

Making a difference

2 MHS seniors among volunteers at MASS events

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Isabelle Escatel was bored and wanted to help the community. Alex Casas joined a group and was inspired to volunteer.

The boredom and inspiration combined for the two friends to look for something to do before their freshman year.



Escatel

Now seniors at Mendota High School, both Escatel and Casas have volunteered with Mendota Area Senior Services for the last four years.

“During the summer before high school, I was very bored and wanted to find a way to do something to help the community and people in the community,” said Escatel, who is also a member of MHS’s Interact Club, which also does a lot of volunteering and gives back to the community. “MASS and the Interact Club were ways to do that.



Casas

“I think it’s a great way to connect with other people in the community and to enhance my communication



Volunteers prepare meals during the Mendota Area Senior Services’ Pork Chop dinner on Oct. 19. Two Mendota High School seniors have volunteered at MASS since they were freshmen. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

skills. The people I’ve met at MASS are some of the sweetest people I’ve ever met.”

The two volunteers have helped MASS during their pork chop dinners – the last one was Wednesday, Oct. 18 – garage sales and Senior Tech Day, which involves assisting seniors logging into Facebook, checking emails, and downloading Candy Crush on their devices.

Casas says she is glad her and Escatel found MASS and have been able to be a part of their events.

“I’d always been interested in helping people. At school I would help other students with homework,” Casas said. “My freshman year, I became part of the Illinois Student Advisory

Council and there are so many other members who did a ton of volunteering. It inspired me.

“Isabelle and I looked around town to see what we could help with in Mendota. We got in touch with MASS and we’ve been helping out ever since. It’s just really gratifying to greet everyone and seeing all of the people that we were helping. It was a great experience.”

Both of the MHS seniors plan to attend Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby.

If they have time on their schedule, which they both said they will make time, they want to continue volunteering their time at MASS and around the community.

And MASS would love to continue to have them.

“The young kids that we have come through as volunteers are awesome. I appreciate everything they do,” said Jean Eich, senior center coordinator at MASS. “They’re commitment and mannerisms are just phenomenal. At that age, I didn’t think of volunteering for good causes.

“These young people add a lot to every event that we plan and schedule. Their work ethic has been amazing and very important to us. Volunteers are always important to us and are welcome. They all play a big, special part in everything MASS means and what we do.”

Trick-or-treat chances plentiful in Mendota

MENDOTA – Children in costume are invited to “Trick-or-Treat” in Mendota Businesses and Shops on Monday, Oct. 31 at participating businesses located throughout the town. Shop owners will be passing out treats from 3-5 p.m. on Halloween.

Parents are reminded to have their children look for the orange Halloween poster on the door of those businesses that will be participating. The signs say “Trick-or-Treat Here” and have the date and time on them.



This promotion is sponsored by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce. Businesses wishing an orange “Trick or Treat” poster for their doors are welcome to pick one up at the Mendota Chamber office.

- Some other Halloween events include:
- Heritage Health Therapy & Senior Care, 1201 First Ave., Monday, Oct. 31 from 3-5 p.m. in front of building
 - Mendota Elks Lodge #1212, Trunk or Treat in parking lot, Monday, Oct. 31 from 3 -5 p.m.
 - The Mendota City Council has set the city-wide trick-or-treat for Monday, Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m.
 - First Presbyterian Church, Trunk or Treat in parking lot, Monday, Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m.

LaSalle Veterans’ Home is seeing surge in COVID cases

LaSALLE –The Illinois Veterans’ Home at LaSalle is experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases among its veterans and staff, according to Terry Prince, Veterans’ Affairs director. Prince issued the following statement:

“Based on robust rapid testing and the support of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) laboratories, in quick succession, we have identified 23 staff and

42 residents as positive for COVID-19. All the residents who tested positive have been moved to the negative pressure isolation unit and are being closely monitored and cared for by dedicated Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs (IDVA) personnel. All cases are mild presenting mostly as cold-

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MHS adds math course to curriculum

MENDOTA – The Mendota High School District 280 Board of Education met in regular session on Oct. 17.

Instructor Jason Artman provided a presentation of the Illinois Democracy School designation that MHS has received. The Illinois Democracy Schools Initiative was launched to recognize and support high schools that are dedicated to expanding and improving civic learning experiences across the curriculum.

Artman explained, “High-quality civic learning experiences allow young people to develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions that facilitate informed participation in public life. Research has shown that these experiences also promote civic equality, build 21st century competencies, improve school climate and reduce high school dropout rates.”

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh reported that the MHS Curriculum Committee met in September to review a new course offering and student registration updates. Aughenbaugh said there is a need for a third-year alternative to Algebra II for students who are not prepared for that college-bound sequence. The recommendation to create a third-year course called Workplace Math, was approved by

the board. Workplace Math will replace Algebra II Standards and is expected to replace one section of Algebra II.

Aughenbaugh informed the board that as part of Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee meetings, there will be a family event from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4 in the auxiliary gym with a Day of the Dead celebration and the Mendota dancers, Ballet Folklorico de Colores. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Rachel Tarr, counselor, and Dave Roden, social worker, completed reviewing the SEL Mental Health surveys that were distributed to students. They have facilitated scheduling two days a week of in-house counseling for students through the Youth Service Bureau. Aughenbaugh reported that 11 students in August and 19 students in September received one or more counseling sessions.

The School Improvement Committee (SIP) met Oct. 19 to prepare supplemental tutoring services and after-school options. SIP will also review a proposal for an MHS summer intervention camp. Aughenbaugh noted that staffing will be a significant concern to consider in all planning.

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Another chance at an education

Regional Work Study offers opportunity to get diploma

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Staff writer

MENDOTA—Sometimes things just don’t work out.

There could be a million different reasons why, but the original plan of action just didn’t work.

We need a second chance or another way of reaching the finish line.

For some students, whether it was a circumstance outside of school or in school, high school just doesn’t click. The unclicking took a diploma off of the track.

Regional Work Study is the second chance for these students.

“The program has been unbelievable. We’ve had between 150-200 high school students receive a diploma through us over the years,” said Jim Carlson, director of the Regional Work Study program. “Last year we had 27 students receive a diploma.

“Kids come to us in a variety of different situations. Some need a great abundance of credits. Some just need a few. It’s really a program that has structure, but it also has flexibility within the structure to accommodate



Mark Brown, brown shirt, along with Martha Small, help students who couldn’t finish high school earn the credits for a high school diploma through the Regional Work Study program at Graves-Hume Public Library. (Reporter photo by Brandon LaChance)

the individual needs of the students.”

The program put together 13 years ago by the Regional

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AT WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM



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Happy Halloween

Hope it's a real treat!

LOCAL AND AREA

Blackstone School Report Stacy Kelly, Principal

Thank you to all of our students and their families for supporting our Club Choice fundraiser these past couple of weeks. The items that have been ordered will be delivered on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Blackstone will be using our profit to go towards new playground equipment. We appreciate your continued support of our schools!

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The first-grade students began participating in the Organ Wise Guys Program provided by the University of Illinois Extension Office. This is a six-week program where an educator comes in for 30 minutes per week in each classroom. This is a program that uses fun organ characters to teach children about making healthy choices. This is a great program brought to our school to help our students learn how to make positive life choices.

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The students nominated for the principal award this past week included Quinley Truckenbrod, Santino Hower-Gonzalez, Hadley Reinhold, Sofia Rosales, Trevor Thiele, Callie Martin, Derrick Skaggs and Jesus Palacios. The winners were Joaquin Otero, Alias Francis, Kenia Fernandez and Athena Aquino. Congratulations to all of you!

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Don't forget we have Parent/Teacher Conferences scheduled for Monday and Wednesday night and there is no school on Friday, Oct. 28.

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We will be celebrating Halloween on Oct. 31. Notes recently went home with all students informing parents of the plan for the afternoon of fun. If parents have any questions, please let us know.

Scott White bringing laughs to Princeton

PRINCETON—Festival 56 in Princeton will host stand-up comedian Scott White, with Jeff Adamson of GIT Improv as the opener, at the Grace Theater on Friday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

White, who is based out of Houston, is Canada's favorite comedian. While spending 40+ weeks a year on the road performing stand-up, he finds time to squeeze in some stage time with ComedySportz and GIT Improv. He has also made numerous trips abroad with USO shows.



Adamson has won the Jay Leno and the Miller Lite Comedy Challenges. He has been the opening act for Jeff Dunham, Sinbad, and Weird Al Yankovic. When he is not doing stand-up, he runs GIT Improv.

The show will be rated PG13 (suitable for high school and up). Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at www.festival56.com or at the box office the day of the show. For more information, contact the box office at 815.879.5656.

Lee County Sheriff addressing Halloween safety

DIXON—The Lee County Sheriff's Office urged motorists to commit to sober driving this Halloween when children and their families will be walking through neighborhoods after dark in search of candy and spooky fun. If you will be out scaring up a good time, remember to plan for a sober ride home.

"Alcohol and marijuana impair not only your ability to drive safely, but also your decision-making skills," said Sgt. Derek Ranken. "That's why it's so important to know how you'll get home before you leave for the party. Plan ahead to help keep yourself and others safe."

The Lee County Sheriff's Office urges everyone to follow these simple tips to help keep our roads safe this Halloween:

- Plan a safe way to get home before you attend a party. You can designate a sober driver, take public transportation, use your favorite ride-sharing service, or call a sober friend or family member to get home.
- Walking while impaired can be just as dangerous as driving impaired. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you see an impaired person about to drive, take their keys and help them get home safely.

The Halloween enforcement campaign is funded by federal highway safety dollars administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



Book delivery

Roger Anderson, representing the Mendota Rotary Club, visited the third graders at Holy Cross School to deliver a thesaurus to each student. Each year, this organization gives every third grader in the community their own thesaurus. Students will learn how to use it during class, and then will be allowed to take it home for personal and school use later in the school year. Receiving their books from Anderson, left to right, are Ellyn Schmidt, Zoe Gott, Carissa Doll and Rose Beetz. (Photo contributed)



Rotary presents books

Mendota Rotary presented the Mendota High School library with new books at a recent meeting. The club was challenged to purchase enough books to represent each member. Left to right, are Jessica Dykstra, Rich Drehs, Rotary president Alisa Stewart, MHS librarian Janet DeLong, Melissa Sallee and John Cross. (Photo contributed)

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LOCAL AND AREA

IDOT announces approval of Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Charging stations to facilitate goal of 1 million electric vehicles on roads by 2030

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that the Federal Highway Administration has approved its plan to build a reliable electric vehicle charging network throughout the state. The State of Illinois Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan addresses potential challenges and proposes locations for charging stations to ensure motorists can confidently traverse the state in electric vehicles.

“Because of my administration’s work on the nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and Reimagining Electric Vehicles Act, Illinois stands at the forefront of the emerging electric vehicle industry,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “This funding

serves as a vital complement to that work and will ensure we meet our goal of putting one million electric vehicles on the road by 2030. In every corner of the state, we have invested in our infrastructure and our workers, making it clear to vehicle, charging station, and auto parts manufacturers that Illinois is the best place in the nation to manufacture and drive an electric vehicle.”

“Illinois is meeting the moment by paving a way forward for electric vehicles on our roads,” said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. “We are fulfilling our commitment to cleaner, greener energy and travel across the state so all communities can see and feel the impact. Today’s announcement is a major step

forward in that mission, and Illinois will continue to show how investing in innovation and the people who drive it will take us far.”

“Deploying public charging infrastructure that provides convenient, accessible, reliable and equitable charging throughout the state is crucial to Gov. JB Pritzker’s goal of a million electric vehicles on the road by 2030,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Because electric vehicles generate no tailpipe emissions, they are key to reducing air pollution and mitigating the effects of climate change. This plan puts us on the path for a more sustainable future.”

Illinois’ plan provides a framework for implementing

the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, a provision of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Illinois will receive more than \$148 million in federal funding from NEVI over the next five years to build out a network of public EV charging stations across the state.

In accordance with NEVI requirements, funding will be used to build EV charging stations at least every 50 miles along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. The stations will be located no more than one mile off the designated corridor and will allow four average-range vehicles to fully charge at once in less than 30 minutes. Preliminary estimates indicate a need for a minimum

of 20 stations. A map of proposed sites is included in the Illinois Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan.

Successful implementation of the NEVI program will require collaboration across government agencies, the public sector and private entities. IDOT is working closely with other state agencies on important issues such as workforce development, cybersecurity and ensuring equitable deployment of charging infrastructure. IDOT is also seeking input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment manufacturers, labor unions, potential site hosts, electric utilities and municipalities.

As a next step in imple-

menting the EV Infrastructure plan, IDOT is developing a Request for Information to gather information from potential vendors of equipment and host sites for EV chargers.

Finally, IDOT will be hosting stakeholder meetings throughout the remainder of 2022. These meetings will be open to the public where people can learn more about the program and provide feedback. More detail on these meetings will become available as they are scheduled. Recording of previously held public meetings can be found on IDOT’s website.

As of June, there were 50,994 electric vehicles registered in Illinois and 184 public charging ports throughout the state.

OSF HealthCare joins national gun safety movement

OTTAWA – Guns are the leading cause of death for children. Every day, 13 children die from guns. To help address this crisis and encourage parents to take action by asking about gun safety, OSF HealthCare has joined more than 170 other health care organizations representing thousands of hospitals and health systems in a nationwide public awareness and education campaign.

“It’s important for health care systems like OSF HealthCare to engage in preventive medicine,” said Kurt Bloomstrand, MD, EMS medical director for East Central Illinois EMS and an emergency medicine physician for OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana. “The ‘Doesn’t Kill to Ask’ campaign equips parents and

patients with the necessary tools and resources to help navigate difficult situations regarding guns. If we can better educate our patients on how to safely handle guns in the home, we can save lives.”

The campaign includes broadcast, print and digital ads and a website highlighting the fact that access to unlocked guns can lead to death, suicide and gun violence, making it more likely that children die from guns than cancer or automobile accidents. The website provides tips on how to have a conversation with other parents about the importance of safely storing firearms, and encourages parents and caregivers to normalize this conversation.

The increase in gun violence has impacted health care

systems across the country, especially the medical professionals who treat patients affected by gun violence.

“Situations dealing with gun violence require extra resources and stress to the health care providers caring for them,” said Dr. Bloomstrand. “This is especially true when it impacts the youth of the communities we serve. Every day eight kids are shot by accident, which is eight kids too many. These are preventable deaths. We can do better in our communities to promote gun safety and training. By holding each other accountable and by asking simple questions regarding gun safety, we can save a life. It most definitely ‘Doesn’t Kill to Ask.’”

To learn more, visit HospitalsUnited.com.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day planned for Oct. 29

DeKALB – Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse and overdose. Northwestern Medicine will participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day by hosting several collection sites from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29. Community members can safely dispose of their unused medications at the drive-up locations.

Area drive-up locations include:

- Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital Medical Records Building (one driveway south of main hospital), 2731 Sycamore Road, DeKalb
- Northwestern Medicine Valley West Hospital, 1302N. Main St., Sandwich

“Studies show that many people who use opioids are first exposed to the prescription medications in the homes of family members or friends,” said Sterling Elliott, PharmD, BCMTMS, a clinical pharmacist at Northwestern Medicine and assistant professor of orthopaedics at Feinberg School of Medicine. “National Drug Take Back Day is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unused opioids and other prescription medications. If you throw unused medications in the trash, they can be retrieved and used, or illegally sold. If you flush them, they can contaminate the water supply.”

Sharps and liquids will not be accepted, and Take Back Day is for community members, not for commercial organizations.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks as the second most-common form of drug use in America.

“The success of the DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is possible only with our many law enforcement partners, and with community-minded healthcare providers like Northwestern Medicine,” said Robert J. Bell, Special Agent in Charge of the DEA Chicago Division. “The large amounts of unwanted prescription drugs collected on Take Back Day reflect our shared commitment to the safety and health of the people we serve.”

For more information about prescription drug misuse, visit www.DEATakeBack.com.

Do You Know An AMERICAN HERO?

The Mendota Reporter is again putting together a section featuring Veterans and military personnel and would like you to send or bring us a military picture of yourself or favorite military hero along with a short biography of their service history, present or past.

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserves or Merchant Marines.

Our **FREE** special section featuring your own local heroes will be published on Nov. 9th.

Deadline for submitting Photos/Information is Thursday, Nov. 3.

If you submitted a photo last year, there is no need to resubmit. We have it on file! Just tell us to honor your hero again this year.

Name: _____

(Optional Information)

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

Present Address: _____

Location of Training: _____

Dates in Service: _____

Tours of Duty: _____

Any Other Interesting Information: (limit 50 words, please)

Phone Number for questions (will not be published): _____

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Photos may be picked up at The Mendota Reporter office after November 9th, or send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and your photo will be returned.

Christmas Through the Eyes of A Child

The Mendota Reporter would like to announce we are bringing back our popular “Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child” promotion.

Two children, one boy and one girl, between the ages of 4 and 7 who live in Mendota and the surrounding area will be selected to have their pictures taken at various stores to promote Christmas gift ideas!

Each child selected will receive a \$25 CASH PRIZE. For a child to enter the contest, the Reporter needs a picture of the child (which may be picked up after Nov. 30) along with the child’s name, age, address, telephone number, parents’ names and the times the child is available for pictures.

Entries can be brought to the Reporter office at 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, or mailed to The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.

Deadline for entry is Noon Friday, Nov. 4. Winners will be notified by phone. Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, Nov. 16 and the Christmas section will be published on Wed., Nov. 30.

For more information, contact The Mendota Reporter at 815-539-9396

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

Mary Helen Leffelman

MENDOTA—Mary Helen Leffelman, 95, of Mendota, died on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 at Stonecroft in Mendota.

