

Changes made to SAFE-T act’s cash bail provisions

Amendment is effective in Jan. ‘23

By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker on Dec. 6 signed a follow-up measure to the SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform, the third such amendment since the law’s initial passage in January 2021.

The changes approved by lawmakers last week in the fall veto session center on the law’s provisions, which will end the use of cash bail beginning in January.

The cash bail system, which in most cases allows offenders to post a dollar amount to be released from custody pretrial, will be replaced by one in which a judge weighs the individual’s risk to the community and potential for fleeing prosecution in determining whether pretrial release will be revoked.

Its opponents have argued that the list of circumstances in which pretrial detention is specifically allowed is too limiting for judges.

Advocates, however, say that a presumption of pretrial release included in the law for lesser, nonviolent offenses will allow the courts to give more thorough hearings to those whose freedom is on the line prior to conviction.

“I’m pleased that the General Assembly has passed clarifications that uphold the principle we fought to protect: to bring an end to a system where wealthy violent offenders can buy their way out of jail, while less fortunate nonviolent offenders wait in jail for trial,” Gov. JB Pritzker said in a statement. “Advocates and lawmakers came together and put in



Gov. Pritzker

“Advocates and lawmakers came together and put in hours of work to strengthen and clarify this law, uphold our commitment to equity, and keep people safe.”

—Gov. JB Pritzker

hours of work to strengthen and clarify this law, uphold our commitment to equity, and keep people safe.”

In many cases, the changes were more substantial than “clarifications,” as the measure, contained in House Bill 1095, expanded the list of offenses in which a judge can deny pretrial release. The change made it so all forcible felonies can lead to pretrial detention regardless of whether the defendant would be eligible for probation if a judge deems them a danger to the community.

It also specified that the changes take effect for those charged after Dec. 31, 2022, but those on the old bail system can petition the court to be placed into the new cash-free system on staggered timelines depending on the severity of their charges.

Members of House and Senate working groups worked for months on the changes with state’s attorney and law enforcement groups, but Republicans said during floor debate that they were not included in the process.

Many concerns cited by opponents in the recent election season were addressed, however.

See SAFE-T, Page A5



Mendota mural taking shape

Installation of the “Raising the Depot” art mural as part of the Silo Pathways Countryside Public Art Tour is underway in downtown Mendota. The three-dimensional mural will be 127 feet wide by 50 feet tall and will depict the historic Union Depot Train Station as it was in downtown Mendota until its demolition in 1942. Mural designer/artist Ray Paseka and his team are in the process of installing the mural on the south side of the Triple Service Inc. building at the corner of Illinois Avenue and Monroe Street. (Reporter photo)

Polar Plunges returning – Mendota plunge set for Feb. 25

MENDOTA – This winter, the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge will be held at 24 locations throughout the state. These events will support the thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities served by Special Olympics Illinois.

Polar Plunges will begin Feb. 17 and continue through March 26. To find all plunge locations, register, or donate, please visit plungeillinois.com. This year’s Mendota Polar Plunge is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25 at Lake Mendota.

This year, there are two ways participants can be cool and take the plunge in support of Special Olympics Illinois athletes. Participants can attend one of the many in-person plunges hosted by Special Olympics Illinois, or

they can choose to Create Your Own Plunge in their local community. Registration for both options is now open at plungeillinois.com.

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

Registered participants must raise a minimum of \$100 to plunge and receive the highly-coveted 2023 Polar Plunge sweatshirt. Those who raise more than \$100 may earn other incentives and prizes.

George Peterson, Senior Director – Development, LETR, recently joined the staff at Special Olympics



Illinois, after more than 25 years as a police officer for the Oak Brook Police Department and more than 10 years as a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run.

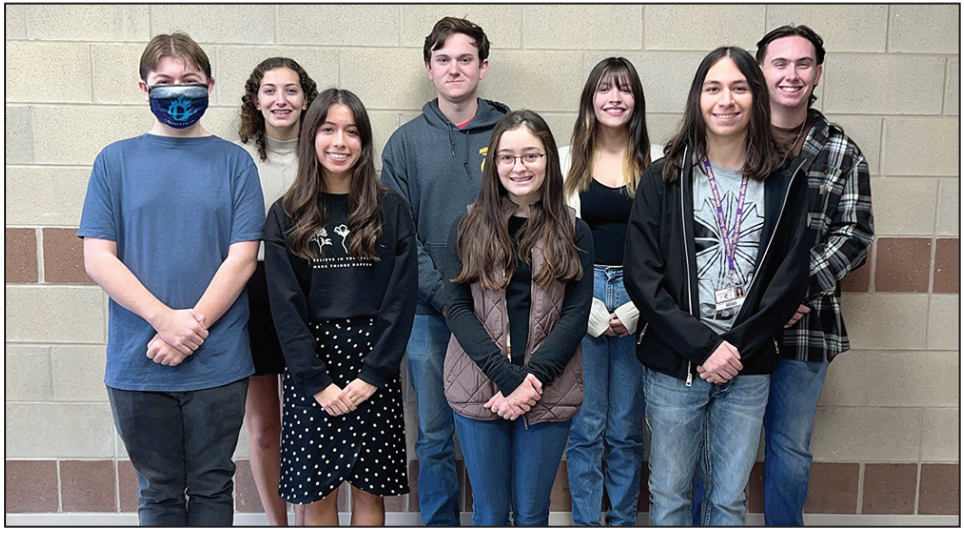
“I’m excited for the upcoming Polar Plunge season,” said Peterson. “I have seen directly how the efforts

made by the thousands of participants, across the state of Illinois, led to more competitions, more training, and more programming for these athletes. Providing more programming for our athletes means giving them more opportunities. And doing that? Well, that’s worth the icy dip.”

The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is proud to be the statewide presenting sponsor for the Polar Plunge. The statewide gold sponsor is Jewel-Osco.

Special Olympics Illinois is the only entity in Illinois accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. and authorized by license to use the Polar Plunge® trademark and

See Plunge, Page A5



Mendota High School class of 2023 Illinois State Scholars, front row, left to right, are William Bentley, Isabelle Escatel, Abigail Kunz and Carlos Olivas. Back row, Alexis Finley, Avery Pierce, Melaina Bierwirth and Neal Linden. (Photo contributed)

Eight Mendota High School seniors recognized as Illinois State Scholars

Recipients are approximately top 10% of seniors in state

MENDOTA – Mendota High School Principal, Denise Aughenbaugh, is pleased to announce that eight students from the MHS graduating class of 2023 have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars.

The eight Illinois State Scholars from MHS are: William Bentley, son of Ben and Sharlene Bentley of Mendota; Melaina Bierwirth, daughter of Melissa Verna of Mendota; Isabelle Escatel, daughter of Isidro and Carrie Escatel of Mendota; Alexis Finley, daughter of Adam and Carrie Finley of Mendota; Abigail Kunz, daughter of Matthew and Stephanie Kunz of Mendota; Neal Linden, son of Maureen Linden of Mendota; Carlos

Olivas, son of Natasha Lemus of Mendota; and Avery Pierce, son of Darrell and Sheila Pierce of West Brooklyn.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state agency committed to helping to make college accessible and affordable for Illinois families, confers this prestigious recognition to top Illinois high school students annually. Illinois State Scholars represent approximately the top 10 percent of high school seniors from high schools across the state. Illinois State Scholars are chosen based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester grade point average.



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SHOP
LOCAL



LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report

Stacy Kelly, Principal

We had fall picture re-take day with Inter-State Studios on Dec. 6. If you had your child get their pictures retaken or if you ordered them for the first time, you can expect the pictures to arrive after winter break.

For the month of December, students caught being kind are earning a snowflake or snowman to add to the hallway bulletin board titled “Snow Much Kindness at Blackstone.” Our board is quickly filling up and it has been a great visual to show our kind students.

I want to give a shout

out to Miss Wilhelm and her first grade students. They recently did a kind deed to help those in need by collecting items to donate to the PADS homeless shelter. Thank you to Miss Wilhelm for organizing this and to the parents and students for their generous donations of food and other items needed at the shelter. I’m so proud of the kindness you showed to those in need!

The students nominated for the principal award this past week were Bentley Baxter, Leliah Quijas, Bryson McLain, Emma Orah, Isa Oroz-

co, Ximena Rojo, Meredith McNutt, Isaiah Perez and AJ Widolff. The winners were David Albers, Sofia Ascensio, Spencer Nelson and Allious Bugiyne. Congratulations to all of you!

Winter break is approaching. Students will be dismissed early on Dec. 15 and 16. Kindergarten will dismiss at 1:20 and first grade at 1:30 on both days. Winter break will be Dec. 19-Jan. 3. Teachers will return on Tuesday, Jan. 3 for a teacher institute. Students will return on Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Illinois art contest asks students to explore their visions of home

SPRINGFIELD – “Home” means something a little different to each person. Illinois students get to explore their visions of home in the annual statewide art contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. “We’re excited to see how students explore this powerful idea in the art they submit.”

The ALPLM will present a special exhibit next year called “Here I Have Lived: Home in Illinois.” With artifacts, photos and rare documents, it will look at different ways people have made Illinois their home over the centuries.

Contest submissions may be up to 14 inches by 11 inches. They cannot feature copyrighted characters such as Batman. More details are available at bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest. Entries do not have to be submitted via schools; youth groups, home-educated children or anyone else can participate. All that is required is that the artist is a student at any public, private, alternative, or home school in Illinois.

“My vision for all Illinois students is that they feel at home in our schools – that they feel like they are valued and they belong,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. “Arts Education Week reminds us of the importance of equitable access to the arts for students to develop their curiosity, creativity, and self-expression. I hope all

our art teachers across Illinois encourage students to submit their designs for the annual Arts Education Week poster contest and tell us what ‘home’ means to them.”

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum uses a combination of rigorous scholarship and high-tech showmanship to immerse visitors in Lincoln’s life and times. The library holds an unparalleled collection of Lincoln books, documents, photographs, artifacts and art, as well as some 12 million items pertaining to all aspects of Illinois history.

For more information, visit www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov. You can follow the ALPLM on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The mission of the Illinois State Board of Education is to provide leadership and resources to achieve excellence across all Illinois districts by engaging legislators, school administrators, teachers, students, parents, families and other stakeholders in formulating and advocating for policies that enhance education, empower districts and ensure equitable outcomes for all students. Its vision of Illinois is a state of whole, healthy children nested in whole, healthy systems supporting communities where in all people are socially and economically secure.

ILMEA honors Mendota High School students for outstanding achievement in music

MENDOTA – Mendota High School music students were recently honored by the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) for their outstanding achievement in music.

MHS students who earned ILMEA awards for district recognition include:

Senior Choir – Laura Arenz, Eli Arjes, Em Clark, Claire Hanson, Trekker Klema,

Karli Miars, Alayna Nosalik, Mia Raya, Nick Reyes and Jillian Younger.

Senior Band – Aiden Arjes, Landon Bauer, Zach Giberson, Spencer Kain, Carlos Olivares

Senior Jazz – Ella Lewis

MHS students who earned ILMEA state recognition include:

Chorus Honors – Eli Arjes

All-State Band – Zach Giberson



Mendota Mutual Insurance Company is announcing the retirement of their Secretary/Treasurer/Manager Deb Geuther, pictured middle. Deb has been with the Mendota Mutual Insurance Company since 1980 and will be retiring on Dec. 30, 2022.

Christina Sanchez, pictured left, will be taking over the position of Secretary/Treasurer/Manager. Sanchez was with the company from 2009-2016 and then came back in 2020. Sonia Botello, pictured right, is the Administrative Assistant and started with the company in 2022.



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LOCAL AND AREA

Welcome to the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce



Maxie's Salon

The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Maxie's Salon to the Chamber. Maxie's received a certificate from MACC President Shelby Weide and Ambassadors. Front row, left to right, are Chamber Ambassadors Dessa Collins, Gabby Barkman, Kim Bima, and Emily Cook. Back row, Maxie's Paityn Barkman and Caitlin Aguilar, Weide and Maxie's Abby Motter. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)



Parkway Family Restaurant

Parkway Family Restaurant and the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated Parkway becoming a member of the Chamber. Joining the celebration, standing left to right, are MACC's Emily Cook, Kim Bima, and president Shelby Weide, Parkway's Vlora and Saranda Aliu, and Gabby Barkman and Dessa Collins of the Chamber. Seated are Parkway owners Shaban and Lutfije Aliu. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

"A Night at the Nativity" movie night Dec. 23 at Christ's Church of Mendota

MENDOTA – Christ's Church of Mendota will host "A Night at the Nativity" free movie night on Friday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. The church is located at 1107 Main St., Mendota.

Everyone is invited to the event. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Jim McDowell, pastor, at 815-993-2462.

