

MFD Card Party & Dance is back

150th event planned for February 4

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Each mailbox in Mendota had an envelope from the Mendota Fire Department inside of it last week.

The flier inside and the blue ticket were inviting each and every resident to the 150th Annual Card Party & Dance on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Mendota Moose Lodge.

“We use the funds that we get to purchase equipment. We’ve bought different kinds of equipment over the years to help us with our job,” said assistant fire chief Brian Fisher, who will be attending the event for his 30th appearance. “With the economy the way it is, it’s hard to keep up with the upgrades in equipment. We use the money from this event to buy, replace, and repair the equipment we have.

“We do this so people can come out and have fun. We have different opportunities for everyone. There is Texas Hold’Em for the Texas Hold’Em guys. We have the card party where they play Euchre and Pinochle. The Moose has dinner options available for purchase. We have Vegas Night at night and a band, Free Beer & Chicken.



It should be a fun night for everyone.”

The card party featuring Euchre, Pinochle, and “500” will begin at 1 p.m. and Texas Hold’Em Deep Stack Tournament, with a \$100 buy in, will also begin at 1 p.m.

Dinner will be served by the Moose Lodge from 5-7 p.m. upon purchase.

From 8 p.m.-midnight, the cards will flip a little faster and the dice will roll further during Vegas Night (craps, blackjack, more of your favorite casino games) and Free Beer & Chicken will perform.

“We haven’t had the event for two years, so this will be the first one in the last three years; since 2020, right before COVID-19,” said Fisher. “We hope to have as much fun as we have had in the past.”

Tickets are \$6 each.

They can be purchased beforehand or they can be purchased at the door upon arrival.



Demolition begins

Demolition has begun on the buildings severely damaged by a Dec. 29 fire in the 700 block of Illinois Avenue in downtown Mendota. An Otterbach Excavating machine takes a bite out of the former Kaleel’s Clothing store building on Jan. 30. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Motor fuel taxes in Illinois will see a significant drop as more electric vehicles hit the road and fewer people fill their cars with gas.

Report predicts billions in motor fuel tax revenue losses if state meets EV goals

By NIKA SCHOONOVER
Capital News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—Despite Illinois’ efforts to smoothly integrate electric vehicles into the state’s economy, a new report from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute is warning of a potential steep decline in transportation revenue as the process of electrification accelerates.

The primary issue is motor fuel taxes, which will see a significant drop as more electric vehicles make their way to the road and fewer people fill their cars with gas.

Since motor fuel taxes make up the backbone of state funding for road and bridge projects, ILEPI, which has strong ties to

organized labor, warned in its report that new revenue sources will have to be identified to ensure the state’s 10-year capital improvements plan remains on track.

“There’s absolutely a benefit to having EVs but it will ultimately have a strong impact on transportation funding,” Mary Tyler, the author of the report, said in an interview. “It’s something that I don’t think is talked about enough.”

Motor fuel tax is the state’s leading source of transportation funding and makes

See Tax, Page A5

‘It just spiraled, snowballed’

Val Lynn Tine, aka Emily Byrne, publishes first book

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Val Lynn Tine is a name.

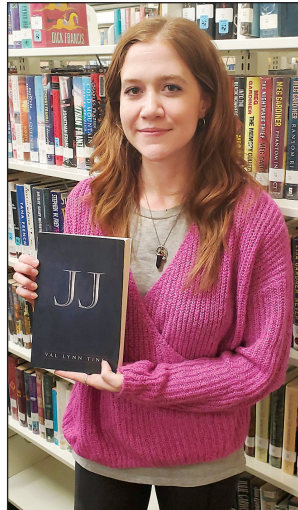
Read it again – it’s catchy and has similarities to a Hall-mark holiday.

Besides it’s catchiness, Val Lynn Tine is the name of the author of the book “JJ” that was published on June 19, 2020.

This was all anyone knew. There isn’t a Wikipedia or a Facebook page for an author or a person named Val Lynn Tine.

Until, Mendota native and 6th-8th grade teacher at Creston Elementary School, Emily Byrne, gave an announcement on Facebook stating she is actually the writer of JJ and she is Val Lynn Tine.

“It used to be what I’d tell people when I was out, and I didn’t want to tell them my real name. If someone was trying to talk to me that I didn’t want to talk to me, I’d say, ‘It’s Val,’” said Byrne, who graduated from Mendota High School in 2010 and went on to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree from



Val Lynn Tine, aka Emily Byrne

Western Illinois University. “Some would catch on and some wouldn’t. The name just stuck.”

“JJ is the main character’s name. I said it a lot, so it just made sense when I was thinking of what could be a catchy title. It’s simple. The book is directed toward young adult and adult. I would say older high school age.

“My middle schoolers know that I’ve published a book, but I haven’t told them

anything about it. They ask, ‘When can we read it?’ I answer, ‘When you graduate from high school.’ The best way to describe it is a modern-day Romeo and Juliet with football, drama, and scandal. All of the fun stuff.”

When the book came out, she was excited and proud of her hard work.

However, besides family and close friends of her inner circle, no one knew she wrote “JJ.”

She preferred the anonymity, but realized a few years later, it’s time to put a face with the name, the pen name.

“I wasn’t talking about it and it was more like I was hiding the fact that I wrote a book. It became a disservice to myself,” Byrne said. “I showed the book to my close circle and they had great things to say about it. They were the biggest encouragement and they said, ‘You have to say something. You have to talk about it.’

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LOCAL AND AREA

Benefits of story time with your babies, toddlers shared by Graves-Hume Public Library

MENDOTA – Do you know the benefits of attending storytime with your babies and toddlers? Storytime teaches important pre-literacy skills when we read, sing, talk, and play together. Simple things like reading a book together allows children to see how we turn pages and how we read from left to right. So much information can be acquired from this simple act. Reading books allows children to learn about things that they would have no exposure to in their everyday lives. Reading and talking allows children to hear so many words and expand their vocabulary. When people think about literacy, they think about reading and writing, but before they can do those things, they learn about sounds and how we communicate in the world.

The Shake, Rattle and Read program at Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota is full of opportunities for children to hear songs, do rhymes, and repeat what they are learning. All these skills help set up a great foundation for reading. One of the goals of story time is also to show parents how to



bond with their child through songs, books, and dance. Another benefit of story time is for the parent and child to socialize. It gives parents and caregivers the chance to meet with others in their community and to form bonds and friendships. Children also are able to interact with other kids and learn new skills by watching and playing with them. Bringing your child to the library helps instill a lifelong love of reading and with the library.

Shake, Rattle and Read is intended for ages birth to 2 years old, but siblings are al-

ways welcome. The library offers two morning sessions and two evening sessions a month. Each program centers around a theme and includes reading of books, singing songs, dancing, and it ends with group play. Each participant also receives a take-home snack and craft at the end of the program.

Upcoming dates are Thursday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 8th, 11 a.m.; Thursday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. Library programs are open to all. No library card is required. Please call 815-538-5142 to register.

Illinois Conservation Foundation accepting scholarship applications

SPRINGFIELD – Applications are being accepted by the Illinois Conservation Foundation for the 2023 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program.

The foundation annually awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who demonstrate effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection or enhancement of the state's natural resources.

Four scholarships of \$2,000 each are available for the current school year. One of the scholarships is reserved for a qualified ap-

plicant who is a dependent of a current employee of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

“The ICF Conservation Achievement Scholarship program rewards high school students interested in conservation stewardship with an eye toward encouraging them to focus their studies on enhancing and protecting our natural resources,” said Colleen Callahan, chair of the Illinois Conservation Foundation Board of Directors and director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The ICF Conservation

Achievement Scholarships have been awarded since 2005. Applicants must be an Illinois resident and a senior in an Illinois high school. Applications must be received by March 3, 2023.

Detailed instructions and the 2023 application form can be accessed through the ICF website at www.ilconservation.org.

Contact the Illinois Conservation Foundation at 217-785-2003 or info@ilconservation.org for more information or to make a donation to support the Conservation Achievement Scholarship program.



Rayanne Sester, left, executive director of Mendota Area Senior Services, applauds after announcing Darice Childs, center, and Allen Bonnell as MASS Co-Volunteers of the Year for 2022. (Photo contributed)

Childs, Bonnell named MASS Co-Volunteers of the Year

MENDOTA – Allen Bonnell and Darice Childs were named as Mendota Area Senior Services Co-Volunteers of the Year for 2022 at the MASS volunteer lunch/annual meeting on Jan. 25.

Bonnell is a MASS board member and serves as president. He is also a volunteer driver, where many of his hours were logged on the road taking clients to medical appointments. He has helped

with most of the MASS fundraisers over the past year. He also takes it upon himself to help keep the transportation building and volunteer vehicles clean.

Childs is on the MASS board where she takes care of the secretary's job. She helps with all of the MASS fundraisers, and bakes when needed. She also calls bingo in the senior center every week.

All volunteers that were recognized represent many hours of donated time to Mendota Area Senior Services in 2022. If these volunteer hours had been paid at minimum wage, the cost to MASS would have been tremendous. Volunteers come with all kinds of backgrounds and experience. Some are able to offer many hours of service, some can only give an hour or two.

LaSalle Public Library to host virtual programs with New York Times bestselling authors of “The Lost Summers of Newport” in February

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will host virtual programs by best-selling authors in February.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m., in partnership with Westchester Public Library, New York Times bestselling authors Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, and Karen White (Team W) will discuss their fourth and latest collaboration, and New York Times bestseller, “The Lost Summers of Newport.”

“The Lost Summers of Newport,” is a novel of money and secrets set among the famous summer mansions of Rhode Island,

spanning over a century from the Gilded Age to the present day.

The program is free, open to the public, and will be presented virtually via Zoom. To register, use the following link - <https://bit.ly/3wgyR1d>. or more information, contact LaSalle Public Library at 815-223-2341 or Westchester Public Library at 708-562-3573.

On Saturday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m., the LaSalle Public Library, in partnership with Aurora Public Library, and 35 Illinois libraries will host best-selling children's author, Shannon Hale and

award-winning illustrator, LeUyen Pham for a lively discussion on their graphic novel series, “Real Friends.”

In this virtual program, Hale and Pham will discuss their books, answer questions, and share an engaging hands-on activity. Free activity packets can be picked up at the library or attendees can print their own by going to the Library's website – <https://bit.ly/3kyyAo3>.

This program is free and open to the public. Register – <https://bit.ly/3keFChv>. For more information, call the Library at 815-223-2341.

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LOCAL AND AREA

OSF HealthCare holding job fair

MENDOTA — OSF HealthCare is hosting a job fair Monday, Feb. 13, from 2 – 6 p.m. at the Grand Bear Lodge Grand Ball Room, 2643 IL-178, in Utica. Please enter through the main lobby.

OSF HealthCare has both clinical and non-clinical positions available at its facilities in Mendota, Ottawa, Streator, Princeton and Kewanee. OSF offers a variety of incentives including flexible hours and quality, affordable medical benefits.

Job-seekers will have the opportunity to explore different careers with OSF HealthCare, and on-the-spot interviews will be conducted.

For more information on the job fairs, please visit OSF HealthCare.

Department on Aging seeks nominations for Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is now accepting nominations for the Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame, open to adults aged 65 and older who excel in the categories of community service, education, performance and/or graphic arts, and the labor force.

“When I think about the people of Illinois, a couple of words come to mind: kindness, generosity, ingenuity, and perseverance. Each year, my administration is proud to honor four older adults who embody these values through service, education, arts, and labor by inducting them into the Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “Whether you know a teacher who goes above and beyond for their students or a community member who you can always find out and about lending a hand to others, we

want to hear about the seniors in your life that make Illinois, Illinois.”

The Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame was established by the General Assembly in 1994 to honor older adults’ accomplishments and contributions to their communities. Each year, four Illinoisans aged 65 or older are inducted into the Hall of Fame for their work in community service, education, arts or the labor force.

Nominations for 2023 inductees must be submitted by June 1. For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/resources/news-publicationsandreports/hall-offame.html>.

“Nominating an older friend, family member or neighbor for the Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame is a wonderful way to show them the

impact of their contributions to your community,” said IDoA Director Paula Basta.

“Each year, we enjoy reading the nominations to get to know Illinois’ most outstanding older adults and giving special recognition to four of them.”