Mass of Christian burial was on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown. Burial followed mass at St. Patrick Cemetery in Maytown. Visitation was on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

She was born on Dec. 16, 1926 in Henry, the daughter of Olen and Hilda (Neuhalfen) Ely. Mary Helen married Hubert Leffelman on Feb. 11, 1950 in Maytown, in a double ring ceremony with her sister and brother-in-law, Marjorie and Melvin Leffelman.

She is survived by her children, Michael Leffelman of LaMoille, Marilyn (Bill) Morrison of Batavia, Marlene (J. Michael) McConville of Ottawa, Myron (Janet) Leffelman of Maytown; 10 grandchildren Chris (Megan) Leffelman, Ted (Emily) Leffelman, Andrea (Anthony) Cain, Jeff (Neyer) Morrison, Sue (Aaron) Fogg, Sarah (Ryan) Zink, Katie (Laen) Neal, Luke (Bailey) McConville, Alex (Alyssa) Leffelman, Alexis (Chaon) Hanson and 19 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Ned (Carol) Ely of Amboy, sisters and brothers-in-law Karen Ely, Gilbert (Linda) Leffelman, Carol (Charles) Koch and Leo Bushman.

She was preceded in death by her husband Hubert on March 1, 1983, sons David Leffelman, Marty Leffelman, brothers Gordon Ely, Richard Ely, and sister Marjorie Leffelman.

Mary Helen was a “farmer’s wife” and also farmed with her son, Myron. She was a volunteer Pink Lady at the Mendota Community Hospital. Mary Helen was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mendota, St. Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown, Altar and Rosary Society, Country Squares, PTO, 4H Leader, and taught catechism. She enjoyed going to daily Mass, raising chickens, tending to her large garden, was an avid quilter, and was an excellent mother and grandmother.

The family would like to thank Stonecroft for their care of Mary Helen these last 13 years. A memorial has been established to the Maytown Altar and Rosary Society. She will be loved and remembered by her family and friends and her memory will be carried in our hearts.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.



Ralph T. Sloan

LaSALLE – Ralph T. Sloan, 85, formerly of Mendota, passed away Sunday, Oct. 15, 2022, at Illinois Veteran’s Home in LaSalle.

At Ralph’s request, there will be no funeral service. Private interment will be held at I.O.O.F. Riverview Cemetery in Monticello, Ind. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota, handled arrangements.

Ralph was born April 5, 1937, in Mendota to Joseph and Euna (Becket) Sloan.

Ralph is survived by his brother, Jim (Marlene) Sloan of Mendota; his son William Sloan and his daughter Noel Sloan, both of California; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Roland Sloan.

Ralph graduated from Mendota High School in 1955. He immediately joined the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for two years. Ralph worked as a carpenter for many years in Monticello, Ind. He also was a member of the Monticello Church, which he attended frequently. Ralph will be fondly missed by his many friends in Indiana and Illinois.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Barbara A. Timm

ROCKFORD – Barbara “Barb” Anne Timm, 85, of Rockford, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, at Cathedral of St. Peter, 1243 N. Church St., Rockford, with visitation from 9 to 10 a.m. Interment followed in Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Winnebago. A Celebration of Life was held Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Venetian Club, 2180 Elmwood Road, Rockford.

She was born on April 27, 1937, in Mendota, the daughter of Daniel and Genevieve (Stanard) Schmidt. Barb married Bill Timm on Sept. 12, 1959, celebrating 63 years together this year.

Barb leaves behind her daughters, Nina (Ben) and Connie (Tom); grandsons, Michael and Mark Murphy; sister-in-law, Ginny Schmidt; and several nephews and nieces.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Genevieve; husband, Bill Timm; brother, Howard Schmidt; and brother and sister-in-law, John and Lori Timm.

She graduated from Mendota High School with the Class of 1955. She attended Iowa State University. Barb first worked at Rockford Day Nursery School and later, she and Bill, along with her brother and sister-in-law, Howard and Ginny Schmidt, were co-owners of Hultberg’s Gift Shop for over 10 years, catering to several weddings, anniversaries, and special occasions. She was a member of the Pink Ladies of OSF. As a parishioner of the Cathedral of St. Peter, Barb was a member of the St. Anne Society and a dedicated volunteer. She would often decorate the church with seasonal flowers.

Arrangements by Delehanty Funeral Home, Loves Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Corpus Christi Monastery of the Poor Clare Colettine Nuns.



Patricia K. Peterson

LaMOILLE – Patricia K. (Swanlund) Peterson, 79, of LaMoille, passed away peacefully on Oct. 23, 2022, at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home, Peoria, where she spent her last moments being sweetly sung to by her daughter, Amanda.

Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran (Clarion) Church, LaMoille, with the Celebration of Life service immediately following. The Rev. Ian Griffith will officiate. Graveside services will take place at Oakland Cemetery, Princeton. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Patricia was born in Princeton on June 24, 1943, to Elburn and Darlene (Raker) Swanlund. She was welcomed home by her brother, Richard Lee Swanlund, and later became “big sister” to Mary Lynne Swanlund Simpson Woodley. The family lived in rural Malden until she was about 12 and then moved to rural Princeton where she was known as being “Dad’s right-hand man,” dutifully caring and feeding the family’s purebred Angus cattle when she returned home from school each day.

She is survived by her husband, Joe Peterson of LaMoille; three children, Stephanie (Jeffrey) DeMay of Geneseo, Stephen (Amy) Peterson of Princeton, and Amanda (Mark) Varland of rural Marseilles. Grandchildren include Brandon (Amelia) Cartwright of Walnut; Chase (Sarah) Cartwright of Wauwatosa, Wis.; Allison (Cody Dillin) Peterson of Rantoul; Erin (Christian) Krafft of Princeton; Andrew Varland of Richmond Hill, Ga.; and Rebekah, Kathryn, and Matthew Varland, all of rural Marseilles; plus three great-grandchildren, Axel Cartwright of Walnut, Jayden and Jordyn Anderson of Princeton, and Andrew Krafft, who is expected in December; her sister, Mary Woodley of Princeton; one brother-in-law, Leo Peterson of Dixon; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, and her grandparents.

A Malden Musketeers cheerleader and Sweetheart Queen, she was more interested in dating than studying once she met the love of her life, and she has never left his side. Patricia graduated from Malden High School in 1961 and KSB School of Nursing in Dixon in 1964. She obtained her certification as a Registered Nurse, and she married Joe Leland Peterson of LaMoille on Aug. 17, 1963.

Her eldest daughter, Stephanie, was born in 1965 and the family continued to be blessed when Stephen was born in 1967 and Amanda, affectionately known as Mom’s “Bonus Baby,” came in 1971. Finding joy as a devoted stay-at-home Mom, she later decided to return to nursing and the care of the elderly, taking a job at Heritage Manor in Mendota and then spending the remainder of her time as the Director of Nursing at her beloved Mendota Lutheran Home where she was instrumental in helping design, build, and decorate MLH’s west wing.

Throughout her lifetime, she was blessed to color her world with wonderfully devoted friends from all walks of life, including most recently, the “Golden Girls.” She also felt the intense, almost indescribable joy of being “Gramma” to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom she said always made her “feel young” and spurred on her love of children’s writing, including all our favorite excerpts of “Contra Alta,” a must-read every Halloween.

A kind and nurturing soul, Patricia touched many lives with her generous spirit, love for life, and hope in Jesus and the Kingdom to come. She made time to ensure everyone – both young and old – felt cared for, loved, respected, and heard. She was the wife of 59 years that loved her husband intently and unfailingly through happiness and sorrow, and the mom everyone wanted to adopt as their own. She truly was the kind of person that will be remembered forever and cherished by all.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home, Peoria, Zion Evangelical Lutheran (Clarion) Church, LaMoille or a charity of the donor’s choosing. Condolences may be sent to 29434 U.S. Hwy. 34, LaMoille, IL 61330.




DEATH NOTICES

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

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Where is it... in Mendota?



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Parking lot light at Graves-Hume Library
Winner: Alta Stroyan

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LOCAL AND AREA

Education

Continued from Page A1

Office of Education and the Business Employment Skills Team offers students who dropped out or ran into another issue the chance to earn a degree.

Regional Work Study runs according to a normal school schedule, Monday through Friday from the Tuesday after Labor Day to the Friday before Memorial Day, and honors all absentee days such as holidays.

The only differences are the hours are shortened to 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and it is held at both the Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota and at Illinois Valley Community College in Oglesby.

There are currently 11 students attending at Graves-Hume and 18 attend at IVCC.

Carlson, who has 35 years in education as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent, views his role as the program director as a part-time responsibility he has to fulfill.

"This program is critically important. I can't think of a situation where any human being, anywhere, doesn't deserve a second chance or a third chance," Carlson said. "Everyone makes mistakes. Everyone has circumstances that come and act like a barrier. This allows them the opportunity to earn something."

"I tell students all of the time, 'I will do everything in my power to help you earn this, but I can't do it for you.' When students are successful, you can just see it. It means a tremendous amount to them because not only is it them overcoming whatever circumstances led them to that point but it's a matter of pride because they earned it."

Last year, students earned their high school diploma from Mendota, La Salle-Peru, Serena, Ottawa, and Putnam County.

Karla Sandoval and Lilly Newkirk both received their MHS diplomas with the help of the Regional Work Study program.

Sandoval planned to graduate before May 2021 but was thrown off by COVID-19 and other circumstances.

"I was doing good until COVID-19 hit. My parents decided to have me do online schooling. I did terrible. I tried explaining to my parents," Sandoval said. "They decided to continue with online schooling because it was safer. I tried to do my online homework, but I just couldn't."

"I had half a semester left because I was trying to graduate early. I ended up having to do the whole next semester as well, so a full year instead of just a half semester. I kept falling behind. I talked to the counselor (Rachel Tarr) at the high school and she recommended the Regional Work Study program to me."

Sandoval, who plans to go to Sauk Valley Community College, transfer to Northern Illinois University

and become an ultrasound technician, earned her diploma in May of 2022.

Although it was a year later, she is glad she was given another opportunity.

"They told me I could go back to the high school to finish. I found it embarrassing. I knew they were trying to help me, but I thought, 'How am I going to look being older than everyone in the class below me,'" Sandoval said. "When I was given the option to join the program, I was very thankful for it. To see that there were other people in the same boat as me, it made me 10 times more comfortable being there."

"I started the program in September of 2021, but things happened in October where I couldn't go to the library. Jim Carlson was the most supportive person ever," Sandoval said. "There is a rule if you miss so many days, you are out of the program. I explained what was going on and he reassured me everything would be OK and told me, 'We're here for you.'"

"In November, I had to take an emergency trip to Mexico. And again, he was super supportive. Literally, if it wasn't for Jim, I wouldn't have finished. I apologized to him up and down because there was so many things going on in my life. I thought he was going to think I was making stuff up. I told him I could bring doctor's notes and plane ticket receipts. Him and the teachers were really understanding. They called me all of the time to check up on me."

Carlson let Sandoval take a Chromebook home to work when she knew she couldn't be in class and delivered a WiFi box to Sandoval's residence because she didn't have internet access.

Newkirk thrived in the Regional Work Study program because it tended to her needs.

She only needed five credits, but math gave her problems.

"I was really behind in school and I knew I wasn't going to graduate on time," Newkirk said. "My mom (Kathy Newkirk) and I decided the program was the right decision for me. It's very one-on-one. One teacher was skilled in every class and the other was very skilled in math. Math is where I struggled. Working one-on-one really helped me."

The second opportunity to finish school outside of school has already led to opportunities and a job she never thought she would have.

After graduating on time in May of this year, Newkirk became a full-time CNA at Heritage Manor in Mendota and is working toward an LPN or an RN.

"I was surprised I was able to do it because I didn't think I was going to be able to do it," Newkirk said. "When I finished math, I was very happy and excited for myself."

Firefighters douse small downtown Mendota fire

MENDOTA—Firefighters doused a small fire in the 700 block of Washington Street in downtown Mendota on Oct. 24.

A call was received at 7:47 a.m. for the report of smoke in the building at 705 Washington St. In addition to the Mendota Fire Department, an ambu-

lance and firemen from Troy Grove also responded to the scene. Upon arrival, smoke was found at 705 Washington St. and also heavy smoke was observed inside 703 Washington St.

Mutual aid was requested from Peru and Earlville fire departments. After an investigation, a small fire

was found at the 703 Washington St. location. Both buildings were ventilated. The fire was determined to be accidental in nature.

There were no injuries and the scene was cleared at 11:14 a.m.

The State Fire Marshal was contacted for an investigation.

Cast named for IVCC's production of MAME!

OGLESBY—The Illinois Valley Community College Theatre Department will premier its first full-scale musical since 2019, MAME!, featuring a large cast of community members, students and faculty Nov. 10-20.

IVCC Director and Choreographer of Musical Theatre Don Grant Zellmer said "MAME!" is the perfect show for the time—a classic with familiar music and a 'feel-good' story.

The cast required performers of all ages, ranging from a 10-year-old boy to mature actors.

"While the production isn't exclusively a holiday show, it's the perfect fit as it ticks through the months and years and includes the well-known musical number, 'We Need A Little Christmas,'" said Zellmer.

The cast includes: Kelly Johnson as Mame Dennis; Deb Torri as Vera Charles;

Rebecca Eltrevoog as Agnes Gooch; Jackson Layhew as Patrick Dennis as a child; Jake Jakielski as Patrick Dennis as an adult and Gregor; Brian Towne as Dwight Babcock; Ethan Darrow as Lindsay Woolsey; Zellmer as Beauregard Burnside;

David Zuniga as Ito and other characters; Michael Lee as Claude Upson, Ralph Devine and Vera's stage manager; Karen Lesman as Doris Upson, Cousin Fan and M. Branslowski; Lexi Johnson as Gloria Upson, a dancer and others; Zoe Starkey as Pegeen Ryan, a dancer and others; Alyce Scott as Sally Cato; Sitonya Allan as Mother Burnside; Austin Hack as Junior Babcock; and Zoë Bush, Genevieve Hunter, and Rheagan Goluba as dancers, company and various other roles.

Production staff includes Zellmer, music director



Alex Guerrero, tech director Chad Brokaw, producer/costume coordinator Dr. David Kuester, stage manager Alyce Scott and assistant stage manager Ash Holland.

MAME! plays at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 10 through 20. Online ticket sales opened Oct. 17.

The original production of MAME! opened on Broad-

way in 1966 and starred Angela Lansbury. Music and lyrics are by composer/lyricist Jerry Herman, creator of Hello, Dolly!, La Cage Aux Folles and a host of other Broadway hits.

Based on the play, "Auntie Mame," it became a movie starring Rosalind Russel. The musical version also became a movie starring Lucille Ball and Bea Arthur.

Week-long Day of the Dead celebration set at IVCC Oct. 31-Nov. 3

OGLESBY—Illinois Valley Community College will host Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead Celebration from Oct. 31 through Nov. 3 inside the main entrance.

IVCC's Hispanic Leadership Team, Illinois Valley Visual Arts Club and the Project Success Leadership team invites IVCC students, employees and the community to join in the first ever celebration.

Every Nov. 1 and 2, Latino communities all over the world celebrate and honor loved ones who have passed on to their next life. Dating back almost 3,000 years, the celebration involves highly-decorative and brightly colored altars and memorials covered in flowers and lit with candles.

It is a joyous time for families and

communities to celebrate memories by sharing food and festive music but also the grief of losing loved ones.

The group asks participants to bring in photos of deceased loved ones (human or animal). Each person can also write a note or happy memory to the loved one. Participants can also bring an offering (ofrenda) of non-perishable food and sealed drinks to provide nourishment to the deceased and memorialize what they enjoyed on earth.

Bring items the week of the display. Daily activities will be posted at a later time.

Pictures will also be displayed of deceased Latino icons such as Frida Kahlo, Anthony Quinn, Selena and Roberto Clemente to recognize those

who have made the world a better place.

For information, contact IVCC art instructor Shannon Slaight-Brown at Shannon_slaight-brown@ivcc.edu or (815) 224-0351 or Director of Adult Education Sara Escatel at sara_escatel@ivcc.edu or (815) 224-0355.



COVID

Continued from Page A1

like symptoms, and no one has required hospitalization. Responsible parties have been notified per CDC regulations and notice of the outbreak is posted on the IDVA website. The IDVA Senior Infection Preventionist has been at the LaSalle Veterans' Home working with clinical personnel since the onset of this outbreak. Additionally, the State Medical Officer of the Illinois Department Public Health along with IDVA

Director Terry Prince have been at the Home to provide advice and assistance. The residents are vaccinated, and COVID-19 treatment therapies have been administered as needed.

"Our top priority is the health and safety of our military veterans and the heroic staff who care for them. We take this very seriously. We are following recommendations from local health officials, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the CDC,

and the IDPH to safeguard everyone at the facility. This includes conducting health screenings every four hours on our veterans, COVID-19 testing of staff at each shift change, use of N-95 respirator masks with protective face shields, maintaining social-distancing practices, using gloves and gowns, and intensified cleaning and disinfection protocols.

"Communal dining has been curtailed in the home until the outbreak has ended. Activities and social services

staff continue to develop leisure activities, in accordance with social distancing practices, to care for the psychosocial well-being of our veterans. Visitation is allowed; however, we highly encourage family members to delay their visit until the outbreak is resolved.

"We are grateful to our team for their incredible work during this difficult time as they have responded swiftly, appropriately, and professionally to this outbreak."

MHS

Continued from Page A1

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Jeff Prusator said the Building Committee recommended making some repairs to the bus garage roof for \$2,200.

The baseball and softball field project has been complet-

ed with drainage for both fields. The siding installation for the dugouts and press box will be completed in the early spring.

PERSONNEL

The board approved hiring Matt Bauer at the boys' and girls' bowling coach. Volunteer coaches will be Mandi Bauer, John Holland and Jennifer Holland.

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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.

How do we stop school shootings?

