



Kassidy Barkman



Anna Bokus



Bianca Espinoza



Theran Schmitt

Mendota Chamber to hold 2020 Sweet Corn Pageant on April 3

MENDOTA – The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding the 2020 Sweet Corn Festival Queen Pageant on Saturday, April 3 at 6 p.m. at the Mendota Civic Center. This will not be a public event. Parents of the candidates will be allowed to attend and Studstill Media will be live-streaming the event. There will be four contestants in the pageant.

Kassidy Barkman is the daughter of Darren Barkman and Sandy Barkman of Mendota and is being sponsored by the Mendota Optimist Club. She is currently attending Blackhawk Community College where she is taking Vet Tech courses. She is also working at The Meadows of Franklin Grove Assisted Living as a CNA. While attending Mendota High School, Barkman participated in softball and volleyball. Her future plans include finishing school and working in a veterinary office. She enjoys helping older people as well as working with animals.

Bianca Espinoza is the daughter of Rene and Jennie Espinoza of Mendota and is being sponsored by the Mendota Area YMCA. She is currently attending the University of St. Francis where she is majoring in nursing and minoring in psychology. She is also involved in the Student Nursing Association. When

home from school, Espinoza works as a resident associate at Stonecroft Village. While attending Mendota High School, she participated in volleyball, soccer, and Spanish Club and was also in the Spanish National Honor Society. Espinoza’s future plans include finishing her degree at the University of St. Francis, working as a registered nurse, and going back to obtain a Master’s degree to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. In her spare time, she enjoys drawing.

Theran Schmitt is the daughter of Erik and Veronica Schmitt of Mendota and is being sponsored by the Mendota Elks Lodge #1212. She is currently attending Illinois Valley Community College where she is majoring in Elementary Education and is a part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. She is also currently working at Woodhaven Lakes. While attending Mendota and LaSalle-Peru high schools, Schmitt participated in volleyball, bowling, cheerleading, student council, Spanish Club, math team, academic challenge, band, Harbor Homeroom Leader, Challenge Day Student Leader, National Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society. She plans to finish at IVCC then transfer to NIU to continue her studies in education. She is also considering

minoring in American Sign Language. Schmitt would like to obtain a Master’s degree and work as an administrator someday. Her main goal in life is to be happy and be able to look back and be satisfied with her accomplishments.

Anna Bokus is the daughter of Mike and Kaela Bokus of Mendota and is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #2090. She is currently attending Loyola University in Chicago where she is majoring in biology on the pre-med track. While at Loyola, she is active in intramural beach volleyball, CHARGE, Pre-Health Society Club, Tri-Beta, Women in Science and Math, Habitat for Humanity, and Loyalthon. While at Mendota High School, Bokus participated in volleyball, basketball, softball, student council, art club, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, math team, and academic challenge. She was also senior class president, an Illinois State Scholar, freshman ambassador, BNC Sportsman Conference Representative and a St. Jude Runner. She plans to graduate from Loyola with a Bachelor’s in Biology and then attend a medical school to become a pediatric oncologist or orthopedic doctor. She enjoys drinking coffee and makes daily trips to Starbucks.



Del Monte to pay city \$3.95 million to take over land and ponds

Deal includes about 77 acres

MENDOTA – It’s not often someone will pay you to take their land, but that’s the deal the city of Mendota has worked out with Del Monte.

At a special Mendota City Council meeting on March 22, it was announced that the city has come to an agreement with Del Monte Foods to take ownership of approximately 77 acres of Del Monte land plus retention ponds. And the best part of the deal is that Del Monte is paying the city \$3,950,000 to do so.

City attorney Mike Guilfoyle said he anticipates closing on the property to take place in two to three weeks.

“The turnaround should be quick,” said Mayor David Boelk. “Title work will be the

main thing that will have to be done.”

It was in August 2019 that Del Monte abruptly announced it would cease production at the end of the 2019 pack season with full closure in June 2020.

The Mendota facility was constructed in 1949 and spans 431 acres. Mendota’s fresh pack products included peas, peas & carrots, cream style corn, whole kernel corn, mixed vegetables, corn specialties and lima beans. Mendota also produced broth and dry beans outside of the fresh packing season. The workforce consisted of 31 salaried and 106 regular hourly employees with a peak seasonal headcount of approximately 550 employees.

New report examines attitudes toward education as pandemic continues

Illinois Education Association says poll shows virtual learning impacts teachers, students alike

By GRACE BARBIC
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Education Association, one of the largest teacher unions in the state, last week released its third annual state of education report examining attitudes toward public education in Illinois.

The poll, conducted by Normington Petts and Next Generation Strategies, surveyed 1,000 different Illinois adults of varying backgrounds and regions of the state by phone or online.

One of the main takeaways from the poll, according to IEA, was that nearly 8 in 10 adults believe the COVID-19 pandemic has made teaching and learning more difficult.

Specifically, the poll asked, “Thinking about public school teachers in Illinois over the last year or so during the pandemic, do you think that teaching during the coronavirus pandemic has been much easier, somewhat easier, somewhat harder, or much harder for teachers?”

According to the poll, 55 percent responded “much harder,” 24 percent responded “somewhat harder,” 11 percent responded “somewhat easier” and 8 percent said “much easier.”

When it comes to the biggest impact of the pandemic on students, 44 percent said virtual learning challenges are the leading concern, while 29 percent said it’s the lack of socialization.

IEA President Kathi Griffin said virtual learning has also had an impact on teachers, who are now expected to



teach students both in-person and virtually at the same time.

“You have teachers who are working these extremely long days, developing lessons on multiple platforms, assessing their work, communicating with parents and trying to take care of their own health and that of their family,” Griffin said. “That is what is so stressful.”

Griffin said there are other cases where students are sleeping in and joining virtual class late or parents are going on vacation because of the ability for students to work remotely.

“We want to make sure that our students are present, that they are going to participate, and that our families are supportive, and I know they’re working so hard,” Griffin said. “This is not easy for anybody, but we need to recognize the double duty that our teachers are doing right now.”

In some cases, Griffin said teachers are working 10 to

12 hour days teaching and preparing hybrid lessons. Griffin warned of the potential of pandemic-related burnout worsening the increasing educator shortage in the state.

One-third of IEA members who were polled in October stated that they were considering leaving the profession, while two-thirds said they felt “more burned out than normal this year,” according to the report.

Of the 1,000 Illinois residents participating in the poll, 60 percent said they worry that educators leaving the profession will lead to lower student performance.

The poll found that 43 percent of adults believe health and safety are the most important issues to address as schools begin to return to normalcy. Getting students caught up, 22 percent of adults said, is the second leading concern.

As a result of the pandemic, the IEA and the Illinois Federation of Teachers will be introducing legislation to: establish clear metrics for districts to know when it’s safe to be in-person; enforce COVID-19 guidance and requirements in schools; provide rapid COVID-19 testing in schools; and provide protections so teachers won’t be forced to work while they’re sick.

The poll stated each of those principles without mentioning any legislation specifically, then asked if the respondents strongly favor, somewhat favor, strongly oppose or somewhat oppose the principles. Per the results, 43 percent said strongly favor, 36 percent said somewhat favor, 10 percent said somewhat oppose, and 7 percent said strongly oppose. Five percent did not know.

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Police investigating rock-throwing incident

MENDOTA – On Sunday, March 28, at approximately 2:34 p.m., Mendota Police investigated an incident of vehicular endangerment in the 100 block of 13th Avenue, Mendota. As a result of the investigation, authorities learned that a rock was thrown from the overpass (railroad viaduct) striking a vehicle and shattering a window on the vehicle. The rock made entry into the interior passenger compartment of the vehicle. No injuries were sustained and the Mendota Police Department is investigating the matter at this time.

If you have any information regarding the individual(s) responsible for this crime, please call the Mendota Police Department at (815) 539-9331. All callers may remain anonymous.

LOCAL AND AREA

NORTHBROOK STUDENTS OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY



5th Grade

Northbrook School's fifth grade Students of the Month for February, left to right, are Olivia Corrigan, Cruz Chavez, and Klaire Knaff. Not pictured are Dane Williams and Piper Bilinski. (Photos contributed. Please note: Photos of the students were taken individually for safety and then grouped together digitally.)



7th Grade

Northbrook School's seventh grade Students of the Month for February, left to right, are Paxton Bauer, Carlos Toribio, and Litzzy Celis. Not pictured is Cara Stewart.



6th Grade

Northbrook School's sixth grade Students of the Month for February, left to right, are Monserrat Chavez, Aaron Venegas, Kyra Finley, and Damien Garcia. Not pictured are Alina Flood and Ivan Botello.



8th Grade

Northbrook School's eighth grade Students of the Month for February, front row left to right, are Dessa Komitas, Diego Raya, and Heaven Gonzalez. Not pictured is Samuel Matura.

Holy Cross announces honor rolls

MENDOTA-Holy Cross School in Mendota has announced their 3rd Quarter honor rolls and B.U.G. roll for the 2020-2021 school year.

• 8th High Honor Roll

Lily Bokus—4.0, Kirby Bond—4.0, Alondra Delao—4.0, Ava Eddy—4.0, Bailey Engels—4.0, Cassie Gonzalez, Lauren Holland—4.0, Libby Hufaker—4.0, Ella Martin, Korinne Miars—4.0, Isabela Rosales—4.0, Grace Royer—4.0, Kenley Wilson—4.0.

• 8th Honor Roll

Benjamin Bresley.

• 7th High Honor Roll

Addyson Allensworth, Maren Atherton, Alex Beetz, Anna Cyrocki, Laylie Denault, Dane Doyle, Mae Hagenbuch, Brody Hartt, Alex Holland, Addisyn Jones, Grady Jones, Ella Lewis, Peri Manning, Kooper Novak, Lily Soliman, Ryan Soliman, Joe Stewart, Aden Tillman.

• 7th Honor Roll

Nick Sheridan.

• 6th High Honor Roll

Emily Diaz, Emma Hufaker, Kara Miars.

• 6th Honor Roll

Abel Belan, Elaina Koch, Abbie Kreiser.

• 5th High Honor Roll

Charlee Dankenbring, Komen Denault, Hayley Diaz, Corbin Doll, Karson Doyle, Giselle Gonzalez, Leah Henkel, Kaylee MacDonald, Abby Magallanes, Gaby Martinez, Ashlynn Rickels, Elsie Soliman, Ross Sondgeroth, Cole Tillman, Charles Wilson.

• 5th Honor Roll

Leah Schwemlein.

— B.U.G. Roll —

• 8th Grade

Isabela Rosales.

• 5th Grade

Diego Diaz, Hayley Diaz, Kaylee MacDonald.

