

Christmas Traditions



'A Mendota Christmas'

Top, Avery Falcon is all smiles as she meets Santa Claus during the "A Mendota Christmas" event held on Dec. 3 in downtown Mendota. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in a Mendota fire truck and then spent many hours greeting young children and hearing all of their Christmas wishes before traveling back to the North Pole to get ready for Christmas day. Left, Despite the presence of Grinch, it was a fun-filled day of getting in the Christmas spirit as the countdown is on until the big day. Above, carriage rides offered by Arabian Carriage Co. were a popular part of "A Mendota Christmas" as the horses get ready to set off with another packed carriage of riders. (Reporter photos)

Council discusses levy, buys & sells property

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council heard information on the 2023 tax levy and handled transactions with property at its Dec. 5 regular meeting.

Alderman John Hesseberger presented a pre-annexation petition from Kurt and Mary Bruno, 40 N. 42nd Road, Mendota. A date for a public hearing will be set at a later time.

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick informed fellow council members that cleaning and surveying of sewers is on the agenda for the city, and at some point, lining of sewers that need to be repaired will be done. Fitzpatrick said that residents will be informed as to when crews will be in their area for the lining work.

Alderman John Holland gave information on the 2023 tax levy. Preliminarily, he said the levy will increase by 4.73 percent, while homeowners should see a slightly less increase on their tax bills. Voting on the 2023 tax levy will be done at the Dec. 19 regular council meeting.

In other action from Hol-

land, the council approved the Risk Management Insurance renewals. He said that the premium will increase by \$31,000 (6.8 percent), but added that the worker's compensation part of the insurance went down.

The Police & Fire Pension levy requests are down slightly. The Police Pension is funded at 66.9 percent and the Fire Pension is funded at 78.5 percent. The levy requests will be placed on file.

An executive session was held prior to the beginning of Aldermanic Reports to discuss the sale and purchase of property. During Holland's report, the council authorized the sale of municipally owned real property at 1017 Main St. in the amount of \$105,000 and authorized the purchase of real property at 807 Illinois Ave. in an amount up to \$45,000.

Finally, the council approved Christmas bonuses for all full-time city employees in the amount of \$100 Mendota Chamber Bucks.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Federal REAL ID deadline extended to May 7, 2025

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the federal REAL ID deadline an additional two years, from May 3, 2023, to May 7, 2025. With this extension, current standard Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports for domestic air travel until May 7, 2025.

Illinoisans interested in applying for a REAL ID are encouraged to visit REALID.ilsos.gov and use the interactive document checklist. This checklist is designed to help ensure REAL ID applicants gather all the documents required by the federal gov-

ernment to obtain a REAL ID before visiting a Driver Services facility. First-time REAL ID applicants are required by DHS to visit a Driver Services facility in person.

Not everyone needs a REAL ID, and in Illinois, the Secretary of State's office gives Illinoisans a choice. Illinoisans who do not fly domestically do not necessarily need a REAL ID. Additionally, a valid U.S. passport is a compliant REAL ID document; therefore, those with valid U.S. passports do not necessarily need a REAL ID.

As of Dec. 1, 2022, the Illinois Secretary of State's office has issued more than 3 million REAL IDs.

IDPH reports 63 Illinois counties are at elevated COVID-19 community levels

SPRINGFIELD – With COVID-19 cases and other respiratory viruses on the increase around Illinois, the Illinois Department of Public Health is reminding the public to take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones during the holiday season. This includes being fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19 and the flu and getting tested for COVID-19 before attending holiday gatherings, especially if you'll be visiting someone at

As of Dec. 1, Lee County was at a Medium Level. LaSalle, Bureau and DeKalb counties were at a Low Level.

high risk for severe outcome. Public health officials also urged Illinoisans who test positive to immediately contact a healthcare provider and discuss whether they should take one of the widely available and effective treatments for COVID-19.

IDPH is stressing these safety reminders as the CDC

reported 63 Illinois counties are at an elevated Community Level for COVID-19 as of late November, up from 46 counties at an elevated level in the previous week, with 12 counties at a High Community Level and 51 counties at a Medium Level. As of Dec. 1, Lee County was at a Medium Level, while LaSalle, Bureau

and DeKalb counties were at a Low Level.

"As we enter December and the weather continues to get colder, Illinois is beginning to see an anticipated increase in COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses such as the flu," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "Please continue to take all preventative measures to protect yourself, your family, and friends, especially very young children and individuals over 65 who are most vul-

nerable to severe outcomes. These effective strategies include COVID-19 testing, especially if visiting someone at risk for severe disease; enhanced ventilation; good hand hygiene; staying home if sick; and getting up to date with both the COVID-19 bivalent booster and the flu shot."

Dr. Vohra also noted that those who test positive for COVID-19 should immediately contact their healthcare provider to discuss whether

they need treatment with one of the effective antiviral medications, Paxlovid, Lagverio and Remdesivir. All of these have been found to work against the current strains of the virus.

IDPH is helping Illinoisans prepare for a potential fall and winter surge of COVID-19 cases by offering 1 million free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to resi-

See COVID, Page A5



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24/7 - We're always on at www.mendotareporter.com



LOCAL AND AREA

DAR group sets Dec. 10 meeting

MENDOTA – The NSDAR chapter Fort du Rocher will be holding its December meeting on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Mendota. A potluck meal will be served after the meeting. Guests are welcome. If you are over 18 years of age and have a desire to learn more about The Daughters of the American Revolution, please attend the meeting or go online at dar.org.

Christmas Craft Show planned in Princeton

PRINCETON – There will be lots of Christmas shopping opportunities at Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the annual Christmas Craft & Vendor Show and holiday Flea Market. Show hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and admission is free. Santa Claus will be making an appearance at the show from 10-11 a.m., so have the kids bring their lists and you can have a photo opportunity. Over 80 selling spaces have been reserved. Some of the items that will be sold at the Fairgrounds will be ornaments, gnomes, tumblers, greeting cards, wreaths, Color Street, Pampered Chef, antique decor, baby clothes, quilts, salt & pepper shakers, rings & jewelry, clothing, koozies, holiday florals and décor, and much more. A concession stand is in the building with breakfast and lunch items. The Fairgrounds is located at 811 W. Peru St. For information, call 815-303-2905 after 5 p.m.

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

Thank you to all of our families who participated in the fall Club Choice Fundraiser. The pickup of items sold was held this past week. We greatly appreciate the support. The money raised will help us finalize our plans to add a new piece of playground equipment that will be installed soon on our playground for all students to enjoy.

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Amelia Thurber, Drew McCord, Kaitlyn Castaneda, Kipp Stewart, Joseph Thomas, Killian Sebby, Sofia Rivera and Chloey Williams. The winners were Cameron Brown, Antonio Vergara, Kaiden Rich and Alban Aliu. Congratulations to all of you!

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The November KIND KIDS were just announced at the end of the month. The students recognized for being exceptionally kind during the month of November

were Laken Weber, Emmett Mellott, Abram Fenwick, Joaquin Otero, Cainan Sellers, Laurel Dunfrund, Rebecca Hillaker, Bentley Milus, Ximena Rojo, Penelope Gromiuk, Manny Quintana and Liam Benenhaley. I'm so proud of all of the kind students at Blackstone!

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Mark your calendars for the Blackstone Christmas Program. The programs will be held on Monday, Dec. 12 at Northbrook School. Kindergarten students will perform at 5:30 and 1st grade will perform at 7:00. Students should arrive 30 minutes before the program starts. We hope to see lots of family and friends in the audience. The students have been practicing and are eager to perform for everyone.

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There will be an early dismissal on December 15th and 16th. Kindergarten students will dismiss at 1:20 and 1st graders at 1:30. Winter break will be held Dec. 19-Jan. 3.

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Festival 56 to present MOMsemble: The Michigan MOMsemble "Holiday!"

PRINCETON – Festival 56 will present The Michigan MOMsemble "Holiday!" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10 in Princeton. This holiday season, The Michigan MOMsemble presents: I saw Mommy Freaking Out About Christmas. Laugh till you cry with Festival 56's very own Laura Brigham at this hilarious holiday show, where silent nights are rare, Winter Wonderlands require stressful prep and nerf gives a whole new meaning to Let There Be Peace on Earth. This Holiday Show is for all ages and both men and women can identify with this tribute to parenthood. The Arts Midwest GIG Fund has again provided generous funding for this show. This has allowed the Princeton Theater Group to create a BOGO event. For



this special event, BOGO codes are provided below. BOGO Codes: B1G1, B2G2 and B3G3. Example B1G1 code only works when you purchase two tickets. Code must be entered at checkout and the promo will be applied. Patron is responsible for ticket fees at time of purchase. These codes can be used when purchasing your tickets online. Any ticket amount over six tickets when using the BOGO, must be placed through the Festival 56 Box Office. Both performances are at The Grace Theater, 316 S. Main St., Princeton. Tickets are \$25 and available online at festival56.com or call the box office at 815-879-5656.

Happy Holidays

Back row: Rose Bonnell, Celina Garza, and Alejandra Hernandez
Front: Jennifer Truckenbrod, Laurie Eich, and Nancy Faber.

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVSO presenting holiday concert on December 11

LaSALLE – The Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra (IVSO) will present a holiday concert, “Celebrate Joy!” on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. The concert will be in the Matthiessen Auditorium of LaSalle-Peru High School, 541 Chartres St., LaSalle.

The performance features Roger Amm as the vocal soloist. Amm will be singing selections from George Frideric Handel’s Messiah. In addition, Amm will narrate composer Bill Holcombe’s exciting arrangement of T’was The Night Before Christmas.

Amm is a retired music educator who taught vocal music at Ottawa Township High School for 32 years. He directed the Westminster Choir at Ottawa First Presbyterian Church for 20 years. He currently serves on the OTHS School Board.

Since his retirement in 2013, he has also performed leading roles in the musicals, Les Miserables and Bright Star at Engleland Theater in Streator. In addition, Amm has helped produce three Emmy Award-winning documentaries by Kanestar Productions.

Amm received his bachelor of music education degree from Illinois State University, and his master of music degree from Northern Illinois University. Amm resides in Ottawa with his wife, Carol.

The varied program will include a performance of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite. The Suite consists of eight selections, grouped in three movements: Overture Miniature, Danses Caracteristiques, and Valse Des Fleurs. Tchaikovsky compiled his Suite from the popular ballet, The Nutcracker.

Three movements from Sergei Prokofiev’s Lieutenant Kije Symphonique Suite will also be presented: The Birth of Kije, Kije’s Wedding, and Troika. This music was originally written to accompany a film, and was Prokofiev’s first attempt at writing film music.

The IVSO will perform music from the movie, The Polar Express. The movie tells the story of a young hero boy who boards on a powerful magical train that’s headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus’ home on Christmas Eve night. Selection included in the medley are: Believe, The Polar Express, When Christmas Comes to Town, and Spirit of the Season.

In addition, composer Steven Amundson’s Angels’ Dance will be performed. Set in 7/8 meter, Angels’ Dance is rhythmic and colorful, lilting and joyful, and quotes the hymn tune, Angels We Have Heard on High. The program concludes with Leroy Anderson’s Sleigh Ride.

Admission is by season subscription or individual ticket available online at ivso.org or at the door: adults are \$20, students K-12th grade are free, and college students with an ID are \$5. LaSalle-Peru High School is ADA accessible.



Roger Amm

Illinois Manufacturers Association awards ETIP Grant to Carus LLC

PERU – The Illinois Manufacturers Association recently presented Carus LLC with Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) Grant funds to support training programs for Carus employees. The ETIP Grant funds are made possible by the Governor, state legislators and the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. The program provides employers with up to 50 percent reimbursement of eligible employee training expenses.

Carus is eligible for ETIP Grant funds. The IMA provides valuable services to member companies, including support and assistance during the ETIP Grant application process.

“The Illinois Manufacturers Association is proud to administer the Employee Training Investment Program (ETIP) grant on behalf of the State of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,” said Sarah Hartwick, Vice President of Education & Workforce Policy at the Illinois Manufacturers Association. “This grant is a valuable tool for manufacturers to ensure their workforce is fully trained and the work processes are as safe and productive as possible. We’re grateful for Carus’ dedication to workforce development and excited to continue partnering



Randy Prince, second from left, of the Illinois Manufacturers Association, presents a grant check to Andy Johnston, Chryss Crockett and Bailee Wallace of Carus LLC. (Photo contributed)

with them on future training opportunities.”

Carus used the grant money to fund business acumen training for employees in different functions of the business. The all-day training program focused on financial competency and included

over 20 participants. The training session featured a third-party instructor who educated Carus employees about financial skills required to run a business.

“We are grateful for the partnership and support of the Illinois Manufacturers

Association,” said Andy Johnston, Carus President and CEO. “Financial acumen is critical to the success of any business, and Carus is proud to provide training opportunities for employees as an investment in their personal financial health.”

Stage 212 in LaSalle schedules “New Year’s Eve Celebration for Kids” on December 31st

LaSALLE – Stage 212 is helping young people ring in the New Year in style with their annual “New Year’s Eve Celebration for Kids,” a child friendly party presented at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 at the theater, 700 First St., LaSalle. The event will be hosted by Buddy the Elf and feature appearances by Anna and Elsa, the PAW Patrol and much more.

Tickets for the event are now on sale for just \$10 each and may be purchased online at www.stage212.org or by calling the box office at 815-224-3025 and leaving a message. Tickets may be picked up at the door. All patrons age 1 year and up must have a ticket. All children must be properly chaperoned. Performances may be added as ticket sales demand.