IDoA serves and advocates for older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life. For information about the Department’s programs and services for older adults and persons with disabilities, visit <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/programs.html> or contact the Senior HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Blackstone pizza lunch

The January principal award winners at Blackstone School were celebrated with a pizza lunch on Jan. 27. Students attending the pizza lunch included, front row, left to right, Briston Fisher and Alana Whitmore. Middle row, Grayson Kent, Ysabella Hernandez, Isaac Orozco and Eliana Garrett. Back row, Parker Watson, A’Jada Perkins, Arianna Taperia, Delaila Casas and Janiza Thorndyke. (Photo contributed)

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Our January spirit day was held on Jan. 24. With the snow that came in this week, it was fitting that we had “White-Out Day.” We had a sea of white at Blackstone. Thank you to the students and staff that participated!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Amyra Hawkins, Johnny Giacomelli, Daleyza Arteaga, Leila Reyes, Cameron Saunders, Bentley Milus, Yelaina Escatel and Liam Falcon. The winners were Ysabella Hernandez, Isaac Orozco, Delaila Casas and Janiza Thorndyke. Congratulations to all of you!

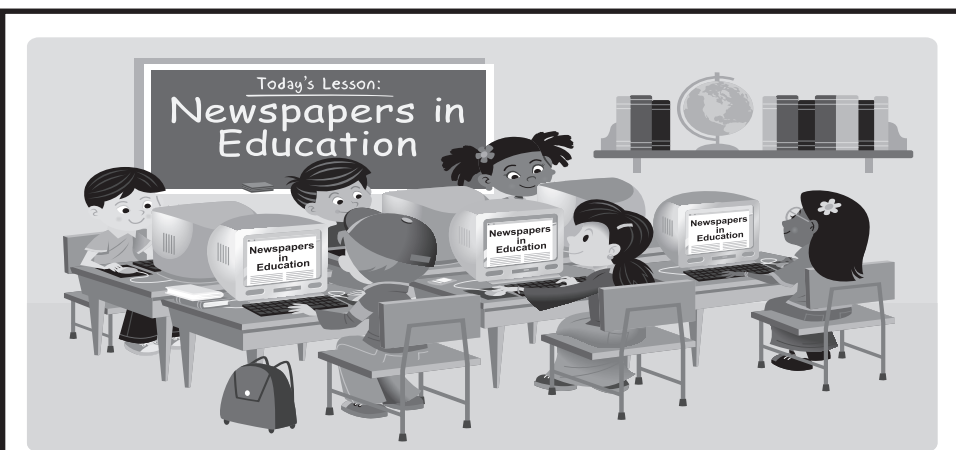
The January principal award winners were celebrated

with a pizza lunch on Jan. 27. The students invited to attend were Alana Whitmore, Briston Fisher, Frances Rupp, Grayson Kent, Ysabella Hernandez, Isaac Orozco, Eliana Garrett, Parker Watson, A’Jada Perkins, Arianna Taperia, Delaila Casas and Janiza Thorndyke. A picture of the student winners will appear in The Mendota Reporter and on our website.

Parents, please don’t forget to send your child to school each day with warm outerwear to be outside. We still go outside in the winter to play and our students should come prepared each day with boots, snow pants, gloves and a hat. It’s also very important that parents label all

outerwear with your child’s name or initials.

The district’s final fundraiser of the year will be wrapping up soon. We are selling Nothing Bundt Cakes for \$6 each. All orders will be due on Friday, Feb. 3. Cakes will be delivered on Wednesday, Feb. 15. If you would like to order any cakes, please make sure your orders are in on time. If you don’t have a student at Blackstone, but would like to order, please call our office at 539-6888. Blackstone School is raising money with this fundraiser to be able to provide fun activities for our students in the spring and at the end of the school year. We appreciate your support with the Nothing Bundt Cake fundraiser!



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Robert L. Bresson

COMPTON—Robert L. Bresson, 93, of Compton, passed away Jan. 26, 2023 at Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation Center.

Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church West Brooklyn. Rev. Randy Fronck officiated. Burial followed in St. Mary's cemetery. Visitation was from 9 a.m. until service time at the church.

Bob was born Nov. 25, 1929, in Compton to George and Bertha (Walter) Bresson. He graduated from Lee Center High School in 1947. Bob married the love of his life Charlotte Pierce on Feb. 20, 1954 in Rochelle.

Bob will be forever missed by his wife Charlotte of Compton; sons Mark (Judy) Bresson of Compton and Jeff (Mary) Bresson of Compton; grandson Jake (Mariana) Bresson; great-grandson Nicolas and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, grandson Craig Bresson on Nov. 26, 2006, and brother Ray Bresson.

Bob was so much more than a farmer. For many years he was a grain equipment dealer for Behlen and Mayrath, often their top salesperson. Bob had a passion for flying and was an expert pilot, flight instructor, and Cessna plane dealer. In 2007, he received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award, awarded to a pilot for having 50 years with no accidents or incidents. Bob was active in his county and community. He served on the H.F. Gehant Bank Board, the Quiet Birdmen, Mendota Elks Lodge #1212, Mendota Moose Lodge, Lee County Sheriff's Merit Board and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Bob loved to go to his boys' basketball games, and he loved to dance with Charlotte.

Pallbearers will be John Burkhart, Bill Siemer, Ray Mann, Dean Ackland, Jake Bresson, Lewis Durin and Mike Bernardin.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Neighbor's In Christ Ecumenical N.I.C.E. of Lee 346 S. County Line Road Lee, IL 60530. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Thelma A. Hutchinson

MENDOTA — Thelma A. (Watson) Hutchinson, 92, of Mendota, passed away Jan. 25, 2023 in her home.

Visitation was Monday, Jan. 30, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A graveside service followed at 2 p.m. at Restland Cemetery, Mendota with Rev. Joseph LaJoy officiating.

Hutchinson was born a twilight sleep baby at Angier Hospital in Sublette on Oct. 8, 1930 to Lawrence and Mary (Dudgeon) Watson. She married John Hutchinson on June 12, 1949 in Mendota.

She is survived by her daughter, Sara (Randy) Torman of Mendota; her son Jeffrey (Frank Zito) Hutchinson of Los Angeles, Calif.; her sister, Phyllis Reed of Fairport, N.Y.; her grandchildren, Jami (Joseph) LaJoy, Chad Wendelken, Matt (Stacey) Wendelken, Jennifer (Chris) Eller, Jared (Sarah) Kern, Brian (Jolene) Wendelken, Patrick (Amanda) Torman, Stephanie (Justin) Gehron and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband in 2005, her daughter Jill Becker in 2017 and her son-in-law Robert Becker.

Thelma had an entrepreneurial spirit. For many years, Thelma and John operated the This 'N That variety store in Mendota. Eventually they began to sell sewing supplies and Thelma used her sewing skills, learned from her Grandma Martin, to sew for customers. Later, Thelma opened Rainbow Realtors, and then Rainbow Travel, which led to the moniker "Grandma Rainbow." Travel was her passion, visiting every state in the U.S. and over 60 countries in the world. She hosted many group trips overseas, and as her grown daughters began to raise families, she gave a special gift to each of her six grandchildren on their 10th birthdays: Grandma would take them on a trip to any place they chose in the entire world. She also made friends around the world and opened her home to many of them. She hosted several international students, often relatives of friends, while they attended college.

Thelma enjoyed taking photos on her many trips abroad, and some of them were so good they won prizes at the fair. She also had a talent for crafting, which meant that the photos often ended up in beautiful scrapbooks. Or she would surprise a relative with something like a much-appreciated hand sewn purse or stained-glass light fixture. She also enjoyed playing cards in local card clubs and giving back to the community, including a dedication to the Kiwanis Club.

Memorials may be directed to Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education, which is a school for autism in Peru. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Albert E. Jansen

MENDOTA — Albert E. Jansen, 74, of Mendota, passed away Jan. 26, 2023, in his home with his loving wife and dogs by his side.

Services will be Feb. 3, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Rev. Mary Bohall will officiate, and inurnment will follow at Wisner Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday, Feb. 2 from 3-6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Al was born April 11, 1948 in Centralia, to Fred and Nettie (Carman) Jansen.

Al will be forever missed by Cheryl, his wife of 30 years; his children, C.J. (Kip) Runyon of Waterloo, Greg (Sarah) Jansen of Crystal Lake, Gabe (Amy) Grzeskiewicz of South Elgin, and Angela Greskiewicz of Florida; his six grandchildren, Hailey Runyon, Alex, Claire and Grace Jansen, Bennett and Leighton Grzeskiewicz, and his beloved dogs, Bailey and Neala. He is also survived by his brother George Jansen and sister Linda Betz, both of Centralia; brothers-in-law, Mike (Delpha) Seng of Yorkville, Scott (Sue) Seng, of Mendota, and sister-in-law Cathy (Tom) Burke of Mendota, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Mary Stormont, and two brothers Fred Jansen and John Jansen, parents-in-law Maurice and Shirley Seng, brother and sister-in-law Jim and Janet Eich.

He graduated from Salem High School in 1966 and began taking classes at Kaskaskia College. In 1971, he entered the Army National Guard and was enlisted until 1979. He continued his education at Eastern Illinois University obtaining a degree in Education. For a short time, he taught Mathematics at Cumberland High School until deciding his interests were best served in the banking industry. His over 30-year career began at The Toledo National Bank. He arrived in Mendota in 1985, working with the National Bank /Amcore Bank. In 1992, Al married Cheryl (Seng) and in 1998 they moved to East Peoria where he continued his career with Morton Community Bank. Upon his retirement, he was serving as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Al was active in his community serving in the Kiwanis, the Morton Optimist Club, Mendota Elks Lodge #1212 and Mendota Golf Club. He coached Little League in Toledo and football at Cumberland. Al had a lifelong love of fishing, and wished for everyone to "live long and prosper."

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Unity Hospice, 915 N. Caron Road Rochelle, IL 61068. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



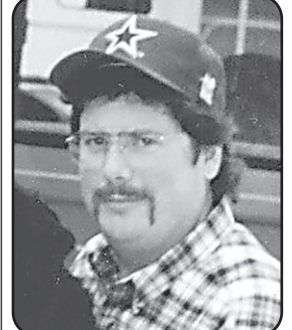
DEATH NOTICES

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

Please see more Obituaries on Page A11.

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*With Love,
Mom*

Martin D. Eddy
5-4-1963 / 2-7-2021

Thomas P. Kerns

MENDOTA — Thomas Paul Kerns, 80, of Mendota, passed away Jan. 23, 2023 in his home.

Tom's wishes were to have a Celebration of Life at Rip's Tavern in Ladd for family and friends, which will be held in April. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is handling arrangements.

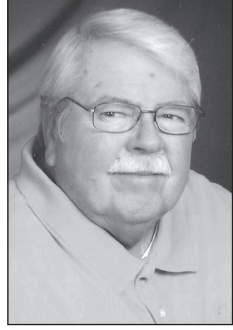
Tom was born Nov. 14, 1942, in LaSalle, to Paul and Peg (Fitzgerald) Kerns. He married Judith Walter on June 19, 1965.

He is survived by his wife Judy of Mendota; two daughters Julie Friend and Marci Burnett; grandchildren, Emily Sanchez and Athea (William Gallup) Friend; great-grandchildren, Lily Grace Weathers and Eliza Gallup; siblings Michael (Sandy) Kerns of Wisconsin, Margaret Kerns of California and Richard Kerns of Nebraska; and cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Anna Salokar and his great-granddaughter Monica Sanchez.

Tom was a 1960 graduate of Mendota High School. He served in the United States Navy from 1960-1963. He worked for Hart Carter, Sundstrand, Letterkraft, City of Mendota as parks supervisor and RR Donnelley where he retired from in 2005. Tom's hobbies included fishing, photography, ham radio, YouTube, playing horseshoes, sitting at Lake Mendota and enjoying nature and camping. Two of his favorite things were the Dallas Cowboys and Rip's Chicken.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Book

Continued from Page A1

“Honestly, what’s come from it has been overwhelming. I’ve gotten community support. That’s what I should have been thinking from the start, but in my head, I was thinking it would be more like a punch line to a joke. People have been supportive, and it’s been awesome. I appreciate my community that much more.”

The idea for “JJ” came at a time natural for Byrne to think of ideas.

Listening to music. “I always have 20 ideas all at the same time. How it stuck was, I’m very big into music playlists and years ago I heard a song and it made me get a creative imagination about an idea,” Byrne said. “I wrote it down and then it just kind of spiraled, snowballed from there. Writing the book came very easy and I wrote it without even realizing how much I wrote.

“This is the first book I’ve ever written. I was excited to write it and it was fun to write. Once I finished it, I was like now what. Then I went back into it and cut it all apart during the editing process. When I originally wrote it, it was very long. I edited it myself at first and then I had some editing assistance.”