• 4th Grade

Claire Atherton, Will Aughenbaugh, Elesea Denk, Cal Doyle, Cathi Moench.

• 3rd Grade

Emme Beetz, Leo Engels, Linda MacDonald, Camden Pawlowski, Ellye Reppin, Molly Wilson.

• 2nd Grade

Mason Atherton, Samantha Escatel, Ming Xi Huang, Sofia Lemus, Marley Pelka, Ally Tillman.

• 1st Grade

None.

• Kingergarten

Daniel Escatel, Cecilia Ortiz, Brooks Pawlowski, Kohen Piller, Jase Reppin.

BLACKSTONE SCHOOL

Principal Award Pizza Lunch

Blackstone School recently held their Principal Award pizza lunch for the month of March. Students were honored by having a pizza lunch with their principal, Stacy Kelly. Left photo, kindergarten students honored for March were, front row left to right, Jocelyn Hernandez, Camilo Murillo, Cason Jordan and Isaiah Orozco; back row, Brynlee Carden, Kinsey Wofford, Alena Flood and Jessica Rivera. Right photo, first grade students honored were, front row left to right, Bella Granados, Charlee Fordham and Holli Hillstrom; back row, Sammy Saylor, Aiden Moreno, Izaiah Lopez and Jude Borelli. (Photos contributed)



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LOCAL AND AREA

Farm Family of the Year chosen by L.S. Co. SWCD

LASALLE COUNTY—The LaSalle County Soil & Water Conservation District has chosen the Carl Zimmerman Family as their 2021 Farm Family of the Year. Carl was chosen because of his dedication to soil conservation, water quality, nutrient efficiency, and willingness to share his experiences with others.

After several years working in the agribusiness industry and farming on the side, Carl wanted to get more involved in the family farm operation. He began farming full-time with his father, Larry, in 2015. They had tried no-till previously and soon made the switch to full conservation farming practices by implementing no-till, cover crops, split nitrogen applications, and other practices.

Carl and Larry enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The program's focus is on helping people "reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters."

Along with NRCS programs, the Zimmermans are enrolled in the Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for grassed waterways, filter strips, and wetland restorations. These practices help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and promote habitat along with other benefits. Carl plans to add native grass and forb plantings in the future to broaden the biodiversity of his operation.

Carl's father began farming in Putnam County and moved north to LaSalle County in 1966. He started out with moldboard plowing and over time switched to less invasive soil practices until they settled on a vertical tillage machine around 2010. It took a few more years but this helped to launch them fully into no-till farming practices. The Zimmermans raised corn, soybeans and hogs. The hog operation was farrow-to-finish until the markets and buyers started to dry up in 2000.

Shortly after the hogs left the farm, the Zimmermans started raising sweet corn for Del Monte. To help with weed issues on the sweetcorn fields, they planted oats as a test to keep them suppressed. After the oats showed their



The Zimmerman Family

worth by reducing weeds and they were more comfortable with them, they began to experiment with other varieties of covers on more acres until all acres had a cover crop. They utilize oats and radishes after sweet corn and cereal ryegrass after field corn. Soybean ground gets a mixture of crimson clover, oats, radishes, and turnips.

Soil tests are taken from GPS points every two years and sent to two different companies to compare results.

See FAMILY, Page A4

Northbrook Honor Rolls

MENDOTA – Northbrook Middle School has announced Trimester 2 High Honor Roll and Honor Roll students for fifth through eighth grade classes.

FIFTH GRADE

High Honors: Tyson Barkman, Piper Bilinski, Isaac Caracheo, Cannon Chaon, Cruz Chavez, Daniel Correa, Olivia Corrigan, Zariah Escatel, Dalton Gallagher, Chandler Gambrel, Kade Jackson, Trevor Lengsfeld, Anthony Martinez-Morales, Samantha Nelson, Karlee Organ, Esten Otero, Om Patel, Kamilah Preciado, David Reyes, Mason Rich, Grace Schlesinger, Collin Sheppard, Gracie Smith, Paola Solorzano, Ashtyn Stamberger, Haylee Stevens, Tori Stevens, Oliver Turner, Parker Waldron

Honor Roll: Shelby Armstrong, Mia Barringer, Cooper Beetz, Mei Booth, Abigail Botts, Lena Cardona, Hayden Cunefare, Wendell Dennis, Rubi Donahue, Riley Erlenborn, Khloe Henry, Kevin Herrera, Kaylee Kaufman, Klaire Knaff, Shea Kreiser, Kyra Lindsay, Omar Nanez, Ignacio Ortega, Gage Richey, Colton Rodrick, Maddox Rosales, Angel Sanchez, Guadalupe Sandoval, Germain Serrano, Samantha Tunk, Jovan Washington, Rylee Woods

SIXTH GRADE

High Honors: Brooklyn Baxa, Drew Becker, Ivan Botello, Abigail Buettner, Monserrat Chavez, Lexi Cocanour, Donovan Cox, Adan Es-

See HONOR, Page A4

State museum curator to discuss 19th century cloth and clothing production in Illinois

LASALLE – LaSalle Public Library will virtually host Erika Holst, Curator of History at the Illinois State Museum, as she explores cloth and clothing production in the 19th century and textiles' impact on pre-Civil War life in Illinois. The presentation will take place on Tuesday, April 6 at 6 p.m.

Holst will discuss the cotton economy impact on the home production of textiles and how it involved the entire United States.

She will also explore how the ready-made clothing industry grew out of the American textile industry, and why making and caring for 19th century clothing was labor intensive.

The program is free and open to the public and is funded by the Illinois Humanities. Register online at <https://bit.ly/3ImpRBs>.

Individuals who prefer to connect using an iPad or smartphone or have questions, please call the Library at (815) 223-2341.

4-H sponsoring Easter Egg Hunt in Sublette

SUBLETTE – The annual Sublette Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3 starting at 10 a.m. Children from ages 0-8 are welcome. Masks are required. The hunt is being sponsored by the Sub-Let Indians 4-H Club.



CARL'S QUIZ

On March 22, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported a 2.3 magnitude earthquake in southern Illinois. How many detectable earthquakes does the USGS estimate occur in the world each year?

- 1.) 5,000, 2.) 50,000, 3.) 500,000
4.) 5 million 5.) 50 million

The answer to last week's quiz is: The Hula Hoop was first marketed in 1958, and an estimated 25 million were sold in its first four months of production. Although the enormous popularity of the Hula Hoop was short-lived, the toy still has fans today.

Answer next week in The Mendota Reporter and online at www.mendotareporter.com

Mendota Weather

March 31, 2021

Seven Day Forecast

	Wednesday Partly Cloudy High: 42 Low: 24
	Thursday Sunny High: 44 Low: 28
	Friday Mostly Sunny High: 55 Low: 42
	Saturday Mostly Sunny High: 68 Low: 44
	Sunday Partly Cloudy High: 69 Low: 45
	Monday Mostly Cloudy High: 68 Low: 46
	Tuesday Scattered Rain High: 65 Low: 40

In-Depth Forecast

Wednesday we will see partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of isolated rain, high of 42°, humidity of 34%. West northwest wind 10 to 19 mph. The record high for Wednesday is 78° set in 1986. Expect mostly clear skies Wednesday night with a slight chance of rain, overnight low of 24°. Northwest wind 9 to 15 mph. The wind chill for Wednesday night could reach 15°.

Regional Cities

City	Hi/Low	Wx	Hi/Low	Wx
Aurora	44/23	ra	42/26	s
Champaign	46/25	ra	44/27	s
Chicago	45/27	ra	38/29	s
Freeport	40/21	s	43/26	s
Joliet	45/24	ra	42/26	s
Moline	44/26	s	47/31	s
Peoria	46/27	ra	47/31	s
Rockford	42/22	pc	42/27	s
Springfield	47/28	ra	46/30	s

Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip	Rainfall
Monday	68	45	47/28	0.00"	0.56"
Tuesday	62	49	48/28	0.38"	0.57"
Wednesday	59	46	48/29	0.09"	0.01"
Thursday	51	40	49/29	0.07"	
Friday	48	38	49/29	0.01"	Average temp..... 49.9°
Saturday	64	44	50/30	0.01"	Average normal..... 38.9°
Sunday	46	38	51/30	0.00"	Departure..... +11.0°

Data as reported from Peru, Ill.

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	6:40 a.m.	7:21 p.m.	11:16 p.m.	8:32 a.m.
Thursday	6:38 a.m.	7:22 p.m.	Prev Day	9:10 a.m.
Friday	6:37 a.m.	7:23 p.m.	12:32 a.m.	9:54 a.m.
Saturday	6:35 a.m.	7:24 p.m.	1:43 a.m.	10:47 a.m.
Sunday	6:33 a.m.	7:25 p.m.	2:45 a.m.	11:47 a.m.
Monday	6:32 a.m.	7:26 p.m.	3:37 a.m.	12:52 p.m.
Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	7:27 p.m.	4:19 a.m.	1:59 p.m.

National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain, highest temperature of 65 in Philadelphia, Pa. The Southeast will experience partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain and isolated thunderstorms, highest temperature of 88 in Lehigh Acres, Fla. The central United States will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and thunderstorms, highest temperature of 90 in Roma, Texas. In the Northwest there will be mostly clear skies with the highest temperature of 70 in Medford, Ore. The Southwest will see clear skies with the highest temperature of 86 in Chandler, Ariz.

Weather History

March 31, 1973 - A devastating tornado took a nearly continuous 75-mile path through north central Georgia, causing more than 113 million dollars in damage, the highest total of record for a natural disaster in the state.

April 1, 1987 - Forty-five cities across the southeastern United States reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 37 degrees at Apalachicola, Fla., 34 degrees at Jacksonville, Fla., 30 degrees at Macon, Ga., and 22 degrees at Knoxville, Tenn., were records for April.

Local UV Index

0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure
www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather Trivia

What is the coldest city in the lower 48 states?
Answer: Butte, Mont., where temperatures drop below zero 223 days a year.

