

## Fire destroys buildings on Illinois Avenue



### Second downtown fire in 4 months stuns Mendota

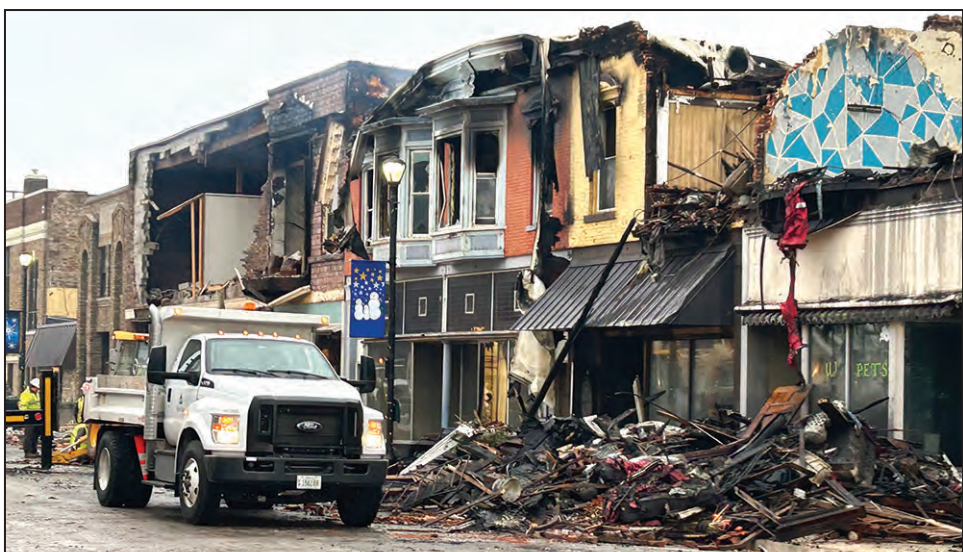
**By KIP CHEEK**  
*Staff writer*

MENDOTA – The second fire in four months has destroyed historic buildings in the downtown district and left Mendota stunned.

A devastating blaze raced through the row of buildings connected on the west side of the 700 block of Illinois Avenue on Thursday, Dec. 29, only leaving the old Mendota Reporter building and the city of Mendota building unfazed. The buildings starting to the north of the Reporter brick building up to Delao’s Restaurant on the corner of Illinois Avenue and Jefferson Street are a total loss and will have to be demolished.

Officials from the Health Department scoured Delao’s Restaurant the morning after the fire and found significant smoke and fire damage. They will be back on the scene this week for more assessment to see if the building can be saved from demolition. It is also unclear if the brick Reporter building will remain stable and intact until after debris is cleared from the old Meyers Furniture building to its immediate north.

A 9-1-1 call alerting authorities of the fire came in at 9:05 p.m. The first arriving units were on scene in less than three minutes and observed smoke coming from the second story at 710 Illinois Ave. A MABAS Commercial Box alarm was initiated and went to a fifth alarm. An EMS box was also



pulled due to the size of the fire and to cover the Mendota district for other calls.

Within 15 minutes of arrival, the fire was through the roof. Emergency personnel scurried to remove animals from the UJ Pets store, but not all of them could be saved. Two families were displaced, while no civilians or emergency personnel were injured.

Mendota Fire Chief Dennis Rutishauser said the decision was made to open up the second story of the old Meyers Furniture building to prevent the fire from jumping to the old Reporter and the city building.

“We had to stop the fire at the old Meyers Furniture or it would’ve kept going to the city building and possibly around the corner,” said Rutishauser.

Approximately 20 departments responded to the



scene. In addition to Mendota, aerial trucks from Peru, Spring Valley and Princeton were deployed to attack the blaze. The fire was contained at approximately 3:15 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30. The last command unit cleared at 3:08

p.m. on Friday. The cause of the fire is undetermined and is being investigated by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Mendota Police Department and the Mendota Fire Department.



Reporter photos by Brandon LaChance



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## License plate fees for low-income older drivers, persons with disabilities to drop in 2023

SPRINGFIELD – Eligible older adults and persons with disabilities will see their annual license plate renewal fee reduced by more than half in the new year, according to the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA). Under Public Act 102-0807, which took effect Jan. 1, drivers who qualify for IDoA's Benefit Access Program will pay only \$10 for their license plate stickers, a decrease from \$24 currently.

"During this time of high inflation, many older adults are finding it increasingly difficult to cover everyday expenses," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta. "This income-based discount on license plate renewals is welcome news for older drivers, helping them save money and keep their vehicle registration current."

"The lower annual license plate renewal fee for qualifying seniors will help

them keep more of their hard-earned money in their bank accounts to spend on other things, such as prescription medicine," said Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White. "I applaud the Illinois General Assembly for this new law, and especially the sponsors, State Rep. Cyril Nichols (D-Burbank) and State Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel (D-Plainfield)."

The Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program determines eligibility for a license plate discount from the Secretary of State's office and free transit on fixed route systems in Illinois. To qualify, residents must be at least 65 years of age or 16 years of age and disabled, as well as meet income requirements. For a household containing one person, the annual income cap is \$33,562.

To apply for the Benefit Access Program online, please visit <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/benefitsaccess>.

html. For assistance with the online application, older adults can call IDoA's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

Those with specific questions about the price reduction, or about their vehicle's registration status, are encouraged to contact the Illinois Secretary of State's office at 800-252-8980.

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://www2.illinois.gov/aging/programs> or contact the Senior HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## Jovan Carter as Michael Jackson

Festival 56 to present 3 Legends Tribute and "The King of Pop"

PRINCETON – Festival 56 in Princeton will present 3 Legends Tribute on Friday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. each night.

Jovan Carter's 3 Legends is a tribute artist who began his musical journey at the age of 12, playing percussion for a performing arts school. After winning his second high school talent show as Michael Jackson and then as Jackie Wilson, it was clear that this was his passion. Today he is dubbed as the "King of Pop" and the 3 Legends of Jackie Wilson, James Brown and Michael Jackson.

Performing these shows for the past 10 years, he has thrilled audiences all over and has become friends with two of Jackie Wilson's children, Michael Jackson's father and James Brown himself.

On Friday night, enjoy the Three Legends of Jackie Wilson, James Brown and Michael Jackson. On Saturday night, enjoy the music and dance of Michael Jackson.

Both nights you can enjoy the musical interludes of Al and Jeannie Brown upon arrival and during the artist meet and greet/photo opportunity following the featured artist performance. Al and Jeannie Brown have been making music together for 40 years. Both were Illinois Valley musicians when



they met in 1978. Covering nearly every musical style, their piano and upright bass duo favors jazz standards.

"Jazz covers a lot of musical territory," they said. "There's literally something for everyone." It's their favorite format,

though they are quick to add, "There's so many good songs, so much good music in the world, we don't pass up a chance to play an old favorite just because it's not considered a jazz tune. We just put our personal spin on it."

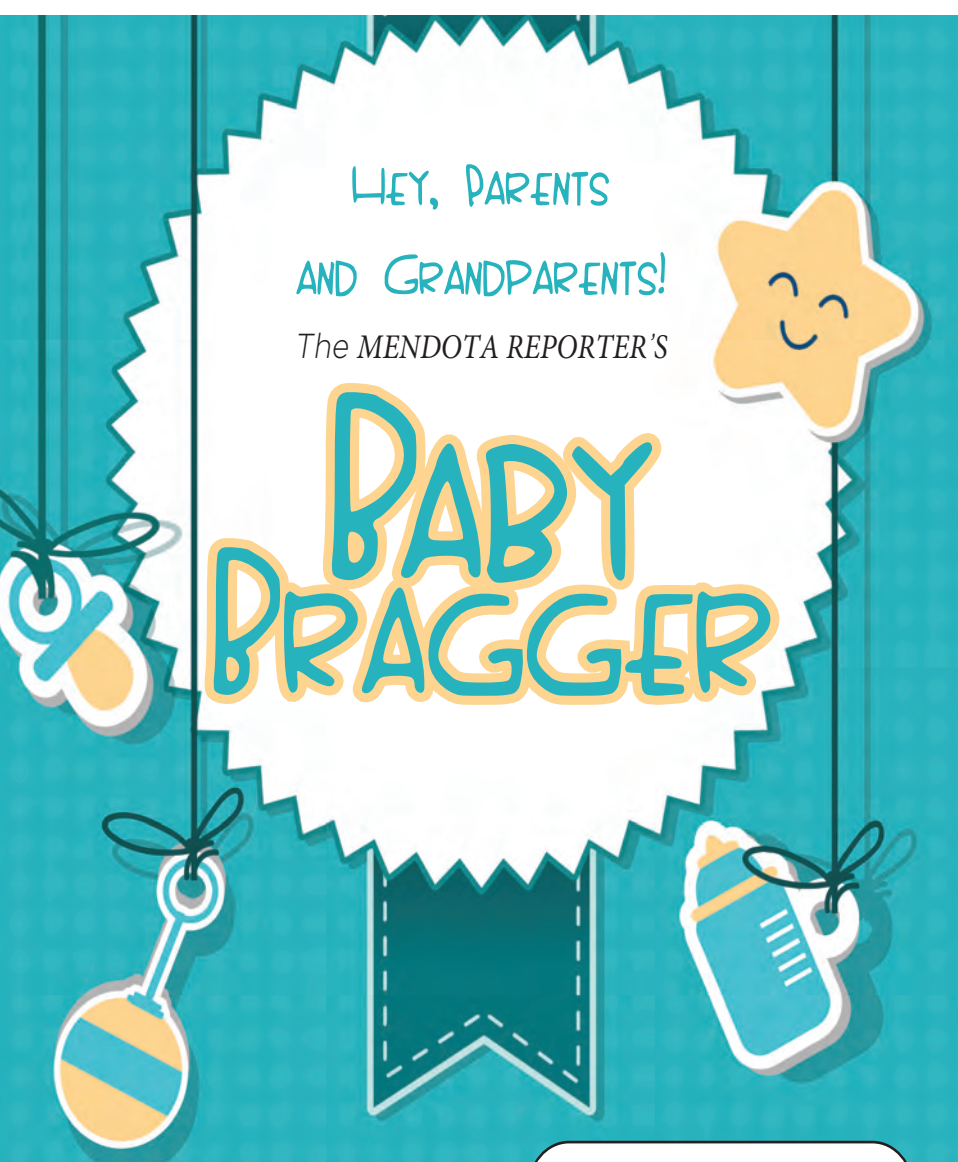
## LaSalle Library, Illinois Storm Chasers to share how winter weather works

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will virtually host Nick Bartholomew from the Illinois Storm Chasers for a presentation of how Midwest Winter weather works. The program is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Where do blizzards come from? What do we need to know about wind chill? When the meteorologist explains what is happening in the Rockies, can we guess how that weather will affect Illinois? What do we

need to know to be prepared for the worst of an Illinois winter? In this presentation, Bartholomew will discuss these questions and many more.

This program is free, open to the public, and will be presented virtually via Zoom. Registration required. Register – <https://bit.ly/310QMqY>. For more information, please contact Rachael Blomquist, Digital Content Librarian, at 815-223-2341.



Photos of babies born in 2022 will run on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023

**\$20**  
prepaid

Deadline:  
Wednesday,  
Jan. 18th

Photos can be picked up after January 25, or we will return by mail if you provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please write all information legibly and put the name of the baby on the back of the photo.

High quality photos and information can be emailed to [tgreenfield@mendotareporter.com](mailto:tgreenfield@mendotareporter.com)

**Lorelai LaVonne Grayson**

January 8



Kaie & Jay Grayson

Grandparents:  
Kirk & Tammy Wiles

## 2022 BABY BRAGGER

BABY'S NAME

, 2022

BABY'S BIRTHDAY

PARENTS

GRANDPARENTS

Send a photo and payment (\$20) along with this completed form to:

Person Submitting Photo:

Name

Address

Phone

EMAIL (optional)



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# LOCAL AND AREA

## LaSalle Public Library hosting Family Board Games Night on Jan. 11

LaSALLE – LaSalle Public Library will ring in the New Year with a Family Board Games night on Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 4-7 p.m. The Library will host community residents, Martina Cingle and Cayla Massengill, for a fun evening of board games.

Families are invited to play favorite board games and meet other board game enthusiasts in the community. Cingle and Massengill will provide all games for the evening, and tutorials for available games. Games

offered include Rummikub, Catan (with player extension), Don't Break the Ice, Scrabble, Candyland, Reel Clues, Ticket to Ride (three different variations), France, Nordic, United States, Monopoly, Monopoly Deluxe, Mega Monopoly, Electronic Banking Monopoly, Super Electronic Banking, E-Build Monopoly, Monopoly Empire, Frozen II Monopoly, Monopoly: Washington Edition, Disney/Pixar Monopoly, Star Wars: The Mandalorian, and Monopoly: The Sopranos Edition.

All youth under the age of 8 years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The program is free and open to the public. The event will take place in the Library's meeting room, with doors closing at 6 p.m. Masks are not mandated but are encouraged. Free masks are available at the desk.

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

## Ross Gay, best-selling essayist, will virtually discuss most recent collection of essays with the LaSalle Public Library

LaSALLE – The LaSalle Public Library will join libraries from across the state in virtually hosting best-selling essayist and award-winning poet, Ross Gay, on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. Gay will discuss his most recent collection of essays, Inciting Joy, with performance poet, Dan "Sully" Sullivan.

Gay is the author of four books of poetry: Against Which; Bringing the Shovel Down; Be Holding, winner of the PEN American Literary Jean Stein Award; and Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. His first

collection of essays, The Book of Delights, was released in 2019 and was a New York Times bestseller.

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

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

## Illinois minimum wage rises to \$13 an hour

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois minimum wage increased another dollar on Jan. 1, 2023, making the new required minimum wage \$13 an hour.

Minimum wage workers are encouraged to keep a close eye on their paychecks in the new year as any time worked in 2023 must reflect the new \$13 an hour minimum wage.