By Scott Reeder

There was no menace left in the school shooter who sat across from me in the prison visitor’s room.

Clad in a blue chambray shirt and a tired expression, he told me about that fateful day in 1989 when he entered a day-care center in League City, Texas, and started shooting. A bullet ripped through the heart of a teacher who ran from him. She fell, midstride.

Her hopes, dreams, aspirations ended as the blood puddled beneath her prone form.

Youngsters screamed, hollered and ran every which way.

Standing between them and the killer was another teacher holding a terrified 3-year-old, who clung to a well-worn toy rabbit. A bullet ripped through the teacher’s breast, another through her hand and another punched through her body.

Miraculously not a single shot hit the child. Even more remarkably, the woman lived.

The killer turned and ran. Months later, he was caught in Louisiana. I sat in the front row of the courtroom, notebook in hand, as he was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Thirty years later, I found myself sitting across from him in a prison as he neared release.

I found myself asking tough questions about forgiveness, retribution and justice. Should someone who kills ever walk free?

Looking into the murderer’s eyes I felt no fear. Any menace he once possessed was long gone. Looking at him, the only word that came to mind was: pathetic.

What turned this preacher’s kid into a cold-hearted killer? I met his mother and sister at the trial. They were lovely people: kind and gentle to a fault.

They begged jurors for leniency. (In Texas, jurors can determine punishment as well as whether someone is innocent or guilty.)

Leaving the prison that day, I searched for a hint of justice. The closest I could come up with was: Twelve men and women chose this outcome.

His life will end not in a death chamber or a prison cell. He will die old, disgraced and free. Can a person who committed such evil ever be happy?

I thought of that killer, Clyde “Buddy” Spence, recently as a Florida jury spared the Parkland shooter from the death penalty. He killed 17 people and wounded another 17.

But he gets to live. It doesn’t seem fair. Life seldom is. The scars he left will never heal.

When I returned to Texas, I talked to the family members of the teacher killed. They are still hurting.

I spoke with the teacher who was wounded three times. She has forgiven the man who harmed her. But the bullet wounds still mar her flesh.

And I’ve spoken to the child who the teacher held in her arms that fateful day. She is now a mother of three fine boys. She still has the toy rabbit discolored with her teacher’s blood. Her psyche bears worse stains. The shooting has become her earliest memory.

Four years ago, I heard from that child survivor again. This time she was on social media frantically searching for her niece. I asked what happened and she said there was a gunman in the local high school and she didn’t know if she was safe.

The niece survived but 10 students and teachers at Santa Fe, (Texas) High School were slain. Another 13 were wounded.

I learned of one of the worst school shootings in American history, from the survivor of the first school shooting I covered more than 30 years before. Strange.

In the wake of the Santa Fe shooting, I’ve repeatedly traveled to Texas looking for answers. But after speaking with survivors and families of the slain, I only have more questions.

Next month, I head for Uvalde, Texas, notebook in hand. Justice remains elusive. But someone needs to ask the question: Why do our children keep dying in classrooms and how do we stop it?

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

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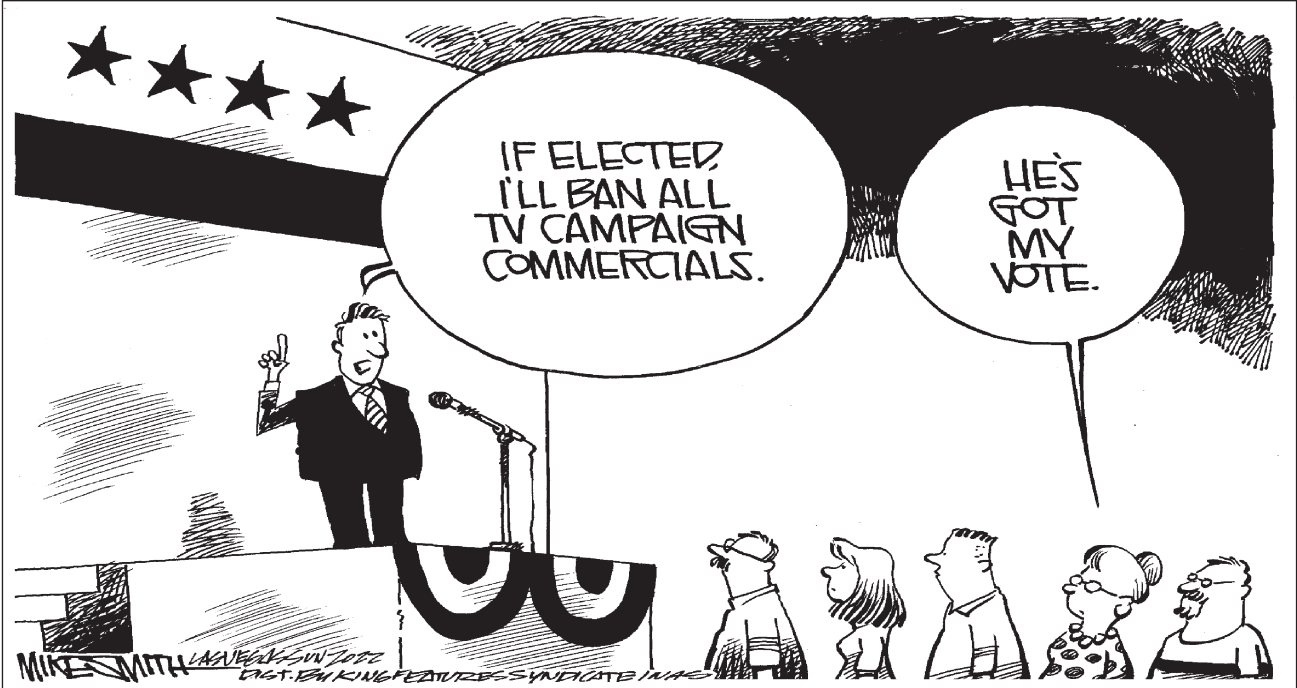
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State Senate candidates debate here – 1982

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Oct. 29, 1997.)

By Jessica Nashold

Two candidates for the 35th district seat in the Illinois senate met in the Mendota High School cafeteria on Oct. 20, 1982, to present their views on the North-South Freeway and other topics of interest. The discussion was sponsored by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce.

The candidates were James Gitz, a senator displaced by redistricting, and Harlan Rigney, a state representative. Rigney said Gitz didn’t have a plan for completing the North-South Freeway. He replied that he opposed raising taxes unless there was a guarantee the money would be used for construction. Rigney countered that 85 percent of the road fund was needed for maintenance. He advocated a gas tax of about six cents per gallon and guaranteed the fund would not be diverted from construction.

The only thing that will upset this guarantee is if a new administrator, elected in November, won’t honor it.

Questions from the audience were moderated by Mendota’s James Troupis.

Gitz claimed to have done more in four years in the legislature than Rigney had accomplished in 10. Said Gitz –

You can’t go by ratings because ratings are rigged, but voting records are not.

Flint Stephens, editor of The Mendota Reporter, aired his view that mud-slinging in political campaigns was boring. He stated that most politicians had failed to learn a basic rule about effective persuasion.

You can’t make everyone think you’re a neat person by telling them how bad everyone else is.

Most voters, Stephens declared, were not that gullible. “At least,” he added, “let’s hope not.”

The National Bank of Mendota broke ground for a new Electronic Data Processing Center. The site was a portion of the bank parking lot north of the municipal building on Eighth Avenue. Since completion of the main bank on Washington Street in 1961, the roster of employees had grown from 10 to 32, offering three times as many services.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 25, 1982, Bowl Air Lanes on the northwest

Backtracks & Sidetracks

edge of Mendota was discovered to be ablaze. Police officer Dave Brown, on routine patrol, noted flames at 1:20 a.m.

Seven fire departments responded, filling their tanks at hydrants on the edge of town.

Mendota and state police regulated traffic. Holes had to be cut through the walls of the sheet metal building.

By a coincidence, it was on Oct. 25, 1948, exactly 34 years before, that league play began at the Bowl Air Lanes. Chance Fitzgerald had put up the building in August 1948. Six Brunswick bowling lanes were delivered in September. During the first week of league play in October, six men’s teams and six teams in the Ladies’ League were using the new Bowl Air Lanes.

A cocktail lounge was added in 1950. In 1954, Fitzgerald leased the lanes to Walter Loomis and Paul Emmert. Owners at the time of the fire were Paul and Lee Emmert.

R.W. Liquidators opened in October 1982 on the northeast corner of Jefferson and Illinois. It handled stock from bankrupt stores of many kinds, offered at low prices. Phyllis O’Dell was manager, assisted by Liz Zimmerman and Sally Chandler.

Guy Havelka and Earl Sohm of Earlville revived an old profession as they recognized a need for chimney sweeps. They said there were 40 million woodburning stoves and fireplaces in use.

With skyrocketing energy costs, the fireplace has become a source of heat.

Dressed in black coats with tails and woolen top hats, they appeared like chimney sweeps of a bygone era. However, their equipment included an electric vacuum.

Connie Faber, Mendota Township supervisor, was chosen Woman of the Year for 1982 by the Business & Professional Women’s Club. Services rendered above and beyond the duties of her office earned the recognition. Faber had served St. John’s Lutheran Church in many offices and had been

head librarian at Graves Public Library before winning the township office.

A Reporter feature on funeral homes was based on interviews with Charles Thomas, owner of Schwarz Funeral Home, his assistant Mary Mallie and Bob Merritt of Merritt Funeral Home. They listed costs covered in funeral expense – embalming, cosmetics, hair-dresser or barber, casket, honorariums for clergy and organist, memorial and prayer cards, opening the grave and a vault.

No dollar value could be assigned to the concern and comfort provided by funeral homes at a difficult time. But it was always there and usually much appreciated.

Co-captains Todd Phalen and Dan Countryman enjoyed a Homecoming victory of 14-0 over Rock Falls on Oct. 22, 1982. Head coach was Dean Lubbs. Homecoming King was Mark Peasley and Homecoming Queen was Bev Burke.

Charles Dyas of Earlville held an open house at the Dyas 34 Drive-In to celebrate his 50 years in business. He showed old news reels, business ads and coming attractions, which had been featured on his scree years before.

The LaSalle County Sheriff’s Office and the Mendota, Troy Grove, Clarion Mutual Insurance Co. urged farmers to take advantage of the Illinois Crime Prevention & Identification System. A coded number could be stamped on farm equipment identifying the state, county and individual owner. Thefts of farm equipment had become a growing problem. Sheriff Ken Washkowiak explained –

No matter where the stuff is recovered, the number can be put on the computer and the owner found.

Any changes in ownership were to be reported to the sheriff’s office at once.

Mayor Ken Roling reported 25 calls had come to his home from cable customers who were receiving objectionable programs they had not requested. The cable company told him deprogrammed boxes could be obtained for \$2, but –

Roling informed the company they were responsible for the problem and would have to bear the cost.

Biden deserves what he’s going to get on the economy

By Rich Lowry

The S&P 500 is down more than 5% since Joe Biden’s inauguration, and the Dow Jones Industrial more than 4%.

The Federal Reserve is ratcheting up interest rates, raising borrowing costs across the board.

And one of the most respected bankers in the country is warning of a recession, telling a conference that “this is serious stuff.”

Yet, there was President Biden enjoying an ice-cream cone in Portland, Oregon, saying that “our economy is strong as hell.”

Inflation? It doesn’t worry him, at least not if the rest of the world could get its act together.

“Inflation is worldwide,” he said. “It’s worse off than it is in the United States. So the problem is the lack of economic growth and sound policy in other countries, not so much ours.”

As polls show the economy growing in importance for the midterms -- the latest New York Times poll has 44% of voters saying it’s their top concern, up from 36% in July -- Biden’s overall performance on the issue matters even more, to his detriment and that of his party.

There are deft political maneuverers who react to circumstances as necessary, and then blinkered and mulish politicians who can’t or won’t acknowledge reality.

There are policymakers whose worldviews line up with basic economic laws, and then those always bound to be confounded by the real world consequences of their ideological fixations.

There are master communicators who can make anyone feel better about anything, and then there are stumblebums whose evasions and lapses in logic are painfully obvious.

Joe Biden is emphatically the latter on every count. He likes to say fighting inflation is his foremost priority, but it’s hard to identify any major initiative of his that would be any different if the annual inflation rate were under 2% rather than over 8%.

He came into office promising to spend \$11 trillion over the next 10 years, according to the estimate of Brian Riedl

of the Manhattan Institute, and has spent as much of it as he could. When Congress wouldn’t assent, he spent hundreds of billions more by abusing his executive authority. The most significant nod he made to inflation was to call one tranche of this spending the Inflation Reduction Act, as if the name of the bill were more important than its substance.

Otherwise, Biden and his officials have relied on bad predictions, dubious math and premature celebrations to try to get them through.

In June 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said inflation would be elevated through the rest of the year, “maybe around 3%,” but this represented “transitory factors.”

A month later, Biden himself said inflation would be “temporary.” Of course, it was on a path to 40-year highs.

It’s one thing to spike the football in the end zone; it’s another, as Biden keeps doing, to spike the football when it’s third and long at midfield and getting repeatedly penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Last week, he said inflation over the past three months averaged 2% on an annual basis, a new way of counting meant to obscure that the real annual rate was 8.2%.

This was reminiscent of his insistence that the inflation rate this past July was 0% because inflation was flat from June.

He similarly declared victory on gas prices, when they have been rising again, and has portrayed himself as scourge of the budget deficit despite his binge of further deficit spending.

If Biden is offering poor explanations for poor results, at the end of the day, it doesn’t matter what he says. No presidential statement can compete with declining real wages and steeply increasing food costs.

The voters seem to be working themselves up to administer what is the only appropriate reaction to such heedless mismanagement and transparent spin on an essential matter affecting their daily lives, which is to make their discontent unmistakable at the polls in November.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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SOCIAL NEWS

Card shower set to honor L. Buettner's 98th birthday

MENDOTA—In celebration of Lucille Buettner's 98th birthday, her family is having a card shower in honor of her special day.

She was born on Nov. 6, 1924, to George and Louise Althaus. She married Clayton Buettner in 1948 and was a farmer's wife for her entire married life.

Lucille and Clayton retired from the farm in 2002 and moved to Mendota. Widowed in 2013, she stayed in their home on Monroe Street until 2018 when she moved to Stonecroft Village.

Lucille has one son, Ken, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Lucille Buettner

Please wish her a happy birthday by sending well-wishes to Lucille Buettner, 1700 Burlington St., Apt. 12, Mendota, IL 61342.

St. Bede Academy hosting 8th Grade open house Nov. 2

PERU—St. Bede Academy will be hosting its annual 8th Grade Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m. Families interested in learning more about St. Bede

are welcome to attend for an introduction to the Academy, tours of the campus, and to speak with staff, alumni, and current students. Families who attend can see the new-

ly-renovated spaces, including the Perino Science Center, newly renovated classrooms, and the refinished gym.

To RSVP for the event, or if you have questions, please

contact Jon Steben, Director of Enrollment Management at jsteben@st-bede.com or 815-250-0279. RSVP is requested but not required to attend.

LaSalle Library celebrating Halloween, Autumn with children's events

LaSALLE—LaSalle Public Library will host an Autumn/Halloween Fun Give-Away and Photo Op in the Library meeting room on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is located at 305 Marquette St., LaSalle.

Because the Library is a Teal Pumpkin site, all give-away items will be non-edible.

There will be two professional photo backdrops—one background themed for Halloween and another for Autumn—

and props to capture wonderful photos. Costumes are encouraged—"Ghost," "Minion," "Wonder Woman," "Banana,"—or come as "A Real Kid."

Every youth, from babies to teens, will receive a new gift book, along with a glowstick and a 3D printed charm while supplies last. Youth will also receive a laser-cut and engraved wood pendant created on the Library's Glowforge. The pendant may be worn as is or may be decorated using markers. An area will be

arranged in the Children's Room for those who wish to add color to their pendants.

The Children's Room will be open longer hours throughout the event, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., so be sure to check out Halloween and Autumn favorites.

The event is free and open to the public. No registration required. The LaSalle Public Library is ADA compliant and welcoming. For more information, please call the Library at 815-223-2341 or message the Library on Facebook.

Stage 212 schedules auditions November 4-5 for winter production of "Steel Magnolias"

LaSALLE—Director Joey Santos has announced auditions for Stage 212's Winter, 2023 production, "Steel Magnolias," Robert Harling's hilarious, yet touching and insightful examination of the human experience, will be held Friday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 5 at 1 p.m. at the theater, 700 First St., LaSalle.

At Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, La., the outspoken Truvy and her young and eager assistant, Annelie cater regularly to many ladies in the neighborhood, including wealthy former first lady of Chinquapin Clairee Belcher, local curmudgeon Ouiser Boudreaux, intelligent and compassionate career woman

M'Lynn, and her daughter Shelby, the prettiest girl in town. Their strong bond reveals itself in the way these ladies celebrate each other's good times but are there to help each other through bad times as well.

Santos will be casting six women of various ages in leading roles. Auditions will consist

of cold readings from the script. No preparation is needed, and familiarity with the script is not required, but auditioners may come prepared with a monologue from the script if they want. Perusal scripts are available by visiting the box office Monday 4-6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. All are encouraged to audition, regardless

of prior theatrical experience.

For more information, visit www.stage212.org. Stage 212 will be following current IDPH guidelines for Phase 5 during the audition process. Masks are currently optional in the building, but that is subject to change. "Steel Magnolias" will be presented Feb. 3-12.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Critics are swooning over British actor Harris Dickinson. His credits include "Beach Rats" (2017); John Paul Getty III in the TV series "Trust" (2018); "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil" (2019); Cannes Palmed'Or winner "Triangle of Sadness" (2022). Dickinson is currently in "See How They Run," with Sam Rockwell, "Where the Crawdads Sing," and the FX limited series "Retreat." His swooning critics say that he's 6'2", has bountiful good looks, sculpted features and full cherry lips. His popularity's just been simmering and will soon boil over into stardom. Dickinson said he could see the desire "in people's eyes" after the screening of "Triangle" in Cannes: "They see me and Carl as the same person ... even people I made the film with." Sounds like this 26-year-old star is already having to deal with



Dickinson

having stunning "early Brad Pitt" looks. Beauty is such a curse!

