- Customers in the overlay region will continue to dial 10 digits for local calls within and between the overlay area codes, and 1+10 digits for long distance calls.
- Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 911 and 988, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 if those are currently available in their community.

Customers should continue to identify their telephone number as a 10-digit number (3-digit area code + 7-digit telephone number), and include the area code when giving the number to

friends, family, business associates, and customers, etc.

Customers should ensure that all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment recognize the new 861 area code as a valid area code and should continue to store or program telephone numbers as 10-digit numbers. Some examples include but are not limited to: stored telephone numbers in contact lists in wireless and cordless phones, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, speed dialers, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, medical alert devices, safety alarm security systems and gates, ankle monitors, and other similar equipment. Customers should also ensure their websites, personal and business stationery and printed checks, advertising materials, contact information, and personal or pet ID tags include the area code.

For more information, please contact your local telephone service provider or visit the Illinois Commission website at <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/programs/Area-Codes>.

Mendota Public Nuisance Ordinance

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department would like to remind home and business owners of city ordinances regarding public nuisances.

It is against city ordinance to have accumulations of trash, building materials, abandoned automobiles, machinery, scrap metal, discarded tires, vehicle batteries or any other material that creates a public health hazard on your property. It is also a violation to permit weeds, grass or plants other than trees, bushes or flowers or other ornamental plants to grow to a height exceeding six inches anywhere in the city. Also, all multi-family structures, including structures that consist of both residential and commercial units, and structures which share a wall or walls with another structure, shall be kept free from infestations of insects (including but not limited to bedbugs, cockroaches and disease-carrying insects), rats or other vermin.

The city of Mendota requests anyone who is in violation of the above mentioned nuisance regulations to remove the item(s) from your property. Anyone found in violation will be subject to receiving a citation, which involves a court date and fine.

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T2 Enterprises
Tacos Guzman

SPORTS

Hunters take 801 turkeys in season

□ Ogle Co. second in the state with 24

SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois harvested a statewide total of 801 wild turkeys during the 2022-2023 fall archery turkey season between Oct. 1 and Jan. 15.

The total compares with the statewide fall archery turkey harvest of 683 in 2021-2022 and is the third-highest harvest total on record for the season in Illinois. The top five counties for fall archery wild turkey harvest this season were Vermilion with 27 turkeys harvested; Ogle, 24; Clay, 22; Marion, 21; and Randolph, 21.

This season, 25,373 permits were sold (excluding landowner permits), compared to 24,768 for the 2021-2022 season. All 102 counties were open for hunting. The harvest consisted of 48% males and 52% hens.

Harvest total for area counties is as follows:

Bureau – 5; DeKalb – 3; LaSalle – 11; Lee – 8; Ogle – 24; Putnam – 4; Whiteside – 10.

LaMoille boys' hoops

Ashton-Franklin Center Class 1A Boys' Regional Feb. 18

Earlville 63, LaMoille 41

LaMoille stats: Eli Keighin 14 points; Tyler Billhorn 13 points, 6 rebounds; Brayden Klein 8 points, 6 rebounds; Josh Martin 7 rebounds

Trojans drop regional opener to Rock Falls

□ MHS closes season with 9-23 mark

ROCK FALLS – The Mendota Trojans had their season come to a close after a 70-52 setback to Rock Falls in the opening round of the Byron Class 2A Boys' Regional Basketball Tournament on Feb. 18 at Rock Falls.

The Trojans ended with a 9-23 overall record.

Mendota got off to fast start and led 16-15 after the opening period, but it scored half as many points in the second quarter while Rock Falls put 17 on the board to seize a 32-24 halftime lead. The Rockets outscored the Trojans, 23-16, in the third period to take a comfortable 55-40 advantage with just eight minutes left to play.

Three Trojans hit double-digits in scoring, led by Izaiah Nanez with 16 points. He knocked down four shots from three-point territory. Seniors Rafael Romero and Ryne Strouss

MHS ends league play with win

MENDOTA – The Mendota Trojans saved their best quarter for last and it was enough to propel them to a 68-58 victory over St. Bede in the Three Rivers Conference and regular season finale on Feb. 14 at the MHS gym. Mendota finished the conference season with a 3-9 record.

The Trojans held a slim 17-15 lead after the first period and stretched the margin to six (33-27) at intermission. St. Bede managed to cut Mendota's advantage in half heading to the fourth frame (49-46), but the Trojans put 19 points on the board over the final eight minutes compared to 12 for the Bruins.

Rafael Romero, who finished with 21 points, scored 10 of Mendota's tallies in the fourth quarter. Izaiah Nanez connected on three triples on his way to 14 points for the

closed out their careers with 13 points apiece.

