

Lights, camera...The Sound of Music

□ Mendota’s Gage Richey, 13, performing in musical at Paramount Theater

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Gage Richey does a lot of juggling. No not in a circus or at a kid’s birthday party as a clown.

Richey, a 13-year-old student at Northbrook School in Mendota, obviously has schoolwork and school commitments.

Throw in four nights of the play, The Sound of Music, at the Paramount Theater in Aurora, then creating audition tapes for future acting and singing gigs, and Richey’s juggling act is just as impressive as one you would see at a circus.

“I didn’t know I’d enjoy acting and singing at first, but I’ve always sang around the house,” said Richey. “When I did my first show, I really loved it, and I enjoyed meeting all of the people. I also enjoyed seeing how cool the set was.

“I was really excited to meet new people and really see how different city theater is from local theater. There are videos of me singing from a long time ago when I was younger. I have definitely made a big improvement from then.”

The production of The Sound of Music began with five weeks of rehearsals starting in September and began its run of eight weeks of shows—four nights a week—in mid-November, which will run until mid-January.

Before being part of the play, Richey had never seen the movie, The Sound of Music.

He has seen it now, but it was after the audition, the five weeks of rehearsals, and a couple of live performances.

“It was a good movie,” Richey said. “In the play, I portray Friedrich and I’m a 14-year old boy. He is the



The Sound of Music, now running four nights a week until mid-January at the Paramount Theater in Aurora, features Gage Richey, 13, top left, from Mendota, as Friedrich Von Trapp. (Photos contributed)

son of Captain Von Trapp. I get to be a kid on stage. It’s pretty cool.”

Richey started performing at the age of 9, a little more than four years ago.

He wasn’t a sports kid.

He wasn’t an all-day, every-day gaming kid.

His parents, Ashley and Derek Richey, found something their son may enjoy.

“He did his first musical when he was 9 at Stage 212 in La Salle. He didn’t initially want to do it, but I thought it might be something he would enjoy because he isn’t a sports kid,” Ashley Richey said. “I gave him a little shove and said, ‘Let’s try it out.’

“Gage did a little workshop a week before the audition of the Stage 212 show, did the audition, and got a role. The minute he went on stage, it was like, ‘Whoa, who



Gage Richey, a 13-year-old student at Northbrook School, smiles with The Sound of Music Director, Amber Mak.

See Richey, Page A5



Mendota Dist. 280 Board approves 2022 tax levy

□ Tax rate expected to decrease for homeowners

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education met Dec. 19 for a Public Truth in Taxation hearing and a regular meeting.

The Public Truth in Taxation hearing did not have any public comment. A hearing is required if the proposed aggregate tax levy is greater than 5% more than the previous year’s tax extension. 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 the extension. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$5,718,680. This represents an 11.56% increase over the previous year. 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 \$368,800. This represents a 0.35% increase from the previous year. 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 from the previous year.

Superintendent Jeff Prusator shared the historical tax rate comparison. The 2022 estimate of \$2.1998 is down to the 1989 rate of \$2.1801.

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Mendota family brings comics to life through its quilts

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Staff writer

MENDOTA – Almost 30 years ago, Tori Artman hand-sewed her first quilt.

What she didn’t realize was this was going to be the start of something that evolved from an activity with her grandmother, a hobby, a love and a passion, a skill—and for the last three years—a business.

“I made my first quilt in 1993. It was hand quilted. I sat for two weeks over Christmas break with my grandmother (Phoebe Wilts),” said Artman, who works at NIU in the Senior Vice Provost Office as the Business Administrative Associate Undergraduate

“It’s so much fun to talk to the customers passing through comic shows. At our last show, someone was actually crying as she bought the quilt because it touched her so much. I love doing it. I love sewing.”

—Tori Artman

Studies and Institutional Effectiveness. “We sat at her hand-quilting frame in her living room and quilted it together. I still have it. It’s a queen size, so it’s huge.

“My grandmother got me into quilting. At that time, a lot of churches had weekly quilting classes or groups. People either finished their quilt top and took it to those ladies to hand quilt or there were people that commissioned start to finish.”

In February 2019, Artman and her husband, Jason Artman, purchased a long-arm quilting machine giving them the availability to be the ones people could give their finished quilt top to and they could sew the three layers of a quilt together.

Sew Quiltables became the Artman’s business on Oct. 29, 2019.

Since the beginning of their company, the couple, with help from their two

daughters Mia and Piper when they’re not in college, have made over 250 quilts.

“It started with Tori doing the long-arm service where people bring in quilts, she finishes them, and then sends them out. Part of promoting that was, people won’t realize what you can do until you show them,” said Jason Artman, a teacher and civ-

See Quilts, Page A5



Tori Artman sewed her first quilt in 1993 with her grandmother. Almost 30 years later, Tori and her husband, Jason Artman, are making quilts through their business, Sew Quiltables, and selling them at comic book shows across the country. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



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



LOCAL AND AREA



Dr. Tracy Morris, left, with IVCC President Jerry Corcoran, center, and board attorney Walt Zukowski. Morris was named IVCC president on Dec. 20. (Photo contributed)

T. Morris named president of IVCC

OGLESBY – Dr. Tracy Morris of Spring Valley was officially appointed Illinois Valley Community College’s next president at a special meeting of the board on Dec. 20. “IVCC has been an important part of my life since I was a young child and it is a dream come true to be able to return to serve as the President for the college that has meant so much to me and to my family,” Morris said following the appointment.

Following a brief closed session, trustees appointed Morris as the college’s 11th president and approved her employment agreement. She will assume presidential duties July 1; current president Jerry Corcoran will retire June 30.

Morris is the first IVCC graduate to be named its president. Former president Al Wisgoski (1974-1996) graduated from IVCC predecessor LPO Junior College.

She is currently Compliance Officer at Joliet Junior College and as such performs oversight including on-time reporting, meeting legislative and accreditation requirements, and conducting assessments and reviews. She also provides oversight for the review of board policies and institutional procedures.

Prior to joining JJC in 2018, she was Vice President of Student Services at Illinois Central College (2014-18) and worked 13 years at IVCC as Associate Vice President for Student Services (2010-14), Director of Admissions and Records (2003-10) and counselor and orientation coordinator (2001-03).

She began her career as a school counselor at Annawan Grade School (1999-2001) and a teacher at Mendota High School (1994-99).

Morris earned a doctorate in Adult and Higher Education and master’s in Education Counseling from Northern Illinois University, bachelor’s in psychology from Western Illinois University and an associate degree from IVCC. She and husband Mike have two daughters, Zoe and Caroline.

During the special event, each crafted their own gingerbreadhouse, used stickers for a silly craft, enjoyed games and puzzles, and had an opportunity to play with a snowman felt board. It was a busy evening with lots of smiles.

All aboard! Polar Express at Mendota’s Union Depot Railroad Museum

Graves-Hume Public Library has Christmas events for children

MENDOTA – Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special visit to Graves-Hume Public Library on Dec. 19.

Santa read ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas’ while Mrs. Claus handed out special gift bags. Children also received craft boxes donated by Flat River LLC, which were distributed in cooperation with the United Way. They also each received a book of their choice from Usborne Books through fundraising efforts by Jennifer Bast.



Santa and Mrs. Claus read a Christmas story to children at Graves-Hume Public Library. (Photo contributed)

event was held on Dec. 16. Children had a private tour of the miniature train sets. They then had their very own special showing of “The Polar Express” in the train car. Hot chocolate and cookies were enjoyed by all.

FOP Starved Rock Lodge serves local officers

LaSALLE – The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Starved Rock Lodge 338 was officially organized on Nov. 22, and offers advocacy, support and fraternal benefits for active duty and retired law enforcement officers in the LaSalle and Bureau county areas.

“We are pleased and honored to be part of the nation’s largest fraternal organization representing the men and women of law enforcement,” said Lodge 338 President Darin Crask. “The Starved Rock area contains beautiful scenery, hard-working and honest citizens, and some of the state’s most dedicated public servants who wear a badge. We hope to soon make an impact on our officers’ quality of life and on the people they serve and protect.”

Starved Rock FOP Lodge

338 officers include Darin Crask, Earlville Police Department, President; Brian Zebron, LaSalle Police Department, Vice President; Kendra Wolford, Princeton Police Department, Secretary; Mark Razny, Seneca Police Department, Treasurer; and Tom Richardson, Earlville Police Department, Sergeant-at-Arms. Lodge 338 members include current and past officers from the LaSalle, Seneca, Utica, Princeton and Earlville police departments and personnel from other area departments are invited to join.

Potential lodge members include law enforcement professionals, active or retired, from the LaSalle and Bureau county areas. This includes full- and part-time police officers, state and county correctional officers,

conservation police officers, sworn telecommunications and dispatch personnel, court services officers, community service police officers, police chiefs, county sheriffs, and coroners.

The Fraternal Order of Police, founded in 1915, is the largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers in the United States. With a proud tradition of officers representing officers, the FOP is the most respected and most recognized police organization in the country. The Illinois FOP, chartered in 1963, is the second largest State Lodge, proudly representing more than 34,000 active duty and retired police officers - more than 10 percent of all FOP members nationwide. Visit www.ilfop.org for more information.

The Mendota Reporter and Mendota Money Saver will have early deadlines due to Christmas and New Year.

The Mendota Reporter and Mendota Money Saver will have early deadlines due to Christmas and New Year.

For the Dec. 26th edition of the Money Saver, the advertising deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m.

For the Dec. 28th edition of the Reporter, the advertising and editorial deadline is Thursday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.

For the Jan. 2th edition of the Money Saver, the advertising deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 28 at noon.

For the Jan. 4th edition of the Reporter, the advertising and editorial deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 28 at noon.

The Mendota Reporter will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, and reopen at 8 a.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 27, in observance of Christmas.

The Mendota Reporter will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, and reopen at 8 a.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 3, in observance of New Year.

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Front: Rose and Larry Leffelman
Back: Mary Reglin, Julie Burkardt, Lexi Willey, Chris Klein, Riley Klein, Karli Althaus, Lisa Quest

As the year ends, we at Leffelman & Associates have a tradition of reflecting on the past year in our Christmas Card to you. Looking back at our reflections from past years, things have changed a lot! For example, on our 2019 card, we began it with this sentence, “As the US prepares to enter its 125th month of economic expansion – the longest in history – and the American stock markets remain near all-time highs, the Midwest is fighting the elements.” Wow! Things look quite different than what they did 3 years ago! Our farmers have had one of the best crop years ever, but our economy is not so good, to put it mildly. To quote Anne Murray’s song, “We sure could use a little good news today!” As we’ve said before, we feel blessed to be in our little corner of the world where we all come together to support each other. Please continue to support local businesses so we can keep our little corner of the world alive and flourishing. Our product is financial security, and we are here to protect our customers. So, this Christmas Card goes out to you with heartfelt prayers from all of us, that you and your families will have a warm and wonderful Christmas and a new year filled with health and happiness.

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The Mendota Reporter

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LOCAL AND AREA

USDA to measure financial well-being of Illinois farmers

SPRINGFIELD – Beginning in late December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend several months gathering information about farm economics and production practices from farmers and ranchers across Illinois, as the agency conducts the third and final phase of the 2022 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

“ARMS is the only survey that measures the current financial well-being of Illinois producers and their households as a whole,” said Mark Schleusener, Illinois State Statistician. “The results of this survey will help inform decisions on local and federal policies and programs that affect Illinois farms and farm families.”