What punishment fits "the slap seen around the world"? We all saw Will Smith smack Chris Rock during the 94th Academy Awards. What would have happened if he punched him? The Academy banished Smith from everything for 10 years, including the next Oscars ceremony. Smith admitted, "There's no part of me that thinks that was the right way to behave in that moment."

Netflix put his next film "Fast and Loose" in turnaround immediately, but AppleTV+, who won the Best Picture Award for "CODA," had nothing slated for this year's Oscars and moved Will Smith's "Emancipation" (which they bought in 2020), from 2023 to Dec. 2 of this year to qualify for the Oscars. While it's unlikely that Smith will be nominated (which is wrong, since his work should be judged, not him), the film and its other actors, such as Ben Foster (who is frequently nominated for awards), should have

their chance.

In "Emancipation," Smith plays a runaway slave who survives the Louisiana swamps and escapes to freedom by outwitting cold-blooded hunters.

Talk at Hollywood parties these days surrounds how much they hate the current crop of ads on TV. Commercials used to be clever and funny, like the ones that air during the Super Bowl. But lately, all we have are political ads, drug ads featuring the most awful side effects, and car insurance ads from Geico, Farmers, Liberty and Progressive ... which brings us to Flo! Her real name is Stephanie Courtney; she's 52 and studied at The Groundlings Theater, where she met her husband, theater director Scott Kolanach. Her first commercial was during the 2004 Super Bowl for Bud Light, and ads for Skittles and Toyota followed. She became Flo in 2008 and has forsaken all other ads to be exclusively Progressive's. And, why not? She makes upwards of \$2 million a year and is worth a progressive \$6 million.

Couch Theater

"A Friend of the Family" (TV-MA) -- While the kidnappings of Jan Broberg have been covered in the media before (a Netflix documentary titled "Abducted in Plain Sight" was a hot topic when it was released in 2017), Peacock has decided to adapt the true story into a miniseries starring Jake Lacy and Anna Paquin. Lacy portrays the perpetrator, Robert Berchelt, who nosed his way into the Broberg family with the intent of developing intimate relationships with not only the Broberg parents, but the children as well -- specifically Jan, who was kidnapped by him two separate times in 1974 and in 1976. The series has been praised for its focus on the victims, rather than the abuser, which is no doubt influenced by Jan Broberg herself serving as executive producer for the show. Out now. (Peacock)

"Luckiest Girl Alive" (R) -- Before Ani Fanelli was a 30-year-old hotshot writer living in New York, awaiting a grandiose wedding to the love of her life, she was a young

girl named Tifani, who was just trying to find a place for herself in the world. Her first taste of luxury only came after she received a scholarship to a prestigious private school, the turning point that would alter the course of her life. The dark events that took place at the school would come to follow and haunt her to the current day, and until she turns around to face her trauma in the eye, Tifani cannot truly become Ani. Mila Kunis plays the (un)luckiest girl alive in this mystery thriller film out now. (Netflix)

"Run Sweetheart Run" (R) -- From horror powerhouse Blumhouse Productions, this psychological thriller stars Ella Balinska ("Charlie's Angels") and Pilou Asbaek ("Game of Thrones"). Balinska plays Cherie, a woman usually absorbed in her work, as she gets set up on a blind date with a man named Ethan. After Ethan charms her with a wonderful night out, she's left swooning at the end of their date. Little does she know that as she accepts an

invitation into his home, he has pulled her into a violent, deadly game of cat and mouse. Narrowly escaping his home, Cherie must run for her life around her city to run from Ethan, who somehow lurks at every corner. Out on Oct. 28. (Prime Video)

"Matriarch" (NR) -- As Hulu's month-long Halloween event, Huluween, continues, this original folk horror film from the streaming service might be its most terrifying release this year. Twenty years after running away from her home, an advertising executive named Laura reaches rock bottom in her struggle with alcohol and drug addiction. Upon receiving a call from her mother after Laura mysteriously survives an overdose, she decides to pay her first visit back to her mother. But right away, Laura notices that something's off about the village, where no one has aged in the last two decades, and she begins experiencing horrifying paranormal visions that make her past troubles seem miniscule. Out now. (Hulu)

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: Whatever happened to Sandra Bernhard? I remember her funny appearances on the "Late Night with David Letterman," and she was in a few movies, but I haven't seen her in decades. Is she still in showbiz? -- **H.U.**

A: The now 67-year-old actress Sandra Bernhard started out in stand-up comedy, before landing a scene-stealing role of a stalker in the Martin Scorsese film "The King of Comedy," opposite Robert DeNiro. She followed that with more than 20 appearances on "Late Night with David Letterman" and also landed a recurring role on the hit sitcom "Roseanne" for several seasons.

In recent years, she's had regular roles on sitcoms like "2 Broke Girls" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," as well as two Ryan Murphy-produced series "Pose" and "American Horror Story." Her biggest missed opportunity, though, was turning down the role of Miranda on "Sex and the City" due to "low pay" and a "terrible" script at the time. Cynthia Nixon went on to become a household name after being cast in the role, but Bernhard told Howard Stern in an interview that she

doesn't regret her decision.

Fortunately, she's part of the Murphy universe and has a role in the new season of "American Horror Story: NYC" on the FX channel. She also recently wrapped filming for the upcoming comedy film "Out of Order!" starring Brooke Shields and Brandon Routh.

Q: When are the Hallmark Christmas movies starting? With Christmas decorations in stores already, do the movies start in October, too? -- **Y.J.**

A: As a matter of fact, yes, Hallmark's "Countdown to Christmas" schedule starts with the movie "Noel Next Door" on Friday, Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. ET, starring Natalie Hall and Corey Sevier. On Oct. 30, Kim Matula and Ian Harding star in "Ghosts of Christmas Always" at 8 p.m. ET on the Hallmark Channel. The schedule really picks up in November and, of course, throughout December, with holiday films featuring favorites like Alison Sweeney, Aimee Teegarden, Jack Wagner and more.

Holiday-themed TV movies aren't exclusive to the Hallmark franchise. The Lifetime network has just

as many Christmas movies. Mario Lopez, Maria Menounos, Patti LaBelle and Jana Kramer are part of the Lifetime lineup. Even streaming giant Netflix has gotten into the game, with original movies like "Falling for Christmas," which marks Lindsay Lohan's big comeback, premiering Nov. 10.

Q: Are the Golden Globe Awards ever coming back to television? The Emmy Awards now resemble them, with celebrities sitting at tables nearby each other, but I wish the Emmys would go back to rows of seating like the Oscars. -- **G.H.**

A: Yes, the Golden Globe Awards will return with a televised ceremony on NBC Jan. 10, 2023, preceded by the nominations being announced on Dec. 12. The network skipped broadcasting it last year, after record-low ratings in 2021 and the discovery that there were no African Americans among its 87-member voting organization, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. With a more-diversified panel and a post-pandemic increase in movie ticket sales, it's hoped that the Golden Globes can return to being a celebrated, fun event.

• Trivia Test •

1. MYTHOLOGY: What are the Nereids in Greek mythology?
 2. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century English novel has the subtitle, "The Parish Boy's Progress"?
 3. ACRONYMS: In printing, what does the acronym DPI stand for?
 4. GEOGRAPHY: Which city lies near the largest natural harbor in the world?
 5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How does a bat find its prey?
 6. HISTORY: Who is the youngest person to win a Nobel Peace Prize?
 7. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin prefix "super-" mean in English?
 8. LAW: What is double jeopardy?
 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who founded the American Red Cross?
 10. MEDICAL: What vitamin deficiency causes night blindness?
- Answers
1. Sea nymphs.
 2. "Oliver Twist" (Charles Dickens).
 3. Dots per inch.
 4. Sydney, Australia.
 5. Echolocation (sending high-frequency sound waves).
 6. Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan, who fights for children's rights to education, was 17 when she won the award.
 7. Above, over (supervise, etc.).
 8. Prosecuting a person twice for the same offense.
 9. Clara Barton.
 10. Vitamin A.
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Creche trio
- 5 Sheep's cry
- 8 Espy
- 12 Optimist's credo
- 13 Steal from Texas city
- 15 Lost traction
- 16 "Madam Secretary" memoirist
- 18 Dutch exports
- 20 Spanning
- 21 Demolish, in Dover
- 23 Jungfrau, for one
- 24 Tirana resident
- 28 Blathers
- 31 Meadow
- 32 Seafood selection
- 34 Gangster's gun
- 35 Lincoln in-law
- 37 Tuna type
- 39 Sneaky chuckle
- 41 Son of Adam and Eve
- 42 You can count on it
- 45 Seduce
- 49 Prince of Monaco who is Grace Kelly's son
- 51 Shark variety
- 52 Check
- 53 Rm. coolers
- 54 Baby carriage
- 55 Golf stroke
- 56 Belly
- 57 Eyelid woe

DOWN

- 1 Fine spray
- 2 Rights advocacy org.
- 3 Author Sheehy
- 4 Prime Minister Gandhi
- 5 Cabbage, broccoli and
- 6 MSN rival
- 7 "Waterloo" group
- 8 Making spiral patterns
- 9 Samoan port
- 10 Phil of folk music
- 11 Youngsters
- 17 -- Victor
- 19 Skillets
- 22 British nobles
- 24 Flight stat
- 25 Zodiac cat
- 26 Vice
- 27 Mother Teresa, for
- 29 Standard
- 30 Fr. holy woman
- 33 Social appointment
- 36 Not half bad
- 38 Victors
- 40 "Ben- --"
- 42 Seniors' org.
- 43 -- cheese dressing
- 44 Male deer
- 46 Scurry
- 47 Fine
- 48 Iditarod terminus
- 50 Post-op area

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
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48									49	
50					51					
52					53			54		
55					56			57		

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* A border collie named Saul took a leaf out of another (albeit fictional) canine's book, being praised as a "real-life Lassie" when he led two members of a search party to his owner after the man was injured on a hike.

* Nutmeg can produce a hallucinogenic effect if taken in a high enough quantity.

* It's not just trees that help provide us humans with oxygen -- about half of that in our atmosphere is a byproduct of photosynthesis from the microscopic sea algae known as phytoplankton.

* Rhubarb grows so fast you can actually hear it!

* Legend holds that when a pope dies, it's the custom to strike him on the head three times with a silver hammer to ensure he's really deceased.

* A survey revealed that nearly half of the unmarried gen's polled washed their bedsheets a mere four times a year, instead of the recommended once per week.

Singletons, there may be a lesson in there.

* Less than 14% of all M&Ms candies are brown.

* May never begins or ends on the same day of the week as any other month in any given year.

* Proof that crime doesn't pay ... even in space! Earlier this year, Canada passed a law allowing prosecution of crimes committed by the country's astronauts on the moon or on their way to it.

* The greatest number of people to play a single piano simultaneously is 23.

* For a reasonable \$19.95, you too can buy alien abduction insurance from a Florida agent. Of course, to cash it in, you'll need to hand over a signature from an "authorized, on-board alien," and who knows if they can even write in English?

Thought for the Day: "Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you." -- Walt Whitman

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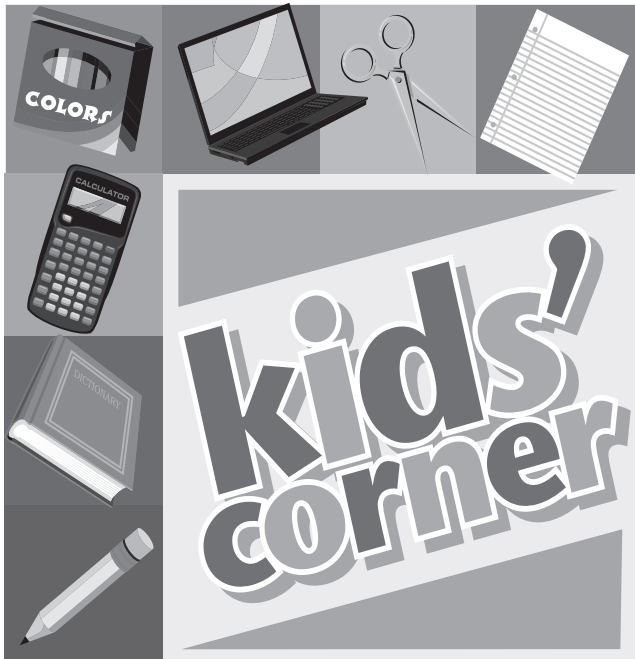
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M	A	S	C	N	I	E	I	E	I
O	K	M	A	I	L	I	E	B	T
N	O	D	A	V	I	S	U	C	A
H	I	S	E	T	H	E	H		
E	R	O	C	A	V	A	D	D	O
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A	P	S	A	V	A	N	V	I	N
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S	S	O	O	C	A	V	A	I	L
H	G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

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

NIE FUN PAGE



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-10.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	2		11
1		3	13
6	0		10
11	11	12	

4	0	9
3	6	1
5	2	4

Solution

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1890:** LONDON'S FIRST DEEP-LEVEL TUBE RAILWAY OPENS BETWEEN KING WILLIAM STREET AND STOCKWELL.
- **1922:** BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGIST HOWARD CARTER DISCOVERS THE ENTRANCE TO KING TUT'S TOMB IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS IN EGYPT.
- **1980:** RONALD REAGAN IS ELECTED AS THE 40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



THESE ARE MANY CHILDREN'S
INITIAL INTRODUCTIONS
TO READING.

ANSWER: PICTURE BOOKS

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to
determine the phrase.

R G T A E O B K O

Answer: Great book



AUTHOR

a person who
writes a book

How they
say that in...

ENGLISH: Picture

SPANISH: Imagen

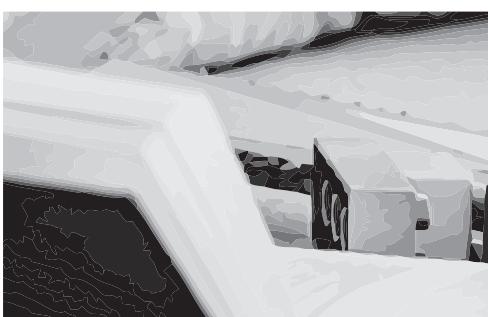
ITALIAN: Immagine

FRENCH: Image

GERMAN: Bild



"GOODNIGHT MOON" BY MARGARET
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POPULAR CHILDREN'S
BOOK.



Can you guess what
the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: BOOK

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



An aerial view of the Richardson Farm James Bond-themed corn maze in Spring Grove. The maze depicts actors Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig, as well as a Bond girl, the casino in Monaco and an Aston Martin. (Photo courtesy of George Richardson)

'License' to have fun: Corn maze depicts 60 years of James Bond

By TAMMIE SLOUP
FarmWeek

British Secret Service Agent James Bond has been depicted in more than 20 films since 1962.

And the owners of Richardson Adventure Farm in northern Illinois believe 60 years is something to celebrate.

To show their appreciation for the franchise and the milestone anniversary, their 28-acre corn maze in Spring Grove honors the Bond films and actors.

Walk — or get lost — among the biggest names to play 007, including Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig, as you trek along the 10 miles of trails that outline their faces. The casino in Monaco and an Aston Martin also are part of the maze, which changes every year.

"We all love James Bond. We just thought it was fun," said George Richardson, who owns the farm with son, Ryan, and brother, Robert.

Richardson boasts it's the "world's largest and most intricately designed corn maze." While he knows a few other mazes are bigger in acreage, their designs are "more spread out."

"We have to make it big, exciting and spectacular, and that's what we work on with pretty much everything that we do," he said.

Although the Richardsons have offered corn mazes since 2001, the James Bond theme picked up a great deal of media attention.

"It's been phenomenal so far this year; just so fun," he said. "I think it's because the movies are so fun."

The design concept started as some scribbles, which were sent to a maze designer. Using a planter with GPS, the corn was dropped in the ground according to the design. The Richardsons rototilled the paths and added the checkpoints and other signage.

Visitors can opt for easy mazes that take about 10 minutes or try to "solve" the big maze by hitting all 24 checkpoints. But don't fear, maze-goers can always find a way out.

"Ever since I got lost at night in our first corn maze, there's no dead ends," Rich-

ardson said. "This is not a rat maze where there's one way in and one way out."

To help with navigation, several wooden bridges were constructed within the maze, and a 60-foot tower sits along the edge. Maps also are provided.

The corn grown for the maze is the "worst possible corn," consisting of just a cob and husks. Richardson said the lightweight corn prevents injuries in case a rambunctious guest decides to pick and throw a cob while in the maze.

As a group of children ran out of the maze on a recent day, shouting, "Yay! We made it!" Richardson smiled and said that's why his family is in the agri-venture business — the joy the farm brings to visitors.

George and Robert Richardson previously grew corn and soybeans and finished 2,500 hogs, but experimenting with a Christmas tree business led them down the path to creating the adventure farm, which also offers a zipline, slides, pumpkin-picking, hayrides and more.

The family members all have their areas of expertise, said Robert Richardson, who oversees 100,000 Christmas trees.

Between the Christmas trees, fall activities and a spring tulip festival that could have a million tulips next year, the farm attracts 100,000 visitors annually.

The Richardson farmstead dates to 1836 and was a dairy farm when George and Robert were growing up. The brothers graduated from the University of Illinois and

returned to the farm in the late '70s, when they started the hog operation.

Selling Christmas trees was initially a side hobby, but after selling their first 186 trees and seeing their customers' reaction, the brothers expanded the operation.

"(Customers) loved to get onto the farm; it felt so good for them," George said. "And we had a great time doing it."