Rock Falls connected on nine field goals from beyond the three-point arc, led by Aydan Goff with seven triples. He finished with a game-high 25 points.

ROCK FALLS 70, MENDOTA 52

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	1	0-0	2	3
Guzman	2	0-0	1	5
Romero	6	1-2	3	13
Nanez	6	0-0	1	16
R. Strouss	5	3-5	1	13
Aughenbaugh	1	0-0	1	2
Dewey	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	21	4-7	10	52

Rock Falls (70)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Castenada	1	0-0	0	2
Howard	4	1-2	1	9
Tanton-DeJesus	5	0-1	0	10
Heald	2	0-0	2	5
Sands	6	0-0	2	13
Goff	8	2-2	2	25
D. Hernandez	1	0-0	2	2
Bates	1	2-2	3	4
Totals	28	5-7	12	70

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Mendota	16	24	40	52
Rock Falls	15	32	55	70
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 1, Guzman 1, Nanez 4; Rock Falls - Heald 1, Sands 1, Goff 7				

Trojans, while Isaac Guzman hit a pair of treys and finished with 13 markers and Cale Strouss contributed 12 points.

MENDOTA 68, ST. BEDE 58

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Brown	2	0-0	0	4
Pillion	2	0-2	4	4
Hueneburg	4	4-5	0	16
Brady	0	4-7	5	4
Hart	9	1-1	3	21
Jackson	4	1-7	2	9
Pothoff	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	21	10-22	16	58

Mendota (68)

	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Guzman	5	1-3	2	13
Romero	9	3-6	3	21
Stamberger	1	0-0	3	2
R. Strouss	1	0-0	4	2
Rocha	1	0-0	1	3
C. Strouss	5	1-2	2	12
Nanez	5	1-2	2	14
Aughenbaugh	0	1-2	1	1
Dewey	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	27	7-15	20	69

SCORE BY QUARTERS

St. Bede	15	27	46	58
Mendota	17	33	49	68
Three-point goals: Mendota - Guzman 2, Nanez 3, C. Strouss 1, Rocha 1; St. Bede - Hueneburg 4, Hart 2				



Football signee

Mendota High School senior Jose Rocha Jr., seated, signs on to play football at Concordia University Wisconsin beginning in the fall. Looking on are Mendota head coach Keegan Hill, left, and assistant coaches Brock Zinke, center, and Dan Beck. Concordia University Wisconsin is located in Mequon, Wis. The Falcons are an NCAA Division III university and members of the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference. They posted an 8-3 record during the 2022 season. (Photo contributed)

Sophomores whip St. Bede; end season with 17-11 mark

MENDOTA – The Mendota sophomore boys' basketball team throttled St. Bede, 52-34, in Three Rivers Conference action on Feb. 14 at the MHS gym. The Trojans wrapped up the season with a 17-11 overall record and an 8-4 league mark.

Mendota owned an 11-6 lead after the opening stanza and held a narrow 22-19 halftime advantage. The tide turned in a big way in the third quarter as the Trojans

outscored St. Bede, 14-1, to take command.

Mendota had two players hit double-digits in scoring, led by Braiden Freeman with 13 points. He knocked down three shots from three-point land. Aden Tillman was next with 11 points, while Cam Kelly contributed nine tallies.

Princeton and Kewanee tied for the Three Rivers Conference title with 11-1 records.

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
 Ericka A. Flores Avila, 21, of 202 Cherry St., Apt. 134, Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Meriden Street and Wisconsin Avenue at 5:15 p.m. Feb. 14. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED
 Brandon M. Johnson, 37, of 215 Peru St., Paw Paw, was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street at 2:07 a.m. Feb. 15. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY, RESISTING ARREST
 Anil D. Bhate, 43, of 1718 Hillcrest Court, Mendota, was charged with domestic battery and two counts of resisting arrest after police officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of Hillcrest Court at 10:45 p.m. Feb. 15. More charges are pending. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

WARRANT ARREST
 Rejhan Jakupi, 18, of Rockford was arrested at 8:20 a.m. Feb. 17 on a valid Lee County warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court after a traffic stop at Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street. The subject posted bond and was released with a Lee County court date.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
 Alexander Rummery, 19, of 608 Fifth St., Men-

dota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and East Fourth Road at 10:10 a.m. Feb. 17. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST
 Bethany R. Youssi, 22, of 100 S. Ninth Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 1:50 p.m. Feb. 17 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear/reckless driving. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY, DRUG CHARGE
 Darius L. Earle, 25, of Peru, was charged with domestic battery and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver after police officers responded to 105 20th St., Apt. A5, in regard to a possible domestic disturbance at 9:30 p.m. Feb. 18. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