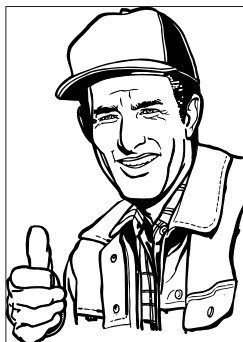
To obtain the most accurate data, NASS will reach out to more than 35,000 producers nationwide, including 1,750 in Illinois, between January and April. The survey asks producers to provide in-depth information about their operating revenues, production costs, and household characteristics. The 2022 ARMS survey includes a version of the questionnaire focused on farm costs of production and expenditures for wheat producers. The survey also includes questions to help measure any impacts of COVID on farms, farm and household finances, and off-farm employment.

“In February, our interviewers will begin reaching out to those farmers who have not yet responded by mail or internet,” said Schleusener, “We appreciate their time and are here to help them with the questionnaire so that their information will continue supporting sound agricultural decision-making. And completing this questionnaire fulfills your 2022 Census of Agriculture requirement.”

Information provided to NASS is kept confidential, as required by federal law. The agency only publishes data in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual respondent or operation can be identified.

The expense data gathered in ARMS will be published in the annual Farm Production Expenditures report on July 28, 2023. That report and others are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications. More reports based on ARMS data and more information about ARMS are available at ers.usda.gov/arms.

For more information, contact the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014 or nassrfohlr@usda.gov.



Tips for live Christmas tree disposal

LISLE – Whether you keep up your Christmas tree through the new year or take it down once the presents are opened, Julie Janoski, manager of The Morton Arboretum’s Plant Clinic, recommends that you start planning now for how you will dispose of the tree.

Once the halls are undecked and the boughs of holly make their way back to storage, follow these recommendations from the Arboretum.

- Prevent fires. Dry trees can quickly become fire hazards. Dispose of your tree as soon as it shows signs of drying out. Dry needles will become brittle and start to fall off, and the tree will no longer take up water. Never burn your evergreen tree in a fireplace or woodstove. It may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

- Recycle. Check with your municipality or waste management company about local tree recycling or disposal arrangements, including when and where trees will be picked up or whether you need to take your tree to a recycling site. Recycled trees are chipped into mulch or compost. In some municipalities, the fine-smelling mulch



that results can be picked up to spread in your garden.

- Clear the branches. Only the actual tree can be recycled. Be sure to remove all decorations, and if you use a plastic tree bag to carry the tree from the house, take the bag off outside. Trees that aren’t bare will go to a landfill instead of being recycled. Flocked trees—those covered in white synthetic powder to suggest snow—can’t be re-

cycled; they must be thrown away in regular trash. Don’t try to recycle garlands, wreaths, or anything that contains wire, which could damage the shredding machinery. Discard those items in the trash.

- Protect your garden. Branches cut from your tree can help protect plants in your garden. Laid over beds, they will insulate the soil so it doesn’t heat up in winter warm spells and cause plants

to come out of dormancy too early. This is most useful in beds that are in full sun.

- Wildlife Shelter. If space permits (and your neighbors don’t mind), leave the tree in the backyard to provide shelter for birds and other animals during the wintertime, or place the trunk in a pond on your private property to provide shelter for fish.

For more tree and plant care tips for a greener world, visit mortonarb.org.

IVCC hosting “Coffee with a Counselor” Jan. 4 at Ottawa Center

OTTAWA – Illinois Valley Community College hosts “Coffee with a Counselor” from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4 at its Ottawa Center, 321 W. Main St. Students can apply, speak with a counselor, and register for spring classes.

“Coffee with a Counselor allows students to meet with a counselor, register and pay—all in one visit,” said Jeannette Phalen, Ottawa Center administrator.

Spring registration is underway for classes beginning Monday, Jan. 9.

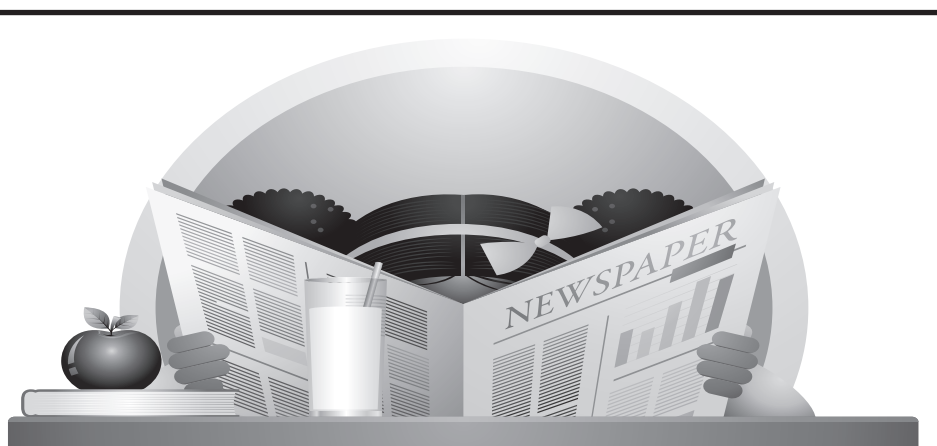
Ottawa Center’s expanded spring offerings include The Global Environment (BIO 1000 600), 2-3:15 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays; Introduction to Business Computer Systems (CSI 1002 650), 1-2:40 p.m. Wednesdays; English Composition I (ENG-1001-600), 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; English Composition II (ENG-1002-600), 8-9:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; The Art of Film (FLM 2009 600), 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays;

Introduction to Oceanography (GEL 1006 600), 2:30-3:45 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; Statistics Supplement (MTH 0108 600), 1-1:50 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; General

Elemental Statistics (MTH 1008 600), 1-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Abnormal Psychology (PSY 2006 600), 1-2:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; Introduction to Sociology (SOC 1000 600), 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Marriage and Family (SOC-1002-600), 1-3:45 p.m. Fridays; and Fundamentals of Speech (SPH-1001-600), 9:30-10:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For information, contact Phalen at (815) 224-0800 or Jeannette_phalen@ivcc.edu. Food, coffee, cocoa and prizes will be available.



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Member FDIC

Closed Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

Midland States Bank

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Member FDIC

Closed Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

David L. Lawrence

ARLINGTON – David Lloyd Lawrence, 69, of Arlington, passed away Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, in his home.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, from 5-7 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church, LaMoille. The funeral service will be on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at Community United Methodist Church, LaMoille with Rev. David Jungnickel officiating. Burial will follow in Greenfield Cemetery, LaMoille. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

David was born Aug. 29, 1953, in Mendota to Donald and Leola (Hassler) Lawrence. He married Hazel Miller on July 1, 1978, at Community United Method Church, LaMoille.

He is survived by his wife Hazel of Arlington; two daughters, Crystal (Danny) Rodriguez of La Salle and Toni Lawrence of Chicago; three sons, Samuel (Brittney) Lawrence of Seatonville, Matthew Lawrence of Arlington, and Daniel (Samantha) Lawrence of Oglesby; 17 grandchildren; one brother Donald (Collen) Lawrence of Princeton; and one sister Dorene (Eugene) Barr of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Delwyn Lawrence.

He graduated from LaMoille High School in 1971. He was a member of the Community Methodist Church in LaMoille. David raised his family in Arlington for the last 45 years and enjoyed fishing, listening to Johnny Cash, watching John Wayne movies, being outdoors on his patio, sitting by the pool and most of all making his family laugh.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Louis C. Barr

ANDOVER, Kan. – Louis C. Barr, 89, of Andover, Kan., passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 16, 2022 at the Catholic Care Center.

Rosary will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7 p.m. Funeral Mass will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Friday, June 9, 2023 at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow. Interment will take place at the Kansas Veterans' Cemetery of Winfield on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 2 p.m., following the luncheon.

Louis was born Aug. 24, 1933, the son of Arthur and Isabella (Harth) Barr. He graduated from Saint Bede Academy in Peru, and later received a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Louis was united in marriage to Jeanne Plante on July 20, 1963, in Fall River, Mass.

He is survived by his daughter Mary Yates; son Peter Barr; grandchildren, Maydelline Chang, Gabriela (Barr) Wright and husband KJ (Kenneth), Shaylee Yates, Hannah Barr, Naomi Barr, Benjamin Barr; and great-grandchildren, Stephen, Kathleen and Kahlani.

Louis is preceded in death by his parents, wife Jeanne Barr, and son Joseph Barr.

Louis was drafted into the Army in 1953 where he served two years. Afterwards, he served in the Air Force as a pilot until 1976. He later worked for Life Watch and the Flight Safety Academy.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Donations may be left in care of the Shelley Family Funeral Home of Winfield.



Gerald E. Becket

MENDOTA – Gerald “Jerry” E. Becket, 76, of Mendota, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022 in his home.

Services will be held Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at noon at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Burial will be in Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of services.

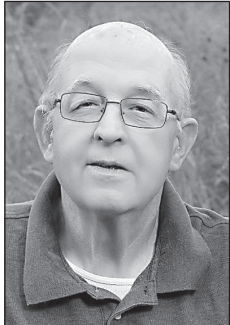
Jerry was born Dec. 17, 1946 in Mendota to Frank and Dorothy (Forster) Becket. He married Lorraine Baier on Aug. 16, 1969 at Holy Cross Church, Mendota.

He is survived by his wife Lorraine of Mendota; his son Brian (Kim) Becket; his two daughters, Sherri Wittenauer of Sublette and Amy (Brian) Lofthouse of Rochelle; seven grandchildren, Kody Becket, Hayden Wittenauer, Kamdyn Becket, Alainie Wittenauer, Avery Wittenauer, Clara Lofthouse and Brody Lofthouse; and his grand dog Bo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard Becket.

He was a 1964 graduate of Mendota High School and attended Illinois Valley Community College. He worked at Hart Carter in Mendota for over 30 years as a maintenance electrician and then for Mendota School District 289 as a maintenance manager for over 10 years before retiring in 2011. He was a member of the Mendota VFW Auxiliary. He loved spoiling his grandkids, weekend gatherings with his family and playing cards and tending to the neighborhood squirrels.

Memorials may be directed to the Illinois Veteran's Home at LaSalle. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Illinois loses more residents in ‘22 than any year on record

CHICAGO – Illinois experienced its largest population decline since the state started shrinking nine years ago. According to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, Illinois' population declined by a record 104,437 residents from July 2021 to July 2022.

The trend is driven by residents moving to other states, an Illinois Policy Institute analysis found. Illinois' net domestication outmigration of 141,656 residents was the largest in the state's history.

This year also saw five major companies move their headquarters out of Illinois.

Analysis of U.S. Census data finds:

- In 2022, Illinois saw nearly the equivalent of the population of Rockford, the 5th-biggest city in Illinois, moving away to other states.

- Illinois' share of residents lost to outmigration and population decline was second worst in the nation, behind only New York.

- Illinois had the third-worst population decline and outmigration in raw numbers, behind New York and California.

- The most popular states in the nation, as measured by the biggest raw increases in people moving to them, were Florida, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Arizona.

“The record number of residents who left Illinois this year should be a wake-up call to the state's leaders, who refuse to adopt policies that would make it easier for residents to stay in Illinois,” said Bryce Hill, director of fiscal and economic research at the institute. “Residents and major businesses such as Caterpillar and Boeing are sending a message by leaving. Reforms that would ease Illinoisans' tax burden or reduce arduous business regulations are needed to make the state more affordable and send people running to Illinois, rather than away from it.”

To learn more about Illinois' population loss, visit illinois/2022population.



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LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
Top of Sicily Pizzeria building
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L.E.A.S.E. preschool screenings set Jan. 3

MENDOTA – L.E.A.S.E. will be holding free preschool screenings at First United Methodist Church, 100 E. Sixth St., Mendota, on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, in the morning.

An appointment can be made by calling Jean at 815-433-6433. The screenings are for children who are 3 or 4 years old. L.E.A.S.E. will screen key developmental areas such as motor development, speech, language, vision, hearing and general readiness.

It is asked that only one parent/caregiver bring the child.