There have been five increases in the state minimum wage since Governor JB Pritzker signed historic legislation in 2019 that establishes a schedule of wage increases, putting Illinois on the path to a \$15 an hour minimum wage by 2025. Prior to the first of these minimum wage increases in 2020, the last time workers in Illinois

received an increase in the minimum wage was more than a decade ago in 2010.

"Illinois workers deserve a minimum wage that keeps up with the rising costs of living," said Governor JB Pritzker. "That's why, during my first year as Governor, we raised the minimum wage with a gradual ramp to \$15 an hour. Starting Jan. 1, minimum wage workers will get a raise and businesses will continue receiving tax credits for providing their workforce with a living wage."

The minimum wage for workers who regularly earn tips increased to \$7.80 an hour on Jan. 1; these workers must still earn the minimum wage after receiving tips, or the employer is required to make up the difference.

Workers under 18 who work fewer than 650 hours a year will earn a minimum wage of \$10.50 per hour as of Jan. 1.

All employers in Illinois are required to post the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" poster in the workplace where notices to employees are regularly posted.

"Minimum wage laws improve the standard of living for all workers of our state," said Jane R. Flanagan, Director at the Illinois Department of Labor. "Employers and employees should be aware of the increase to the minimum wage in Illinois."

Employees can file a minimum wage complaint with IDOL or by calling the Minimum Wage Toll Free Hotline: (800) 478-3998.

## Sidney Blumenthal, prominent political insider, to be featured speaker at Abraham Lincoln Birthday Banquet on Feb. 19

SPRINGFIELD – Prominent journalist, political insider, and author Sidney Blumenthal will be the featured speaker at the Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA) Birthday Banquet on Sunday, Feb. 19 in Springfield. Four renowned Lincoln authors and historians will highlight the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium earlier in the day, which will feature discussions on the 1860 Republican Convention, Lincoln and Native Americans, Lincoln family spiritualism, and a slave trader pursued through the courts by the Lincoln administration.

The annual Lincoln Birthday Symposium and Banquet, usually held on Feb. 12 on Lincoln's actual birthday, has been moved to Feb. 19 to take advantage of the three-day Presidents' Day weekend.

Blumenthal has been at work for more than a decade on a five-volume biography, The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln. His Feb. 19 banquet speech will address the final two volumes in progress, which cover the years 1860-1865. Blumenthal has already published the first three volumes, A Self-Made Man, 1809-1849 (2016); Wrestling with His Angel, 1849-1856 (2017); and All the Powers of Earth, 1856-1860 (2019).

Blumenthal was an assistant and senior adviser to President Bill Clinton and senior adviser to Hillary Clinton. He has been a national staff reporter for The Washington Post and Washington editor and writer for The New Yorker. Among his other books are the bestselling The Clinton Wars (2003), The Rise of the Counter-Establishment (1986; 2008), and The

Permanent Campaign: Inside the World of Elite Political Operatives (1980). Blumenthal was born and raised in Illinois and now lives in Washington, D.C.

The Feb. 19 Banquet, held to observe the 214th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, will take place at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield. A reception starts at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$95 each and can be obtained online at [www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org), by calling (217) 546-2656 (217-LINCOLN) or by email at [KaySmith.ala@gmail.com](mailto:KaySmith.ala@gmail.com).

The banquet is one of many activities scheduled each year to commemorate Lincoln's birthday. The Abraham Lincoln Association's annual Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium will also be held on Sunday, Feb. 19 beginning at 10 a.m. at the President Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield. The free presentations begin with Edward Achorn, a career journalist whose upcoming book is The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History.

The next session, which begins at 10:45 a.m., will feature Michael Green, the author of Lincoln and Native Americans. Green is the Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association and is a professor at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

The Thomas F. Schwartz Symposium Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, where the featured speaker at 12:15 p.m. will be Terry Alford, the author of a widely-known biography of John Wilkes Booth. Alford

has also written the new book In the Houses of Their Dead, which describes the engagement with spiritualism of the Lincolns and of the family of John Wilkes Booth.

The final program to follow the luncheon will be presented at 1:15 p.m. by Jonathan W. White, a leading younger figure in the Lincoln field, who will discuss Appleton Oaksmith, a New York slave-trader pursued through the courts in 1861-62 by the Lincoln Administration. A roundtable discussion led by Prof. Michael Burlingame, Lincoln author and distinguished professor of history at the University of Illinois Springfield, will follow. All six authors, including Blumenthal and Burlingame, will sign their books from 3 to 4 p.m. at the hotel.

The Symposium talks and roundtable discussion are free and open to the public. Lunch will be offered, and lunch reservations are required. The luncheon is \$35 per person and reservations can be made at [www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org) or by calling (217) 546-2656 (217-LINCOLN). The reservation deadline for the banquet or symposium lunch is Feb. 3.

The Symposium is named for Benjamin P. Thomas (1902-1956), the renowned Lincoln biographer and one-time Executive Secretary of The Abraham Lincoln Association. The symposium is supported by a generous gift of Thomas's daughter, Sarah Thomas, and her family to The Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund. For more information about the Abraham Lincoln Association, please visit [www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org).

## Community Calendar

### JANUARY 2023

New program which combines bingo & exercise. Our staff member Laurie trained to lead this activity.

#### JAN. 6, 13, 20 & 27

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

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

#### JAN. 9, 16, 23 & 30

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

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

#### JAN. 9

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

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

#### JAN. 9

HAIR-DO'S WITH YOUR DUDE

Sponsored by Mendota  
Expressions Salon  
Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM

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

Spend a night learning how to style your child's hair. Child and adult participation required. All supplies furnished. Limited space; must Register.

#### JAN. 9

GIRL TALK WITH THE EXPERTS

Sponsored by Mendota  
Expressions Salon  
Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
7 PM

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

Join nurse Amanda Atherton and bilingual nurse Marci Lemus to discuss what to expect as a pre-teen and talk with the experts about make-up. For ladies in grades 4-8. Registration required for all youth programs.

#### JAN. 10 & 24

BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD SUGAR CHECKS

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

#### JAN. 10

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

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

#### JAN. 12

SHAKE RATTLE & READ "COLOR!"

(Repeat of January 4th)  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM

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

Audience: Birth - 2 yrs old (siblings welcome).

#### JAN. 17

BUNCO

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

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

#### JAN. 17

3RD TUESDAY BOOK CLUB  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM

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

Reading: "Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe"

#### JAN. 18

SHAKE RATTLE & READ "COUNTING"

Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
11 AM

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

Ages birth - 2 (siblings welcome).

#### JAN. 23

4H AT THE LIBRARY WITH UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

"VALENTINE CARD"  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
4 PM

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

Ages 8-18.  
Registration is required.

#### JAN. 24

LEFT, RIGHT, CENTER  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
1 PM

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

#### JAN. 25

MOVIE: "HAPPY FEET"  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library & M.A.S.S.  
3 PM

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

All ages are invited; children 6 and under are required to have an adult present.

#### JAN. 26

SHAKE RATTLE & READ "COUNTING"

(Repeat of January 12th)  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
6 PM

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

Ages birth - 2 (siblings welcome).

#### JAN. 27

NEW YEAR'S POTLUCK  
Sponsored by M.A.S.S.  
12 PM

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

Please bring dish to pass and your place setting.

#### JAN. 17

3RD TUESDAY BOOK CLUB  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
1 PM

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

Reading: "Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe"

#### JAN. 30

TWEENS  
Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
4 PM

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

5-8 Grades. NERF War indoors. Bring your NERF supplies and battle it out with friends. Pizza and refreshments served at 5 PM provided by Mendota Rosati's.

Registration required.  
For more info call  
(815) 539-7700

#### JAN. 31

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

Feik Senior Parlor – Mendota Civic Center

For more info call  
(815) 539-7700

#### JAN. 31

AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH MOVIE: "SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2" PG

Sponsored by Graves-Hume  
Public Library  
4 PM

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

All youth ages are invited. Children 6 and under are required to have an adult present. Registration is required for all youth programs.

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

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Quality Inn & Suites  
Ridley Feed Ingredients  
Rochelle Community Hospital  
Rosati's Pizza Pub  
Rose Concrete



# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## Justin B. Corcoran

WEST BROOKLYN – Justin B. Corcoran, 82, of West Brooklyn, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria.

Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, West Brooklyn with Father Randy Fronek officiating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, West Brooklyn. Visitation was Monday from 5-7 p.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Justin was born Nov. 28, 1940, in Mendota, to Phillip and Caroline (Weber) Corcoran. He married Anne Vickrey on July 22, 1959 at St. Mary's Church.

He is survived by his five sons, Timothy Corcoran of Madison, Wis., Gregory (JoAnn) Corcoran of Pick City, N.D., Jerome (Tina) Corcoran of Amboy, John (Lisa) Corcoran of Sublette and Jeffrey (Tracy) Corcoran of Belvidere; 32 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife in 2017, his son Stephen, his brother Phil, his granddaughter Zoey and his great-grandson Tucker Harris.

Justin was a 1958 graduate of Mendota High School. He worked at Wayside Press and then was controller for Del Monte for 32 years before retiring in 1988. He was a member of St. Mary's Church and a volunteer fireman for the West Brooklyn Fire Department for over 50 years. He enjoyed fishing and hunting trips to the Minnesota Northwoods, tending to his garden and playing Euchre. He was a Minnesota Vikings and Notre Dame fan.

Memorials may be directed to St. Mary's Church for masses or West Brooklyn Fire Department. Online condolences may be left at [www.merrittfh.com](http://www.merrittfh.com).

## Expanded bereavement leave rights take effect Jan. 1

SPRINGFIELD – The Family Bereavement Leave Act will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023, expanding unpaid leave rights for employees across the State. As the New Year approaches, employers should be aware of the new requirements under the Act.

The Family Bereavement Leave Act (FBLA) is an amendment to the Child Bereavement Leave Act (CBLA) that expands leave time requirements to cover pregnancy loss, failed adoptions or surrogacy agreements, unsuccessful reproductive procedures, and other diagnoses or events negatively impacting pregnancy or fertility. The FBLA also requires employers to provide leave time after the loss of family members previously not covered by the CBLA, including spouses, domestic partners, siblings, grandparents, and stepparents.

Employees may take up to two weeks, or 10 working days, of unpaid leave time for any of the events covered by the FBLA to grieve, to attend a funeral, or to make arrangements necessitated by the death of the family member.

Employers may require reasonable documentation to certify that an employee requesting FBLA leave experienced an event covered by the Act, but employees are not required to identify the specific event that qualifies them for the leave. Reasonable documentation includes death certificates, published obituaries, and documentation from an adoption or surrogacy organization. A Bereavement Leave form is available on the Department's website that may be used as reasonable documentation.

All employers and employees subject to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) are subject to the FBLA.

## Gilbert T. Haub

WEST BROOKLYN – Gilbert T. Haub, 91, of West Brooklyn, passed away Dec. 27, 2022, at Franklin Grove Rehabilitation Center surrounded by his loving family.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, West Brooklyn. Rev. Randy Fronek officiated. Burial was at St. Mary's cemetery, West Brooklyn. Visitation was from 10 a.m. until service time in the church. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Gib was born Jan. 10, 1931, to Joseph and Emma (Schneider) Haub at the family farm in Brooklyn Township just outside of West Brooklyn. On March 29, 1951, he married the love of his life, Celia "Sis" Hoover at St. Mary's Church in West Brooklyn.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Sis of West Brooklyn; sons Gary (Wanda) Haub of West Brooklyn and Mark (Alicia) Haub of Knoxville, Tenn.; daughter Jodi (Pete) Beck of Stillman Valley; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and sister Darlene Shaw of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son David Haub in 1982, brothers Marvin and LeRoy, and sisters Catherine, Flora and Shirley.

Gib spent his life in the West Brooklyn area where he served his community and church in many ways. He belonged to the Holy Name Society, the Catholic Order of Foresters, was a member of Lee County Farm Bureau, the West Brooklyn Co-Op, serving as President, and the Inlet Swamp Drainage Commissioner/Chairman. Gib loved all things related to the farm, especially John Deere. He enjoyed a game of Rummikub and played it until the end. His family was the light of his life.

Pallbearers will be Dennis Haub, Michael Ellison, Michael Schultz, Pete Beck, Jim Haub and Corey McLaughlin.

Memorials may be directed to Serenity Hospice of Oregon or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Condolences may be left at [wasmerfuneralhome.com](http://wasmerfuneralhome.com).

## Winifred W. Whetzel

LaSALLE – Winifred "Winnie" Wallace Whetzel, 90, formerly of West Brooklyn, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, in her home in LaSalle.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Holy Cross Church, Mendota with Father Peter Pilon officiating. Burial was in Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. Monday at Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Winnie was born Dec. 23, 1932 in Spring Mills, Md., to Francis and Mary (Taylor) Hurley, Sr. She married Roy Wallace in 1951 in West Virginia. He preceded her in death in 1953. She married Clifton Whetzel on Feb. 14, 1959 in Hagerstown, Md. He preceded her in death in 1998.

She is survived by her daughter Teresa (Kevin Bischler) Whetzel of LaSalle; son Michael (Barbara) Wallace of LaMoille; daughter-in-law Linda Wallace of Princeton; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son Bryant Wallace, great-grandson Quinton Wallace, four brothers and four sisters.

Winnie worked at Del Monte for over 40 years. She was a member of Holy Cross Church, Navy Mothers Club of America, Mendota Moose Lodge and was a former Boy Scouts Leader.

Memorials may be directed to the Mendota Moose Lodge or Holy Cross Church. Online condolences may be left at [www.merrittfh.com](http://www.merrittfh.com).



## Donald J. Querciagrossa

EDMOND, Okla. – Donald Joseph Querciagrossa, 78, lost his 3-year battle with cancer on Dec. 21, 2022, at Mercy Hospital, Oklahoma City, Okla., with family at his side. He bravely endured the pain, multiple tests and treatments saying, "whatever it takes!"