LA MOILLE HIGH SCHOOL



John Ourth Award

Two LaMoille High School seniors, Dylan Lovgren and Chloe Carroll, were recognized as recipients of the John Ourth Student Recognition Award, sponsored by the Starved Rock Region of the IPA. The students were selected by staff for reflecting the qualities of exceptional character, work ethic, and leadership in their school and communities. Lovgren, left, and Carroll, right, were congratulated by District Superintendent/LHS principal, Brent J. Ziegler, who said the high school is very proud of their award recipients. (Photo contributed)

NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

All students and teachers can use the newspaper as an integral teaching and learning component. Our mission is to provide a better educational experience for students by using newspapers in the classroom. Newspapers are a valuable resource for students and teachers alike. They provide a wealth of information and are a great way to learn about the world around us. Newspapers can be used in a variety of ways in the classroom, from reading aloud to group projects. They can be used to teach students about current events, geography, and history. Newspapers can also be used to teach students about the importance of reading and the value of news. In one study, reading skills increased by four grade-levels for students who used newspapers in the classroom, as compared to those who did not. This is a significant finding, as it shows that newspapers can be a powerful tool for improving student learning. What Research Says About Using the Newspaper in the Classroom Newspaper use in school increases student awareness about the world at large and the community, and has a positive effect on student attitudes toward school, community and subject matter.

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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Wesley J. Shaver

MENDOTA - Wesley Jay Shaver, 34, was born to Dena (Ayers) and the late Kurtis Shaver in Triumph on Feb. 7, 1987 and was raised in Mendota. He went missing on Sept. 22, 2020 and after an extensive search was found in Rockford on March 20, 2021.

Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m. on March 30 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A memorial service followed at 7 p.m. officiated by Rev. Del Keilman with masks required and social distancing recommended. Private burial will be at Restland Cemetery, Mendota at a later date.

Wesley married Michelle Arjes-Carreón in November of 2010. They resided in Mendota and for a short time in Lowell from 2019-2020.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle Shaver of Mendota; his mother, Dena Shaver of Mendota; one son, Keegan Shaver of Harrison, Ark.; five stepdaughters, Kelsey Sweger of Oglesby, Tatyanna Carreon, Faith and Hope Baratta, and Talia White, all of Mendota; one brother, Wyatt Nolan of Mendota; his maternal grandparents, Roy and Diane Ayers of LaSalle; his paternal grandparents, Gary Shaver and Julie Olson of Mendota; one aunt, Kimberly Flanagan of Mendota; one uncle, Kevin (Lorelei) Shaver of Mendota; his late grandmother Helen's significant other, Don Lasik of Utica; his father- and mother-in-law, Kenneth and Constance Arjes of Mendota; a nephew, Clayton and two nieces, Kylee and Kora of Pontiac; and a niece, Avery and several cousins of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his paternal great-grandfather, Harold Shaver in 1987; his maternal great-grandmother, Marona Ayers in 1999; his maternal great-grandmother, Arlene Shaver in 2002; his father, Kurtis G. Shaver in 2008; a maternal uncle, Jay Ayers in 2011; his older brother, Waylon Shaver in 2014; and his maternal grandmother, Helen Ayers in 2020.

Wesley worked at Del Monte in Mendota, Northern Partners of Triumph, and Stephenitch Do It Best Hardware store in Mendota. He loved fishing, being outdoors, walking his dog, "Leo," cooking on the grill, and spending time with his family and friends.

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



Jack E. Baughman

MENDOTA - Jack Everett Baughman, 94, of Mendota passed away March 26, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

Private family services will be held at noon on Saturday, April 3 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Pastor Mary Bohall of First United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Restland Cemetery, Mendota with military honors by Mendota VFW Post 4079. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

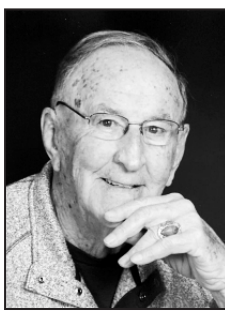
Jack was born Jan. 30, 1927 in Blue Mound to Carl and Eloise (Brown) Baughman. He married Alice (Merritt) Jett on Jan. 24, 1953. She preceded him in death on Jan. 10, 2017.

Survivors include two daughters, Kathi (Wayne) Stamberger of LaMoille and Lori (Jeff) Simonton of Mendota; three sons, Michael (Faith) Jett of Valdosta, Ga., Jack "Jay" (Debra) Baughman, Jr. of LaGrange and Robert (Emily McConville) Baughman of Mendota; nine grandchildren, Brian (Amanda) Stamberger, Jason (Shelly) Stamberger, Rachel (Joe) Buchanan, Paige Simonton, Ryan Jett, Allyse Jett, Jordan Baughman, Lindsey Baughman and Tracy Wright; and 11 great-grandchildren, Blake, Trent, Gavin, Jaxon, Dominik, Ashtyn, Harper and Ivy Stamberger, Evelyn and Sienna Buchanan, and Jayce Baughman; and one sister, Joyce Roush of Macon.

He was preceded in death by his wife and a sister, Maxine Hartwig.

Jack graduated from Blue Mound High School in 1944 and entered the U. S. Merchant Marines from 1945-47. He was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1951-52, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant. Jack was a construction supervisor at Agricultural Building Company in Mendota for 30 years. He was a member of First United Methodist Church and Mendota Elks Lodge 1212. He and Alice were long time members of Shady Oaks Country Club where they loved to golf and spend time with friends. They also spent many happy winters in Arizona. Another passion of his, besides golf, was completing and framing hundreds of jigsaw puzzles. He also loved sweets and believed a meal wasn't complete without dessert. He will be forever loved and missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to First United Methodist Church or Mendota Area Senior Services. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Ramon E. Archer

MENDOTA - Ramon E. "Bud" Archer, 87, of Mendota, passed away March 25, 2021 at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

A private family funeral service was held on March 29 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Compton with Rev. Jeff Schlesinger officiating. Military honors were conducted by Mendota VFW Post 4079. Cremation rites will be accorded afterward and burial will be at a later date. Visitation was from 1-3 p.m. on March 28 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with masks required and social distancing recommended.

Bud was born Aug. 15, 1933 in Compton to William A. "Bill" and L. Ione (Olson) Archer, the youngest of three brothers. He married Arlene Bialas on May 1, 1960.

Survivors include his wife; two children, Melissa (Ron) Blum and Gregg (Chris) Archer; 12 grandchildren, Allie (Dan), Matt (Emily), Robert (Lydia), Alex (Philippa), Lexie (Justin), Kristin (Dougie), Tyler, Jacklynn (Jacob), Emily, Anthony, Kayden and Mackenna; four great-grandchildren, Bentley, Paislee, Kinsley and Faith; many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren; and a brother, Richard Archer, and sister-in-law, Ardis Archer, both of Florida.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gene Archer; and one sister-in-law, Rita Archer.

Bud grew up and went to school in the Compton area. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher and as a Church Council President. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955. He then worked for Alexander Lumber Co., Torri Grain Co. and Fasco Mills Co. for 19 1/2 years. He and Arlene raised their two children and farmed together in Compton from the mid-1960s until they moved to Mendota in 1994. He also worked for Del Monte for 19 years. Additionally, he worked at Johnson Paint Co. of Compton and occasionally worked for farmers Elling Johnson and Gail Zimmerman. He was a village clerk in Compton, a volunteer on the Fire Department, a Webelos leader, an assistant Boy Scout leader, a Master of Brooklyn Lodge #282 AF & AM, and a Commander of American Legion Post #657. He loved camping, hunting, fishing, playing cards, having coffee and toast in Compton, woodworking, taking photographs and videos, playing on the computer, watching westerns, and spending time with his family. Everyone knew and enjoyed his constant sense of humor. He truly loved going on nature rides and taking pictures and videos of wildlife, especially on Beaver Road near West Brooklyn. Melissa and Gregg feel deeply blessed to have had such an amazing father, and Arlene feels the same about her beloved husband of 60 years. He will be truly missed and loved by all who knew him.

Memorials may be directed to Shriners Hospital for Children, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Wounded Warrior Project. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Family

Continued from Page A3

Phosphorus and potassium are put on in the fall using Variable Rate Technology. Nitrogen is a spilt application in the spring, 20 percent at planting and the remainder is side dressed. Through his CSP contract, Carl is doing nitrate stalk testing along with tissue sample testing. These tests show the efficiency of the plants' use of nutrients. The operation is a 50/50 corn/soybean rotation with covers on all acres. They are currently contemplating adding a small grain to the rotation.

Carl and Larry have hosted shed meetings on cover crops and Carl has shared his experience in online seminars. His talks cover the financial aspect pertaining to cover crops. He has also participated on several farmer panels.

Farming is truly a family affair with everyone pitching in. Carl's wife, Monica, helps with rides, lunches, and anything else that needs to be done. Clay, his son, helps by mowing, riding along in the combine, planter and hauling grain. Larry assists with planting and harvest. Kathy, Carl's mother, gives rides

and helps with lunches. John and Dena Corrigan, Carl's brother-in-law and sister, are close by and lend a hand during the busy times with running errands, grain carts,

and with anything else they can.

When Carl isn't farming, he serves on the local school board, Co-op board, and township board.

Continued from Page A3

trada, Kyra Finley, Karen Flores, Harlow Foltyniewicz, Karissa Freeman, Damien Garcia, Berat Imeri, Marcelah Jackson, Cole Kleckner, Ada Krull, Rashaad Mayfield, Madrick Musgrove, Eden Pecher, Addison Perryman, Brianna Russell, Liam Sheppard, Gavin Stevenson, Kathryn Strouss, Cam Wasmer, Miranda Wheeler, Ryder Woods, Kyle Wright

Honors: Blake Bute, Briza Cervantes, Collin Coss, Michelle Cuevas, Meghan Dewey, Kelly Falcon, Gianni Figueroa, Alina Flood, Caleb Ganther, Christian

Gonzalez, Julian Gonzalez, Dawson McPheeters, Alexys Melendez, MaKenzie Mumm, Lukas Nelson, Cole Nosalik, Sophia Orozco, Kashia Ortega-Jaramillo, Sophia Renoud, Cailynn Rodrick, Favian Romero, Bailey Ryan, Kale Sack, Zachary Schmidt, Owen Schroeder, Kahlyn Sliwa, Emily Sondgeroth, Karson Sundberg, Cayden Taliani, Stormie Whildin

SEVENTH GRADE
High Honors: Johnathan Beaty, John Biggs, Gracie Botts, Litzy Celis, Johan Cortez, Airam Cuevas, Sofia Gomez, Gianna Hall, Hannah Kunz, Ramiro Palacios, Jessica Reel, Ariana

Sanchez, Leah Stamberger, Sydney Tolley, Talia White
Honors: Keegan Beetz, Ruby Bielema, Kate Biers, Sarah Brown, Aaden Castle, Sara Diaz, Harlan Gallagher, Kylie Goldblatt, Brody Kaecker, Spencer Kain, Reese Lane, Stephanie Medina, Katelyn Mikolasek, Luis Nunez, Janelle Rodriguez, Cara Stewart, Carlos Toribio, Austin Welch

EIGHTH GRADE
High Honors: Eric Aranda, Aiden Arjes, Makenzie Bean, Shelby Bentley, Ryn Booth, Ella Coss, Jesus Escobar, Braiden Freeman, Ashley Garcia, Claire Hanson, Lidia Hernandez, Quin Holland, Andrianna

Karahalios, Anthony Kelson, Kennedy Knaff, Dessa Komitas, Cameron Kordick, Samuel Matura, Gresy Patel, Heli Patel, Brenna Rummery, Maybrianna Schultz, Kaley Siemer, Lea Turner, Jillian Younger

Honors: Fernando Artega, Marco Balcazar, Ava Beetz, Conner Chambers, Katelyn Cook, Sofia Duarte, Cameron Escatel, Heaven Gonzalez, Keith Grim, Horacio Huizar, Cameron Kelly, Guadalupe Maldonado, Travis Mumm, Brisa Nunez, Sophia Pappas, Diego Raya, Nicholas Reyes, Lisette Sandoval Rios, Brielle Smith, Joshua Sondgeroth, Faith Villegas

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LOCAL AND AREA

MPD completes pledge to improve response to assist those with mental illness

MENDOTA — The Mendota Police Department is pleased to announce that it has completed a pledge it took to improve its response to those suffering from mental illness in the community.