2022 LaSalle County tentative multiplier announced by Illinois Department of Revenue

SPRINGFIELD—LaSalle County has been issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 1.0000, according to David Harris, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the "multiplier", is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state's 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g. school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there were no equalization among counties, substantial

inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

State law requires property in Illinois to be assessed at one-third (1/3) of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland and farm buildings assessed according to standards based on productivity.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the sales price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county super-

visor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

Assessments in LaSalle County are at 33.10 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2022 taxes,

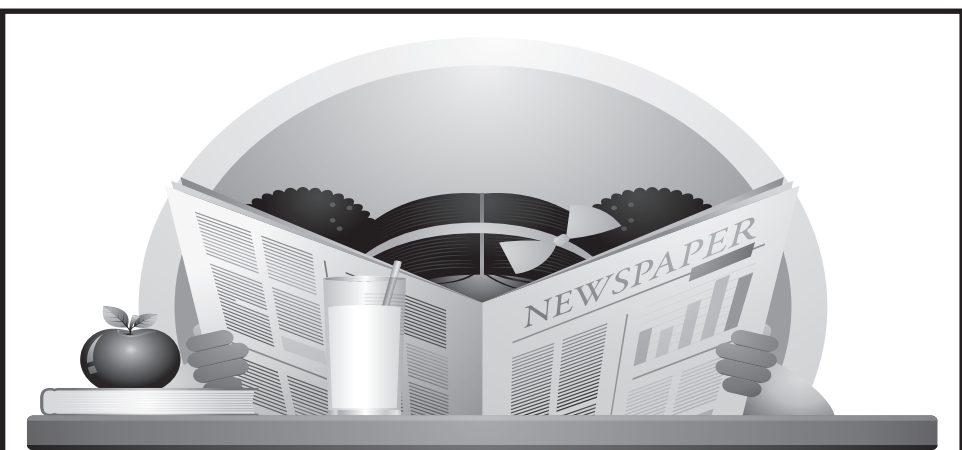
payable in 2023.

Last year's equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The tentative factor is subject to change (1) if the County Board of Review takes actions which significantly affect the county assessments or (2) if local officials or others can present data showing that the Department of Revenue's estimates of the average level of assessments in the county should be adjusted. A public hearing on the tentative multiplier will be held between 20 and 30 days after the tentative factor is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments may have increased.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual's portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.



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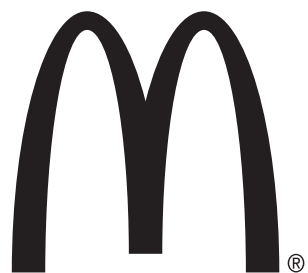
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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Helen C. Hill

WATERMAN – Helen Christine (Soderholm) Hill, 92, of Waterman, passed away in the early morning of Dec. 7, 2022, at Prairie Crossing Nursing Home, Shabbona, in the company of her children.

A memorial service will be held Dec. 17, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Waterman United Methodist Church with Pastor Eric Reniva officiating. A time of visitation will be held prior to the service from 10 to 11 a.m. Private burial will be at Johnson Grove Cemetery following the service. Arrangements have been handled by Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Helen was born Sept. 5, 1930, in Geneva, to Arwood and Constance (Johnson) Soderholm. She married William Oliver Hill on June 20, 1953 in Batavia. The couple settled into farming life, first near Elburn, then Kaneville and ending on a farm outside of Waterman.

She is survived by her brother, Ralph (Linda) Soderholm of Carbon Cliff; son Scott (Karen) Hill of Rockford, Keith Burlingame, husband of the late Connie (Hill) Burlingame of Dawsonville, Ga.; daughter Martha (Joseph) Dankenbring of Mendota; son Howard (Kimberly) Hill of Antioch; 21 grandchildren, Keegan Hill, Alec Hill, Kellen (Angeliz Gonzafan) Hill, Aren Hill, Breida (Josh Kissel) Hill, Peter (Danica) Burlingame, Ellen (John) Turck, Joel (Alyxandra) Burlingame, Angela Dankenbring, Monica (Todd) Zimmerlein, Kristin (Josh) Decker, Kenneth (Melinda Dinges) Dankenbring, Ashley (Michael) Grahl, Casey Hill, Isaac (Alyssa) Hill, Griffin Hill, Theo Hill, Bailey Hill, Lucy Hill, Owen Hill, Phoebe Hill; and sixteen+ great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two infant brothers, Arwood Jr and James; her sister Avis Nordstrom; her husband William; her daughter Constance Marie Burlingame and grandson James Adam Dankenbring.

Helen graduated from Batavia High School. After her husband's passing in 1979, Helen moved to a house in Waterman, took a job at Waterman State Bank working for 18 years. Long after retiring from the bank, she moved to the Prairie Crossing Supportive Living facility in Shabbona.

Helen was a devoted wife, working alongside her husband daily on the family homestead. She was a loving and steadfast mother to four children. Helen was an active grandmother and great-grandmother to each growing generation, never missing a birthday or holiday card with her token \$2 bill enclosed. She enjoyed putting together puzzles and reading as well as playing bingo, cards or Upwords with cherished friends and family. She was famous at family gatherings for her ice box cake, fruit salad and always present dish of M&Ms on the kitchen counter.

Helen was a member of the Waterman United Methodist Church, loving the opportunity to raise her voice in song. She stayed active within her community's church and civic groups. Helen's servant's heart was evident in countless hours of voluntary service and formally recognized when the City of Waterman bestowed upon her their Citizen of the Year in 1998.

Memorials may be directed to Waterman United Methodist Church or the donors' charity of choice in Helen's name. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Rev. Dr. Dale A. Dykstra

BETTENDORF, Iowa – Rev. Dr. Dale A. Dykstra, 76, left to join the Savior he served for so long on Dec. 9, 2022, at Genesis Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House, Bettendorf, Iowa.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, at Golnick-Schueneman Funeral Home in Kewanee. A Masonic Service will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, conducted by the Walnut Masonic Lodge #722. There will also be a visitation from 10 a.m. until the time of service on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, at the First Presbyterian Church, Kewanee. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church, Kewanee. Pastor Art Blegen will officiate. Burial will be in Restland Cemetery, Mendota.

He was born in Chicago on Nov. 20, 1947, the son of Maynard and Florence (Leegwater) Dykstra. Dale married Cheryl Lynn Grubb on June 15, 1970, at the Methodist Church in Buda. Later, they adopted their son, David A. and their daughter, Rachel L., which completed their family. Cheryl passed on May 26, 2010. He later married Donna Parish at the Presbyterian Church in Kewanee.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Dykstra, and children, David Dykstra and Rachel (Matt Garland) Crew; grandchildren, Dominic, Hannah, and Raelynn Dykstra, Matthew Brilhante, Sasha, Trustin and Trey Crew. and Madison and Jericho Garland. He also has four stepchildren and 16 step-grandchildren.

Rev. Dr. Dykstra was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Cheryl.

He attended Morrill Elementary and Lindblom Technical High School where he was in the "100 honors" program and major in ROTC. Dr. Dykstra went on to Millikin University where he participated in the chorus, operas and musicals, graduating in 1969. He went on to the Seminary in Princeton, N.J., graduating in May 1972 and becoming ordained on July 2, 1972. Dr. Dykstra completed his Doctor of Ministry Degree at Pittsburgh Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Dykstra preached in Pennsylvania at a three-church parish based in Osceola Mills, Curwensville Presbyterian Church, Highland Park Church in Lewistown, Pa., Mendota, First Presbyterian Church, Kewanee First Presbyterian, and Elmira United Presbyterian. He retired June 30, 2018, but continued to serve as interim pastor for Milan First Presbyterian, Clinton, Iowa First United Presbyterian and most recently at a newly-formed Grace Presbyterian in Rock Island. Dale preached in the Presbyterian ministry for 50 years and was very honored to receive Pastor Emeritus in the Kewanee Church while they celebrated their 150th anniversary.

Dr. Dykstra believed in serving the church as well as the communities he was placed. He was active in Boy Scouts as a Troop leader, Kiwanis Club, Cancer Society, Library Boards, Masonic Lodge, and serving as an Election Judge. He enjoyed doing crosswords and putting puzzles together.

Memorials may be made to the United Presbyterian Church, Elmira or the First Presbyterian Church, Kewanee.

Please leave an online condolence for Rev. Dr. Dale's family at www.golnickschuenemanfh.com.



Joyce E. Spanier

ROCKFORD – Joyce E. Spanier, 86, of Rockford, formerly of Mendota, passed away Dec. 7, 2022 with her loving family by her side.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Rev. Jeff Windy will officiate. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, Dec. 16 from 5-7 p.m. at Wasmer Funeral Home.

Joyce was born Sept. 5, 1936, in Mendota, to Leroy and Mabel (Earich) Heinzeroth. She graduated Mendota High School in 1954. On June 1, 1957, she married the love of her life, James Spanier, at Holy Cross Church Mendota.

Joyce will be greatly missed by her three sons, Jeff (Susan) Spanier of Mendota, former Lieutenant Commander Jerome Spanier of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Joel (Patti) Spanier of Rockford; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren with one on the way; brother Keith (Vina) Heinzeroth of Mendota, and sister Velma Schmidt of Mendota.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jim; three brothers, Donald, Richard and Wayne; and four sisters, Katherine Funfsinn, Dorothy Hunter, Ruth Musser and Pearl Pfeiffer.

Joyce was an active partner in Spanier Electric, doing bookkeeping, appointment-setting and generally keeping Jim on the right track. She was a member of Holy Cross Church, and she and Jim bowled three nights a week at the Mendota Elks for years.

Memorials may be directed to Holy Cross Altar and Rosary Society. Pallbearers will be Isaac Spanier, Lance Corporal Aaron Spanier, Aidan Spanier, Josh Randolph, Justin Randolph, and Joel McComber. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



CNC instructor Scott Fox, left, discusses basic part layout with a pair of students this fall. (Photo contributed)

IVCC offers Computer Numerical Control courses starting in January

OGLESBY – Students have an opportunity to start a career in the high-demand, high-pay Computer Numerical Control industry this spring at Illinois Valley Community College.

Wednesday night manufacturing courses beginning Jan. 11 include Fundamentals of CNC Operation (CNC 1200), CNC Milling

Machine Operation (CNC 1202) and CNC Turning Center Operations I (CNC 1204) and II (CNC 1206).

The courses lead to work as a CNC operator and entry-level programming, process and manufacturing engineering positions.

Manufacturers across the district are looking for CNC operators, said instructor Scott Fox. Fox has over 20 years' experience in industry as a machine operator and set-up and tooling technician. He also has programming, trouble-shooting and engineering experience.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Plunge

Continued from Page A1

logo. Any issues or liabilities arising from Chicago Polar Plunge are the sole responsibility of Special Children's Charities. Please feel free to contact Special Olympics Illinois at amcmillin@soill.org with any questions.

Presenting Sponsors for the 2022 Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run® are Casey's General Stores and Dunkin'. Gold Medal Sponsors are United Airlines and Schnucks; Silver Medal Sponsor is Metropolitan Alliance of Police; Bronze Medal Sponsors are Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, GEICO, Goodenough, and Heartland Coca-Cola; Special Olympics IL Partners are Gallagher, Jersey Mike's, Jewel and Knights of Columbus.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® is the single largest year-round fundraising vehicle benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. The annual intrastate relay and its various fundraising projects have two goals: to raise money and to gain awareness for the athletes who participate in Special Olympics Illinois. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® has raised more than \$61 million since 1986 while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments. Traditionally, more than 3,000 officers in Illinois run more than 1,500 miles carrying the Flame of Hope through the streets of their hometowns and deliver it to the State Summer Games in Normal each June.

About Special Olympics Illinois

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 21,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and more than 9,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. It strives to be a global leader in shaping a culture where people with and without intellectual disabilities are fully integrated into the community by providing year-round opportunities in competitive sports, health education, leadership and personal development.

If you are interested in being a part of Special Olympics Illinois and its vision, contact your local region call our headquarters at 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok.

SAFE-T

Continued from Page A1

For example, the follow-up bill specifies that police maintain the authority to arrest trespassers.

While it maintains language instructing officers to issue a citation in lieu of custodial arrest for cases below Class A misdemeanors, it also specifies that police maintain discretion to make an arrest if the person is a threat to the community or they continue to break the law.

"We understand that public safety is not a static issue," House Deputy Majority Leader Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said in a statement. "This legislation strengthens the underlying SAFE-T Act with valuable feedback from survivors, law enforcement, prosecutors and other public safety advocates. If we want to make our communities safer, we have to work together. This update is a step in the right direction."

The measure clarifies judicial authority to revoke pretrial release if the defendant violates electronic monitoring conditions and specifically states penalties may be imposed for intentional tampering with monitoring devices.

The SAFE-T Act specifies that defendants have a right to a public defender from their first appearance in court, a change that is expected to increase justice system workloads. The measure creates a grant program to aid public defenders with increased caseloads, but allocation of funding for the program would be up to future General Assemblies.

Asked at an unrelated news conference Wednesday how he would gauge the effectiveness of the bill once it takes effect, Pritzker said he'd be looking to the Illinois Supreme Court and state's attorneys to outline unforeseen challenges.

"As with all laws, we're always going to be looking to see what's working really well and what things are maybe less so and who it is that's coming forward and saying, 'this is problematic,'" he said. "The most important thing is we're trying to make our neighborhoods and our communities safer all across the state of Illinois. This law and these amendments are designed to do just that."

(Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.)

Morris expected to be named IVCC president

OGLESBY – Dr. Tracy Morris of Spring Valley is expected to be named Illinois Valley Community College's 11th president by the board of trustees.