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

James A. Polley

MENDOTA—James A. Polley, 91, of Mendota, passed away peacefully in the afternoon of Nov. 29, 2022, surrounded by family who loved him. Visitation was Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, from 10-11 a.m. followed by a Memorial service at 11 a.m. at Mendota Bible Church, 4131 N. State Hwy 251, Mendota. Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota is assisting the family.

James was born Jimmie Alva on Sept. 23, 1931, in Atlanta, Ill., to Bertha and Alva Polley. He was the youngest of four surviving children.

He is survived by his wife Jean of 62 years; five children, David (Janis Miller) of Dexter, Mich., Nancy (Jeff) Brown of Leland, Ann (Darren) Hackler of Smyrna, Tenn., Daniel of Chicago, and Ben (Cassidy Randall) of Missoula, Mont.; seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

He attended the University of Illinois-Urbana where he studied business management and joined the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity. Midway through his studies he was drafted in the army to Korea where he served for two years in peacetime efforts. He earned the rank of Sergeant. Upon his return, he met Jean LeMay (née King) and eventually returned to school and finished his business degree at Illinois State University in Normal.

Not long after his graduation, he took a management position with Spurgeon's retail chain, which was their reason for eventually moving to Mendota. In June of 1960, Jim and Jean were married and started a family.

Jim worked for Spurgeon's for 15 years, moving from Illinois to Iowa and eventually to Mendota, where he and Jean truly created a home and raised their family. In 1975, Jim decided to venture off on his own by opening his own retail store in Mendota called the Round Up with Levi's. Seeing greater horizons in Princeton, he moved the store there in 1978. Shortly thereafter, his youngest was born. With five children at home, it was time to take on another job with Fantasy Flavors in Amboy. He worked there for 20 years, working his way up to purchasing agent for the ice cream flavors factory. He took retirement early in 1995, but realized that he wasn't quite ready and returned to work at Boise Cascade for another four years. During his retirement, he returned to graduate school to receive a degree in Christian counseling for which he was very proud.

To know Jim was to love him. Jim was a loving husband and a dedicated father. He delighted in the pursuits and adventures of his children. He was a devoted pet owner, especially his dogs, having loved each one of them as extensions of the family. He had a ribald sense of humor, cracking jokes and laughing up to the very end. His laugh was contagious. He was smart, fun, thoughtful, and athletic. He enjoined life and loved God and taught that devotion to his children. Jim and Jean have been devout members of the Mendota Bible Church for 50+ years.


Dad, we love and miss you very much.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make donations to the Glaucoma Foundation, the Mendota Area Senior Services, OSF Saint Paul Medical Center or the Mendota Bible Church.

DEATH NOTICES

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

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Artistic Memorials



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Alfred Taylor

ROCHELLE — Alfred Taylor, 84, of Rochelle, formerly of West Brooklyn, passed away Dec. 4, 2022, at Rochelle Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

There will be no local services. Cremation rites have been accorded. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Alfred was born Sept. 20, 1938, in Russellville, Ala., to Eugene and Mattie (Devaney) Taylor. He married the love of his life Dolores Schwabauer on Oct. 3, 1959 in Cicero.

Al will be forever missed by his wife Dolores of West Brooklyn; son Michael (Theresa) Taylor of West Brooklyn; three grandchildren, Peter, Pam and Pearl Taylor;



and a sister, Ruth Durrett of Greenbriar, Ala.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six brothers, Elmer, Jim, Bill, Bob, Willard and Earl Taylor; a sister Martha Baird; and granddaughter Phiona Taylor.

Al proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Era. During his work career he was in inside sales for Pheoll Manufacturing and Archer Screw Manufacturing until his retirement in 2000. Al was the youngest son of a farmer and always loved all things associated with the farm, especially John Deere equipment of every sort. His greatest joy was his grandchildren. As a young parent, he became involved in Boy Scouts, and even after his son was through the ranks, he stayed on to mentor other young men.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or The Alzheimer's Foundation. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

Library sets Christmas event on Dec. 19th

MENDOTA — Join Graves-Hume Public Library for "Christmas at the Library" on Monday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. This fun event is open to all ages.

Highlights will include a visit from Santa, story time, crafting and games.

Call 815-538-5142 to register. Library programs are open to all. No library card required.

HONOR ROLL

Northbrook Middle School

MENDOTA — Northbrook Middle School Honor Roll and High Honor Roll list for Trimester 1.

Fifth Grade

High Honor Roll:

Isaac Baltazar, Karly Beetz, Bentley Bejster, Bristol Bonnell, Francis Bromenschenkel, Kenna Brown, Kathleen Clark, Holden Coss, Lila Coss, Taylor Erlenborn, Aliya Escatel, Janelly Escatel, Natalia Estrada, Jayden Figueroa, Samantha Foltyniewicz, Olivia Gallagher, Jerni Garcia, Aubri Gonzalez, Dominic Gonzalez, Gage Hanson, Herlinda Huizar, Albana Imeri, London Jones, Chloe Klein, Kathryn Loutsch, Sebastian Magallanes, YOSHUA McGEE, Kaylee McLain, Dianely Mendez-Santana, Kendra Milus, Kendra Mullins, Jordan Olivarez, Charlize Pena, Viridianna Perez, Kayne Phillips, Hunter Pill-er, Camilo Ramirez, Lydia Rinaldo, Lyla Rodriguez, Brooklyn Russell, Henry Schroeder, Fiona Sheppard, Victor Solorzano, Adalynn Sondgeroth, Maycie Sproston, Gavin Stamberger, Harper Stamberger, Raelynn Sundberg, Elyse Waldron, Bailey Work-Sibley, Wyatt Zimmerman.

Honor Roll:

Kailani Akau-Witty, Fidarina Aliu, Isayanna Arreola, Gabriel

Bronski, Austin Brown, Arlo Bugiyné, Blaze Clark, Pedro Diaz, Bellalyn Escatel, Izabelle Figueroa, Kendal Fromherz, Alivia Furar, Jowell Garcia, Maliyah Gober, Karter Grim, Ashley Guzman, Nejari Harris, Omar Hinojosa, Skyler Kenny, Tyler Kenny, Cooper Klein, Lilliana Leek, Eli Martinez, Yoel McGee, Maddux McPheeters, Mario Membre-no Perez, Maggie Price, Santos Salinas, Carmen Spitz, Kennie Stremlau, Shane Trahan, Delaney Tucker, Armando Valdes, Carson Walzer, Ricardo Yuquilima

Sixth Grade

High Honor Roll:

Aisaac Arteaga, Candie Arteaga, Mia Arteaga, Samuel Arteaga, Sebastian Arteaga, Charles Beaty, Mallory Beck, Brianna Betz, Lila Bielema, Kylee Bonnell, Jacqueline Bryson, Bella Bute, Arian Chavez, Pryar Christmann, Sergio Correa, Leighton Davis, Kan-non Delao, Gabriela Diaz, Gina Diaz, Isaac Espinoza, Evangeline Flores, Bradley Fultz, Ari Gambrel, Aleeya Garcia, Illan Garcia, Valeria Gomez, Vania Gomez, Felipe Gonzalez, Joshua Granados, Emmanuel Guzman, Callum Indigo, Ayden Jasper, Eli Kaecker, Delilah Karahali-os, Yuliza Magallanes, Ava Mahaffey, Mikayla McLain,

Allison McNutt, Azaria Morris, Kenneth Mullins, Jacob Nelson, Elizandro Orozco, Aileen Perez, Olivia Perryman, Axel Ruiz, Christopher Salazar-Loera, Alexis Saylor, Georgia Schwaegerman, Juliana Seablom, Lumen Setchell, Derrick Snyder Jr., Liam Strait, Samantha Strem-lau, Gavin Tolley, Camila Vallejo, Emerson VanHorn, Maci Elizabeth Winn

Honor Roll:

Madison Baxa, Annalee Becerra, Conner Bloomfield, Lilliana Bucio, Brayden Calderon, Ember Castaneda, Jaxen Daley, Aliya Delao, Elizabeth Francis, Jeniah Francis, Kaitlyn Giberson, Giana Godina, Brianna Gonzalez, Eliana Gonzalez, Kenya Harris, Brandon Hougas, Abriana Klein, Christopher Komitas, Alana Melendez, Fayte Michael, Elizek Milus, Nevaeh Munoz, Ryan Negron, Samuel Reyes, Ivory Rodriguez, Tatjana Rucker, Abigail Sin-del, Laurali Thompson, Cindy Valdes, Sophia Vargas, Dylan Welch, Brayden Wilhelm, Dane Williams

Seventh Grade

High Honor Roll:

Mia Barringer, Cooper Beetz, Isaac Caracheo, Lena Cardo-na, Tanya Cervantes, Cannon Chaon, Olivia Corrigan, Hayden Cunefare, Zariah Escatel, Savannah Lenert, Trevor Lengsfeld, Anthony Martinez-Morales, Daisy Mendez-Santana, Karlee Organ, Anahi Perez, David Reyes, Guadalupe Sandoval, Paola Solorzano, Trinitie Thompson, Parker Waldron, Rylee Woods

Honor Roll: Viktor Angulo, Abigail Botts, Bezzali Cadenas, Cruz Chavez, Daniel Correa, Riley Er-lenborn, Dalton Gallagher, Gage Griffith, Cesar Hernandez, Kevin Herrera, Klaire

Knaff, Kyra Lindsay, Lewis McNelis, Daniel Morano, Joseph Muller, Isaac Murillo, Abel Nanez, Omar Nanez, Alexis Nave, Samantha Nel-son, Ignacio Ortega, Mason Rich, Gage Richey, Grace Schlesinger, Germain Serrano, Miaka Shepherd, Collin Sheppard, Gracie Smith, Ashtyn Stamberger, Haylee Stevens, Tori Stevens, Adrian Trejo, Fernanda Valdes, Jovan Washington

Eighth Grade

High Honor Roll:

Brooklyn Baxa, Drew Beck-er, Ivan Botello, Alexa Carlos, Cesar Casas, Bri-za Cervantes, Monserrat Chavez, Julisa Coronel, Michelle Cuevas, Karen Flores, Harlow Foltyniewicz, Karissa Freeman, Berat Imeri, Marcelah Jackson, Cole Kleckner, Ada Krull, Angel Negron, Sophia Oroz-co, Eden Pecher, Addison Perryman, Daniel Pierce, Owen Schroeder, Hayden Senders, Liam Sheppard, Emily Sondgeroth, Gavin Stevenson, Kathryn Strouss, Cayden Taliani, Cam Was-mer, Miranda Wheeler, Ryder Woods

Honor Roll: Karla As-censio, Abygail Buettner, Melanie Carlos, Evelyn Cervantes, Ava Christmann, Lexi Cocanour, Devin Cooper, Reushawna Durr, Adan Estrada, Gianni Figueroa, Caleb Ganther, Hunter Goellner, Julian Gonzalez, Alyna Guerra, Benoni Her-nandez, Jayleen Jordan, Layla Karahalios, Layla Kundert, Rashaad May-field, Dawson McPheeters, Alexys Melendez, Madilyn Muller, MaKenzie Mumm, Kashia Ortega-Jaramillo, Jazzlyn Polk, Favian Rome-ro, Brianna Russell, Bailey Ryan, Karson Sundberg, Storie Whildin



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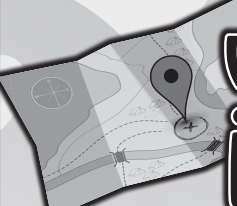
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Steeple at Breaking the Prairie Chapel
Winner - Fred Mende

HOW TO ENTER:

If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday. One correct answer will be drawn each week. Prizes must be picked up at the Mendota Reporter Office.

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LOCAL AND AREA

COVID

Continued from Page A1

dents in economically disadvantaged zip codes through a partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation's public charity, RF Catalytic Capital and its Project ACT (Access COVID Tests) program.

Through Project ACT, IDPH will be distributing one million at-home antigen tests to 200,000 Illinois families in zip codes outside the City of Chicago that are rated high on a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). Households can find out if they are in an eligible zip code and request one package of five tests on a first-come-first-serve basis at the Project ACT website. The tests will be delivered to the home address.

Free or low cost COVID-19 testing locations are also available throughout the state, including in Chicago, and can be found on the IDPH website's testing locator page.

The CDC authorized two new bivalent booster vaccines on Sept. 1 that include an mRNA component of the original strain to provide an immune response that is broadly protective against COVID-19 and an added mRNA component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 lineages to provide better protection against COVID-19 caused by the omicron variant.

Initially, the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, was authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Bivalent, was authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older. On Oct. 12, the CDC authorized the updated COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech for children ages 5

through 11 years, and from Moderna for children and adolescents ages 6 through 17 years.

The updated boosters are available at pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers. The best way to locate a vaccine provider near you is to visit www.vaccines.gov and search for bivalent booster availability.

In counties at the Medium Community Level, persons who are elderly or immunocompromised (at risk of severe outcomes) are advised to wear a mask in indoor public places. They should also get up to date on COVID-19 vaccines or get their bivalent booster, if eligible.

IDPH has been supporting pharmacies and healthcare providers in efforts to increase their inventories of the various FDA-authorized treatments. There are over 1,200 treatment locations in Illinois - including all the major retail pharmacies. More than 96.7% of the state's population is within a 10-mile radius of one of these locations.

Data indicates that the risk of hospitalization and severe outcomes from COVID-19 is much higher for unvaccinated people than for those who are up to date on their vaccinations. All data are provisional and are subject to change. Additional information and COVID-19 data can be found at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19.html>.

Vaccination is the key to ending this pandemic. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, go to www.vaccines.gov. The federal government has established a new website that provides an all-purpose toolkit with information on how to obtain masks, treatment, vaccines and testing resources for all areas of the country at: <https://www.covid.gov/>.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

M. Eager named to the Palmer Dean's List

DAVENPORT, Iowa - Madeline Eager of Mendota has been named to the summer 2022 trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, Calif.; and Port Orange, Fla.