Matthews Funeral Home of Edmond, Okla., is assisting the family with arrangements. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7 at the chapel of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave, Edmond, Okla.

Don was born May 23, 1944, to Arthur (Tammy) and Clara Sanderford Querciagrossa in Goldsboro, N.C., where his father was stationed. When World War II ended, the family moved to LaSalle, where he grew up. He graduated from LaSalle-Peru High School in 1962, then went on to graduate with a business/transportation degree from the University of Tennessee in 1967.

Shortly after graduation he met Jean Baker of nearby Mendota. They married March 9, 1968, in Chicago.

Left to mourn him are his wife of 54 years, Jean; their two sons, David of Phoenix, Ariz., Dan and husband Chris of North Plains, Ore., and grandson Lucas of Phoenix. Also, his brothers, Ted (Jan) of Peoria, Ariz., and Jerry (Marilyn) of Green Valley, Ariz.; his sister Judy (Jay) Geldmacher of Scottsdale, Ariz.; several nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law, Judith Baker (Roy Marsden) of Cambridge, Wis., Joyce (Bill) Kessinger of Mendota, and Jill Fiorenza of South Beloit; brother-in-law Dr. Jim (Agnes) Baker of Superior, Colo.; and Jean's nieces and nephews. He also has a surrogate family, the Makanyas of Edmond.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother, his daughter in-law, Kim, all of his aunts and uncles, and a sister in-law, Janet.

Don went on to a long career in the trucking industry, managing equipment and maintenance for dry van, refrigerated, armored and tank trucks. He was blessed to have his vocation and avocation be one and the same. Growing up, his favorite toys were trucks, painting them and repainting them whatever color he decided his fleet should be. He'd find leftover cement at local construction sites and make roads among the bushes by his home.

He also became interested in cameras by his teens. With a brother, he made a darkroom in their basement. Of course, he began taking pictures of trucks. In college, he took photos for the school newspaper. During their entire marriage, whenever he had a chance, he and Jean made many side trips for him to get photos of trucks and terminals. A lot of those roads were bumpy.

He shared his pictures with many other 'truckies' he'd met and had a sizable group of online followers. He was one of the most knowledgeable individuals of the trucking industry that spanned over 50 years, including putting together a considerable history of every truck line he could find, which he happily shared with those 'truckies.'

Jean and the boys were amazed that there actually are others with his same passion. He also made several trips to Germany for the biannual International Truck Show with his friend from Holland, where he enjoyed talking with some European friends.

He retired from Groendyke Transport, Enid, Okla., in 2015 after over 30 years as their Director of Maintenance. After retirement he enjoyed traveling, watching the Thunder, both old movies and old music, and his photography. He kept an active correspondence with his 'truckies' and of course, taking more pictures of trucks. He never shared or posted a picture before he 'tweaked' it to his liking. He was a perfectionist about his hobby.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Willow Pregnancy Center, 4701 S. Western Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla., 73109.

## Northern Illinois 4-H Summer Camp is June 11-15

POLO—Registration for 4-H Camp 2023 is open. 4-H Camp is set for June 11-15, 2023, at Rock River Christian Camp in Polo. 4-H Camp is a five-day, four-night residential camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago

Counties and the professional staff at RRCC.

Campers at 4-H Camp will check in from 6-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 11, and check out from 6-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 15. During camp week, youth will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge, educate and entertain. Two or three free-choice periods will be offered daily,

including hiking, shooting sports, arts and crafts, crate stacking, team-building challenges, zip-lining, swimming and more.

4-H Camp is open to all boys and girls, ages 8-14 by June 11, 2023. 4-H membership is not required; however, all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-Hers.

The cost is \$300 for 4-H members and \$320 for non-4-H members until March 1. After that date, the price goes up \$50. All camp fees must be paid in full by May 15, 2023. Download a camper application online at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/northern-illinois-4-h-camp> or you can register online at: <http://go.illinois.edu/4HSummerCamp>.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Judge invalidates cash bail reform in some counties; Supreme Court appeal pending

□ LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, DeKalb counties part of lawsuit

By **JERRY NOWICKI**  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—A Kankakee County judge ruled on Dec. 28 that lawmakers overreached their constitutional authority in passing a measure to abolish cash bail in Illinois, while other provisions in the wide-ranging SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform were not affected by the ruling.

The ruling by Judge Thomas W. Cunningham leaves the impending cash bail reform in limbo in at least 64 of Illinois' 102 counties that had joined the consolidated lawsuit ahead of the reform's scheduled Jan. 1 implementation.

The reform remains scheduled to take effect in the more than 30 counties that did not sue, which contain roughly two-thirds of the state's population. Of the state's 10 most populous counties, six were not part of the lawsuit (Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, St. Clair and Champaign). The counties of LaSalle, Lee, Ogle and DeKalb were part of the lawsuit.

The ruling did not invalidate other provisions of the SAFE-T Act that had already taken effect, such as reforms to police officer training and certification standards and police body camera requirements.

Cunningham wrote in a 36-page decision that the cash bail provisions effectively and improperly amended a section of the state's constitution that states, "all persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties," except in a few specific circumstances.

He also wrote that ending cash bail is an improper overreach by lawmakers, who have no constitutional authority to govern the administrative functions of Illinois courts due to the separation of powers. Bail, Cunningham wrote, has been held by the Supreme Court to be "administrative" in nature.

The constitution also specifically men-

tions bail in a section on victims' rights, when it states victims have a right "to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail." Cunningham found that eliminating bail prevents courts from "effectuating the constitutionally mandated safety of the victims and their families."

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in a news release the state will appeal the decision directly to the state Supreme Court, but a timeline for a ruling from the high court is unclear.

"Most of the SAFE-T Act's provisions have been in effect for more than a year, and regardless of today's circuit court decision, all parts of the SAFE-T Act, including the pretrial release portions addressed in the court's decision, will go into effect Jan. 1," Raoul said. "For instance, the right of individuals awaiting criminal trials—people who have not been convicted of a crime and are presumed innocent—to seek release from jail without having to pay cash bail will go into effect in a few short days, despite the court's ruling against those provisions."

Cunningham rejected other arguments by the dozens of state's attorneys that centered on the legislative process, namely that the bill was not given a proper hearing and violated the "single subject" rule. Court precedent holds that as long as the House speaker and Senate president certify that a bill is properly passed, courts have no standing to intervene, he wrote.

*(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.)*

## \$253 million allocated for Illinois' broadband expansion

By **KEVIN BESSLER**  
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois is set to receive a quarter of a billion dollars from federal tax funds to expand broadband internet around the state.

During a news conference hosted by the White House recently, federal officials announced that Illinois would receive \$253 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Illinois U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Hoffman Estates, said the funding will help smaller communities around Illinois get online.

"Shoring up rural Illinois communities means making sure that every single Illinoisan has access to reliable electricity and broadband no

matter their zip code," Duckworth said. "Broadband, we need to look at it like a utility just like we do electricity or water or sewers."

The White House estimates the funding will be able to provide over 87,000 households and businesses in Illinois with broadband internet.

"Illinois is at the heart of the Midwest and the center of our nation and that means that our investments in broadband infrastructure are crucial to maintaining and enhancing connection across the entire region," Gov. J.B. Pritzker said.

In addition to the ARPA funds, Illinois is receiving an additional \$6.5 million from the U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to

expand internet access and digital equity around the state.

Each state in the country is guaranteed to receive at least \$100 million from the \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program.

The state of Illinois has made agreements with several internet service providers to offer broadband internet plans to low-income households for \$30 a month or less.

The Illinois Office of Broadband and its mapping vendor, Connected Nation, has been using the mapping efforts to provide internet access to hard to reach areas of the state and make best use of all available federal broadband funds.

### MPD advises to always keep vehicle locked

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

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

Please assist the Mendota Police Department to help keep you and your valuables safe.

## Help out Mendota Fire Dept. by clearing fire hydrants

MENDOTA—The Mendota Fire Department would like to ask residents of Mendota that during snow removal efforts to keep fire hydrants free from obstruction of snow. As you blade, shovel or push snow off your driveways and sidewalks, take time to clear away the snow from around fire hydrants.

During a fire, seconds count. The extra minute removing snow from around fire hydrants may save you or your neighbor's home. If you are unable to clear the snow from around hydrants yourself, call the City Clerk's office at (815) 539-7459.

Also, keep your house numbers readily visible.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### UW-Whitewater gives Dean's List

WHITEWATER, Wis. — Two students from Mendota were among the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students named to the Dean's List for the 2022 fall semester.

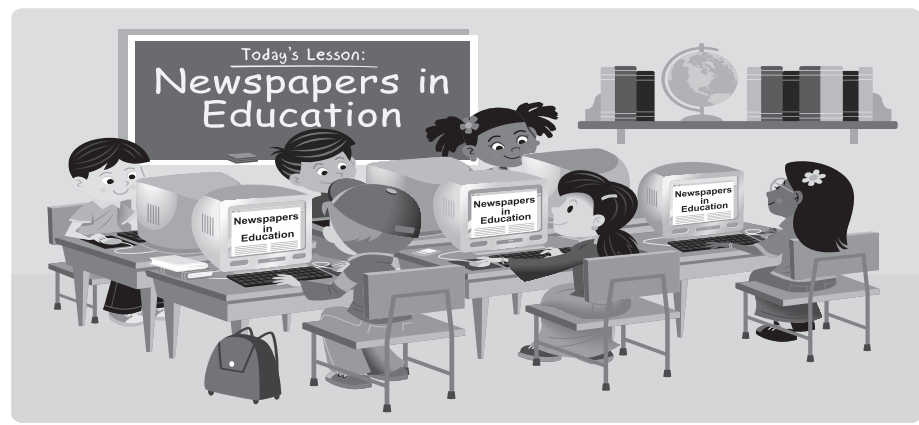
Achieving the honor were Mia Artman and Jenna Stanford. These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

The Registrar's Office reports 3,430 students were selected for the Dean's List for the spring semester. About 11,000 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

### Burn Ordinance

MENDOTA—It is unlawful to burn any materials other than small and dried quantities of branches, leaves, weeds or grass at any time. The burning of any material such as rubber, tires, leather, tar paper, old batteries or any material that emits an offensive odor when burned is unlawful within the city limits of Mendota.

Limited amounts of yard waste material may be burned provided the material is dry and does not create an offensive odor, nuisance or fire hazard due to excessive high winds. Combustible yard waste material may be kindled from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. All fires must be constantly tended by a competent person, until such fire is properly extinguished. The continued smoldering of slow-burning combustible yard waste after 4 p.m. is a nuisance and anyone kindling such a fire that will emit obnoxious odors after 4 p.m. will be considered performing an unlawful act. Burning on Sunday by commercial establishments shall be considered an unlawful act.



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The Gustafson farm is located approximately 3 miles southeast of Wenona, Illinois or 17 miles southwest of Streator, Illinois and is further described as being located in Section 32, T30N-R2E, Osage Township, LaSalle County, Illinois. The real estate contains a total of 76.91 taxable acres, will be sold in 1 tract and represents productive tillable cropland.

**Farmers and investors, be sure to check out this LaSalle County, Illinois farm.**

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# OPINION

## The Mendota Reporter

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

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

### Bipartisanship, environmental efforts among IFB's top priorities in 2023

By **RICHARD GUEBERT JR.**  
*Illinois Farm Bureau President*

As we head into the new year, I am excited for efforts to make 2023 the "Year of the Farmer."

Illinois Farm Families, a coalition comprised of the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Beef, Corn, Pork, Soybean and Midwest Dairy Associations, is also launching a major campaign to build trust in family farmers. One major message we want to amplify is that 96% of Illinois farms are family-owned. In the coming months, our members will start to see such messages shared with a broader audience, including Super Bowl commercials and other activities throughout the year.



**Guebert**

I recognize that there is much work to be done. Our farmers and leaders are building support from both sides of the political aisle amid a tumultuous political landscape. Farmers are working tirelessly to assure American families that agriculture is stronger than ever.

Being bipartisan has served Farm Bureau well. ACTIVATOR, IFB's political action committee, helps us elect candidates who work for our best interests in Washington and Springfield. It also helps us build strong relationships with legislators, who in turn help us achieve our legislative priorities. We endorse local candidates regardless of political party, and 93% of ACTIVATOR-endorsed candidates have been elected over the past four-year election cycle.