Morris

A special meeting will be held to announce details of the appointment, said board chair Everett Solon. The meeting date has not yet been determined.

Morris will formally assume presidential duties July 1 following the June 30 retirement of IVCC's 10th President, Dr. Jerry Corcoran. She is expected to work alongside Corcoran April 1 through June 30.

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

Morris 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.

IVCC committed to Ottawa Center; OKs tax levy

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College made a long-term commitment to its revitalized Ottawa Center campus on Dec. 8.

The board approved a four-year lease with the City of Ottawa to continue offering credit classes including CNA and EMS, Adult Education classes such as ESL and HSE (GED), and noncredit continuing education classes such as massage therapy.

Coordinator Jeannette Phalen said Ottawa Center enrollment is up 28% this fall "and spring should be up even more. I am proud of the improvements we've made in our course delivery."

The Center, located at 321 W. Main St. since 2010, has also driven enrollment by hosting numerous registration events.

In a related action, trustees approved a lease with Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce to have the chamber move into Ottawa Center. The 4.5-year lease begins Jan. 1. Chamber offices will face Main Street in the northwest corner of the Center.

In other action, the board

gave final approval to a \$14.3 million 2022 tax levy, a 6.4% increase over last year's \$13.5 million extension. The levy is based on a 7.5% increase in the district's EAV due largely to an agreement with Constellation's LaSalle Power Station. Over five years, it will result in nearly \$1.2 million in new revenue for IVCC.

With the levy increasing more than 5%, a public hearing was held prior to final approval. Taxpayers in LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam counties – as well as smaller parts of Marshall, Lee, Livingston, Grundy and DeKalb counties – should not see an increase in their IVCC taxes.

The board also approved: Seeking bids for a CNC-controlled hydraulic press brake and robotic welder for the welding, fabrication and manufacturing programs for an estimated \$124,000.

A five-month digital marketing campaign with Interact Communications for \$49,999. The campaign will provide media placement and analytics including pay-per-click search engine

marketing, digital display advertising and initiatives utilizing Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Spotify.

The resignation of electronics instructor Charles Raimondi effective Dec. 17.

Reimbursement of \$75 in expenses to trustee Jane Goetz for attending ICCTA meetings Nov. 11 and 12.

Closed session minutes from Nov. 10.

The board learned:

The IVCC Foundation's Annual Appeal had raised over \$31,000 from 98 donors as of Dec. 7. "Special thanks to the trustees who have contributed so generously," Corcoran said.

IVCC hosted a reception for retired English instructor Ed Krolak. Krolak donated 30 copies of his book "Lilies of the Valley" to guests attending the event.

Instructors Dawn Chambers and Rick Pretzsch presented a program Nov. 14 on their team trip to Estonia and Finland this spring. The trip was funded through a grant with Indiana University and

awarded by the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education.

The theatre department's fall musical "Mame!" enjoyed a successful eight-show run between Nov. 10 and 20.

IVCC received a \$108,650 ICCB Innovative Bridge and Transitions Grant to fund a student support center for underrepresented populations and basic needs for at-risk students. The grant will continue the successful "Get Set" program.

A pilot remote work arrangement with highly-skilled Information Technology staff.

Tenure recommendations have been made for cybersecurity instructor Nancy McDonnell and Medical Assisting program coordinator Kaity Ritter. McDonnell and Ritter will be recognized along with other newly tenured faculty at the February meeting.

Kelsey Forkner has been hired as Student Services information specialist.

IVCC, faculty union adopt MOU

OGLESBY – Following closed session on Dec. 8, Illinois Valley Community College trustees approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IFT Local 1810, the union representing IVCC faculty.

The MOU relates to the high-deductible health plan offered by the college to faculty and allows teachers to remain on the "embedded" calculation or move to an "aggre-

gate" plan. Moving from embedded to aggregate is irrevocable.

In an embedded deductible plan, the policy has an individual deductible for each family member and a family deductible. With two deductibles, coverage can be accessed sooner.

In an aggregate deductible, the family deductible must be paid out-of-pocket fully before the insurer pays for services for one family member.



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OPINION

The Mendota Reporter

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

Never-ending debate on guns

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD -- I remember taking my oldest daughter Gracie fishing 14 years ago at Lake Springfield. We talked about the ducks, geese and boats floating in the lake, her favorite cartoons and the brand-new Barbie life jacket she was wearing.

After about three hours wiggling on a dock staring at a bobber that refused to go under, she exclaimed, "I think all of the fish have gone on vacation to a different lake."

It was a grand day to be a dad. She seemed to be having a good time too. No sooner had we packed up the worms and closed the tackle box than she was asking when we could go fishing again.

I guess uninterrupted time with Dad was more important than how many bluegills we reeled in.

After finishing at the lake, I decided to let her pick out a new fishing pole, so I took her to Gander Mountain, which was one of those "big box" sporting goods stores on the city's south side.

She chose a rod with the cartoon character Sponge Bob embossed on the reel.

After loading the fishing pole into the cart we wandered into the firearms section.

I occasionally hunt, but with three kids and a busy job, I don't always have the time. In fact, this year is the first time in the last five that I haven't found myself in a tree stand holding a shotgun and waiting for a deer.

Unlike other retailers that put firearms behind a counter, Gander Mountain, at the time, displayed guns attached to tethers so customers could hold them unsupervised -- but not walk away with them.

What I saw that day frightened me.

A couple of junior high kids were playing with a rifle and pointed it toward me, other customers and at my then 3-year-old daughter.

I remembered my father's admonitions when I was their age:

- "Never point a gun at something you don't plan to destroy."
- "Always assume a gun is loaded."
- "Never count on a gun's safety."

I started handling guns when I was 9 or 10. A reverent respect for firearms was instilled in me by my father and older brother.

But I didn't see that same quiet respect in those teenagers at the store. Instead of tools for harvesting game, they seemed to view guns as macho playthings.

Some of the "adults" shopping in the gun department weren't much different.

They were "ooing" and "awing" over guns dolled up to look like military weapons. (The gun control crowd likes to call them "assault weapons" and gun-rights groups call them "modern sporting rifles.")

There's a word for all those "assault weapon" add-ons like - bayonet holders, detachable magazines and pistol grips - it is called "marketing."

Just as my 3-year-old thought a "Sponge Bob" fishing reel would be "way cool," these fellows seemed drawn to firearms with macho doodads attached.

Here's a few hints, guys:

- They don't fire off bullets any faster than any other semi-automatic rifle. (They may look similar to military weapons, but they aren't the same.)
- Wildlife doesn't care what the gun looks like (and neither does your wife.)
- If you need more than 10 bullets in your rifle, you must be a pretty lousy shot.
- It's OK to go out in public wearing something other than camouflage - really.

Illinois lawmakers are considering legislation that would not only ban the future sale of "assault weapons" but would require the registration of ones already owned. It would also ban the sale of magazines with more than 10 bullets in them, as well as raise the age for FOID cards to 21 for all guns.

It's no secret that firearms are viewed in radically different ways depending on where one lives in the state. My hope, as always, is that lawmakers will listen intently to the concerns of one another and compromise.

But experience tells me gun debates generate more heat than light. One thing I do know is that no one in the General Assembly relishes the thought of innocent people dying.

Some proposed restrictions, such as lengthening the term of firearm restraining orders from six months to a year, make sense. Other aspects of the bill while well-intentioned, will do little to make our communities safer.

A sad reality is that loud demands for gun control mean more guns are sold to people afraid they will soon be banned.

The main problem isn't what the guns look like -- it's who is behind the trigger.

That's a problem that won't be solved by passing another law in Springfield. It can only be solved with good parenting.

Have all the good parents gone on vacation?

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



Mendota Lions get charter – 1938

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

By Jessica Nashold

It was 65 years ago that the Mendota Lions Club received its charter. The charter meeting, on Dec. 15, 1938, was preceded by a banquet at the Elks, served by the Ladies Sodality of Holy Cross. Lions Clubs from Marseilles, Ottawa, Earlville, Spring Valley and Princeton were represented, as well as the Central Lions Club in Chicago.

A.E. (Ernie) Claus had been elected president of the Mendota Lions. E.J. Hoeger was toastmaster for the evening. It was announced that 37 Lions clubs were being chartered that month. The Mendota Lions received their first charter from District Governor Arthur W. Johnson of Princeton.

It was emphasized that the Lions Clubs are non-political, non-sectarian, non-secret groups, established to bring together public-spirited men, working toward the welfare and up-building of their communities. Promotions of boys' and girls' programs, Americanism and aid to unfortunates are principal concerns.

Officers launching the Mendota Lions, in addition to President Ernie, were Dr. R.H. Musick, Wm. Widmer, Alfred Goslin, Leroy Faber, James Dubbs, E.J. Hoeger, Dr. Charles Harris, Ralph Jacob, Harry Fahler and Gilbert Truckenbrod. The Mendota Lions Club had 25 charter members.

Wives had been invited for the evening, which was concluded with dancing to the music of Frankie Pzyner's orchestra.

Prescott Brothers purchased the Cannon Ball Garage on Dec. 22, 1938. The building was located on Washington Street, east of the Hotel Ellis and across the street from the post office. It had been erected in 1911 by Elmer Maus. He had conducted a garage there for 27 years. In recent months, he had been devoting time to the operation of a Conoco service station. He would now give Conoco his full attention.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

A closing out sale was in progress at the Cannon Ball. Tires and automobile accessories were "marked to move." Tires valued from \$10.50-\$7.50 were priced at \$5.25-\$4.25. A 1931 Willys Knight sedan, in excellent condition, could be purchased for \$115.

Prescotts will take possession in January.

They have not yet decided what use they will make of the Cannon Ball Garage.

Showing at the State Theatre on Dec. 22-23, 1938, was "Give Me a Sailor," featuring Martha Raye, Bob Hope and Betty Grable.

Entries from a diary kept during World War I, by Jack Ausland, were published in *The Mendota Reporter* while he was a resident of Mendota. They were published anonymously under the name of Mendota Jack. On Armistice Day 1938, the *Denver Post* published a segment of Ausland's diary, written in October 1918, while he had been under bombardment in France with the 5th Marines.

Mendotans Dave and Hazel Mae Reese happened to be in Denver at the time and sent a copy of *The Post to The Reporter*, so the diary entry could be reprinted. They also sent the news that Ausland was now a location engineer with the Colorado & Southern Railway.

The grade school board was attempting to secure funding for a new Blackstone School in 1938. It had applied for a WPA grant. Henry Feik, board president, received word that the application was on hold until additional funding for WPA projects might become available.

SIDETRACK -- Eventually, funding for a new Blackstone was secured by way of a tax referendum in 1951.

Clyde Halm of LaSalle, owner of Halm's Hatchery, and Charles Waldorf, a young Mendota farmer, announced they would open a store in Mendota, to be known as Farmers Feed & Supply. It would be located on Sixth Street, west of the Hunkydory Dairy.

They will handle feed for cattle, hogs and poultry.

Units of the Junior Red Cross were organized at both Lincoln and Blackstone schools in 1938. Representatives were named in each classroom. Among other activities, the students collected canned fruits and vegetables, nuts, candy and toys for the needy.

Ernie Dunn was in charge.

During a drive to raise funds for the high school by selling magazine subscriptions, Superintendent M.E. Steele offered prizes for high sales by a boy and a girl. Winner Alan Hoffman selected a wrist watch with his credits. Betty Howe chose a flashlight, company, and knife & chain.

A Mendota High School alumni dance was held in the Lincoln School auditorium on Dec. 28, 1938. All former students, current students, faculty and board members (with spouses) were welcome at \$1 per couple. Peter Donahue handled ticket sales. Music was provided by Al Howell's 9-piece orchestra from Aurora. They had a library of 400 selections, and were accompanied by "a charming vocalist." Hours were 9 to 12.

They also present a floor show.

A Christmas party for children was held in the Elks auditorium on Dec. 21, 1938. Santa was there and the children enjoyed singing carols, playing games and receiving gifts.

The spies who deserve to be out in the cold

By Rich Lowry

The "Twitter Files" released by Elon Musk give us a more fine-grained understanding of how and why the social media company decided to censor the Hunter Biden laptop story.

This was a woefully stupid decision. The *New York Post's* account was suspended for two weeks for the offense of coming up with a scoop that we are still talking about and that will surely play a large role in upcoming GOP investigations into Biden family corruption.

That's the kind of thing that newspapers should get awards for; Twitter thought it should get punished for it.

But the Twitter officials caught up in the progressive bubble that caused them to censor first, ask questions later -- all in the name of "safety," of course -- weren't the most blameworthy actors in this episode.

That dishonor belongs to the former intelligence officials who put out a widely cited, deliberately misleading letter suggesting that the Hunter Biden laptop was Russian disinformation. It muddled the discussion over the laptop and gave President Joe Biden a handy tool to try to deflect the laptop story.

These former officials knew what they were doing, traded on their public service for a tawdry political purpose, and have by and large demonstrated no remorse.

Even the former head of trust and safety at Twitter -- who sounds like he just came from a sit-in at a university president's office demanding the disinvitation of a right-wing speaker from campus -- has said Twitter shouldn't have suppressed the Hunter Biden story.