The editing process, which she viewed as sculpting a motion picture where fun, cool sections were cut because they weren’t necessary, skimmed the novel from 550 pages to 313.

Although tedious and time consuming, Byrne liked the final product after editing.

Then came the task of publishing.

“It wasn’t really that hard. I’m really into research, so it’s just researching things enough to find out what you need to know,” Byrne said. “I’m also a control freak. When I first graduated with my bachelor’s degree, I wanted to be in the publishing world. Around here, you can’t really do that. I had an internship with a publishing company in New York, unpaid, and I didn’t go. “I looked into publishing on my own. Nothing against the publishing world, but I feel like authors have less control of things and stories start to change. That may be a good thing for some, but I’m one of those people that if I’m writing it’s going to be what I want to say.”

The young author said she does understand why the publishing world exists and there are intelligent, experienced professionals, but at the end of the day, it is her book, not theirs. “JJ” written by Val Lynn Tine can be found and purchased on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online bookstores in both print and digital form.

According to Tine or Byrne, the end of her first book is open-ended and made for a sequel.

A sequel may be in the works, but if it is, it will be quite some time before completion.

Until then, she is enjoying her first novel and the personal step she took by telling herself, her close circle, her community, and the world that she is the author behind the name Val Lynn Tine.

“What I like about my story, even though I’m biased, is I had a main character that isn’t likeable. There are a lot of characters in the story that are not going to be liked by readers. They all have secrets that they’re hiding and there are reasons for the secrets and why they’re being hid.

“A lot of the secrets are small-minded, but when you get to the deeper-rooted issue, it shows why. It’s trial and error where my characters are learning from their mistakes.

“Once you think you’ve figured something out, most likely, you didn’t figure something else out.”

IVCC enrollment figures are strong at start of spring semester

OGLESBY – Enrollment at Illinois Valley Community College remains strong this spring, board members learned at their Jan. 12 meeting.

Credit hours are up 6.2% and head count increased over 2% as of Jan. 12. Classes began Jan. 9.

Following a significant expansion of course offerings, Ottawa Center credit hours are up 246%, from 163 on Jan. 12, 2022 to 565 today.

Last fall, total credit hours increased 7.2% and head count over 4%.

“Spring numbers are promising, especially when you consider we still have some high school dual credit, late-start and second-8-week courses yet to come in,” President Jerry Corcoran said.

A slate of over 25 late-start and second 8-week courses begin Feb. 6 and March 14 respectively, including many online courses.

In other business, trustees approved purchase of a 2008 Chevrolet ambulance from Bill Walsh Ford Lincoln Kia of

Ottawa for \$42,987 for use in the EMS program. The ambulance, funded by the Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH) grant, will facilitate simulation instruction on main campus and at Ottawa Center.

Trustees learned:

- The Business Office again earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

- Kimber King was hired as health careers navigator. King, who holds a master’s in social work from the University of Illinois, was formerly the college’s Covid-19 coordinator.

- Miguel Hermosillo, formerly of the financial aid office, is now bursar (cashier). He holds an MBA in finance from American Public University in West Virginia.

- Michelle Johnson is the Business Office’s new accounting clerk-payables cashier. She worked previously at IVCH/St. Margaret’s Health in Peru.

- Steve Mazzorana was promoted

to SIS & Application Development Lead. Mazzorana has over 20 years’ experience in IT.

- Coaches submitting resignations recently include Gabriel Billings, head women’s soccer, Erin Polte, head volleyball, Jessica Brown, assistant volleyball, and Anthony Cox, assistant men’s soccer.

- Resignations were also received from Zachariah Forkner, part-time Writing Center coordinator, Kelsey Forkner, information specialist in Student Services, and Sarah Metcalfe, administrative assistant in counseling.

- Corcoran and Director of Continuing Education and Business Services Jennifer Scheri presented to the Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Academy Dec. 22. Corcoran credited IVAC Executive Director Bill Zens for resurrecting the program for up-and-coming leaders. IVCC Director of Learning Resources Patrice Hess and Director of Financial Aid Eric Johnson are in the first class.



G. Wasmer on honor roll

MENDOTA – Mendota High School recently named its Second Quarter Honor Roll students and one student was inadvertently omitted from the list.

Grace Wasmer, a junior, should have been included on the Honor Roll list.

Mendota High School and The Mendota Reporter apologize for the omission.

Tax

Continued from Page A1

up 5 percent of Illinois’ total transportation revenue and 82 percent of its contributions to the federal highway trust fund.

The report’s main policy recommendation is implementing a vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, fee which would replace the existing motor fuel tax with a fee determined by the number of miles a car travels on Illinois roads.

The idea has been floated in the past, including by Gov. JB Pritzker in an interview with The Arlington Heights Daily Herald during his initial gubernatorial campaign in 2018.

“In some states (such as Oregon), they have done tests recently for a VMT tax because we have more and more electric cars on the road, more and more hybrids, and because gas mileage is rising,” then-candidate Pritzker told the outlet. “It’s only fair if you’re on a road and traveling on that road that you should pay your fair share.”

In his four years as governor, however, Pritzker has not made a serious legislative push for a VMT, and spokesperson Alex Gough said in an email Monday he has no plans to do so.

“Gov. Pritzker never proposed a vehicle mileage tax and has no intention of doing so now,” Gough said in a statement. “What he said is

that other states are studying the issue and it would be worthwhile to look at the results of those studies.”

It’s an issue that ILEPI says will become more pressing as the state moves toward its goal of putting 1 million electric vehicles on state roads by the end of the decade – a goal written into law with the passage of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act in 2021.

Even before this promise was made, Illinois was seeing a yearly increase in electric vehicles. From 2017 to 2021, electric vehicle registrations have increased from 8,255 to 36,482. The most recent data from the Illinois Secretary of State’s office shows that, as of December 2022, there are 57,311 electric vehicle registrations.

“Looking at the growth we’re seeing, we’re seeing it grow at a faster rate than what we ever have before,” Tyler said.

According to Tyler’s estimate, Illinois would have to add 119,000 electric vehicles every year in order to meet their goal of one million by 2030. If that came to fruition, the state would lose \$765 million in combined sales and motor fuel tax when accounting for added EV fees. Counting federal revenues, that figure would jump up to \$1.1 billion.

Electric vehicles aside, Tyler said fuel-efficient

vehicles pose an additional threat to the state’s transportation revenue. Roughly 10 percent of registered vehicles in Illinois are electric, while the rest of the 11 million are increasingly becoming more fuel-efficient.

“If you take a look at the picture of all the vehicles on the road, as newer vehicles come out that are more fuel-efficient, that means we’re just having overall, on average, a more fuel-efficient fleet,” Tyler said.

Tyler calculated that the total state and federal revenue loss over the next decade would be about \$4.3 billion.

That loss would be especially threatening to the back half of Pritzker’s historic 10-year, \$45 billion capital infrastructure plan known as Rebuild Illinois.

The roads-and-bridges portion of the 2019 program was made possible in large part by doubling the state’s motor fuel tax, which hadn’t seen an increase since 1990, then tying it to inflation in subsequent years. The infrastructure plan also increased Illinois’ annual electric vehicle registration fee by \$100 annually.

Tyler said while the fee hike helped replace some of the lost revenue, it won’t go far enough.

“As soon as the change can be made, the better,” Tyler said. “Even to this day, there are EVs on the road that

are not paying as much as they would be on motor fuel tax. So there is an impact, it’s just right now the impact isn’t as big as what it will be in the future.”

In response to questions about revenue declines, Gough, Pritzker’s spokesperson, said Rebuild Illinois “is a six-year plan that relies on a variety of revenue streams to ensure the state can continue investing in infrastructure once the plan is complete.”

Other policy areas to explore, Tyler suggests, include increasing existing registration fees even further, implementing a separate hybrid vehicle fee and creating an electric vehicle-specific kilowatt-per-hour fee.

(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.)

IVCC students may enter in Paul Simon essay contest

OGLESBY – The submission period for Illinois Valley Community College’s 2023 Paul Simon Student Essay Contest is open.

The student who best describes “How IVCC has changed my life” will win \$300 and read their essay at the May 13 commencement.

All currently enrolled full- or part-time IVCC students are eligible. Essays must be 500 words or less and be submitted as an attachment to Community_Relations@ivcc.edu. Deadline is noon Friday, Feb. 24.

The winning essay will be entered into the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) statewide contest. One submission will be chosen for a \$500 award.

For information, contact Fran Brolley at (815) 224-466 or fran_brolley@ivcc.edu.

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OPINION



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

Inform, don't condemn

By Scott Reeder

I purchased a new bicycle for my 12-year-old daughter this month and received a tongue lashing from a salesperson in return.

The Springfield salesperson asked if she was interested in a “cross through” bike. I had no idea what he was talking about. I was familiar with mountain bikes, road bikes and hybrids.

But I'd never heard the term “cross through.”

I told him I didn't know what a “cross-through” bike was. So, he rolled one onto the sales floor. The top bar dipped down toward the pedals.

I replied, “Oh, you mean a ‘girls bike.’”

Apparently, I'd trod into a linguistic minefield.

“We don't ascribe genders to inanimate objects,” the salesperson said to me in a rather derisive tone. He added, “Sometimes elderly men prefer ‘cross through’ bikes so they won't have to lift their legs so high.”

I explained to him that when I was in college, I was a pretty serious biker but I had never heard the term “cross through bike.” At this point he eyed my gray hair and said, “It looks to me like it's been a long time since you were in college.”

In case you think this was some young whipper-snapper, the salesperson appeared to be in his 60s. I was contemplating leaving this family-owned business and buying my daughter a bike at the big-box sporting goods store across town.

But as the salesperson and I conversed, my daughter was busy ogling the bicycle in question. She said she loved it and it was the perfect color. I swallowed hard and made the purchase.

I made a decision to extend this man some grace, even if he wasn't willing to do the same for me.

Why? Well, I didn't want to disappoint my daughter. And even though I was being treated rudely, I didn't necessarily disagree with what the man was saying.

Just because I have always heard such bicycles referred to as “girls' bikes” doesn't mean that is the best terminology.

In my decades in journalism, I've always tried to use inclusive terms such as “police officer,” “firefighter” and “pastor” rather than “policeman,” “fireman,” and “clergyman.”

A transgender teenager works at a store I frequent. I always address him by his new name and by his preferred gender. It's a matter of kindness. He always gives me a big smile.

And no, that doesn't mean I endorse a particular agenda. I just believe when in doubt it's best to be kind.

In the same vein, the salesperson at the bike shop might have received a better response if he applied some kindness to his own message. He could have said something like, “When I was growing up, we called them ‘girls bikes’ too. But now we call them ‘cross throughs’ because some older men also prefer them.”

That would have been a polite way to have said it without being ageist or ascribing bad motives to someone using an outdated term.

When my parents were growing up, the word “negro” was the term that educated, polite people used. When the 1970s rolled around, my siblings and I had to keep reminding my dad that “Black” was the preferred terminology.

We reminded him of this gently. Repeatedly. After all, he was not being mean-spirited in clinging a little too long to the word he had been taught was proper.

As the lexicon changes, extending grace to others is helpful. And rudeness rarely wins allies to your cause.

There is a difference between being oblivious and being hateful.