DUI
 Jennifer A. Devries, 52, of Byron, was charged with driving under the influence after a traffic stop at Sixth Street and Eighth Avenue at 11:45 p.m. Feb. 18. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
 Lyniah R. Anderson, 19, of LaSalle, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Washington Street and Pennsylvania Avenue at 4:39 p.m. Feb. 20. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Lee County conducts traffic campaign
 LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Sheriff's Office announced it made one DUI arrest, issued 13 other citations and six criminal arrests during the recent Super Bowl enforcement campaign. Citations issued by deputies include:

- 7 speeding citations
- 2 operating uninsured motor vehicle citations
- 2 improper turn signal citations
- 1 illegal transportation of alcohol citation
- 1 no valid driver's license citation
- 2 arrests for possession of methamphetamine
- 1 arrest for possession of drug paraphernalia
- 1 arrest for obstruction of identification
- 1 arrest for obstruction of justice
- 1 warrant arrest

The Super Bowl weekend "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" enforcement effort ran from Feb. 10 through the early morning hours of Feb. 13. The goal was to keep impaired drivers off the roads and ensure more people buckle up and follow all traffic safety laws.

"Motorists should understand that we are serious about cracking down on impaired drivers and seat belt and other traffic safety law violators. We do it to save lives," said Chief Deputy Derek Ranken.

The recent law enforcement campaign was made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns.

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Firefighters battle blaze at Mendota residence
 □ Damage estimated at \$115,000


MENDOTA – Firefighters from Mendota and neighboring departments battled a house fire at 801 Fifth Ave., Mendota, on Feb. 19.

The call was received at 5:15 p.m. and the first unit arrived on the scene at 5:20. The blaze was brought under control at 6:34 p.m. and fire personnel remained at the site until 9 p.m.

The cause of the fire is under investigation pending the interviewing of residents. The damage estimate is \$115,000.

Fire and EMS personnel responding to the scene came from Mendota, Troy Grove, Earlville, Peru, LaSalle, Utica, Oglesby and Sublette departments. There were 41 firefighters and five EMS personnel on scene. There were no injuries reported.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Did You Know? – Curb Appeal

A joint study from researchers at the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at Arlington found that curb appeal can have a significant impact when selling a home. That study, which examined Google Street View photos and sales data from more than 88,000 properties, found that homes with high curb appeal sold for an average of 7 percent more than similar homes with less inviting exteriors. The study also revealed that, in slow markets with greater housing inventory, homes with high curb appeal sold for as much as 14 percent more than homes with uninviting exteriors. Homes defined as having high curb appeal for the study included those with features including well-maintained lawns and professional landscaping.

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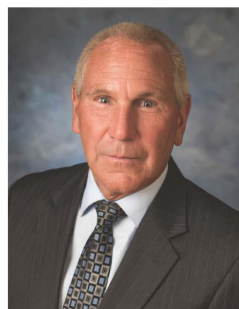
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Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra “go big or go home” when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that’s not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners’ bucks as well.

- **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners’ budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners’ ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

- **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

- **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It’s worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it’s a



dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

- **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

- **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the

area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

- **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it’s inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes.

How to furnish your dining area

Modern homes look a bit different than those of generations past. Rather than several small rooms divided by walls, modern homes offer open-concept floor plans. That means the boundaries between spaces are not so defined, allowing rooms and activities to blend into one another.

Formal dining rooms may or may not be part of the current home layout with regard to new construction. Many homeowners now gravitate toward kitchens with adjacent breakfast nooks that utilize large islands with stool seating that

open up to family rooms. These layouts can make it more challenging for homeowners to figure out how to furnish their dining areas — however casual or formal they may be. Individuals can use these tips as a springboard for selecting the right pieces in their homes, no matter where they enjoy their meals.

Consider the scope of the room

Is it a dining room or a dining area? This will help determine decor and the formality of the pieces of furniture needed to outfit the room, according to The Spruce, a home renovation resource. If the room is a multi-purpose space, consider furniture that can serve different purposes, such as a table that has fold-down portions to change its size depending on the number of people dining at a particular time. You may want to include an armoire to store linens and stash away pens and note pads for making shopping lists.

Dining table

The dining table is the foundation of a dining area. After all, people need to have somewhere to sit and eat. Remember to measure the dimensions of the room carefully, as furniture can look much smaller in warehouse stores or furniture showrooms than in a home.

Consider a round or square dining table, which tend to fit into rooms more easily than rectangular tables.

Plus, these shapes are more conducive to conversation. Rectangular tables often leave people at the ends out of the chat.

Seating

Seating can affect the ability to move around the room. If space is at a premium, some narrow-profile chairs are a better option than larger, upholstered wingbacks. Homeowners may consider a wooden or upholstered bench on one side of the dining table to maximize seating during family events.