"Who would have known in 1836 that this would become an entertainment farm?"

Parent Michelle Helmich of Johnsburg visited the farm with other homeschooled families recently and told FarmWeek she remembers as a kid cutting down her family's Christmas tree at Richardson Farm.

Asked if she solved the James Bond maze, she laughed.

"Myself, I cannot read a map. I had no idea if we were in a chin or the forehead," she said.

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

Illinois Soybean Association signs historic Memorandum of Understanding with Taiwan

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and other Illinois commodity groups recently signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taiwan that will enable closer cooperation in global trade facilitation.

This signing follows a recent announcement from the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers Association (TVOA) that it intends to purchase between 2.6 million and 2.9 million MT (equivalent to between 96 million and 107 million bushels) of United States soybeans between 2023 and 2024. The value of these purchases is estimated to be \$1.9 billion to \$2.1 billion in U.S. funds.

"The signing of the MOU signifies a step towards global trade security," said ISA Chairman, Steve Pitstick. "And it reinforces ISA's commitment to maintain the security of international supply chains, while facilitating legitimate trade relationships."

In 2021, the total value of U.S. agricultural and related products exported to Taiwan reached \$3.94 billion, making it the seventh largest market for U.S. agricultural exports.

The U.S. supplies about 27 percent of Taiwan's agricultural imports.

The MOU, which will work to create an agreement that advances the interest of Illinois' farmers, seeks to support and grow the Illinois ag economy with more robust trade opportunities with Taiwan.

"We value the opportunity for transparency and cooperation because trade is vital to Illinois' 43,000 soybean producers," Pitstick said. "Roughly 60 percent of the nearly 672 million bushels of the soybeans grown in Illinois are exported, resulting in an estimated \$4-5 billion in value. The MOU signed today further strengthens the unique relationship between Illinois soybean farmers and the Taiwanese, and we are looking forward to working together to support world trade."

Continued Pitstick, "We have great respect for Taiwan's expertise and role in this important trade relationship. Illinois soybean farmers continue to learn from our global partners about the evolving preferences and high standards to which our products are measured. We endeavor to exceed those expectations."

Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership publishes Cover Crop Incentive Directory

DeKALB — Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) is excited to announce the publication of the first Cover Crop Incentive Directory for Illinois. The directory aims to provide a clear comparison of several programs that offer payment incentives to Illinois farmers for growing cover crops.

The directory includes information on 15 incentive opportunities, including publicly funded programs at the federal, state, and county levels, as well as privately funded programs throughout Illinois. The three-page document includes a brief description, relevant geography, contract length, payment details, and contact information for each program. By viewing the programs side by side, farmers will be able to compare programs and select the option that

is best for their operation.

The Directory also includes a "Stacking Matrix" to help farmers understand which programs can be combined to receive multiple incentives. With so many programs to choose from, and many programs having exceptions or exclusions for stacking, the Stacking Matrix provides a program-by-program guide to stacking opportunities.

"We've heard from farmers and farm advisors in our network that this would be a valuable resource as they promote the adoption of cover crops or consider implementing cover crops on their farm," said Jean Brokish, Midwest Deputy Director for American Farmland Trust, a founding member of ISAP. "Our goal is to spread awareness of the many opportunities available to

farmers, and to increase the adoption of cover crops throughout Illinois."

Inclusion on the directory does not constitute an endorsement of any particular program by ISAP or its members. The intent of the Partnership is to facilitate data sharing among ISAP's farmer network and advance the adoption of conservation cropping systems to improve soil health and reduce nutrient loss.

The Cover Crop Incentive Directory and Stacking Matrix is available to view on ISAP's website. The Partnership encourages farmers, conservation specialists, extension agents, and other farm advisors to share the directory with their networks and to get in touch with any suggested updates to the directory as programs continue to develop and evolve.

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

WARRANT ARREST

Jacob D. Hernandez, 22, of Rock Falls, was arrested at 5:51 p.m. Oct. 16 on a valid Lee County warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court after police officers investigated the report of a domestic dispute in the area of U.S. 34 and Lori Lane. The subject posted bond and was released with a Lee County court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Ellasha D. Porter, 28, of 205 Sandra Ave., Apt. D1, Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers were called to the area of Sandra Avenue and Division Street for a domestic dispute at 4:11 a.m. Oct. 22. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County jail.

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

THREE-FAMILY GARAGE SALE

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9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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• Thursday 5 p.m. to appear in Monday's Money Saver.

• Monday 10 a.m. to appear in Wednesday's Reporter.

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Illinois' Safe2Help program gives support to students across the state

SPRINGFIELD — On the one-year anniversary of its creation, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Safe2Help program reports that it has received 873 public interactions across the state. Safe2Help Illinois is a free, information sharing platform that is available 24/7. In the absence of a trusted adult, students can use a free app, text/phone, or the website (Safe2HelpIL.com) to share school safety issues in a confidential environment. It was launched on Oct. 20, 2021.

"The Safe2Help program is designed to help school-age children who experience bullying, mental health struggles, or those who see signs of potential drug use or violence in someone else," said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "The numbers prove that this program is indeed necessary."

There are several ways that students from kindergarten through high school can reach out to Safe2Help:

- Call 1-844-4SAFEIL (723345)
- Text SAFE2 (72332)
- Online at <https://app.safe2helpil.com/>

- Email HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com
- Download the Safe2HelpIL app

"Our schools must be places where our young people feel safe and connected," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "Safe2Help is a welcome safety tool that can help us prevent tragedies like the mass shootings in Highland Park and Uvalde, protect students from bullying, and connect struggling students with mental health support. I encourage all of our school leaders to continue raising awareness about Safe2Help among students, so each and every student knows they have a confidential way to share information with trusted adults."

"Timely information is critical to intervene and prevent a dangerous or harmful situation," said Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. "The Safe2Help program offers students a safe way to share information about what they observe, which can help protect their fellow students and teachers."

"It is our mission to ensure that Illinois' children grow up in safe and healthy environments. The Safe2Help program is a safe, user-friendly tool children can use to ask

for help if they or someone they know is in danger and they don't have a trusted adult they can turn to," said Illinois Department of Children & Family Services' Director Marc D. Smith. "We are happy to partner with IEMA on this important initiative to let children know that they are never alone, and help is just a phone call, text or click away."

"We are pleased to partner with IEMA on their work to improve safety for children and high school students. The IDHS Division of Mental Health will continue to bring expertise to this effort, and to share this important resource with students and families across the state," said Grace B. Hou, Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services.

IEMA School Safety Policy Advisor Samantha Kanish, who coordinates Safe2Help in Illinois, said, "Safe2Help Illinois is an important resource for students as it empowers them to seek help for themselves or a friend in a safe and confidential environment."

With the release of Public Act 102-0416 that went into effect July 1 of this year, Safe2Help Illinois or a local suicide prevention resource number is required to go on the back of any issued student identification cards, student handbooks, and any student planner that is custom printed and distributed for students in grades 6 through 12.

Since the program's launch, Safe2Help Illinois' top reports have been bullying (18.1%), suicidal ideation as reported by another student (4.7%), and possession and/or use of drugs, which include vaping (5.2%).

These are important issues to address. According to the National 4-H Council, 70% of teens have experienced struggles with mental health. According to a 2020 Harris Poll, 42% of teens admit they've been leaning into their vices (e.g. unhealthy food, vaping) and unhealthy coping mechanisms to deal with the impact of COVID-19. Finally, an Illinois Department of Human Services Survey in 2020 found suicide is the third leading cause of death of Illinois youth ages 10-19.

More information on the Safe2Help Illinois program can be found at <https://www.safe2helpil.com/>

New start dates for Medicare Part B coverage coming in '23

By Mike Weiti

PERU — Changes are coming next year for when Medicare Part B coverage starts.

What is not changing:

If you are eligible at age 65, your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP):

- Begins three months before your 65th birthday.
- Includes the month of your 65th birthday.
- Ends three months after your 65th birthday.

If you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B or if you sign up during the first three months of your IEP, your coverage will start the month you're first eligible. If you sign up the month you turn 65, your coverage will start the first day of the following month. This won't change with the new rule.

What is changing:

Starting Jan. 1, 2023, your Medicare Part B coverage starts the first day of the

month after you sign up if you sign up during the last three months of your IEP.

Before this change, if you signed up during the last three months of your IEP, your Medicare Part B coverage started two to three months after you enrolled.

If you don't sign up for Medicare Part B during your IEP, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period (GEP). The GEP lasts from Jan. 1 through March 31. Starting Jan. 1, 2023, your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

You can learn more about these updates on our Medicare webpage at www.ssa.gov/medicare and our Medicare publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

Please pass this information along to someone who may need it.

(Weiti is the Social Security District Manager in Peru.)

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ANNUAL NICE WALK BIG SUCCESS
The 20th Annual Walk for N.I.C.E.
(Neighbors in Christ Ecumenical)
Food and Clothing Center in Lee, IL
was held on Sat., Sept 17th.

Again this year, NICE partnered with the Shabbona Pathway group and UNC (United Neighborhood Center) Annual Health Fair. It was a great day in Shabbona. We want to thank the partner groups and all the people who participated in the event. We sincerely thank the **Shabbona Fire Department** Emergency team, the **DeKalb County Sheriff's Dept.**, and their auxiliary for their support and assistance that day.

Also, we sincerely thank the following local businesses who were major sponsors for the walk: **Bayer**, Waterman Plant; **Beaver Den**, Paw Paw; **Boughton Farms, Inc.** Leland; **Country Financial**, Steve Klopfenstein, Shabbona; **Country Financial**, Joan Walker, Paw Paw; **County Line Pub**, Lee; **Daughters of Devine Love**, Compton; **First State Bank**, Shabbona and Waterman; **Flanagan State Bank**, Paw Paw; **Helena**; **Lockbox Storage**, Hinckley and Waterman; **Pioneer State Bank**, Earlville and Paw Paw; **Resource Bank**, Leland, and Shabbona; **Shabbons Cafe**; **Super Wash**, Hinckley; **Waterman Bank**, West Brooklyn Farmers Co-Op, **Wrigley's Garage**, Lee; and **Screwball T-Shirts**, Pete Robinson, Waterman.

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SPORTS

Quincy Notre Dame cruises past MHS for sectional soccer title

□ Trojans fall 7-1; end season at 19-7

MENDOTA — When Mendota stunned Quincy Notre Dame to win the soccer sectional championship a year ago, with the talent each team had returning this season, they both knew a rematch was inevitable. Sure enough, after the postseason pairings were released in early October, the two teams were on a collision course to play for the sectional title again this year.

After winning their Mendota Class 1A Sectional semifinal games, the rematch came to fruition. Unfortunately for the Trojans, the outcome was much different this time around as Quincy Notre Dame dominated play for 80 minutes on its way to a 7-1 victory on Oct. 22 at the MHS field.

With the loss, Mendota ended its season with a 19-7 record, while Notre Dame (16-6-2) advanced to the supersectional round where it met up against Bloomington Central Catholic on Tuesday night in Chillicothe for an opportunity to play in this weekend's state tournament.

A howling wind straight out of the south would no doubt be a factor in the contest, and the Trojans had the wind in their favor in the first half. But Mendota could only take advantage of the strong breeze blowing toward the Raiders' goal with just a single tally in the first 40 minutes. Meanwhile, Quincy Notre Dame didn't seem to be bothered by going into the gusts as it hammered in four goals for a 4-1 halftime lead.

The Trojans had the first real scoring opportunity just under 10 minutes into the contest when Jasiel Watson executed some crafty dribbling and fired a shot that sailed a hair over the crossbar.

A minute and a half later, the Raiders broke the scoreless tie when Leo Cann got a shot past Mendota goalie Martin Murillo for a 1-0 QND lead.

A successful penalty kick by the Raiders made it 2-0 at the 23:25 mark. Mendota was charged with a tripping penalty and Tanner Anderson's penalty shot went to the left side of the goal while Murillo anticipated the shot going right.

Each team had unsuccessful shots on goal over the next seven minutes before the Trojans cut the deficit in half. Freshman Johan Cortez booted the ball from 30 yards out that sailed just out of the reach of Raider goalie Max Frericks and settled in the upper left back of the net with 16:44 left in the half.

QND did the only other scoring of the half with Cann getting a goal at 12:58 and Anderson finding the net at 10:37.

"It was a difficult setting with the wind coming at us, but we were able to get four, which was a great accomplishment on our part," said Raider coach Greg Reis.

"The first 10-15 minutes we were with them, but after their penalty kick, our intensity level dropped," said Trojan coach Nick Myers. "It was really deflating when we got back to 2-1 and then they got two more before the half."

QND took the air out of the entire Trojan balloon in the first four and half minutes of the second half, when over just a two-minute, 10-second span, the Raiders tallied three times to dash any hopes of a Mendota comeback.

Anderson drilled home his third and fourth goals at 38:21 and 37:03, and Cann



Mendota's Johan Cortez maneuvers his way past Quincy Notre Dame's Brody Jones in the soccer sectional championship game on Oct. 22 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

scored for the third time with 35:31 to go.

"We came out with guns blazing in the second half and got three quick ones, which was huge" said Reiss.

Mendota's best chance to score in the second half came with just 2:23 left, but a

Johnathan Cortez breakaway was denied.

"Quincy Notre Dame is a great squad and is always a powerhouse," stated Myers. "We figured they would want to play us again after what happened last year. I think last year's loss to us

was definitely a motivating factor for them."

Reiss said his players and coaching staff haven't forgotten how that game ended in the sectionals finals in 2021, and were hoping for a rematch. "It's been stuck in our craw for a year," he said.

Mendota controlled the game from start to finish in polishing off Peoria Christian, 4-0, in the semifinals of the sectional on Oct. 19.

See Soccer, Page B3



Mendota's Braiden Freeman tries to snag a pass in the end zone but can't secure the ball as St. Bede's Ben Wallace gets an arm in to break up the play on Oct. 21 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

Brady, Bruins sink Trojans in finale, 39-20

MENDOTA — Through the first eight weeks of the season, opposing quarterbacks have been the main difference-makers in dealing Mendota four of its five losses. You can add another one to the list.

St. Bede's John Brady — just like Teegan Davis of Princeton, Mac Resetich of Hall, Brady Clark of Kewanee and J.J. Castle of Newman — sliced up the Trojan defense with his running and passing as the Bruins solidified their seeding in the playoffs with a 39-20

triumph in a Three Rivers Conference contest on Oct. 21 at the MHS field.

The loss finalized Mendota's records at 3-6 overall and 1-5 in the conference, while St. Bede improved to 7-2 overall and it ended 4-2 in league play.

When Brady wasn't zigging and zagging his way through the Mendota defense, the senior signal-caller was finding open receivers with his passing arm, keeping drives alive and moving the chains. Brady finished the game with 164 yards rushing

on 21 totes and four touchdowns, while he completed 12 of 20 passes for 129 yards, many of those setting up his own TD runs.

Meanwhile, what has been a pretty dependable Trojan offense throughout the season didn't get its act together until the fourth quarter, far too late to make up a 30-point deficit.

Perhaps the tone was set in the first 12 seconds of the contest when Mendota kicked off to begin the game and St. Bede's Callan Hueneburg tight-roped the Trojan side-

line and fended off several would-be tacklers on his way to a 71-yard kickoff return touchdown. Brady ran in the two-point conversion and the Bruins were off and running.

Mendota's first offensive series of the night looked promising, as it marched the ball from its own 40 to the St. Bede 22, but on a fourth-and-two, Anthony Childs was only able to get 1 yard and the Trojans turned the ball over on downs.

See Football, Page B3

MHS's Kelson qualifies for cross country sectional

□ Sophomore places 10th in regional

ROCK FALLS — Mendota Trojan harrier Anthony Kelson earned a trip to the sectional round after running in the Rock Falls Class 1A Regional Cross Country Meet on Oct. 22.

The MHS sophomore finished in 10th place with a time of 16:42 on the three-mile course and was the second of five individual qualifiers promoted to the Oregon Sectional, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m.

Riverdale supplied the top three runners in the boys' varsity race, with Tommy Murray (15:19), Landis Musser (15:36) and Payton Sand (16:09) leading their team to the regional title with 24 points. Other teams finishing in the top seven and thus advancing to the sectional

were Mercer County (99), Rock Falls (108), Sterling Newman (119), Rock Island Alleman (123), Erie (131) and Amboy (139). The Trojans placed ninth in the team standings with 213 points.

In addition to Kelson, other Mendota competitors included Dagen Setchell (33rd, 18:00), Kody Chase (48th, 18:43), Harlan Gallagher (72nd, 21:01), Travis Mumm (74th, 21:34), Carlos Olivas (77th, 21:52), and Spencer Kain (89th, 27:05).

In the girls' race, Eden Mueller of Mercer County won in a time of 18:17.

Mendota runners closing out their season were Anna Valdes (70th, 28:51), Val Valdes (72nd, 29:39) and Yuli Valdes (75th, 31:54).

Rock Falls won the team title with 27 points, while other advancing teams were Sherrard (62), Mercer County (75), Oregon (110), Erie (130), Rockridge (152) and Sterling Newman (165).



Kelson

Prophetstown tops Spikers in regional tourney opener

The Mendota Spikers closed out the season with a first-round loss in the Rock Falls Class 2A Regional Volleyball Tournament on Oct. 24. Prophetstown eliminated the Spikers with a 25-20, 25-19 victory.

Reanna Brant paced the Spikers with six kills and three blocks, while Katie Jenner had 11 digs and nine assists. Laylie Denault and Grace Wasmer added four and three kills, respectively, and Lily Leifheit collected seven digs and one ace serve.

Mendota ended with a 10-19-3 overall record. In the other quarterfinal-round match, Stillman Valley defeated Sandwich, 25-16, 25-22. The Cardinals played Rock Falls and Prophetstown battled Oregon on Tuesday night, with the two winners to meet for the regional championship at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27.