The pledge is part of an initiative called the One Mind Campaign started by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), a 30,000-member professional association for law enforcement that provides training, technical assistance and recruitment services. To join the One Mind Campaign, law enforcement agencies must pledge to implement four promising practices in a 12- to 36-month period to ensure successful future interactions between police officers and persons with mental illness.

In the law enforcement community, mental illness has become a common focus, with some departments estimating that as many as 20 percent of their calls for service are related to mental health challenges. Chief Gregory Kellen made the decision to join the International Association of Chiefs of Police's One Mind Campaign because law enforcement professionals are engaging with persons within our community who are both in mental crisis or suffering from mental illness.

"Our ability to respond utilizing techniques and standards provided to us through training, policies and education permit us to assist those in crisis in their time of need, while at the same time, giving officers the understanding that the community expects

and deserves the highest quality of mental health services from its law enforcement professionals," he said.

In completing the One Mind Pledge, the Mendota Police Department established a sustainable partnership with a local mental health organization, developed and implemented a model policy to address officers' interactions with those affected by mental illness, and ensured that all of their officers received some type of mental health awareness training, with at least 20 percent of the department completing the more intensive collaborative crisis response training. The 40-hour crisis intervention curriculum is designed by local agencies to train a team of specialized officers to respond to calls that involve indi-

viduals with mental health disorders such as depression or intellectual disability. The curriculum includes education on various de-escalation techniques as well as live role-play scenarios of officers responding to persons who need mental health assistance.

The greatest benefit in adopting all the strategies of the One Mind Campaign pledge has been that law enforcement personnel regularly responds to service calls for individuals with mental illness who may be in crisis. Officers need the knowledge and resources to effectively respond to these crises, while also ensuring the safety of the individuals with mental illness, other community members on the scene and themselves.

Education

Continued from Page A1

Asked if funding for schools should "increase, decrease or stay about the same," 64 percent said it should increase, 9 percent said decrease, 25 percent said stay the same. Two percent responded "don't know."

Griffin said it will be important to continue funding the state's evidence-based school funding formula, which became law in 2017. That law changed the way school districts receive the bulk of state funds, calling for \$350 million in new funding to be added to the K-12 formula each year to be directed at the state's neediest districts based on a number of factors.

But last year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the state passed a budget including no new funding for schools, while Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year would keep K-12 education funding flat for the second consecutive year.

"We need to make sure that we continue that funding," Griffin said. "Last year that funding was stagnant...but it should be increasing every single year. We need to continue to work and make that happen so that we don't fall behind, because if we fall behind, who we are falling behind on are the kids, and we cannot do that."

Although respondents shared concerns about health and safety in returning to school, as well as the lingering educator shortage, Griffin said "we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel."

"But what we need to make sure that we do is support our teachers the best we can, realize that things are going to be different this year, and move forward," she said.

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

Pritzker vaccinated as positivity rate rises

By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker received a COVID-19 vaccine and briefly took questions from reporters at the Illinois State Fairgrounds last week as the state's seven-day rolling average COVID-19 positivity rate ticked up to its highest point since Feb. 11.

The COVID-19 case positivity rate was 3.3 percent Monday, having risen for the fourth straight day. It marked a 50 percent increase since March 14.

Pritzker received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, a one-dose shot that is being more widely distributed across the state, he said.

As of last week, more than 5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in Illinois, while 69 percent of seniors and 32 percent of Illinoisans 16 years of age and older had received at least one dose. The seven-day rolling average for vaccine doses administered was 97,680.

The state is scheduled to expand vaccine eligibility to all residents age 16 and over on April 12. Appointment information can be found at coronavirus.illinois.gov or by calling 833-621-1284.

"Look, I'm not a doctor, but I trust doctors. And thanks to the great work of our doctors, researchers, and public health scientists, these vaccines offer us all the fastest way back to normal life," Pritzker said, telling the public "I'm not asking you to do anything that I wouldn't do myself," before receiving his vaccine.

Pritzker recently announced a "bridge" phase be-

tween the current COVID-19 capacity limits and Phase 5, in which all capacity limits are lifted. The bridge phase can begin when 70 percent of seniors are vaccinated, provided COVID-19 transmission and death trends do not reverse.

Per the bridge phase, the largest capacity increase is to social events, which can allow 250 people indoors and 500 outdoors. Previously, those were capped at 50 people. Ticketed recreation events are allowed to hold 60 percent of the facility's capacity.

Restaurants and bars can increase capacity from 25 percent to 30 percent, and outdoor capacity is allowed up to 50 percent for standing areas. In seating areas, parties of up to 10 are allowed and different parties must be seated six feet apart.

Most other capacities at businesses would increase to 60 percent.

Per a news release from the governor's office, to advance into the bridge phase, the entire state must maintain a 20 percent ICU bed availability rate and "hold steady on COVID-19 and COVID-like illness hospital admissions, mortality rate, and case rate over a 28-day monitoring period."

A spokesperson for the governor's office said the Illinois Department of Public Health website was being updated to better demonstrate where the state stands on the metrics that could disqualify it from entering the bridge phase.

Last week, the website showed hospitalizations were trending upward, but it did not appear that the state was meeting the 150 new



Gov. JB Pritzker receives the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, a one-dose shot that is being more widely distributed across the state.

daily admissions threshold that would warrant a reversal of entering the bridge phase. A spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Public Health told Capitol News Illinois they were checking on the public reporting of new hospital admissions.

While the governor's office said in a news release that announced the bridge phase that "all regions of the state will move through the bridge phase and ultimately to Phase 5, together," the governor said regions may revert back to previous phases individually if they see a surge.

"Right now we're on course, we're still following the guidance that we've set out for everybody," he said. "If for some reason we need to halt and move some region back into a previous phase because the numbers are going way up and beyond the guidelines that we set out for those

phases, then you know we'll have to do that but that's not where we are now."

The governor said he is keeping an eye on the increasing positivity rate, particularly as new variants continue to become more prevalent as the virus mutates.

"I don't expect us to get there," he said of needing to impose regional restrictions, "but also I've been to this movie before, and seeing, you know, the rising positivity rates. And I'm concerned about it. We've got to be careful about the variants, and I am concerned, I must tell you, as I see numbers go up. Is that the variants? Is it a blip in the data? What is it exactly?"

Pritzker said the state will "keep watching closely." The IDPH website reported the state had identified 176 cases of variant COVID-19 strains, 167 of

which were the mutation first recognized in the United Kingdom.

Pritzker warned that mitigation measures might still be necessary, especially as numbers climb and activity increases.

"But I can tell you, there is more activity going on and I think people maybe are being a little less careful, and I want to remind everybody, please keep your distance, please continue to wear your mask, please be respectful of others," he said.

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




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* We will be following Illinois Covid guidelines and social distancing. RSVP for seat reservation. Seating is limited. RSVP via Eventbrite- Link on: <https://www.facebook.com/crossroadshouseofprayer>

* formerly Crossroads Coffee House

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OPINION

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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.

Discrimination persists

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD—I was chatting with a friend the other day and I mentioned that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell was married to someone of a different race.

His response: “She’s Asian American, that doesn’t count.”

It was a strange thing for an educated man, a retired lawyer to say. Stranger still it was uttered just a few days before six Asian Americans were murdered in Atlanta.

Too often we view race relations in monochrome. But it’s not just black and white. It’s a complex interaction of various ethnicities, nationalities and races.

Asians are labeled as the “model minority.” Assertions of discrimination are dismissed by this false narrative.

Two Asian-Americans have married into my extended family and been welcomed with love and acceptance. And that’s a story told by many families across this country.

In fact, a 2015 Pew Foundation study found that half (46%) of U.S.-born Asian newlyweds have a spouse of a different race or ethnicity. At first blush, this would seem to be a story of assimilation and acceptance.

But that doesn’t tell the whole story.

Our nation has long discriminated against Asians. Former president Donald Trump exploited this heritage of hate a year ago, by labeling COVID-19 the “Chinese Virus.” In the wake of such remarks Asian Americans have been the victims of violence.

For me, it’s not a new story.

When I was a reporter in Galveston, Texas, it was native-born shrimpers angry with having to compete with Vietnamese immigrants.

In the Quad-Cities, it was hostility toward Southeast Asians working in the area’s meat-packing plants.

Later, while working as a journalist in Las Vegas, acquaintances would presume Asians living there were “sex workers” and dismiss them with a wave of a hand.

“The Asian-American community is shaped like a barbell. There is large upper middle class and large portion who are working-class or poor. But not many are in between,” said Ji-Yeon Yuh, an associate professor of Asian American studies and history at Northwestern University.

She wrote “Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America.” It’s a superb tome, which I read several years ago. Yuh is also an expert on migration of Asians to the U.S.

Since I’ve known Yuh for a while, I asked her a tough question, “Why does it seem so many Asian American women end up working in massage parlors, spas and other sex-oriented businesses?”

Her response surprised me. The U.S. military has fostered a culture accepting of prostitution particularly near its major bases in Korea and other nations of the Far East. She noted this is not the case at U.S. installations in the Middle East or Europe.

Young women and girls are trapped into prostitution near these bases. Often, they are trafficked to the U.S. through “paper marriages,” she said.

“A soldier may be paid \$10,000 to ‘marry’ someone and bring them here. The bride then ends up in the sex trade,” she said. Yuh noted that four of the six Asian American women killed in Atlanta were of Korean heritage. She added other immigrants end up in the trade because they lack language fluency, education or the job skills necessary to otherwise support themselves.