Lighting

Pottery Barn suggests using a mix of lighting sources to create the right lighting needs in the space. Floor lamps, an overhead chandelier, wall fixtures, and natural light need to blend and be adjusted as needed. Also, choose an overhead chandelier that complements the shape of the dining table. For example, a round fixture will look best above a round table.

Rug

An area rug can help define the dining space and set it apart from other areas in an open-concept home. An area rug also adds warmth and color when a wood table meets a wood floor; otherwise, it may look too stark.

Homeowners must take various factors into consideration when decorating a dining room. Size, purpose and style are just some of the things that merit ample consideration before furnishing a dining space.



Size, purpose and style are just some of the things that merit ample consideration before furnishing a dining space.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

The hottest trend in fireplaces? Using them to warm up a kitchen or bathroom

(BPT) - In the past few years homes have become vital sanctuaries - places where you and your family want to feel comfortable, cozy and serene. Recent shifts in home design are responding to this need, while also reflecting a desire for beauty and luxury. As a result, fireplaces are seriously trending - not just for living rooms or bedrooms, but even kitchens and bathrooms.

Thanks to recent innovations, you can add the warmth and charm a fireplace brings to almost any room without undergoing major renovations or having to worry about things like chimneys, piles of wood, screens or gas lines.

The sleek, contemporary features seen in these electric fireplaces add a warm glow and ambient light to any room. You can select features like driftwood log sets and a variety of finishes, plus whatever flame color options and fire bed materials and colors suit your mood and style.

Time-honored luxury with a modern aesthetic

While adding fireplaces to various rooms may be an emerging trend in contemporary home design - and a boon for home values - the idea has a long history, as homes once relied solely on fireplaces for heating every room. Today's designs, however, offer the drama and visual interest of clean lines and modern style - while also being much more convenient and energy-efficient than traditional wood-burning fireplaces. Another great advantage? You can run your electric fireplace anytime you'd like to enjoy the beauty and ambience it provides, with or without heat, all year round.

The heart of the home

The kitchen is possibly the most crucial room in every home. Because kitchens needed fireplaces for cooking functions in olden days, it seems like a natural fit to add a fireplace here. Today's kitchens are the heart of the home in more ways than one, especially with open plan home designs allowing plenty of

space for the entire family - and guests - to gather around and cook meals together.

What better space to create a warm, cozy and decorative focal point with an electric fireplace? You could even use a 3-sided style to connect a kitchen to dining or living areas, or use two units back-to-back to create a two-sided fireplace between any two rooms.

A personal spa

The bathroom has become a sought-after oasis in contemporary homes, inspiring spa-like features from heated floors or towel racks to deluxe standalone tubs that create an aura of comfort and luxury. Adding a bathroom fireplace is one more way to design the ultimate personal retreat. What could be more calming than relaxing in a hot bath by the light of a glowing fireplace?

Fortunately, today's electric fireplaces make this renovation easier than ever. While a few special safety precautions need to be taken for bathroom applications, following your product instructions and local code restrictions will ensure that your fireplace will be as safe as it is enchanting.

How electric fireplaces work

Electric fireplaces can supply light as well as being able to offer some heat, but the glow and warmth are created without an actual flame. With the press of a button, you can use a remote control to adjust both the "flame" and other effects, including the heat level, thermostat, timer, brightness, ember bed lights and accent lighting. Turn up the heat to take the chill off during wintry days, or turn the heat down and enjoy the fireplace just for its calming ambience when the weather's warm.

Installation is easy

Whether you choose to hire a professional or completely DIY it, electrical fireplace installation is remarkably easy. With just a few tools, a well-placed grounded electrical outlet and a revolutionary wall-mount, you can bring the comfort of a fireplace to any room in your home in a day.



Whether you're planning on renovating, remodeling, or simply updating your existing space, there's endless inspiration and affordable ways to achieve the most sought-after trends for kitchens this year.

Top 5 kitchen trends to try in the new year on any budget

(BPT) - When designing your dream kitchen, it's important to balance timeless features with modern colors, patterns and textures that reflect your personality and style - especially since, now more than ever, it provides a place to cook, eat, work and entertain. A beautifully designed kitchen can also boost the home's resale value in the future.

"Kitchen design trends for 2023 nod to the past and focus on increasing convenience, comfort and personal style," said Kaley Galinsky, a merchant at a nationally-known home improvement store. "Whether you're planning on renovating, remodeling, or simply updating your existing space, there's endless inspiration and affordable ways to achieve the most sought-after trends for kitchens in the coming year."

To make sure your kitchen renovations are stylish and up to date, here are five kitchen design trends that will be big in 2023.