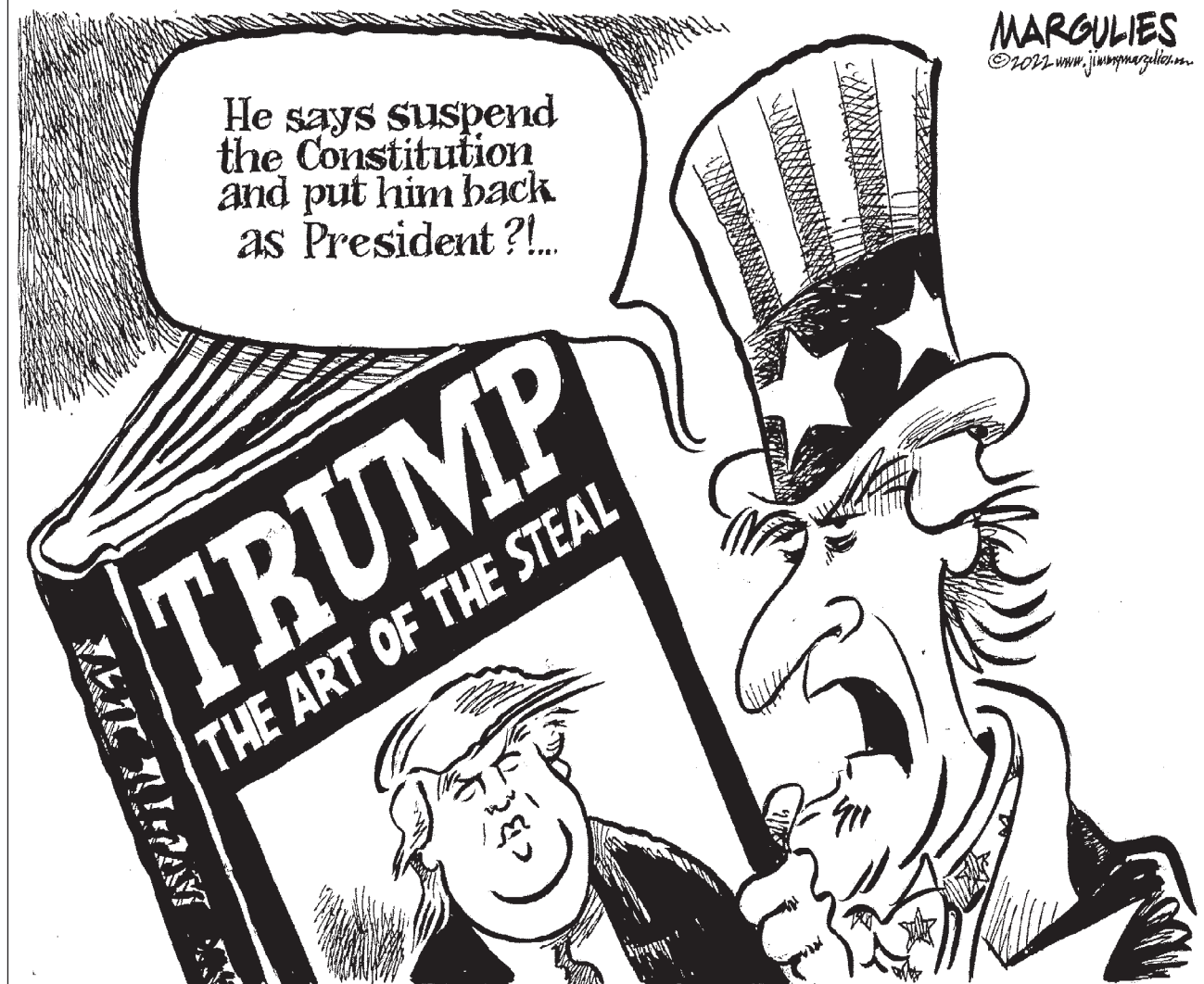
In the coming months, Congress will begin drafting the 2023 Farm Bill, which will guide U.S. agriculture and food policy over the next five years. For decades, agriculture policy has remained one of the few areas of true bipartisanship in Springfield and Washington, D.C. It is critical that we as farmers continue to develop strong relationships with our state and federal elected officials as they lay the groundwork for the next farm bill, advocate for international trade agreements and promote biofuels in our energy policy.

In December, IFB launched its first documentary, "Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story." The documentary utilizes an empathetic and creative storytelling approach to share the story of a multi-generational farming family at the forefront of Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction efforts. It also includes the IFB environmental team and agriculture researchers from the University of Illinois. The documentary can be viewed on the Illinois Farm Bureau YouTube page.

As we look ahead in the new year to continue sharing our messages, whether it be farm bill priorities, bipartisanship or environmental efforts, we cannot ignore the changing demographics among our members. There are more IFB members who are older than 90 years old than younger than 35. Additionally, the number of American farms is expected to decline by 42% by 2040.

It is hard to believe that it has been nine years since I was first elected as IFB president. It has been an incredible honor to serve Illinois farmers and our members. I am proud of our work this past year, but our job is not done yet. We have a lot more to accomplish in the coming months. With these educational efforts, new membership programming and bipartisan acts, I know we can make 2023 a great year for farmers and agriculture.

*(This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)*



## Aurora U. marks centennial – 1893-1993

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Jan. 6, 1993.)*

By **Jessica Nashold**

As Aurora University launches the observance of its centennial year, the story of its founding in our own Mendota is being retold.

First to recognize the advantages of Mendota as the site for a proposed Advent Christian school was Elder William McCulloch. On a visit to Mendota in 1890, he was impressed by college building vacated by Wartburg Seminary in 1889.

He began writing about the advisability of buying the five-acre tract and building before it could be "purchased by someone else."

In December 1891, J. August Smith took the initiative in obtaining an option on the property. The following February, McCulloch and Smith called a meeting to organize a legal body to accept the deed. The property was then purchased and a few months later transferred to the Western Advent Christian Association Publishing Co. The price was \$1,800 and in advocating the purchase, McCulloch wrote –

**The college building stands in the center of a beautiful park of five acres in the northeast part of the city of Mendota. Said park, of itself, if richly worth \$1,000, being covered with trees set in rows, which have grown to almost forest size. Without the building, were would have a great and beautiful location for Western Advent Camp and Association meetings.**

McCulloch said the brick school would accommodate 80 to 100 students with all the facilities of a boarding school. He called Mendota "a thriving city of five to eight thousand at the grand

### Backtracks & Sidetracks

crossing of two of the leading railroads of the great West."

He proposed formation of a stock company to sell shares at \$10 each.

The first camp meeting on the school grounds was held in August 1892, with 50 tents erected for those attending. A decision was reached to open a school in Mendota and in September the publishing company also located here. In December, the Advent Christians bought the Lutheran church on Illinois Avenue for \$150, but the pews and church bell were not included in the sale price.

J. Oscar Campbell, M.D., a graduate of the University of Toronto, an experienced teacher and "firm Advent Christian" was named president of the new school. The faculty included W.P. Shamart, who taught math and doubled as business agent for the publishing venture. President Campbell taught mental science and ancient languages. J.H. Nichols was instructor of college prep courses, political science and "pedagogics" while his wife Jennie conducted art classes. For music there was A.H. Stoddard.

It so happened that on opening day, Jan. 9, 1893, a blizzard was in progress. Only three students appeared – one from Minneapolis, one from Indiana and one from Illinois. Before the term ended in June, more than 50 had registered. They were taking "high school subjects, commercial studies such as shorthand, typewriting and bookkeeping, art and music." No college courses were offered the first year.

The official name of the school was Mendota Seminary. One year later, with an expanded curriculum, the school was renamed Mendota College. One college degree was awarded in 1895 to a transfer student who completed her studies here.

Tuition was \$25 per year with an additional charge of 50 cents for art and music classes. Board was available for \$2.50 per week. During the 1894-95 school year, enrollment was up to 110.

Old graduates later reminisced that the top floor was heated by stoves for which the men had to carry up hods of coal. It was admitted that some students disposed of ashes by tossing them out the window.

During much of 1910, other communities tried to persuade Mendota College to relocate. The successful offer came from Aurora where work was to start on a new building for the school as soon as a building fund had reached the \$50,000 mark. The announcement came in February 1911, with an envious comment from The Mendota Reporter –

**Hundreds of families will move to the city to give their children the advantages of the education being offered.**

It was widely believed that Mendota could have retained the college by producing sufficient financial inducements.

Mendota College became Aurora College in October 1911, but the actual move did not take place until April 1912. Dr. Orrin Roe Jenks was president at that time. A local girl on the faculty, Miss Martha Dewey, also made the move to Aurora. She taught elocution.

\*\*\*

It was 1985 that the board of directors voted to change the school's designation from Aurora College to Aurora University. The enrollment had exceeded 1,600 and graduate studies were offered.

## Beware of the aggrieved empires

By **Rich Lowry**

China sent 71 aircraft and seven ships toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period, while Russia shelled the Kherson region more than 70 times.

These acts of aggression -- occurring 5,000 miles apart, one in a grinding war of attrition, the other as part of an ongoing political and diplomatic struggle that may well result in open hostilities -- are related.

It's no accident that the two most dangerous powers in the world, China and Russia, are aggrieved empires seeking to right what they consider the wrongs that resulted in their humiliation and diminishment in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Whereas in the 2000s the most pressing problem of the international system seemed to be malicious sub-national groups operating in ungoverned spaces, now it is malicious would-be supranational entities seeking to take over spaces governed by others.

In his masterly book, "Diplomacy," Henry Kissinger observed, "Empires have no interest in operating within an international system; they aspire to be the international system."

The fall of the Roman Empire was a social and economic catastrophe for the West, but it's been a blessing that no such over-awing behemoth ever rose in its place.

Russia and China, in contrast, never lost their imperial DNA, and have chips on their shoulders.

Russia achieved some success in its long-running ambition to be considered a major European power through top-down reforms and military conquest. It gobbled up an estimated 50 square miles a day across a couple of centuries. But it lost the Crimean War in the mid-19th century, suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Japan in 1905, and then experienced utter cataclysm in World War I.

Marxism-Leninism was supposed to provide a way for backward Russia to leapfrog the West. That didn't happen, but Moscow established a new Communist empire of considerable extent. Of course, this came a cropper with defeat in the Cold War, an event that Vladimir Putin, notably, considers "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

The man who has statues of Peter and Catherine the Great, accomplished Russian imperialists, on display in the Kremlin considers an independent Ukraine merely a tool of hostile Western forces and a wayward part of Greater Russia. Such ideas -- and a deep feeling of shame at Russia's fall -- justify the brutish attempted occupation and dismemberment of Ukraine, a cynical and crude operation even by Russian standards.

If Russia sought to be a respected member of the European club, China believed it needn't bother. It was the Middle Kingdom, the only civilization in a world of barbarians who owed it tribute and deference. Its sense of superiority was punctured by the Opium Wars in the middle of the 19th century and, as with Russia, a shocking defeat in a conflict with Japan.

Eventually, China, too, turned to Marxism-Leninism. After yet more humiliation and failure, the CCP now is fired with audacious visions of a return to imperial grandeur.

President Xi Jinping is more or less explicit about it. He has said that "since the Opium War of the 1840s the Chinese people have long cherished a dream of realizing a great national rejuvenation." Now, it is on the cusp of providing "a new option for other countries," and "a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing mankind." In short, "it will be an era that sees China moving closer to center stage."

This is a vision of Middle Kingdom redux, although couched in bloodless phrasing.

Xi views Taiwan much the same way as Putin views Ukraine -- it rightfully belongs to China, and re-taking it will help salve the geo-political and psychological wounds of imperial China's spectacular descent into disaster and powerlessness. "We cannot lose even one inch of the territory left behind by our ancestors," Xi told a U.S. official in 2018.

The war in Ukraine shows that when an autocrat ruling a once-great empire speaks in such terms, it is time to arm the targeted state to the teeth and dispense with all illusions.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Illinois Valley Community College Foundation agriculture scholarship open to IVCC students

OGLESBY — An Illinois Valley Community College Foundation agriculture scholarship will honor the late June and Lyndon Hiltabrand of Cedar Point.

Linda Hiltabrand of Peru and her sister Marie Taylor of Spring Valley recently established the Lyndon and June Hiltabrand Memorial Agriculture Scholarship.

Mr. Hiltabrand worked 10 years at Sundstrand and farmed his entire working life. He was a member of the Shorthorn Breeders Association and Farm Bureau and was active with his wife for 20 years in Putnam County Belles and Beaus Square

Dance Club.

June was a homemaker and partner in Hiltabrand Farms. She worked many years at the Oglesby bank and was the first woman to serve on the school board at JFK in Cedar Point. She also led the Cedar Point Jolly 4-H club for a time.

Lyndon died at age 81 in 2010 and June at age 84 in 2014.

Lyndon and June sacrificed and saved so their daughters could attend college. Linda graduated from IVCC and the University of Illinois before enjoying a long career with the Illinois Department

of Natural Resources Office of Mines and Minerals.

Marie also graduated from IVCC, earned a bachelor's from Western Illinois University and a master's from Illinois State University. She retired after 35 years teaching in Putnam County.

Applicants who are active or previously participated in ag-related clubs or organizations will be given preference in the awarding of the Hiltabrand scholarship. Students can apply for IVCC Foundation scholarships through Feb. 9 at [www.ivcc.edu/foundation](http://www.ivcc.edu/foundation).



The late June and Lyndon Hiltabrand

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# MONEY MATTERS



Some simple strategies can make it easy for online and mobile banking users to safeguard sensitive financial information from cyberattacks.

## How to be more secure with online banking

The world is increasingly moving online. Perhaps nowhere is that more evident than in the financial sector. If asked to recall the last time they visited a bank in person, millions of people would likely be stumped for an answer.

A recent survey from a leading bank found that 80 percent of consumers prefer digital banking to in-person banking. And while 95 percent of consumers surveyed indicated they are confident that their bank can protect their data in online and mobile banking platforms, it's still wise for individuals to do everything they can to ensure their online banking activities are as secure as possible. After all, data from the security intelligence experts at Kaspersky indicates that 22 percent of online banking users utilizing PCs were attacked with the banking malware Zbot in 2020. That underscores how important it is that online and mobile banking users prioritize security when accessing their accounts via websites or their phones. These strategies can help consumers enjoy the convenience of online and mobile banking while ensuring they can rest easy knowing their accounts are as secure as possible.

- Avoid keeping a password too long. It's understandable if users have had the same passwords for months, if not years. Life in a digital world requires usernames and passwords for just about everything, but it's vital that banking passwords are routinely changed. Changing passwords once per month improves security, especially if passwords include a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. When changing pass-

words, resist the temptation to use a password you're already using for another account.

- Use only your own network when banking online or via your mobile devices. Public Wi-Fi may be convenient, but users have no idea who else might be making use of that convenience. Various cybersecurity experts indicate that public Wi-Fi is especially vulnerable to man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks, a type of security breach in which a third party intercepts communications between two unsuspecting parties, such as an online/mobile banking user and his or her bank. To reduce your risk of being victimized by an MITM attack, avoid using any website or app, including banking platforms, that require a login on public Wi-Fi.