Tips to protect your home from burglars

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department encourages its citizens to prevent crime before it happens. Taking a few prevention steps could keep your home from being a target. The golden rule in home security is to ensure that your property does not present an opportunity. Please consider these burglary prevention tips.

- A would-be burglar will look for signs of an alarm or cameras. Let them know they cannot enter your home unnoticed.

- Over one-third of home burglaries are termed by police as “no force” entries. Doors or windows that are left unlocked allow easy access to the home.

- Sliding glass doors are another easy way in. They are usually at the rear and can often be lifted out of their frames.

- An unsecured garage door presents an opportunity for a burglar to enter your property if your garage is attached to the home or to find tools to assist him.

- An unlocked shed or outbuilding likewise presents an easy target. The burglar can use your own tools to enter your home or take valuables such as bikes and lawnmowers.

- A dark property is always attractive. About 90 percent of all intruders choose not to enter a residence that is well lit so keep the main entryways and exterior sections of your home lit, either constantly or using motion sensor lighting.

- Overgrown bushes or trees close to your home allow a burglar to hide and can provide a leverage to higher windows.
- A quick escape is important for a burglar, so high fences or hedges are a real deterrent.



- Burglars prefer to target empty residences. Stop the newspapers when you go on vacation and have a neighbor pick up your mail.

- Install a deadbolt lock. Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave. The more popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over one-third of all burglaries, there is no forcible entry - someone forgot to lock the door.

- Install solid doors. Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1-3/4 inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.

- Keep garage doors closed and locked.

- Secure sliding doors and windows. Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both castings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.

- Secure sash windows. To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail. To prevent aluminum windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.

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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The Mendota Reporter

Publication No. (USPS 339-100)
Vol. 144, No. 52

A Charter Member of
Mendota Area Chamber
of Commerce
Member Northern Illinois
Newspaper Association
and Illinois Press
Association

The Mendota Reporter (339-100) is published weekly at 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342. Subscription rates are \$56 per year in advance in LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties and \$76 per year in advance in the United States outside those three counties.

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Mendota Reporter,
P.O. Box 300,
Mendota, IL 61342.
Phone (815) 539-9396.

LOCAL AND AREA

Richey

Continued from Page A1

is this kid? This is a different kid.' He just lit up. He had all of this stage presence."

The young performer was in a musical at Illinois Valley Community College in 2019. He then received his first main starring role as James in James and the Giant Peach at Sauk Valley Community College, but the show was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The virus essentially stopped all local theater, which paused Gage's acting.

Until, Ashley found suburban theater was still happening, masked, but they were still putting on shows. Gage took a lead role in Barrington – 1 hour and 45 minutes away from Mendota – as Ben in Disney's Descendants the Musical and a role in St. Charles as Artful Dodger in Oliver! Jr. last winter.

"We tossed around the idea of this, acting and singing, becoming a bigger thing for him. We auditioned for Paramount Theater, which is a professional theater and you get paid if you get the role," said Ashley Richey. "I follow a lot of the bigger theaters and all of the local theaters, and saw they were auditioning for The Sound of Music. There was a role that fit his criteria.

"He went up there and auditioned and got the call back. When we got the call back, we were excited and thought it was cool because it means he was in the running for the role. We thought that was the coolest thing ever."

A couple weeks later, the Richeys got the notification letter that Gage was going to get an offer letter to be cast.

"It was kind of crazy. I think every kid has their own thing and it's important to get involved with something, no matter what it is," Ashley Richey said. "I was super excited that he had found that passion and that he was good at it. As a parent, you think, 'Oh he can sing really well. He can dance. He can act.'"

"But when you start branching out and you're going to the suburbs, and no one knows who he is, you're talking about a bigger group

of kids auditioning and not local kids everyone knows. I thought it would be a good indication if this was for him or not. I can judge him all I want and say he's great, but if he's able to get these roles, that tells us we need to keep going."

The Sound of Music may be the beginning for Gage.

After auditioning for the play in Aurora, the Richeys headed to Florida for Gage to perform in front of some important people.

"When he started doing The Sound of Music, some of the kids have already done professional work and some were new. A lot of them have talent agents and maybe managers," Ashley Richey said. "When we first started, it was just me doing all of the research and figuring things out. We had to get him a work permit and there are all kinds of crazy things that go into being a 13-year-old that wants to do something professional.

"A few weeks before getting the offer for Sound of Music, we met with a talent scout. Gage was invited to do a showcase in Florida. He did the Frozen Junior play in Mendota and then the following week we were in Orlando. He was performing in front of 30 different managers and casting directors. We went from being completely new to boom, boom, boom, all these crazy things are happening. It has been wild."

When the Richeys returned from Florida, they received the offer for Gage to be Ben in The Sound of Music.

Simultaneously, because of the showcase in Florida, Gage received offers from a manager and an agent in Los Angeles that wanted to work with him to submit him for work in films and commercials.

In September or October, he also signed with an agent in Chicago.

The kid who didn't know if he would be interested in performing is now doing four shows a week, making audition tapes, conversing with a manager and two agents, and completing school work... juggling.

Continued from Page A1

ics leader at Mendota High School. "So, we started making small quilts and showing them at small craft fairs. One of my good friends and high school wrestling teammates owns a comic book store. He saw some of the things we made, and we actually gave him one on the anniversary of his store opening.

"He gave us the idea that we could actually sell them at comic book shows. That's what we do now."

Comic book shows are Sew Quiltables' main realm of business as they venture to five to seven shows a year.

In 2023, the Artmans will pack their bags, their equipment, and the 60-70 quilts they take to a show in their van and hit the road to Chicago (twice, hopefully C2E2 this year), Indianapolis, Detroit, Denver, and Cincinnati.

"We were dating in 1989, so I was dating her when she made the first quilt with her grandmother. She made them for both of our kids when they were younger, and nieces, nephews, and other family members," Jason Artman said. "Somewhere along the way, she needed my help to design a few things and draw things out. I did some graphic design before I was a teacher.

"I started by designing things for her. When it came to the business, she's the only one that has the skill to long arm. The more that I can do, that's not long arming, the more orders or quilts we can get done. Our daughters helped with the sewing until they went to college. Then I started sewing as well as cutting, designing, and working with artists.

"When Tori first said she wanted to do this business, I said, 'I'm not making a bunch of old lady quilts for the rest of my life.' I wanted to do something cool and then the comic book stuff started up. The comic books have been a way to keep us both happy. I always say, 'Tori has been

quilting for 30 years and I have been a Star Wars geek for a lot longer."

Spider-Man is the most popular comic book character in North America and the Artmans see it in their quilt sales as he sells faster than the others. Jason Artman added, they will make a lot of Spider-Man pillowcases for a show and they sell out.

Tori brings a sewing machine and a mini Yeti power generator so she can sew at the shows. The Spider-Man merchandise sells just as fast as she is sewing.

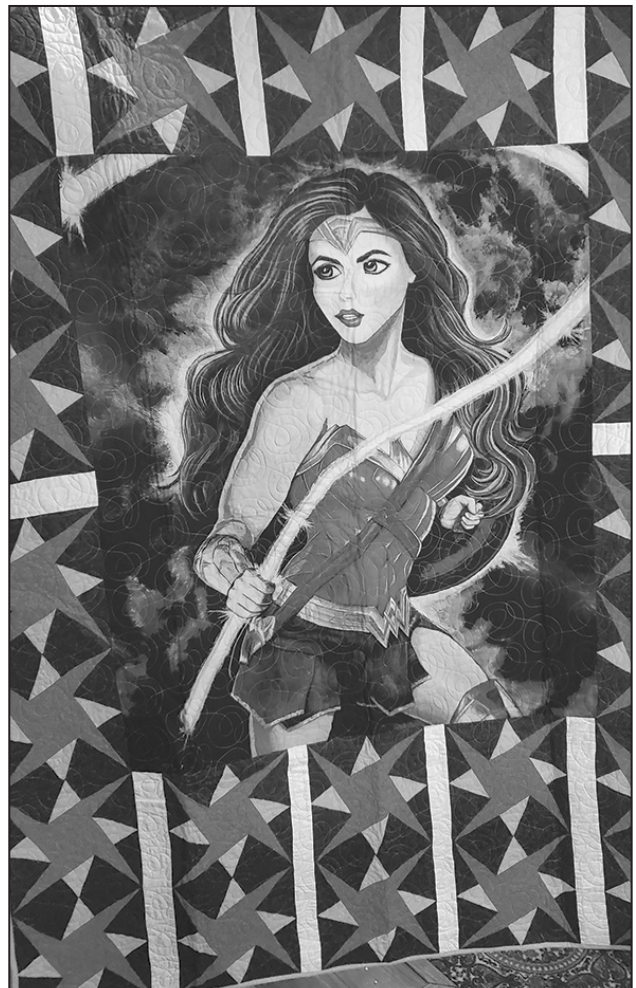
What the Artmans can provide that no one else can is characters and artwork drawn by artists who no one else is putting on fabric.

MHS's art teacher, Brock Sondgeroth, has drawn Venom and Phanos for the Artmans to put on fabric. The Chalk Girl and other artists Jason and Tori are familiar with have also had their characters come to life through fabric.

Tori Artman is also venturing into Steampunk, a subgenre of science fiction that incorporates retro-futuristic technology and aesthetics inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery.

The sizes of Sew Quiltables quilts range from small quilts, to throws, to twin size, and all the way up to California Kings, while priced from \$175-\$600 depending on different factors including whether an artist needs to be paid and the size of the material.

"This was a dream of ours. This is something that we do as a secondary job, but we're building it up as our retirement," said Tori Artman, who has over 100 designs she sews on the back of quilts with



Tori and Jason Artman take 60-70 quilts to each comic book show they travel to for their business, Sew Quiltables. As Jason says, "We could take 70 Spider-Man quilts to a show but we would need 70 Spider-Man fans who are ready to pull the trigger and buy a quilt. If we have 70 different characters, we only need one superhero fan who can like any character."

her long-arm quilting machine. "This is what I hope to be doing when I retire because I do enjoy it. It's so much fun to talk to the customers passing through comic shows, to see artist's works, to see customer's excitement when you give the long arms back to them, and to talk to the customers that like to buy our quilts. At our last show, someone was actually crying as she bought the quilt because it touched her so much. I

love doing it. I love sewing. "It's interesting how much we've changed over the last three years. Our displays have changed where we used to make sure we always had an item or a setup and now we don't use it at all anymore. We're trying to downsize or make our displays thinner so we can actually put more product in there.

"We had to buy a van, but we're still running out of room."

Dist. 280

Continued from Page A1

The tax rate is estimated to decrease for Mendota taxpayers from 2021 to 2022.

After the Truth in Taxation hearing, the regular board meeting was called to order. The minutes were approved. Financial reports were approved. There were no board member reports.

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh presented the Athletic Spring bids, and they were approved.

Aughenbaugh congratulated the MHS music students who earned Illinois Music Educator awards for District recognition. Choir: Laura Arenz, Eli Arjes, Em Clark, Clare Hanson, Trekker Klemma, Karli Miars, Alayna Nosalik, Mia Raya, Nick Reyes, Jillian Younger. Band: Aiden Arjes, Landon Bauer, Zach Giberson, Spencer Kain, Carlos Olivas. Jazz: Ella Lewis. Students earning ILMEA State recognition were Eli Arjes and Giberson.

Aughenbaugh said MHS is closed through Jan. 3 for winter break. A teacher's institute is set for Jan. 3 and students will resume classes for spring semester on Jan. 4.

Aughenbaugh added that students and parents can check for semester grade updates in Parent Connect. Students who fail a course the first semester can have a mandatory schedule change made in January.