1. Return to traditionalist

In 2023, you'll see a return to classic, timeless and sophisticated black that offers a sense of comfort and familiarity of traditional designs. To update your home so that it's always in style, choose classic, timeless pal-

ettes of black, white, creams and neutrals.

If you want to add interest to your home, use patterns and classic materials like marble, especially when it comes to your kitchen. High-contrast kitchens with classic lines and black finished cabinets and countertops are making a comeback and result in a striking kitchen makeover.

Cabinetry has a heavy influence on your kitchen's overall design style and can help you achieve a new look in less time. With a cabinet makeover, you keep your existing kitchen layout and get all-new doors, drawer fronts and hardware, plus optional upgrades such as pull-out shelves, cabinet lighting and more.

2. Art deco revival

For this year, interior designers predict a renewed interest in the art deco styles of the roaring '20s. To achieve this trend in your home, incorporate brighter colors, geometric patterns, luxurious fabrics and shiny surfaces.

Add or replace the backsplash in your kitchen using geometric-shaped tiles in greens and golds for a sleek and elegant look.

3. Modern organic

A renewed focus on natural and organic materials will continue to make their way into kitchens in the form of warmer finishes, soft and organic shapes, as well as mixing finishes and materials like concrete, wood, rattan and metals.

For homeowners looking to embrace this modern organic trend, interior design-

ers recommend introducing textured white oaks paired with honed black or dark gray countertops for your next kitchen remodel. For cabinets, slab doors are still popular, but the newer thin shaker is gaining popularity.

4. Home retreat

Your home should be a sanctuary from the stressors of day-to-day life. This year, many homeowners will transform their homes into personal havens that help minimize stresses and prioritize a sense of calm.

For those that retreat to the kitchen for self-care, an easy way to remove stressors is to reduce clutter with a well-organized pantry. Custom organization systems help add functionality and streamline your kitchen with stylish storage solutions, while still allowing you to enjoy your favorite appliances whenever you need them.

5. Modern cozy

For renovators who want their home's interior to be warm and inviting, they should opt for a modern cozy style. This trend is inspired by the shabby chic style of the '80s but updated with fewer over-the-top embellishments, paired with darker paints and a focus on coziness and nostalgic familiarity.

New flooring can serve as an anchor design for the rest of the kitchen. Consider installing luxury vinyl plank flooring in your kitchen - a durable, affordable and water- and stain-resistant option that's also easy to clean. Pair it with a cabinet renovation to achieve this style in your home.






Adding a bathroom fireplace is one more way to design the ultimate personal retreat.




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HOME IMPROVEMENT



Homeowners who are considering selling their homes, or those who simply want to upgrade their existing flooring, may want to consider installing hardwood flooring.

Wood floor installation dos and don'ts

Jaw-dropping features can sell a home in a heartbeat. A penthouse apartment with floor-to-ceiling windows and a panoramic view of a city skyline likely won't prove a hard sell, nor will a home with an infinity pool overlooking a landscape of rolling hills. As awe-inspiring as such features can be, some more subtle components, such as authentic hardwood floors, also can do much to make a home more appealing to prospective buyers.

Hardwood flooring is a sought-after commodity. Data from the National Association of Realtors indicates that 54 percent of home buyers are willing to pay more for hardwood floors. In fact, NAR figures indicate that 28 percent of buyers between the ages of 35 and 54 consider hardwood floors "very important" when looking for a home. Homeowners who are considering selling their homes, or those who simply want to upgrade their existing flooring, may want to consider installing hardwood flooring. Though it's a project best left to professionals, hardwood flooring can be installed by skilled DIYers. In such instances, homeowners may want to keep these dos and don'ts in mind.

DO hire a professional if you have limited or no DIY flooring experience. Hardwood flooring installation is not generally a project for novice DIYers. Hardwood flooring projects may present some common challenges, but no two homes are the same. So unless they have prior experience installing floors in multiple rooms or homes, homeowners may save themselves time, trouble and a significant amount of money hiring a professional to do the job.

DON'T ignore the subfloor. New hardwoods won't erase the problem of subfloors in poor condition. According to the home renovation experts at Bob Vila.com, squeaky floors could be an indication that the subfloor has begun to warp or twist. Sinking floors are another indicator of deteriorating subfloors. Subfloors should be somewhat level before new hardwoods are installed, so DIYers should inspect and address subfloor issues before installing new flooring.

DO expose wood flooring to the elements in your home prior to installation. The home improvement resource BuildDirect recommends acclimating hardwoods to the space where they will be installed.

Skipping this important step could result in gaps during the winter and cupping over the summer. To acclimate hardwoods, open the boxes and spread them out for about a week while running the air conditioner or heater at normal levels. When storing hardwoods prior to installation, avoid keeping them in potentially moist areas like a basement.