The Spikers wrapped up the regular season with a 25-21, 22-25, 25-21 triumph over St. Bede in a Three Rivers Conference contest on Oct. 18 at the MHS gym. The Spikers concluded conference action with a 5-7 record.

Emma Schultz led the squad with 11 kills and she also supplied 14 digs. Brant also hit double-digits in kills with 10. Leifheit paced the Spikers with 30 digs and Denault recorded 21 digs, while Jenner and Madelyn Becker picked up 19 and 14 assists, respectively.

Halloween Safety A to Z

Everything you need to know for a supremely fun and safe Halloween

Local Trick or Treat Times

Compton	5-7, Monday, Oct. 31	Ohio	5-7, Monday, Oct. 31
Earlville	4-7, Monday, Oct. 31	Paw Paw	4-7, Monday, Oct. 31
LaMoille	5-7, Monday, Oct. 31	Sublette	5-7, Monday, Oct. 31
Leland	4-7, Monday, Oct. 31	Van Orin	5-7, Monday, Oct. 31
Mendota	5-7, Monday, Oct. 31	West Brooklyn	5:30 - 7, Monday, Oct. 31

A *Always carry a flashlight.*

ARS Auto Repair
307 Plaza Drive
Mendota
815-538-2412

L *If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.*

3's Company
West Brooklyn
815-628-3330

Q *Never Trick or Treat alone.*

Quest Resale
725
Washington St.
Mendota
815-539-8421

B *Buy costumes that are made of flame-retardant material.*

Carriage House Electric
105 12th St.
Mendota
815-538-5598

J *Jackets should be worn over costumes on cool Halloween nights.*

Jones Home Improvement
Mendota
815-539-6175

R *Remember to walk, and not run, between houses. Have lots of fun, but be safe, too.*

Scare at the Fair Demolition Derby
Saturday, Oct. 29 - Mendota
Trick or Treating for kids at 12:30 p.m. Derby starts at 1:30 p.m. Grandstand opens at noon. Grandstand admission \$10, 5 and under free. Rules found at www.ramerinc.com

C *Costumes should not drag on the ground or be too dark to see.*

Busy Bee Preschool Mendota Child Development Center
1304 Division St.
Mendota
815-538-3333

K *Know how and where to contact your parents.*

First State Insurance
715 Washington St.
Mendota
815-539-5651
114 Railroad St. • Earlville
815-246-8261

S *Slow down and be alert during Trick or Treating.*

Stephenitch Do it Best Hardware
1204 13th Ave
Mendota
815-539-9394

D *Don't cut across yards or driveways.*

City of Mendota
800
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Mendota
815-539-7459

L *Light your jack-o-lantern with a battery-powered light instead of a candle.*

Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Electric
801 Monroe St.
Mendota
815-539-3828

T *Trick-or-treat only in familiar neighborhoods close to home.*

First State Bank of Van Orin
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Malden Banking Center
302 W. Main St. - 815-643-2121
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E *Eat dinner before going out to trick-or-treat.*

Mendota Elks Lodge #1212
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Mendota
815-538-3557

M *Make sure your shoes fit and are tied tightly.*

Mendota Pet Salon
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Mendota
815-539-3647

U *Unfamiliar animals and pets should be avoided.*

Ridley Feed Ingredients
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Mendota
815-539-9321

F *Follow all traffic laws & signals.*

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N *Never enter a stranger's home.*

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815-539-6100

V *Visit only houses that are lit.*

Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Inc.
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800-227-5203
www.vaessenbrothers.com

G *Go sloooooow, drivers! Be careful all evening if you're behind the wheel.*

Specialty Body & Paint
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Mendota
815-539-7801

O *Only eat candy after your parents have checked it.*

Sullivan's Foods
1102 Meriden St.
Mendota
815-539-9341

W *Wear a watch you can read in the dark.*

The Mendota Reporter
703 Illinois Ave.,
Mendota
815-539-9396

H *Give out healthy alternatives to candy, like cheese, crackers, raisins or popcorn.*

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815-538-5316

P *Props such as a sword or wand should only be flexible toys.*

Purpose Nutrition
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815-503-3853

XYZ *Young people of any age should be accompanied by an adult.*

Mendota YMCA
1811 S. 13th Ave. Mendota
815-538-2900

SPORTS



Mendota's Ricky Orozco heads a shot near the Quincy Notre Dame goal on Oct. 22 at the MHS field. (Reporter photo)

Soccer

Continued from Page B1

The Trojans got on the board at the 27:38 mark of the first half when Johan Cortez displayed some nifty dribbling and banged a shot into the left side of the net.

Mendota had an excellent opportunity to double its lead six minutes later when Watson powered a shot at the goal that was just snared by goalie Josh Walton at the pipe.

Less than two minutes later, Watson managed to get the ball past Walton when his shot deflected off the goalie and trickled into the net at 19:46 of the first half.

Peoria Christian had its two best scoring chances of the half at 12:25 and 7:35, but Trojan goalie Murillo

managed to get his mitts on both shots, deflecting the second one just outside the pipe, and Mendota carried a 2-0 lead to the locker room.

The Trojans came out with their same aggressive intensity to start the second half. Just under four minutes in, Watson drilled a shot from 20 yards away that ricocheted off of the Charger goalie.

The scored remained 2-0 until the 27:47 mark when Mendota's Johnathan Cortez took a pass from Watson and snuck the ball past Walton to pad the Trojan lead.

Watson nearly had his second goal of the contest a minute and a half later when Walton was drawn away from the Peoria Christian goal crease, but the Chargers'

Greyson Below was able to react quick enough to prevent the ball from landing in the net.

A free kick by Johnathan Cortez from 25 yards was stopped by the Charger goalie at 17:04, but just over six minutes later, the Mendota senior tallied his second goal of the game to complete the scoring. The speedy Watson got into the clear and drew the Peoria Christian goalie away from the net, and Watson passed off to Cortez, who gently booted the ball into a wide-open net at 10:54.

Mendota had one more scoring chance with just under eight minutes to play, but Ramiro Palacios' offering banged off the top of the pipe.

Football

Continued from Page B1

St. Bede took over at its 21 and put together a long, time-consuming drive all the way to the Mendota 5-yard line, where on a third-and-goal, a Brady pass was deflected and intercepted by Mendota's Isaac Smith in the end zone.

On the Trojans' ensuing possession, it faced another fourth down play, this time from the Bruin 35 with 1 yard to gain to get a first down, but Childs was thrown for a loss. St. Bede responded for its first offensive touchdown of the game when Brady raced into the end zone from 35 yards out to cap off a six-play, 64-yard drive. Halden Hueneburg secured the two-point conversion pass from Brady for a 16-0 Bruin lead.

The Trojans were forced to punt on their next possession and St. Bede took over at its own 40. Mendota's defense looked to have the Bruins stopped, but on a fourth-and-15 play from the Trojan 25, Brady connected with Ben Wallace on a 19-yard completion to the 6-yard line. Brady finished off the drive with a 2-yard run with 2:47 left in the half. The two-point pass attempt was incomplete, and the half eventually ended with the Bruins on top, 22-0.

The Trojans started the second half the way the game began when Ryne Strouss took the kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown to get Mendota on the board. The two-point pass failed.

St. Bede's only two offensive possessions of the third quarter resulted in touchdowns. After Strouss's thrilling kickoff return, a short kick back to the Bruins gave them the ball at their own 46-yard line, and they needed eight plays to traverse the 54 yards, with Brady running in the final 12 yards for his third touchdown of the game. Ryan Soliman kicked

the extra point for a 29-6 St. Bede lead.

The Trojans managed to pick up 31 yards on their next series, but turned the ball over on downs at St. Bede's 36. Then Brady finalized an 11-play, 64-yard drive for the Bruins with a 20-yard TD scamper with 1:47 left in the third. Soliman's successful PAT kick made it 36-6.

Mendota's offense finally got into the end zone with a pair of scores in the fourth frame. Childs bulldozed his way in from 3 yards out, which was the 13th play of a 63-yard drive with 9:41 remaining in the game.

The Bruins recovered an onside kick at their own 49 and they were able to chew up over eight minutes of the

clock before Soliman booted a 22-yard field goal with 1:24 left.

Mendota added a final touchdown 15 seconds later on a 64-yard pass from Justin Randolph to Braiden Freeman, followed by a Childs two-point run to finish off the scoring.

Mendota ended with 312 total yards. Smith gained 102 yards rushing on 16 carries and Childs had 21 attempts for 89 yards, both concluding their high school careers. Randolph completed eight passes for 123 yards. Smith gathered in three passes, while Freeman and Strouss each had a pair of receptions.

St. Bede picked up 349 total yards - 220 on the ground and 129 in the air.

• Trojan Yardstick •

ST. BEDE 39, MENDOTA 20

St. Bede	8	14	14	3	-	39
Mendota	0	0	6	14	-	20

SCORING SUMMARY

SB - C. Hueneburg 71 kickoff return (Brady run), 11:48 1Q
 SB - Brady 35 run (H. Hueneburg pass from Brady), 8:15 2Q
 SB - Brady 2 run (pass failed), 2:47 2Q
 ME - Strouss 78 kickoff return (pass failed), 11:45 3Q
 SB - Brady 12 run (Soliman kick), 8:52 3Q
 SB - Brady 20 run (Soliman kick), 1:42 3Q
 ME - Childs 3 run (pass failed), 9:41 4Q
 SB - Soliman 22 field goal, 1:24 4Q
 ME - Freeman 64 pass from Randolph (Childs run), 1:09 4Q

	ME	SB
First Downs	17	22
Rushes-Yards	38-189	44-220
Passing Yards	123	129
Passes	8-23-1	12-20-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Punts-Avg	1-20	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-56	4-30

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing - MENDOTA: Smith 16-102, Childs 21-89, Randolph 1-(minus 2); ST. BEDE: Brady 21-164, H. Hueneburg 9-29, Hermes 2-15, C. Hueneburg 7-13, Nawa 1-1, Walsh 1-0, Ferrari 3-(minus 2).
Passing - MENDOTA: Randolph 8-23-1-123; ST. BEDE: Brady 12-20-1-129.
Receiving - MENDOTA: Freeman 2-73, Childs 1-25, Strouss 2-13, Smith 3-12; ST. BEDE: Wallace 3-52, C. Hueneburg 2-22, Brown 4-22, H. Hueneburg 1-14, Hurst 1-13, Savage 1-6.

Clippers seeded 5th in 8-man playoffs

AMBOY - The Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team has qualified for the Illinois 8-Man Football Playoffs for the second straight year.

The Clippers (7-2) are seeded fifth in the 16-team field and will host 12th-seeded Farmer City Blue Ridge (6-3) at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29 at the AHS field.

Final Three Rivers East Division Football Standings

	TR	OA
Princeton	6-0	9-0
St. Bede	4-2	7-2
Hall	4-2	5-4
Sterling Newman	3-3	5-4
Kewanee	3-3	4-5
Mendota	1-5	3-6
Bureau Valley	0-6	1-8
Friday, Oct. 21		
St. Bede 39, Mendota 20		
Princeton 48, Monmouth-R 0		
Hall 44, Bureau Valley 34		
Kewanee 10, Newman 7		

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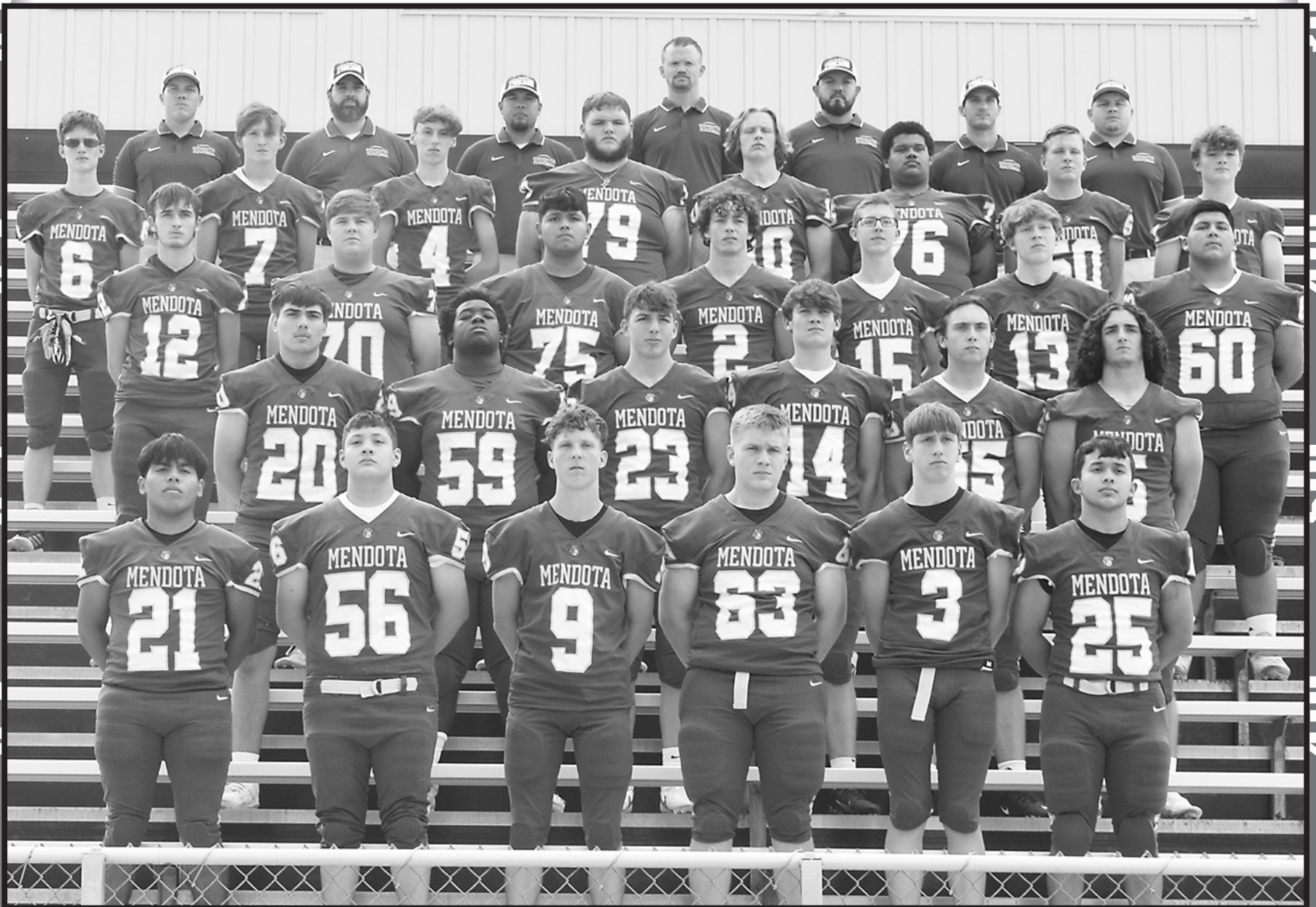
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SPORTS

BOWLING

Thursday 4 Youth League

Standings as of Oct. 6-1.
Team 5 4-0; 2. Team 4 4-0; 3. Team 2 2-2; 4. Team 1 1-1; 5. Team 3 0-4
High team game (scratch)
- Team 4 320, Team 2 260, Team 1 245
High team game (hdcp)
- Team 5 614, Team 4 540, Team 2 532
High team series (scratch)
- Team 4 873, Team 2 718, Team 1 708
High team series (hdcp)-
Team 5 1803, Team 2 1534, Team 1 & Team 4 1533
Boys' high game (scratch)
- Gavin Stamberger 121, Parker Ramer 95, Kaden Young 92
Boys' high game (hdcp)
- Kaden Young 223, Kannon DeLao 222, Aaron Manion 217
Boys' high series (scratch)
- Gavin Stamberger 340, Parker Ramer 272, Jaxen Daley 251
Boys' high series (hdcp)
- Lincoln Daley, Kannon DeLao, Parker Ramer Aaron Manion, Jaxen Daley, Kaden Young 602
Girls' high game (scratch)
- Brooklyn Mauch 59, Gabby Diaz 58
Girls' high game (hdcp)-
Gabby Diaz 216, Brooklyn Mauch 214
Girls' high series (scratch)

- Brooklyn Mauch 135, Gabby Diaz 127
Girls' high series (hdcp)
- Gabby Diaz 601, Brooklyn Mauch 600

Thursday 6 Youth League

Standings as of Oct. 6-1.
Team 1 3-1; 2. Team 2 3-1; 3. Team 2 1-3
High team game (scratch)
- Team 3 447, Team 1 356, Team 2 304
High team game (hdcp)
- Team 1 621, Team 2 606, Team 2 601
High team series (scratch)
- Team 3 1296, Team 1 1010, Team 2 882
High team series (hdcp)-
Team 1 1805, Team 2 1773, Team 3 1773
Boys' high game (scratch)
- Alex Holland 221, Nick Sheridan 150, Toby Bulen 149
Boys' high game (hdcp)
- Alex Holland 236, Toby Bulen 232, Caeleb Ensor & Oliver Turner 220
Boys' high series (scratch)
- Alex Holland 556, Nick Sheridan 410, Caeleb Ensor 367
Boys' high series (hdcp)-
Toby Bulen, Nick Sheridan, Oliver Turner 602
Girls' high game (scratch)
- Gracie Smith 101, Ashlynn Martin 93
Girls' high game (hdcp)-

Ashlynn Martin 206, Gracie Smith 205
Girls' high series (scratch)
- Gracie Smith 290, Ashlynn Martin 262
Girls' high series (hdcp)
- Gracie Smith 602, Ashlynn Martin 601

Monday Night Mixed League

Standings as of Oct. 17-
1. CM Farm 15-10; 2. Split Happens 14-11; 3. Leagal Beagles 13-12; 4. Bad Kats 13-12; 5. Ramer Inc. 11-14; 6. Sports-N-Stuff 9-16
High team game (scratch)
- Leagal Beagles 734, Sports-N-Stuff 651, Split Happens 641
High team game (hdcp)
- Leagal Beagles 977, CM Farm 932, Split Happens 917
High team series (scratch)
- Leagal Beagles 2012, Sports-N-Stuff 1850, Split Happens 1789
High team series (hdcp)
- Leagal Beagles 2741, CM Farm 2676, Ramer Inc. 2637
Men's high game (scratch)
- Tyler Schmitt 248, Mike Smith 241, Aaron Holocker 198
Men's high game (hdcp)
- Mike Smith 286, Paul Ramer & Tyler Schmitt 277
Men's high series (scratch)
- Tyler Schmitt

639, Mike Smith 610, Aaron Holocker 539

Men's high series (hdcp)
- Paul Ramer 789, Mike Smith 745, Tyler Schmitt 726

Women's high game (scratch)-
Jessica Robinson 202, Margina Schwartzbach 188, Dria Kuntz 168

Women's high game (hdcp)-
Margina Schwartzbach 283, Jessica Robinson 275, Steph Westphal 239

Women's high series (scratch)-
Jessica Robinson 501, Gail Sessler 449, Steph Westphal 444

Women's high series (hdcp)-
Margina Schwartzbach 725, Jessica Robinson 720, Debbie Berger 676

Tuesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Oct. 18
- 1. Black Bros. 15-13; 2. JJ&L Carpentry 15-13; 3. Team 2 14-14; 4. Age Old Organics 12-16
High team game (scratch)
- Team 2 1023, Black Bros. 932, JJ&L Carpentry 931
High team game (hdcp)
- Team 2 1112, Black Bros. 1086, JJ&L Carpentry 1075
High team series (scratch)
- Team 2 2922, JJ&L Carpentry 2702, Black Bros. 2675
High team series (hdcp)
- Team 2 3189, Black Bros.