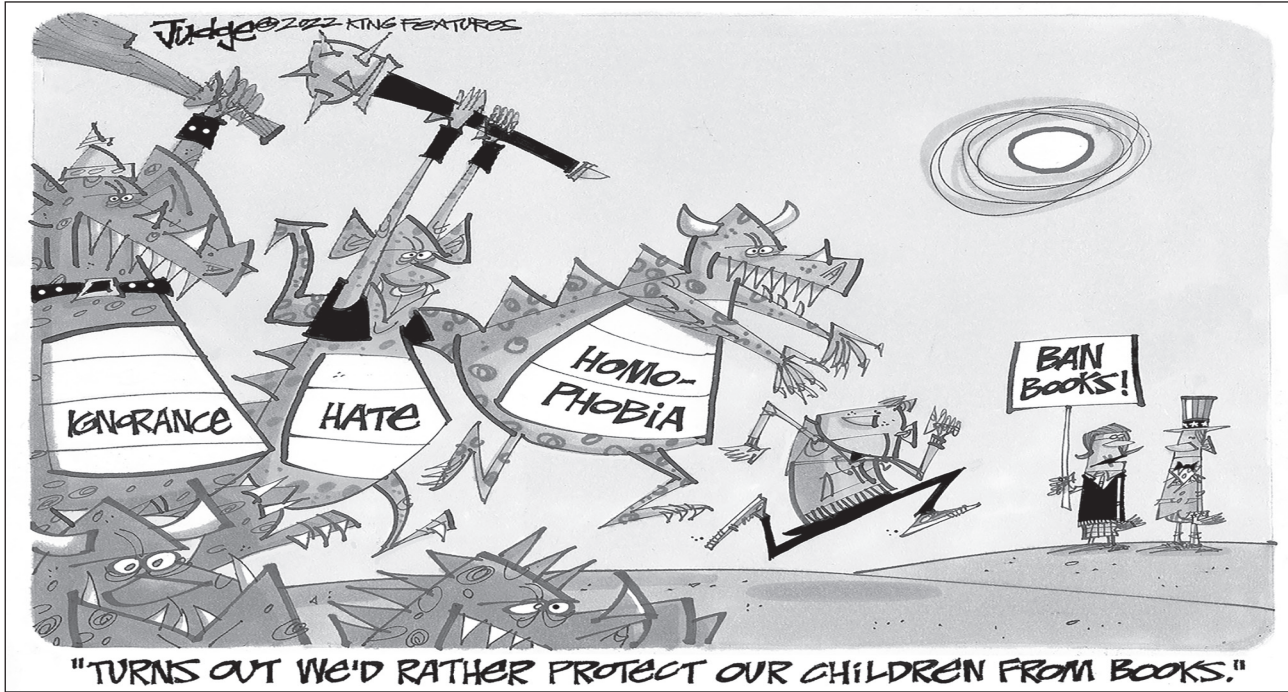
For example, when I was a young reporter, I had a supervisor who used a term for a bundle of sticks to refer to gay people. He chortled when editing obituaries for gay men who died of AIDS.

I wish some of the people who are convinced that newsrooms are full of woke left wingers could have met this jerk.

No one should have to put up with anyone like that. Hate was behind his words. He knew better.

But oftentimes when someone misspeaks or uses an outdated term, it's done out of ignorance. It's best to inform rather than condemn.

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



Mendota High hosts NCIC debaters – 1948

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Feb. 4, 1998.)

By Jessica Nashold

Fifty years ago, Mendota High School hosted NCIC debaters on Feb. 6, 1948. The home teams defeated Rochelle, DeKalb and Sterling, but when all the scores were in it was found that both Geneseo and Mendota had 7-1 records. This resulted in a tie-breaking match, which Geneseo won, leaving Mendota in second place.

The MHS affirmative team of Nancy Doermann and Thelma Watson had won all its debates, handing Geneseo its only loss. The negative team of Robert Waller and Lester Kramer succumbed to the first-place team.

A former Mendota debate coach, E.P. Zimdars, who had joined the faculty at LaGrange Junior College after leaving Mendota, came back to serve as one of the judges. When interviewed, he said he still treasured triumphs by the MHS teams he had coached in the Augustana Debate Tourneys in 1943 and 1944.

Lunch was served to the debaters in the high school cafeteria by the Home Ec department under the direction of Daisy Salzman. The menu included mock chicken legs, baked potatoes, buttered corn, tossed salad, buttered rolls, fruit cup and milk. (In 1948 it was still acceptable to mention butter on menus).

The Home Ec girls involved were Carol McMahon, Paula Stenger, Jean Van Etten, Lola Edwards and Donita Hansen.

The MHS student council presented a talent show, “Good Godfrey and His Talent Scouts” at an assembly on Feb. 6, 1948. Penny Faber was Good Godfrey. Bob Magnusson was in charge of arrangements.

Each performer was introduced by a talent scout. Musical numbers ranged from Dorothea Kofoid's rendition of Chopin's “Waltz in C Minor” to “Bumble Boogie,” played by Ruth Rapp. Don Pederson gave imitations of popular radio personalities – Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy among them. Darlene Mathesius squeezed “The Sheik of Araby” on her accordion and Joe Brady concluded the program with “Concerto for Trumpet.”

LaSalle County promised to contrib-

Backtracks & Sidetracks

ute a carload of corn to the Abraham Lincoln Friendship Food Train scheduled to leave Nebraska on Feb. 12, 1948, Lincoln's birthday. The eventual destination was Europe.

Mendota was the only scheduled stop for the train in LaSalle County. Tag Days were held here on Feb. 6-7 to fund the purchase of corn.

In Illinois, the train will follow the route of Lincoln's first inaugural.

At the national level, church agencies were in charge of shipping arrangements.

A public meeting to discuss school reorganization in Illinois was held in Meriden. Speakers were B. Harry Reck, chairman of the reorganization committee and Ray Hawley, LaSalle County superintendent of schools. They explained that the goal for LaSalle County was to have 13 large school districts. Public hearings were being held in 30 towns to discuss boundaries for these districts. Towns of 500 or more would vote as a group and farm population as a separate group. After reorganization, it was hoped qualified instructors of art, music, agriculture, physical education and health would reach all the school children.

On June 1, a final recommendation to the state will be filed.

Kiwanis Club installed gumball machines in 16 Mendota businesses. Profits were earmarked for child welfare programs in Mendota.

The firemen held their annual card party and dance on Feb. 9, 1948. Tickets were 60 cents. Games of Euchre and 500 were played at the Elks and Bingo at the K of C Hall. The big dance was out at Kakusha Park and Old Time dancing was at Oddfellow's Hall.

Gladys Lamberton organized an accordion band to be led by Roy E. Bannon. Instruments could be rented at \$3 per month and private lessons with

Lamberton and Bannon were available.

Waltham Curling Club concluded a two-week Bonspiel at the Triumph rink on Feb. 6, 1948. Club officers were Art Jones, president; Everett Chalus, vice president; and Willie Wilson, secretary-treasurer.

Curling had been introduced in the area in 1884 by John Currie. In 1948, the curlers had three rinks of “smooth, slick ice” in a building in Triumph. Each team was comprised of a “skip” and three additional players. The curling stones weighed about 40 pounds. An important feature was “sweeping” the ice in the path of a stone after it was hurled toward a target.

A stone can be advanced 15 feet by sweeping.

The Waltham Club looked forward to hosting the Skokie Curling Club on Feb. 15.

A Golf Club dinner dance was held in the Faber Hotel Gold Room. Richard Johns was declared 1947 men's champion while Mrs. Bruce Hulse led the women. W.L. Gish's name was inscribed on the President's Cup. Dancing to recorded music followed the presentations.

Lincoln Lightweights, coached by Gilbert Gehler, took first place in sectional competition involving eight schools.

The team will be in state finals in March.

H.D. Hume employees, their wives, husbands, boy and girl friends, held a get-together scramble in the K of C Hall on Feb. 5, 1948. A quartet comprised of Frank and Artie Sauer, Al Elsesser and John Goebel entertained. Plants 2 and 3 competed in a bubble gum blowing contest, won by Plant 2. The prize was eight packs of gum. More get-togethers were planned.

Elsesser's Grocery advertised it would pay 45 cents per dozen for eggs. Home delivery was featured –

Why freeze carrying home groceries or worrying about your parking meter?

The Mendota Reporter was paying 10 cents a pound for white rags and 5 cents per pound for colored.

The Trump-Biden embrace

By Rich Lowry

America may not want a Trump-Biden rematch, but Donald Trump and Joe Biden sure do.

A CNN poll late last year showed that 6 in 10 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents want a different GOP nominee in 2024, and a roughly similar proportion of Democrats hope for a nominee other than Biden.

Not that either man is inclined to pay any attention. Trump wants revenge against a president who humiliated him in 2020 and who, with an approval rating in the mid-40s, would seem ripe for the picking.

Biden wants to run against a persistently unpopular, controversy-plagued former president whom he beat once before and used to great effect as a foil in the 2022 midterms.

Trump's best argument is that his policies were better than Biden's.

Biden's best argument is that he's not Trump. It's the weirdest, and most dispiriting, symbiotic relationship in politics. It's the career politician soaked in conventional politics versus the upstart developer with zero respect for rules. The establishmentarian versus the populist. Boring versus erratic. And ... unpopular versus unpopular, as well as, now that you mention it, old versus old.

If Biden stepped aside, Trump might feel a little less driven to run, whereas if Trump declined to run, Democrats would have to be much more nervous about how Biden would match up against a younger, less toxic opponent.

As it is, the weakness of each is a motivator and prop for the other.

Just consider: It's probably a good rule of thumb not to run a presidential candidate who's under federal investigation for mishandling classified documents. But does that rule hold when your candidate could well be running against another candidate also under federal investigation for mishandling classified documents?

Such are the imponderables that a potential Biden-Trump rematch presents. Both can point at the other and try to argue, in effect, “Hey, your special counsel investigation is much worse than my special counsel investigation.”

Trump tucked into this debate in his characteristic fashion. In a Truth Social post, he mocked Biden for having classified documents “on the damp floor” of his “flimsy, unlocked, and unsecured” garage, whereas Mar-a-Lago is “a highly secured facility.” (Of course, Biden famously insisted that his garage was locked -- he has a classic Corvette to protect, after all).

Biden's team and allies have made the opposite case that, in contrast to Trump, his mistakes were inadvertent and immediately reported to authorities. Regardless of the merits, there's no doubt that Biden's possession of classified documents materially assists Trump in his case; it might save him from indictment.

By the same token, Trump's possession of classified documents materially assists Biden in his case; the discovery of the documents in Biden's various unsecured locations may be a fiasco, but not one as drawn out and legally fraught as the Mar-a-Lago drama.

It's a little like both parties running candidates in the 1972 campaign who had authorized break-ins, or in a 1980 campaign who had presided over double-digit inflation.

Now, it's entirely possible that the second season of Trump versus Biden never makes it to production. Despite all signs indicating that he wants to run again, Biden might pull up short because he doesn't feel up for it. For his part, Trump has a significant chance of winning the Republican nomination, yet it isn't a gimme, and it shouldn't help him that Biden and the Democrats so obviously want to run against him, just as they wanted to run against so many of his acolytes last November.

If the prospect of returning to 2020 is unappealing, look on the bright side: We never really left.

Trump has never let us forget that he lost to Biden (although he prefers to refer to it as getting the election stolen from him), while Biden has never let us forget that Trump is waiting in the wings.

Despite their enmity, both men want and need each other politically, whether that's what the country is interested in or deserves, or not.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I read somewhere that “The Good Doctor” is going to have a spin-off series. I hope this doesn’t mean that this series is ending anytime soon. Who will be in the spin-off? -- **A.P.**



Huffman

A: “The Good Doctor,” which stars Freddie Highmore as a young autistic surgeon, is currently in its sixth season on ABC. It’s based on a series out of South Korea with the same title. Actor Daniel Dae Kim (“Lost,” “Hawaii Five-O”) bought the rights to the series and sold it to ABC here in the U.S. The show has been a hit for ABC, so I don’t see it going anywhere, unless Highmore and/or the show’s creators decide not to continue.

“The Good Lawyer,” the upcoming spin-off series, will premiere on March 6 on ABC. It stars Felicity Huffman (“Desperate Housewives”), Kennedy McMann (“Nancy Drew”) and Bethlehem Million (“Sick”). According to TVLine.com, Highmore’s character will appear in the first episode, as he “seeks le-

gal representation to help him win a case and puts his faith in a promising young lawyer [played by McMann] who has obsessive compulsive disorder.”

Some wondered if Huffman’s acting career would ever recover after her involvement in the college admissions scandal, resulting in her serving a short jail sentence in 2019. That appears to be behind her, as it looks like she’ll soon be adding another hit show to her resume.

Q: I thought “Criminal Minds” was returning, but I can’t find it anywhere in my channel guide. Is it not coming out for another year? -- **L.J.**

A: In 2020, after 15 seasons, the violent crime procedural ended its run on CBS in what was assumed to be its series finale. Two years later, it was announced that a reboot was in the works for CBS’s subscription streaming service, Paramount+. Returning cast members include Joe Mantegna, Paget Brewster and Aisha Tyler, but fan-favorite Mathew Gray Gubler as Dr. Spencer Reid was absent due to a scheduling conflict.

The show now has a

new title, “Criminal Minds: Evolutions,” and is one of Paramount+’s top streamed programs. It’s also been given the green light for a second season.

Q: How is Michael J. Fox doing lately, and how many years has it been since he was first diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease? -- **B.B.**

A: In a new documentary for AppleTV+, Michael J. Fox discusses with filmmaker Davis Guggenheim that he first noticed symptoms in 1991 but kept his diagnosis hidden until 1998. Two of the biggest roles of his career came his way by luck, even though he was blessed with talent. First, when Matthew Broderick backed out of the sitcom “Family Ties,” Fox was cast as Alex P. Keaton, the role that ended up launching his career. Then, when Meredith Baxter-Birney, who played his onscreen mom, went on maternity leave, Fox was able to play Marty McFly in the blockbuster film “Back to the Future.”