The District/Business Report was presented by Prusator. The 2022 Tax Levy was approved by the Board. There was a second reading and consideration for approval on board policy

updates. The board voted to approve them. Consideration and approval were granted by the board for the intergovernmental agreement with Starved Rock Associates for Vocational and Technical Education (SRAVTE). The non-certified seniority list was presented and approved by the board.

The board voted to enter into a closed session to discuss personnel. Upon return to the open session,

the board hired Cody Zinke as the head boys' baseball coach and Alexa Damerell as the spring 2023 interventionist teaching position. Damerell will be teaching sections of social studies and intervention periods. She was also hired as an assistant girls' track coach. Damerell was a fall student teacher at MHS in the social science department.

The next regular meeting of the District 280 Board will be Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

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OPINION



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Life in a fishbowl

By Scott Reeder

An ambulance arrived at a U.S. senator's house recently and hauled his 14-year-old daughter away for self-inflicted stab wounds.

When I read that news report earlier this month, I just cringed.



Reeder

That child didn't choose to be a politician's daughter. And her problems shouldn't be exhibited in the news media for all the world to discuss. Fortunately, the staff of the senator, who represents a southwestern state, said her wounds were not life-threatening.

Most every news report I've read identified the child and her father.

I'm sorry, that's a line I won't cross.

News organizations shouldn't write about the travails of politicians' children unless it would otherwise be newsworthy or the parent misuses their power to get the kid out of trouble.

I have three daughters ages 12, 14 and 17. It's never been easy to be a teenager and it's especially hard when you have a parent who holds elective office. Your life is in a fishbowl.

Don't believe me? Well, during every election cycle, I receive phone calls from people telling me about the alleged transgressions of the children of politicians.

Yes, every election.

Sometimes the folks who make these calls are political operatives. But often they are ordinary people wanting to feel better about their own screwed up family by pointing out the faults in someone else's.

This year, I received a call from a member of a prominent Democratic family who reported that the son of two Republican officeholders was ticketed for underage drinking when he was a high school student.

I looked up the case, found that the judicial system treated the young man like just about everyone else and declined to do a story.

A few years ago, the son of a prominent Springfield politician was arrested on a minor drug charge. I was sitting at the kitchen table reading about the arrest in the city's daily newspaper when my sister-in-law, who had taught the young man, began hollering, "You'd better not write a story about him. He's a good kid!"

I replied that I didn't consider it newsworthy. In fact, I believe the competing newspaper's reporting to be gratuitously cruel. Still, my sister-in-law eyed me with a bit of suspicion.

When one news organization does something, often everyone in the industry gets painted with the same broad brush.

When I was a young reporter in Galveston, Texas, the son of a judge was arrested for stalking his ex-girlfriend. During the preliminary hearing, the defendant's father, who was sitting in the back of the courtroom, rose and addressed the presiding judge as a "friend of the court." He asked for leniency for his son from a fellow member of the judiciary.

I reported the entire incident because it struck me that his father was misusing his influence to see that his son received preferential treatment.

In 1991, when I was reporter in Iowa, the 16-year-old son of Gov. Terry Branstadt was driving home from his part-time job when he was involved in a head-on collision that killed two people.

A two-person fatality would normally warrant a short story with the names of everyone involved. Ultimately, Eric Branstad was ticketed for improper lane usage and fined \$15.

In the end, media reporting allowed voters to decide whether the prosecutor in the case handled the matter appropriately.

When I was a legislative reporter, a state senator I covered adopted a troubled boy who had been a ward of the state. It can't be easy to be raising a kid in an environment where everyone knows your family's business.

For years, I would receive phone calls from the senator's political adversaries about his boy's latest transgressions. The malicious calls were an effort to hurt the senator by attacking his child.

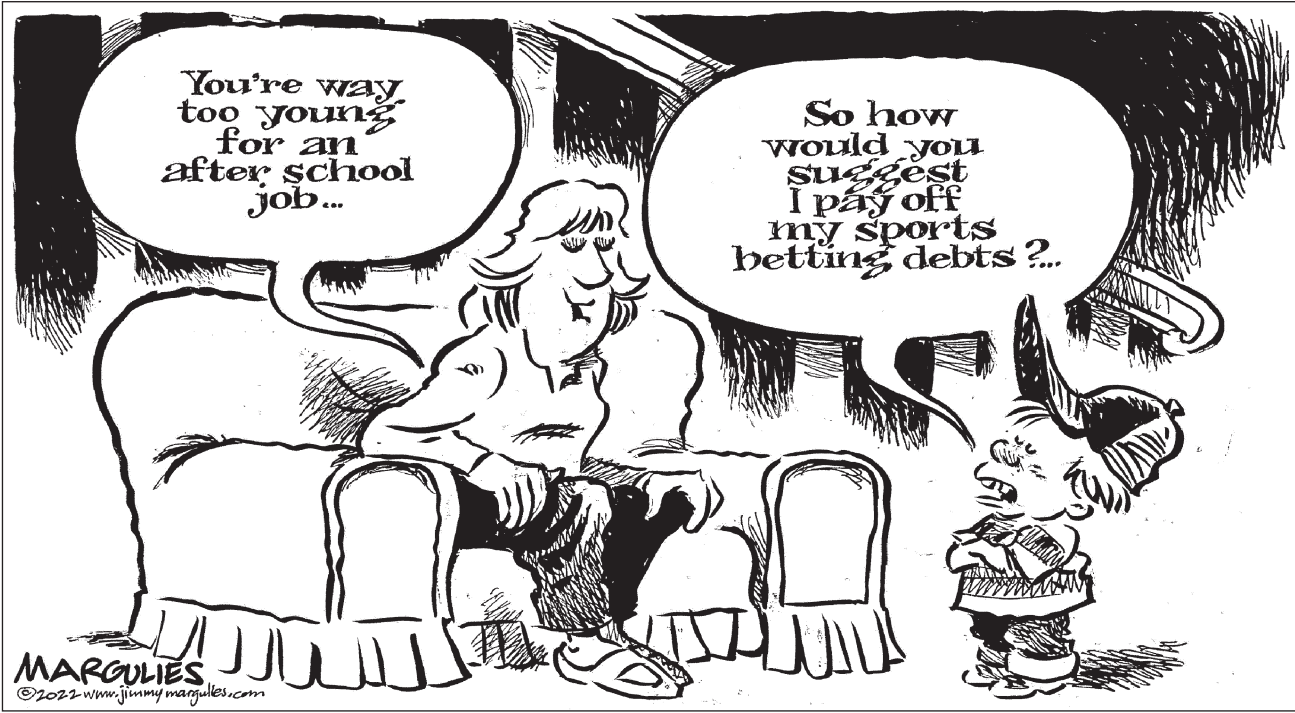
I never printed any of the assertions. Why? Because the child isn't the one holding public office and none of us get to choose our parents. Besides that, it's got to be hell to be raised in an environment where everyone knows your mistakes.

In 2007, the son took his own life. I was glad I never reported on any of his transgressions. My conscience is clear.

Ronald Reagan's daughter Patti Davis once wrote in the Washington Post: "Unfortunately, for political sons and daughters, the fear of how you will be perceived as you go about your life, as you pursue your dreams and goals, underlies everything. It's a toxic way to live. You have to constantly second-guess yourself, as in, 'If I were anyone else, this would be a great opportunity, but it's probably just being offered because of who my father is, and even if it isn't, it could look that way.'"

No one should be forced to live that way.

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



Laying post office cornerstone – 1931

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Dec. 26, 2001.)

By Jessica Nashold

One of Mendota's historic moments was the laying of the cornerstone for the long-awaited new post office on the corner of Washington Street and Indiana Avenue. Mayor John W. Rutishauser issued a proclamation urging citizens to gather for this event on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1931, at two o'clock. He hoped businesses would close between the hours of two and three, allowing workers to be present, as well. Adjacent roads would be closed to provide standing room for the crowd.

American Legion Post 540 was in charge of the ceremonies, led by Alderman John E. Black, a past Post Commander. Legionnaires, wearing their caps, gathered at the Legion rooms and marched to the post office site. The Elks Drum Corps circled the business blocks and the high school band played patriotic tunes. Boy Scouts were also on hand.

The Rev. W.A. Stauffer, post chaplain, offered a prayer. Significant documents and membership lists were placed in a copper box in the cornerstone. Because a "drizzling rain" developed, speakers addressed the crowd from the porch of the Elks building. Congressman John T. Buckbee, of Rockford, Mendota's Representative, expressed regret that, after April, he might no longer be able to represent Mendota because of redistricting. He was pleased that the post office was going up and assured Mendotans that "when the government builds anything, it makes sure it is well built."

The building will be serving for generations to come.

Mayor Rutishauser expressed gratitude for the post office on behalf of the city. Postmaster George Whitmore summarized the history of acquisition of the site and the years devoted to obtaining the necessary funding from the government. He credited Congressman Buckbee for tireless work in behalf of Mendota. Ironically, it appeared at this time, that redistricting would remove Buckbee from the district in which Mendota was located.

SIDETRACK – The following year it appeared this redistricting would not be allowed.

Contents of the copper box in the cornerstone: Card of Congressman

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Buckbee; Dec. 10, 1931 issue of The Mendota Reporter & Sun-Bulletin; copy of the Elks "Eleven Bells;" copy of Tri-Parish Bulletin; telephone directory for Mendota, Compton and West Brooklyn; members of the post office staff, serving on Dec. 10, 1931; members of the Mendota Fire Department; letter by Edgar P. Nisley; officers and members of the Masonic Lodges, Eastern Star, American Legion Post 540, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of America, Woman's Order of Moose, Women's Relief Corps, Woman's Club; invitation to cornerstone laying and member of committee.

It was reported that there would be a change in the lobby of the new post office. At the suggestion of Postmaster Whitmore, slabs of marble would be substituted for walnut, originally specified for wainscoting.

E.E. Alger signed a long-term lease in the building housing the Strand Theatre. The building was owned by E.J. Degenhardt, who had been proprietor of the Princess Theatre, which preceded the Strand. Alger planned to cooperate with A.W. Robinson, whose lease would not expire until April 1932. Improvements to cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000 were in the planning stage.

Illinois Northern Utilities changed its method of billing for gas usage. Without any advance notice, gas was now measured in therms instead of cubic feet.

The bill is supposed to be exactly the same.

A number of farmers had received an offer from Illinois Northern Utilities to lease right-of-ways across their land. Objective was to lay a natural gas line in the vicinity of Mendota. After meeting to discuss the matter, farmers who had received an invitation offer of \$1 for privilege of laying the line and subsequent possible damage, turned to C.E. Gates, LaSalle County farm adviser, for counsel.

The farmers deemed the offer in-

sufficient.

The coming of the pipeline was not unexpected.

A game between the Waldorf Café Five and Gildersleeve's Giants, a colored team, was scheduled for Dec. 30, 1931, in the high school gym. The Giants, thus far undefeated, had a reputation for entertaining maneuvers on the basketball court.

Folks will come from miles around to see the Giants perform.

SIDETRACK – The Waldorf Café Five managed to outscore the Giants, 23-19.

Sixteen Kroger store managers met with district managers, for both grocery and meat departments, at the Mendota Kroger store. In 1931, Mendota's Kroger store was located in part of the Waldorf building on the southwest corner of Illinois Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Showing at the Strand Theatre on Dec. 25-26, 1931, was "Ex-Bad Boy," starring Jean Arthur and Robert Armstrong. On Dec. 26 only, live actors presented "The Man of the Hour" on stage.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson purchased the Puritan Team Room in December 1931.

They promised old time barbecue sandwiches. They also dispensed Philip's 66 gas and oil. A grand opening was scheduled for New Year's Eve.

A new city basketball league was formed in which Boyle's Revellers and teams from the Lutheran, Methodist and Evangelical churches competed.