- Install system updates. Users may find system update prompts always seem to come at the most inconvenient times. As a result, it's tempting to click the "Install Later" button and completely forget about it. But the longer users wait to install updates on their devices, including their smartphones, the more vulnerable to attacks they become. When prompted, install system updates immediately. Such updates typically only take a few minutes and often include new security features designed to protect users and their information, including any financial information they might have on their devices.

Some simple strategies can make it easy for online and mobile banking users to safeguard sensitive financial information from cyberattacks.

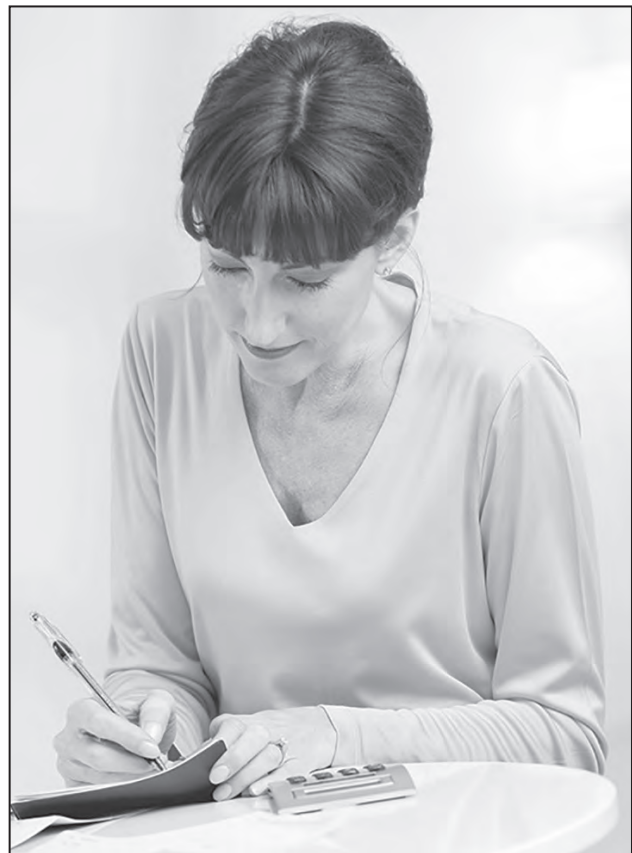
## Money management tips for retirees

What constitutes a perfect retirement is different for everyone. Some people may imagine spending their golden years fishing their days away, while others may aspire to finally embrace their inner globetrotter. Though individuals' retirement dreams differ, every retiree will need money, which only underscores the importance of a wise and disciplined approach to money management.

Average life expectancies have risen considerably over the last several decades. According to estimates from the United Nations Population Division, the average life expectancy in Canada for both sexes is just under 83 years, while it's slightly more than 79 in the United States. Those figures are a welcome sign, but they may inspire a little fear among seniors who are concerned that they might outlive their money. No one knows how long they will live, but everyone can embrace a handful of money management strategies to increase the chances that they won't feel a financial pinch in retirement.

- Study up on the tax implications of withdrawing from your retirement accounts. Every retirement investment vehicle, whether it's an IRA or a 401(k), has tax implications. Money withdrawn too early may incur tax penalties, and even money withdrawn long past retirement age could elevate retirees into a new tax bracket that could prove costly. A financial advisor can help retirees determine the tax implications of withdrawing money from their retirement accounts and may even develop a detailed guideline of when withdrawals should be made and how much should be withdrawn in a given year in order to minimize tax liabilities.

- Prioritize your own needs. Though retirees, particularly those with children and grandchildren, may feel an obligation to help their families in difficult financial times, generosity can be very costly for adults who have stopped working. Retirees



Various strategies can help retirees effectively manage their money so they can enjoy their golden years without having to worry about their finances.

may or may not have opportunities to generate new income, and even those who do likely won't make enough to meet their daily financial needs. Given that reality, retirees must prioritize their own financial needs, including their immediate needs and those they will have for the rest of their lives. Though it might be difficult to turn down loved ones' requests for financial help, retirees must make sure they can pay their bills and maintain a quality of life that won't jeopardize their long-term health.

- Examine your housing situation. Equity in a home is a feather in the cap of many retirees. Retirees who own their homes and live in locations with high property taxes might be able to cash in on their equity by selling their homes and downsizing to a smaller home with lower property taxes. If moving is not a consideration, discuss a reverse mortgage with a financial advisor. A trusted financial advisor can highlight the advantages and disadvantages of reverse mortgages,

which are a great option for some people to improve their financial well-being in retirement.

- Stick to a budget during retirement. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that roughly 70 percent of individuals who turn 65 will need long-term care in their lifetimes. That's just one expense retirees must budget for, and it's more sizable than some people may recognize. In fact, the Fidelity Retiree Health Care Cost Estimate found that the average retired couple age 65 in 2022 will need roughly \$315,000 to cover health care expenses in retirement. And health care costs are just one of many expenses retirees can expect to have. Budgeting and avoiding overspending can ensure retirees have the money they need when they need it.

No one wants to outlive their money in retirement. Various strategies can help retirees effectively manage their money so they can enjoy their golden years without having to worry about their finances.

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### Did you know?

Older adults hoping to retire this year may have a new factor to consider. Aspiring retirees may have to play it very smart to ensure they can maximize their savings for the long haul. It's a one-two punch caused by continuously rising costs of everyday items and a bearish market for bonds—one of the most common hedges retirement plans use to offset stock declines. Bonds have been suffering historic losses, according to data from Barclays Aggregate Bond Index. The typical rule of thumb used to be to spend no more than 4 percent of a portfolio's original value each year to plan for retirement. With no gains or losses, that money would last around 25 years. However, experts at The American College of Financial Services say that, in today's economy, 4 percent and even 3 percent may be too aggressive. According to Nora Dowd Eisenhower, executive director at the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Aging, higher food prices, longer life expectancies and higher rents/housing costs often lead to financial challenges for people in retirement. Data from the U.S. Current Population Survey shows a trend in the number of people no longer in retirement. In September 2022, the unretirement rate was 2.6 percent, up from 2.4 percent in August. Wealth advisors indicate retirees need to look long and hard at their spending habits, even spending less than their wealth could support. This can help them ride out the ups and downs of the market that affect prices on goods and services. Working with a good financial advisor also can help retirees manage their savings to maximize their money for the years to come.



# MONEY MATTERS



There are a few things to know about working during retirement, particularly if a person is collecting government benefits.

## Considerations for retirees thinking of working part-time

Retirement is an opportunity to wave goodbye to the daily grind. Retirees may focus on rest and relaxation, and many make travel a major component of their lifestyle.

According to a 2022 Gallup poll, Americans expect to retire at an average age of 66, up from 62 in 2022. However, most do not hold out that long; the average actual retirement age is 61. Canada used to have a mandatory retirement age of 65, but that mandate was overturned in 2009. Today, the average retirement age for Canadians is 64.4 for men and 63.8 for women, according to Statistics Canada.

Upon retiring, many retirees discover that they sorely miss getting out of the house and being productive through some sort of employment. Others may find it necessary to supplement their retirement incomes. There are a few things to know about working during retirement, particularly if a person is collecting government benefits.

- According to the Social Security Administration, those falling under full retirement age for the entire year (which was raised to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later) will be subjected to an SSA deduction of \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For 2022, that limit is \$19,560. In the year

you reach full retirement age, SSA deducts \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, but they only count earnings before the month you reach your full retirement age. For full retirement age reached in 2022 your limit on earnings for the months before full retirement age is \$51,960. After full retirement age, there is no limit on earnings.

- Keep in mind that if you are on Medicare, extra income could potentially trigger surcharges for parts B and D. It's beneficial to speak with a financial consultant to weigh the pros and cons of part-time work during retirement.

- Part-time work does not need to be daily work. Many retirees work according to how they feel. Some options include seasonal jobs, such as driving shuttles in national parks or working during the holidays in retail stores. Or you may use your expertise to consult or start a business.

- A number of people work part time during retirement simply to get out of the house. Jobs that help you interact with a number of people can be beneficial, as socialization has been shown to benefit the mental health of seniors.

Working during retirement can supplement savings and provide structure that some retirees may be missing.

## Resolve to protect your finances and your family in the New Year

(StatePoint) After a holiday season spent racking up credit card bills, many Americans consider making financial resolutions in the New Year. However, now is the perfect time to not only reevaluate your saving and spending, but also commit to creating a more holistic financial plan designed to protect your finances and your family.

Consumers are seeking stability and preparedness in today's uncertain economic environment, according to a recent Consumer Sentiment Tracker study by a leading financial group. With ongoing inflation and market volatility, 56% of respondents cited protection from risk as being most important to them. When it comes to thinking about their finances, people said they have the greatest interest in protecting their family (39%) followed by their income (26%).

To achieve a stronger financial future, don't neglect your finances in 2023 — instead, add a little TLC (Talk, Learn, Commit). Resolve to create a robust financial plan using these three tips.

1. Talk about it. Financial conversations play a crucial role. Be transparent with your loved ones about financial priorities so you can set expectations and work toward your shared financial goals. Initiate ongoing discussions to stay on track with everything from saving for retirement to



To achieve a stronger financial future, don't neglect your finances in 2023 — instead, add a little TLC (Talk, Learn, Commit). Resolve to create a robust financial plan.

paying for a long-term health-care event, which can happen suddenly and be very costly. Also, consider talking to a financial professional who can help identify solutions that best meet your individual needs, as well as drive better outcomes. Research has found those who work with financial professionals are more likely to prioritize retirement savings (26% vs. 10%).

2. Learn more about tax-deferred investments. Life insurance can be more than just a death benefit, with some types of policies offering income replacement

for unforeseen events. It can also protect your financial security from the impact of taxes, market volatility and longevity. It's not just for individuals and families either, but businesses too. Also, consider diversifying your portfolio with an annuity, which can provide protected growth and monthly lifetime income to help cover expenses in retirement and ensure you have a stream of income.

3. Commit to maximizing your workplace benefits. Look into supplemental coverages like disability, accident and life insurance that may be available through

your employer. Solutions like these protect against unexpected events that can disrupt your ability to provide for your family or drive you into additional debt. If you have an employer-sponsored retirement plan, make sure you are contributing and getting a match, if offered. Tap into any financial wellness tools offered at work to help provide you with an accurate picture of your holistic financial situation and lower stress.

With a robust plan, you can help ensure a solid financial future for you and your family.

## How to confront frequent increases in costs of living

Prices on the majority of goods and services have increased significantly over the last year-plus. Financial analysts report that inflation has reached heights that haven't been seen in 41 years. According to the United States Department of Labor, the consumer price index, which measures changes in how much Americans pay for good and services, rose 0.4 percent in September.

As prices soared, families' budgets were being pushed. What can people do in the face of rising costs on items they need, including those who may be on fixed incomes? These suggestions may help.

- Frequently review your budget. Keep track of how

much items cost right now. Document all spending by writing down a list of weekly expenses or utilizing any number of free budgeting apps available. Tracking what is going out may make it easier to cut costs on less essential items, such as streaming services or gym memberships.

- Contact service providers. You may be able to negotiate better deals with a service provider, such as a mobile phone company or a cable television provider, if they learn you are considering leaving. If they can't work out a deal, go with the less expensive provider. You can always switch back at the end of the term if you desire.

- Stop automatic payments. Having subscriptions and other bills automatically deducted from your checking account is convenient, but those rising costs may be overlooked. By viewing your bill and paying it each month, you can see where costs have increased and where you might need to rethink services.

- Carpool to work or school. Reduce expenditures on gasoline by sharing the costs with another person. Determine if public transportation is more cost-effective than driving to work or school each day.

- Consider alternative retailers. Brand loyalty to one supermarket or a particular

retailer is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Nowadays it is wise to comparison shop across various stores to figure out where you're getting the best deal. Venture into stores you may not have considered previously. Divide your shopping list by store category, visiting several for different items if it leads to big savings.

- Unplug, literally and figuratively. Cut down on energy costs by unplugging items when not in use. Reduce dependence on devices to further stem costs on electricity and gas-powered appliances.

Prices continue to rise and consumers can explore various ways to stick to their spending budgets.



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# THE BACK PAGE

## POLICE BLOTTER

### DOMESTIC BATTERY

Mario M. Rucker, 33, of 402 12th Ave., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers were dispatched to the report of a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of 12th Avenue at 10:15 p.m. Dec. 28. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

### DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Cortez C. Nathan, 20, of Poplar Grove, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at Raymond Drive and U.S. 34 at 5:14 p.m. Dec. 29. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### City council meeting schedule for 2023

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council meeting schedule for 2023 is as follows:

Jan. 3 & 16; Feb. 6 & 21; March 6 & 20; April 3 & 17; May 1 & 15; June 5 & 19; July 3 & 17; Aug. 7 & 21; Sept. 5 & 18; Oct. 2 & 16; Nov. 6 & 20; Dec. 4 & 18.

Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and are held in the City Council Chambers, 607 Eighth Ave., Mendota.

## USDA economist unfazed by potential trade deficit

By DANIEL GRANT  
*FarmWeek*

BLOOMINGTON – For the first time, USDA is forecasting an agricultural trade deficit.

U.S. ag exports are projected to reach \$190 billion next year, while imports are predicted to rise to \$199 billion. A trade deficit has occurred before (in 1959 and 2020, for example), but USDA has never forecast one until now.

While rare, a possible ag trade deficit is not a major cause for concern, according to Seth Meyer, USDA chief economist.

“We have both rising exports and imports, which I argue is a good thing,” Meyer said at the National Grain and Feed Association’s Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show in St. Louis.

“It’s an opportunity for farmers to sell their products and for U.S. consumers to get what they want.”

U.S. ag exports are forecast to set another record for fiscal year 2022 at \$196.4 billion. If realized, this would top the record mark of \$177 billion set in 2021, which was 14.6% higher than the previous record established in 2014.

“I’d like to see both going up — exports and imports,” Meyer said. “It reflects consumer demand to try different things and counter-seasonal demand.”