His last major acting role was a two-episode guest appearance in “The Good Fight” as the character he portrayed for a recurring basis on “The Good Wife.”

• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Mount Fuji located?
2. MOVIES: What is the material used in Captain America’s shield?
3. MUSIC: Who wrote the lyrics to the 1961 “West Side Story” movie?
4. SCIENCE: Which color has the longest wavelength?
5. HISTORY: When did the United States outlaw child labor?
6. TELEVISION: Who played the leading role in the legal series “Ally McBeal”?
7. AD SLOGANS: Which fast-food chain tells customers that “We have the meats”?
8. LITERATURE: What is the setting for the “Divergent”

9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which animal represents the 2023 Chinese zodiac year?
 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of butterflies called?
- Answers
1. Japan.
2. Vibranium.
3. Stephen Sondheim.
4. Red.
5. 1938.
6. Calista Flockhart.
7. Arby’s.
8. Chicago.
9. The rabbit.
10. A kaleidoscope.
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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Appear
 - 5 Commotion
 - 8 Online auction site
 - 12 Actress Fisher
 - 13 Part of DJIA
 - 14 Dell
 - 15 Youthful countenance
 - 17 Laundry appliance
 - 18 Soft leather
 - 19 Columns of light
 - 21 Pro votes
 - 24 Numerical prefix
 - 25 July’s stone
 - 28 It ain’t worth a nickel
 - 30 Prattle
 - 33 “Life — cabaret ...”
 - 34 Stuns, as a perp
 - 35 “Bali —”
 - 36 Chum
 - 37 Sharif of “Funny Girl”
 - 38 Wild guess
 - 39 Run after K
 - 41 For fear that
 - 43 “No cheating!”
 - 46 Eucalyptus eater
 - 50 Thames town
 - 51 Temporary mental fatigue
 - 54 Dazzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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21			22	23		24				
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33				34			35			
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43	44			45		46		47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55			56			
57				58			59			

- DOWN**
- 1 Bloodline sharers
 - 2 Jacob’s twin
 - 3 North Sea feeder
 - 4 “Help!”
 - 5 Oklahoma city
 - 6 Elmer, to Bugs
 - 7 Has bills
 - 8 Perrier rival
 - 9 Brawl that’s broken up by a bouncer
 - 10 Oodles
 - 11 Desires
 - 12 Tina of “30 Rock”
 - 20 Colorations
 - 22 Wax-coated cheese
 - 23 Twine fiber
 - 25 Wardrobe malfunction
 - 26 “Suits” network
 - 27 Jim Bouton book
 - 29 Simple
 - 31 Small battery
 - 32 Clothing protector
 - 34 Writer Morrison
 - 38 Gems
 - 40 Food from heaven
 - 42 Enjoy Aspen
 - 43 Optimum
 - 44 Jazzy James
 - 45 Baseball stats
 - 47 Roundish ‘do
 - 48 Lake bird
 - 49 Awestruck
 - 52 Nipper’s co.
 - 53 Goal

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

5				9		1		
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	8		5			2		
2				6			7	5
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	6			7		5		
7				1	8		6	

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Film studios always use award season as a way to get movie fans into seats in theaters. The Golden Globe Awards always kicks off the season, and ads begin to appear the next day to help troubled films cure their box-office anemia. While Steven Spielberg’s film “The Fablemans” received excellent reviews, they didn’t transfer into film fans filling seats. But Spielberg’s wins for Best Director of a Motion Picture and Best Motion Picture Drama may be the shot in the arm “The Fablemans” needs to boost its lackluster \$20 million grosses and offset its \$40 million cost.

Then, there’s “Babylon,” directed by Oscar-winning, “La La Land” director Damien Chazelle. “Babylon” has received multiple critics’ awards in Chicago, Florida and San Diego for Original Score, as well as a lone Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score. But there weren’t any awards won for actors Brad Pitt and

Margot Robbie. It cost \$80 million, but has only grossed \$14 million. The silent film era must be too far back in the past for anyone to care, and if they do, “Singin’ in the Rain” (1952) covered it magnificently.

How strange that “Avatar: The Way of Water,” which opened Dec. 16 and has already reached the \$2 billion mark, didn’t win a single Golden Globe. “Avatar” takes moviegoers to another world for over three hours in 3D and IMAX, but can it be possible that older moviegoers don’t get it and their kids are the ones who are seeing it multiple times?

Harrison Ford’s “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” was a 1984 blockbuster. In it, Indiana’s sidekick was a young Chinese orphan named Short Round. Their escape from a deadly mine in a mine car was an action sequence ride in itself. Short Round was played by then-12-year-old Ke Huy Quan. The next year, he was

one of the stars of the classic “The Goonies,” as Richard “Data” Wang. But, with Quan being a specialized talent, the great roles just weren’t there for him. Quan recalled, “As I grew older, I started wondering if ... that was just luck. ... I was afraid I had nothing more to offer, that no matter what I did, I would never surpass what I’d achieved as a kid. Thankfully, more than 30 years later [directors Dan Kwan and Daniel Scheinert] thought of me. They remembered that kid, and they gave me an opportunity to try again.”

Quan played Michelle Yeoh’s husband in the absurdist comedy-drama “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” and three weeks ago, Quan, now 51 years old, won his first Golden Globe Award, along with Yeoh, for his performance in the film. The film opened in theaters April 8, 2022; it cost \$14.3 million and has already grossed \$105 million. Take that, “Babylon!”

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Couch Theater

“The Last of Us” (TV-MA) -- Twenty years after a mutated fungal infection incites a pandemic across the U.S., a post-apocalyptic version of the country remains. Those who are infected with the Cordyceps fungus turn into violent creatures, deemed the “Infected,” with initial symptoms occurring after two days. But 14-year-old Ellie discovers, after she’s been infected for weeks, that she’s somehow immune. A smuggler named Joel is then tasked with taking Ellie to a resistance group called the Fireflies so that they can study Ellie’s immunity further in order to actualize a vaccine. Pedro Pascal (“The Mandalorian”) and Bella Ramsey (“Game of Thrones”) star in this video-game-to-TV-series adaptation, which has received great acclaim by fans and critics since its release. The first three episodes are out now. (HBO Max)

“Kaleidoscope” (TV-MA) -- Netflix continues to push the envelope when it comes to creating interactive and innovative viewing ex-

periences for its subscribers. In this new series out now, Leo Pap (Giancarlo Esposito) and his heist crew take on their most high-stakes job yet -- robbing \$7 billion from the secure vault in the headquarters of security firm SLS. For Leo, this job isn’t just business. Roger, the CEO of SLS, is his former partner-in-crime who once betrayed him, and Leo’s ready to watch Roger’s empire come crashing down. With eight total episodes shuffled in a unique order for each viewer, this series can be watched 5,040 different ways, but each order ends with the same episode, “White,” in which the nail-biting heist finally takes place. (Netflix)

“Wolf Pack” (NR) -- During a California wildfire, teens on a school bus are left terrified when the fire awakens a creature in the burning woods nearby. In the aftermath of the fire, four teens realize that they have bite marks on their bodies and begin to exhibit wolf-like characteristics. As they each grapple with these symptoms, Kristin Ramsey (Sarah

Michelle Gellar) heads a task force that investigates these strange wildfires, inching closer to solving the mystery tying together the fires and the pack of teens scarred by them. The first episode of this supernatural drama is out on streaming now. (Paramount+)

“The Watchful Eye” (NR) -- This thriller series follows Elena, a live-in nanny who lands a new job in a building called the Greybourne. Elena cares for Jasper, the son of an architect named Matthew, after Jasper’s mother recently passed away in a freak accident. Soon after Elena moves in, she begins having odd dreams, and other residents of the building start hinting about the terrors surrounding the Greybourne’s history. The series has a similar tone to Netflix’s “The Watcher” and features an array of fresh faces, as well as some Hollywood old-timers like Kelly Bishop (“Gilmore Girls”). The first two episodes are out now. (Freeform)

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

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Barbara (Barb) Van Horn

John Van Horn

MARENGO – Barbara “Barb” Van Horn, 84, passed away Jan. 23, 2023 and John Van Horn, 84, passed away Jan. 25, 2023. Both were cared for at JourneyCare Family Hospice in Barrington, and were able to be in the same room to spend their last moments together surrounded by their loving family.

A couple who was inseparable on earth have now joined each other in heaven. Their life will be celebrated privately with immediate family.

Barb was born to the late Joseph and Dorothy Tentler on May 15, 1938 in Mendota. John was born to the late John and Jane Van Horn on Dec. 21, 1938 in Mendota.

They are survived by their sons, Mike Van Horn of Phoenix, Ariz., and Chris (Kathy) Van Horn of Harvard; their grandchildren, Bethany (Kurt) Kraepelin, Jason (Corey) Foster, Sarah (Peter) Shanks; their great-grandchildren, Becca, Jacob, Jaylin, Jaxton, Riley, Regan and Eli; great-great grandchildren, Bradley and Braxton; and sister-in-law Judi Tentler.

The couple is preceded in death by Barb’s parents, Joseph and Dorothy Tentler, John’s parents, John and Jane Van Horn, Barb’s brother Lynn “Butch” Tentler, and their daughter, Pamela Rae Van Horn.

The couple were high school sweethearts and both graduated from Mendota High School in 1956. They maintained many close relationships with high school friends, including Barb’s weekly gatherings with the “Lunch Bunch” crew for many years. Barb and John married June 26, 1958 and exemplified their wedding vows by standing by each other and caring for each other through all of life’s trials and celebrations. They would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this summer.

In addition to being a loving and attentive mother and wife, Barb worked in the cafeteria at Coventry Elementary School in Crystal Lake for many years. Everybody always looked forward to her “peanut butter blobs.” John was a math teacher and vocational education teacher at Central High School District 155 in Crystal Lake for most of his 30 years in education. John was a “social butterfly” making friends everywhere he went. His wit and sense of humor made him lovable and everyone’s favorite jokester.

Sharing the same work schedule they were able to travel every summer with their children covering many states and national parks in the U.S. Some of their favorite destinations were Estes Park, Colo., and Fort Myers, Fla. For many years Barb and John spent every weekend at their Woodhaven Lakes vacation home, where they enjoyed bird watching and socializing with friends. Barb took great pride in her flower gardens that caught everyone’s attention. Barb and John became “snow birds” later in life and escaped the Midwest winters to their vacation home in Fort Myers, Fla., coming back to be near family in the warmer months.

The family would like to send the most heartfelt thank you to JourneyCare Hospice and encourage any memorial donations to be made to this organization.



Theresa M. Myers

MENDOTA – Theresa Mae Myers, 88, of Mendota, passed away Jan. 28, 2023 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, Feb. 6, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Church, Mendota with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be Sunday from 4-7 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with a 3:15 p.m. Rosary.

Theresa was born Oct. 14, 1934, in Mendota, to Adam and Dorothy (Jones) Auchstetter. She married Richard (Dick) Myers on Aug. 18, 1956, at Holy Cross Church in Mendota.

Theresa is survived by her beloved cat, Peaches; seven children, John (Dawn) Myers, Joe (Shawn) Myers, Cathy (Mike) Zinke of Lenexa, Kan., Suzy (Roger) Greathouse of Oklahoma City, Okla., Peggy (Jim) Halbmaier, Andy (Michelle Meyer) Myers and Pat (Rhonda) Myers; 14 grandchildren, Jacki (Brad) Wellik, Mandy (Mike) Twardowski, Jerrica (Jayse) Barnes, Carrie (Aaron) Roe, Cory (Taylor) Myers, Duane (Laura) Zinke, Brian (Madelyn Voelker) Zinke, Sam (Sarah) Halbmaier, Randi (Jason McCormick) Halbmaier, Kady (Jared Fritz) Halbmaier, Austin (Amanda Peters) Myers, Aubrey Myers, Hailey Myers and Madison (Michael Fairweather) Myers; eight great-grandchildren, Harrison Wellik, Ryder and Robyn Roe, Henry and Eleanor Myers, Olivia and Brantley Zinke, and Reese Halbmaier; and her sister-in-law, Lynda Auchstetter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dick in 2007, her brother Donald Auchstetter who died at birth, her sister, Joann Burke and her brother, Robert Auchstetter.