DON'T skimp on tools. A DIY hardwood flooring installation might be less expensive than hiring a professional, but homeowners should resist any temptation to increase those savings further by purchasing less costly tools or fewer tools than is necessary to complete the job. BuildDirect notes that DIYers will need at least a miter saw, table saw, cleat-nailer or stapler, finish nailer, compressor, jamb saw, chalk line, nail set, and tape measurer when installing hardwood floors. Purchase all necessary tools and read product reviews to ensure each tool is up to the task.

Wood floors can be awe-inspiring. Some homeowners can install such flooring on their own, and the project can be much easier if they learn as much about installation as possible prior to beginning the project.

5 exterior home upgrades that deliver a return on investment

(StatePoint) Want to make some serious exterior home upgrades that improve your safety and comfort, add beauty to your home and deliver a return on your investment? Here are five projects that do just that:

1. Install storm doors: Storm doors give you the option of letting in more light and ventilation on fair weather days, while protecting your entry door from harsh conditions and weathering. There are many ways to customize this upgrade to meet your aesthetic and functional needs. Options include retractable screens at the top and bottom for more venting options, as well as stylish designs and colors for instant curb appeal. Families might want to consider storm doors featuring heavy-duty, non-removable stainless steel screens ideal for keeping children and pets safely inside.

2. Get outdoor-ready: Extend your home's outdoor living area—plus substantially increase your home value—with the addition of a deck, patio or porch. Whether you add a small hibachi grill or get as involved as installing a full outdoor kitchen, be sure to include an area to prepare and enjoy meals. A few key touches, like string lights and potted plants, along with cozy furniture, can make the space feel homey.

3. Replace patio doors: If your patio doors are drafty or get stuck easily, it may be time for an ENERGY STAR-certified replacement.

4. Lower bills: Did you know that you can lower your bills and add natural beauty and privacy to your property by planting trees strategically? In summer, the shade that trees create can help keep your home cool. In winter,



Storm doors give you the option of letting in more light and ventilation on fair weather days, while protecting your entry door from harsh conditions and weathering.

they can help block wind and prevent drafts. The Utah State University Forest Extension recommends locating trees no closer than 2.5 times their mature height to the south of a building to avoid winter shading. They also suggest knowing the size and other characteristics of a particular species before planting to avoid future problems, such as hitting power lines.

5. Protect your home: If you live in an area prone to extreme weather -- heavy rain, hail, driving wind, frigid temperatures, or scorching heat -- your home needs protection against the elements. Insulated vinyl siding provides defense against these harsh conditions and improves energy efficiency as well. The insulation contributes to the rigidity of the

panel, increases durability, and provides five times greater impact resistance over hollow siding, protecting against damage by hail, high winds, or contact with your child's fastball. Color and beauty are also huge factors in this home improvement decision. There are many options to customize the look with both neutral and bold colors and coordinated accessories. Many siding options are resistant to fading, chalking, cracking, peeling, and thermal expansion and contraction, making it a sound investment for years to come.

It's important to see a tangible return on larger home upgrades. The best projects to consider are those that increase your home value, save you money, and add beauty and comfort to your home.

Did You Know?

—Renovations

Home renovations can improve a home in many different ways. Modifications to kitchens and bathrooms have long been popular projects, but are they the most popular renovations? According to data from Realm, which analyzed the top 10 most popular projects from roughly 2.8 million listings and permit filings in the United States in 2022, certain projects are more popular than others. Nationally, the most common home renovations include interior painting, exterior painting, finishing a basement, installing or replacing windows, and bathroom remodeling. Houzz polls have unveiled that renovating kitchens and bathrooms, new windows and porches, balcony and deck projects are among the most popular.

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A

B

Answers: 1. Bird has white spot 2. Missing icicle 3. Peanuts in dish 4. Second cardinal

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- **1903:** CUBA LEASES GUANTANAMO BAY TO THE UNITED STATES IN PERPETUITY.
- **1954:** THE FIRST MASS INOCULATION OF CHILDREN AGAINST POLIO BEGINS IN PITTSBURGH.

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a large cage, building or enclosure to house birds

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Nest

SPANISH: Nido

ITALIAN: Nido

FRENCH: Nid

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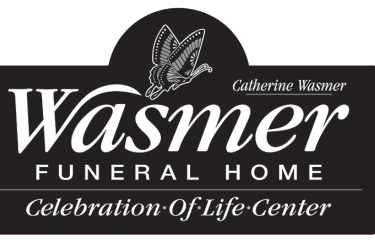
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Insecurity involves our thoughts and shows up in the way we think and feel about ourselves. So I want to ask you: What do you think about yourself? How do you feel about yourself?