No one aspires to be a prostitute. So, it’s wise to examine why individuals become trapped in such a demeaning, dangerous trade.

And this is where the issue of race comes in.

Police say the alleged shooter, 21-year-old Robert Aaron Long, said he was motivated by a sexual addiction that was at odds with his religious beliefs.

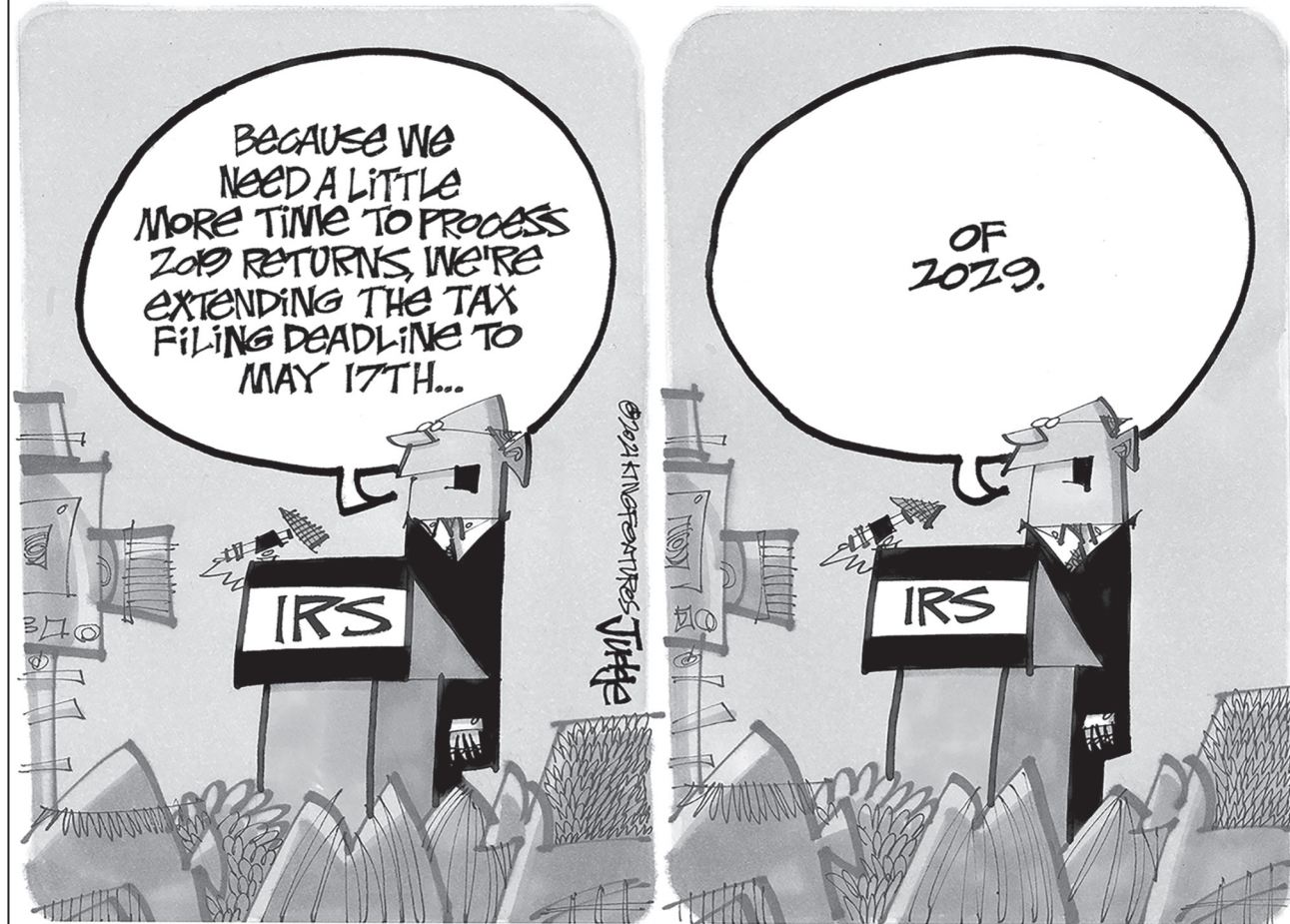
Fox News provocateur Sean Hannity pointed to this statement by Long as evidence that this was not a racially motivated crime.

I don’t know what thoughts were swimming around in the killer’s head and don’t much care.

The racial issue is: What put these women of color in a place where they were so vulnerable to violence?

And the answer to that is that it is not just bad men who traffic people across borders, but those who support their exploitation here.

(Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist. He works as a freelance reporter in the Springfield area. Scottreeder1965@gmail.com)



Rural taverns oppose “dry” vote – 1951

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from March 27, 1996.)

By Jessica Nashold

It didn’t come to a vote until April 3, 1951, but the last weeks of March were filled with discussion on the subject of possibly making rural Mendota Township a “Dry” township.

The Mendota Rural Tavern Association took full page ads in the March 22 and March 29 issues of *The Reporter* to urge that voters register a “No” on the proposal that sale of liquor be banned outside the city limits in Mendota Township. They declared that Prohibitionists were basically motivated by a “fanatic urge to impose their will on others.” Referring to the failed experiment with Prohibition in the 1920s and early 1930s, they reminded voters –

Prohibition doesn’t prohibit.

An ad urging a “Yes” vote was placed by the Temperance League of Illinois and the Mendota Ministerial Association. Their desire was to “better protect our youth and make highways safer for all.”

Vote to confine the taverns to the incorporated areas.

Township voters elected to continue “wet” by a count of 214 against change and 74 in favor.

Easter came early in 1951, on March 25, the earliest date possible. Kiwanis sponsored an Easter egg hunt on the high school athletic field. Oden Jordal was chairman of this project, which began at 2 p.m. for children from toddlers through fourth grade.

Sixty dozen eggs were hidden in the field.

It was no time at all before the eggs were all in baskets being taken home by proud youngsters.

Spurgeon’s advertised Easter dresses in a \$3.98 to \$10.95 range, with hemlines at least eight inches below the knee. Easter bonnets featured bows, accents of fruit or feathers and veils.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

At the State Theatre on Easter Sunday, 1951, there were three afternoon and two evening showings of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis in “At War with the Army.”

A GI laugh riot with gags, gals, songs and madcap fun.

Holy Cross captured the championship trophy in the Peoria Diocesan Basketball Tournament. The team had enjoyed an undefeated season and in the championship match with Sacred Heart of Moline, handed that team its first defeat. Dick McMahon was named Most Valuable Player, garnering a trophy for that achievement.

Henry Sauer, treasurer of the local Red Cross Drive, said Mendota was still lacking \$1,150 of meeting its \$2,500 quota. Christ Troupis, drive chairman, indicated some of the materials Red Cross was providing for the soon-to-be-opened Mendota Community Hospital – huck toweling, poplin for screens in patients’ rooms and unbleached sheeting.

The Mendota Community Hospital Auxiliary mounted an all-out membership drive headed by Mrs. Victor Schuhler, Mrs. Ed Cannon and Mrs. August Wilhelm. Dozens of workers canvassed Mendota’s four wards as well as surrounding communities to sign up members.

The Minute Men Drive for the hospital building fund was still \$13,250 short of its goal in March 1951. Chairman Harry Fahler announced a house-to-house canvass would begin shortly.

In the Hi-Light, Pat Phalen’s D.O. News column mentioned some of the work sites for students in that program: Patsy Smith, Harris Hospital; Harry Phalen, Brown’s Sheet Metal; Don Bialas, Reeser’s Farm Implement; LaVerne Spitz, Wayside Press; Marliyn Spanier, Mendota 5 and 10 Cent Store.

Mendota school boards joined forces to appoint a speech correctionist, Therese Ann Worland.

Due to the specialization of her work, she is paid by the state.

Superintendent M.E. Steele said he had been trying for several years to have Mendota approved for a correctionist. Miss Worland would serve primarily in the grade schools, but would also be available to help high school students.

The school boards approved a \$175 cost-of-living increase for the 1950-51 school year. There would be lump sum payments, made in April 1951. Bus drivers would be given an increased gas allowance.

The I.S.N.U. Gamma Phi Circus made its fourth visit to Mendota, performing in the MHS gym. Voting by students made Jean Herbert the Circus Queen. Her court was comprised of Helen Bunton, Nancy Gove, Evelyn Sollitt and Suzanne Schmitt.

Mendota Baptists had seen an increase of 41 members since completion of their new church in the fall of 1950. On Easter Sunday evening in 1951, 22 new members were baptized. Other new members had become affiliated by letters of transfer.

One Monday in March, the city council had a newsworthy meeting – **With no immediate important business at hand, the city fathers conducted a brief meeting, devoid of a single controversial issue.**

A rare occurrence.

Facts ignored in attacks on Asian Americans

By Rich Lowry

At least it’s permissible to question the conclusions of federal law enforcement again.

During the Russia investigation and afterward, officials like FBI Director Christopher Wray were put on a pedestal by Democrats and the media.

Now, Wray has occasioned sharp Democratic dissent by stating that the horrifying murder spree at Atlanta-area spas that killed six Asian American women wasn’t racially motivated.

Tammy Duckworth, the Democratic senator from Illinois, said in response to Wray that she wanted to see a deeper investigation, “It looks racially motivated to me.” The new Democratic senator from Georgia, Raphael Warnock, agreed, “We all know hate when we see it.”

These are evidence-free objections to an FBI evaluation that we have every reason to believe is based on the best-available facts.

All indications so far, including the perpetrator’s statement as related by the police and reporting about his background in the press, suggest that he was struggling with a sex addiction, visited massage parlors for sex, and carried out his attacks as, by his perverse reasoning, vengeance against the parlors as the occasion for his temptation.

What he did is unforgivably awful, heartbreakingly destructive, and, of course, profoundly hateful.

It’s just not the right kind of hate to fit a woke narrative of white supremacists targeting Asian Americans in a frenzy of racism fueled by former President Donald Trump’s use of terms like “the China virus” and “Kung Flu” during the pandemic.

There has been an ongoing effort to link the spa shootings to a trend of increasing hate crimes against Asian Americans. There is much still to learn about this phenomenon. It may have peaked last spring with the onset of the coronavirus and certainly appears to be driven by several big cities, especially New York City, Los Angeles and the Bay Area. But this broader trend doesn’t appear to fit a neat woke narrative, either.

For one thing, many attacks against Asian Americans clearly aren’t acts of white supremacism, or even incidents

of racial hatred.