Theresa grew up on the family farm in Henkel and attended Beetz’s Country School until it closed when she was in third grade. She then went to Holy Cross School and Mendota High School. After graduation, Theresa went to St. Anthony De Padua Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago where she earned her RN degree.

Theresa worked in Chicago at St. Anthony’s Hospital and then at Mendota Community Hospital until the birth of her first son, John. She stayed at home raising her seven children until her youngest, Pat, started kindergarten. Theresa then started working at Sunrise Nursing Home, which later became Heritage Manor until her retirement.

Theresa was a member of Holy Cross Church and the Altar Society. She loved to crochet and garden, go asparagus picking, do puzzles that her children and grandchildren found that were near impossible to finish, make any and all kinds of crafts to give to her family at Christmas, watch the kids play ball from her porch (and get dinner or a snack from the concessions), and travelling to see her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

Memorials may be directed to Graves-Hume Public Library, Holy Cross Altar Society or Mendota Area Senior Services. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



EDUCATION BRIEFS

T. McNally named to Monmouth Dean’s List

MONMOUTH – Timothy McNally of Paw Paw, a 2023 elementary education major at Monmouth College, has made the Dean’s List for the Fall 2022 semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students needed to take at least 3.0 academic credits while maintaining a grade-point average of at least 3.5.

He is the son of Kristina McNally of Paw Paw.

Founded in 1853 and affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Monmouth College provides a transformative educational experience within a caring community of learners. A residential liberal arts college that is the birthplace of the women’s fraternity movement, Monmouth College empowers students to realize their full potential, live meaningful lives, pursue successful careers, and shape their communities and the world through service and leadership.

Local students on Aurora U. Dean’s List

AURORA – Aurora University has named its Dean’s List students for the fall 2022 semester. The Dean’s List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher.

Among the students achieving the honor are Emme Bottom of Mendota and Kylie Congdon of Earlville.

Founded in 1893, Aurora University is a four-year, private, nonprofit, accredited higher education institution located on a 39-acre campus in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois. The university serves more than 4,100 undergraduate and approximately 2,000 graduate students across more than 50 majors and programs.

P. Manning named to U. of Dubuque Dean’s List

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The University of Dubuque has announced students being appointed to the Fall Semester 2022 Academic Dean’s List.

Among the students achieving the honor is Paige Manning of Mendota.

Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the Dean’s List. Once grades have been submitted for any Incompletes, the Office of Academic Affairs will review eligibility again for possible placement on the Dean’s List for the given term.

The University of Dubuque (UD) is a private, coed university founded in 1852 that offers undergraduate, graduate, and theological seminary degrees as well as other educational opportunities with the intention of educating and forming the whole person.

C. Sarff graduates from Bradley University

PEORIA – LaMoille native Caleb Sarff graduated with a BSIE in Industrial Engineering Supply Chain Analytics from Bradley University in the Fall 2022 Semester. Sarff was among over 300 students who earned degrees.

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THE BACK PAGE

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate my 90th birthday. I didn't know I had so many friends. Thanks to my son Jeff who organized everything renting the hall and everyone who brought food in to eat and all the gifts. Thanks to my family for just being there for me. Thanks again. Thanks also to everyone who called and wished me well the week of Jan. 2 when I was sick with the flu.

Daniel Flanagan

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST

Albert J. Harris, 42, of 800 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 9 p.m. Jan. 24 on a valid Grundy County warrant for failure to appear/driving while license suspended and a valid Livingston County warrant for failure to appear/driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Fourth Avenue and Eighth Street. The subject was unable to post bond and was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

DUI

Shawn D. Vertheen, 47, of 100 S. First Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence after police officers responded to the report of a vehicle that had driven off the roadway near the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Division Street at 7:46 p.m. Jan. 28. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED

Evanivaldo Castellanos Reyes, 42, of Monroe, Wis., was charged with driving while license revoked after a traffic stop at U.S. 34 and Welland Road at 12:20 a.m. Jan. 29. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Calvin M. Mangruem, 44, of 1809 Lincoln Ave., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to an emergency call to 1809 Lincoln Ave. at 4:20 p.m. Jan. 29. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

Taxpayers should avoid these common mistakes when filing return

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Most of the common errors taxpayers make on their tax returns are easily avoidable. By carefully reviewing their return, taxpayers can save time and effort by not having to correct it later. Filing electronically also helps prevent mistakes. Tax software does the math, flags common errors and prompts taxpayers for missing information. It can also help taxpayers claim valuable credits and deductions. Taxpayers who qualify may use IRS Free File to file their return electronically for free.

Here are some of the mistakes to avoid:

- Filing too early. While taxpayers should not file late, they also should not file prematurely. They should wait to file until they're certain they've received all their tax reporting documents, or they risk making a mistake that may lead to a processing delay.
- Missing or inaccurate Social Security numbers. Each SSN on a tax return should appear exactly as printed on the Social Security card.
- Misspelled names. The names of all taxpayers and dependents listed on the return should match the

names on their Social Security cards.

- Inaccurate information. Taxpayers should carefully enter any wages, dividends, bank interest and other income they received to make sure they report the correct amounts. This includes any information taxpayers need to calculate credits and deductions.

- Incorrect filing status. Some taxpayers choose the wrong filing status. Publication 501 has detailed information about filing statuses.

- Math mistakes. Math errors are some of the most common mistakes. They range from simple addition and subtraction to more complex calculations. Taxpayers should always double check their math. Better yet, tax prep software will check it automatically.

- Figuring credits or deductions. Taxpayers can make mistakes figuring things like their earned income tax credit, child and dependent care credit and child tax credit. Tax software will calculate these credits and deductions and include any required forms and schedules.

- Incorrect bank account numbers. Taxpayers who are due a refund should

choose direct deposit. This is the fastest way for them to get their money. However, taxpayers need to make sure they use the correct routing and account numbers on their tax return.

- Unsigned forms. An unsigned tax return isn't valid. In most cases, both spouses must sign a joint return. Exceptions may apply for members of the armed forces or other taxpayers who have a valid power of attorney.

- Disreputable tax preparers. Taxpayers should remember they, not the tax preparer, are responsible for the information on their tax return. The IRS has resources to help taxpayers find someone to prepare their tax return. Some taxpayers may even be able to get free help from IRS-certified volunteers. Certified public accountants, enrolled agents or other tax professionals can also help taxpayers avoid errors.

IVCC News Briefs

IVCC offering

enrichment courses

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College has joined other northern Illinois community colleges to offer a series of enrichment courses.

The classes are designed for students of any age to share the strengths of each college's Lifelong Learning program and bring new courses to participants across the region.

All online live classroom courses meet via Zoom. A meeting invite will be emailed within 24 hours before class begins.

Participants need access to a computer with high-speed internet. A webcam and microphone are recommended but not required.

Visit www.ivcc.edu/learn4life for information. Class offerings include: Lewis & Clark in Illinois; Year of Decision: 1818 Illinois Joins the Union; Kick the Sugar Habit; Queen Elizabeth II; Las Vegas and the Mob; and more.

The first program is Feb. 7. Register by calling the IVCC Continuing Education Center at (815) 224-0427 or visit continuingeducation@ivcc.edu.

Other participating colleges include College of DuPage, Harper College, McHenry County College, Rock Valley College and Kankakee Community College.

IVCC plans pilot

ground training class

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College's Continuing Education Office offers a 10-session "Private Pilot Ground Training" course Thursday, Feb. 9 through Thursday, April 13.

The main campus course (ID: 7213) prepares students for the Private Pilot Knowledge Exam and provides knowledge of flight controls and instruments, airport and airspace considerations, aircraft weight and balance, aircraft performance tables, basic weather meteorology, federal aviation regulations, flight psychology and emergency preparedness.

Students will tour Illinois Valley Regional Airport and experience a flight simulator from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. Other than the airport session, class meets 6-9 p.m. Thursdays with instructor Joseph Nimee.

Upon completion, students will be eligible to take the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam (there is an additional fee for the test).

Textbooks include Federal Aviation Regulations Aeronautical Information Manual, Private Pilot 2023 Test Prep and the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge. The texts are included in cost of the class.

Flying or airtime is not included. Students age 15 and up may enroll. For information, visit www.ivcc.edu/enroll or call (815) 224-0547. No class Feb. 23 or March 9.

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SPORTS



The referee gets ready to slap the mat signaling a pin for Mendota's Angil Serrano over Adam Westerhold of Streator in their 285-pound bout on Jan. 25 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

MHS grapplers take down Streator

MENDOTA – The Mendota wrestling team posted a 36-33 win over Streator on Senior Night at the MHS gym on Jan. 25.

Picking up pin wins for the Trojans were Gavin Evans (132), Jose Hermosillo (138) and Angil Serrano

(285). Forfeit victories went to Rhett Watson (145), Dean Gilbert (160) and Reese Lane (195).

Jan. 25
Mendota 36, Streator 33

106 – Gwaltney (S) won forfeit; 113 – Pollett (S) pinned Cadence Thornton

(M), 1:20; 120 – double forfeit; 126 – Benstine (S) won forfeit; 132 – Gavin Evans (M) pinned Barbee (S), 1:30; 138 – Jose Hermosillo (M) pinned Richardson (S), 1:32; 145 – Rhett Watson (M) won forfeit; 152 – Warwick (S) pinned Julian Jordan (M),

5:10; 160 – Dean Gilbert (M) won forfeit; 170 – double forfeit; 182 – Lopez (S) pinned JP Belmonte (M), 5:10; 195 – Reese Lane (M) won forfeit; 220 – Radke (S) dec. Albert Harris (M), 14-9; 285 – Angil Serrano (M) pinned Westerhold (S), 1:53



Mendota's Jose Hermosillo is seconds away from pinning Jaylen Richardson of Streator in their 138-pound match on Jan. 25 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Sophomore cagers improve to 14-10

Mendota rallied from a big halftime deficit to down Hall, 41-39, in a Three Rivers Conference sophomore boys' basketball game on Jan. 24 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans were down 13-10 after the first quarter and then Hall pulled away for a 30-19 halftime advantage. But Mendota turned things around in the third period when it outscored the visitors, 14-2, to take a one-point lead to the fourth frame, where it held on for the victory.

Aden Tillman dropped in 14 points and Dane Doyle chipped in with 11 to pace the Trojans.

The Trojans poured it on in the second half and cruised past St. Bede, 66-46, in a conference contest on Jan. 27 at Peru.

Mendota held a slim 27-24 halftime lead, but outscored St. Bede, 39-22, in the second half to improve its record to 14-10 overall and 5-3 in league play.

Cam Kelly connected on four three-pointers to lead the Trojans with 12 points. Tillman and Braiden Freeman supplied 11 points apiece, while Doyle and Domenic Richey each had eight markers.

Matmen ready for Plano Regional

PLANO – The Mendota boys' wrestling team has been assigned to the Plano Class 1A Regional to be held Saturday, Feb. 4. Session one will start at 9 a.m. and session two will begin at 1 p.m.

In order to advance to the sectional round, a wrestler must finish first, second or third in his weight class. Advancing individuals will participate in the Oregon Sectional to be held Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11.

MHS girls' bowling

Jan. 30 @ Streator (girls)
Mendota 2258, Streator 2138

Mendota scores: Lauren Holland 133, 159, 138–430; Isabelle Escatel 126, 167, 194–487; Brisa Nunez 129, 112, 91–332; Talya Schwaegerman 141, 113, 170–424; Mia Raya 83, 132, 102–317; vacant 96, 86, 86–268



L. Bauer takes 50th in state bowling tourney

□ Mendota junior rolls 2,430 series

O'FALLON – Mendota High School bowler Landon Bauer wrapped up the season with an appearance in the IHSA Boys' State Bowling Tournament on Jan. 27-28 at St. Clair Bowl in O'Fallon.

The MHS junior finished in 50th place overall after rolling 12 games over the two-day tournament. Bauer was sitting in 68th place after the opening day with games of 203, 213, 244, 201, 168 and 175. He moved up in the standings after his performance on the second day with games of 234, 266, 181, 176, 189 and 180. Bauer's two-day pin total was 2,430.

The individual state champion was Charlie Hunter of Salem with a 12-game series of 2,763.

Hunter's effort helped his Salem squad to the team title with a score of 12,706. Other schools finishing in the top five were O'Fallon (12,517), Mascoutah (12,509), Machesney Park Harlem (12,406) and New Lenox Lincoln Way West (12,405).

Girls in Geneseo wrestling sectional

GENESEO – The Mendota girls' wrestling team will compete in the Geneseo Sectional to be held Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11.