Amazingly, the former officials, once entrusted with some of the most sensitive powers and roles in the U.S. government, aren't as responsible and accountable as a social-media functionary from woke central casting. As a sheer matter of public accountability, their disgraceful performance should be one focus of House Republican investigators beginning in January.

More than 50 former intelligence officials signed the letter, including five former CIA directors or acting directors. Biden cited the letter in a debate with Donald Trump. "There are," he said, "50 former national intelligence folks who said that

what ... he's accusing me of is a Russian plant."

That statement was strictly true; it just didn't hold the significance that Biden hoped the average listener would assume. When Trump derisively noted that Biden sounded like he was saying that the laptop was another Russian hoax, Biden doubled down: "That's exactly what we're told."

Of course, we all know that there's no way Biden heard about the laptop with all its tawdry and comprising information and thought, "No, that's not my boy -- must be the insidious work of an extremely adept, undetected Russian spy network trying to influence the election."

Now that multiple other news outlets have confirmed the legitimacy of the laptop, the letter-writers haven't repented about themselves spreading clever disinformation meant to influence the election. They've fallen back on a Jesuitical defense of their handiwork.

And, indeed, the letter-writers played a game. They didn't actually say that the Hunter Biden laptop story was disinformation, at the same time they created that impression. This has given them plausible -- or more accurately, implausible -- deniability.

Cornered about the letter on Fox News, former CIA officer David Priess said that the laptop story, just as the letter asserted, had "all the classic earmarks" of Russian disinformation. That didn't mean it was disinformation, just that it had the earmarks.

That's not how the letter was promoted at the time, though. Nick Shapiro, a prime mover behind the missive and a former top aide under CIA director John Brennan, told Politico, "The real power here however is the number of former, working-level IC officers who want the American people to know that once again the Russians are interfering."

No weasel words there. And the press coverage leaned heavily on the suspicions of the intelligence officials, not their lawyerly caveats.

Even more than the former management of Twitter, the letter-writers have shown they never should be trusted again.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Northbrook Students of the Month - September



Northbrook School 5th grade students of the month for September, left to right, are Maycie Sproston, Bristol Bonnell, Adalynn Sondgroth, Derek Kundert, Harper Stamberger.



Northbrook School 6th grade students of the month for September, left to right, are Fayte Michaels, Isaac Arteaga, Lila Bielema. Not pictured: Sergio Correa.



Northbrook School 7th grade students of the month for September, left to right, are Anthony Morales-Martinez, Ashton Stamberger, Cruz Chavez, Daniel Morano, Kyra Lindsay, Paola Solorzano.



Northbrook School 8th grade students of the month for September, left to right, are Hayden Senders, Gianni Figueroa, Melanie Carlos, Alexa Carlos.



New salon in Sublette

The Village of Sublette welcomes its newest business Shear Elegance Salon. Jordan and Chris Tidmore opened the new salon located at 103 W. Main St., Sublette, with an opening day of Dec. 1. Presenting an American flag to Jordan is Sublette Village President John Stenzel, left. The salon offers all things for hair, for both men and women, cuts, color, waxing, facials, basic nail services, manicures and pedicures. Hours are available for appointment. For more information, find the salon on Facebook under Shear Elegance Salon, or email tidmore.shearelegance@gmail.com. (Photo contributed)

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THE BACK PAGE



Santa visits State Farm

Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance recently had its second annual "Photos With Santa" in which State Farm offered photos with Santa Claus in exchange for non-perishable food items to be donated to the Mendota First Presbyterian Church micro pantry. State Farm provided photos to 36 families and collected more than 190 food items. Giving Santa their Christmas wishes are Jaxson Johnson, center, and Anthony Contreras. (Photo contributed)

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Jim Polley would like to thank the doctors and staff at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center for the expert care and kindness we received, and also Hospice for its wonderful care. This included a free Thanksgiving meal for all of us. We appreciate the kindness and great blessing everyone has been.

Jean Polley & family

POLICE BLOTTER

DUI, OTHER CHARGES

Hector Rivera, 44, of 1203 Jefferson St., Mendota, was charged with driving while under the influence, violation of possession of alcohol liquor in a motor vehicle (open container), improper lane usage and violation of the child passenger protection act (child seat) after a traffic stop at Washington Street and 14th Avenue at 5:24 p.m. Dec. 6. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

BAIL BOND VIOLATION

Kayla M. Falcon, 28, of 407 Fifth Ave., Mendota, was charged with bail bond violation on Dec. 10. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

SEVERAL CHARGES

Beth M. Kerchner, 60, of 105 20th St., Mendota, was charged with suspended registration, driving while license suspended and aggravated fleeing and eluding after a traffic stop at 16th Street and Indiana Avenue on Dec. 11. After exiting the vehicle and yelling at a police officer, Kerchner returned to the vehicle and fled from the scene. Police pursued Kerchner and observed her commit multiple traffic offenses before terminating the pursuit due to public safety considerations. Approximately 30 minutes later, Kerchner was met by police officers when she returned to her residence and was taken into custody. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Robert J. Chada, 34, of 1204 12th St., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers responded to a residence for a third-party report of someone yelling for help on Dec. 11. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail for a bond hearing.

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Winter driving 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.

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01/19/2022

SPORTS

Kewanee takes down grapplers

KEWANEE – Mendota fell by a 66-18 count to Kewanee in a varsity dual wrestling meet on Dec. 9 at Kewanee.

The Trojans picked up three wins, all by pin. They came from Rhett Watson at 145 pounds, Reyli Sandoval at 152 pounds and Albert Harris at 285 pounds.

Dec. 9 @ Kewanee Kewanee 66, Mendota 18

106 – Bettase (K) won forfeit; 113 – Martinez (K) pinned Cadence Thornton (M), 5:30; 120 – Corral (K) won forfeit; 126 – Hagen (K) won forfeit; 132 – Mason (K) pinned Gavin Evans (M), 0:40; 138 – Lambert (K) pinned Keegan Stewart (M), 1:30; 145 – Rhett Watson (M) pinned Hammerick (K), 2:22; 152 – Reyli Sandoval (M) pinned James (K), 2:37; 160 – Parker (K) won forfeit; 170 – Gonzalez (K) pinned Payton Gagliardo (M), 2:30; 182 – Sanchez (K) won forfeit; 195 – Lockett (K) pinned Reese Lane (M), 1:30; 220 – Sanchez (K) won forfeit; 285 – Albert Harris (M) pinned Ruiz (K), 1:55



Mendota's Reanna Brant looks for a shot over the defense of Princeton's Erin May on Dec. 8 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

MHS girls nip Streator, beaten by Princeton

Princeton caught fire in the second quarter and cruised to a 56-12 win over Mendota in a Three Rivers Conference varsity girls' basketball game on Dec. 8 at the MHS gym.

Mendota led 7-4 late in the first period before a three-pointer by Princeton tied the game heading to the second quarter. The Lady Trojans managed only five more points the rest of the contest, while the Lady Tigers tallied 49 points over the final three frames.

Mendota, which played without two of its starting five, was led by Reanna Brant's seven points and 10 rebounds.

"We held our own early and were doing some nice things offensively," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We got tired and sloppy at the top and that led to layups for Princeton."

Mendota held on for a 26-24 victory at Streator on Dec. 10.

The Lady Trojans doubled the score on Streator after one, 12-6, but the home team sliced the margin down to one at the half (15-14) and the game was tight the rest of the way.

"A win is a win," commented Hansen. "It was a huge game for (Reanna) Brant. She was very active at both ends of the court."

Brant paced Mendota with 14 points, 11 rebounds

PRINCETON 56, MENDOTA 12

Princeton (56)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
May	2	1-2	1	5
Gartin	3	2-2	1	9
Hobson	4	2-2	2	11
Ibarra	0	0-0	1	0
Driscoll	1	0-0	1	2
Fox	5	1-2	2	13
Davis	7	0-0	2	14
Mattingly	1	0-0	0	2
Totals	23	6-8	10	56

Mendota (12)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	1	1-5	1	3
Wasmer	0	0-0	3	0
Brant	2	3-4	10	2
Gonzalez	1	0-0	4	2
Frey	0	0-0	1	0
Sharp	0	0-0	1	0
Schultz	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	4	4-9	22	12

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Princeton	7	24	48	56
Mendota	7	9	12	12
Three-point goals: Princeton - Gartin 1, Hobson 1, Fox 2				

MENDOTA 26, STREATOR 24

Mendota (26)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
Jenner	1	5-13	1	8
Zinke	1	0-0	0	2
Wasmer	0	0-1	2	0
Gonzalez	1	0-0	7	2
Brant	6	2-4	11	14
Frey	0	0-0	1	0
Schultz	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	9	7-18	23	26

Streator (24)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Rhodes	2	0-0	0	4
Iserman	3	0-0	2	6
Lane	1	0-0	0	2
Gwaltney	1	0-0	2	3
Bourell	2	3-3	2	7
Vickers	1	0-0	2	2
Williams	0	0-0	4	0
Gwaltney	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	10	3-3	13	24

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	12	15	23	26
Streator	6	14	19	24
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 1; Streator - Gwaltney 1				

and seven blocked shots. Katie Jenner added eight points and five steals, while Cassie Gonzalez supplied seven rebounds and five steals.



Bound for Rock Valley

Naitzy Garcia, seated, a Mendota High School senior, signs a letter of intent to play for the women's soccer team at Rock Valley College next fall. Looking on in front are family members Julian Garcia, left, Rafael Garcia and Angelic Garcia. Back row, left to right, are Rock Valley assistant coach Erin Disanti, MHS head coach Nick Myers and Rock Valley head coach Kevan Watkins. Rock Valley is a NJCAA Division III college located in Rockford and is a member of the North Central Community College Conference. (Photo contributed)

Trojans go 2-2 in Colmone Classic; finish in 9th place

SPRING VALLEY – The Mendota Trojans won two of four games and finished in ninth place in the 12-team Colmone Classic Hall Holiday Tournament in Spring Valley.

After dropping its opener to Ottawa Marquette on Dec. 3, the Trojans met up with LaSalle-Peru in the final game of pool play and the Cavaliers came away with a 55-45 win on Dec. 6.

Mendota trailed from the start, falling behind 15-9 after the first quarter and 30-19 at halftime. L-P was able to thwart any plans of a Trojan second-half comeback.

Rafael Romero led Men-

dota with nine points, while Cale Strouss and Izaiah Nanez supplied eight points apiece.

A second-half comeback was in the cards for the Trojans against St. Bede as they used a strong fourth quarter to post a 65-58 triumph over the Bruins on Dec. 8.

The Trojans held a narrow 18-17 lead after the first eight-minute session, but St. Bede went to the locker room with a two-point advantage (32-30) and held a 50-47 margin with one quarter to play. But the tide turned in the final frame as Mendota pumped in 18 points and held St. Bede to eight to pull out the victory.

Three Trojans hit double figures in scoring, led by Romero with 21 points. Cale Strouss drilled four

three-pointers on his way to 16 points, while Nanez dropped in 14 markers.

Mendota concluded tournament action with a 59-42 victory over Hall on the ninth-place game on Dec. 10.

The Trojans led 14-9 at the end of one period, and then took control in the second quarter when they outscored Hall, 20-12. Mendota upped the margin to 19 (45-26) with three quarters in the books.

Romero scored 10 first-quarter points on his way to a team-high 19 tallies for the Trojans. Cale Strouss was next with 12 points, while Nanez and Isaac Guzman chipped in with nine points apiece.

Mendota's record stands at 4-5.