Truckenbrod Motor Co., on North Main Street, advertised used cars. Down payments ranging from \$98 to \$227 were quoted, with balance to be paid monthly. Asking prices for these vehicles were not specified. Whippets, Fords, Chevrolets and Dodges were available.

More were described as "like new."

On the first day of winter, Dec. 21, 1931, there was no frost in the ground and Christmas shopping was being done in shirtsleeves.

A furnace fire almost makes a house too warm.

Donald Trump's miserable month

By Rich Lowry

So far, Donald Trump is having the worst campaign launch since Beto O'Rourke.

Like almost everything else he's done lately, his early announcement of his next presidential campaign has proved a flagrant political misjudgment.

A move that was supposed to demonstrate his strength is showing his weakness; a move that was meant to keep other candidates out of the race is an invitation to other candidates to get in; a move that was supposed to serve notice of his continued dominance of the party is pointing toward its potential end.

He's been eclipsed as an internet troll by Elon Musk, and as a vote-getter by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

He's managed to get the worst of both worlds -- he's been largely invisible at the same time that he's been involved in several damaging controversies.

His midterms got even worse, with the final thudding defeat of one of his prized political projects, Herschel Walker in the Georgia Senate runoff.

And Trump's entry hasn't boosted his poll numbers, or even stabilized them. He's continuing to slide versus DeSantis, with a couple of new polls showing him trailing the Florida governor in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup.

In short, it's hard to imagine how Trump could have had a worse month-long run. Ordinarily one might say, as a way of exaggerating to emphasize the point, that it only could have been worse if he had had dinner with a Nazi -- but, of course, he did that, too.

It's still early, and premature to count Trump out. Elected Republicans remain scared of him, and we still can't know if the only potential candidate to show strength against him, DeSantis, will run, or how he'd perform.

If Trump is going to win the nomination, though, it will involve recovering from his disastrous announcement and aftermath.

He clearly believed that the act of announcing in and of itself would be sufficient to cement his status as top dog.

That was wrong, and it meant he never thought through the rather crucial question, "So you're a candidate -- now what are you going to do?"

There's been no media blitz. There's been no tour of the country. There's been no rollout of policy or any unifying theme.

If it's too early to make too much of the polls, the former president is still in a uniquely vulnerable place. It's one thing to be trailing if you are a new figure on the national stage who still has room to grow; it's another if you have universal name ID and everyone already has an extremely well-formed view of you.

It's going to be hard for Trump to find a second act when his act hasn't changed since 2015. Besides, even if he purports to have turned a new leaf, who at this point is going to believe him?

He doesn't have easy levers to use to change the narrative. It's not as though he can have a good legislative session next year like the governors who are thinking of running or use his executive powers to pick useful fights.

There probably aren't even exciting new events he can hold to grab the attention of voters or the media. His signature, of course, are his rallies. They were fresh and new in 2015 and 2016, and quite powerful throughout his presidency and immediately afterward. Now, they are as old and familiar as a Rolling Stones concert.

What's been most damaging to Trump is that association with him in general and "Stop the Steal" in particular proved politically toxic in the midterms. Other Republicans can try to achieve distance in the future. But obviously Trump can't.

These things would have been true even if he hadn't announced already, but if he hadn't gotten in, people would have wondered if he'd instantly look stronger once he was actually in the race. Now, he's answered that question for his adversaries decidedly in the negative.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

LOCAL AND AREA

Farmers can expect high interest rates, higher costs in '23

By ZETA CROSS
The Center Square
contributor

SPRINGFIELD — Farmers borrow short term money up front every year to pay for inputs and operating expenses. At harvest time when they sell their crops, they pay back their operating notes.

For the first time in 20 years, fast-rising interest rates have doubled the cost of short term operating notes, an impact a lot of farmers have never seen before.

"Farmers who are 40 or 50 years old have run cash flows and budget numbers for years, but they have never experienced the interest rate shock we have now," said Brad Zwilling, vice president for data analysis with Illinois Farm Business Farm Management. "Those are the rates that have gone way up. Those are the ones that have a big impact."

Costs in 2022 were higher than in 2021. In 2023, farmers can expect significantly higher price tags for just about everything.

"The big piece is that increased interest rates have added to the volatility that we have already started seeing in agriculture over the last three years," Zwilling said.

Run a tighter pencil. Pay down debt where it makes



In 2023, farmers can expect significantly higher price tags for just about everything.

sense. And take a hard look at cash flow, Zwilling advised. "Know if you can make money," he said.

In 2012 and 2013, a lot of farmers had cash and they needed tax deductions. That drove sales of tractors and big ticket equipment. Ten years later, a lot of that equipment is ready to be replaced.

Zwilling advises farmers to look carefully at their cash flow and discuss purchases with trusted advisers.

"Make sure to have a team and go over the numbers with

them," Zwilling said. "Even if the team is just the farmer and the lender and the farmer's spouse, talk to people."

With all the expected 2023 price hikes, adding payments on a \$100,000 tractor at 7% or 8% interest may not make sense, he said.

"Be proactive, not reactive," Zwilling advises. "I know I am going to have to replace this tractor in the next two or three years; how am I going to pay for that?"

Meanwhile, when something is available for a lower

price, don't wait, he said.

"Take advantage of that," Zwilling said. "Whether it is an attractive interest rate or a load of fertilizer at a good price, take advantage of the good deals."

Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association is a cooperative educational service program designed to assist farmers with management decision-making and record keeping. FBFM has eight locations across the state.

Tips for handling downed tree limbs after a storm

LISLE — High winds and freezing temperatures can damage trees and often bring down branches. Once temperatures have warmed and damage can be assessed, experts recommend a slow, methodical approach to cleaning up any downed trees or limbs.

The Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic experts offer tips for handling the impact of storms on trees, as well as preventative measures to take before the next one.

After the storm

- Stay clear of power lines. Keep well away from fallen trees or branches near power lines. Live wires may not be easy to see, especially in snowy conditions, and can be deadly if touched. Call an electric utility company to handle these trees.

- Don't take chances. You can clear a small tree or branch yourself if it has completely fallen to the ground, but avoid removing a large tree or branch, or one that has fallen on a building or car. It likely weighs hundreds or thousands of pounds, and can cause serious injury if it falls or shifts during its attempted removal. If you do any work on a fallen tree or branch, keep your feet on the

ground. Never climb a ladder with a chainsaw.

- Call a pro for big jobs. Let a professional remove trees or large branches that have fallen on buildings or cars. Trees are extremely heavy and tree work is dangerous; sub-zero temperatures and icy conditions compound the danger.

Before the storm

- Choose the right tree. A tree species that is well adapted to your site conditions, including the amount of sun available and the type of soil, will be less likely to become stressed and weak. Therefore, it's less likely to be damaged by winds and abnormally low temperatures. If you're planting a tree, choose the right species or variety for the planting site. Consult the Plant Clinic for help in assessing your site and choosing an appropriate tree.

- Don't plant trees near power lines. Many power outages and serious accidents are caused because trees sway and interfere with power lines, or trees or branches fall on them. Don't plant a tree within 20 feet of a power line unless its mature full-grown height will be less than 25 feet. If a tree will grow to be a

tall shade tree, plant it at least 50 feet from any utility line.

- Prune trees when young. The time to establish a sound structure is during a tree's first few years. Start pruning a young tree in the winter a year after you plant it. For the majority of large tree species, make cuts to favor a central leader. In general, eliminate branches that reach the trunk at acute angles; sharp angles are weaker than wide angles. Keep pruning until the tree is too tall to work on with your feet on the ground.

- Have trees inspected by a licensed professional. Large trees provide many benefits, such as providing shade, saving energy, clearing pollution and increasing property values. However, they require regular maintenance, just as your home does. Have large, established trees inspected every few years for signs of disease, defects or weaknesses that might make limbs more likely to fall. Pruning by an arborist who is trained, licensed, and insured can make trees less vulnerable to high winds and ice storms.

For more tree and plant care tips, visit mortonarb.org.



VIRTUAL ONLINE

LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

230 ACRES ± • 2 TRACTS

The Gunderson farm is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Ottawa, Illinois or 23 miles northwest of Morris, Illinois and is further described as being located in Section 5, T34N-R5E, Miller Township, LaSalle County, Illinois. The property contains a total of 230 acres (subject to survey), will be sold in 2 tracts and represents a combination of productive tillable cropland, timber, and grassland providing excellent outdoor recreational opportunities.

Farmers and outdoor enthusiast, be sure to check out this LaSalle County, Illinois property.

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Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

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MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}

107.69 SURVEYED ACRES • 1 TRACT

The Schumacher farm is located approximately 8 miles west of Toluca, Illinois or 33 miles northeast of Peoria, Illinois and is further described as being located in Section 1, T29N-R2W, Richland Township, Marshall County, Illinois. The real estate contains a total of 107.69 surveyed acres, will be sold in 1 tract and represents highly productive Class A soil.

Farmers and investors, be sure to check out this Class A, Marshall County, Illinois farm.

VIRGINIA SCHUMACHER FARM

Representing Attorneys:
Scott A. Shore | Shore Law and Mediation
PO Box 231 | Hennepin IL 61327 | (815) 925-7117
Christopher Ryan | Attorney At Law
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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.

BEUTKE FARM
ROBERT BEUTKE

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

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

DOMESTIC BATTERY
Eric A. Becker, 46, of 902 Carolyn St, Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to a third-party call of a possible domestic at 10:24 p.m. Dec. 24. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail to appear before a judge.

Winter Weather Ordinances

MENDOTA – During winter weather conditions, the Mendota Police Department reminds residents to obey the following ordinances:

• Ordinance 41.38 – Parking After Snowfall
It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street in the city at any time after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred, unless the snow has ceased and has been plowed off or otherwise removed from the street.

Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association found violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for each violation of this ordinance and may be subject to towing said vehicle away. The cost of said towing shall be the obligation and expense of those violating this Section.

• Ordinance 6.21 – Depositing Snow in Streets
No person within the city shall remove any snow from his private property or from offstreet parking lots or right of way parking into any of the city streets or alleys. This Section does not apply to removal of snow from sidewalks. This Section is specifically directed to, but not limited to gasoline stations, medical and dental clinics, or any other business or corporation which has private parking on the property or in those areas where the berm of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.

The above ordinances are in place to assist the city of Mendota with snow removal from the city streets.

Make sure CO detectors are in working order

SPRINGFIELD - The Office of the State Fire Marshal warns residents across the state to pay special attention to the distinct signals sent by carbon monoxide alarms when their life has expired. Frequently, people may believe that a beep coming out of their CO means it's time for a battery change, when in fact it means that the device needs to be replaced.

"It is extremely important to pay attention to the different beeps that come out of a dead CO alarm. We want to ensure that our residents understand the difference in order to take immediate action and prevent a tragedy," said a spokesperson from the Illinois State Fire Marshal's office. "Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer. The replacement of dead carbon monoxide detectors is also a life saver."

Since January 2007, it has been an Illinois law to have a properly functioning CO alarm in all dwelling units. The law requires that detectors must have battery power as the primary or secondary power supply. They cannot be solely electric

powered. Many carbon monoxide detectors now in service were made prior to the incorporation of the new requirements and may not have an end-of-life signal.

Carbon monoxide is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the nation, claiming approximately 300 lives a year, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Because CO is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas, it can kill people before they realize its presence. It can be produced by gas or oil appliances such as furnaces, clothes dryers, water heaters, ovens, space heaters or, in some cases, by fireplaces and wood-burning stoves.

OSFM advises consumers that if their CO alarms were manufactured before August 2009, prior to the incorporation of the new requirements, they may not have the end-of-life feature. In addition, residents who have a carbon monoxide detector installed for more than three years should look for the manufacturing date, which may be found on the

outside back of the alarm or visit the company's website for further information. If none can be found, the device should be replaced without any hesitation.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be tested every month by pushing the test button. If the alarm goes off, follow the basic steps:

- If your CO detector activates, evacuate everyone from your home immediately leaving the door open for ventilation on your way out and then call 911.
- Do not re-enter until experts have investigated the problem and declared it safe to return.