The top five markets for U.S. ag exports in 2022 are China (\$36.4 billion), Canada (\$28.4 billion), Mexico (\$28 billion), Japan (\$15.2 billion) and the European Union (\$12.6 billion).

However, USDA predicts China could begin “pulling back” its purchases of U.S. ag products as it diversifies sources. The Ag Department estimates exports to China could slip by \$2 billion in 2023 compared to this year.

U.S. exports face major pressure from the strong value of the dollar, which makes products here more expensive in the world market. The trade picture was also complicated in recent months by historically low river levels, particularly on the Mississippi River, which slowed transportation time and jacked up freight rates, along with uncertainty caused by the previous threat of a worker strike in the railroad industry.

“We’ve developed a just-in-time delivery system to China,” Meyer said. “If we’re slow (delivering goods) for a month, we face greater competition the rest of the year.”

Overall, the value of U.S. exports could decline by \$2.4 billion for soybeans, \$1 billion for cotton and \$600 million for corn in the year ahead. Livestock, dairy and



While rare, a possible ag trade deficit is not a major cause for concern.

poultry exports are projected to increase by \$300 million.

But, at a total of \$190 billion, U.S. ag exports would still be the second-highest on record next year. The estimate is down \$3.5 billion from the August forecast.

The top 10 product categories expected to drive growth in ag imports to the U.S. in 2023 are horticultural goods, fresh fruits, distilled spirits, fresh vegetables, essential oils, beer, wine, frozen vegetables, citrus and nursery products.

Meanwhile, strong domestic demand should continue to provide price support for ag commodities.

“We look for global soy stocks to increase this year, but we expect our (domestic) soy stocks to contract over the year,” Meyer said. “Part of that is strong crush demand. Renewable diesel capacity is expanding rapidly. It reminds me of 2007 (during the buildup of the ethanol industry).”

Elsewhere, USDA does not look for any near-term impacts on corn demand to Mexico from its announcement to transition to non-GMO corn.

“What does the request actually mean and what will

be the impact on their own consumers (in Mexico)?” Meyer said. “We still don’t have clarity.”

Some reports suggest Mexico might transition to non-GMO corn only for products for human consumption. Mexico recently also reportedly offered to extend the corn transition until 2025.

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).)



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Notice is given of the Annual Open Meeting at the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. The meeting is open to the public and anyone wanting to serve on the board or anyone with other business should attend. Election of board members and officers will take place at this meeting. The meeting will be held at the pantry at 918 N. Main Street, Mendota, IL. at 6:30 pm on January 10, 2023.

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# SPORTS



Mendota's Emma Schultz leaps for a rebound along with Serena's Makayla McNally on Dec. 30 in the Amboy Tournament. (Reporter photo)

## MHS girls suffer 3 losses in Amboy Tournament

AMBOY – The Mendota Lady Trojans were beaten in all three games of the Amboy Girls' Holiday Tournament on Dec. 27-30.

**Somonauk 44, Mendota 38**

The Lady Trojans began tournament play with a 44-38 loss to Somonauk on Dec. 27.

Mendota fell behind 7-4 after the opening stanza and 21-14 at the break. The Lady Trojans overcame the deficit and briefly held a lead in the third quarter before Somonauk closed out the frame with three straight three-pointers to take a 36-28 advantage to the fourth period.

"It's frustrating that we didn't get the win," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We hung around all game and had a four-point lead late in the third quarter before (Somonauk) ended the quarter with three three-pointers."

Katie Jenner popped in 14 points and had three steals to pace Mendota, while Reanna Brant supplied 12 points, 18 rebounds and three blocked shots. Cassie Gonzalez collected nine

rebounds and Grace Wasmer hauled down six caroms.

**Newman 42, Mendota 28**

Newman toppled the Lady Trojans, 42-28, in the final game of pool play on Dec. 28.

After holding a narrow 10-6 lead after one period, Newman put 17 points on the board in the second quarter compared to 10 for Mendota, and the Lady Comets went to the locker room with a 27-16 advantage. The Newman lead ballooned to 14 points after the third quarter as Mendota

SOMONAUK 44, MENDOTA 38				
Mendota (38)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Jenner	5	2-4	2	14
Zinke	0	0-0	2	0
Wasmer	2	0-0	6	4
Brant	2	8-15	18	12
Gonzalez	3	0-0	9	6
Reel	1	0-0	2	2
Totals	13	10-19	39	38

Somonauk (44)				
FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Chiaverio	0	0-0	3	0
Rader	4	2-6	4	14
Curtis	4	2-3	1	12
Pennington	1	0-0	4	2
McCoy	7	1-2	4	16
Totals	16	5-11	16	44

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	4	14	28	38
Somonauk	7	21	36	44
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 2; Somonauk - Rader 4, Cultus 2, Niceous 1				

managed only four points in the frame.

"We were sloppy on both ends of the floor in the first half," said Hansen. "But our defense was better than the score. Too many turnovers at the top led to layups for Newman. We need to take care of the ball better."

Jenner had eight points and three steals for Mendota, while Brant dropped in seven points and snared nine rebounds.

**Serena 41, Mendota 19**

Serena scored the first 11

NEWMAN 42, MENDOTA 28				
Mendota (28)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Jenner	3	1-2	0	8
Zinke	1	0-0	1	2
Wasmer	0	1-2	3	1
Brant	3	1-2	9	7
Gonzalez	2	1-2	4	5
Frey	0	0-0	1	0
Schultz	1	0-0	0	2
Reel	1	0-0	1	3
Totals	11	4-8	19	28

Sterling Newman (42)				
FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Johns	4	1-4	1	9
Pappocia	1	0-0	0	2
Oetting	3	1-2	4	8
Duhon	11	1-1	1	23
Rodriguez	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	19	3-7	8	42

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	6	16	20	28
Newman	10	27	34	42
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1, Reel 1; Newman - Oetting 1				

points of the game and Mendota never could catch up in absorbing a 41-19 setback on Dec. 30.

The Lady Trojans (4-13) made it a 15-7 deficit after one period and were down 21-11 at the half before Serena pulled away in the second half.

Jenner had eight points and Gonzalez contributed five, while Brant handled seven rebounds.

Jenner was named to the all-tournament team.

SERENA 41, MENDOTA 19				
Mendota (19)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Jenner	2	3-5	1	8
Reel	1	0-0	3	2
Wasmer	0	0-0	1	0
Brant	0	3-9	7	3
Gonzalez	2	0-0	4	5
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	1	0
Schultz	0	1-2	2	1
Zinke	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	5	7-16	21	19

Serena (41)				
FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Brennan	0	0-0	2	0
J. Mahler	1	0-0	2	2
Cole	2	1-3	3	5
M. Mahler	2	0-0	2	4
McNally	4	3-5	2	11
Setchell	7	0-0	1	16
Glade	1	1-2	2	3
Totals	17	5-10	14	41

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	7	11	14	19
Serena	15	21	30	41
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1, Gonzalez 1; Serena - Setchell 2				

## Trojans settle for 14th place in Plano Classic

□ Mendota tops Morris for its lone win

PLANO – The Mendota Trojans managed one win in four games and finished in 14th place in the 16-team Plano Christmas Classic.

**Kaneland 71, Mendota 41**

The Trojans opened up the tournament with a 71-41 loss to Kaneland on Dec. 27.

Mendota hung tough with the third-seeded Knights in the first quarter, trailing only 18-12 after the first eight-minute session. Kaneland began to pull away with a 19-10 second quarter, and then opened things up in the third period by outscoring the Trojans, 26-12.

Mendota had three double-digit scorers, led by Izaiah Nanez with 12 points. Cale Strouss was next with 11 points and Rafael Romero supplied 10 tallies. Nanez also led the team with four rebounds.

**Sandwich 57, Mendota 48**

Mendota dropped a 57-48 decision to Sandwich in the second round of the tournament on Dec. 28.

The Trojans fell behind 16-10 after the first quarter and 30-23 at intermission. Mendota suffered through a seven-point third period as Sandwich stretched the margin to double figures (42-30) heading to the fourth frame.

Cale Strouss knocked down four three-pointers on his way to a team-leading 18 points for the Trojans. Nanez and Isaac Guzman also reached double-digits with 11 points apiece. Romero topped the rebounding chart with six.

**Mendota 66, Morris 60**

The Trojans broke into the win column with a 66-60 verdict over Morris in the third round on Dec. 29.

Mendota held an 18-12 lead after the opening session and then exploded for 21 second-quarter points and held Morris to just six to take a commanding 39-18 halftime lead. Morris was able to shave six points off its deficit in the third period and nine more in the fourth frame as Mendota held on for the victory.

Romero led the charge with 29 points and 10 rebounds. Cale Strouss checked in with 17 points as he drained five shots from three-point land. Nanez chipped in with nine points and provided four assists and four steals. Guzman also dished out four assists.

**Hinckley-Big Rock 64, Mendota 48**

Hinckley-Big Rock scored a 64-48 triumph over the Trojans in the 13th place game.

The Trojans were down by just one (15-14) after the first quarter, but Hinckley-Big Rock won each quarter after that to pick up the win. The Royals led 32-24 at intermission.

Romero had 19 points and nine rebounds to lead the Trojans (7-9), while Cale Strouss added 12 tallies.

KANELAND 71, MENDOTA 41				
Mendota (41)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
C. Strouss	4	0-0	0	11
Guzman	1	0-0	1	2
Romero	5	0-0	3	10
Nanez	5	1-2	4	12
R. Strouss	0	0-0	2	0
Stamberger	0	0-0	2	0
Baird	0	0-0	2	0
Aughenbaugh	1	2-2	3	4
Dewey	1	0-2	0	2
Koch	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	17	3-6	18	41

Kaneland (71)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Grant	8	4-4	6	23
Frieders	1	0-0	2	2
Gagne	0	0-0	1	0
Franck	2	0-0	5	5
Carlson	5	0-0	1	12
Brost	1	0-0	0	3
Hassan	3	0-0	4	6
Wituk	0	0-0	1	0
Spallasso	4	2-2	1	11
Walter	0	0-0	1	0
Reinert	1	0-0	0	2
Violett	3	1-2	8	7
Falk	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	28	7-8	31	71

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	12	22	34	41
Kaneland	18	37	63	71
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 3, Nanez 1; Kaneland - Grant 3, Franck 1, Carlson 2, Brost 1, Spallasso 1				

SANDWICH 57, MENDOTA 48				
Sandwich (57)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Young	4	3-4	11	11
Shelley	3	0-0	1	6
Marks	4	1-2	5	10
Lange	1	0-2	5	2
Gottlieb	4	2-2	3	11
D. Rome	1	0-0	2	2
Q. Rome	5	5-7	3	15
Totals	22	11-17	30	57

Mendota (48)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
C. Strouss	5	4-6	2	18
Guzman	3	3-3	3	11
Romero	4	0-0	6	8
Nanez	4	2-5	4	11
R. Strouss	0	0-0	2	0
Dewey	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	16	9-14	18	48

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Sandwich	16	30	42	57
Mendota	10	23	30	48
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 4, Guzman 2, Nanez 1; Sandwich - Marks 1, Gottlieb 1				

MENDOTA 66, MORRIS 60				
Mendota (66)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
C. Strouss	6	0-0	1	17
Guzman	4	0-0	1	9
Romero	12	4-6	10	29
Nanez	4	1-4	6	9
R. Strouss	1	0-0	5	2
Stamberger	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	27	5-10	24	66

Morris (60)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Norris	0	0-0	3	0
Phillips	10	2-2	8	26
Wheeler	6	1-1	6	15
Yard	3	2-2	1	11
Bounds	2	0-0	0	6
Stage	0	0-0	1	0
Laudeman	0	2-2	2	2
Williams	0	0-0	3	0
Ammer	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	21	7-7	25	60

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	18	39	53	66
Morris	12	18	38	60
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 5, Nanez 1, Romero 1; Morris - Phillips 4, Wheeler 2, Yard 3, Bounds 2				

HINCKLEY-BR 64, MENDOTA 48				
Mendota (48)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
C. Strouss	5	0-0	3	12
Guzman	0	0-0	1	0
Romero	8	3-7	9	19
Nanez	1	0-0	4	2
R. Strouss	2	0-0	1	5
Stamberger	1	0-0	3	2
Baird	2	0-0	1	4
Aughenbaugh	0	0-0	1	0
Rocha	1	2-2	2	4
Totals	20	5-9	25	48

Hinckley-Big Rock (64)				
FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Roop	2	0-0	7	5
Smith	3	0-0	2	6
B. Hintzsche	3	2-2	8	8
Fitzpatrick	1	2-2	0	5
M. Hintzsche	4	1-2	3	11
Albus	7	0-1	4	14
Ledbetter	7	1-1	9	15
Badal	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	27	6-8	34	64

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	14	24	35	48
Hinckley-BR	15	32	45	64
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 2, R. Strouss 1; Hinckley-BR - Roop 1, Fitzpatrick 1, M. Hintzsche 2				

## Mendota grapplers best St. Viator in tournament

SANDWICH – The Mendota wrestling team went up against four other schools in the Sandwich Team Tournament on Dec. 27. The Trojans claimed one win to finish in seventh place in the eight-team event.

Mendota opened with a 48-12 loss to St. Bede. Gavin Evans picked up a pin win at 132 pounds, while Cadence Thornton won by forfeit at 113 pounds.

Rock Falls posted a 78-6 victory over the Trojans, with a Thornton forfeit win being the only match captured by Mendota.

Plainfield Central downed Mendota, 47-6. Nate Giberson got a forfeit victory in the 285-pound bout.

The Trojans chalked up a 30-18 triumph over Arlington Heights St. Viator. Mendota got three wins by pin – Evans at 132 pounds, Jose Hermosillo at 138 pounds and Albert Harris at 285 pounds. Forfeits went to Rhett Watson (145) and Reese Lane (195).