Do you compare yourself with others and feel belittled or threatened around people who can do things you can't do or have things you don't have?

It's not God's will for us to be insecure and live in fear. First John 4:18 (NIV) says, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear..." God loves you and He wants you to learn to be all you are in Christ. Because when you know who you are in Christ, you will be secure in your worth as a child of God.

Is It About Your Who or Your Do?

For more than 45 years now, I've been teaching God's Word. He put a desire in my heart to help people by sharing the Gospel and showing them how to grow in their faith in Christ, and He gave me a gift to be a communicator. By His grace, our ministry has grown and we have the privilege today of reaching millions of people around the world with our Enjoying Everyday Life show on TV, radio and online.

It's been an amazing journey, and I feel so humbled by the way God has used me to share Christ and help people in need. But if I ever stop teaching the Word publicly, I'll still have value because I'm a child of God and He loves me. My identity is not this ministry—I am more than that because of who I am in Christ.

The truth is, our worth, or value, is not based on what we do. We find our value in knowing we're created by God to be His children, knowing Christ, having Him as our Savior, and living in relationship with God, secure in His love for us.

It's important to understand that we can't earn God's love; it's a gift He offers that we receive by faith. And He



wants to have a personal relationship with each one of us because He loves us. Every person is equally valuable to God!

Where's Your Confidence?

In the Amplified Bible, Philippians 3:3 says that "we [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, set apart for His purpose and] are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory and take pride and exult in Christ Jesus and place no confidence [in what we have or who we are] in the flesh."

This scripture clearly tells us we shouldn't get our confidence from how we look, who we know, what we have or what we do. We "place no confidence in the flesh," and are confident in who we are in Christ: loved, forgiven, redeemed, "the righteousness of God [that is...acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him

by His gracious loving-kindness]" (2 Corinthians 5:21 AMP).

As a child of God, you are a unique creation, and I want to encourage you to value and respect the person He made you to be. I'm not talking about accepting sin in your life, but when you've submitted yourself to God, confessed your sin and received His forgiveness, then you can be all He created you to be and enjoy your life!

True joy comes when you know who you are in Christ and you can focus on reaching out to others, helping to make their lives better. And it all starts with knowing God loves you, that His love is unconditional, and you can't buy His love with any amount of good works.

God's love for us is based on who He is, not on us—who we are or how good we are. When you have a revelation of how much He loves you, it makes you secure and

you can confidently say, "God loves me. He has a good plan for me. I trust Him, and everything in my life is going to work out for good—in Christ!"

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.

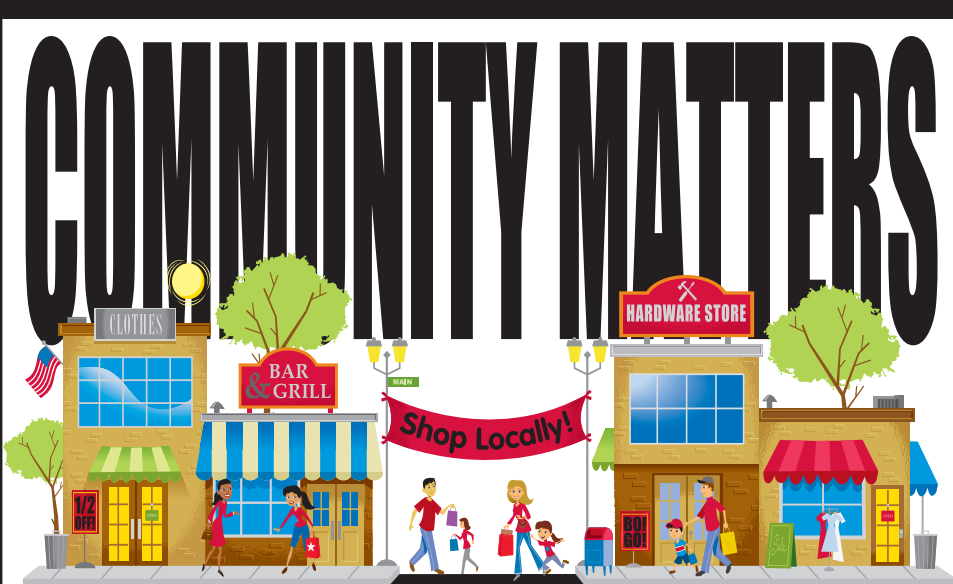
Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and LOVING PEOPLE WHO ARE HARD TO LOVE (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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Staff/Parish Relations Committee meets

Feb. 26 - First Sunday in Lent;
9 a.m. Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship

Feb. 28 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Prayer Walking

March 1 - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sanctuary open
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TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

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If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today
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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
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and rest;
If I can do these, Father, this I pray:
"O let me do them with my very best."