Palmer College accepts students for enrollment

DAVENPORT, Iowa - The following students were accepted for the fall 2022 trimester in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Gabrielle Peasley and Francisco Romero, both of Mendota, have been accepted for enrollment for the fall 2022 trimester in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, Calif.; and Port Orange, Fla.

Interact Club brings Christmas to MHS

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA - "Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas" wasn't said by Santa Claus when people walked into the Mendota High School cafeteria on Nov. 30, but the cheerful, jolly spirit was there at the MHS Interact Holiday Craft Quest.

"It was a great night; it was really awesome. The idea for the event came from the minds of the Interact Club students," said Alisa Stewart, a teacher in the science department who also leads the Interact Club. "They wanted to do something fun with kids. This year our goal with the Interact Club is to have four big projects. The first one would be to serve in the community, second is to serve in the school, third is to serve the country, and fourth is to serve the world."

"This was the project they chose to do to serve the school because it was a fundraiser for the art department. It really came out nicely because it wasn't just the Interact Club that got involved. The art department, the consumer education department, family and consumer science, and the agriculture department

were all involved. It was a whole school project in my opinion."

All visitors had the opportunity to work at six different stations. At one station, candy cane ornaments were being made, while Christmas tree refrigerator magnets, snowman ornaments, decorating cookies, painting ceramic plates, and decorating bags were done at the other stations.

"It was all put together by the kids. They really did all of the work. All the events we've done this year, the students have built, planned, and ran," Stewart said. "I'm the guide on the side there for questions and to lead in the right direction. They decided everything with this event including what the stations were going to be and what the ornaments were going to be."

The bags carried all of the goodies out the cafeteria door except the ceramic plates as they will be fired in the kiln by the art department and will be ready for pick-up on Dec. 14.

"It was really sweet watching the big kids work with the little kids," said Stewart. "There were a lot of the plates that said, 'To



Mendota High School Interact Club members help children make neat Christmas stuff as part of a fundraiser for the school's art department. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

Nana. 'I don't care how old you are, that's cute and adorable. I love getting homemade gifts from my kids.'

IVCC sets dates to turn in nominating petitions

OGLESBY - The period for filing nomination petitions for the April Illinois Valley Community College board of trustee election is Dec. 12-19.

Nominations will be accepted 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Dec. 12-16 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19 in the President's Office, Room C301.

The last day to file an objection to any nominating petition for the April 4 District 513 consolidated board election for the counties of LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam, Marshall, Grundy, Livingston, Lee and DeKalb is Tuesday, Dec. 27.

IVCC is closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 1. Any person wishing to file an objection between Dec. 20 and 27 can contact board secretary Judy Day at judy_day@ivcc.edu and set up a time to file the objection.



New owners of Sublette General Store

The village of Sublette welcomes its newest owners of the Sublette General Store. Sharifa Patel purchased the former Bonnell's General Store, located at 200 Reeve St., Sublette, with an opening day of Nov. 4. Presenting an American flag to Musayeeb L., Sharifa Patel, and Hanif Patel is Sublette Village President John Stenzel, right. The business offers grocery items, frozen food, liquor and beer, cold drinks, ice cream, ice, cold cut sandwiches, deli meat, candy, hardware and lottery. The store is open seven days a week. In winter, the hours are 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. and in springtime, the hours are 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. For more information, call 815-849-5522. (Photo contributed)

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OPINION

The Mendota Reporter

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

Decentralization can rein in Big Tech, without Big Government

By SARAH MONTALBANO
Young Voices

Most Americans think Big Tech has too much power and looking at a recent report from The Intercept showing the extent of the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to target disinformation on social media platforms, it's easy to see why. Those efforts include a special portal on Facebook by which government employees can report misinformation directly to the social media giant. The social media giant is colluding with the government to limit free speech online.

Yet, somehow, Americans still think more government regulation is the solution — as if DHS and Facebook weren't close enough already.

In September, the White House renewed its calls for "fundamental reform" to Section 230, which provides limited legal immunity to tech platforms that host third-party content. It is only the latest in a series of governmental efforts to rein in Big Tech, including a barrage of antitrust lawsuits from the Federal Trade Commission to stop or slow big tech mergers.

Increasing government control of technology is the wrong approach. The problems with Big Tech — online censorship, data privacy, and surveillance, to name a few — are startlingly real. But replacing Big Tech with Big Brother won't solve them. Good policies would create paths to decentralized technology that address the ills of Big Tech without stifling innovation and without jeopardizing free speech online.

First, lawmakers must resist tech centralization. The government is notoriously bad at innovating. It siphons funds from the private sector and sometimes, after spreading the risk to taxpayers, dumps funds into bad bets like Solyndra, which went bankrupt in 2011 after receiving \$535 million in loans from the U.S. Department of Energy just two years prior. The loan program took a \$528 million loss.

When the government subsidizes pet technologies, it can distort market signals and encourage malinvestments by the private sector. Just look at wind power: although wind receives far more in subsidies than other sources of energy, average wind-power costs were higher in 2009 than they were in 1994. And even still, the artificially cheap cost of wind power drives stable sources of energy, like oil and gas, out of the market.

This isn't to say that government never funds winning technologies — just that it usually does so at greater expense and less innovatively than the private sector. As economist Larry Summers said in the aftermath of Solyndra's bankruptcy, "gov. is a crappy" venture capitalist.

Even with the best of intentions, legislators can't be expected to fully understand policies relevant to bitcoin regulation, non-fungible tokens, artificial intelligence, and the innovative and unknown technologies being developed every day. Legislators inevitably, and understandably, analogize developing and complex technologies to existing regulatory frameworks and stifle the growth of new industries. Handing control of Big Tech to the government will do nothing but entrench the status quo.

That's assuming the government maintains good intentions. If Big Brother held unprecedented control over the decisions of technology companies, there'd be little stopping the government from pushing political agendas and silencing dissent.

Instead of pushing for more government control of Big Tech, states should embrace pathways to decentralized technologies and protect entrepreneurs experimenting in this space, like Wyoming and Tennessee have done with decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), which use digital assets to represent voting rights in the organization and implement rules that all members follow. Following these rules allow strangers to securely and collectively make decisions for a business without involving a central authority.

That might sound esoteric — after all, who actually wants to be in business with strangers? But the truth is, there's no way to know the market. Who knows how many citizens would be interested in avoiding traditional bureaucratic hurdles to business while enjoying the transparency of the public blockchain and collective action to make decisions. DAOs are often used for "investment, charity, fundraising, borrowing, or buying NFTs," and it's likely they'll have applications in the future that have not yet been invented. Legal recognition of DAOs and other decentralized platforms provides a secure footing for entrepreneurs to build, invest, and participate in these platforms.

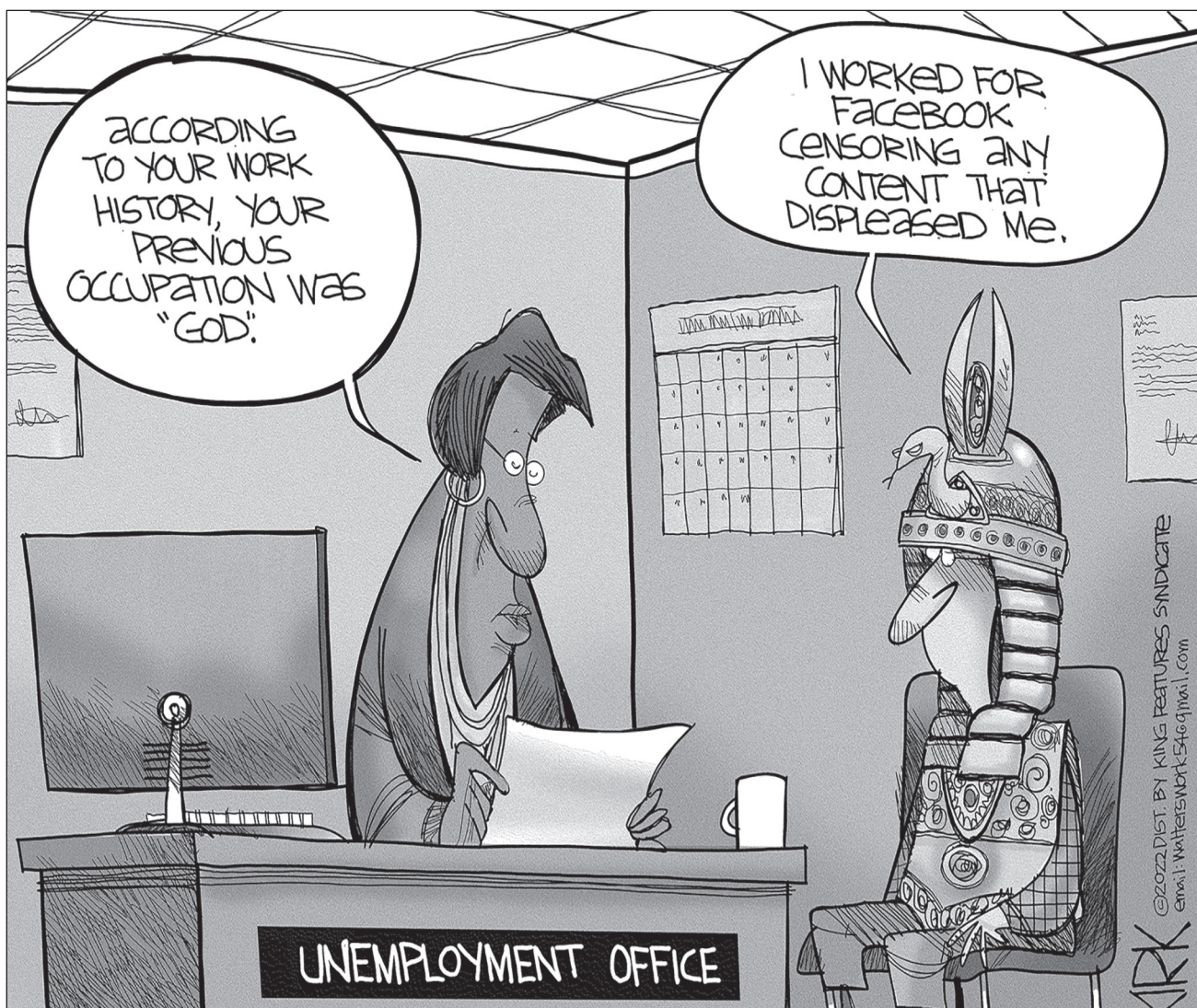
States can also foster innovation by implementing regulatory sandboxes, a legal classification that temporarily waives some regulations so companies have an opportunity to test themselves in the market. Regulatory sandboxes work particularly well for businesses that don't fit neatly into an existing regulatory framework or for small innovators with less political and financial capital than Big Tech companies. Regulatory sandboxes are also a useful opportunity to generate data in practice that can guide lawmakers to develop a sensible regulatory framework for the new innovation.

Regulatory sandboxes have been implemented in 10 states for industries such as financial technology, insurance, legal services, and more.

Industry-specific sandboxes have been relatively successful in Florida and North Carolina, although some industries are heavily regulated by the federal government, which limits their success. In 2021 and 2022, Utah and Arizona implemented universal sandboxes that give opportunities for innovators in every industry to create new products and services that enrich consumers' lives. 11 participants have graduated from Arizona's sandboxes, and two more are currently enrolled in its universal sandbox — both using blockchain and decentralized finance.

The power of big tech to censor, violate privacy, and surveil citizens will be best curbed through the private sector's innovations, not by handing the government the reins. States can provide certainty and reduce barriers to entry through legal recognition of decentralized technologies and by creating regulatory sandboxes for entrepreneurs to explore.

(Sarah Montalbano is the Northwest Regional Leader for Young Voices.)



As the holidays neared back in 1965

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Dec. 5, 1990.)

By Jessica Nashold

When the Mendota City Council met on Dec. 5, 1965, an advance payment of \$972 to the U.S. Department of Commerce was approved. This was to get a new official census count started. The total cost was to be \$1,547 and the balance would be due when the census count actually began.

It was explained that an unofficial count showed an increase of 600 since the 1960 census figure of 6,154. An increase of this size would result in an estimated additional \$3,600 in Mendota's fuel tax revenue. Approximately 90 days would be required to assemble information needed to put the special census in motion.

On March 31, the new census figure was release — 6,714.

Thirty merchants sponsored a free show at the State Theatre on Dec. 4-5 at 7 and 9 p.m. James Stewart in "Dear Brigitte" was the feature. Of those 30 sponsors, the following are still in business, although in some instances ownership or management has changed: Gish Jewelry & Gifts, Mendota Reporter, WGLC Radio, Classon's, Mendota Sport Shop, National Bank of Mendota, R&R Ford, Coast to Coast, Sam's Steak House, Holdenrid's, First State Bank, Mendota Farmer's Co-op, Floralcrest and Octave's Restaurant.

Eight American Field Service students from foreign countries and their host families attended the fourth annual AFS Christmas party in the Mendota High School cafeteria. Countries represented were Japan, England, Afghanistan, Germany, Denmark, France and Chili. Mrs. Warren Hanson was emcee. A popular number on the program was the group singing of "Ten Little Indians" with each AFS student singing in the native tongue.

The Vanguards, under the management of Tom Marmion, were gaining popularity as they played for dances at the Kanteen, high school and even Northern Illinois University. The group included Jack Wagner on lead guitar, Benny Sutton on bass guitar, Jim Larkin on rhythm guitar and Gary Fitzgerald on drums.