Romero

Colmone Classic boxscores

LaSALLE-PERU 55, MENDOTA 45				
LaSalle-Peru (55)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Cabrera	2	0-0	1	5
Adams	1	1-2	1	4
Jereb	2	0-0	1	5
Hartman	1	0-0	2	3
Van Duzer	1	0-0	0	2
Senica	10	3-4	3	24
Baldin	1	0-0	0	3
Boudreau	4	0-0	1	9
Totals	22	4-6	9	55

Mendota (45)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	3	0-2	4	8
Guzman	2	0-0	0	6
Romero	4	1-2	3	9
Nanez	3	2-2	0	8
R. Strouss	3	0-0	2	6
Stamberger	2	0-0	0	6
Aughenbaugh	1	0-0	0	2
Totals	18	3-6	9	45

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
LaSalle-Peru	15	30	41	55
Mendota	9	19	31	45
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 2, Guzman 2, Stamberger 2; LaSalle-Peru - Cabrera 1, Adams 1, Jereb 1, Hartman 1, Senica 1, Baldin 1				

MENDOTA 65, ST. BEDE 58				
St. Bede (58)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Huszez	1	0-0	0	2
Brown	4	0-2	4	10
Hueneburg	4	3-4	2	13
Brady	3	1-2	5	8
Hart	8	1-2	2	20
Jackson	2	1-2	3	5
Potthoff	0	0-1	1	0
Totals	22	6-13	17	58

Mendota (65)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	5	2-3	3	16
Guzman	3	0-1	1	7
Romero	10	1-2	2	21
Nanez	5	2-3	1	14
R. Strouss	0	2-2	2	2
Stamberger	2	0-0	3	5
Aughenbaugh	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	25	7-11	14	65

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
St. Bede	17	32	50	58
Mendota	18	30	47	65
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 4, Guzman 1, Stamberger 1, Nanez 2; St. Bede - Brown 2, Hueneburg 2, Brady 1, Hart 3				

MENDOTA 59, HALL 42				
Hall (42)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Resetch	6	8-11	3	22
Pecher	2	1-2	3	6
Bryant	0	0-0	3	0
Bickett	1	0-0	0	3
Plym	0	0-0	4	0
Corran	1	0-0	0	2
Smith	0	0-2	2	0
Dye	3	0-0	0	9
Totals	13	9-15	15	42

Mendota (59)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
C. Strouss	3	3-4	3	12
Guzman	3	2-2	0	9
Romero	9	1-1	4	19
Nanez	3	2-4	0	9
R. Strouss	1	0-0	4	2
Stamberger	2	0-0	3	6
Dewey	0	0-1	0	0
Stevenson	1	0-0	0	2
Kelly	0	0-1	0	0
Totals	22	8-13	14	59

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Hall	9	21	26	42
Mendota	14	34	45	59
Three-point goals: Mendota - C. Strouss 3, Guzman 1, Stamberger 2, Nanez 1; Hall - Resetch 2, Pecher 1, Bickett 1, Dye 3				

Colmone Classic Hall Holiday Tournament scores

Dec. 6
LaSalle-Peru 55, Mendota 45
Princeton 68, Rock Falls 56
Putnam County 69, Hall 34

Dec. 7
Putnam County 63, Stillman Valley 48
Rock Falls 69, St. Bede 61
Pontiac 65, Fieldcrest 47

Dec. 8
Mendota 65, St. Bede 58
Hall 60, Bureau Valley 48
Stillman Valley 60, Fieldcrest 57

Dec. 9
LaSalle-Peru 60, Rock Falls 48
Princeton 74, Marquette 50
Pontiac 78, Putnam County 58

Dec. 10
St. Bede 70, Bureau Valley 58 (11th place)
Mendota 59, Hall 42 (9th place)
Fieldcrest 64, Rock Falls 61 (7th place)
Stillman Valley 43, LaSalle-Peru 36 (5th place)
Putnam County 47, Marquette 45 (3rd place)
Princeton 62, Pontiac 57 (1st place)

All-Tournament Team

Grady Thompson, Princeton (MVP); Mac Resetch, Hall; Josh Senica, L-P; Henry Brummel, Pontiac; Owen Dunseth, Stillman Valley; Jackson McDonald, Putnam County; Riley Weber, Pontiac; Teegan Davis, Princeton; Gavin Sands, Rock Falls; Griffin Walker, Marquette

ISU awarded state football finals contract from '23-27

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting at the IHSA office in Bloomington on Dec. 7, where the Board approved a State Final hosting contract with Illinois State University (ISU) and the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (BNACVB) to host the IHSA Football State Finals at ISU's Hancock Stadium from 2023 to 2027.



"We appreciate all of the hosting bids that we received for the IHSA Football State Finals," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "Seeing the passion that these university communities have for hosting the State Finals and the amazing stadiums that each campus offers didn't make for an easy decision. Ultimately, the first-class facilities, amazing support from Illinois State University and the Bloomington-Normal communities, and the central location proved to be the biggest factors in returning to ISU for the next five years."

Hancock Stadium hosted the inaugural IHSA Football State Finals in 1974 and hosted over 100 IHSA Football State Championship games from 1974 to 1998.

"The entire Illinois State University community is ecstatic to have the IHSA Football State Finals returning to Bloomington-Normal," ISU Director of Athletics Kyle Brennan said. "Illinois State University and Illinois State Athletics have long valued their great partnership with the IHSA and take pride in our duties hosting IHSA events at our facilities. It will be a pleasure for us to welcome the student-athletes, their families and spectators to campus and the Bloomington-Normal community each year and provide them with a top-notch experience at Hancock Stadium."

Hancock Stadium underwent a \$23 million dollar renovation in 2013 that included a new press box, a transformation of the east side of the stadium, new chair back seating, suites, and more stadium-wide upgrades. ISU broke ground on an indoor football practice facility adjacent to Hancock Stadium in April of 2022 that will be completed when the 2023 IHSA Football State Finals are held there on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 24-25, 2023.

"We are delighted to be awarded the IHSA Football State Finals," says Crystal Howard, President/CEO for the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors

SPORTS



Blumhorst brothers battle

DePue head boys' basketball coach Trae Blumhorst, left, (Christmas sweater), and LaMoille head boys' basketball coach Chance Blumhorst, right, (Christmas sweater), meet with captains and officials prior to the start of their game on Dec. 9 at LaMoille. The Blumhorst brothers are both in their first year as head coaches of their respective schools and went head-to-head at the LHS gym in a contest won by Chance and the Lions, 51-46. Chance is a 2009 graduate of Mendota High School and Trae is a 2013 graduate of MHS. Their father, Brian, conducted a ceremonial "jump ball" and Brian's mother presented the game ball to Chance prior to the start of the contest. (Photo courtesy of Bureau County Republican)

Continued from Page B1

Bureau (BNACVB). "Our relationship with the IHSA continues to grow, and we appreciate the faith they have in our organization and our community as an ideal host for their events. Thank you to the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal for their support that allows us to pursue these types of events, and to Illinois State University for partnership and enthusiasm to host this event."

Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale each submitted bids to host the IHSA State Finals from 2023-2027. The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana submitted a bid to host in 2024, 2026, and 2028.

"This decision wasn't made lightly, as Northern

Football

Illinois University and the University of Illinois have been incredible hosts for us through the years," said Anderson. "We have a tremendous relationship with Champaign-Urbana and look forward to returning there in a few short months for State Wrestling and Boys Basketball. Northern Illinois did an exemplary job, stepping up to host beginning in 2013 when the Big Ten schedule necessitated a hosting change in the midst of the contract with the University of Illinois. Southern Illinois University's facility stacks up with any other in the state as well and the area is well-known for having a deeply-rooted high school sports fan base. The IHSA deeply values its relationships with all of these institutions and their communities."

Only four venues have ever hosted the IHSA Football State Finals, which debuted in 1974. Hancock Stadium hosted the first six years of championship

games. In 1980, the IHSA expanded from five classes to six classes, at which point the IHSA opted to keep the 1A through 3A games at Hancock Stadium, while moving the Class 5A and Class 6A contests to Dyche Stadium on the Northwestern University campus in Evanston. This arrangement lasted from 1980 to 1984. All six classes returned to Hancock in 1985 and remained there through the 1998 state championships. The University of Illinois has hosted the State Finals since 1999, with the exception of odds years from 2013 through 2021, when the games shifted to Northern Illinois University's campus in DeKalb.

Illinois State University currently hosts the IHSA Girls' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball State Finals, while the IHSA Boys' Golf, Dance, Cheerleading, Journalism, Scholastic Bowl, Dual Team Wrestling, and Girls' Individual Wrestling State Finals are all held in Bloomington-Normal.

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SPORTS



Mendota's Cassie Gonzalez tries to maneuver her way around Princeton's Isa Ibarra on Dec. 8 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Sign-up open for Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt

SPRINGFIELD – Youth interested in participating in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' annual Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt on Jan. 16 can register now.

The 2023 hunt will be dedicated in the memory of Tom Brokaw of Bloomington, who was a vital part of the hunt since its inception and opened his entire club for the youth hunters. He always went above and beyond to make sure children had a great hunt. Brokaw died Aug. 10 and was recognized as a 2022 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Volunteer of the Year during the Illinois State Fair.

The youth goose hunt will be held at private waterfowl hunting clubs in the Canton area in Fulton County, and hunters selected to participate will be pre-assigned to hunting locations.

Registration for the hunt will close Dec. 31. To register for a drawing to participate in the hunt, youth hunters must visit the

following link and follow the instructions: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/YouthGooseHunt2023.aspx>.

The registration link can also be found on the IDNR home page at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Pages/default.aspx>; look for the rotating images at the top of the page.

A lottery drawing involving all youth hunters who register will be conducted, and those who are selected will be notified by email. First-time applicants will be given priority over previous participants in the drawing.

The hunt is open to youngsters ages 10-17 at the time of the hunt. All applicants must possess a valid Illinois hunting or sportsman's license, have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number, and have a 20 gauge or larger shotgun. Youth hunt participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who must possess a valid firearm owner's identification (FOID) card.

For more information, call 217-785-8060.

Cold shooting plagues girls in 33-31 loss to Newman

STERLING – There was a lid on the basket for the Mendota Lady Trojans as they struggled shooting the ball from the floor and the free throw line in a 33-31 Three Rivers Conference loss to Newman on Dec. 12 at Sterling.

Mendota (3-9, 1-4) connected on 10 of 40 shots from the field and two of 20 from the charity stripe.

"It's tough to win shooting the ball like we did," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We played hard and well enough, but were extremely poor at the most important part."

Mendota fell behind 11-5 after the first quarter and trailed 18-12 at halftime. The Lady Trojans were still down by six (24-18) after three and came up short in a fourth-quarter comeback.

Reanna Brant provided 11 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots for Mendota, while Katie Jenner added nine points and six steals. Grace Wasmer chipped in with seven tallies and six caroms.

NEWMAN 33, MENDOTA 31					
Mendota (31)					
	FG	FT	Reb	TP	
Jenner	3	1-11	4	9	
Zinke	0	0-0	1	0	
Wasmer	3	0-2	6	7	
Brant	5	1-2	13	11	
Gonzalez	2	0-2	5	4	
Frey	0	0-3	1	0	
Schultz	0	0-0	3	0	
Totals	13	2-20	33	31	

Sterling Newman (33)					
	FG	FT	Fls	TP	
Johns	4	3-12	1	11	
Papocchia	1	0-1	5	2	
Oetting	3	0-1	5	6	
Duhon	2	4-4	3	8	
Hammes	2	0-0	1	4	
P. Terbush	0	0-0	4	0	
Franque	1	0-0	0	2	
Totals	13	7-18	19	33	

SCORE BY QUARTERS					
Mendota	5	12	18	31	
Newman	11	18	24	33	
Three-point goals: Mendota - Jenner 2, Wasmer 1					

Sophomore boys fall to Rock Falls in tournament

SPRING VALLEY – Mendota's sophomore boys' basketball team dropped a 52-36 decision to Rock Falls in its final game of the Hall Colmone Classic on Dec. 9 at Spring Valley.

The game was tied at 8-8 after one period, but Rock Falls exploded for 23 points in the second quarter compared to nine for the Trojans.

Cam Kelly paced Mendota with 10 points, followed by Aden Tillman with eight and Dane Doyle with seven.

Mendota High School bowling

Dec. 10 @ L-P Cavalier Classic (boys-12 teams)

1st place – LaSalle-Peru, 6105; 4th place – Mendota, 5378

Mendota scores: 7th place – Paxton Bauer, 1229; 14th place – Landon Bauer, 1172; 34th place – Alex Holland, 1009; 36th place – Kooper Novak, 1002; 58th place – Aiden Kent-Tucker, 514; 60th place – Clay Buffington, 452

1st place individual – Brady Grabowski, Streator – 1380

(girls-10 teams)

1st place – LaSalle-Peru, 4967; 8th place – Mendota, 3517

Mendota scores: 19th

place – Lauren Holland, 901; 26th place – Isabelle Escatel, 836; 32nd place – Talya Schwaegerman, 715; 40th place – Brisa Nunez, 598; 46th place – Makayla Lara, 467

1st place individual – Aubree Acuncius, St. Bede – 1261

Dec. 12 vs. Hall (girls)

Mendota 2192, Hall 2151
Mendota scores: Isabelle Escatel 147, 160, 121 – 428; Peri Manning 79, 125, 104 – 308; Talya Schwaegerman 126, 127, 130 – 383; Brisa Nunez 144, 104, 100 – 348; Alex Casas 104, 120, 81 – 305; Karli Miars 143, 151, 126 – 420

LaMoille H.S. boys' basketball

Dec. 5 @ Henry

Henry 67, LaMoille 36

Stats: Logan Dober 10 points; Eli Keighin 9 points, 4 steals; Brayden Klein 8 points; Tyler Billhorn 6 rebounds

Dec. 9 vs. DePue

LaMoille 51, DePue 46

Stats: Keighin 26 points, 16 rebounds; Klein 8 points

Dec. 6 @ Newark

Newark 75, LaMoille 34

Cheer on your favorite player or team by attending a game!