**Dec. 27 @ Sandwich**

**Team Tournament**

**St. Bede 48, Mendota 12**

106 – double forfeit; 113 – Cadence



# SPORTS

## BOWLING

**Tuesday Night Men's League**  
Standings as of Dec. 20 – 1. Black Bros 43-21; 2. Team 2 30-34; 3. Age Old Organics 28-36; 4. JJ&L Carpentry 27-37  
High team game (scratch) – JJ&L Carpentry 987, Team 2950, Black Bros. 936  
High team game (hdcp) – JJ&L Carpentry 1074, Age Old Organics 1064, Black Bros. 1059  
High team series (scratch) – Team 2 2804, JJ&L Carpentry 2773, Black Bros. 2719  
High team series (hdcp) – Black Bros. 3088, Age Old Organics 3074, JJ&L Carpentry 3034  
High individual game (scratch) – Nate Bradford 244, Luke Ross 235, Randy Boelk 228  
High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 654, Luke Ross 619, John Hesseberger 596

**Wednesday Night Men's League**  
Standings as of Dec. 21 – 1. First State Bank 39.5-24.5; 2. Boelk Truck Lines 30.5-33.5; 3. O'Donnell Excavating 27-37; 4. Mendota Monument 23-41  
High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1106, First State Bank 1094, Boelk Truck Lines 986  
High team game (hdcp) – First State Bank 1194, Mendota Monument 1154, O'Donnell Excavating 1144  
High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 3123, First State Bank 2983, Boelk Truck Lines 2808  
High team series (hdcp) – First State Bank 3283, Mendota Monument 3267, O'Donnell Excavating 3263  
High individual game (scratch) – Nate Bradford 278, Kirk Ross 253, Erik Schmitt 252

High individual series (scratch) – Nate Bradford 746, Tim Dassing 700, Tyler Schmitt 675  
**Monday Night Mixed League**  
Standings as of Dec. 26 – 1. Split Happens 50-25; 2. CM Farm 42-33; 3 Sports-N-Stuff 41-34; 4. Bad Kats 36-39; 5. Ramer Inc. 30-45; 6. Leagal Beagles 26-49  
High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 753, Leagal Beagles 750, CM Farm 697  
High team game (hdcp) – Leagal Beagles 1007, CM Farm 1002, Split Happens 998  
High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2160, Leagal Beagles 1984, CM Farm 1913  
High team series (hdcp) – Split Happens 2895, CM Farm 2828, Leagal Beagles 2755  
Men's high game (scratch) –

Matt Ramer 257, Luke Ross 256, Bob Thomas 225  
Men's high game (hdcp) – Luke Ross 282, Matt Ramer 278, Bob Thomas 274  
Men's high series (scratch) – Luke Ross 696, Matt Ramer 655, Bob Thomas 574  
Men's high series (hdcp) – Luke Ross 774, Raul Diaz Jr. 728, Bob Thomas 721  
Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 223, Kim Smith 198, Gail Sessler 181  
Women's high game (hdcp) – Dessa Collings 286, Jessica Robinson 278, Kim Smith 276  
Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 611, Gail Sessler 490, Dria Kuntz, Hannah Westphal & Sarah Westphal 470  
Women's high series (hdcp) – Jessica Robinson 776, Dessa Collings 723, Hannah Westphal & Sarah Westphal 701

**2022 LaMoille Boys' Holiday Classic**  
**Dec. 27 (Game 1)**  
Lowpoint-Washburn 56, Hiawatha 32  
**(Game 2)**  
LaMoille 55, DePue 45  
Stats: Eli Keighin 17 points, 7 rebounds; Tyler Billhorn 14 points, 8 rebounds; Ian Sundberg 10 points; Brayden Klein 7 rebounds  
**Dec. 28 (Game 1)**  
Lowpoint-Washburn 62, DePue 31  
**(Game 2)**  
LaMoille 52, Hiawatha 25  
Stats: Keighin 17 points, 7 rebounds; Klein 10 points; Josh Martin 8 points; I. Sundberg 6 rebounds; Billhorn 5 rebounds  
**Dec. 29 (Game 1)**  
Hiawatha 46, DePue 30  
**(Game 2 – championship)**  
Lowpoint-Washburn 55, LaMoille 45  
Stats: Billhorn 8 points, 7 rebounds; Klein 8 points, 8 rebounds; I. Sundberg 7 points, 15 rebounds; Keighin 7 points; Martin 7 rebounds

# Who's That Santa?

## WINNERS

- 1st place - Deb Rose, Mendota - \$30  
2nd place - Sheila & Colton M., Earlville - \$20  
3rd place - Linda Dimmig, Mendota - \$10



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

## ANSWER KEY

1. City of Mendota - Ruger  
2. Sullivan's Foods - Jason Finkboner  
3. First State Bank - Jessica Newcomer  
4. McConville Realty and Auction - Joe McConville  
5. Mendota Companion Animal - Timmy  
6. Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse - Julie Lee  
7. First State Insurance - Jerrod Kapraun  
8. Financial Plus Credit Union - Alejandra Hernandez  
9. Special Body & Paint - Dennis Bodmer



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** What has Chris Rock been doing since he was attacked by Will Smith at the Oscars? Does he talk about it publicly at all? -- *E.M.*



**A:** Actor/comedian Chris Rock has remained relatively quiet since Oscar-winning actor Will Smith slapped him in anger at the Oscars last year. Rock has reportedly turned down offers to host the upcoming ceremony in 2023, choosing instead to focus on his roots: stand-up comedy. He was already set to tour when the incident happened -- and ticket sales soared -- but he told his audience in Boston last March, "I'm still processing what happened."

On March 4 at 10 p.m. ET, subscribers can watch a new Chris Rock comedy special in Netflix's first ever live-streamed event. I'm willing to bet he comments, or even jokes, about the slap, because he's already referenced it in past performances in other cities. For example, in Phoe-

nix this past August, he told his audience that not only did he turn down a chance to host the Oscars again, but that he also rejected an offer to appear in a Super Bowl commercial. He also admitted that the slap hurt, obviously, referencing how Smith once played Muhammad Ali in a movie. \*\*\*

**Q:** I really enjoy the Korean legal drama on Netflix about a lawyer named Woo. Is the lead actress autistic in real life, like her character? -- *L.D.*

**A:** "Extraordinary Attorney Woo" stars Park Eun-bin as a young attorney named Woo Young-woo who is on the autism spectrum. She "boasts a high IQ, an impressive memory and a wonderfully creative thought process, but she struggles with everyday interactions." It's not just a legal drama; it's also very endearing and whimsical, making it more of a dramedy.

Park is not autistic in real life and initially felt conflicted about taking the role. She told ENA (the distributor of the series in Korea) that she "met with a professor to ask

for advice ... and learned some general characteristics of people with autism." Her talent is widely respected in her home country, having received Gallup Korea's Actor of the Year award in 2022.

Viewers have been bingeing all 16 episodes of "Attorney Woo" and are asking for more. According to DigitalSpy.com, it's the eighth most watched non-English series of all time on Netflix, and it's expected to be renewed for a second season. \*\*\*

**Q:** Is it true that the actor who plays Rip on "Yellowstone" is a redhead in real life? Does he dye his hair for the part, or does he wear a wig? -- *L.E.*

**A:** Cole Hauser has been around in Hollywood for decades, and those familiar with his work probably find him unrecognizable as Rip Wheeler on "Yellowstone." The actor told Jenny McCarthy on her radio show that the decision to dye his hair and beard black was mainly because Beth (Kelly Reilly), his love interest on the show, "is a ginger, and I'm ginger as well."

## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD**--Happy New Year! John Cena and Jason Momoa are taking their co-starring together one step further. They'll be seen in the upcoming first part of the two-part finale of the "Fast & Furious" franchise, titled "Fast X," with Vin Diesel, Jason Statham, Michelle Rodriguez and Brie Larson. And they're currently shooting the \$340 million action comedy "Killer Vacation," slated for a May release.

Momoa also has "The Flash," "Fast & Furious 11" and "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom" in his future. \*\*\*

Is Brad Pitt, 59, starting to wind down as a producer and an actor? That's the talk around Hollywood since he announced selling his production company Plan B Entertainment to Mediawan. Pitt created Plan B with Jennifer Aniston a year after they wed, in 2000, and he took the company over when they divorced in 2005. Could the ongoing lawsuits with Pitt's second ex-wife Angelina Jolie, who is suing him for alleged physical and emo-

tional abuse during a flight in 2016, have anything to do with it? The court battles taking place over custody of their kids is the stuff movies are made of.

But back to Plan B. Valued at \$300 million, the company is most noted for producing three Academy-Award-winning Best Pictures: "The Departed" (2006), "12 Years A Slave" (2013) and "Moonlight" (2016). It has also produced other big films like "Troy" (2004), "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (2005), "Eat, Pray, Love" (2010), "World War Z" (2013) and "Selma" (2014).

Pitt's recent R-rated film "Babylon" has critics raving. One described it as "a dazzling, dizzying cacophony of demented depravity" and "a rebellious, outrageous portrait of golden-era hedonistic Hollywood." Another said, "Extravagant, decadent and all together delightfully delicious!" Directed by Oscar-winning "La La Land" director Damien Chazelle, "Babylon" has been nominated for five

Golden Globes: Best Motion Picture -- Musical or Comedy, Best Actor (Diego Calva), Best Actress (Margot Robbie), Best Supporting Actor (Brad Pitt) and Best Original Score. \*\*\*

And so, it's begun. Julie Andrews, 87, who said she was up for another "Princess Diaries," has had second thoughts. She explained, "I think we know it's probably not going to be possible. It was talked about very shortly after [the sequel] came out, but it's now how many years since then? And I am that much older, and Annie the princess, or queen, is so much older. I am not sure where it would float or run."

Anne Hathaway expressed how much she wants to do it and admitted, "If there's any way to get Julie Andrews involved, I think we would make it work." The first film made \$165 million, the sequel \$134 million. They'll find a way! It can't have a happy ending if Andrews relinquishes her throne?

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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* A Cornish milkman named Steve Leech was making his rounds when he saw a shop on fire. Using 320 pints of milk, he not only extinguished the flames, but saved seven other stores in the process, earning a "Hero Milkman of the Millennium" award from the National Dairywomen's Association.

\* An albatross typically spends the first six years of its life flying over the ocean without ever setting foot on the ground.

\* In the 1990s, a mysterious soda vending machine dispensing rare and discontinued drinks appeared in Seattle. No one knew who filled it, but sadly, in 2018, it vanished as suddenly as it came, with an explanatory note saying it "went for a walk."

\* The first women's boots were designed for and worn by Queen Victoria.

\* "Ergophobia" is the fear of work or the workplace. Psychologists attribute the condition to a combination of concerns about failing at tasks, public speaking and social anxiety.

\* A 59-year-old man with no previous criminal record held up a bank for the measly sum of just \$1. So what was he actually after? A prison sentence, so he could get free health care.

\* Red is the first color a baby sees.

\* If diamonds really are a gal's best friend, she might like to pay a visit to the planet known as 55 Cancri e, which is believed to be principally covered in graphite and diamond. Of course, she would also need to bring enough rocks back home to cover the cost of the \$12 million spaceship she'd need to get there.

\* There are more historic artifacts under the sea than in all of the world's museums. \*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear." -- Rosa Parks

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## Trivia Test

1. HISTORY: What is the name of the ancient trade route that connected the East and West?
2. LITERATURE: What was playwright Anton Chekhov's other profession?
3. TELEVISION: Who are the next-door neighbors in TV's sitcom "Laverne & Shirley"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has the most countries?
5. MUSIC: What does the shortened term K-pop stand for?
6. FOOD & DRINK: What is another name for a kiwi?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: From which Roman god did the month of January get its name?
8. MEDICAL TERMS: If you suffer from medial tibial stress

- syndrome, what is the condition commonly called?
9. PSYCHOLOGY: What irrational fear is represented in the condition called ablutophobia?
  10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby turkey called?
- Answers
1. The Silk Road.
  2. Physician.
  3. Lenny and Squiggy.
  4. Africa.
  5. Korean popular music.
  6. Chinese gooseberry.
  7. Janus, the god of beginnings and endings.
  8. Shin splints.
  9. Fear of bathing.
  10. A poult.
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## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Justice Dept. agency  
4 Physician's nickname  
7 Grating  
12 Vintage  
13 Away from WSW  
14 Mountain crest  
15 Set afire  
16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"  
18 "CSI" evidence  
19 Dewy  
20 Billboard  
22 Swiss peak  
23 Bloke  
27 Author Fleming  
29 Abrasion  
31 Planet circlers  
34 Heart line  
35 Coffeehouse bill collector  
37 L-P link  
38 Utah ski resort  
39 "Yoo- —!"  
41 Pottery oven  
45 Quotable Yogi  
47 Eastern path  
48 Bygone Cadillacs  
52 Copper head?  
53 Tierney of "The Affair"  
54 Superlative

**DOWN**

1 Creates origami  
2 Russian pancakes  
3 Luggage attachment  
4 Consider  
5 Borrowed  
6 Director DeMille  
7 Engrossed  
8 "Exodus" hero  
9 Fixed  
10 Sch. org  
11 Hankering  
17 Nile vipers  
21 Martial arts warrior  
23 Swindler  
24 Guffaw syllable  
25 Suitable  
26 Green shade  
28 Simile part  
30 Paint container  
31 1959 Kingston Trio hit  
32 Texas tea  
33 Choose  
36 Mother of Zeus  
37 Gloomy  
40 Sequence  
42 Tuscany setting  
43 Hard work  
44 Seasonal songs  
45 Thin nail  
46 Nick and Nora's dog  
48 Ambulance initials  
49 Napkin's place  
50 Payable  
51 Mine material