Dixon State School honored volunteers. From Mendota, the honorees were Mrs. Julius Schaller and Mrs. Joseph Sibigroth, 500 or more hours; Mrs.

Glenn Momeny retired on Dec. 3 as agent yardmaster for the CB&Q. He had been with the company for 45 years, advancing from check clerk to baggage department, ticket office and cashier at the freight house before becoming yardmaster. Momeny had served as mayor of Mendota from 1945-53 and was still county chairman of the Republican Committee, a post he had held since 1952.

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Backtracks & Sidetracks

MHS was host to 11 schools at an invitational debate tournament. David Schroeder was in charge. Mendota tied for second place with five wins and three losses. The affirmative team was comprised of Leslie Koerper and Larry Hubbard. The negative was upheld by Mark Ehlers and David Wedemeyer.

The Reporter carried an exterior view of a new banquet room being added to Earl's Club, a half mile west of Mendota. The new facility could seat 135, or if desired it could be divided into two smaller rooms.

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Ben Waller, 300; and Mrs. Raymond Erbes, 100.

The Trojans went into the first week of December without having lost a game since the beginning of the basketball season. In their first NCIC game, they met the Princeton Tigers and came away with 55-54 win. For Mendota, Steve Hanson scored 22 points, Bob Stevens 10, Jim Chandler and Don Hamel 7 apiece. High scorer for Princeton was Gary White with 24.

Ophir Community Playhouse presented a Gay Nineties revue, "Hard-scrabble Gaieties" on Dec. 4-5. Wilhelmina Roach was pianist and Bob Stevenson performed on trumpet. Leila Arms and Virginia Dana directed.

American Legion Post 540 launched a "Christmas Gifts for Hospitalized Veterans" drive. The program had previously been called "Gifts for Yanks Who Gave." Henry F. West was post commander.

The second annual United Fund drive was in progress. Thermometers in the windows of the banks recorded donations and on Dec. 2 showed that the level had reached 72.5 percent of the goal, which was \$19,250.

Santa set up headquarters in a house trailer at Library Park making visits on three Saturdays before Christmas.

Candy was distributed and long lines of youngsters had an opportunity to recite their wish lists.

On Dec. 6 the Red Cross blood-mobile was set up in the Elks Antler Room and collected 86 pints, 25 pints above the quota. Of these, 30 pints filled the advance requirement for open heart surgery for Delbert Brown. Other donations were directed to replace blood already received by Mendotans.

The extreme recklessness of Biden 2.0

By Rich Lowry

Joe Biden 2024 is a bad idea whose time has come.

If Democrats had gotten the shellacking that seemed to be coming their way in the midterms, Biden might have been wounded enough for elements of the Democratic establishment to begin to try to shoulder him into retirement.

Instead, the Democratic overperformance has Biden looking revitalized. Gov. Gavin Newsom of California told the president on election night that he's not running against him (not that Biden was ever likely to face a direct primary challenge). Press coverage has emphasized Biden's vindication. The shot in the arm is understandable given what his party was able to pull off, yet it doesn't make Biden a day younger -- in fact, he just turned 80 and every day of his presidency is an experiment in whether an unprecedentedly aged president can perform at the level demanded of the office.

Democrats consider Biden the safe choice in 2024, since he's the incumbent and surrounded by flawed alternatives, yet he is actually an enormous risk. Nominating him again would be extremely reckless, both for the party and for the country.

It may well be that Biden, even in his enfeebled state, is the best matchup against Donald Trump. He beat him once before, after all, and used him as an effective foil during the midterms. It is to Biden's advantage that it has proven difficult for anyone to work up a passionate hatred of him, rather than a low-intensity sense of pity or contempt. And he still has a relatively moderate affect and profile -- there are limits to how "woke" an 80-something, silver-haired creature of the Democratic establishment can appear, no matter how far left his policies are.

There's no guarantee, though, that Biden will get the former president as his opponent. If he doesn't, then he'll be denied the dynamic of one old guy whose record is terrible running against another old guy who frightens people.

If Trump can't secure the GOP nomination, everything changes. Ron DeSantis is 44. Ted Cruz is 51. Mike Pompeo

is 58. Tim Scott is 47. Basically, any Republican nominee besides Trump would instantly be bequeathed a powerful past-vs.-future theme (age aside, Trump will unavoidably and perhaps explicitly be running a campaign of restoration).

There's another risk for Democrats, as well -- namely that Biden will experience some age-related meltdown in public during a general-election campaign that will make his struggles undeniable even to well-wishers determined to look the other way.

Aging is a progressive condition. Biden isn't getting any younger or more capable. The good news is that today, right now, he is as fit as he'll ever be to perform his duties; the bad news is that there are a lot of days between now and 2024 when he'll be less fit, whether by a tiny increment or by a lot.

The public is already unsettled. According to the exit polls, 58% of voters said Biden does not have the acuity to serve effectively as president.

If Democrats get their way, this is just the beginning. They propose to reelect a man who will be 82 on Inauguration Day, and 86 by the end of his second term.

The actuarial tables and the realities of aging being what they are, this creates considerable risk of putting the country through the trauma of having a president who is incapable of carrying out his entire term. If you think our politics are deranged now, just wait until we face a genuine, inevitably wrenching 25th Amendment crisis, or we have to deal with the legitimacy issues around an unelected president.

Why even consider going down this route? In part, because Biden made an identity politics choice for vice president, and not a good one. It is understandable that the prospect of Vice President Kamala Harris makes Democrats want to cling to their nurse for fear of something worse. But the country deserves a better idea.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I recently watched a Christmas movie with “Frasier” star Kelsey Grammer. Was that his real-life daughter who played his daughter in the movie? They have the same last name. Is her mother Camille from “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills”? -- **G.Y.**

A: Yes, father-daughter combo Kelsey and Spencer Grammer recently starred in the Lifetime holiday film “The 12 Days of Christmas Eve.” Kelsey plays a wealthy CEO with a knack for business, but has zero personal skills, resulting in a poor relationship with his offspring. After his character gets into a frightening car accident, none other than Santa Claus gives him 12 chances to mend his ways.

As for Spencer Grammer, her first acting role was an appearance on an episode of “Cheers” back in 1992. Spencer’s also known for playing Dr. Lucy Montgomery on the daytime soap “As the World Turns” for three years, and she went on to star in the ABC Family series about sorority life, “Greek.” Her longest-running role, for about 10 years, has been in the form of voiceover work as Summer on the animated

series “Rick & Morty.”

As for Spencer’s mother, her name is Doreen Alderman. Camille Grammer, formerly of “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills” fame, was his second wife. They were married for 14 years and had two children before splitting after the first season of the reality show. For the past decade, Kelsey has been married to Kayte Grammer, who is from England. They met while she was working as a flight attendant during one of his business travels.

Q: Who are the Antonellis, the couple who own a cheese shop in the credit card commercials? Where is their store located? -- **D.N.**

A: They’re spouses John and Kendall Antonelli, owners of Antonelli’s Cheese Shops in Austin, Texas (www.AntonellisCheese.com). According to “Insider,” their store hosts hundreds of classes and events every year and also sells their products wholesale to over 150 restaurants. During the pandemic, they actually grew the size of their workforce by 40% across three locations.

John is a former CPA, who had an epiphany on their honeymoon that he wanted to do “something with

cheese.” Kendall worked for a nonprofit and eventually joined John in launching their business. They both do public speaking engagements as well.

Q: Is the actress playing Holly on “General Hospital” the same one who played the role years ago? -- **Y.H.**

A: Yes, that’s Emma Samms back as Holly Sutton, the same role she originated in the early 1980s. She last appeared on the soap in 2015 to help usher out the character of Luke when Anthony Geary retired. Samms came back to L.A. in September for a month-long shoot alongside another iconic character, Robert Scorpio, played by Tristan Rogers. Samms warned producers that she was suffering from extreme fatigue and shortness of breath due to lingering effects from COVID. She told “People” magazine she feels really lucky that her bosses were so willing to accommodate her restricted work schedule.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Oscar winners Julie Andrews and Anne Hathaway have gotten



Andrews

Disney to greenlight a third “Princess Diaries” film. The 2001 original and its 2004 sequel were directed by the late, great Garry Marshall. Andrews played the queen of Genovia, who needed to transform her American niece, Mia (a 19-year-old, awkward Hathaway), into a viable heir to her throne.

“The Princess Diaries 2” was concerned with the Queen’s abdication and finding Mia a husband, which is where Chris Pine came in. For the “threequel,” the story’s been kept under wraps; though, it’ll probably pick up where the second film left off. Just how Andrews, now 87, and Hathaway, now 40, will be involved hasn’t been revealed.

Andrews’ last two projects were off-camera voice roles in “Bridgerton” (2020-present) and “Minions: The Rise

of Gru” (2022). Hathaway stars in the recent film “Armageddon Time,” with Anthony Hopkins; the upcoming films “She Came to Me,” “Eileen” and “Mother’s Instinct;” and the AppleTV+ eight-episode miniseries “WeCrashed,” with Jared Leto. Chris Pine may be too busy with “Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves” and “Poolman,” opposite Annette Bening, to be in the threequel.

Also on deck is a “reimagining,” rather than remake, of the classic 1989 film “Road House,” which starred the late Patrick Swayze, Sam Elliott and the late Ben Gazzara (at a \$15 million cost and \$61.6 million gross). This time around, Jake Gyllenhaal has Swayze’s role of an ex-UFC fighter working at a roadhouse in the Florida Keys, abetted by Billy Magnussen and Travis Van Winkle. As much as I like and respect Gyllenhaal’s acting, the times I spent with Swayze showed me he was one of a kind, and he’ll be a very hard act to follow.

Peter Dinklage missed the

mark with “Cyrano” (only a \$6.39 million gross of its \$30 million cost), but he’s one of the busiest actors around. “The Toxic Avenger” will be released soon; then “Brothers” with Josh Brolin, Glenn Close and Brendan Fraser; and “She Came to Me” follows, starring Anne Hathaway, Nicole Kidman, Steve Carell and Marisa Tomei. Dinklage recently starred in “American Dreamer,” playing an economics professor at Harvard who attends open house showings of luxurious homes. That leads him to buy Shirley MacLaine’s home for an unbelievable \$240,000. The catch is, she has to continue living there. Despite the fact that she’s 88 and he’s 53, romance ensues.

Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis are both committed for a sequel to “Freaky Friday.” Curtis successfully brought back the “Halloween” franchise, and Lohan stars in Janeen and Michael Damian’s new Netflix film “Falling for Christmas.” Sequel-shmequel, can’t anyone give us an original?

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Couch Theater

“Amsterdam” (R) -- Talk about a star-studded cast in writer-director David O. Russell’s latest release! Christian Bale, Margot Robbie, Chris Rock, Robert De Niro and Taylor Swift are only a few of the A-list names you’ll see in this comedy thriller. Although it’s considered a box office bomb after its quick stint in theaters, “Amsterdam” will release Dec. 6 for at-home viewers to decide for themselves. The film follows three friends who get accused of killing a retired U.S. general after fleeing the scene where the murder was committed. To clear their names, the trio attempts to uncover the truth, finding that the truth is much larger than anyone ever thought. (HBO Max)

“Bullet Train” (R) -- Here’s another film with a mountain of star power. Starring Brad Pitt, Joey King, Michael Shannon, Sandra Bullock and Latin superstar Bad Bunny, “Bullet Train” takes place in a singular night as a bullet train travels throughout Japan. Pitt

portrays a havoc-wreaking, yet effective assassin tasked with the simple mission of retrieving a suitcase. The owners of the suitcase, a pair of assassin brothers named Lemon and Tangerine, plan to deliver the suitcase to a Russian mafia boss, as well as deliver the boss’ son. About a thousand different variables no one could’ve ever predicted ensue from the train’s first stop to its last stop at Kyoto. This not-for-the-faint-hearted action comedy will keep you hanging on through every minute. Out now. (Netflix)

“Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules” (PG) -- Jeff Kinney’s children’s book series “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” had quite a moment when the first book was released back in 2007. Since then, Kinney has released 16 subsequent books. Film adaptations, like this one, have been made including two live-action films. Disney+ has found success with their animated adaptations, and the second animated film just released on the streaming platform.

While the animation style for these films is a bit basic, the fundamental story of how to navigate middle school awkwardness remains entertaining and a great family-friendly watch. (Disney+)

“Emancipation” (R) -- Based on a true story of a former slave named Gordon, whose scourged back showcased in photos made history in 1863, this AppleTV+ original film starring Will Smith releases Dec. 9. Smith portrays a slave named Peter (based on Gordon), who attempts to make his way north after escaping from a Louisiana plantation. Smith gives a very honest and raw performance as Peter, but with a film style more suited for a documentary or reenactment series, “Emancipation” lacked the visual design that made films like “12 Years a Slave” so believable. While the style fits into AppleTV+’s cool aesthetic for its TV shows and movies, the tones of the film didn’t pair well enough with the story. (AppleTV+)

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* In 2020, a lightning bolt extending a total of 477.2 miles spread across Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, setting a new world record for the longest flash.

* Rubber bands last longer if you refrigerate them.

* Rooms at the Null Stern (“zero star”) Hotel are situated in repurposed nuclear bunkers and include open-air mountain rooms with equally zero walls. The designers obviously weren’t kidding about that rating.

* In 2002, NASA intern Thad Roberts stole a safe full of moon rocks so he and his girlfriend could have “sex on the moon.” Their otherworldly romantic encounter backfired when they later tried to sell the \$21 million worth of rocks. Roberts was caught and sentenced to eight years in prison.

* And speaking of romance: Tinder’s not just for humans! Well, not at the Dutch zoo that created a “Tinder for orangutans” to help a female named Samboja find a breeding partner. The primate was shown photos of potential mates from an international breeding program on a tablet, but unfortunately her mother got hold of it ... and smashed it to pieces.