BOWLING

Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Nov. 29 – 1. Black Bros. 35-17; 2. Team 2 24-28; 3. JJ&L Carpentry 23-29; 4. Age Old Organics 22-30

High team game (scratch) – JJ&L Carpentry 987, Age Old Organics 961, Team 2 922

High team game (hdcp) – Age Old Organics 1141, JJ&L Carpentry 1116, Black Bros. 1017

High team series (scratch) – JJ&L Carpentry 2822, Age Old Organics 2696, Team 2 2670

High team series (hdcp) – Age Old Organics 3236, JJ&L Carpentry 3209, Black Bros. 2992

High individual game (scratch) – Beau Wixom 234, Tyler Schmitt 224, Scott Novak & Kirk Ross 224

High individual series (scratch) – Kirk Ross 625, Tyler Schmitt 603, Luke Ross 601

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Nov. 30 – 1. First State Bank 28.5-23.5; 2. Boelk Truck Lines 25.5-26.5; 3. O'Donnell Excavating 25-27; 4. Mendota Monument 17-35

High team game (scratch) – Mendota Monument 1099, First State Bank 1026, Boelk Truck Lines 971

High team game (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 1148, Mendota Monument 1144, First State Bank 1120

High team series (scratch) – Mendota Monument 2913, First State Bank 2839, Boelk Truck Lines 2740

High team series (hdcp) – O'Donnell Excavating 3260, Boelk Truck Lines 3139, First State Bank 3121

High individual game (scratch) – Tyler Schmitt 265, Barry Sutton 257, Joel Bejster 251

(scratch) – Tyler Schmitt 733, Tim Dessing 675, Chris Eller 643

Elks 4

Youth League

Standings as of Dec. 1 – 1. Team 1 17-3; 2. Team 5 15-5; 3. Team 4 8-12; 4. Team 3 5-15; 5. Team 1 3-17

High team game (scratch) – Team 5 248, Team 4 228, Team 1 217

High team series (scratch) – Team 5 698, Team 1 625, Team 4 625

Boys' high game (scratch) – Parker Ramer 129, Gavin Stamberger 113, Billy Bromenschenkel V 100

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Billy Bromenschenkel V 240, Parker Ramer 229, Gavin Stamberger 223

Boys' high series (scratch) – Parker Ramer 353, Billy Bromenschenkel V 259, Jaxen Daley 245

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Billy Bromenschenkel V 679, Parker Ramer 653, Bentley Bejster 626

Girls' high game (scratch) – Brooklyn Mauch 63, Gabby Diaz 61

Girls' high game (hdcp) – Gabby Diaz 220, Brooklyn Mauch 215

Girls' high series (scratch) – Gabby Diaz 164, Brooklyn Mauch 130

Girls' high series (hdcp) – Gabby Diaz 641, Brooklyn Mauch 586

Elks 6

Youth League

Standings as of Dec. 1 – 1. Team 19-11; 2. Team 24-16; 3. Team 3 4-16

High team game (scratch) – Team 1 326

High team series (scratch) – Team 1 962

Boys' high game (scratch) – Toby Bulen 126, Oliver Turner 119

Boys' high game (hdcp) – Toby Bulen 215, Oliver Turner 202

– Oliver Turner 316, Toby Bulen 310

Boys' high series (hdcp) – Toby Bulen 577, Oliver Turner 565

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Dec. 5 – 1. Split Happens 41-19; 2. CM Farm 36-24; 3. Sports-N-Stuff 32-28; 4. Bad Kats 32-28; 5. Leagal Beagles 20-40; 6. Ramer Inc. 19-41

High team game (scratch) – Sports-N-Stuff 808, Split Happens 760, CM Farm 661

High team game (hdcp) – Sports-N-Stuff 1088, CM Farm 1026, Split Happens 1014

High team series (scratch) – Sports-N-Stuff 2240, Split Happens 2128, CM Farm 1930

High team series (hdcp) – Sports-N-Stuff 3080, CM Farm 2920, Split Happens 2890

Men's high game (scratch) – Ron Westphal 268, Matt Ramer 244, Luke Ross 243

Men's high game (hdcp) – Ron Westphal 301, Bob Moench Jr. 300, Luke Ross 293

Men's high series (scratch) – Ron Westphal 725, Luke Ross 671, Matt Ramer 616

Men's high series (hdcp) – Ron Westphal 824, Luke Ross 821, Bob Moench Jr. 775

Women's high game (scratch) – Emily Thomas 254, Jessica Robinson 224, Gail Sessler 210

Women's high game (hdcp) – Emily Thomas 328, Jessica Robinson 283, Mick Reistad & Hannah Westphal 280

Women's high series (scratch) – Jessica Robinson 598, Emily Thomas 546, Gail Sessler 545

Women's high series (hdcp) – Hannah Westphal 794, Mick Reistad 783, Sarah Westphal 778

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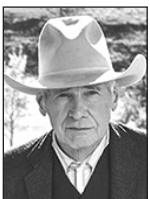
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I'm so excited about the new "Yellowstone" prequel with Harrison Ford. I also watched the earlier one with Tim McGraw, but I could swear I saw another one in the works that has a number for a title. Am I mistaken? -- L.H.



H. Ford

A: Paramount Network's "Yellowstone" series starring Kevin Costner as patriarch John Dutton has spawned two prequels and a spin-off. The first prequel, "1883," is about the Dutton family when they fled Tennessee and eventually settled on their land in Montana. The series ran for 10 episodes and starred Sam Elliott as well as husband-and-wife country music stars Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

The Dutton story continues with Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren in "1923." According to an official description from Paramount+, "1923" will "explore the early 20th century when pandemics, historic drought, the end of Prohibition and the Great Depression all plague the mountain west, and the Duttons who call it home."

It's set to premiere on the streaming service Dec. 18.

Another number to commit to memory is "6666," the title of the upcoming present-day "Yellowstone" spin-off series set at the Four Sixes Ranch in Texas. According to Us magazine, "the property appeared in season four of the flagship show when Jimmy Hurdstrom (Jefferson White) put down roots there with his fiancée Emily (Kathryn Kelly)." A premiere date hasn't been announced yet, but "6666" is supposedly going to be available on the Paramount Network and not just exclusively on its subscription streaming platform.

Q: I was showing my son "Christmas Vacation," starring Chevy Chase, for the first time. It occurred to me that I haven't seen actress Beverly D'Angelo in anything in quite some time. How is she doing? -- A.J.

A: Three decades after the Griswold family's "Christmas Vacation" film was released, Beverly D'Angelo has a new holiday film out in theaters right now titled "Violent Night." It's an action comedy starring David Harbour ("Stranger Things") as "Father Christmas" and D'Angelo as a

wealthy corporate shark.

Time hasn't slowed the 71-year-old D'Angelo down at all, since she was nominated for a Golden Globe award for her portrayal of Patsy Cline in "Coal Miner's Daughter" in 1980. She also received an Emmy nod for the iconic role of Stella Kowalski in a television production of "A Streetcar Named Desire." She's been acting steadily ever since and even gave birth to twins in 2001. The twins' father is actor Al Pacino, with whom D'Angelo had a long-term relationship until 2003.

Q: Is "The Gilded Age" returning to HBO for a second season? If so, when? I can't wait. -- P.P.

A: Rest assured, "The Gilded Age" has been renewed for season two on HBO Max, but an exact premiere date hasn't been given. When it debuted in January 2022, it was a bonafide hit and got the green light for renewal last spring. Most of the original cast is set to return except for Thomas Cocquerel, who played Tom Raikes. You can read more about the series and keep tabs on upcoming episodes through its official site at HBO.com/the-gilded-age.

• Trivia Test •

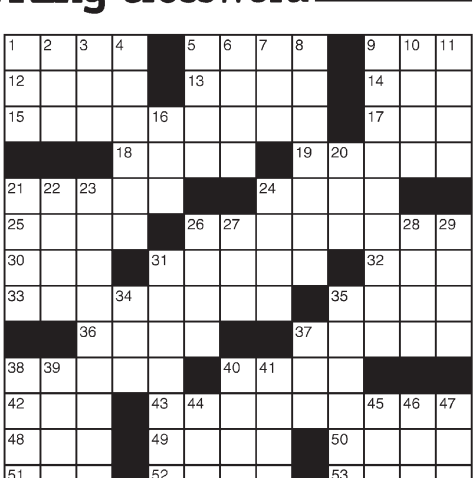
1. MOVIES: What was the name of the fictional kingdom in "Frozen"?
2. HISTORY: How many people died as a result of the Boston Massacre of 1770?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of Scrooge's business partner in "A Christmas Carol"?
4. TELEVISION: In what city is the long-running drama "Grey's Anatomy" set?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which two cities were the original endpoints of the Orient Express?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many legs does an ant have?
7. LITERATURE: What is the title of Toni Morrison's first novel?
8. MATH: How many minutes are in a week?

9. BUSINESS SLOGANS: Which company's slogan is, "Expect more. Pay less"?
 10. EXPLORERS: What is the home country of Roald Amundsen, the first to reach the South Pole?
- Answers
1. Arendelle.
 2. Five.
 3. Jacob Marley.
 4. Seattle, Washington.
 5. Paris and Istanbul (Constantinople).
 6. Six.
 7. "The Bluest Eye."
 8. 10,080.
 9. Target.
 10. Norway.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Slightly wet
- 5 Wild canine
- 9 Yoga pad
- 12 Close
- 13 Actress
- 14 Green prefix
- 15 Requiring low temperatures
- 17 Moo — pork
- 18 Boy, in Barcelona
- 19 Big name in racing
- 21 Antlered animals
- 24 Jubilation
- 25 Billions of years
- 26 German
- 30 Aachen article
- 31 Postpone
- 32 Wildebeest
- 33 Romance-free, as a relationship
- 35 Head, to Henri
- 36 Sweet wine
- 37 King of Judea
- 38 Snapshot
- 40 Graceful bird
- 42 Slithery fish
- 43 Looking good on the tube, say
- 48 Part of TNT
- 49 Lettuce unit



- 50 Turner or Fey
- 51 Billboards
- 52 Evergreens
- 53 Crisp cookie

- 10 Dull pain
- 11 Go sightseeing
- 16 USO patrons
- 20 Ultramodernist
- 21 Leak out slowly
- 22 Work hard
- 23 Maryland's capital
- 24 Avocado dip, for short
- 26 Camp shelter
- 27 Peyton's brother
- 28 Grooving on
- 29 Prompted
- 31 Girl in "The Wizard of Oz"
- 34 Nanny's charge
- 35 Beliefs
- 37 Crone
- 38 Anti-fur org.
- 39 Cattle group
- 40 Cabbage salad
- 41 Marries
- 44 Shoe width
- 45 Diarist Anaïs
- 46 — tizzy
- 47 Bottle top

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- It was widely reported that Mickey Kuhn, the last surviving credited cast member of the 1939 classic "Gone With the Wind," passed away Nov. 20 in Naples, Florida, at 90. Kuhn played Beau Wilkes, son of Ashley and Melanie Wilkes. But it was not reported that Patrick Curtis, married to Raquel Welch from 1967-1973, played (uncredited) Beau Wilkes as a baby, which technically makes him the last living cast member. (Wonder how he got the part? Oh, that's right, he was legendary director Billy Wilder's nephew!) Olivia de Havilland, who played Melanie, was the last living principal character to pass away, in 2020 at 104.

It's not even Christmas, and Dwayne Johnson has already launched a new franchise: the action-adventure Christmas film "Red One," co-starring Chris Evans, Lucy Liu and J.K. Simmons, slated for Christmas 2023. Johnson keeps busy between

acting projects by producing films like "Shazam! Fury of the Gods," due in theaters March 17, 2023.

Not long ago, Ryan Reynolds was crying the blues because the Christmas "Deadpool" movie he wrote was a casualty when Disney acquired 20th Century Fox and passed on the project. But they did eventually greenlight "Deadpool 3." (Was there ever any doubt with the first two "Deadpool" films grossing \$800 million each?) "Deadpool 3" will have the added box-office power of Hugh Jackman as Wolverine.

Reynolds' current film, "Spirited," with Will Ferrell, grossed \$100 million before hitting AppleTV+ a week later. Reynolds' next film is John Krasinski's "IF" (which Krasinski wrote, is producing, directing and starring in). "IF" also stars Steve Carell and "Fleabag's" Phoebe Waller-Bridge. Due May 2024, the film's about a child's journey to rediscover their imagination.

Fans of "Pee-wee's Playhouse" will appreciate that John Paragon, aka Jambi the Genie, who died April 2021 at 66 from heart disease, was re-laid to rest. In November, his ashes were interred at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in a unique urn memorializing his character, Jambi -- a purple and gold box similar to Jambi's box in the playhouse.

This feat of magic was performed by Paul Reubens (Pee-wee Herman), Cassandra Peterson (known for playing Elvira, Mistress of the Dark) and a GoFundMe, which raised more than \$14,000 from fans. Paragon, also a writer and director for "Pee-wee's Playhouse," connected with Reubens when they were members of the improv group The Groundlings. Paragon and Peterson also played shows together at Knott's Berry Farm. If you have to be laid to rest in Hollywood Forever, it might as well be in a magic box!