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

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it will be well with you. Your wife
shall be like a fruitful vine within
your house, your children like olive
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— PSALM 128:1-3 —

"Mother & Child Study" by Pablo Picasso (1904)

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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: immanuelutheran
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. 22 - 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday
Service at First, Lee

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: fbfcchurch20817@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 4 John (KJV) in the
Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In Romans 10, what body part
does Paul call "beautiful" on those
who bring the good news? Hands,
Mouth, Heart, Feet

3. Who died after getting his long
hair caught in a tree and being
found by enemy soldiers? Absalom,
Joash, Ahaz, Asa

4. From Matthew 22:14, "For many
are called, but few are ..." ? Worthy,
Chosen, Winners, Liked

5. What caused the death of
Job's children? Famine, Flood,
Windstorm, Beheaded

6. Who was the mate of Abigail?
Abraham, Adam, Nabal, Baasha

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Feet, 3)
Absalom, 4) Chosen, 5) Windstorm,
6) Nabal

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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

faith

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)



MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TRIUMPH • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • PAW PAW • LELAND • OHIO

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

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. 0375 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 52, Phase 3
 VERONICA E RODRIGUEZ AND BACNI JAIR RODRIGUEZ-NUNEZ, WIFE AND HUSBAND, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 5527 W 24TH ST APT 1, CICERO, IL, 60804, according to the Mortgage dated January 14, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 14783, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 22, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0060 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 34, Phase 1
 VERONICA E RODRIGUEZ AND BACNI JAIR RODRIGUEZ-NUNEZ, WIFE AND HUSBAND, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 2657 S KEELER AVE APT 1, CHICAGO, IL, 60623, according to the Mortgage dated January 14, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 14783, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 22, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0060 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 34, Phase 1
 DANIELA ROJO AND DANIEL PANTOJA, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 2632 S AVERS AVE, CHICAGO, IL, 60623, according to the Mortgage dated July 17, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 13314, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 30, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0437 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 31, Phase 7
 MICHAEL A SAULSBERRY AND JODY L GLEMZA, HUSBAND AND WIFE, 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. 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
 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, 5402 N 41ST ST, MILWAUKEE, WI, 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)

addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Faye Meadows Farm located at 2644 N. 3501st Road, Marseilles, IL. 61341.
 Dated: February 8, 2023. Molly M. German Applicant.
 No. 0209
 (Feb. 15, 22 and March 1, 2023)

NOTICE

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

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.

TEXT AND
 WHATEVER
 JUST
 DON'T
 TEXT
 AND



STOPTEXTSTOPWRECKS.ORG



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.

FOR SALE 4 foot by 8

foot fluorescent light fixtures with bulbs. \$5 each in Mendota. Call 630-803-7146 (03-12-23)

315 WANTED TO BUY

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

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Very clean 3 bed & 1 bath, laundry room, front porch, patio, big yard, 2 car parking. \$850.00/month. Call 815-252-9518

Upstairs - very clean 2 bed & 1 bath, big kitchen & bathroom kitchen recently remodeled. \$700.00/month. Call 815-252-9518

APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA

1 & 2 Bedrooms, Appliances, A/C. 779-201-0532 815-498-2262.

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 P.O. Box 300 Mendota IL 61342-0300

DEADLINES:

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- Thursdays at 4 p.m. to start in Monday Money Saver

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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.

EVERY MORNING MY HUMAN SHAVES OFF HIS FACE FUR, HE'S FUNNY LIKE THAT.

-TUCK adopted 05-04-11

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theshelterpetproject.org

Ad Council THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES RADDIE'S FUND

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4



2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT, 4x4, Z71, TrailBoss, GM-Certified, One-Owner, Local Trade, Leather Interior, Heated Seats, 32K miles, White, and Much More!

\$46,900

2021 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LTZ, 4x4 Z71, 31K Miles, Silver.....	\$49,900	2019 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew LT, 4x4, 44K Miles, Black.....	\$36,900
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
2020 Chevrolet Suburban, 4x4, LT, Loaded, 65K Miles, Blue.....	\$46,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD Premier, 47K Miles, Tan	\$24,900
2019 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab, LT, 4X4, Z71, TrailBoss, 32K Miles, White.....	\$46,900		

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

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

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* Plus Tax, title and license. Rebates applied. Subject to credit approval.

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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

REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE

FEATURE HOME



609 13th Ave. Mendota, IL

\$179,500.00

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

McConville Realty & Auctioneering

612 S. Main St., Mendota

815-539-5673

McConville
REALTY & AUCTIONEERING

Joe McConville, Designated Managing Broker

612 S. Main St., Mendota, IL

815-539-5673

E-mail: office@mcconvillerealty.com

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