* Poet W.B. Yeats and magician Aleister Crowley were such bitter rivals in the world of the occult that Yeats once kicked Crowley down a flight of stairs for being a proponent of “black magic.”

* Only humans have chins.

* In 2012, the police chief of Vaughn, New Mexico, stepped down because his own criminal record prevented him from carrying a gun. That left just a drug-sniffing dog named Nikita as the only certified member of the town’s police department.

* Trained pigeons can tell the difference between paintings by Pablo Picasso and Claude Monet.

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King Crossword
Solution time: 22 mins.
Answers

N	V	E	S		N	E		D	N	I	K			
E	R	E	O	W	H	E	A	E		E	I	B	O	
D	E	H	S	I	A	V	E		N	E	W	O		
			V	T	E		F	F	I		A	T		
E	O	V	H	S		S	L	I	F	E				
A	V	T		C	S	E	N	I	A	V				
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Trivia Test

1. MOVIES: What does Susan Walker want as a gift from Santa in the movie “Miracle on 34th Street”?
2. MUSIC: Which famous rock band once called itself The New Yardbirds?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Thar Desert located?
4. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom’s theme song was “Thank You for Being a Friend”?
5. FOOD & DRINK: When was frozen food invented?
6. MOVIES: Which Disney princess is modeled after a real person?
7. ANATOMY: What is the only human organ capable of natural regeneration?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are male and female swans called?

9. U.S. STATES: Which state’s motto is “Excelsior!”?
 10. HISTORY: How many people signed the U.S. Declaration of Independence?
- Answers
1. A house.
 2. Led Zeppelin.
 3. India and Pakistan.
 4. “The Golden Girls.”
 5. 1924. Clarence Birdseye invented the quick freezing process.
 6. Pocahontas.
 7. The liver.
 8. Cobs and pens.
 9. New York (“Ever upward!”).
 10. 56.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Singer Lovett
- 5 “Ben-Hur” studio
- 8 Benies
- 12 “Madam Secretary” actress
- 14 Opposite of “sans”
- 15 Very hungry
- 16 Gambling city
- 17 Coq au —
- 18 Painter Georges
- 20 Watched surreptitiously
- 23 Pot covers
- 24 Any time now
- 25 Stuffed Italian pasta
- 28 Boy king
- 29 Doctrine
- 30 NYPD alert
- 32 Gulches
- 34 Potter’s medium
- 35 New newts
- 36 Tint
- 37 Import duty
- 40 JFK info
- 41 Portent
- 42 Enraptured
- 47 Theater award
- 48 Eternally
- 49 Variety
- 50 Still, in verse

DOWN

- 1 USPS delivery
- 2 Pro vote
- 3 Restroom, for short
- 4 Football team
- 5 Earth cirler
- 6 Bearded
- 7 Written messages
- 8 Tenor Enrico
- 9 Say it’s so
- 10 Elizabeth of “Jacob’s Ladder”
- 11 Highlander
- 13 Oklahoma city
- 19 Redact
- 20 Retired jet
- 21 Serve coffee
- 22 Greek vowel
- 23 Highway divisions
- 25 Cheap way to live
- 26 Chorus syllables
- 27 Apple tablet
- 29 Squabble
- 31 “See ya!”
- 33 Like marble
- 34 Great divides
- 36 Commotion
- 37 Grabbed
- 38 Both (Pref.)
- 39 Check
- 40 Divisible by two
- 43 St. crosser
- 44 Weed whacker
- 45 Notable time
- 46 Lair

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Love, Joey

LOCAL AND AREA

Wind turbine control & maintenance offered by IVCC

OGLESBY – Wind Turbine Control and Maintenance will be offered at Illinois Valley Community College beginning Jan. 12.

Students in the 5 p.m. Thursday course (WND 2200) will learn electrical, hydraulics, computer control, blueprint and schematic reading and hands-on troubleshooting, said instructor Steve Malavolti.

Students will learn the basic wind turbine system and how to troubleshoot potential problems,” said Malavolti.

The course will take students through Amatrol learning system machines including:

- Hub Learning System to control blade pitch or blade deflection to capture wind.
- Turbine Control Unit

(TCU), “the brains” that position the turbine into the wind or change the direction or “yaw.”

• Generator Control Unit (GCU) used to convert DC power to AC and transfer power generated by the turbine to the power grid.

Malavolti has taught part-time at IVCC for 15 years. A Hennepin native, he retired from the U.S. Navy after

20 years including 15 as a Master Training Specialist. He is the owner of Industrial Semiconductor, Inc., in Peru.

Enroll today in admissions (CTC101) or call (815) 224-0447. For information on the 4-credit Wind Turbine course, contact Dean of Workforce Development Shane Lange at (815) 224-0219 or shane_lange@ivcc.edu.



Wind technology instructor Steve Malavolti uses a multimeter to check a circuit on a Turbine Control Unit in IVCC's wind lab. (Photo contributed)

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VIRTUAL ONLINE

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LAND AUCTION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 AT 2:00 PM^{CT}

80.25 ACRES± • 1 TRACT

The Leef farm is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Streator, IL or 28 miles northwest of Pontiac, IL or 51 miles northeast of Peoria, IL. The real estate is further described as being located in Section 13, T30N-R2E, Osage Township, LaSalle County, Illinois. The property consists of 80.25 acres± (subject to survey), will be sold in 1 tract, and represents highly productive Class A soil.

Farmers and investors, be sure to check out this ideally located Class A farm in LaSalle County, Illinois.

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Representing Attorney: Gerald A. Drendel
The Justice Law Firm | (815) 673-4344
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Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

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VIRTUAL ONLINE

MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LAND AUCTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022 AT 1:00 PM^{CT}

377.4 ACRES± • 3 TRACTS

The Shanklin farm is located approximately 4 miles west of Toluca, IL or 33 miles northeast of Peoria, IL. The real estate is further described as being located in Sections 1, 10 & 12, T29N-R1W, Bell Plain Township, Marshall County, Illinois. The farm consist of a total of 377.4 acres± (subject to survey), will be sold in 3 tracts, and represents a combination of highly productive Class A soil, wooded areas, and potential home building sites.

Farmers and outdoor enthusiasts, be sure to check out these Marshall County, Illinois properties.

All tracts are being sold subject to the approval of the Judge of Probate Court No. 1 of Bexar County, Texas

SHANKLIN FAMILY TRUST

Representing Attorney: William D. Bailey
Attorney At Law | (210) 496-1949
1100 NW Loop 410, Suite 700, San Antonio, Texas 78213

Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

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AUCTION ALERT!

VIRTUAL ONLINE | LASALLE & LEE COUNTY, IL

LAND & REAL ESTATE AUCTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022 AT 11:00 AM^{CT}

620.38 ACRES± • 8 TRACTS

Tracts 1-6 & 8 of the Doughty farm are located approximately 3 miles southeast of Meriden, IL, or approximately 6 miles east of Mendota, IL. The farms are further described as being located in Sections 20, 21, 29, 33 & 36, T36N-R2E, Meriden Township and Section 11, T35N-R2E, Ophir Township, both in LaSalle County, Illinois. Tract 7 is located approximately 4 miles southwest of Compton, IL, or 8 miles north of Mendota, IL. The farm is further described as being located in Section 20, T37N-R1E, Brooklyn Township, Lee County, IL. Tract 1 represents highly productive tillable cropland and is improved with a well maintained RLA private runway. Tracts 2-7 represent highly productive farmland with Class A soils. Tract 8 offers 2 beautiful ranch homes, 3 airplane hangars and several buildings all situated on 4.5 acres in Mendota School District.

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MARY MAUCH, TRUSTEE

Representing Attorney: John Cantlin
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Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

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FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

BIDDING CLOSES: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022
STARTING AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1979 E 20TH RD, GRAND RIDGE, IL 61325

Beutke Farm

HIGHLIGHTS: '11 Case-IH 315 Magnum MFWD tractor, 2,181 hrs.; 1998 Case-IH 8940 Magnum MFWD tractor, PS trans, 7,835 hrs.; 1991 JD 8760 4WD tractor, 6,812 hrs.; International 1086 2wd tractor, 9,702 hrs.; McCormick Farmall B tractor; International C tractor; '07 JD 9560STS 2wd combine, 3,727 eng./2,264 sep. hrs.; '07 JD 893 8 row 30" corn head; '02 JD 925F 25' flex platform; Unverferth HT25 25' head trailer; '04 Kinze 3600 16/31 planter; DMI TigerMate II 34' field cultivator; DMI 31' Crumbler rolling basket; M&W 1165 6-shank disc-ripper; International 490 24' disk; Blu-Jet Sub-Tiller II 4-shank 3-pt. in-line ripper; M-C 2408SB 20' stalk chopper; 1,250 gal. SS tender trailer; Chem-Farm Tow Between; 1,000 gal. SS tanks on running gears; DMI 11-shank chisel; International 133 12 row 30" cultivator; JD 709 7' 3-pt. mower; 10' 3-pt. blade; JD 400 20' rotary hoe; Killbros 350 gravity wagon on gear; 200 gravity wagon on gear; (4) Lindsay 24' harrows on carts; Hutchison 8"x60' auger; Feterl 8"x50' auger; 19' harrowgator; 1987 International S1900 grain truck, 153,592 miles; 1979 Ford 9000 grain truck, 376,092 miles; 1975 International LoadStar 1600 grain truck; 1950 Ford F6 truck; 1997 Chevrolet 2500 4wd pickup; Datsun 3k lbs forklift; '07 Yamaha Grizzly 440 4wd ATV; (2) Polaris snowmobiles on Leland trailer; and other farm support items

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ROBERT BEUTKE

EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS:
Robert (Bob)'s cell (815) 257-5293 | Josh Rhodes (815) 257-5299

AUCTION MANAGERS:
Luke Sullivan (309) 371-5214 | Matt Sullivan (309) 221-7001

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Notice of Proposed Tax Increase for Mendota Township High School District #280

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Mendota Township High School District #280 for 2021 will be held on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Mendota High School, 2300 W. Main St, Mendota, IL 61342. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Jeff Prusator, Superintendent, at 815-539-7446.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were

\$5,118,766 plus the amount abated by the taxing district prior to extension.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$5,718,680. This represents an 11.72% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were \$362,520.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$363,800. This represents a .35 % increase from the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$5,481,286.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$6,082,480.

This represents a 10.97% increase over the previous year.

Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Mendota Elementary Schools: Community Consolidated School District #289.

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for County of LaSalle School District #289 for 2021 will be held on December 15, 2022 at 6:30pm at 1806 Guiles Ave, Mendota, IL 61342

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact K. Bradley Cox, Superintendent, 1806 Guiles Ave, Mendota, IL 61342, 815-539-7631.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$5,639,542.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$6,354,111. This represents a 12.7% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were \$1,018,285.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$1,024,881.

This represents a 0.70% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$6,657,827.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$7,378,992. This represents a 10.9% increase over the previous year.

V. The total Mendota CCSD #289 property tax rate for 2021 was 2.6990.

The estimated total Mendota CCSD #289 property tax rate for 2022 is 2.6970. This represents an estimated decrease in the total Elementary School tax rate of 0.07%.

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MGG2017

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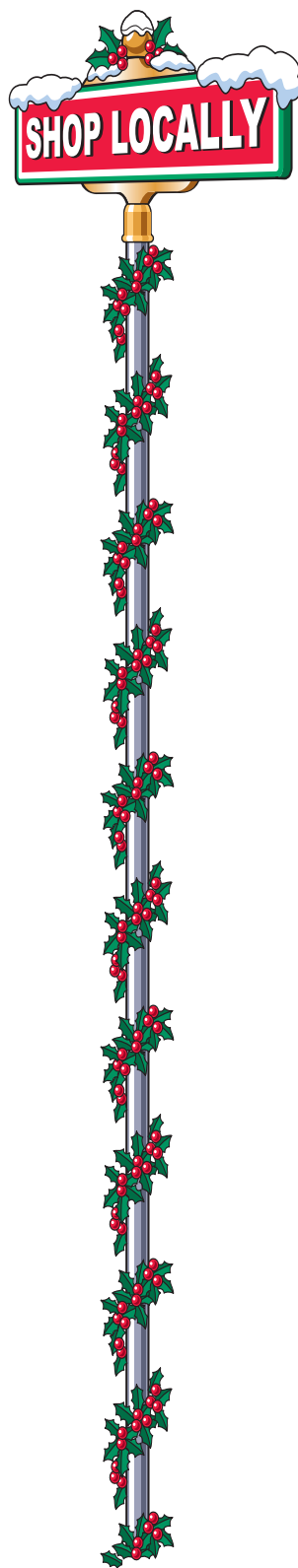
(Sale applies Nov. 30th - Dec. 10th)

J.C.'s HEADQUARTERS
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We welcome our new stylist Martha Delao! She will be available for appointments or walk ins starting Saturday, December 3rd.

MGG2022

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Looking for a truly "Mendota" gift?

Mendota Area Chamber Gift Certificates!

Mendota Shops offer a large and varied array of gift giving ideas for everyone on your Christmas List. Puzzled? Wondering what to get those hard to buy for relatives, friends and fellow employees? How about Mendota Area Chamber Gift Certificates! They can be made for any denomination and they are always the right size and color! The Certificates may be purchased at the Chamber office.

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
Gift Certificate
No Expiration Date

Date, Dec. 1, 2022
\$15.00

Mrs. Jane Doe
Fifteen and 00/100.....Dollars
Presented by The Johnson Family

Signature: _____

MGG2022

AVAILABLE STARTING NOVEMBER 19TH

PICK A NAME OFF THE TREE!