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Couch Theater

"Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio" (PG) -- Academy-Award-winning director Guillermo del Toro first announced his reimagining of the children's fantasy story "Pinocchio" back in 2008. After a long-winding road leading up to its 2022 release, the film, starring Ewan McGregor, Finn Wolfhard, Cate Blanchett and more, is now out on streaming. For his reimagining, del Toro uses stop-motion animation, which gives the characters a much more fantastical look, unlike the soft, cartoony animation of Disney's "Pinocchio." So far, the critics have given positive reviews, no doubt due to the emotional, character-based storytelling that accompanies del Toro's films ("The Shape of Water" and "Pan's Labyrinth") and makes them so profound. (Netflix)

"Something From Tifanny's" (PG) -- Could the iconic rom-com era (not looking at you, Netflix) make a comeback? This new Prime Original movie produced by Reese Witherspoon has a taste of classic rom-coms

like "The Holiday" (2006) that we've all come to know and love over the years. Zoey Deutch plays Rachel Meyer, a woman who receives a Tiffany's engagement ring from her boyfriend, Gary (Ray Nicholson). Gary, who in reality just purchased earrings for her, realizes his gift was swapped with another man's. In the process of swapping the gifts back with Ethan, the rightful owner of the ring, the accidental gift-swapping coincidentally leads to a fated attraction between Rachel and Ethan. Out now. (Prime Video)

"Ticket to Paradise" (PG-13) -- A new rom-com starring George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Kaitlyn Dever just hit streaming platforms after its theatrical release. This is not Clooney and Roberts' first rodeo, as the pair have co-starred in the "Ocean's" trilogy and even a thriller called "Money Monster" (2016). They play David and Georgia Cotton, respectively, who were formerly married and cannot stand the sight of each other. But the Cottons

reunite when they find out their daughter, Lily, is potentially marrying a man she just met. Afraid that Lily is only going to repeat the same mistakes that led to their demise, the Cottons are determined to sabotage the wedding. (Peacock)

"The Banshees of Inisherin" (R) -- Taking place in 1923 near the end of the Irish Civil War, two friends, Padraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson), reach an impasse in their longtime friendship when Colm suddenly stops talking to Padraic. After Padraic's constant attempts to speak with Colm and mend the relationship, Colm threatens to start cutting off his own fingers and gift them to Padraic every time he continues to bother him. Barry Keoghan ("Dunkirk") also stars in this gritty, metaphorical Irish film that won Farrell the Volpi Cup for Best Actor at the 79th Venice International Film Festival. Out Dec. 13. (HBO Max)

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* A fight between chameleons is more likely to be both initiated and won by the lizard with the brighter stripes. But then, such conflicts are rare, since that flashier color display is typically enough to win the duel.

* Every year, 11,000 injuries are reported in America as a result of sexual experimentation.

* Do you like to bowl? So did a lot of folks in 14th-century England, to the extent that King Edward III actually tried to outlaw the game in an effort to redirect the focus of his troops to archery!

* The Popigai crater in northern Siberia contains an estimated trillions of karats of industrial-grade diamonds. Unfortunately, they're too expensive to mine.

* Many if not most people hate those annoying pop-up ads that plague our computers ... and you can include their creator, Ethan Zuckerman, in that group. In 2014, he confessed in an article: "I wrote the code to launch the window and run an ad in it. I'm sorry. Our intentions were good."

* Bulgarians nod when they want to say no and shake their heads when they want to say yes.

* A cow will allow itself to be led up the stairs, but it will be impossible for you to lead it back down the stairs again.

* Here's a little extra justification for those of us who dislike daylight saving time: The practice has been linked to increased heart attacks, strokes, car accidents, workplace injuries, headaches, depressive episodes and even lower SAT scores.

* For centuries, the word "topaz" was used to refer to any yellow gemstone, despite the fact that natural topaz is colorless.

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Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

LOCAL AND AREA

Barn quilts are still a popular item

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

ASHTON – When the Underground Railroad was being used to move slaves to free states and Canada in the 19th Century, directions were not given by GPS or road maps.

Instead, they were given in artwork hung on barns known as barn quilts. The quilts were symbolic of the direction the slave would need to go toward freedom.

Now, with the Underground Railroad and slavery gone, barn quilts are still being made, but for a different reason – decoration.

“Barn quilts are considered a fat quarter in quilting. When you make a quilt, the center of the quilt is usually your fat quarter,” said Sue Pascarella, 61, born in Chicago who has lived in Ashton for 21 years. “It’s the focal point of the quilt and then you built out from there with your background. If you look

at a quilt and you see the center point, you’ll also see that there are smaller parts just like it or they do something a little different.

“They decorate your house. They bring some color to your house. People hang them by their front door as a sign of welcome. Some hang them on their garage for a pop of color. Once you buy one, you want to buy more. I have a lot of repeat business. It becomes an addiction. We have several on our house. We have them on our garage. We have them on our front porch and one on our mailbox post.”

Pascarella has been making barn quilts for six years.

What started out as a fun activity to do with her friends, became something more as she creates 100 barn quilts a year and has over 100 designs, including 12 that came from the Underground Railroad.

“My girlfriends and I needed a fun day out. I found a painting class in Ash-

ton and we decided to paint a barn quilt. It sounded like fun, so we did it. We took this class and we had a ball,” Pascarella said. “It’s a great stress reliever. I have a full-time job at Senior Helpers that I work Monday through Friday. I work in an office and we have an office on-call phone that we take turns taking it home. Every other weekend, one of us is on call and you need something that is fun when you’re at home. I find this as an outlet for frustration.”

Pascarella found the best canvas to use is a double-sided sign board, which is made to be outside. After the design is drawn and finalized, the board is sealed. Most of the barn quilts are 4x8, but can be bigger, and are primed with outdoor primer.

Although the general idea of a barn quilt is to be hung outside, they can have a border and be showcased inside homes as well.



In the 19th century, barn quilts were used as directions for the Underground Railroad. Now, they are used across the country as decorations. Sue Pascarella of Ashton has been creating barn quilts for six years.

Who’s That Santa?

While shopping, try to figure out which Santa works in which business! They won’t have on their Santa hats or be wearing a beard, but they will be in the business and could be helping you!!

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Second Place \$20 • Third Place \$10**



SANTA #

BUSINESS & EMPLOYEE

_____ City of Mendota - Ruger
_____ Financial Plus Credit Union - Alejandra Hernandez
_____ First State Bank - Jessica Newcomer
_____ First State Insurance - Jerrick Kapraun
_____ Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse - Julie Lee
_____ McConville Realty and Auctioneer - Joe McConville
_____ Mendota Companion Animal - Timmy
_____ Specialty Body & Paint - Dennis Bodmer
_____ Sullivan’s Foods - Jason Finkboner

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

This entry blank must be received by Thursday, Dec. 29 at 4 p.m.. Mail or drop off your entry at: The Mendota Reporter, 703 Illinois Avenue, P.O. Box 300 Mendota, IL 61342. The winner will be the one who correctly identifies the most Santas. If more than one person has the most correct answers, the winner will be randomly drawn from those entries. Correct answers will appear in the Jan. 4, 2023 issue.

LOCAL AND AREA



Spreading Christmas cheer

A worker from Black Bros. Co. in Mendota uses the company's forklift to drop off a big supply of Christmas gifts at the Mendota Police Department. Flat River Industries in Peru, a distribution facility for multiple big box stores, donated the items (bicycles, toys, etc.) to the United Way, which will distribute the Christmas gifts to area schools, churches, civic organizations to then be passed on to people in need this Christmas season. (Photo contributed)

Blue Christmas worship planned at 1st UMC

MENDOTA – On the longest day of the year, everyone is invited to remember those for whom this year's Christmas might not be a celebration at an Ecumenical Blue Christmas Worship on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Mendota.

Whether it's because of a death or a broken relationship or a disease that threatens to turn a family's life upside down,

not every Christmas is always as joy-filled as it could be. If you have friends or relatives for whom this special service will hold comfort, feel free to invite them. The doors are open to all.

Keep the Wreath Red Campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs when a fire-related death is reported in the state.

OSFM stresses holiday decoration fire safety

SPRINGFIELD – 'Tis the season for decking the halls to celebrate the holiday season. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year between 2016-2020, and an estimated average of 790 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December, followed closely by January. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

"Decorations add joy and extra flair to our homes during the holiday season, but they can also increase our risk for an accidental fire," said Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson. "Following a few simple fire safety tips can help to reduce that risk and allow you and your family to enjoy the holiday season."

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal will once again be hosting the "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign at its offices in Springfield and Chicago, along with at the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago and the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (Dec. 1 through Jan. 2). Unfortunately, last year 16 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois.

These white lights are not just bulbs; they

represent a person. This could be your mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, friend, or neighbor. The goal of the campaign each year is to raise awareness and help prevent fire deaths from occurring. Unfortunately, as of Dec. 9, there has already been a fire-related death in the state.

Below are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire-safe when decking the halls this holiday season:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.
 - Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that can catch fire.
 - Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
 - Extinguish all lit candles before going to bed or leaving the house.
 - Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use, or both.
 - Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together.
 - Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
 - If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.
 - Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.
- After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before firing the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it! In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool.
- If you are planning to host family and friends during the holidays, make sure they are aware of your fire escape plan. Show them where all the exits are in your home and make sure they are aware of a meeting spot location in case of fire.

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Christmas Services Schedule

Holy Cross Catholic Church 1010 Jefferson St. • Mendota

*And suddenly
there was a
multitude of
the heavenly
hosts with the
angels,
praising God
and saying:
"Glory to God
in the highest
and on earth
peace to those
on whom His
favor rests."*

*A Light will shine on us this
day, the Lord is born for us.*

2022 Christmas and Holy Day Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24	
4:00 pm	St. Theresa
4:00 pm	Holy Cross
5:30 pm	Sts. Peter & Paul
5:45 pm	Holy Cross
12:00 midnight	Holy Cross
Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day	
6:30 am	Holy Cross
8:00 am	St. Theresa
9:00 am	Sts. Peter & Paul
11:00 am	Holy Cross - Spanish
Saturday, December 31	
5:00 pm	St. Theresa
4:00 pm	Holy Cross
Sunday, January 1	
6:30 am	Holy Cross
8:00 am	St. Theresa
9:00 am	Sts. Peter & Paul
10:30 am	Holy Cross
12:00 pm	Holy Cross - Spanish



Fr. Peter Pilon, Pastor
Fr. Jeff Windy, Parochial Vicar
Phone (815) 538-6151

Early Christmas Eve Service at Triumph Church

The public is invited to join Pastor Sandy Smith and the congregation of the Triumph United Methodist Church for a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service on **Saturday, December 24 at 3 p.m.**

This music filled service is held in the afternoon to benefit those persons that do not drive after dark or have to travel to be with family later in the evening. A free will offering will be taken, and all proceeds will benefit the Mendota Christian Food Pantry. Everyone is welcome.

Worship
With us
This
Christmas
Season!

Blue Christmas Service
on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 6:30pm

**December 24
Christmas Eve Services**
4:30pm Live Nativity
Children's Pageant and Praise Band
7:30pm Candlelight Worship

Christmas Hymn Sing
on Christmas Day at 9am

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Light refreshments will be provided
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& New Year*

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24
7:00 p.m. at Immanuel
9:00 p.m. at First, Lee
Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25
10:00 a.m. at Immanuel
*Worship with Holy Communion
(no worship at First, Lee)*

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Looking for a truly "Mendota" gift?

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

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
Gift Certificate
No Expiration Date

Date, Dec. 1, 2022
\$15.00

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

Signature:_____

12 Days of Giving

Shop Local & WIN!

Nov. 21 is the kickoff date for the Mendota Chamber's 2022 12 Days of Giving Christmas Shop Local Promotion. The 12 Days of Giving will begin on Nov. 21 at participating businesses.

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

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

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

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

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

4M Graphix Advanced Auto Parts Anderson Mosshart ARS Auto Repair Specialists August Hill Winery & Illinois Sparkling Co. Beck's BP Rt. 251 Casey's General Store Cindy's on 34 CVS/pharmacy De La O's Dirty Dawgs Ekana Nursery	El Zarape Expressions Floralcrest Inc. JC's Headquarters Lakeside Liquors Little Jo's Lube Cube Plus Main Street Station Maxie Salon McDonalds Mauch Carpentry Mendota Area Y Mendota Elks Lodge Mendota Moose Family Center Mendota Pet Salon Mendota Shell	Mendota Sport Shop Moore Tires Nightengales OSF Gift Shop Painting Party with Lucy Parkway Restaurant Pizza's by Marchelloni Pohl's Office Supply Purpose Nutrition Quest Road Ranger Rosati's Pizza Pub Smooth Smoke and Vapor Specialty Body & Paint Walter Bros. Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling Sports-N-Stuff	Stephenich Do It Best Hardware Studio 1500 Subway Sullivan Ace Hardware Sullivan's Foods Taco Madre Tacos Guzman The Chalet Sports Bar The Mendota Reporter Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling Uncle Joes Gaming Walter Bros. Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling Ziggie's Family Restaurant
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11162022

LOCAL AND AREA

Anchored by hope, amazed by God

I used to be one of the most negative people I knew. My motto was, "If I don't expect anything good to happen, then I won't be disappointed when it doesn't." But God's way of seeing things is just the opposite! He wants us to live our lives filled with hope, expecting Him to do something great at any moment.

What is hope? One definition of hope is "a favorable and confident expectation." It's a positive attitude and the happy anticipation that something good is going to happen.

Real hope is not a wishy-washy, vague "let's just wait and see what happens" attitude; it's believing and trusting that

what God promised, He will do. God is just looking for opportunities to be good to His children and He wants us to expect it!