It is an unfortunate feature of big American cities at the moment that not much explanation is needed for attacks against anyone other than a rising tide of lawlessness. That surely accounts for some significant percentage -- if by no means all -- of the attacks.

A high-profile stabbing of a Chinese man in Manhattan in February was carried out by a troubled 23-year-old man from Yemen. Despite pressure from Asian American activists, prosecutors declined to charge the assault as a hate crime after they found no evidence that it was.

The suspect in the killing of Vicha Ratanapakdee, an elderly Thai American who died after being brutally pushed to the ground in broad daylight in San Francisco in January, is a 19-year-old Black man.

Last March, an Asian American woman was assailed on a bus in the Bronx by a group of Black teenage girls who accused her of spreading the coronavirus. There can be no doubt about the racial element of this assault, but the perpetrators belonged to one of the demographic groups in America least likely to be influenced by Trump or to favor white nationalism.

A New York Times story on attacks in New York referred to the awkwardness when the attackers are other minorities. It noted that some Asian American community leaders “say tougher enforcement could end up pitting Asian Americans against Black and Latino communities, inflaming racial tensions.” The head of a Chinese social services agency told the paper that “many of his Asian colleagues were verbally harassed during the pandemic but chose not to alert law enforcement because they worried the perpetrators, who were often people of color, could be mistreated by the police.”

None of these complications are allowed to interfere with a simplistic narrative of Asian Americans as victims of white supremacy, no matter what the facts are, no matter what the hitherto unassailable FBI director says.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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Mendota City Officials

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FIRST WARD ALDERMEN

James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...815-538-2474

John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,815-539-9934

SECOND WARD ALDERMEN

John Holland, 902 West Lawn,815-528-5367

Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,630-841-1315

THIRD WARD ALDERMEN

Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave.,815-538-2414

Jay Miller, 702 First Ave.,757-412-9374

FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN

Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,815-252-7243

Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,815-910-0816

LOCAL AND AREA

Report finds infection control policy deficiencies at Illinois veterans homes

By SARAH MANSUR
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—A joint report from two state agencies and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs found Illinois' four state-run veterans homes lack standardized infection prevention policies despite previous audits suggesting they be implemented.

The report from the Interagency Infection Prevention Project, or IIPP, calls for the facilities to create a new infection control position and increase staffing and training.

The goal of the IIPP is to "support an integrated and comprehensive response to COVID-19" at the state's veterans homes, according to the joint report of the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and USDVA.

While the report is dated March 9, it was only made public March 26, according to an IDVA spokesperson.

The report references the May 2019 audit issued after the outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at the Quincy Veterans Home that made similar findings about the lack of uniform policies across facilities and the need to create them.

But, when the pandemic hit Illinois in March 2020, those policies had not been enacted.

"Following the audit in 2019, the Senior Home Administrator retired. The task of creating an integrated Infection Control Program was deferred while that position remained open. Some of the Veterans' Homes have updated their infection prevention policies, independently of one another, since then," according to the joint report.



"Standardized policies and procedures, as recommended in the 2019 audit, are needed as one part of an infection prevention program," the report continued.

The public release of the report came the same day as Gov. JB Pritzker's announcement on Friday that his administration appointed Terry Prince, a 31-year U.S. Navy veteran, as new Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs director.

Prince will serve as acting director pending a confirmation vote of the state Senate, replacing former director Linda Chapa LaVia, who resigned in January following calls for her to step down due to the department's handling of the outbreak at LaSalle. Peter Nezamis has been acting director since Chapa LaVia's January resignation.

The formation of the IIPP was prompted after all three agencies — IDVA, IDPH and USDVA — jointly conducted a site visit together on Nov. 12 at the LaSalle Veterans

Home in response to a COVID-19 outbreak there.

Members of the team consisted of an infection control manager at the USDVA, two infection prevention consultants with IDPH and a medical consultant with IDPH.

The LaSalle home has reported 36 resident deaths due to COVID-19 since November. The homes at Quincy and Manteno have also experienced coronavirus outbreaks that have resulted in 24 and 19 resident deaths, respectively. The home in Anna did not report any resident deaths resulting from COVID-19 related illnesses, according to the report.

Outbreaks at the three homes have waned since they were initially reported.

According to the report, March 1 was the last new positive resident test at LaSalle; Jan. 1 was the last new positive resident test at Quincy; Nov. 25 was the last new positive resident test at Anna; and six residents who tested positive between Feb. 1 and Feb. 13 at Manteno were the latest cluster of positive tests there.

The project team conducted a total of 15 on-site, in-person visits across all four homes, including five total visits to LaSalle, between Nov. 12 and Feb. 11. They also held weekly 45-minute videoconferences and daily communications between the homes and agencies.

A report from first on-site visit to LaSalle on Nov. 12 documented multiple inappropriate uses of personal protective equipment, violations of social distancing requirements and the use of less effective nonalcohol based hand sanitizer.

The IIPP report makes six broad recommendations for improving the response to COVID-19 and other potential viral outbreaks

at the four veterans' homes.

First, the report recommends the facilities "develop and implement system-wide policies, procedures, and practices for infection prevention," and "create a position for a Senior Infection Preventionist and establish a new, system-wide Infection Prevention Committee."

The second recommendation is for facilities to "expand system capacity for infection prevention."

This recommendation includes providing staffing levels based on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, such as at least one full-time position for each facility with more than 100 beds.

The third and fourth recommendations advise that the facilities "broaden and deepen the perspective of the infection preventionists," and "strengthen staff-wide training."

Lastly, the report recommends facilities closely monitor compliance with the infection policy, including compliance with PPE guidelines and hand hygiene, and establish collaboration among top management and frontline staff to problem solve and develop strategies for infection prevention.

Chairpersons of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees, Rep. Stephanie Kifowit and Sen. Tom Cullerton, did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the report.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- ABC has given notice to the Oscars to do a better job with the upcoming Academy Awards on Sunday, April 25, because the Golden Globes were a ratings disaster (falling to 6.9 million viewers from 18.3 million last year). The Globes are known for being the biggest party of the year, with the superstars on a glittering red carpet, but a big-party awards show without a big party is just another awards show. Since fewer people have seen movies because of COVID and have been watching them on TV screens when they do, the nominated films may not impress movie fans much. Tina Fey and Amy Poehler were funny hosts but weren't enough, as we watch lackluster presenters and celebrities accepting awards in their pajamas (yes, I mean you, Jody Foster). It just isn't glamorous. Good luck, Oscar!

George Clooney and Julia Roberts are reuniting later this year for "Ticket to Paradise," a romantic comedy. Their pairings in "Ocean's 11"/"Ocean's 12" and "Money Monster" collectively netted more than \$906 million. They play a divorced couple who travel to Bali to try to stop their

daughter from making the same mistake they think they did 25 years earlier. Despite what tabloids have tried to promote, George and Julia are not romantically involved, even though their chemistry is so believable many think they are. It's called acting, folks!

Director/writer Adam McKay and Netflix have rounded up a big cast for their upcoming film "Don't Look Up," an American political satire/disaster comedy that stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence as two low-level astronomers trying to warn mankind about an asteroid that will destroy Earth. They are supported by: Chris Evans, Cate Blanchett, Timothee Chalamet, Meryl Streep, Gina Gershon, Jonah Hill, Ron Perlman, Mark Rylance, Matthew Perry, Michael Chiklis, Tyler Perry and Ariana Grande. Sounds epic!

Thought it was weird hearing about a movement to ban the hit musical "Grease" (1978), starring John Travol-

ta and Olivia Newton-John, "because it's sexist, homophobic and slut-shaming," which is ridiculous because that's the way things were in 1959. Should we whitewash everything we don't like today because we've stretched and grown? The Library of Congress thought enough of "Grease" to select it for preservation in the National Film Registry last year.

Then there's late children's author Dr. Seuss, who Forbes Magazine says doubled his estate's income last year to an estimated \$33 million, making him the second-highest-paid dead celebrity behind Michael Jackson. His publishing catalog dropped six of his children's books -- "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," "If I Ran the Zoo," "McElligot's Pool," "On Beyond Zebra!" "Scrambled Eggs Super!" and "The Cat's Quizzer" -- because, after being reviewed by consulting educators, they were found to "portray people in hurtful ways amid accusations of racist imagery." What's next, should we ban "The Cat in the Hat," because nobody wears stovepipe hats anymore? Yikes!

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J. Travolta

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I was watching the Netflix documentary "The Last Blockbuster," and it brought back a lot of good memories. One of the actors interviewed was Eric Close. I hadn't seen him in anything in years. Wasn't he on a police drama? -- **E.M.**

A: Eric Close has been a regular on several prime-time shows, but you're probably thinking of "Without a Trace," where he played an FBI agent. It was a CBS mystery drama that ran from 2002 to 2009 and starred Close alongside Anthony LaPaglia and Poppy Montgomery.

He next appeared as attorney Travis Tanner for four seasons on the USA Network series "Suits" and then starred opposite Connie Britton on ABC's "Nashville." Close most recently appeared in the Hallmark movie "A Christmas Love Story."

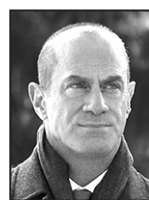
"The Last Blockbuster" is about, as the title suggests, the last remaining Blockbuster Video store. It's located in Bend, Oregon, and is run by general manager Sandi Harding, who is featured in the documentary. Other celebrities featured include comedic actors Paul Scheer ("The League"), who used to work at Blockbuster and has

the pictures to prove it, and director Kevin Smith.

Q: I was watching a classic episode of "The Office" recently where Jim and Pam go to Michael and Jan's condo for dinner. Who is the woman who played Dwight's former babysitter, whom he brought to the party? It was driving me crazy because I know I've seen her in tons of movies over the years. -- **D.E.**

A: She's character actress Beth Grant. If the name doesn't ring a bell, you'd surely recognize her from such critically acclaimed movies as "Rain Man," where she memorably played the farm woman who answered the door to Tom Cruise, and later played the pageant official in "Little Miss Sunshine." She was a regular on the TV comedy "The Mindy Project," which starred Mindy Kaling, who played Kelly in "The Office."

If you want to scroll through the long list of her many, many credits, go to IMDb.com and search under Beth Grant. She's quite an



C. Meloni

accomplished actress!

Q: I'm so happy that Chris Meloni is returning to "Law & Order: SVU." When will those episodes air? -- **B.S.**

A: It's been a decade since Meloni left the hit show after contract negotiations fell through. He recently told "People" magazine that he felt he would never return, but for reasons he says are personal, he's had a change of heart. Meloni will now head up a new "Law & Order" franchise, "Law & Order: Organized Crime." On April 1 on NBC, Meloni will return home to "SVU" for a special episode opposite his former co-star and friend Mariska Hargitay, followed by the premiere of "Organized Crime."