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

Member FDIC

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**FIRST STATE BANK**

## Couch Theater

"Jurassic World Dominion" (PG-13) -- The third and final installment of the "Jurassic World" trilogy (and the sixth installment in the overall "Jurassic Park" franchise) gets a wider streaming release Jan. 6. Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard returned to reprise their roles from the first two "Jurassic World" films, but Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill and Laura Dern also made a return to the franchise. This is the first appearance together since the original 1993 film directed by Steven Spielberg. While the film was a success in the box office, it didn't receive the best reviews; however, the special effects of "Dominion" do make it a marvel to watch. (Prime Video)

"The Menu" (R) -- Margot Mills (Anya-Taylor Joy) accompanies Tyler Ledford (Nicholas Hoult) to dine at an exclusive restaurant located on a private island. Julian Slowik (Ralph Fiennes), the chef who operates the restaurant, has his customers, 12 in

this case, travel by boat to his restaurant for a dining experience worth \$1,250. Once they arrive on the island, Margot senses an odd aura surrounding the restaurant and the staff, and as they begin to get served, the dinner turns quite extreme. Chef Slowik announces that the extremities are simply part of the menu for that night and that, at the end of the night, everyone present at the dinner will be dead. Hong Chau and John Leguizamo also star in this comedy thriller film premiering Jan. 3. (HBO Max)

"The Recruit" (TV-MA) -- Netflix rom-com star Noah Centineo, who's most known for his role as Peter Kavinsky in the "To All the Boys" film series, branches out of his usual heartthrob roles to step into a more action-oriented role. In his new series, a spy-adventure Netflix original, Centineo plays CIA lawyer Owen Hendricks, who, during his second day on the job, gets assigned as a liaison to a former CIA

asset who is threatening to reveal classified information. Inexperienced but undeniably optimistic, 24-year-old Owen dives headfirst into nail-biting, high-stakes situations while he continues his negotiations with the asset. Out now! (Netflix)

"Back in the Groove" (NR) -- Hosted by Taye Diggs, this eight-episode reality dating show follows three women around the age of 40 who embark on a journey to "get their groove back." When they arrive at The Groove resort in the Dominican Republic, these three women will have the opportunity to expand their dating pool by meeting with men who are half their age. With a variety of 24 men to choose from, the ladies will get to go on a few dates and try to find their best (younger) match, while the remaining men get eliminated. The drama is real with this one! Out now. (Hulu)

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**Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!**



**We love you! Mom, Dad, Billie & Susie**

**FUN ADS!**

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**\$34 To Run In Both**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**on passing your State Exams**

**Carol Ann Smith, RN**

Love, Joey





# LOCAL AND AREA

## Stop relying on the unreliable

Our feelings are extremely unreliable, yet it is amazing to me how often we rely on them. I believe that feelings are often a Christian's number one enemy, and they can keep us from truly living in the perfect will of God because the enemy can so easily use them against us. Now, I'm not saying that our feelings are evil; they just dwell in a part of us that is so easily attacked by the enemy—our soul. So it's vitally important for us to learn how to manage them.

### Complex Beings

We are complex people, made up of three parts: spirit, soul and body. Our spirit is where God comes to live when we are born again; it is our connection to Him and the Holy Spirit. The soul is made up of our mind, will and emotions and it tells us what we want, think or feel. Since the spirit and soul are so closely connected, it can be a challenge to know when what you want is something God wants or

something you want. In order to live beyond our feelings and follow God's will for our lives, we need to follow something that is much wiser and more dependable than feelings—the Word of God.

Sometimes we can confuse feelings with the will of God, but there is one thing that can help us determine what is coming from our spirit or our soul. Hebrews 4:12 (AMP) says it best: "For the word of God is living and active and full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart."

This scripture is showing us that we can never be led by the Holy Spirit, who lives in our spirit as born-again believers, until we allow ourselves

to be led by God's Word. When you get confused trying to decide what you should do in any situation, always look to His Word. Because if that feeling or desire does not agree with the Word, it is wrong.

### God's Word

The Bible is our instruction book for life! It teaches us godly principles so we can think, talk and act like God. Jesus said in John 8:31-32, "... If you abide in My word [continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then] you are truly My disciples. And you will know the truth [regarding salvation], and the truth will set you free [from the penalty of sin]."

It's so wonderful to know there is an answer for every problem in the Word of God. Even when there isn't a specific answer for a specific situation, you can find the wisdom and discernment you need from God to make the right decision according to His will. God's Word sets us free



from wondering if something is God's will or our own.

For example, we all have times when we get offended because people do things that hurt us or are just wrong. It's not always easy to forgive, but Luke 11:4 says, "... For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us [who has offended or wronged us....]" So we don't have to wonder if we should forgive others.

It's also God's will for us to live free of anxiety and worry. First Peter 5:7 says to cast "all of your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully.]" When we trust God and "cast our cares" on Him, we can walk by faith and not be led by feelings of anxiety and fear.

God's Word is our reliable source when our emotions flip-flop, but we have to know the Word for ourselves for it to keep us on the right track.

### Know His Word

The Word is our tool to help us separate the truth from the lies of our flesh or the enemy, but we need to do more than just read the Bible; we have to study it. While it's good to go to church and hear teaching from the Word or listen to it on TV, CDs, online, et cetera, you can't just be spoon-fed the Word and think that is all there is. It's when you invest time studying the Word for yourself that you really get a deeper understanding about God's direction for your life personally.

I want to encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with God, studying His Word. It's absolutely the best thing you can do. And as you begin to follow the Word of God, you'll find it becomes easier to stop relying on your feelings for the direction you need. Remember that God is always reliable because He is the Almighty God who is perfect, and He never changes. He loves you so much and has great plans for your life. It is time for you to gain freedom from

your unreliable emotions by trusting in the Word of God!

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching resource *Why Do I Feel the Way I Feel?* You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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

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

Due to vacation, the Mendota Reporter will have an **EARLY DEADLINE** for the issue of **Wednesday, Jan. 11**. The deadline will be on **Thursday, Jan. 5, at 10 a.m.**



The Reporter will go to press early on **Monday, Jan. 9** for the issue of **Wednesday, Jan. 11**.

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*The Mendota Reporter*



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

MENDOTA

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

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

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

Weekday Mass  
Weekend Mass  
Confession

STS. PETER AND PAUL,  
PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass  
Confession

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

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

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

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

Jan. 5 - Pastor Mary leads worship at  
Heritage Health

Jan. 8 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday; 9  
a.m. Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship

Jan. 9 - 6:30 p.m. Finance team meets

Jan. 10 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Prayer walking;  
6:30 p.m. Trustees meet

ZION UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.

Pastor Jeff Brace

jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United  
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

If I can write one verse of truth today  
Or give my fellow man a song to sing;  
If I can push one needless cloud away  
And help men live as children  
of the King:  
If I can lend someone a helping hand  
Or warm a place where friendship  
needs to be;  
If I can build a bridge where  
fences stand  
And light a lamp that other men  
might see;  
If I can open doors of hope this day  
By letting someone know that  
others care;  
If I can speak in words that seem  
to say:  
I know the heavy burdens that  
you bear.  
If I can guide a pilgrim on his way  
Or pause to bid him stay for food  
and rest;  
If I can do these, Father, this I pray:  
"O let me do them with my very best."

UNITED PENTECOSTAL  
CHURCH

Route 251 North  
(815) 539-6861

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

SUNDAY: Christian Education  
Sunday Worship

WEDNESDAY

VICTORY BAPTIST  
CHURCH

"Faithful & Effective"

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

Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY

Sunday school  
Worship

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service

NEW COVENANT  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

www.newcovenantmendota.org  
www.facebook.com/NCAOG

"Preaching the blood, book and  
blessed hope."

Sunday School  
Worship

MENDOTA BIBLE  
CHURCH

Rt. 251, 1/2 mile south of  
Mendota  
(815) 538-6876

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School  
Worship  
Evening Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.  
(815) 539-5626

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

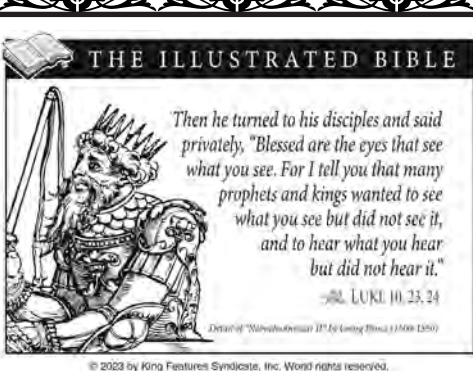
Website:  
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:

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

Find us on Facebook

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1003 5th St.  
(815) 538-5603

Website: fpcmendota.com

Accessible

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Jan. 5 - 6-7 p.m. Hat, scarf distribution

Jan. 8 - 9 a.m. Second Sunday Worship;  
10 a.m. Worship; 11 a.m. Fellowship

Jan. 10 - 6:30 p.m. Session

Jan. 11 - PEO meeting

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Wednesday Evening Gathering:

Live Zoom at 7 p.m.  
https://us02web.zoom.  
us/j/86402369150

To call in for audio only, dial  
(312) 626-6799 - use meeting  
ID: 864 0236 9150

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH

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

1107 Main St.  
(815) 993-2462

Dave Manion Jim McDowell  
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational

Please call for more information

COMPTON

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

398 Church Road, Compton

Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger  
(815) 539-6567

Wheelchair accessible

Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran  
compton@live.com

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Worship at Immanuel  
(Sunday School begins Dec. 4, 9:30)

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Jan. 6 - 9:30 a.m. Bible study

Jan. 11 - 7 p.m. Confirmation class

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



LA MOILLE

ZION EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion)

4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

Pastor Ian Griffith  
(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

COMMUNITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille  
(815) 638-2348

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery available

TROY GROVE

FAITH BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,  
Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbfcchurch20817@gmail.com

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

We would love to have you join us  
to worship and learn about  
our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 3 Corinthians  
(KJV) in the Old or New Testament  
or neither?

2. Who received the command  
from God, "Take off your sandals"?  
Abraham, Joshua, Aaron, Moses

3. From John 21, how many times  
did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love  
me"? 2, 3, 7, 10

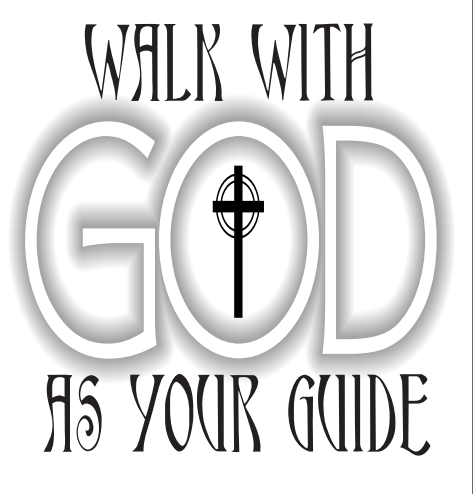
4. What Jewish maiden became the  
wife of King Ahasuerus? Keturah,  
Tamar, Puah, Esther

5. Who's the only Egyptian queen  
mentioned in the Bible (KJV)?  
Sarah, Tahpenes, Ruth, Tamar

6. What city did David establish as  
capital of his kingdom? Antioch,  
Tarsus, Jerusalem, Gaza

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Moses,  
3) 3, 4) Esther, 5) Tahpenes, 6)  
Jerusalem (1003 BCE)

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The Merchants

on this page urge  
you to attend a  
house of worship  
this week.

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

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Phone (815) 539-7276

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STEPHENITCH DO IT BEST HARDWARE

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Phone (815) 539-3828

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

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Rte. 34 East, Mendota, Ill.  
Phone (815) 539-5060

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faith



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101

LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
IN THE ESTATE OF )  
)  
) REBECCA M. KENNY,  
Deceased.  
No. 2022-PR-217  
)  
)

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of the death of Rebecca M. Kenny of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 16, 2022 to Russell Kenny, of 4705 E. First Rd, 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 7, 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. 0101  
(Jan. 4, 11 and 18, 2023)

101

LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads,

especially those asking for money in advance.

105

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS!** Health & Wellness Industry. No experience necessary. Flexible Hours. Start Your Future Today! Call Now! Rick 630-965-1470.

113

FINANCIAL

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

119

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

121

LOST AND FOUND

Lost. 7 Month Old, Female Cat. Gray with a Brown Belly & White Spots on Each Side. Last Seen Wearing a Pink Harness. Lost around Rochelle Gardens on Caron Road. Call 815-503-3654. \$100 Reward

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SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman's Lawn Care and Tree Work. Fall clean up, gutters and more. Fully insured. In business since 1999. Rochelle and surrounding areas. Call Jeremy Furman at 815-761-9619. Please leave a message, will return call ASAP.

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DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203

HELP WANTED

Looking for **Class A CDL FULL-TIME and PART-TIME TRUCK DRIVER** to haul farm commodities.

Call Roger Jameson at 815-252-8576.  
04222020

301

ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and

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

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

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Brand new, still in box glass top coffee table and 2 end tabs. \$150 cash only. 815-761-6576.

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

**SPLIT** firewood for sale. Contact 779-251-0254. (02-13-23)

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HOUSES FOR SALE

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

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**APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA**  
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779-201-0532  
815-498-2262.

**BADGER SQUARE APARTMENTS**  
One-bedroom apartments located in Sublette. Rent based on income and income limits apply. Must be a person 62 years of age; or a person 50 years of age, or older, with disabilities, to apply. Application available at Farmers State Bank of Sublette, or Lee County Housing Authority, 1000 Washington Avenue, Dixon, IL. Questions, call 815-284-2759.

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**MENDOTA STORAGE UNITS**  
210 N 4099th Rd., Mendota, IL 61342

**Available:**  
30 X 40 1 left \$ 320.00  
10 X 10 2 left \$ 100.00

**CALL**  
ADAM 815-830-4422 Janko Realty  
TRACY 815-791-4582 Advantage Property Mgmt  
Reserve online at [www.apm4rent.com](http://www.apm4rent.com)

515

GARAGES FOR RENT

**Mendota MULTIPLE**  
Garages for Rent  
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