"Christmas Elves" with names and ages of needy children will be available starting Nov. 19th, at Eureka Savings Bank, First State Bank, Financial Plus Credit Union, First Federal Savings Bank, and First State Bank Plaza North.

After shopping for that special child, the gift may be taken to Eureka Savings Bank by 4 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 9 You may call ahead or go through the drive-up to let them know you are dropping off a gift. Financial support is also being accepted and may be dropped off at the Chamber office in December. For more information, call the Mendota Chamber of Commerce at 815-539-6507.

11142022

THE BACK PAGE

Suspect sought in Clark station robbery

MENDOTA – Mendota Police responded to the report of an armed robbery at the Clark Gas Station, 706 13th Ave., Mendota, at 6:37 p.m. Dec. 1. Upon further investigation, officers were informed that a subject had entered the gas station armed with a handgun and made a demand for money.

A description of the suspect is as follows: short, heavy set, wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt with the word "Illinois" on the front, dark-colored sweatpants, white shoes, face covered with a dark-colored mask and hands covered with dark-colored gloves.

A photograph of the suspect is on the Mendota Police Department Facebook page and a video will be released when it is available.



The alleged perpetrator in Clark station robbery.

If anyone knows the identity of this subject, contact the Mendota Police

Department at 815-539-9331. All callers may remain anonymous.

POLICE BLOTTER

LEAVING SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

Heather M. Polk, 37, of 808 First Ave., Mendota, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident after officers were called to Indiana Avenue and Washington Street for a hit and run accident at 8 p.m. Nov. 23. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

BATTERY

Calvin M. Mangruem, 43, of 1809 Lincoln Ave., Mendota, was charged with battery after police officers

investigated the report of a physical altercation in the 1800 block of Lincoln Avenue at 10:45 a.m. Nov. 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Christopher R. Ottinger, 31, of Plano, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at First Avenue and 12th Street at 4:37 p.m. Nov. 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Christina M. Martinez, 26, of Sterling, was arrested at 3:54 p.m. Nov. 27 on a valid Lee County warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. The subject posted bond and was released with a Lee County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Ahmad M. Ashour, 34, of Tuttle, Okla., was arrested at 9:30 p.m. Nov. 27 on a valid Ogle county warrant for driving while license suspended. The subject posted bond and was released with an Ogle County court date.

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The Chalet Sports Bar
The Mendota Reporter
Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling
Uncle Joes Gaming
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Nov. 21 is the kickoff date for the Mendota Chamber's 2022 12 Days of Giving Christmas Shop Local Promotion. The 12 Days of Giving will begin on Nov. 21 at participating businesses.

For every \$10 spent in a participating business, you will receive one sticker. In order to qualify for the 12 Days of Giving prizes, you must turn in a full card and each card must have stickers from at least FIVE OF THE PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES.

Double Stickers will be handed out during the Mendota Christmas event on Saturday, Dec. 3. Be sure to stop by the Mendota Chamber information booth downtown during the event for a special Mendota Chamber Shop Local Sticker.

Bring in your full cards to the Mendota Chamber Office at 800 Washington St., starting Nov. 21. You may also drop off your full card in the city's drop box on Illinois Avenue.

The 12 Days of Giving drawings will begin on Dec. 9 and be held every day, except Sundays, through Dec. 22. There will be 1 winner each day. The daily prizes will include merchandise and gift cards from our participating businesses.

On Dec. 22, the Chamber will draw for the grand prize. All daily winners will be added back into the Dec. 22 drawing. The Grand Prize will include merchandise and gift cards from our participating businesses.

SPORTS

Six MHS wrestlers earn medals from tournament

Mendota lost both ends of a triangular wrestling meet at Morrison on Nov. 29.

Morrison topped the Trojans, 51-24. Albert Harris picked up a pin win for the Trojans at 285 pounds, while forfeit wins went to Cadence Thornton (113), Lea Turner (145) and Reese Lane (195).

Oregon blanked Mendota, 84-0.

The Trojans traveled to Plano to meet three other teams on Nov. 30. Mendota fell to Plano, 78-0, and was defeated by Coal City, 84-0. The Trojans were 33-18 winners over Mooseheart. Gavin Evans earned a pin win for the Trojans at 132 pounds. Forfeits went to Keegan Stewart, Jose Hermosillo, Julian Jordan, Reese Lane and Nathan Giberson.

Nov. 29 @ Morrison
Morrison 51, Mendota 24

106 – double forfeit; 113 – Cadence Thornton (Me) won forfeit; 120 – Morrison won forfeit; 126 – Morrison won forfeit; 132 – Morrison won forfeit; 138 – Purts (Mo) pinned Keegan Stewart (Me); 145 – Lea Turner (Me) won forfeit; 152 – Baker (Mo) pinned Ozzy Arteaga (Me); 160 – Peppers (Mo) pinned Julian Jordan (Me); 170 – double forfeit; 182 – Arians (Mo) pinned Wyatt Ossman (Me); 195 – Reese Lane (Me) won forfeit; 220 – Morrison won forfeit; 285 – Albert Harris (Me) pinned McDonnell (Mo)

Oregon 84, Mendota 0

106 – Oregon won forfeit; 113 – Oregon won forfeit; 120 – Marquardt (O) pinned Thornton (M); 126 – Oregon won forfeit; 132 – Oregon won forfeit; 138 – Halverson (O) pinned Corbin Furar (M); 145 – Stevens (O) pinned Jose Hermosillo (M); 152 – Stender (O) pinned Jordan (M); 160 – Oregon won forfeit; 170 – Oregon won forfeit; 182 – Eckard (O) pinned Ossman (M); 195 – Winterland (O) pinned Lane (M); 220 – Oregon won forfeit; 285 – Flaherty (O) pinned Gabe Vallejo (M)

Nov. 30 @ Plano
Plano 78, Mendota 0

106 – Plano won forfeit; 113 – Flores (P) pinned Thornton (M); 120 – Plano won forfeit; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – Ulrich (P) pinned Evans (M); 138 – Gama (P) pinned Furar (M); 145 – Gilford (P) pinned Hermosillo (M); 152 – Young (P) pinned Jordan (M); 160 – Diaz (P) pinned Arteaga (M); 170 – Plano won forfeit; 182 – Romero (P) pinned Payton Gagliardo (M); 195 – Amakiri (P) pinned Lane (M); 220 – Plano won forfeit; 285 – Diaz (P) pinned Vallejo

Coal City 84, Mendota 0

106 – Coal City won forfeit; 113 – Munserman (CC) pinned Thornton (M); 120 – double forfeit; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – Stewart (CC) pinned Evans (M); 138 – Widowski (CC) pinned Furar (M); 145 – Vanek (CC) pinned Hermosillo (M); 152 – Dehler (CC) pinned Jordan (M); 160 – Waldozek (CC) pinned Arteaga (M); 170 – Coal City won forfeit; 182 – Poyner (CC) pinned Gagliardo (M); 195 – Feisely (CC) pinned Lane (M); 220 – Coal City won forfeit; 285 – Porth (CC) pinned Vallejo (M)

Mendota 33, Mooseheart 18

106 – double forfeit; 113 – Murphy (Mo) pinned Thornton (Me); 120 – double forfeit; 126 – Mooseheart won forfeit; 132 – Evans (Me) pinned Briceno (Mo); 138 – Stewart (Me) won forfeit; 145 – Hermosillo (Me) won forfeit; 152 – Wallace (Mo) pinned Arteaga (Me); 160 – Jordan (Me) won forfeit; 170 – double forfeit; 182 – Eleto (Mo) def. Gagliardo (Me); 195 – Lane (Me) won forfeit; 220 – double forfeit; 285 – Giberson (Me) won forfeit

Twelve wrestlers participated in the Princeton Blackmark Tournament on Dec. 3.

Medal winners for the Trojans were Albert Harris (2nd place, 285), Dean Gilbert (2nd place, 160), Cadence Thornton (3rd place, 110), Lea Turner (2nd place, 145), Gavin Evans (4th place, 132), Gabe Vallejo (4th place).

Former Trojan star Jacobs is rewarded for his play with call to the IBCA Hall of Fame

□ 1971 Mendota High School graduate could do it all on the basketball court

By KIP CHEEK
Sports editor

MENDOTA – Rick Jacobs could do it all on the basketball court – run, jump, pass, defend, score, shoot the three. Wait, the three-point shot wasn’t in existence when Jacobs was a star for the Mendota Trojans from 1968-1971.

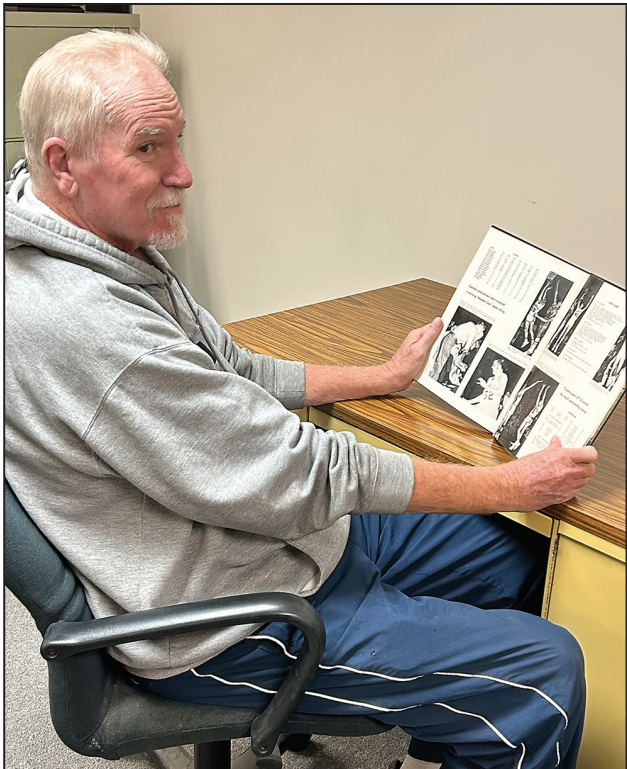
But not getting that extra point when converting a shot from beyond what is now the three-point arc still didn’t stop Jacobs from piling up the points for the Trojans during his three-year varsity career. In fact, more than a half-century later, Jacobs still sits tied for seventh place on the all-time scoring list at MHS with 1,408 points.

For all of his accomplishments during his basketball playing days, Jacobs has been bestowed the ultimate honor by being named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Hall of Fame. Jacobs will be inducted into the Hall with fellow members of the Class of 2023 at the IBCA Hall of Fame Induction Dinner on Saturday, May 6 at Illinois State University’s Redbird Arena in Normal.

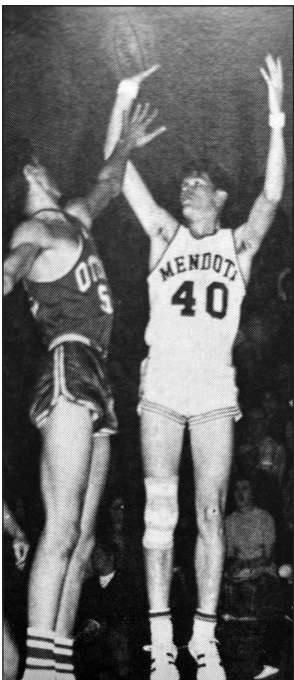
“I’m very honored to be inducted into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame,” said Jacobs. “I would like to thank Jerry Cassidy for starting my nomination prior to his passing and Tom Cassidy for completing my nomination. I would also like to thank Pat Beals for providing all of the statistics.”

Jacobs’ MHS varsity career began his sophomore year under Bob Beals, himself a member of the IBCA Hall of Fame. With his height, Jacobs mostly played in the post that year, averaging 13.5 points per game. He became more of a wing player his junior year, scoring 509 points and averaging 21.2 ppg.

Then came his senior season, when the star-studded Trojans flourished. Mendota was ranked in the top 10 in the state that season and finished with a 27-2 overall record and an 11-0 NCIC mark. The Trojans averaged 90.5 ppg, scoring 100 points or more in nine games, and Jacobs concluded his senior year with 522 points (19.3 ppg). Unfortunately, Mendota’s



Rick Jacobs checks out the basketball pages of the 1971 MHS yearbook. He has been named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. (Reporter photo)



Rick Jacobs goes up for a jumper during the 1970-71 MHS basketball season.

season came to an end in the sectional championship.

“My basketball career was influenced by great coaches, great and talented teammates, talented opposing players and a very supportive family,” said Jacobs.

“Before high school, I was influenced by Earle Boner, who was my junior high basketball coach. Coach Sam Snuffin influenced me during my freshman year, as our team went undefeat-

ed. During my sophomore through senior years, I played on the varsity team, with coach Bob Beals and coach Herman Kreiling, both great influences on me.”

Jacobs achieved many honors during his tenure at MHS, including first-team all-NCIC twice, first-team Pekin Holiday Tournament twice, first-team Chicago Daily News All-State, first-team Galesburg Gazette All-State, first-team Associated Press All-State and first-team Illinois Sportswriters Association All-State.

“I was fortunate enough to have some great teammates,” noted Jacobs. “My teammates were a very talented group of guys. One of those was my brother, Terry, who was a junior and the second leading scorer on the 1971 team. Not many brothers get to play together on the same team, but there were two sets of brothers on the 1971 team. I was lucky enough to play on the same team as my brother along with the Phalen brothers, Brad and Brian.”

Jacobs said the support he received from his family was a great inspiration during his playing career.

“My dad, mom, sisters and Uncle Rusty attended every game,” Jacobs added. “They were there to cheer us

“My basketball career was influenced by great coaches, great and talented teammates, talented opposing players and a very supportive family.”
–Rick Jacobs

on in the Pekin Tournament, which we won. Winning the Pekin Tournament was one of the most memorable moments of my high school basketball career.”