3137, JJ&L Carpentry 3134

High individual game (scratch)
- Luke Ross 270, Nate Bradford 236, Zach Meyers 233

High individual series (hdcp)
- Luke Ross 712, Nate Bradford 681, Zach Meyers 620

Wednesday Night Men's League

Standings as of Oct. 19
- 1. Boelk Truck Lines 15.5-12.5; 2. Mendota Monument 15-13; 3. First State Bank 14.5-13.5; 4. O'Donnell Excavating 11-17
High team game (scratch)
- Boelk Truck Lines 1059, Mendota Monument 979, First State Bank 946
High team game (hdcp)
- Boelk Truck Lines 1198, First State Bank 1061, O'Donnell Excavating 1042
High team series (scratch)
- Boelk Truck Lines 2849, First State Bank 2806, Mendota Monument 2782
High team series (hdcp)
- Boelk Truck Lines 3266, First State Bank 3151, O'Donnell Excavating 3043
High individual game (scratch)
- Tim Dessing 248, Dave Manning & Drake O'Donnell 246
High individual series (scratch)
- Scott Novak 690, Tim Dessing 671, Erik Schmitt 629

F-S gridders go winless for year

Mendota's freshman-sophomore football team concluded the season with a 21-8 loss to St. Bede on Oct. 24 at Peru.

The Trojans broke on top on an Aden Tillman 5-yard touchdown run with 2:41 left in the first half. Keegen Stewart ran in the two-pointer.

St. Bede managed to tie the game before the half on a 7-yard run and two-pointers with 17 seconds left.

The Bruins tallied the only two touchdowns of the second half on runs of 48 and 14 yards.

Mendota (0-8) totaled 158 yards, with Stewart rushing for 82 and Tillman picking up 74. St. Bede had 183 yards.

Mendota suffered a 50-0 setback to Sterling Newman on Oct. 17 at the MHS field.

The visitors jumped out to a 22-0 lead after the first quarter on touchdown runs of 4, 54 and 10 yards. They were successful on two of three two-point conversions.

Newman added to its advantage with TD runs of 71 and 19 yards in the second period.

The Comets scored on a 36-yard run in the third quarter and completed their scoring with a 1-yard touchdown run in the fourth.

MHS was limited to 26 total yards of offense compared to 284 for Newman.



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NMLS#461073



Cory Biers
Senior Vice President, Loans
NMLS#477892

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LOCAL AND AREA

Keeping God first in your life

Years ago, while I was praying one day for something I wanted, God spoke a life-changing truth to my heart. He said, “Joyce, seek My face and not My hand. If you seek My face, My hand will always be open.”

As I said, this was a life-changing moment for me. I began to realize that up to that point, it had been all about me and what I wanted. I began to see just how shallow I was...and that it was time for me to go deeper.

I suppose I was like

most Christians at the beginning of their relationship with God. It is generally all about what we want Him to give us or do for us. For a while, this is fine...I believe this is where we all start. We come to God with our list of desires or problems and we want Him to just fix everything. But eventually the time comes for us to grow and mature.

Seek First

God told me to seek His face. Seek is a strong word. It means “to crave, pursue, to make sacrifices to get,

to go after with all of your strength and all of your heart.” What I believe He was saying to me was to go after a relationship with Him as if it was everything.

Our relationship with God really is what matters most. But sometimes it may take a while for us to understand that. I remember coming to a point in my life when I had a lot of “things” but realized I still wasn’t very happy. After praying and asking God what was wrong, He spoke to my heart and said, “Joyce, you are too shallow—it’s time to go out into the deep.”

You see, God was more interested in what was going on inside of me than He was in my “things.” Romans 14:17 says, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking [what one likes], but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (AMP). God cares about every detail of our lives, but He is more concerned about our inner life—our soul (mind, will and emotions)—than our outer life. I believe that’s because He knows that when we are spiritually strong on the inside, we will be able to properly handle what happens on the outside.

As we focus more



on Him than ourselves, we not only begin to experience more satisfaction and fulfillment, but our desires come in alignment with His plan and what’s best for our lives. Psalm 37:4 (NIV) confirms this: “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Grow Roots

Nature has a way of demonstrating deep truths of God’s Word. Isaiah 37:31 (AMP) says, “...Take root downward and bear fruit upward.” Large trees with thick, full branches have a massive underground root system that spreads both deep and wide. Without this support system, a tree could never weather a storm.

In the same way, we must develop deep spiritual roots before we can truly enjoy the big, full life God has intended for us. This means cultivating a relationship with the Lord, finding out what He says about us in His Word, and becoming rooted and grounded in His love.

It is vital to build

a strong foundation in God; that means learning to seek Him first, rather than things. So many times, we go about it the opposite way and seek things first—a bigger this or a better that or more of the other. However, without that strong foundation in God, these things won’t be very helpful to us. If we don’t first establish deep roots of faith in God, we will never be able to endure the storms of life that will certainly come.

Prioritize

Matthew 6:33 says, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (NIV). These are wonderful words to live by. I can tell you from experience that when you make God number one, He will fill your life with peace, joy and satisfaction...and then some!

I encourage you to make a decision today to seek God for who He is and make your relationship with Him your top priority. Dig deeper...I believe you’ll discover

what you’ve really been looking for all along.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s four-teaching resource Keeping God First. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

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

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

Real News



From School Projects to the Big Game, we celebrate the events that shape our lives.

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Real Events



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• **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)

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PHONE: _____

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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

Oct. 28 - 8 a.m.-3 p.m. LEASE preschool
screenings

Oct. 30 - Reformation Sunday
9 a.m. Sunday School;
9:30 a.m. Worship

Oct. 31 - 3-5 p.m. Free indoor
Trunk-or-Treat

Nov. 1 - All Saints Day

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."

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

These people are blemishes
at your love feasts, eating with
you without the slightest qualm,
shepherds who feed only
themselves. They are clouds
without rain, blown along
by the wind; autumn trees,
without fruit and uprooted,
twice dead.

JUDE 1:12

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Oct. 30 - 10 a.m. Worship;
11 a.m. Fellowship

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10:30 a.m. Worship at First

Oct. 28 - 9:30 a.m. Bible study
Nov. 2 - 7 p.m. Confirmation at
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SUNDAY SERVICE - 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT - 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which mountain is associated
with King David capturing the
Jebusite fortress? Zion, Nepal,
Rahab, Carmel

3. In Colossians 4, who does Paul
call "our dear friend, the doctor"?
Jesus, Mark, Luke, Asa

4. Jesus was about how much
younger than John the Baptist? 12
days, 6 months, 1 year, 3 years

5. From Mark 14, how long will
poor people be around? Always,
Sometimes, Never, 40 years

6. In Genesis 42, which Hebrew
governed Egypt? Darius, Sisera,
Cornelius, Joseph

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Zion, 3)
Luke, 4) 6 months, 5) Always, 6)
Joseph

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENDOTA

2022 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICT

The City of Mendota, LaSalle County, Illinois, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, hereby gives Notice of a Public Hearing to be held at 5:30 p.m., Central Time, on November 7, 2022, at the Mendota City Hall, 800 Washington Street, Mendota, Illinois, to consider its proposed Mendota 2022 Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Project Area, Plan and Projects. All interested persons, including all taxing districts of which taxable property is included in the Area and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, will be given an opportunity to be heard at said Public Hearing and to file with the City Clerk written objections to any issues embodied in this notice, and are also invited to submit written comments, prior to the date of the Hearing, to the City at the following address: City of Mendota, City Clerk, 800 Washington St, P.O. Box 710, Mendota, Illinois 61342. A Summary of the proposed Redevelopment Plan and Projects and a Boundary Map and Legal Description of the proposed Redevelopment Project Area are presented below. The Redevelopment Plan and Projects complies with the provisions of the "Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act". A copy of the proposed Mendota 2022 TIF District Redevelopment Plan and Projects is available at the Mendota City Clerk's Office, 800 Washington Street, Mendota, Illinois for examination during regular office hours, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. For further information, please feel free to contact Ms. Emily McConville, City Clerk, City of Mendota, at (815) 539-7459.

MENDOTA 2022 TIF DISTRICT SUMMARY OF REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA, PLAN & PROJECTS

Proposed Redevelopment Plan and Project Area: The City of Mendota proposes to establish a Redevelopment Project Area and adopt a Redevelopment Plan and Projects pursuant to the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act [65 ILCS 5/11-74.4 et. seq.] (the "Act") for the proposed "Mendota 2022 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District" in order to stimulate commercial, industrial/ manufacturing and residential development within the City. The intent of the Redevelopment Plan is to promote and protect the health, safety, morals, and welfare of the public, address blighted conditions in the proposed Area and institute conservation measures so as to remove and alleviate adverse conditions, encourage private investment, develop business and real estate projects to increase employment and restore and enhance the tax base of the taxing districts by undertaking public and private redevelopment projects within a designated Area. The Redevelopment Project Area (the "Area") for the proposed Mendota 2022 TIF District includes areas shown on the proposed Boundary Map and the Area is legally described in the proposed Legal Description of the TIF Area. These properties have been neglected and have not benefitted from coordinated planning efforts by either public or private sectors. All properties within the proposed Area would substantially benefit by a series of proposed public and private redevelopment projects. Pursuant to the Act, the proposed Area includes only those contiguous parcels of real property and improvements thereon which would be substantially benefitted by a redevelopment project and the Area is not less in the aggregate than 1½ acres. The overall Area consists of 515 vacant and improved, 90.5% of which qualify as a combination of "Blighted" and "Conservation" Areas, as defined in the TIF Act. Improved properties included in the Area display characteristics of age, dilapidation, obsolescence, deterioration, excessive vacancy, inadequate utilities, overcrowding and a lack of public infrastructure and community planning. Vacant parcels included in the Area display characteristics of obsolete platting, deterioration of adjacent properties, chronic flooding or contributing to flooding within the same watershed, disposal sites and being blighted before becoming vacant. In addition, evidence of a lack of growth in Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) is apparent throughout the Area as a whole and has been documented pursuant to data from LaSalle County. The Redevelopment Project Area on the whole has not been subject to growth and development through investment by private enterprise and would not reasonably be anticipated to be developed without the use of tax increment financing. By attracting new private investment, improving public infrastructure and encouraging new private investment throughout the designated Redevelopment Project Area, the City expects to create new employment opportunities, increase population, increase the real estate tax base, generate additional retail sales tax revenues, stimulate the local economy and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

Long Term Goals and Objectives: The City intends to use the Mendota 2022 TIF District to redevelop property that is currently underutilized for commercial space, commercial/retail businesses, light manufacturing/industrial purposes, residential development and tourism-related activities to increase population, improve employment opportunities, expand and diversify the local real estate tax base, manage growth and increase the overall quality of life for its residents. The Redevelopment Plan will allow the City to alleviate and/or remove blighting conditions such as the lack of adequate public infrastructure, increase Mendota's overall competitiveness in the region and institute public policies that are more conducive to business development. All of the property within the proposed Area will substantially benefit by a series of public and private redevelopment projects made possible with tax increment financing. The Area is not otherwise reasonably expected to be substantially improved or be further developed without the use of tax increment financing. The Mendota 2022 TIF District Redevelopment Plan is expected to include, but is not limited to, the following general long-term goals and objectives: (1) Eliminate or reduce those conditions which qualify the Redevelopment Project Area as a combination of Blighted and Conservation Areas; (2) Facilitate the construction, improvement and maintenance of public infrastructure and other capital projects which the City finds is in furtherance of this Redevelopment Plan or necessary to encourage new commercial, retail, industrial, manufacturing and residential development; (3) Construct, improve, upgrade

and maintain storm water drainage and sanitary sewer lines and related infrastructure throughout the Redevelopment Project Area and contiguous Redevelopment Project Areas; (4) Construct, improve, upgrade and maintain antiquated and/or inadequate water lines and mains, as well as water storage facilities and related distribution systems and contiguous Redevelopment Project Areas; (5) Construct, improve, upgrade and maintain streets, amenities relating to information technology, street lighting, landscaping, curbs, parks, public green space, recreational amenities, signage, sidewalks, bike paths and other pedestrian walkways throughout the Redevelopment Project Area and contiguous Redevelopment Project Areas; (6) Encourage private investment for commercial, industrial and residential rehabilitation/renovation projects within the Redevelopment Project Area through the use of financial incentives offered by tax increment financing; (7) Enhance the tax base for the City and other taxing districts through coordinated, comprehensive planning efforts by either the public or private sectors which focus on efforts to improve infrastructure, property reuse, and the upgrade of existing buildings; (8) Foster entrepreneurship and attract new commercial, residential and industrial development which complies with City zoning and land use ordinances, increases assessed valuations and enhances the real estate tax base for the City, thereby also creating additional employment opportunities within the Mendota community; (9) Encourage new residential development which will thereby help to adequately increase the City's population, maintain a high-quality housing stock, expand the overall tax base of the community, maintain/regenerate local school enrollments, and raise local economic thresholds to levels necessary to support new commercial retail development; (10) Encourage the development of additional, new residential choices for retired persons and elderly residents over the next 20 years; (11) Attract tourism and new retail/commercial businesses while also vigorously reinvesting in existing properties within the Redevelopment Project Area to encourage business retention and increase retail business activity which will generate local retail sales tax revenue for the City, the County and the State of Illinois; (12) Implement the goals and objectives of the City's Comprehensive Plan as referenced herein, and which provides policy guidelines for land use, planning, zoning, transportation, housing, municipal growth, quality of life and related issues; and (13) Undertake redevelopment projects which will further improve the overall quality of life, health and well-being of the Mendota community. Description of Tax Increment Financing: A TIF District establishes a geographic boundary (a redevelopment project area) in which new private investment is encouraged. A municipality may also issue obligations to finance improvements that will enable the redevelopment of deteriorated, blighted, or other key conservation areas within its corporate limits. By making public improvements, the municipality may invite new private investment so that the expected increase in property tax revenues can be captured, temporarily, to amortize the public improvements. A municipality may also choose to use TIF funds on a pay-as-you-go basis whereby revenue is spent as it is collected. In either case, it is expected that new investment in a designated redevelopment area will stimulate a resurgence of population, employment, and assessed valuation throughout the entire community. It should be noted that TIF DOES NOT raise property taxes and it IS NOT a new tax or a new taxing district. Only an increased assessment or an overall increase in tax rates can raise taxes. TIF is merely used to reallocate increased property tax revenues created by increased assessed valuation that is realized after a TIF District is established. A TIF District may last for up to 23 years. With Tax Increment Financing, a property tax base is preserved during the life of the TIF District that will continue to pay for the basic public services the proposed redevelopment area already receives. New incremental property tax revenue in the City of Mendota may be used to help pay for the infrastructure necessary for stimulating additional private-sector investment.