The Bible says that hope is the anchor of our soul (see Hebrews 6:19). When things look dark and we don't have an answer, that's when hope kicks in to remind us that our new beginning is right around the corner.

For instance, when it looks like everybody else is getting their prayers answered and we're tired and feel like giving up, it's hope that steadies our heart and helps us hold on to our faith in God's promise.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:8, hope is described as a helmet. So, what we think

must be pretty important. Our attitude and what we're expecting have everything to do with what we're thinking and saying.

I encourage you to take control of your thoughts and words first thing every morning. When you wake up, don't settle for thoughts like, Well, I guess I'll try to make it through another day.

Instead, anticipate good things from God. Think and declare things like:

"God, thank You for this day! I know that You love me and You have a good plan for me today. Apart from You, I can do nothing, but in Christ, I can do whatever I need to do. And with Your help, I am going to have a good attitude and positive thoughts."



Then, whatever you're waiting for God to do in your life, expect His goodness to come through for you. Say, "Today could be the day!"

It's important to realize that we can't live by how we feel if we want to have a positive, hope-filled life. When negative feelings come, if we don't give in to them and feed them, they will die.

So, don't allow yourself to get caught in the trap of waiting to feel hopeful, but instead, decide to be full of hope. When you make a conscious decision to think positive, faith-filled thoughts throughout the day, your feelings will eventually catch up with your decision!

Life with God Is Supposed to Be Amazing

Several years ago, I asked the Lord, "Why don't I have exciting, special things happen in my life anymore?" God spoke to my heart and said, "Joyce, I still do those things all the time. You have just gotten used to it."

You see, God wants us to live amazed by His goodness in our lives...to actively take notice of the truly wonderful things He does for us. Why? Because when we live amazed, we will never be without hope!

In the Bible, the story of Abraham is a great example of what I'm talking about. God had blessed Abraham abundantly. However, there was one thing that he and his wife, Sarah, didn't have—a child. Abraham said, "... Lord God, what reward will You give me, since I am [leaving this world] childless...?"

"And the Lord brought Abram outside [his tent into the night] and said, 'Look now toward the heavens and count the stars—if you are able to count them.' Then He said to him, 'So [numerous] shall your descendants be'" (Genesis 15:2, 5 AMP).

Although Abraham's circumstances looked hopeless, the Lord brought him out of his tent to amaze him and remind him that He can do the impossible.

I believe we can spend too much time "in our tent," looking at our own problems. That's why the Bible says to look "away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith (Hebrews 12:2 AMPC).

Every time we decide to pray, read God's Word or simply dwell on the great things He has done for us in the past, it produces hope. And, like Abraham,

we soon begin thinking, Wow, maybe God can do this for me!

When times are tough and you feel discouraged, it's time to step outside the tent and see what God has to say. When you do, you'll find that He is just waiting to amaze you.

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

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

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

The 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. 2nd 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.

12142022

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

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

OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250** PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

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

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

• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Dimond Bros. Insurance and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star

• **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

YES! Send me my 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar!
(Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: _____

Clip and mail this form along with \$23
(\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068

Costa Rica 9 Day Tour. \$995 Includes All Meals, All Hotels, and All Activities. Hike in jungle rainforests, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs, cruise biological reserves and relax on tropical ocean beaches. Join the smart shoppers and experienced travelers.	Choose a Guided Tour +tax, fees Costa Rica 9 days \$995 Panama 8 days \$995 Guatemala 8 days \$995 Mexico - Ancient Civ. 9 days \$995 - Copper Canyon 8 days \$1295
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

MENDOTA

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

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

HOLY CROSS, MENDOTA

Weekday Mass
Weekend Mass
Confession

STS. PETER AND PAUL,
PETERSTOWN

Weekend Mass
Confession

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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

Rev. Mary Bohall, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

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

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

Dec. 15 - 6:30 p.m. Choir
Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent -
Love; 9 a.m. Sunday School;
9:30 a.m. Worship - Children's Christmas
program, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"
Dec. 21 - 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas
worship, everyone welcome.

ZION UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

808 Jefferson St.
.....

Pastor Jeff Brace
jbrace8459@gmail.com

Church office (815) 538-2186

Facebook: Mendota Zion United
Methodist Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

TUESDAY - Prayer group 6 p.m.

FRIDAY - Youth group 6 p.m.



If I Can

By William Arthur Ward

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

UNITED PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH

Route 251 North
(815) 539-6861
.....

Rev. Charles Yeakel, Pastor

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

SUNDAY: Christian Education
Sunday Worship

WEDNESDAY

VICTORY BAPTIST
CHURCH

"Faithful & Effective"

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

Pastor Steve Breedlove

SUNDAY

Sunday school
Worship

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Service

NEW COVENANT
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

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

Larry Sheaves, Pastor

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

"Preaching the blood, book and
blessed hope."

Sunday School
Worship

MENDOTA BIBLE
CHURCH

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

Brian Kelly, Pastor

www.mendotabiblechurch.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School
Worship
Evening Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

607 Tenth Ave.
(815) 539-5626
.....

Rev. Ken Gibson, Pastor

E-mail: office@stjohnsmendota.org

Website:
www.stjohnsmendota.org

Schedule:

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

Find us on Facebook

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

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...There were shepherds living out in
the fields nearby, keeping watch over
their flocks at night. An angel of the
Lord appeared to them, and the glory
of the Lord shone around them, and
they were terrified. But the angel said
to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you
good news that will cause great joy
for all the people." LUKE 2: 8-10 *ESV*

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

1003 5th St.
(815) 538-5603
.....

Website: fpcmendota.com

Accessible

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Dec. 15 - 5-7 p.m. Christmas meal
distribution; 6:30 p.m. Vebelos

Dec. 18 - 10 a.m. Worship; 11 a.m.
Fellowship

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Wednesday Evening Gathering:

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

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

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

CHRIST'S CHURCH

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

1107 Main St.
(815) 993-2462
.....

Dave Manion Jim McDowell
Wayne Shuman

Please join us for . . .

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

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Church Builders 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 6 p.m.

Men's Ministry

Ladies & Mens Bible Study

Thursday 6 p.m.

Non-denominational

Please call for more information

Dec. 23 - Free Movie Night, 6 p.m.

COMPTON

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

398 Church Road, Compton
.....

Pastor Jeffrey Schlesinger
(815) 539-6567

Wheelchair accessible

Website: www.ilccompton.org

E-mail: immanuellutheran
compton@live.com

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Dec. 15 - 5 p.m. Church council

Dec. 16 - 9:30 a.m. Bible study

Dec. 20 - 6:30 p.m. Bell choir

Dec. 21 - 7 p.m. Confirmation

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



LA MOILLE

ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LaMoille (Clarion)

4 miles west of Mendota on Rt. 34

Pastor Ian Griffith
(815) 539-7820

Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

Accessible

COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

La Moille
(815) 638-2348
.....

Pastor David Jungnickel

E-mail: lamoillecumc@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nursery available

TROY GROVE

FAITH BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP

208 W. South St.,
Troy Grove

Pastor Brian Hamiel
.....

Website: www.faithbiblefellowship.info

E-mail: fbfcchurch20817@gmail.com

"At Faith Bible Fellowship, we exist
to glorify God through the equipping
of His saints, teaching of His Word
and raising of His name.
We would love to have you join us
to worship and learn about
our risen Savior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old
or New Testament or neither?

2. Which Old Testament prophet said
the most about the birth of Christ?
Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah

3. From Matthew 1:18, when Mary
became pregnant, she and Joseph
were ...? Married, Engaged, Just
friends, Strangers

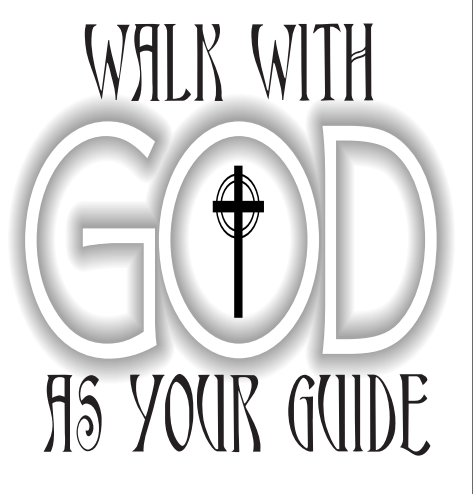
4. In Luke 2:8-11, how did the
shepherds learn of Christ's
birth? Magi informed, Joseph
announcement, Mighty wind, Angel
appearance

5. Where did the wise men go first
when they arrived in the Holy Land?
Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem,
Hebron

6. What does the Bible record
as to when Jesus was born? Late
September, Dec. 25, March 17, Does
not

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Isaiah, 3)
Engaged, 4) Angel appearance, 5)
Jerusalem, 6) Does not

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

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

FIRST STATE BANK
706 Washington St., Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 538-2265

MENDOTA MONUMENT CO.
606 Main St, Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-7276

MERRITT FUNERAL HOME
800 Monroe St., Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-7211

SPORTS-N-STUFF, INC.
804 Washington, Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-6354

STEPHENITCH DO IT BEST HARDWARE
1204 13th Ave., Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-9394

TRIPLE SERVICE, INC.
801 Monroe, Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-3828

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

ZIGGIE'S RESTAURANT
Rte. 34 East, Mendota, Ill.
Phone (815) 539-5060

faith

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.

Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words - one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



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

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

HECTOR M. LEMUS,
)
) Deceased.
No. 2022 PR 153
)

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

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

Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, in the LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Independent Executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or if mailing or delivery of a Claim Notice from the Independent Administrator is required, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before the above stated dates is barred.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. Copies of a claim e-filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent Administrator and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of the Court.

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

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

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)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

121 LOST AND FOUND

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dick-harms@hotmail.com
ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dick-harms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

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

SPLIT firewood for sale. Contact 779-251-0254. (12-17-22)

309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

Free Kittens to good and loving homes. Call 815-503-1881. (12-12-22)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA
1 & 2 Bedrooms, Appliances, A/C. 779-201-0532 815-498-2262.

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab LTZ 4X4 Duramax Diesel



2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4X4, Duramax Diesel, Blue, 39K Miles, GM-Certified, 1-owner, local trade, Leather, Heated/cooled Seats, Bedliner and more!

\$66,900

2022 Chevy K-1500 Crew, 4x4 Custom Rally, 14K Miles, Silver.....\$40,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LT, 4X4, E-Assist, 66K Miles, Gray.....\$33,900
2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, Duramax Diesel, 39k Miles, Blue.\$66,900	2018 Chevy Equinox AWD Premier, 72K miles, 1-owner, Loaded, Black ..\$25,900
2019 Chevy 1500 High Country Crew Cab, 24k Miles, Black\$52,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD Premier, 45K Miles, Tan\$24,900
2018 Chevy K-1500 Crew, 4x4 High Country, Loaded, 67K Miles, Black.....\$41,900	2017 Chevrolet 1500 Crew LT, 4x4, 67K Miles, Graphite.....\$32,900

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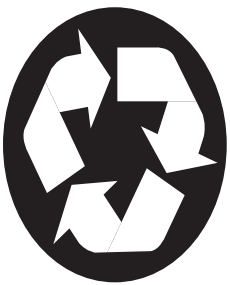
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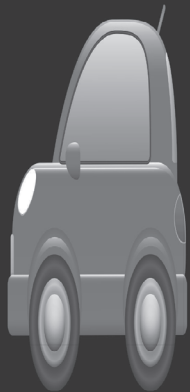
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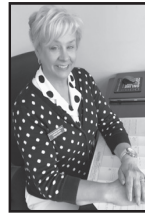
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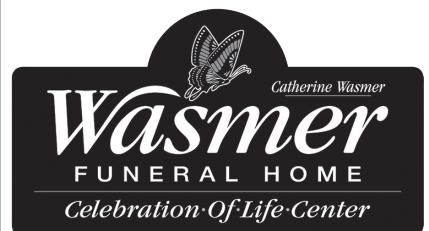


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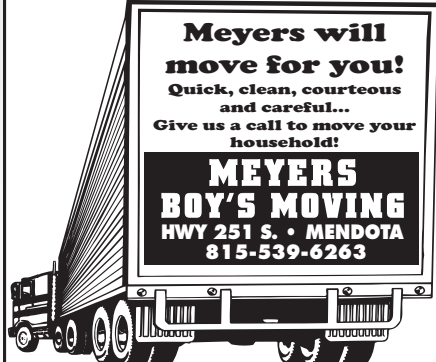


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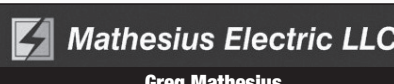
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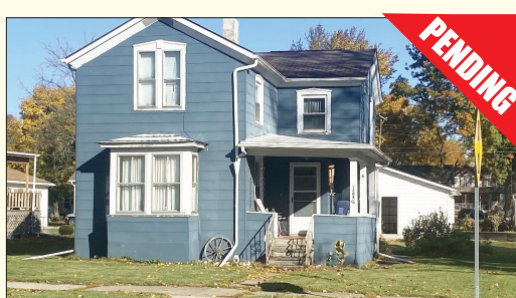
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629 1st Ave., Ottawa \$125,000
MLS#11674514

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