In the newest "L&O" spinoff, Meloni will reprise his role as Elliot Stabler, who returns to the NYPD to take on the city's most powerful organized crime syndicates. Tamara Taylor ("Bones") and Dylan McDermott ("American Horror Story") round out the cast.

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

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Couch Theater

By Amy Anderson

George Clooney plays a hotshot, know-it-all, stock-picking financial influencer with his own TV show in the 2016 thriller "Money Monster." Jack O'Connell plays a viewer who storms the set, taking everyone hostage after a tip from the "Money Monster" ruined his personal finances. Scary, no? That's the stock market for you. Big money, big risk and sometimes tragedy.

What's got me thinking about money is the stimulus check I got last week and the wild few minutes that I felt relatively rich -- before I paid my bills and made respectable purchases like the adult that I am. Here are four stock-market movies to put you on a wild, vicarious financial ride.

"The Big Short" -- Based on a true story -- during a period in time of which many of us are painfully aware -- this

is a funny and informative take on the central players in the 2007-2008 housing bubble collapse. Independent hedge fund managers and bank reps see the inevitable tanking of the housing market and commit to cashing in on it by betting against repayment of subprime mortgages through complicated financial instruments called CDOs. Stars Christian Bale, Steven Carrell, Brad Pitt and Ryan Gosling.

"The Wolf of Wall Street" -- Leonardo DiCaprio as his wicked, decadent, corrupt best, stars as Jordan Belfort, a relentless and hard-partying broker who has it all, loses it all and then reclaims it again before being targeted by the feds. Jonah Hill plays Donnie Azoff, a partner in Jordan's fraudulent brokerage that they populate with young, brash hucksters pressed hard to make the sale.

"Wall Street" -- The quintessential stock-market

flick. Bud Fox (Charlie Sheen) is an ambitious young buck who idolizes the uber successful Gordon Gecko (Michael Douglas). He snags a spot as Gecko's apprentice, but only by skirting the law and assisting in underhanded, insider trading tactics. Oftentimes, a meteoric rise comes with a mighty fall.

"Trading Places" -- Two unconscionable stockbroker brothers, Mortimer and Randolph Duke, bet on a social experiment: Can a street-smart hustler do just as well in the high-falutin' world of finance, and will a prosperous and privileged snob keep his feet when faced with adverse circumstances -- i.e., after he's set up for a crime he didn't commit and loses all his advantages? It's a prince and pauper classic comedy starring Eddie Murphy and Dan Ackroyd.

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• Trivia Test •

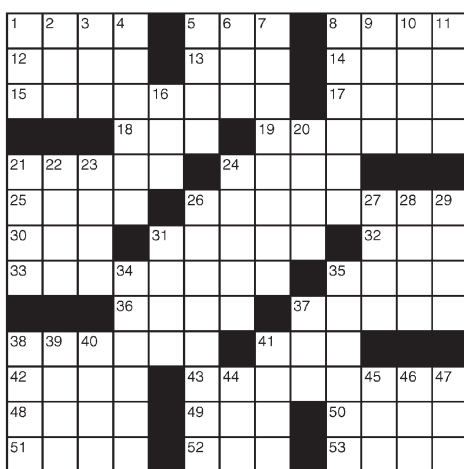
1. SCIENCE: Where is the world's most active volcano located?
2. TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV drama invented the catchphrase "The truth is out there"?
3. MATH: What is the total of numbers 1-100 added consecutively (1+2+3, etc.)?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do the 100 folds in a chef's hat represent?
5. LITERATURE: In which Harry Potter book does the Whomping Willow make its first appearance?
6. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries in Africa have only four letters in their names?
7. MOVIES: In the animated movie "Up," to which scouting

- group does Russell belong?
8. ARCHITECTURE: Who designed the famous Fallingwater House in Pennsylvania?
 9. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "hyper" mean?
 10. MEDICAL: What is the common ailment classified in medical terms as singultus?
- Answers
1. Hawaii (Mauna Loa)
 2. "The X-Files"
 3. 5,050
 4. 100 ways to cook an egg
 5. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets"
 6. Three: Chad, Mali and Togo
 7. Wilderness Explorers
 8. Frank Lloyd Wright
 9. Over, excessive
 10. Hiccups
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tub session
- 5 Petrol
- 8 Microwaves
- 12 Jai --
- 13 Dadaist artist
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 Home to the Buccaneers
- 17 Fish feature
- 18 Evening hrs.
- 19 Whirl
- 21 Jazz genre
- 24 Crossword hint
- 25 Former mates
- 26 Turquoise-like color
- 30 Mimic
- 32 Rib
- 31 Ltr. holder
- 33 Pentagon
- 35 VIPs
- 36 Broad
- 37 The Eternal City
- 38 Golfer's wear
- 39 Calms
- 41 Actor
- 42 Holbrook
- 43 Canal zone
- 44 Dorm room sleepers
- 48 Curved molding
- 49 Corn spike
- 50 Pakistani language



- 51 Office plant
- 52 Reuben bread
- 53 Grate
- 9 Operatic solo
- 10 Hide
- 11 Auction
- 16 Sound booster
- 20 Year-end celebration
- 21 Tempo
- 22 Big fair, for short
- 23 Pager sound
- 24 Stop
- 26 Trucker in a union
- 27 Floral rings
- 28 Nullify
- 29 Always
- 31 Helen's home
- 34 Impudent
- 35 Orville's brother
- 37 Moving day rental
- 38 Starting
- 39 Olympic sled
- 40 Lusty look
- 41 Employ
- 44 Path
- 45 Epoch
- 46 License to drill?
- 47 Dine

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* Johnny Cash's estate was approached by an advertising company asking for permission to use "Ring of Fire" in an ad for hemorrhoid cream. The request was refused.

* Tulips can continue to grow as much as an inch per day after being cut.

* A man with severe OCD and a phobia about germs attempted to commit suicide with a gun to his head. Instead of killing him, the bullet eliminated his mental illness without any other damage.

* Nobody knows how the Academy Awards came to be referred to as "the Oscars." The earliest mention was in 1932 and became official in 1939.

* In 1911, Elmer McCurdy robbed a passenger train he thought contained thousands of dollars, and was shot by lawmen after making off with just \$46. His unclaimed corpse was then embalmed and sold to a traveling carnival. It would be used as a prop or attraction in haunted houses and wax museums for the next 66 years (even showing up on the set of "The Six Million Dollar Man"), until he was finally buried at the famous Boot Hill cemetery in Dodge City, Kansas.

* Vanilla flavoring is sometimes made with beaver urine.

* A statue of Nikola Tesla in Silicon Valley radiates free Wi-Fi. It was created as an homage to his vision for wireless communication.

* By the time they have been retired for two years, 78% of former NFL players have gone bankrupt or are under financial stress because of joblessness or divorce.

* A company in the U.K. offers "being hungover" as a valid reason for calling in sick to work.

Thought for the Day: "The beautiful thing about life is that we will never reach an age where there is nothing left to learn, see or be; it's magical, really." -- Dulce Ruby

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P	S	E	E	R	A	N	R	E	F
U	U	E	A	V	E	E	O	G	O
S	O	E	N	I	M	L	Z	E	N
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A	N	E	S	A	V	E	L	A	P
U	E	T	R	I	V	E	T	S	E
E	V	A	R	G	S	P	M	A	
L	T	I	G	A	B	A	T	A	M
A	E	V	A	S	I	A	I	V	A
S	A	P	S	Z	A	H	G	A	T

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

LOCAL AND AREA

✓ Local offices up for election on April 6

MENDOTA – On April 6, voters will choose candidates for numerous local offices including MUNICIPAL-Mayor or President, Clerk, Treasurer, Aldermen or Trustees; TOWNSHIP-Supervisor, Clerk, Assessor or Multi-Township Assessor, Highway Commissioner and Trustees.

Non-partisan offices include MUNICIPAL-Commissioners; LIBRARY DISTRICT-Trustees; REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOLS-Trustees; SCHOOL DISTRICT-Board Members; COMMUNITY COLLEGE-Trustees; FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT-Trustees; and other special purpose districts.

• **LaSalle County •**
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CITY CLERK - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
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CITY TREASURER - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
ALDERMAN
MENDOTA WARD 1
(Vote for one)
JAMES FITZPATRICK
MENDOTA WARD 2
(Vote for one)
LEO HOCHSTATTER
MENDOTA WARD 3
(Vote for one)
KYLE KIM
MENDOTA WARD 4
(Vote for one)
VICKI JOHNSON
MENDOTA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 280

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JAMES STROUSS
JIM SUNDBERG
JIM LAUER
AARON ELSTON
MENDOTA GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 289
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM - from the remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from Mendota Township 36N Range 1E
(Vote for two)
HOLLI RAPP
TIM POHL
SEAN PAPPAS
AMANDA COSS
ELIZABETH ZINKE

TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
JOEL D. JOHNSON
GRAVES-HUME PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than four)
NANCY JACKSON
ADRIANA CALAMACO
LUZ SCHMIDT
CAROLLINE LEWIS
MENDOTA TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
PEGGIE L. REDDICK
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
LINDA A. CORRIGAN
TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR
(Vote for one)
MICHAEL GEBER
SUSAN HOCHSTATTER
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
CARLOS S. AMBLER
MARVIN FULTZ
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
MICHAEL L. WASMER
JEROME (JERRY) O'SADNICK
TRACY KNAPP
EVAN WIXOM
THOMAS W. TROUTMAN

OPHIR TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
ROBERT E. LARKIN JR.
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
BILL PAKENHAM
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
TIM SELQUIST
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
STEPHEN C. NASHOLD
ETHEL M. BAUER
PAUL SALANDER
JEFFERY LANDERS
JAMES SUNDBERG
COMMUNITY BUILDING MANAGER
(Vote for not more than three)
JAY F. ALLEN
JOHN R. GARRITY
JAMES S. BELL

MERIDEN, OPHIR & TROY GROVE TOWNSHIPS
MULTI-TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR
(Vote for one)
DEB LANE
VILLAGE OF TROY GROVE
VILLAGE PRESIDENT - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
CHARLES M. MAMMEN
VILLAGE CLERK - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
CASSANDRA STOVALL-MILUS
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than three)
DAVID THOMPSON
MITCHELL MELAU
TROY GROVE TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
KAREN STREMLAU
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
DARLENE WUJEK
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
MICHAEL MATHIEU
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
THOMAS FITZGERALD
JOHN HOCHSTATTER
HENRY KIBILKA IV