Tom Cassidy was honored to be able to inform Jacobs of his selection to the Hall of Fame during a recent gathering at the Mendota Elks when Jacobs was back in town from his current residence in Montello, Wis.

“Rick’s name is still mentioned by Mendota basketball fans when discussions are held as to the all-time best team and the five best players who ever played at MHS,” said Tom Cassidy, who graduated from MHS in 1976 and was inducted into the IBCA Hall of Fame in 2004.

Pat Beals, who was a sophomore during Mendota’s unforgettable 1970-71 season, remembers Jacobs as a versatile player who could do it all.

“He could bomb from the outside before the three-pointer was in place,” commented Beals. “He could drive and slash to the hole while holding his own in the paint with the big guys.”

After MHS, Jacobs continued his basketball career on a scholarship at Centenary College of Louisiana, playing on the same team as NBA Hall of Famer Robert Parish. He also battled against some well-known players in high school, including Bob Guyette from Ottawa Marquette, who went on to play at the University of Kentucky, and Jim Crews from Normal U-High, who later played at Indiana University.

Byron and Ottawa Marquette deal setbacks to Trojans

Byron shot the lights out from three-point land and rolled over Mendota, 78-56, in a non-conference varsity boys’ basketball encounter on Dec. 1 at Byron.

Six Tigers connected from beyond the arc on their way to 16 total three-pointers in the contest. Byron’s Jack Hively pumped in eight treys and finished with 34 points. He had three trifectas in the first quarter as the Tigers raced out to a 20-9 lead. Mendota made it a single-digit deficit (33-24) at the half, but Hively was back at it in the third period with four treys during a 25-point explosion by Byron.

Mendota placed three players in double-figure scoring, led by Rafael Romero with 14 points. Isaac Guzman chipped in with 13 markers, while Izaiah Nanez added 10 tallies.

The Trojans opened up play in the Colmone Classic and dropped a 58-36 decision to Ottawa Marquette on Dec. 3 at Spring Valley.

Marquette built a 19-10 lead after the first quarter and held a 28-20 margin at intermission. Mendota hung around into the third quarter when it trailed by a 39-32 count, but Marquette ran off 15 points in a row to pull away. The Trojans managed only four fourth-quarter points.

Romero and Nanez had 11 points apiece to pace the Trojans (2-3).

The tournament runs through Saturday, Dec. 10.

BYRON 78, MENDOTA 56						
Mendota (56)						
	FG	FT	Fls	TP		
C. Strouss	0	0-0	1	0		
Guzman	6	0-0	1	13		
Romero	5	4-5	3	14		
Nanez	3	3-3	0	10		
R. Strouss	0	0-0	2	0		
Stamberger	2	0-4	1	4		
Aughenbaugh	4	0-0	0	9		
Dewey	1	1-3	0	3		
Stevenson	1	0-0	1	2		
Koch	0	1-2	0	1		
Totals	22	9-17	9	56		
Byron (78)						
	FG	FT	Fls	TP		
Busser	4	0-0	1	10		
Aken	2	0-1	3	4		
Tucker	6	0-0	0	15		
Adams	1	0-0	3	3		
Hively	13	0-0	1	34		
Kesler	0	2-2	3	2		
Morton	1	0-0	2	2		
Kilduff	1	0-0	2	2		
Drake	1	0-0	0	3		
Hall	1	0-0	2	3		
Totals	30	2-3	17	78		

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	9	24	42	56
Byron	20	33	58	78
Three-point goals: Mendota - Guzman 1, Aughenbaugh 1, Nanez 1; Byron - Busser 2, Tucker 3, Adams 1, Hively 8, Drake 1, Hall 1				

MARQUETTE 58, MENDOTA 36				
Mendota (36)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	2	0-0	2	5
Guzman	1	0-0	0	3
Romero	5	1-4	3	11
Nanez	5	0-0	0	11
R. Strouss	2	0-0	3	4
Stamberger	0	0-0	1	0
Aughenbaugh	1	0-0	0	2
Totals	16	1-4	9	36

Marquette (58)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Bond	6	1-1	1	13
Walker	5	2-2	0	16
Graham	2	0-2	0	5
Durdan	3	0-0	3	7
Nelson	3	0-0	1	6
Zellers	1	0-0	1	3
H. McGrath	0	0-0	1	0
Mullen	3	0-0	0	6
Eller	0	0-2	1	0
P. McGrath	1	0-0	1	2
Totals	24	3-7	9	58

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	10	20	32	36
Marquette	19	28	44	58
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 1, Guzman 1, Nanez 1; Marquette - Walker 4, Graham 1, Durdan 1, Zellers 1				



Mendota’s Izaiah Nanez eyes the basket while being guarded by Marquette’s Grifin Walker in the opening round of the Colmone Classic on Dec. 3 at Spring Valley. (Reporter photo)

2022 Colmone Classic Hall Holiday Tournament results

Saturday, Dec. 3
Marquette 58, Mendota 36
Fieldcrest 63, Bureau Valley 34
Princeton 70, St. Bede 22
Stillman Valley 66, Hall 64
Monday, Dec. 5
Pontiac 89, Bureau Valley 62
Marquette 67, LaSalle-Peru 46
(Tourney continues Dec. 6-10)

Strong 2nd half carries Lady Trojans over St. Bede

Mendota and St. Bede locked up in a tight battle with the Lady Trojans pulling out a 46-43 win in Three Rivers Conference action on Dec. 1 at Peru.

Mendota led by a bucket after the opening stanza (10-8), but St. Bede heated up in the second quarter to take a 25-21 win to the locker room. It was the Lady Trojans that rallied in the third period to tie things up (31-31), and then they had their best quarter of the game by scoring 15 points in the fourth compared to 12 for the Lady Bruins.

“Everyone really stepped up in the second half,” said Mendota coach John Hansen. “We knocked down some real big free throws late to get a nice win.”

Mendota was only 11 of 27 from the stripe in the contest, but made five in the crucial fourth quarter.

Katie Jenner paced the Mendota scoring attack with 15 points, followed by Reanna Brant with 10 and Grace Wasmer with eight. The Lady Trojans totaled

SPORTS



Mendota H.S. Girls' Bowling

Dec. 3 @ Princeton Invite
Mendota 5th place

Mendota scores: Lauren Holland 897 series, Isabelle Escatel 874 series, Talya Schwaegerman 805 series, Karli Miars 786 series

Northbrook School Boys' Basketball

Dec. 1 vs. Spring Valley JFK (6th Grade)

"A" game

Spring Valley 35, Northbrook 29
Scoring: Illan Garcia 10 points, Eli Milus 6 points

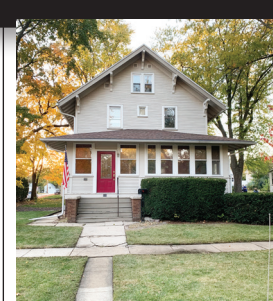
"B" game

Northbrook 11, Spring Valley 10
Scoring: Devin Hernandez 6 points, Josh Granados 3 points

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Reporter sports editor honored with HOF selection

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Staff writer

MENDOTA – When Kip Cheek took a job with The Mendota Reporter in 1984 he didn't know what it would bring.

Or what it would lead to.

Thirty-eight years have gone by and it has led to thousands – maybe millions – of fantastic stories, long-term friends, a family, and calling Mendota home.

His professional work ethic and journalistic ability escalated further when he was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

"I usually watch Hall of Fame ceremonies of professional sports, and quite often those being inducted refer to it as the pinnacle of their career. Well, now I know how they feel," Cheek said. "It's incredible to realize that all of the games attended, the athletes and coaches covered, the miles traveled and the long hours put in after the games have ended has resulted in being selected to the IBCA Hall of Fame."

"It definitely shows my age, but it's mind-boggling to be covering athletes now whose parents I covered when they were in high school. I'm sure longevity has something to do with my selection into the Hall of Fame, but I'd also like to think that I have provided our readers with the best possible coverage of their local athletes and teams all of these years."

He has covered many beats for the Reporter, but sports has always been his favorite as he is a Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Rams fan.

He can tell you stories of the good and the bad, but he's made a living on recalling the good.

"Thirty-eight plus years have gone by so quickly. I can still see Mark Cooper stealing a pass and going in for a would-be dunk at the Plano Christmas Classic in 1986. And then several months later seeing that same group become the first Mendota High School team to advance to the Sweet Sixteen in DeKalb was an incredible experience. I was also there for Mendota's first trip to the Elite Eight in Champaign back in 1989," Cheek said. "The Trojans followed that up with another Elite Eight appearance in 1993, and then of course the 1996 team, which was the first to play in Peoria when the tournament was moved there from Champaign. I still say to this day that Mendota and Shelbyville were the two best teams in the state that year. It's unfortunate that they had to meet in the quarterfinals."

"Then on the girls' side, back-to-back state tournament appearances by the Lady Trojans in 1998 and 1999 was amazing to witness, capped off by a fourth-place finish in '99."

And more recently, it was a joy to watch the Bromenschenkel twins (Abby and Alli) on their tremendous two-year run when they led Mendota to a 51-8 record over their junior and senior years."

Throughout his career, he's left a lasting impact on many people in the community.

Jeff Prusator, Mendota High School Superintendent who is retiring after this school year, met Cheek at the very beginning of his career at MHS when he accepted the assistant principal role 27 years ago.

"When I came to Mendota 27 years ago, my first week at the school, Kip did a story because Bob Atherton was promoted from assistant principal to principal and I was coming in as the new assistant," said Prusator. "That was the first time I met Kip. I still remember to this day, Bob Atherton saying, 'Kip's a good guy. He's one of the good ones.' Kip got off to a good start with that, but even back then, Bob had a lot of respect for the work that Kip did."

"There is no question that the work that he does is hall of fame work. People do get in hall of fames because of longevity, but that only doesn't do it. There are a lot of people who have worked for decades and are not in the hall of fame. It's a combination of putting some time in, surviving, and the quality of people they are and the quality of work that they do."

"There is no question that Kip is a hall of famer and he very well deserves this honor."

Getting back to Cheek recalling the good stories, his readers do, too.

Prusator said Cheek's ability to focus on the good is one of the main reasons he was chosen for the IBCA Hall of Fame.

"What I appreciate about the articles Kip puts in the paper, for high school sports, they are 100 percent about the kids and the kids in a positive light. I've never read an article where he was negative toward an athletic event, a coach, or an athlete, which is awesome in a small town," Prusator said. "Another thing I believe, but I hope I'm wrong, is the Kip Cheeks and the Kevin Hieronymuses, these people who spend most of their career in small communities, isn't going to happen very often."

"I think Kip probably, unfortunately, is under-appreciated by a lot of people about the work that he does and the quality of work that he does, and how he's a promoter of Mendota High School. We appreciate it here at the high school, but I'm not sure if the community has a full appreciation for everything Kip has done throughout his 38 years."

See HOF, Page B3

Girls

Continued from Page B1

44 rebounds, with Brant grabbing 14 and Wasmer snaring 12. Jenner and Brant collected five and four steals, respectively.

Putnam County staved off Mendota, 43-40, in a nonconference contest on Dec. 3 at Granville.

After trailing 15-9 at the end of one period, the Lady Trojans closed the gap and were down by just one (31-30) heading to the fourth, but they could not overtake P.C.

"I thought this was our best start to finish game," commented Hansen.

Jenner pumped in 18 points and had four steals, while Brant added 13 points and 16 rebounds.

A frigid second half sent the Lady Trojans to a 43-25 setback at the hands of conference foe Hall on Dec. 5 at the MHS gym.

Mendota (2-7, 1-2) was down 23-18 at the break and 30-25 after three frames, but it was outscored 13-0 in the fourth.

Jenner led the offense with nine points, while Brant had nine rebounds.