In addition to Mendota, other schools in the sectional include Amboy, Aurora East, Aurora West, Beardstown, Belvidere North, Bismarck, Braidwood Reed-Custer, Burlington Central, Camp Point Central, Canton, Carthage-Illini West, Chilibicthe IVC, Clifton Central, Colfax Ridgeview, DeKalb, Dixon, Durand, El Paso-Gridley, Erie, Farmington, Freeport, Fulton, Galesburg, Geneseo, Gibson City, Granville-Putnam County, Herscher, Hoopston, Joliet Catholic, Joliet Central, Kankakee, Kewanee, Ma-

comb, Maple Park-Kaneland, Metamora, Minooka, Moline, Monmouth-Rosenville, Morris, New Lenox-Lincoln Way Central, New Lenox-Lincoln Way West, Oneida-ROWVA, Oregon, Orion, Oswego East, Oswego, Ottawa, Peotone, Plainfield Central, Plainfield South, Pontiac, Poplar Grove-North Boone, Princeton, Quincy, Rantoul, Rock Falls, Rock Island, Rockford Boylan, Rockton Hononegah, Sandwich, Seneca, Sherrard, Somonauk, Streator, Warsaw, Wilmington, Yorkville and Yorkville Christian.

First- through fourth-place finishers in each weight class will advance to the state tournament.

Trojans fall short in two league tilts

□ Hall, St. Bede knock off Mendota

Mendota and Hall met for the fourth time this season and the Red Devils got their third victory over the Trojans, 60-55, in Three Rivers Conference play on Jan. 24 at the MHS gym.

Hall held two-point leads after the first quarter (14-12) and at the half (27-25) before the Trojans put together a solid third period to overtake the Red Devils (41-37) heading to the fourth. But Hall was able to rally in the final frame behind Mac Resetich, who scored 12 of his team-high 19 points in the last eight minutes.

Rafael Romero tried to keep the Trojans in the game, scoring nine points in the fourth on his way to a 27-point output. Izaiah Nanez also hit double digits with 11 tallies, while Isaac Guzman contributed eight markers.

Each team had 21 field goals and 10 free throws, but Hall connected on eight shots from beyond the arc compared to three for the Trojans.

St. Bede posted a 57-42 verdict over the Trojans in conference action on Jan. 27 at Peru.

The Bruins led by four (15-11) after the initial stanza and then stretched the margin to 12 (33-21) at the half.

Romero led Mendota (8-19, 2-6) with 25 points.

HALL 60, MENDOTA 55

Hall (60)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
Resetich	6	7-9	3	4	19
Pecher	6	0-0	4	5	16
Smith	2	1-4	4	5	5
Dye	4	2-2	2	13	5
Bryant	2	0-4	1	2	5
Curran	1	0-0	2	2	0
Plym	0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals	21	10-19	17	60	

Mendota (55)

Mendota (55)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	1	2-2	2	4	8
Guzman	3	0-0	0	8	0
Romero	11	4-12	4	27	11
Nanez	4	3-7	4	11	5
R. Strouss	2	1-2	3	5	0
Stamberger	0	0-0	1	0	0
Aughenbaugh	0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals	21	10-23	15	27	

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	14	27	37	60
Hall	12	25	41	55
Mendota	12	25	41	55
Three-point goals: Mendota - Guzman 2, Romero 1; Hall - Pecher 4, Bryant 1, Dye 3				

ST. BEDE 57, MENDOTA 42

Mendota (42)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	2	0-0	2	4	0
Guzman	2	0-0	2	5	0
Romero	10	5-7	3	25	0
Nanez	1	0-0	2	2	0
R. Strouss	1	0-0	1	2	0
Stamberger	0	0-0	3	0	0
Aughenbaugh	1	0-0	0	2	0
Dewey	0	0-2	0	0	0
Rocha	1	0-0	0	2	0
Totals	18	5-9	13	42	

St. Bede (57)

St. Bede (57)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
Husser	0	0-0	1	0	0
Brown	1	0-0	2	3	0
Pillion	2	1-2	2	7	0
Hueneburg	3	0-0	3	8	0
Brady	4	2-2	2	10	0
Hart	8	1-4	2	19	0
Jackson	3	0-0	3	6	0
Ankiewicz	1	0-0	0	2	0
Pothoff	1	0-0	0	2	0
Totals	23	4-8	15	57	

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	11	21	32	42
Mendota	11	21	32	42
St. Bede	15	33	49	57
Three-point goals: Mendota - Guzman 1; St. Bede - Brown 1, Pillion 2, Hueneburg 2, Hart 2				



Mendota's Reanna Brant is closely guarded by Amboy's Emily Sachs and Tyrha Vaessen, right, during basketball action on Jan. 28 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

MHS girls topple Newman

The Mendota Lady Trojans got a much-needed 45-34 victory over Sterling Newman in a Three Rivers Conference contest on Jan. 26 at the MHS gym. The win halted an 11-game Mendota losing streak. Newman had beaten Mendota twice earlier in the season.

Mendota scored nine points in each of the first two quarters while Newman tallied 12 for the half. The Lady Comets rallied in the third period to take a 27-25 lead, but the Lady Trojans stormed back in the fourth frame, outscoring Newman, 20-7, to pull out the win. Mendota sank 9 of 11 free throws in the final stanza and 11 of 15 for the game.

Reanna Brant paced the attack with 20 points and 14 rebounds. Katie Jenner added 10 tallies and three steals, while Naitzy Garcia dished out three assists.

"A huge night for (Reanna) Brant finally led to a big, much-needed win," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "Everyone chipped in on this one at both ends. The defense was awesome and the ball patience and movement was great."

Amboy picked up a 47-21 triumph over Mendota on Jan. 28 at the MHS gym.

A hot-shooting first quarter allowed Amboy to open up a 19-7 lead after the first eight minutes. Mendota went scoreless in the second period

and the Lady Clippers took a 28-7 advantage to the locker room.

Brant topped Mendota with seven points, seven rebounds and three blocks. Addison Pertell (16) and Elly Jones (13) ignited the Amboy offense.

Princeton downed the Lady Trojans, 58-30, in a Jan. 30 conference contest at Princeton. Mendota dipped to 5-22 overall and 2-9 in league play.

The Lady Trojans were within striking distance at the half, trailing 22-15, but Princeton came out blazing in the third quarter and outscored Mendota, 20-7, to pull away.

Brant had 12 points and 16 rebounds, while Cassie Gonzalez added eight tallies.

MENDOTA 45, NEWMAN 34

Sterling Newman (34)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
Johns	10	1-4	0	21	
Papoccia	0	0-0	2	0	
Oetting	4	0-0	4	8	
Duhon	2	1-2	4	5	
Terbush	0	0-0	1	0	
Rodriguez	0	0-0	1	0	
Franque	0	0-0	1	0	
Totals	16	2-6	13	34	

Mendota (45)

Mendota (45)		FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	3	2-5	2	10	
Zinke	1	0-0	1	2	
Wasmer	0	4-4	6	4	
Brant	8	4-4	14	20	
Garcia	2	1-2	4	5	
Reel	1	0-0	3	2	
Gonzalez	1	0-0	1	2	
Totals	16	11-15	31	45	

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	8	12	27	34
Newman	8	12	27	34
Mendota	9	18	25	45
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 2				

AMBOY 47, MENDOTA 21

Amboy (47)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
Jones	5	0-0	0	13	
Vaessen	0	0-0	1	0	
Pertell	7	0-0	1	16	
Karlson	1	1-1	0	3	
Larson	2	0-0	3	4	
McLaughlin	0	0-3	0	0	
Ortgiesen	2	1-2	2	5	
Sachs	2	0-1	1	4	
Wilson	1	0-0	1	2	
Totals	20	2-7	9	47	

Mendota (21)

Mendota (21)		FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	1	1-2	0	1	
Zinke	0	1-2	1	4	
Wasmer	0	0-0	2	0	
Brant	3	1-1	7	7	
Garcia	1	0-1	4	2	
Frey	0	1-2	2	1	
Schultz	0	0-2	2	0	
Reel	1	2-2	2	4	
Gonzalez	0	2-2	3	2	
Totals	6	8-14	23	21	

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	19	28	44	47
Amboy	19	28	44	47
Mendota	7	7	17	21
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1; Amboy - Jones 3, Pertell 2				

PRINCETON 58, MENDOTA 30

Mendota (30)		FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	1	0-0	0	3	
Wasmer	2	0-0	1	15	
Brant	6	0-2	16	12	
Garcia	0	0-0	7	0	
Sondgeroth	1	0-0	0	2	
Schultz	0	0-0	2	0	
Reel	0	0-2	2	0	
Gonzalez	2	3-7	4	8	
Totals	12	3-11	32	30	

Princeton (58)

Princeton (58)		FG	FT	Fls	TP
May	4	0-1	2	8	
Gartin	2	1-2	2	5	
Hobson	3	0-0	1	6	
Tirao	2	0-0	0	5	
Ibarra	3	0-0	0	7	
Foy	2	1-3	1	5	
Driscoll	5	0-0	1	12	
Davis	4	0-0	2	8	
Mattigly	1	0-0	0	2	
Totals	26	2-7	9	58	

SCORE BY QUARTERS

	6	15	22	30
Mendota	6	15	22	30
Princeton	13	22	42	58
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1, Wasmer 1, Gonzalez 1; Princeton - Tirao 1, Ibarra 1, Driscoll 2				

SPORTS

BOWLING

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Jan. 23
– 1. Split Happens 20-5; 2. BadKats 13-12; 3. CM Farm 12-13; 4. Ramer Inc. 12-13; 5. Leagal Beagles 10-15; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 8-17

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 752, CM Farm 678, Sports-N-Stuff 653

High team game (hdc) – Split Happens 990, CM Farm 982, Bad Kats 944

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2093, Sports-N-Stuff 1879, Ramer Inc. 1776

High team series (hdc) – Split Happens 2807, Bad Kats 2759, Ramer Inc. 2709

Men's high game (scratch) – Luke Ross 268, Matt Ramer 263, Mike Smith & Bob Thomas 190

Men's high game (hdc) – Matt Ramer 287, Carl Reistad 277, Luke Ross 274

Men's high series (scratch) – Luke Ross 680, Matt Ramer 658, Ron Westphal 535

Men's high series (hdc) – Matt Ramer 730, Luke Ross 698, Paul Diaz Jr. 694

Women's high game (scratch) – Emily Thomas 204, Jessica Robinson 201, Brenda Westphal 182

Women's high game (hdc) – Emily Thomas 273, Brenda Westphal 264, Dessa Collings 263

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 564, Emily Thomas 509, Brenda Westphal 506

Women's high series (hdc) – Dessa Collings 755, Brenda Westphal 752, Jessica Robinson 723

Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Jan. 24 – 1. Black Bros. 55-29; 2. Team 2 41-43; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 36-48; 4. Age Old Organics 35-49

High team game (scratch) – Team 2 1063, Age Old Organics 1036, Black Bros. 1000

High team game (hdc) – Age Old Organics 1204, Black Bros. 1135, Team 2 1132

High team series (scratch) – Team 2 2913, Age Old Organics 2901, Black Bros. 2767

High team series (hdc) – Age Old Organics 3405, Black Bros. 3172, Team 2 3120

High individual game (scratch) – Nate Bradford 268, Al Engel 248, Beau Wixom & Eric Elsner 245

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 681, Eric Elsner 678, Ed Jasper 674

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Jan. 25 – 1. Boelk Truck Lines 44.5-35.5; 2. First State Bank 43.5-36.5; 3. Mendota Monument 38-42; 4. O'Donnell Excavating 34-46

High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1131, Boelk Truck Lines 1029, First State Bank 950

High team game (hdc) – Mendota Monument 1171, Boelk Truck Lines 1150, O'Donnell Excavating 1069

High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 3198, First State Bank 2825, Boelk Truck Lines 2802

High team series (hdc) – Mendota Monument 3318, Boelk Truck Lines 3165, First State Bank 3122

High individual game (scratch) – Chris Eller 288, Nate Bradford 279, Erik Schmitt 258

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 764, Tyler Schmitt 715, Erik Schmitt 659



Mendota's Naitzy Garcia attempts to drive the baseline while being guarded by Tyrone Vaessen of Amboy on Jan. 28 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

IVCC softball team holding clinic

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

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

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

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

to 4 p.m.

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

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

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

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PLANO CLASS 1A BOYS REGIONAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, Feb. 4

Session 1 at 9 a.m.

Session 2 at 1 p.m.