Other important tips:

- Ensure that household appliances are installed and running correctly. Have a professional technician check fuel-burning appliances, furnaces, chimneys and vents at least annually for blockages, corrosion, debris and faulty connections.
- Check appliances in the home that use natural gas, oil, wood and kerosene such as water heaters, clothes

dryers, ranges, ovens, gas-powered refrigerators and pilot lights.

- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances in a room with closed doors or windows or in rooms where people are sleeping.
- Check venting systems to the outside for cracks and blockages such as flues, chimneys and fireplaces.
- Make sure space heaters are vented properly.
- Never operate generators indoors.
- Never burn charcoal inside home, garage, vehicle or tent.
- Never use gasoline-powered tools and engines indoors.
- Never use gas-powered appliances such as an oven or clothes dryer for heating a home.
- Never leave a car running in an attached garage, even if the garage door is open.

For additional information about carbon monoxide poisoning, visit the OSFM webpage at www.sfm.illinois.gov or the National Fire Protection Association.

Winter weather driving safety tips

MENDOTA – The Mendota Police Department would like to remind drivers of a few safety tips to keep everyone safe while driving in winter weather conditions.

Take the time to clean the snow and ice from all vehicle windows prior to driving on the road. Keep your speed down to assist in keeping control of your own vehicle

when driving on slick icy roads. If traveling long distances remember to pack a few emergency items to take along in the event your vehicle should go off the roadway, including a cell phone, blankets and water.

If you are leaving town and need information regarding road conditions, call 800-452-4368.

MFD: Keep fire hydrants clear in your area

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

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

Where are the

AUCTIONS?

See Page A7!

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



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

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This New Year's Eve Just Remember... Drinking + Driving = DISASTER

"As we have in the past, on New Year's Eve we will be sponsoring our Ride Home Program. Anyone who has had too much to drink can call here as long as they live in the city, and we'll give them a ride home."

The telephone number is 815-539-9331

—Police Chief Greg Kellen

You can call them tipsy, blasted, smashed, bombed, wasted or drunk.
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SPORTS



Mendota's Isaac Guzman looks for a shot attempt while being guarded by Riverdale's Brody Clark on Dec. 21 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Mendota grapplers fall to three foes in home opener

MENDOTA – The Mendota wrestling team hosted three other squads in a quadrangular meet on Dec. 20 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans were beaten by Streator, 60-12. Keegen Stewart pinned his opponent at the 1:48 mark in the 132-pound bout and Corbin Furar pinned his foe in 1:44 at 138 pounds for Mendota's two wins.

Mendota suffered a 54-6 setback to St. Bede. Julian Jordan (152 pounds) was the lone winner for the Trojans, pinning his opponent in 1:15.

Ottawa was Mendota's other opponent and the Pirates came away with an 84-0 win.

Dec. 20 @ Mendota
Streator 60, Mendota 12
106 – Gwaltney (S) won forfeit; 113 – Pollett (S) won forfeit; 120 – Martinez (S) won forfeit; 126 – Benstine (S)

won forfeit; 132 – Keegen Stewart (M) pinned Barbee (S), 1:48; 138 – Corbin Furar (M) pinned Richardson (S), 1:44; 145 – Warwick (S) pinned Lea Turner (M), 1:42; 152 – Thompson (S) pinned Reyli Sandoval (M), 1:42; 160 – Goplin (S) pinned Dean Gilbert (M), 1:43; 170 – double forfeit; 182 – double forfeit; 195 – Lopez (S) pinned Reese Lane (M), 0:16; 220 – Radke (S) pinned Albert Harris (M), 1:23; 285 – Westerhold (S) pinned Nathan Giberson (M), 3:31

St. Bede 54, Mendota 6
106 – double forfeit; 113 – double forfeit; 120 – double forfeit; 126 – double forfeit; 132 – Savage (SB) pinned Gavin Evans (M), 1:25; 138 – Raffety (SB) pinned Jose Hermosillo (M), 3:59; 145 – Pineda (SB) pinned Brooke Bailey (M), 1:38; 152 – Julian Jordan (M) pinned Maschmann (SB), 1:13; 160 – Connelly (SB) pinned Gilbert

(M), 1:42; 170 – Gillan (SB) won forfeit; 182 – Sramek (SB) won forfeit; 195 – J. Migliorini (SB) pinned Lane (M), 1:23; 220 – R. Migliorini (SB) pinned Harris (M), 3:53; 285 – Hahn (SB) pinned Giberson (M), 0:29

Ottawa 84, Mendota 0
106 – Munoz (O) won forfeit; 113 – Harmon (O) won forfeit; 120 – Laitela (O) won forfeit; 126 – Duffy (O) won forfeit; 132 – Stanfill (O) pinned Evans (M), 5:27; 138 – Snyder (O) pinned Hermosillo (M), 1:35; 145 – M. Duffy (O) pinned Rhett Watson (M), 1:44; 152 – Cabrera (O) pinned Jordan (M), 1:17; 160 – Reding (O) pinned Gilbert (M), 1:38; 170 – Ristau (O) won forfeit; 182 – Spicer (O) won forfeit; 195 – Wilson (O) pinned Lane (M), 1:39; 220 – Medrow (O) pinned Harris (M), 1:43; 285 – Perez (O) pinned Giberson (M), 1:21

Depleted Lady Trojans defeated by Riverdale

□ Mendota minus 3 starters in setback

PORT BYRON – Riverdale rolled up a 52-19 win over the Mendota Lady Trojans in a nonconference varsity girls' basketball meeting on Dec. 21 at Port Byron.

Mendota, playing without three of its starters, found itself starting up at an 18-8 deficit after the first frame and it was never able to catch up.

The Lady Trojans managed to score just 11 points over the final three quarters. Mendota trailed 29-12 at halftime and was down 35-15 heading to the fourth period.

"I honestly thought we stepped up and held our own way more than the score shows," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "(Reanna) Brant had a monster game. She played post and then point guard for most of the second half. Hopefully we heal up over Christmas."

Brant paced the Lady Trojans with 15 points, 12

rebounds and six blocked shots. Cassie Gonzalez hauled down eight rebounds, swiped four steals and had a pair of blocked shots, while Emma Schultz collected five rebounds.

Mendota has a 4-10 overall record heading into the Amboy Holiday Tournament, which will be held Dec. 27-30.

RIVERDALE 52, MENDOTA 19				
Mendota (19)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Frey	0	0-0	2	0
Wasmer	0	0-0	1	0
Brant	6	3-4	12	15
Gonzalez	1	0-0	8	2
Sondgeroth	0	0-0	2	0
Schultz	1	0-2	5	2
Totals	8	3-6	30	19

Riverdale (52)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Duke	5	0-2	1	13
Willemkens	1	0-0	0	2
Hugart	1	0-0	0	2
Grant	2	0-2	1	4
Hartson	1	0-0	0	2
Dalaska	1	0-0	0	2
Oleson	0	0-0	1	0
Thompson	1	0-0	0	2
Craigsmiles	1	0-0	3	2
Caves	2	0-0	1	4
Cox	1	0-0	1	2
McLaughlin	1	0-0	0	3
Hungate	6	2-2	0	14
Totals	23	2-6	8	52

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Mendota	8	12	15	19
Riverdale	18	29	35	52

Three-point goals: Riverdale – Duke 3, McLaughlin 1



Mendota's Ryne Strauss sails to the basket past Riverdale's Jake Willems on Dec. 21 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Trojans get deuce at buzzer to down Riverdale, 53-51

□ D. Stamberger hits game-winner

MENDOTA – Mendota survived a furious fourth-quarter comeback by Riverdale to nip the Rams at the wire, 53-51, in a non-conference varsity boys' basketball contest on Dec. 21 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans held a 31-28 halftime lead and then began to separate themselves from Riverdale in the third quarter. After Rafael Romero and Riverdale's Jake Willems exchanged three-pointers to start the second half, Mendota reeled off six points in a row in a 40-second time span, all from Ryne Strauss, to take a 40-31 lead. Willems scored a conventional hoop to end the Trojan scoring streak, but Mendota's Izaiah Nanez capped off the quarter with consecutive hoops to build the margin back up to nine (44-35) heading to the fourth.

Mendota still owned a comfortable nine-point cushion just over two minutes into the final frame, but the Trojans suddenly went cold and Riverdale went on a 9-0 run to tie the score at 46-all with 2:55 left.

A Romero trifecta put Mendota up 49-46, but the Rams answered 15 seconds later with a three-ball of its own by Willems to make it 49-49 with 2:22 to go. Ryne



Stamberger

Strauss and Brody Clark exchanged baskets to keep the score knotted with 1:50 left, and that's the way the score remained until the final second of the game.

Riverdale misfired on a three-point try with six seconds left. Romero grabbed the rebound and fired to Dominik Stamberger, who cruised in for a game-winning layup as time expired.

Ryne Strauss led three Trojans in double figures with 12 points, followed by Romero with 11 and Nanez with 10. Jace Baird hit a pair of three-pointers in the first quarter and ended with eight markers. Baird, Romero and Nanez each had a pair of treys for the Trojans, who enter the Plano Christmas Classic with a 6-6 record.

MENDOTA 53, RIVERDALE 51				
Riverdale (51)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Doty	0	2-2	2	2
Willems	9	1-1	2	22
Clark	5	0-3	2	10
Watson	4	1-2	1	10
Kiddoo	3	1-3	2	7
Totals	21	5-11	9	51

Mendota (53)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strauss	2	0-2	2	5
Guzman	2	0-0	2	5
Stamberger	1	0-0	2	2
Baird	3	0-0	3	8
R. Strauss	6	0-0	2	12
Romero	4	1-2	1	11
Aughenbaugh	0	0-0	1	0
Nanez	4	0-0	1	10
Totals	22	1-4	14	53

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Riverdale	16	28	35	51
Mendota	16	31	44	53

Three-point goals: Mendota – C. Strauss 1, Guzman 1, Romero 2, Baird 2, Nanez 2; Riverdale – Willems 3, Watson 1

Sophs blast Riverdale; improve record to 8-2

MENDOTA – Mendota's sophomore boys' basketball team took off in the second quarter and cruised to a 60-39 win over Riverdale on Dec. 21 at the MHS gym.

Aden Tillman dropped in three three-pointers in the first quarter to help the Trojans to a 13-8 lead. Mendota began to pull away in the second period when it outscored Riverdale, 17-9, to take a 30-17 cushion to intermission. The Trojans led 49-25 after three frames.

Mendota placed three players in double-figure scoring, led by Tillman with 13 points. He finished with four field goals from beyond the three-point arc. Domenic Richey and Alex Beetz supplied 10 points apiece for the Trojans, who improved their record to 8-2.

Mendota High School bowling

Dec. 19 vs. Rockford Christian (varsity boys)
Mendota 3500, Rockford Christian 3185
Mendota scores: Paxton Bauer 237, 221, 182 – 640; Aiden Kent Tucker 133, 202, 224 – 559; Landon Bauer 225, 213, 228 – 666; Clay Buffington 154, 169, 160 – 483; Kooper Novak 180, 193, 200 – 573; Alex Holland 189, 213, 177 – 579

Hall wins best pork chop in football season

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Pork Producers Association are proud to announce that Hall High School in Springfield has been named the best concession stand pork chop sandwich in the state of Illinois in 2022, as they won the second annual Pork and Pigskins State Championship.