MENDOTA 46, ST. BEDE 43				
Mendota (46)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	6	2-6	2	15
Zinke	1	0-0	1	2
Wasmer	3	2-4	12	8
Brant	3	4-5	14	10
Gonzalez	2	1-2	3	5
Garcia	2	2-10	7	6
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	5	0
Totals	17	11-27	44	46

St. Bede (43)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
De La Torre	5	2-4	4	12
Koehler	2	0-0	0	4
Ehm	3	0-0	5	6
Tillman	1	0-0	4	2
Torres	0	0-0	0	0
Hermes	6	6-6	3	19
Michaels	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	17	8-10	17	43

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	10	21	31	46
St. Bede	8	25	31	43
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1; St. Bede - Hermes 1				

PUTNAM CO. 43, MENDOTA 40				
Mendota (40)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	6	3-6	0	18
Zinke	1	0-0	1	2
Wasmer	1	2-2	5	5
Brant	5	3-7	16	13
Gonzalez	0	0-0	1	0
Garcia	1	0-0	3	2
Schultz	0	0-2	0	0
Totals	14	8-17	26	40

Putnam County (43)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Hatton	4	5-8	1	14
Doyle	4	0-0	0	11
Villagomez	0	0-0	1	0
Boyd	1	3-6	2	5
Spratt	2	0-0	4	4
Ciucci	2	1-2	2	6
Richetta	0	0-2	1	0
Henderson	1	1-2	0	3
Totals	14	10-20	11	43

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	9	19	30	40
Putnam Co.	15	23	31	43
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 3, Wasmer 1; Putnam County - Hatton 1, Doyle 3, Ciucci 1				

HALL 43, MENDOTA 25				
Hall (43)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Christian	7	2-4	2	19
Jones	1	0-0	3	2
Newton	1	0-0	3	2
Wozniak	3	0-2	1	6
H. Giacometti	3	2-3	2	9
Pellegrini	1	0-0	1	2
C. Pellegrini	1	0-0	0	3
Totals	17	4-9	12	43

Mendota (25)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	4	0-1	4	9
Wasmer	1	0-0	6	2
Brant	2	1-2	9	5
Gonzalez	2	0-2	4	5
Garcia	2	0-2	8	4
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	1	0
Schultz	0	0-1	0	0
Totals	11	1-8	32	25

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Hall	13	23	30	43
Mendota	7	18	25	25
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1, Gonzalez 1; Hall - Christian 3, Giacometti 1, C. Pellegrini 1				

MHS Sophomore Boys' Basketball

Dec. 1 @ Byron

Byron 48, Mendota 41
Scoring: Domenic Richey 14 points, Aden Tillman 14 points

Dec. 3 - Colmone Classic @ Spring Valley

(Game 1)
Mendota 48, LaSalle-Peru 47
Scoring: Richey 21 points, Cam Kelly 8 points, Tillman 7 points

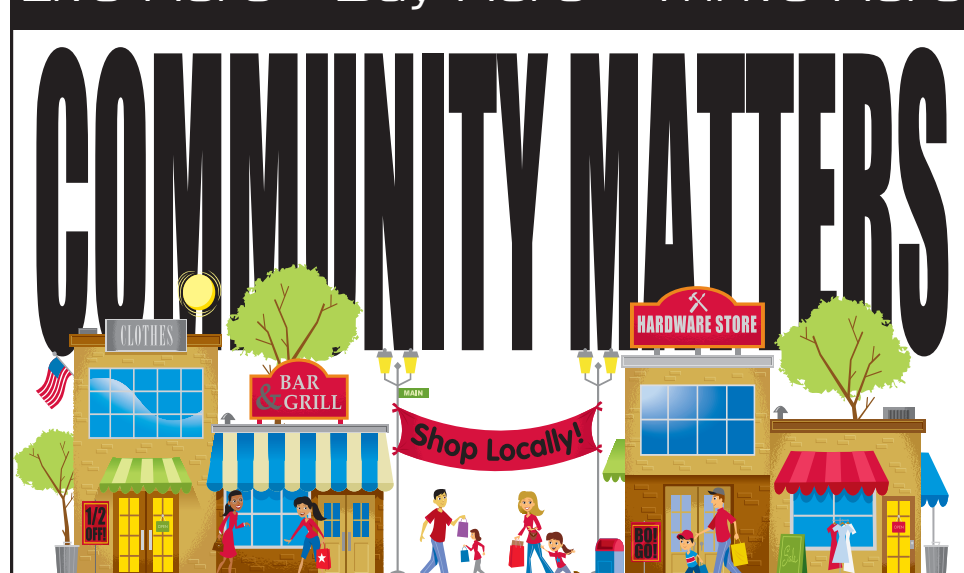
(Game 2)
Mendota 27, Marquette 26
Scoring: Richey 7 points, Tillman 7 points

MHS Freshman Boys' Basketball

Dec. 1 @ Byron

Byron 40, Mendota 39
Scoring: Angel Orozco 11 points, Johan Cortez 9 points

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SPORTS

HOF

Continued from Page B2

Kevin Hieronymus has appreciated Cheek for many decades.

Meeting in the first grade at Atlanta (Illinois) Grade School, being teammates through grade school, junior high, and high school, rooming together at Illinois State University, and being the best man at each other's wedding, they got to know each other closely.

"It's a very deserving honor for him. We've crossed paths many times while working Princeton and Mendota games," said Hieronymus, who has been employed by the Bureau County Republican since 1986. "We help each other out with photos, scores, and stats. It is pretty sweet to have him in the hall of fame. We grew up a half a block away from each other. We pursued the same path. To wind up in the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame together is perfect.

"He's been around a long time, but he's done top-notch work that people are looking for. From Year 1 until now, he's given his readers a hall of fame product.

"The only bad thing about Kip is that he's a Chicago Cubs fan."

BOWLING

Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Nov. 22 – 1. Black Bros. 31-17; 2. Team 2 24-24; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 22-26; 4. Age Old Organics 19-29

High team game (scratch) – Team 2 1083, Black Bros. 1028, JJ&L Carpentry 953

High team game (hdcp) – Black Bros. 1178, Team 2 1148, JJ&L Carpentry 1084

High team series (scratch) – Team 2 3027, Black Bros. 2939, JJ&L Carpentry 2681

High team series (hdcp) – Black Bros. 3389, Team 2 3222, JJ&L Carpentry 3074

High individual game (scratch) – Luke Ross 267, Nate Bradford 259, Scott Novak 244

High individual series (scratch) – Scott Novak 683, Jake Lohmeier 678, Randy Weathers 647

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Nov. 28 – 1. Split Happens 40-15; 2. CM Farm 31-24; 3. Sports-N-Stuff 28-27; 4. Bad Kats 27-28; 5. Leagal Beagles 20-35; 6. Ramer Inc. 19-36

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 734, Leagal Beagles 710, Sports-N-Stuff 669

High team game (hdcp) – Split Happens 988, Bad Kats 977, Ramer Inc. 973

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 2019, Sports-N-Stuff 1985, Leagal Beagles 1975

High team series (hdcp) – Sports-N-Stuff 2843, Ramer Inc. 2817, Split Happens 2781

Men's high game (scratch) – Ron Westphal 234, Matt Ramer 225, Luke Ross 224

Men's high game (hdcp) – Raul Diaz Jr. 280, Ron Westphal 269, Mike Smith & Bob Thomas 263

Men's high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 650, Ron Westphal 635, Mike Smith 578

Men's high series (hdcp) – Raul Diaz Jr. 754, Ron Westphal 740, Brendan Ramer 734

Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 211, Gail Sessler 183, Kim Smith 182

Women's high game (hdcp) – Jessica Robinson 270, Hannah Westphal 262, Debbie Berger 259

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 548, Gail Sessler 483, Hannah Westphal 482

Women's high series (hdcp) – Hannah Westphal 746, Jessica Robinson 725, Sarah Westphal 690

IDNR announces Illinois controlled pheasant hunting program upcoming season information

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is announcing details about the 2022-2023 controlled pheasant hunting season.

Pheasant hunters will need to acquire a Reserved Controlled Pheasant Hunting Permit to hunt on controlled pheasant hunting sites. These permits can be acquired through the online reservation system available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/hunting/Pages/ControlledPheasantHunting.aspx>.

To make acquiring a reserved permit more convenient, hunters will be able to reserve a permit until 9 a.m. the day before a hunt date. On IDNR-operated sites, the daily fee for permits acquired online for controlled pheasant hunting is \$30 for resident hunters and \$35 for non-resident hunters. The daily permit fee applies to each individual hunter.

Hunters are required to pay for permits acquired online over a secure system using a major credit card. A transaction fee of \$1 for a single hunter or 2.25 percent of the permit fee for multiple hunters will be assessed for each permit, except for permits for the Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt. Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt permits are issued at no cost.

All but one of the controlled pheasant hunting sites have ample reserved permits available for all days of the controlled hunting season. Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt permits are also available on most controlled pheasant hunting sites. Hunters are encouraged to make the necessary planning adjustments now to hunt on the sites on the hunt dates desired.

Hunters should also pay attention to advisory signs with information about check-in procedures. Check-out procedures may have also changed at many controlled pheasant hunting sites this season and will be announced during the registration process.

Because of issues during the raising of the

pheasants this year, additional birds had to be procured for the program. The main birds that were available were hens only. More than 20,000 hen chicks were incorporated into the flock to give ample hunting opportunity to hunters. However, this means the rooster-to-hen ratio has been tilted towards hens, with a ratio of one rooster to three hens instead of the historic 1-to-1 ratio.

One special note: Non-toxic shotshells are required when hunting at Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area, Horseshoe Lake State Park, Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area, Mackinaw River State Fish and Wildlife Area, Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area, Chain O'Lakes State Park, Eldon Hazlet State Recreation Area, Green River State Wildlife Area, Johnson Sauk Trail State Recreation Area, and Wayne Fitzgerald State Recreation Area. Hunters are reminded that, when hunting at any of these sites, only non-toxic shotshells may be in their possession.



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PHONE: _____

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Entries must be received at our office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota. Entries must be received by Dec. 15, 2022.

Winners will be notified.

Prizes awarded for:

1st Place

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Must be 10 or younger to enter.



*Thanks to these fine sponsors for making this
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Where are the AUCTIONS?

See Page A8!

How real hope can change your life

For many years, I was an extremely negative person. I could walk into a room and pick out the one small detail that was wrong, like the wallpaper in the corner that was slightly peeling. I saw what was wrong with everything!

The reason for this attitude was that I had been abused for many years throughout my childhood, and I'd experienced a lot of disappointment. When Dave and I got married, I was 23 years old and couldn't remember a time I had ever been really happy.

People who have had a tough time in life are often afraid to expect anything good because they don't want to be disappointed and have to deal with the pain it brings. But I know from personal experience that if you've lived with this mind-set, you can make a change—with God's help—and live with hope!

I know this is true because in John 10:10 (AMP), Jesus says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]." If we will trust and believe in Him, we can have abundant life in Christ!

Believe It Before You See It

I sometimes say that we are the "show me" generation—we want to see it before we believe it. In fact, most of us have a hard time believing that God is working on our behalf until we see something happening with our natural eyes.

But that's not how God operates—He works behind the scenes. You may not see anything happening, but do you believe God is working on things in your life right now? Do you believe that He's got a plan to help your children, your marriage, or those things you've been praying about for years?

Jeremiah 29:11 says that



God has a good plan for your life "to give you a future and a hope." In other words, God is looking for an opportunity to be good to you!

Maybe it's hard to imagine yourself as a positive, faith-filled person, full of hope. If so, I know exactly how you feel. Some people are simply afraid to hope because they have experienced so much disappointment and don't think they can face any more pain.

But that's okay, because God is "the God of hope," and He wants to "fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises" Romans 15:13). With Him, it's never too late to start believing, anticipating, hoping and expecting.

The Truth About What Hope Really Is

One definition of hope is "a favorable and confident expectation." I believe many times we take a passive attitude, deciding we'll just "wait and see" if something will change or "happen" to go well for us. But God wants us to expect on purpose. He desires for us to actively anticipate something good.

So...what are you expecting?

How do you talk about your future? What kind of attitude do you have about your everyday life? When

you get up in the morning, do you think, Well, I guess I'll try to make it through another day. Or do you wake up with anticipation that today might be the day you receive your breakthrough?

It's interesting that when a woman is pregnant, we say that she's "expecting." And the further along she is, the more she anticipates what's coming.

My pregnancies were especially unique because I carried all four of my children approximately a month past their due date. My doctor told me I was the only woman he knew who stayed pregnant as long as an elephant!

Toward the end of each pregnancy, I woke up every day and said, "Today is going to be the day—it has to be the day!" I had my suitcase packed and ready. I was constantly double-checking everything and making sure things were in order, confident that my baby would come at any moment. Anytime I felt a twinge, I would think, There it is! It's coming!

This is exactly how God wants you to be with Him! He has an incredible plan for your life, and He wants you to anticipate that good things are right around the corner.

Hope says: "Things may have been this way for a long time, but God is the God of the impossible, and things can change."

Maybe you've endured a lot of pain and disappointment and can't imagine anything getting better. The enemy wants to convince you that things will never change. But God is a God of hope, new beginnings and second chances!

He wants you to know that He loves you...and knowing that will fill you with overflowing hope!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's three-teaching resource Filled with Hope. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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.

The 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

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Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

• **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **CASH CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.

• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
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101 LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

IN THE ESTATE OF)
)
) HECTOR M. LEMUS,
) Deceased.
) No. 2022 PR 153
)

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Hector M. Lemus of Mendota, Illinois.

Letters of Office were issued on October 5, 2022 to MANUEL LEMUS of 1811 Stroble Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 as Independent Administrator and Representative, whose Attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, in the LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent Executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Administrator is required, the date stated in that Notice.

Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Administrator and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of the Court.

GREG VACCARO, CIRCUIT CLERK - LASALLE COUNTY, LASALLE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 119 WEST MADISON STREET, OTTAWA, IL 61350

David M. Kaleel, Attorney at Law, 806 Jefferson St., Mendota, IL 61342, (815) 539-5616, kaleel5@frontier.com
No. 1201
(Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2022)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone

can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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
127 Services and Repairs

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

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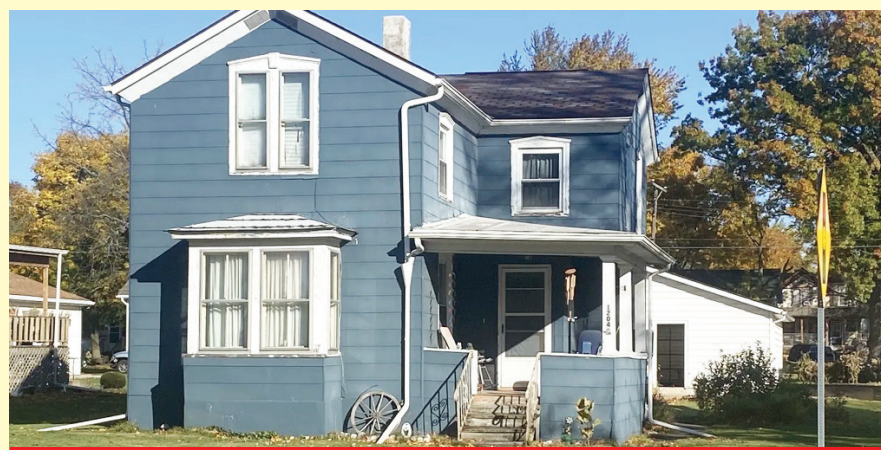
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