**Geneseo Girls' Sectional Wrestling
Tournament**
Friday, Feb. 10 & Saturday, Feb. 11



2022-2023 MHS WRESTLING TEAM

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<p>ARS AUTO REPAIR, INC. 307 Plaza Drive (815) 538-2412</p>	<p>CITY OF MENDOTA • MAYOR DAVID BOELK • (815) 539-7459 Go Trojans!</p>	<p>GOOD LUCK!</p>	

LOCAL AND AREA

Practical tips to maximize your time

We all have the same amount of time – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And the longer I live, the more I discover that time is too valuable for us to waste any of it. That's why it is so important that we learn to live on purpose, for a purpose.

The truth is if you make wise decisions now, you will have a better future. But if you waste your time, you will have regrets. And

regrets are terrible because you can't go back and do anything about them.

That's why we need to do the right thing when we have the opportunity to do it instead of blaming our circumstances or how we were raised or how the world is for the way we live. We can learn how to cooperate with God and make changes that will make something good happen in our lives.

Are you a participant or spectator?

Ephesians 3:20 is an exciting verse people like because it says God "is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams]" (AMP). But if we stop there, we don't fully see what this scripture is saying. It goes on to say "according to His power that is at work within us."

God is able to do great things as His power works in us and through us! So it's not just about God doing things for you – He wants to do things through you. We are meant to be partners in His plans, not merely spectators.

We have to stop wishing life would change and start taking action! We need to pray, spend time with God and study His Word, and as He speaks to our hearts, we need to step out in faith. I want to encourage you not to let fear keep you from moving forward. If you are afraid of making the wrong choice, then make a determined decision to take a step of faith – do it afraid! – and trust God to show you if you're going in the wrong direction. Because sometimes we can't find out what the right direction is until we step out and find out.

Participate with prudence
In Proverbs 1:1-5, we



learn some of the main ways we hear God's voice as we seek Him. Verse 4 says, "That prudence (good judgment, astute common sense) may be given..." (AMP).

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines prudence as "the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason; shrewdness in the management of affairs; skill and good judgment in the use of resources."1 A prudent person is disciplined and a good manager. He won't waste his money, time, energy, talents or his words. We see this in the following scriptures:

• Proverbs 10:19 says the prudent person "controls his lips and keeps thoughtful silence."

• Proverbs 12:16 teaches that "the [arrogant] fool's anger is quickly known [because he lacks self-control and common sense], but a prudent man ignores an insult."

• And Proverbs 31:16 describes the prudent woman as one who carefully considers new opportunities before making a decision and uses her time in ways that benefit her.

These are just a few verses that reveal ways you can be prudent. I want to encourage you to study

them and look up others that will help you get more revelation of how you can be prudent.

Are you busy or fruitful?

God created you to live on purpose, for a purpose! He has not called you to be busy – He has called you to bear good fruit! He's given you free will so you can make good choices in every single area of your life.

It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life in the world we live in today. We all need to take time on a regular basis to think about how we're spending our time so we can evaluate whether we're being fruitful and making progress in the things we should be doing.

I like to do this before I go to bed at night. I think through the things I did that day to see what I accomplished. Doing this helps me discover anything that caused me to waste time and lose my focus on the things I needed to do.

Take time to honestly examine the way you're spending your time. Pray and ask God to reveal things that need to change, ways you can make better choices that line up with His wisdom, and then lean on Him for the strength to make changes. You'll find that as you make choices guided by

the Spirit of God, you won't end up with regrets—you'll be fulfilled, peaceful and excited about how He is working in your life!

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prudence>, accessed January 26, 2023.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-teaching resource Living on Purpose for a Purpose. 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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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE SENIOR HOMESTEAD & OWNER OCCUPIED EXEMPTIONS NEW APPLICANTS

This Notice is for persons filing for the Homestead Exemption for the first time. All senior citizens who are or will be 65 years old during 2023 and who own and reside in their own home, are eligible for the \$5,000 Senior Homestead Exemption on the 2024 real estate tax bill. A copy of the deed and the owner's driver's license (and any other persons on the deed driver's license(s)) are needed for the application. The signature on this form must be notarized.

EXISTING SENIOR HOMESTEADS

Renewal forms for existing Homesteads were mailed out in early February 2023. All recipients should read the form, answer all questions completely and return them to the Township Assessor's Office. (See address below.) If needed, one of our staff members can help you fill out the form.

ASSESSMENT FREEZE

Renewal forms for the Assessment Freeze Exemption are included in the mailing with the regular Senior Homestead Exemption. Your total gross household income must be \$65,000 or less. This exemption freezes your assessed valuation, not your taxes. Forms must be filled out, signed, notarized, and returned to the respective township offices. Staff members can assist you with all of this. If your income is between \$55,000 & \$65,000 or shows a loss, we will need a copy of your 2022 form 1040 and the loss schedule.

NEW HOMEOWNERS

If you bought a new home, this past year and were living in it by January 1, 2023, you will need to fill out an owner occupied exemption form with your local assessor. Your signature on this form must be notarized.

VETERANS

Exemptions for Veterans were created by House Bill 664-one for disabled veterans and one for returning servicemen. Forms are available at our office.

DISABLED PERSONS

An exemption created by House Bill 664 allows a \$2,000 exemption for a Class II disabled person. Forms are available at our office.

The Mendota Township Assessor's Office is located at the Mendota Township Offices at 602 S. Main St. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 9am-12pm & 1:30pm to 3pm or by appointment. Completed forms may be mailed to Mendota Township Assessor, PO Box 465, Mendota, IL 61342. Staff members can make home visits for homebound individuals. Bilingual assistance is available by appointment. If you have any questions, call the office at 815-539-3201.

ALL NEW APPLICANTS

All New Exemption Applications & All Assessment Freeze Forms must be Notarized. There are (2) Notaries in the Mendota Township Assessor's Office.

OWNER-OCCUPIED EXEMPTION

New Home Owners must file an Owner-Occupied Exemption Form to get this Exemption. These forms are available at

the Mendota Township Assessor's Office. This form has to be Notarized.

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

If the tax bill is to be mailed to a different address, a Change of Address Form must be filled out. These are available at the Mendota Township Assessor's Office. This form must be Notarized.

Susan Hochstatter
Mendota Township Assessor
No. 0108
(Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and 8, 2023)

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

ESTATE OF

)

)

Marian C. Crane,

)

)

Deceased

)

Case No. 2023-PR-4

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Marian C. Crane of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on January 6, 2023 to Alan L. Crane of 1411 Rolling Green Drive, Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before July 20, 2023. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

No. 0109
(Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 2023)

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

ESTATE OF Patricia A. Pellow, Deceased
Case No. 2023-PR-10

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Patricia A. Pellow of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office as Independent Executors were issued on January 12, 2023 to Jason W. Pankoke of 102 14th Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342 and Lance A. Pellow of 2349 N. Whistle Vale Dr. SW, Byron Center, MI 41315 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before July 31, 2023. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has

been filed.

No. 0112
(Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8, 2023)

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 JASAPATH H DAYSON AND ANNA LIZA B DAYSON, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 8152 KNOX AVE APT 2, SKOKIE, IL, 60076, according to the Mortgage dated July 24, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 08142, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 08, 2017, are the owners of the

timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0054 Frequency Odd, Use Period Number(s) 36, Phase 1 EDGAR ALAN FUENTES, A MARRIED MAN, 565 S HOLLOWAY RD, ROMEOVILLE, IL, 60446, according to the Mortgage dated May 02, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 16526, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 18, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0439 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 22, Phase 7 JAMES P HOWARD AND JANET L HOWARD, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 128 E MILL ST, KEWANEE, IL, 61443, according to the Mortgage dated March 28, 2017 and recorded under File No. 2017 16045, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 12, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0021 Frequency Odd, Use Period Number(s) 47, Phase 1 VALENTINA M KERFOOT AND KENNETH W KERFOOT, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1039 WILLOW LN, BATAVIA, IL, 60510, according to the Mortgage dated December 20, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 08649, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 22, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0391, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 6 GARY G KOESLER AND NAOMI F KOESLER, HIS WIFE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, TRACY A KOESLER, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 2066 WILLIAM DR, MONTGOMERY, IL, 60538, according to the Mortgage dated November 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 09283, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0375, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 3 GARY G KOESLER AND NAOMI F KOESLER, HIS WIFE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, TRACY A KOESLER, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1650 BRIDLE POST DR, AURORA, IL, 60506, according to the Mortgage dated November 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 09283, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0375, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 3 GARY G KOESLER AND NAOMI F KOESLER, HIS WIFE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, TRACY A KOESLER, A SINGLE MAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 400 E RANDOLPH ST APT 3726, CHICAGO, IL, 60601,

according to the Mortgage dated November 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2016 09283, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on June 30, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0375, Use Period Number(s) 14, Phase 3 BARNETT S KOLTON, A SINGLE MAN AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, 9395 LANDINGS LN UNIT 404, DES PLAINES, IL, 60016, according to the Mortgage dated June 16, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 14941, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 05, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0052 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 11, Phase 1 JENNIFER E MAGANA AND RAPHAEL JEFFRIE AKA RAPHAEL JEFFRIE SR, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1126 KAREN DR, JOLIET, IL, 60431, according to the Mortgage dated April 01, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 10901, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 29, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0206, Use Period Number(s) 16, Phase 4 JENNIFER E MAGANA AND RAPHAEL JEFFRIE AKA RAPHAEL JEFFRIE SR, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 125 SAINT JOSEPH AVE, JOLIET, IL, 60436, according to the Mortgage dated April 01, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 10901, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on July 29, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0206, Use Period Number(s) 16, Phase 4 JAMES J MOORE AND ELLA WARD MOORE AND ANY UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 5248 W CONGRESS PKWY APT 2, CHICAGO, IL, 60644, according to the Mortgage dated May 14, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2016 14445, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on September 28, 2016, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0284 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 38, Phase 4 WALTER J RAMOS, A SINGLE MAN AND LAURA PATRICIA NARANJO ESPINOZA, A SINGLE WOMAN, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1406 BALTZ DR, JOLIET, IL, 60431, according to the Mortgage dated May 07, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 15943, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 11, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0010 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 31, Phase 1 WILLIE RICHARDSON AND DEBORAH RICHARDSON, TRUSTEES OF THE

TRUST AGREEMENT OF WILLIE RICHARDSON AND DEBORAH RICHARDSON, DATED 12/14/2019, 359 DANIELLE RD, MATTESON, IL, 60443, according to the Mortgage dated June 26, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 12075, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on August 09, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 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 MICHELLE LEIGH TAYLOR AND BRANDON RAY TAYLOR, WIFE AND HUSBAND, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 12107 PALM HARBORWAY, BUDA, TX, 78610, according to the Mortgage dated February 28, 2016 and recorded under File No. 2017 16496, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on October 18, 2017, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as, Unit No. 0436 Frequency Annual, Use Period Number(s) 27, Phase 7 RYAN MARC P VIDAL

AND JENALYN MARQUEZ, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH FULL RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, 1807 W ARGYLE ST APT 104, CHICAGO, IL, 60644, 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 or 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)



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601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

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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.

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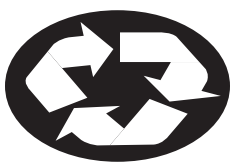
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Are you a dynamic sales rep interested in helping local businesses? If so, we'd love to have you join our sales team!

We need someone who truly appreciates the connection between marketing and sales, someone who genuinely gets excited with each and every sale - big or small. This person also must be comfortable calling on outside markets. We do not cap commissions, so earning potential is unlimited as you grow your client base! We also provide monthly auto allowances for work-related expenses.

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- Expertise in Microsoft Office Suite with emphasis on Excel

To be successful in this role, the ideal candidate will be detail-oriented, deadline-driven, and demonstrate accurate information management.

We offer a competitive salary commensurate with experience, a pleasant working environment, paid vacation, paid sick time, excellent medical benefits and a 401K investment plan.

Qualified applicants willing to become immersed in both the Amboy and Mendota community, should email their resumes and any clips to Tonja Greenfield, Publisher, at tgreenfield@mendotareporter.com or mail them to P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.

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Mendota Area Senior Services
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INFORMATION

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- Ogle County Life
- Rochelle Shopping News
- Ashton Gazette
- Amboy News
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2

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3

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4

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5

Shopping Local retains our community:

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6

Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness:

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7

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8

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9


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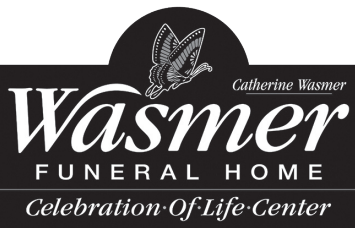
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