Hall beat out a field of nearly 60 IHSA schools, including defending State Champ Normal Community, that competed in the grill-off sponsored by the Illinois Pork Producers Association. Over 150,000 votes were cast online to whittle the 58 competing schools down to the Savory 16. The IHSA then dispersed its expert judges to sample the fare at each of the Savory 16 schools, with Hall winning out on a rubric that included taste, aroma, and appearance.

"Thank you all for giving our school and community the opportunity to participate in this contest," said Hall High School Athletic Director [Name].

See Hall, Page B2

SPORTS

BOWLING

Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Dec. 13 – 1. Black Bros. 40-20; 2. Team 2 29-31; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 26-34; 4. Age Old Organics 25-35

High team game (scratch) – Team 2 1051, Age Old Organics 975, JJ&L Carpentry 896

High team game (hdcp) – Age Old Organics 1149, Team 2 1131, Black Bros. 1035

High team series (scratch) – Team 2 2978, JJ&L Carpentry 2660, Age Old Organics 2634

High team series (hdcp) – Team 2 3218, Age Old Organics 3156, JJ&L Carpentry 3032

High individual game (scratch) – Erik Schmitt 266, Randy Weathers 259, John Hossenberger 246

High individual series (scratch) – Erik Schmitt 706, Randy Weather 665, Nate Bradford 659

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Dec. 14 – 1. First State Bank 36.5-23.5; 2. Boelk Truck Lines 29.5-30.5; 3. O'Donnell Excavating 26-34; 4. Mendota Monument 20-40

High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1059, Boelk Truck Lines 1011, First State Bank 994

High team game (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 1147, Boelk Truck Lines 1143,

First State Bank 1095

High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 3050, Boelk Truck Lines 2901, First State Bank 2882

High team series (hdcp) – Boelk Truck Lines 3297, O'Donnell Excavating 3195, First State Bank 3185

High individual game (scratch) – Drake O'Donnell 269, Joe Kennedy 253, Erik Schmitt & John Hansen 245

High individual series (scratch) – Erik Schmitt 683, Nate Bradford 663, Drake O'Donnell 651

Elks 4

Youth League

Standings as of Dec. 15 – 1. Team 5 18-6; 2. Team 2 18-6; 3. Team 4 9-15; 4. Team 3 8-16; 5. Team 1 7-17

High team game (scratch) – Team 4 308, Team 3 300, Team 1 253

High team game (hdcp) – Team 4 681, Team 3 652, Team 1 644

High team series (scratch) – Team 3 798, Team 4 768, Team 5 735

High team series (hdcp) – Team 5 1890, Team 4 1887, Team 3 1854

Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 148, Kannon DeLao 121, Gavin Stamberger 118

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Kannon DeLao 256, Parker Ramer 245, Jaxen Daley 235

Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 389, Jaxen Daley 298, Kannon DeLao 297

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Kannon DeLao 702, Parker Ramer 680, Jaxen Daley 652

Girls' high game (scratch) – Brooklyn Mauch 65, Gabby Diaz 64

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Gabby Diaz 219, Brooklyn Mauch 218

Girls' high series (scratch) – Brooklyn Mauch 168, Gabby Diaz 160

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Brooklyn Mauch 627, Gabby Diaz 625

Elks 6

Youth League

Standings as of Dec. 15 – 1. Team 1 13-11; 2. Team 2 4-20; 3. Team 3 4-20

High team game (scratch) – Team 1 379

High team game (hdcp) – Team 1 634

High team series (scratch) – Team 1 1092

High team series (hdcp) – Team 1 1857

Boys' high game (scratch) – Toby Bulen 153, Oliver Turner 133

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Toby Bulen 245, Oliver Turner 218

Boys' high series (scratch) – Toby Bulen 409, Oliver Turner 347

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Toby Bulen 685, Oliver Turner 602

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Dec. 19 – 1. Split Happens 45-25; 2. Sports-N-Stuff 40-30; 3. CM

Farm 38-32; 4. Bad Kats 36-34; 5. Ramer Inc. 29-41; 6. Leagal Beagles 22-48

High team game (scratch) – Split Happens 709, Sports-N-Stuff 706, Leagal Beagles 698

High team game (hdcp) – Ramer Inc. 1023, Bad Kats 994, Sports-N-Stuff 973

High team series (scratch) – Split Happens 1992, Sports-N-Stuff 1956, Leagal Beagles 1893

High team series (hdcp) – Ramer Inc. 2866, Bad Kats 2799, Sports-N-Stuff 2757

Men's high game (scratch) – Matt Ramer 225, Ron Westphal 200, Bob Thomas 191

Men's high game (hdcp) – Bob Moench Jr. 279, Chris Frey 254, Raul Diaz Jr. 250

Men's high series (scratch) – Matt Ramer 616, Ron Westphal 567, Bob Thomas 540

Men's high series (hdcp) – Chris Frey 725, Bob Moench Jr. 715, Brendan Ramer 714

Women's high game (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 204, Sarah Westphal 189, Gail Sessler 185

Women's high game (hdcp) – Stephanie Ramer 287, Sarah Westphal 266, Debbie Berger 261

Women's high series (scratch) – Hannah Westphal 501, Jessica Robinson 498, Emly Thomas 473

Women's high series (hdcp) – Stephanie Ramer 770, Hannah Westphal 738, Debbie Berger 728



7 fitness resolutions that are easy to keep

Resolutions to get in shape, exercise more and eat healthier foods are popular each January. Optimism reigns when making resolutions, but for many, the difficulty lies in keeping them. Individuals looking to get healthier in the year ahead can try these strategies to stay the course.

• **Wake up earlier.** Waking up a half hour earlier each day can have a substantial impact. That small amount of extra time can be devoted to meditation, deep breathing exercises or even some yoga stretches.

• **Move around more frequently.** Many people with office jobs spend hours sitting in front of computers. A sedentary lifestyle can have an adverse effect on overall health. Set a timer or use a reminder on a fitness tracker to remind you to get up and move around for a little bit every hour.

• **Eat more vegetables.** Vague goals like "eating better" are difficult to maintain because there is no specific goal to achieve. Rather, a resolution like eating a fruit or vegetable each day at every meal is something measurable. Vegetables can be hidden in favorite foods, such as desserts. Swap pasta noodles for spiralized zucchini as another easy fix.

• **Stand straighter.** Posture tends to decline with age, advises AARP. This can cause the spine to lose flexibility. Stretches to maintain posture can help anyone stand straighter and improve long-term health.

• **Add "bursts" to your walk.** Researchers at the Mayo Clinic tout the benefits of interval training. While high-impact workouts may not be appropriate for everyone, adding little speed bursts to a daily walk can provide significant health benefits. Aim for 30 to 60 seconds of rapid walking at regular intervals to shake up the workout.

• **Drink more water.** Increasing water intake can help you feel fuller, thus reducing the likelihood that you will overeat. Gradually increase your water intake by adding a few ounces each day until drinking water becomes rote.

• **Take a workout outside.** Switch up your normal routine by making use of the great outdoors to exercise. Instead of three miles on the treadmill or elliptical machine at the gym, opt for three miles on a local hiking trail.

Healthy resolutions are easier to keep when you have firm ideas and choose reasonable goals.

Hall

Continued from Page B1

tor Eric Bryant. "Our grill team takes enormous pride in their efforts to represent their community and our school." The Hall concession crew will be presented

with their prize package from the Illinois Pork Producers Association, which includes a \$500 reimbursement on their pork purchase for next season, a state championship banner, and the coveted Golden Spatula, at the

2022 IHSA Football State Championships, which were held on Saturday, Nov. 26 at Memorial Stadium on the University of Illinois campus in Champaign-Urbana. In addition to Hall, the 2022 Savory 16 included

Bureau Valley, Kewanee, Rockridge, El Paso-Gridley, Fieldcrest, Flanagan-Cornell, Princeville, Greenville, Normal Community, North Mac, Stanford Olympia, Iroquois West, Kaneland, Lemont and Lincoln-Way Central.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: A good friend of mine was telling me that I'd probably like the Canadian detective series "Cardinal." Where can I watch it if I live in the United States? -- H.C.



Campbell

A: "Cardinal" aired on CTV out of Canada for four seasons, from 2017 to 2020, with six episodes in each season. It was a crime series based on the novels by Giles Blunt about a detective named John Cardinal, set in the fictional town of Algonquin Bay. The first season was based on Blunt's novel, "Forty Words for Sorrow," about the murder of a young girl. Subsequent seasons involve a different novel/mystery.

Fans of British crime dramas like "Broadchurch" or the U.S.-based show "The Killing," set in the Pacific Northwest, will likely find "Cardinal" right up their alley. It also stars Billy Campbell, who has been acting in Hollywood since the 1980s and also played Darren Richmond in "The

Killing."

I've always enjoyed watching a series or film set in a snowscape while I sit in my warm living room with a cup of hot tea, and "Cardinal" does not disappoint. Filmed on location in Ontario, temperatures dipped to -40 degrees F. Executive producer Julia Sereny told RadioTimes.com that it was so cold sometimes that the "sound recordist could not get his truck started" and that windows on vehicles cracked.

You can watch all four seasons of "Cardinal" currently on Hulu.

Q: "Desperate Housewives" is my all-time favorite show. How many years has it been off the air? Any chance of a reboot? -- P.I.

A: Last December 31, the official ABC "Desperate Housewives" Twitter account featured a photo of the cast with the cryptic statement "*Desperately* waiting for 2022." Because 2022 would be a full decade since the show concluded, buzz started circulating that the soapy drama was next in line for a reboot. Unfortunately, it never came to

fruition, at least not yet.

A couple months earlier, former cast member Eva Longoria said about "Desperate Housewives" creator Marc Cherry, "We both just think there's so much more to do there, and I would be the first to sign up if he did anything."

Former onscreen spouses Teri Hatcher and James Denton recently guest-starred on "Fantasy Island" as a couple whose marriage is put to the test as contestants on a twisted game show featuring a quicksand trap.

Q: How is Billy Joel doing? I heard he had some health issues and had to cancel some concerts. I really hope he tours again. -- J.A.

A: The six-time Grammy-Award-winning piano man recently had to postpone his last performance at Madison Square Garden this year due to a lingering virus. The new date is June 2, 2023, unless the hometown New York Knicks make it into the NBA Playoffs at that time. Joel has been playing MSG every January since 2014. He's also supposed to perform with Stevie Nicks at L.A.'s SoFi Stadium in March.

• Trivia Test •

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the next-door neighbor on TV's sitcom "Home Improvement"?
2. LITERATURE: Which war was the setting for Anthony Doerr's novel "All the Light We Cannot See"?
3. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "All Along the Watchtower," performed by Jimi Hendrix?
4. GEOGRAPHY: When is Earth Day celebrated each year?
5. HISTORY: Which two city-states fought the Peloponnesian War?
6. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for the disorder called sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia?
7. ASTRONOMY: Where is the Oort Cloud in space?
8. GEOMETRY: How many

- sides does a nonagon have?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What's another name for egg white?
 10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How large is the Times Square ball that drops at midnight on New Year's Eve?
- Answers
1. Wilson.
 2. WWII.
 3. Bob Dylan.
 4. April 22.
 5. Athens and Sparta.
 6. Brain freeze.
 7. The most distant region in our solar system, beyond the Kuiper Belt.
 8. Nine.
 9. Albumen.
 10. 12 feet in diameter.