MENDOTA 2022 TIF DISTRICT PROPOSED LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A part of Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 in Township 36 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian and a part of Section 3 in Township 35 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian, all situated in the City of Mendota in LaSalle County, Illinois and further described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of Lot 2 in Waldorf Industrial Park Subdivision; thence Northerly along the West line of said Lot 2 to the Northwest corner of said Lot 2; thence Westerly along the Westerly extension of the North line of said Lot 2 to the Southwest corner of the East 341.05 feet lying West of said Waldorf Industrial Park Subdivision, of the South 883.98 feet of the North 1972.98 feet of the Southeast Quarter of the aforesaid Section 32; thence Northerly 883.98 feet along the West line of said East 341.05 feet to the Northwest corner of said East 341.05 feet; thence Easterly along the North line of said 341.05 feet to the Southwest corner of Lot A in West Plaza Properties, a Re-Subdivision of Plaza Subdivision No. 2 and part of the Southeast Quarter of the aforesaid Section 32; thence Northerly along the West line of said West Plaza Properties and its Northerly extension to the North right of way line of Washington Street (U.S. Route 34); thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the Southeast corner of Lot 1 in Char-Lu Estates First Addition; thence Northerly along the East line of said Lot 1 and its Northerly extension to the North right of way line of Char-Lu Drive; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the West right of way line of Westlawn Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to the North right of way line of Lucille Lane; thence Easterly along the Easterly extension of said North right of way line to the East right of way line of the aforesaid Westlawn Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the Northwest corner of Lot 2 in Char-Lu Estates Second Addition; thence Easterly along the North line of said Lot 2 to the Northeast corner of said Lot 2; thence Southerly along the East line of said Lot 2 to the Southeast corner of said Lot 2, said corner also being on the North right of way line of Jefferson Street; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the Southeast corner of Lot 4 in Block 37 in West's Addition, said corner also being on the West line of an alley in said Block 37; thence

Northerly along said West line and its Northerly extension to the North right of way line of Monroe Street; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the West right of way line of Illinois Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line and its Northerly extension to the North right of way line of Burlington Street; thence Easterly along said North right of way line and its Easterly extension to the East right of way line of Main Street; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the Southwest corner of Lot 3 in H.D. Hume Company Business District Subdivision; thence Easterly along the South line of said Lot 3 to the Southeast corner of said Lot 3, said corner being on the West line of a 20 foot wide by 580 foot long Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company rail spur track; thence Southerly along said West line to the Southwest Corner of said rail spur track property; thence Easterly 20 feet along the South line of said rail spur track property to the Southeast corner of said rail spur track property; thence Northerly 580 feet along the East line of said rail spur track to the Northeast corner of said rail spur track property; thence Westerly along said rail spur property to the West line of the Northeast Quarter of the aforesaid Section 33; thence Northerly along said West line and its Northerly extension to the North right of way line of Twelfth Street; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the Northwestern right of way line of the Burlington Northern Railroad; thence Northeasterly along said Northwestern right of way line to the West right of way line of First Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to the North right of way line of 20th Street (N. 4350th Road); thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the Northerly extension of the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 27, said East line also being the East line of Mendota Industrial Park Subdivision; thence Southerly along said East line to a point being 513.06 feet South of the Northeast corner of Lot 1 in said Mendota Industrial Park Subdivision; thence Southeasterly 379.17 feet to a point on the South line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 27, said point being 135 feet East of the Southwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27; thence Southerly 20 feet parallel with the East line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27; thence Easterly parallel with the North line of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27 to the East line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27; thence Northerly along said East line to the North right of way line of N. 4350th Road; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the West right of way line of East 4th Road; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to a point that is 830 feet south of the North line of the aforesaid Section 26; thence Easterly parallel with said North line to a point 350 feet East of the West line of said Section 26; thence Southerly parallel with the West line of said Section 26 to a point being 300 feet Northwesterly as measured perpendicular to the Northwesterly right of way line of the Burlington Northern Railroad; thence Northeasterly parallel with said Northwestern right of way line to a point on the West line of Mendota Business Park; thence Northerly along said West line to the North right of way line of North 44th Road; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the Northerly extension of the West line of Lot 1 in said Mendota Business Park; thence Southerly along said West line and its Southerly extension to the North line of Lot 4 in said Mendota Business Park; thence Easterly along said North line and its Easterly extension to the East right of way line of East 5th Road (Welland Road); thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the North line of the South 30 acres of the Southwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 25; thence Easterly along said North line to the West right of way line of Interstate 39; thence Southwesterly along said right of way line to the Northeast corner of Kailish Subdivision; thence Westerly along the North line of said Kailish Subdivision to the East right of way line of Kailish Drive; thence Southwesterly along said East right of way line to the Southwest corner of Lot 3 in said Kailish Subdivision; thence Southeasterly and Easterly along the South line of said Lot 3 to the West right of way line of Interstate 39; thence Southerly along said West right of way line to the North right of way line of U.S. Route 34; thence Westerly along said North right of way line to the Northerly extension of the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 36; thence Southerly along said Northerly extension and the East line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 36 to the East right of way line of East 525th Road (T.R. 100); thence Southerly along said East right of way line to a point being 200 feet South of the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 36; thence Westerly parallel with said South line to the West line of the Northwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 36; thence Northerly along said West line to the South right of way line of U.S. Route 34; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the Southerly extension of the West line of Mendota Business Park; thence Northerly along said West line to the Northerly right of way line of the Burlington Northern Railroad; thence Westerly along said Northerly right of way line to the East right of way line of East 4th Road; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the South right of way line of U.S. Route 34; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the Northeast corner of Lot 1 in Phalen's Industrial Park Subdivision; thence Southerly along the East line of said Lot 1 and the East line of Lot 2 in said Phalen's Industrial Park Subdivision to the North line of Lot 3 in Phalen's Industrial Park Subdivision; thence Easterly along the North line of said Lot 3 to the Northeast corner of said Lot 3; thence Southerly along the East line of said Lot 3 to the Southeast corner of said Lot 3; thence Westerly along the South line of said Lot 3 to the Southwest corner of said Lot 3, said corner being on the East line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 34; thence Southerly along said East line to the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 34; thence Easterly along said South line to the Northerly extension of the East right of way line of Castle Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the Southeast corner of Castle's Subdivision No. 1; thence Westerly along the South line

of said Castle's Subdivision No. 1 to the East line of the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 34 to the South line of the aforesaid Section 34; thence Easterly along said South line to a point being 1036.6 feet West of the Southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the aforesaid Section 34; thence Northerly 290 feet parallel with the East line of said Southwest Quarter; thence Easterly 751.6 feet parallel with the South line of said Southwest Quarter; thence Southerly 290 feet parallel with the East line of said Southwest Quarter to the South line of said Southwest Quarter; thence Westerly along the South line of said Southwest Quarter and the North line of the Northwest Fractional Quarter of the aforesaid Section 3 to a point being 1936.65 feet East of the Northwest corner of the aforesaid Section 3; thence Southerly 50 feet perpendicular to said North line; thence Westerly parallel with said North line to the East right of way line of 1st Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the Easterly extension of the South right of way line of Division Street; thence Westerly along said Easterly extension and said South right of way line to the West right of way line of 1st Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of 11th Street; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the East right of way line of 5th Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the South right of way line of 6th Street; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the East right of way line of 6th Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the South right of way line of 5th Street; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the East right of way line of East 7th Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the North right of way line of Division Street, said North right of way line also being the South line of the aforesaid Section 33; thence Westerly along said South line to the Southeast corner of Block 7 in the Original Town of Mendota; thence Northerly along the East line of said Block 7 and its Northerly extension to the centerline of First Street; thence Easterly along said centerline to the Southerly extension of the East right of way line of the vacated 40 foot wide West 7th Avenue; thence Northerly along said vacated East right of way line and its Northerly extension to the centerline line of 2nd Street; thence Westerly along said centerline to the Southerly extension of the West right of way line of West 7th Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of 3rd Street; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the Southeasterly right of way line of the Burlington Northern Railroad; thence Southwesterly along said Southeasterly right of way line to the West right of way line of 10th Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to the North right of way line of 4th Street; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the West right of way line of 9th Avenue; thence Northerly along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of 6th Street; thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the East line of 13th Avenue (Illinois Route 251); thence Southerly along said East right of way line to a point on the Easterly extension of the South line of Lot 3 in Block 1 in the Subdivision of the North 32.66 Acres of the East 45 Acres of the Southeast Quarter of the aforesaid Section 32; thence Westerly along the South line of said Lot 3 to the Southwest corner of said Lot 3; thence Northerly along the West line of said Lot 3 to the Northwest corner of said Lot 3, said corner also being the Southeast corner of Lot 10 in said Block 1; thence Westerly along the South line of said Lot 10 to the West line of the East 20 feet of said Lot 10; thence Northerly along said West line to the South right of way line of Washington Street (U.S. Route 34); thence Westerly along said South right of way line to the East right of way line of Plaza Drive; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the North right of way line of Schwan Drive; thence Easterly along said North right of way line to the East right of way line of Sandra Avenue; thence Southerly along said East right of way line to the Easterly extension of the South line of Waldorf Industrial Park Subdivision; thence Westerly along said Easterly extension and said South line to the Place of Beginning. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 36 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian, lying North of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27; thence South 88 degrees 16 minutes 30 seconds East 33.0 feet along the North line of said Quarter Quarter to a point on the East line of First Avenue; thence South 602.1 feet along said East line to the Point of Beginning; thence North 89 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds East 150.0 feet to a point; thence South 80.0 feet to a point on the Northerly right of way line of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad; thence South 77 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds West along said Northerly right of way line to the aforesaid East line of First Avenue; thence North along said East line to the Point of Beginning, all situated in Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois. AND ALSO EXCEPTING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 36 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian, lying North of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27; thence South 88 degrees 16 minutes 30 seconds East 33.0 feet along the North line of said Quarter Quarter to a point; thence South 71 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds East 462.39 feet to a point on the East line of said Quarter Quarter; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 30 seconds East 269.91 feet along said East line to a point on the Northerly right of way line of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad, said point being the Point of Beginning; thence North 0 degree 00 minutes 30 seconds West 269.91 feet along the East line of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 27 to a point; thence South 71 degrees 51 minutes 30 seconds East to a point on the North right of way line of the Chicago Burl

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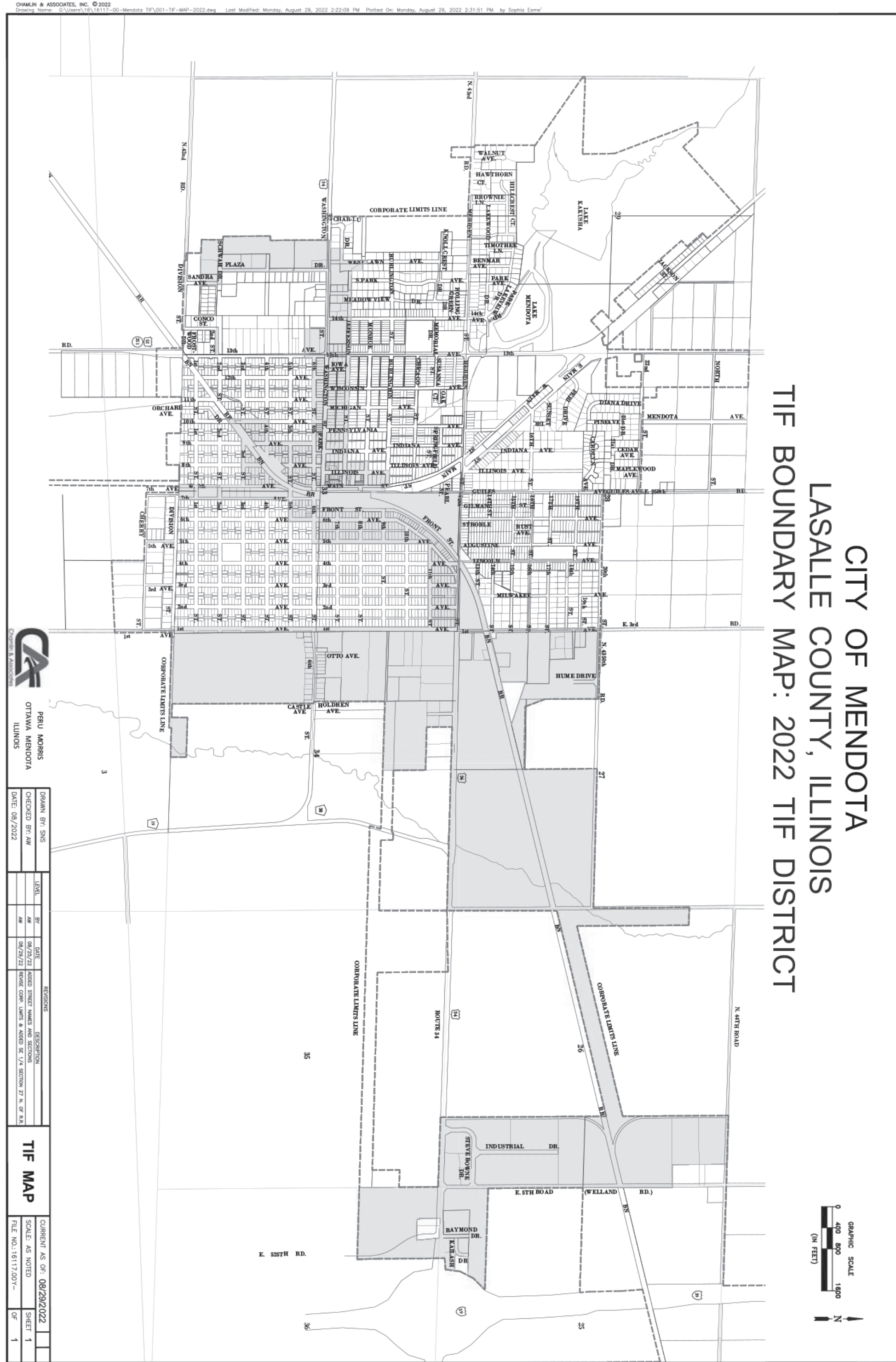


ington & Quincy Railroad; thence South 77 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds West along said right of way line to the Point of Beginning, all situated in Mendota Township, LaSalle County, Illinois. AND ALSO EXCEPTING THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY: Lot 1 and Lot 2 in B &

B Subdivision, being a subdivision located in part of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 36 North, Range 1 East of the Third Principal Meridian in the City of Mendota, LaSalle County, Illinois according to the Plat thereof recorded October 23, 1995 as Document No.

95-15056. All containing 1.62 square miles, more or less.

MENDOTA 2022 TIF DISTRICT PROPOSED BOUNDARY MAP
(BELOW)
Legal No. 1007 (10/19, 10/26 2022)



CITY OF MENDOTA
LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
TIF BOUNDARY MAP: 2022 TIF DISTRICT

CA
PERU MORRIS
OTTAWA MENDOTA
ILLINOIS

DRAWN BY: SNS	LEVEL	BY	DATE	REVISIONS	DESCRIPTION
CHECKED BY: AW	AW	AW	09/29/22	ADDED STREET NAMES AND SECTIONS	
DATE: 08/2022				REVISED COMP. LIMITS & ADDED SE 1/4 SECTION 27 N. OF R.R.	
TIF MAP					
CURRENT AS OF: 08/29/2022					
SCALE: AS NOTED					
SHEET 1					
FILE NO.: 16117.00V-1					
OF 1					

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on October 6, 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 Jon

C. Dees, D.V.M. located at 2322 N. 2879th Road Marseilles, IL 61341. Dated: October 6, 2022. Jon C. Dees Applicant. Legal No. 1005 (10/12, 10/19, 10/26 2022)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on October 13, 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 Cup Of Knowledge located at 708 Illinois Avenue Mendota, IL. 61342.

Dated: October 13, 2022. Jereme Elam & Francheska Diaz Applicants. Legal No. 1006 (10/19, 10/26, 11/2 2022)

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

ESTATE)Case
OF)No.
GARY M.)22 PR
& DePAOLA,)194
Deceased.)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Gary M. DePaola of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 12, 2022 to Mary Jo Freestone, 12988

318th CT, Redfield, IA 50233 as Independent Executor 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 Executor 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

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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 Executor and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been e-filed with the Clerk of the Court.

GREG VACCARO
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
Legal No. 1008 (10/19,
10/26, 11/2

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."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203 HELP WANTED

ASHTON - The Village of Ashton is looking for a Fulltime Streets and Alleys Supervisor. We offer a competitive hourly wage, IMRF retirement and insurance compensation. Mail resumes to PO Box 186, Ashton IL 61006 or stop in and fill out an application at 810 Main St Ashton IL 61006. For inquiries call Meghan Clark at 815 453 2241 or clerk@ashtonusa.com. (11-03-19)

Water and Sewer Supervisor. Class C Water Operator's and Class 4 Wastewater preferred but not required. We offer a ASHTON - The Village of Ashton is looking for a Fulltime competitive hourly wage, IMRF retirement and insurance compensation. Mail resumes to PO Box 186, Ashton IL 61006 or stop in and fill out an application at 810 Main St Ashton IL 61006. For inquiries call Meghan Clark at 815 453 2241 or clerk@ashtonusa.com. (11-03-19)

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301 ANTIQUES

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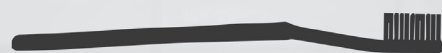
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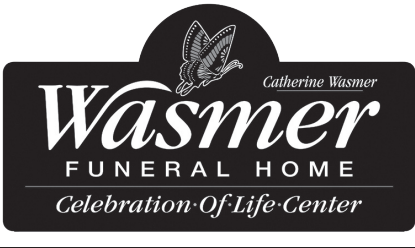
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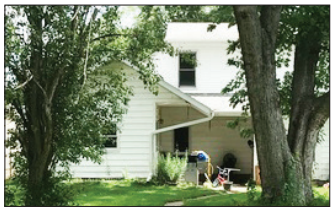
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REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE



407 4th Ave., Mendota
\$105,000
 MLS#11492653

Spacious home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, all new flooring. There are 2 bedrooms upstairs and 2 bedrooms down. Nice size rooms, huge front yard. Garage is off alley. Call for all the amenities.



303 North St., Earlville, IL
\$154,000
 MLS#11487258

Lovely 3 bedroom 2 bath ranch (split design) open concept. Spacious light and airy. This well cared for home leaves nothing for you to do but move in. Large oversized 2 + car garage with a mud room and utility room. Sitting on a large corner lot. Can close quickly. Call.



520 Grant St., Earlville, IL
\$209,900

Beautiful 2 story home with 4 bedrooms, full bath on 2nd level and 1/2 bath on main with a full basement. Natural woodwork with a fabulous open staircase, hardwood floors and gas fireplace, could be wood. Kitchen has new cabinets and custom countertops. Insulated 2 car garage. Home is in process of being painted inside. Home is in a lovely well established neighborhood with lots of trees. Water heater just installed recently and roof put on Nov 2021. Call for all the amenities. RESTAURANTS, shopping, and the train! Let's take a look!

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