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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Dallas cager, for short
4 Reindeer herder
8 Persian leader
12 Hit CBS series
13 Vicinity
14 Roof overhang
15 Like some salad dressings
17 Frat letters
18 Duo
19 Sikhs' headwear
21 Enjoy, as fine food
24 Luau bowlful
25 Guitar's kin
26 Yule quaff
28 Desert flora
32 Simple
34 Drench
36 Lunch hour
37 Pesto herb
39 Super Bowl VIP
41 P followers
42 Joke
44 Learned one
46 Sans
50 Lucy of "Elementary"
51 Coup d'—
52 "Deathtrap" playwright
56 Impetuous
57 Toy block name

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

58 Here, to Henri
59 BPOE members
60 Beloved
61 Fanatic

DOWN
1 Roman 1105
2 "— was saying ..."
3 Wine producers
4 Snorkeling site
5 Altar constellation
6 Impudent
7 Settle a debt
8 Belgrade native
9 "Funny!"
10 Bard's river
11 Big name in oil
16 Farm female
20 Sinbad's bird
21 — luck (accidental success)
22 Furniture brand
23 At once
27 Jewel
29 French chicken dish
30 Undecided
31 "Meet Me — Louis"
33 Pizza slices, often

35 Sports bar sets
38 Asian language
40 Wan quality
43 Screen Actors —
45 Compete
46 Existed
47 Slanted type (Abbr.)
48 Chore
49 Sloth's home
53 Khan title
54 Post-op area
55 Little louse

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Merry Christmas to all! Julia Roberts is starring in the \$120 million Netflix psychological thriller "Leave the World Behind," with two-time Oscar-winner Mahershala Ali, as well as Ethan Hawke and Kevin Bacon. The story revolves around a Black family returning to their summer cottage that they rented to a white family, and the tensions that arise between the two families. Roberts' comeback film "Ticket to Paradise," with George Clooney, cost \$60 million and grossed an OK \$170.9 million. Her segue to executive producing and starring in the limited eight-episode Starz political series "Gaslit," with Sean Penn and Dan Stevens, hasn't been picked up yet due to marginal ratings.

Benedict Cumberbatch is currently shooting "The Book of Clarence" in Matera, Italy. The film, inspired by classic Hollywood epics, is set in biblical times. Clarence

(played by LaKeith Stanfield) is a down-on-his-luck denizen in ancient Jerusalem trying to capitalize on the rise and influence of the messiah for his own gain.

Cumberbatch and Stanfield's co-stars in the film are James McAvoy, upcoming in "The Amazing World of Gumball: The Movie," and David Oyelowo, recently seen in "See How They Run," with Sam Rockwell, Saoirse Ronan and Adrien Brody. Oyelowo is currently shooting "Role Play," with Kaley Cuoco.

Cumberbatch just completed director Wes Anderson's upcoming film for Netflix, "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar," with Ralph Fiennes, Sir Ben Kingsley, Dev Patel and Rupert Friend.

In 1985, I met a young actor on a sitcom set I often worked on and was impressed with him enough to ask to do an at-home layout for a magazine. He was easy and agreeable to get along with. (He didn't

even ask for story or photo approval.) The show was "The Facts of Life," and the guy was George Clooney. The girls on "Facts" were crazy about him, but after 17 episodes, he moved on. It wasn't until 1994 when he began his 109-episode run on "ER" that he became a superstar.

In 1971, three friends talked me into going to a Gladys Knight & the Pips concert at the Forum (now the Kia Forum) in Los Angeles. I was dancing in the aisles and singing "Midnight Train to Georgia" at the top of my lungs. It was quite an experience! I bring this up only because George Clooney and Gladys Knight, as well as Amy Grant, composer/conductor Tania Leon, and U2 (Bono, the Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr.) all received the Kennedy Center Honors on Dec. 4, which will air on CBS Dec. 28.

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Couch Theater

"Lady Chatterley's Lover" (R) -- Emma Corrin ("The Crown") and Jack O'Connell ("Skins") star in this steamy romantic drama, which recently premiered on Netflix. Based on the novel by D.H. Lawrence, Corrin plays Constance Reid, who marries Baronet Clifford Chatterley and becomes Lady Chatterley. Clifford gets injured fighting in World War I and returns paralyzed from the waist down, which causes a big rift in their marriage. Left feeling unwanted by her husband, Constance tries her best to hide her unhappiness, until she meets gamekeeper Oliver Mellors. An attraction builds between Constance and Oliver and blossoms into a love affair that ultimately can't thrive in secrecy. (Netflix)

"Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan Season 3" (TV-MA) -- John Krasinski reprises the role of CIA agent Jack Ryan for the third season of this action series, out now! The first season followed Jack as he ventured out from his CIA analyst job to become a field agent. In the second season, he was stationed in

Venezuela in the middle of intense political warfare. Now, Jack is called to Rome by a mysterious source, who gives him information about a secret Russian plot in Eastern Europe that could lead to a third World War. Facing his most challenging time ahead, Jack must go within and learn to become his own authority. Amazon confirmed that this would be the second-to-last season of the series, with talks of an eventual spin-off starring Michael Pena. (Prime Video)

"Bros" (R) -- Bobby Lieber (Billy Eichner) is a podcast host and museum curator who greatly enjoys the single life. But when he's out with a friend at a nightclub, Bobby meets Aaron Shepard (Luke Macfarlane), who Bobby's friend deems hot but boring. Amid their stark differences, the two begin to date and get to know each other. Their connection begins to get stronger, but Aaron still finds Bobby too intense, while Bobby doesn't appreciate having to minimize his behavior for others. The odd couple must learn to accept each other's differences in

order to make their relationship prosper. Out now on streaming, "Bros" is one of the first gay rom-coms produced by a major studio. (Peacock)

"Into the Deep" (R) -- In this thriller, a young woman named Jess living on an island meets a young man named Ben and invites him to a party. The two hit it off and return to Ben's docked boat, but when Jess awakens, she realizes Ben set sail while she was asleep. And now, she is stuck on a boat with him in the middle of the ocean. Jess accepts it as yet another adventure, but things begin to escalate when Lexie, an unconscious woman on a jet ski, crashes into the boat. The two rescue Lexie, but Lexie begins to put doubts about Ben into Jess' head. Jess is at a loss of who to trust, as time ticks by for her to find a way off the boat. Premieres Dec. 30. (Hulu)

Write in to Couch Theater by emailing TheCouchTheater@gmail.com or writing to KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Happy 21st Birthday Michelle!



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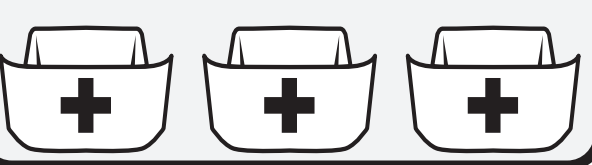
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Carol Ann Smith, RN
Love, Joey



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

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SOHRAVGEJIA
EAVVEHVJSC
HHSAPLAPMA

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

LOCAL AND AREA

Never give up on God’s best for you

Have you ever been stuck? Have you ever hit a place in life that seemed like a dead end... like you no longer had any options?

I’ve been there many times, and I’m sure most people have. But I am so grateful that over the years God has taught me that even when we get stuck, there is no situation too difficult for Him to handle!

Let’s start by looking at the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis, chapters 37 through 50. The Bible says he was the favorite of his father’s 12 sons, and his brothers were very jealous of him because of it.

One day Joseph

shared with his brothers a dream he’d had. In his dream, they were all bowing down to him. Needless to say, it didn’t go over well!

As a result, the brothers got together to decide how to get rid of Joseph. First, they threw him into a pit to leave him there to die. But later they decided to sell him into slavery to a band of traveling Ishmaelite merchants. They then devised a plan to convince their father of Joseph’s death.

As you may know, this story ends triumphantly. Joseph becomes second in command to Pharaoh, is eventually reunited with his family, and all is forgiven.

What happened to Jo-

seph is proof that no matter what you go through in life, there is always hope. You can fulfill your God-given destiny because all things are possible with God!

But the part of his story we really need to focus on is what happened in-between the pit and the palace. Joseph’s life took several turns during that time. But because of his faith in God and his determination to persevere no matter what, Joseph never gave up!

Quitting Is Not an Option

In our own lives, we may fall into a pit every once in a while. It could be a pit of sickness, financial lack, relationship issues or other problems. Whenever that happens, we need to be determined that whatever the situation may be, we will not give up!

The truth is if we want to have a good testimony of what God has done, we must first pass the tests. But we don’t have to be discouraged or afraid of the challenges that will come our way. In John 16:33, Jesus tells us, “...In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world. [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding]” (AMP).

It is inevitable that you will go through hard things. Sometimes you might even feel like giving up. But if you can



just hold on and trust God through it all, He can restore you. He can take all the bad and make good of it (see Romans 8:28).

It is said that Winston Churchill gave the following speech to the graduates at Harrow School in 1941:

“Never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense.”¹

Churchill said those words during World War II, and I believe the Holy Spirit is speaking the same message to many of us today—“Don’t give up, because God has so much in store for your life!”

You know, it’s easy to want to give up when things get hard. Sometimes people get stuck where they are and don’t know how to get out, so they think giving up is all they can do.

They may feel like they’re not smart enough or talented enough; maybe something traumatic happened to them; or they may have failed at something or made terrible mistakes in the past.

But the Holy Spirit wants to empower us to press in, to press on and go through to our victory, even if things don’t go the way we planned.

Failure does not mean there are no more options. You can learn from past mistakes; in fact, I’ve found history to be a good teacher. When all else fails, try again. If nothing else, you’ll learn what works and what doesn’t work and can go from there. With God’s help, you can turn your obstacle into an opportunity to grow wiser and mature spiritually.

God wants us to live a good life; however, there is no elevator ride to a good life—trust and perseverance are a must.

In John 10:10, Jesus said, “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].” The Holy Spirit will lead us one step of faith at a time into the good life God has planned for each of us. Our part is to take those steps...and never give up!

<https://www.winstonchurchill.org/resources/quotes/quotes-faq/>

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-teaching resource It’s Never Too Late. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 7, 2022 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Burkart Support Services located at 1209 23rd Street, Peru, IL. 61354.
Dated: December 7, 2022. Brenda Burkart Applicant.
No. 1202
(Dec. 14, 21 and 28, 2022)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT MENDOTA CITY COUNCIL

MENDOTA, ILLINOIS
On Monday, January 16th, 2023 at 5:30pm, a public hearing will be held by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Mendota in the City Hall Council Chambers, 607 8th Avenue, Mendota, Illinois, for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony as to an ordinance authorizing the execution of a pre-annexation agreement in regard to the annexation to the City of Mendota, Illinois of a tract of property comprising approximately 1.5 acres of land located at 40 N 42nd Road, Mendota, Illinois and legally described as follows:

LOT 040 OF BY-ROAD ESTATES & PART OF THE EAST ½ OF THE NORTHWEST ¼ OF SECTION 06, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 040 OF BY-ROAD ESTATES AND CONTINUING SOUTHWARD A DISTANCE OF 75' THEN WESTERLY A DISTANCE OF 200' THEN NORTHERLY A DISTANCE OF 75' THEN EASTERLY A DISTANCE OF 200' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF LASALLE, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.
It is proposed that the subject property be zoned R-1. An accurate map of the subject property proposed to be annexed to the City and the form of proposed pre-annexation agreement are on file with the City Clerk.
You are further notified that the proposed pre-annexation agreement may be changed, altered, modified, amended or redrafted in its entirety after the public hearing.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard.
By order of the Corporate Authorities of the City of Mendota, LaSalle County, Illinois.
Emily McConville, City Clerk
No. 1203
(Dec. 28, 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

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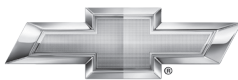
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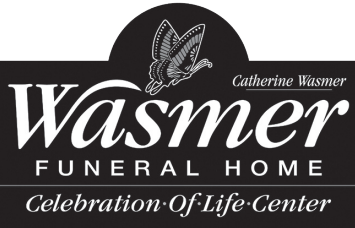
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Our Thanks At Year's End

As we count down to the New Year, we count friends and clients like you among the blessings we appreciate most.
Have a Happy and Safe New Year!

Gloria and Sally