NICK STREMLAU
MERIDEN, OPHIR & TROY GROVE TOWNSHIPS
MULTI-TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR
(Vote for one)
DEB LANE
CITY OF EARLVILLE
MAYOR - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
MICHAEL S. HALL
MARK ACTIS
CITY CLERK - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
JANE M. BAUER
CITY TREASURER - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
BRUCE A. BAUER
ALDERMAN WARD 1
(Vote for one)
CHARLES W. JENKINS II
WARD 2
(Vote for one)
ROBIN L. AUSTIN
WARD 3
(Vote for one)
BRYAN NELSON
EARLVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 9

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JOHN EAGER
GREGG L. PFAFF
CARL ZIMMERMAN
JEFFREY MALY
EARLVILLE LIBRARY DISTRICT
LIBRARY TRUSTEE 6-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than two)
ANN HECATHORN
ROBERT F. NANZER JR
EARL TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
TYLER MELOY
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
JOYCLYN JONES
TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR
(Vote for one)
ANDREA WHITTAKER
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
JEFFREY CAMPBELL
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
ROGER D. TORMAN
RICHARD JONES
ADAM BROWDER
CARL ZIMMERMAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS
ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 513

TRUSTEES TO SERVE A 6-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than two)
MAUREEN REBHOLZ
EVERETT J. SOLON
LASALLE, MARSHALL AND PUTNAM COUNTIES
MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
(Vote for not more than two)
JOHN GLASCOCK
LASALLE COUNTY
WRITE-IN
EARLY VOTING & ELECTION DAY VOTING

Early voting began on Feb. 25 and continues through Monday, April 5. LaSalle County voters wishing to vote early may do so at the LaSalle County Governmental Complex, 707 E. Etna Road, Ottawa, during the following hours:
Saturday, April 3 from 8 a.m.-noon (closed for all other business), and Monday, April 5 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

For further information, please contact the LaSalle County Clerk's office at (815) 434-8202.

• **Lee County •**
CITY OF AMBOY
MAYOR
(Vote for one)
JOHN E. SCHAMBERGER
CITY CLERK
(Vote for one)
MELISSA M. EISENBERG
CITY TREASURER
(Vote for one)
NANCY NEAL
ALDERMAN
AMBOY WARD 1
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
AMBOY WARD 2
(Vote for one)
WILLIAM W. BONTZ
AMBOY WARD 3
(Vote for one)
DAVID J. SHAW
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 272

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
ELSA PAYNE
AMANDA POWERS
RORY WHITE
KATIE PRATT
AMBOY TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
DENNIS MCCOY
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
AMY SCUDDER
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
THOMAS BULFER
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
DONALD BONNELL
DAVID NAUMAN
CARL GROSSMAN
WILLIAM METZEN
VILLAGE OF COMPTON
VILLAGE PRESIDENT
(Vote for one)
CANDY JONSSON
VILLAGE CLERK
(Vote for one)
JOE ASKINS
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than three)
KARL HOMER
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - Unexpired 2-year term
(Vote for one)
HAZEL SIMS
WILL GIZA
VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

(Vote for one)
MICHAEL TORMAN
JOHN PRENTICE
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than three)
ANITA K. HOPKINS
TARA MILTON
KARL J. KARLSSON
DONNA CHICK
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - Unexpired 2-year term
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
PAW PAW COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 271
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JASON PENMAN
KIMBERLY TORMAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
PAW PAW LIBRARY DISTRICT
LIBRARY TRUSTEE 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than four)
JANIS DUNKLAU
SUSANNE JOHNSTON
MAYLIN REED
LIBRARY TRUSTEE UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than three)
NO CANDIDATE
VILLAGE OF SUBLETTE
VILLAGE PRESIDENT
(Vote for one)
JOHN STENZEL
VILLAGE CLERK
(Vote for one)
KATHERINE L. LEFFELMAN
VILLAGE TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than three)
ROBERT BULFER
JULIE KESSEL
LARRY ELLIS
MACKENZIE BELAN
DOUG WORRELL
SUBLETTE TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
DANIEL STEPHENITCH
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
DEBORAH A. SCHULTZ
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
DENNIS D. ERBES
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
ANNETTE J. BONNELL
THOMAS G LAUER
DELBERT STENZEL
DOUGLAS McLAUGHLIN
TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY BUILDING BOARD
(Vote for not more than three)
NO CANDIDATE

VILLAGE OF WEST BROOKLYN
VILLAGE PRESIDENT
(Vote for one)
SHAUN BULLOCK
VILLAGE CLERK
(Vote for one)
THOMAS NEFF
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than three)
ERIK BODMER
MICHAEL BURKARDT
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - Unexpired 2-year term
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
BROOKLYN TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
MICHELLE MORRIS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
STEVEN F. BRODKO
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
JERROLL K. SWOPE
GERALD A. HANSON
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
SCOTT GILMORE
CRAIG AYERS
JULIE L. SCHMIDT
EARLVILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 9
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JOHN EAGER
GREGG L. PFAFF
CARL ZIMMERMAN
JEFFREY MALY
EARLVILLE LIBRARY DISTRICT
LIBRARY TRUSTEE 6-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than two)
ANN HECATHORN
ROBERT F. NANZER JR
MENDOTA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 280

BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JAMES STROUSS
JIM SUNDBERG
JIM LAUER
AARON ELSTON
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
MENDOTA GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 289
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM - from the remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from Mendota Township 36N Range 1E
(Vote for two)
HOLLI RAPP
TIM POHL
SEAN PAPPAS
AMANDA COSS
ELIZABETH ZINK
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
JOEL D. JOHNSON
LA MOILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 303
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JAMES STROUSS
JIM SUNDBERG
JIM LAUER
AARON ELSTON
MENDOTA GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 289
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM - from the remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from Mendota Township 36N Range 1E
(Vote for two)
HOLLI RAPP
TIM POHL
SEAN PAPPAS
AMANDA COSS
ELIZABETH ZINK
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
JOEL D. JOHNSON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS
ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 513

TRUSTEES TO SERVE A 6-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than two)
MAUREEN REBHOLZ
EVERETT J. SOLON
LAMOILLE CUSD NO. 303
PROPOSITION TO ELECT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AT LARGE
Shall members of the Board of Education of LaMoille C.U.S.D. #303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois, be elected in 2021 and thereafter, at large and without restriction by area of residence within the district instead of the current restriction that not more than three (3) members on the board of education may be selected from one (1) congressional township in the school district?
YES
NO
EARLY VOTING & ELECTION DAY VOTING
Early voting began on Feb. 25 and continues through Monday, April 5. Bureau County voters wishing to vote early may do so at the Bureau County Courthouse, 700 S. Main St., Princeton on Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m.-noon and Monday, April 5 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

For further information, please contact the Bureau County Clerk's office at (815) 875-2014.

PROPOSITION TO ELECT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AT LARGE
Shall members of the Board of Education of LaMoille C.U.S.D. #303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois, be elected in 2021 and thereafter, at large and without restriction by area of residence within the district instead of the current restriction that not more than three (3) members on the board of education may be selected from one (1) congressional township in the school district?
YES
NO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS
ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 513
TRUSTEES TO SERVE A 6-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than two)
MAUREEN REBHOLZ
EVERETT J. SOLON
EARLY VOTING & ELECTION DAY VOTING

Early voting began on Feb. 25 and continues through Monday, April 5. Lee County voters wishing to vote early may do so at the Election Department, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse, 112 E. Second St., Dixon, Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. until Monday, April 5 and on Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m.-noon. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

For further information, please contact the Lee County Clerk's office at (815) 288-3309.

• **Bureau County •**
VILLAGE OF LA MOILLE
VILLAGE PRESIDENT - 4-year term
(Vote for one)
STEVEN STOUFFER
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than three)
JAMES FLANAGAN
JAMES SCULLY
LESLIE D. BEND
VILLAGE TRUSTEE - 2-year term
BRADLEY D. FISCHER
LA MOILLE TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
BONNIE PEARSON
DAVID WEEKS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
ERIC LOVGREN
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
RICHARD GROSS
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than four)
LARRY SCRIBA
KEVIN HILDEBRAND
LINDA PURVIS
MICHAEL LEFFELMAN
CLARION TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR
(Vote for one)
BARBARA KLEIN
TOWNSHIP CLERK
(Vote for one)
LESLIE MOTTER
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
(Vote for one)
MARK STOUFFER
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE - 4-year term
(Vote for not more than four)
TIMOTHY STAMBERGER
WILBUR STAMBERGER
NATHAN ULTCH
WILLIAM WEBER
CLARION-LA MOILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

LIBRARY TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)
MICHELLE STOUFFER
VICKY BONNELL
SARAH STUEPFERT
WILLIAM SCHWABENLAND
LA MOILLE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 303

BOARD OF EDUCATION - FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for a total of three)
LARRY FORRISTALL
MENDOTA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 280
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM
(Vote for four)
JAMES STROUSS
JIM SUNDBERG
JIM LAUER
AARON ELSTON
MENDOTA GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 289
BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO SERVE AN UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM - from the remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
NO CANDIDATE
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from Mendota Township 36N Range 1E
(Vote for two)
HOLLI RAPP
TIM POHL
SEAN PAPPAS
AMANDA COSS
ELIZABETH ZINK
TO SERVE A FULL 4-YEAR TERM - from remaining Congressional Townships
(Vote for one)
JOEL D. JOHNSON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS
ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 513

TRUSTEES TO SERVE A 6-YEAR TERM
(Vote for not more than two)
MAUREEN REBHOLZ
EVERETT J. SOLON
LAMOILLE CUSD NO. 303
PROPOSITION TO ELECT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AT LARGE
Shall members of the Board of Education of LaMoille C.U.S.D. #303, Bureau and Lee Counties, Illinois, be elected in 2021 and thereafter, at large and without restriction by area of residence within the district instead of the current restriction that not more than three (3) members on the board of education may be selected from one (1) congressional township in the school district?
YES
NO
EARLY VOTING & ELECTION DAY VOTING

Early voting began on Feb. 25 and continues through Monday, April 5. Bureau County voters wishing to vote early may do so at the Bureau County Courthouse, 700 S. Main St., Princeton on Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m.-noon and Monday, April 5 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

For further information, please contact the Bureau County Clerk's office at (815) 875-2014.

THE BACK PAGE

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF NANCY VICKREY Died March 25, 2001
Twenty years, where have they gone? Your smile, your laugh I still see you in my mind like it was yesterday. I will always remember mother, a son's love for his mother never dies. Although gone, still in my heart where you have always been! Until we meet again.
Wade Vickrey

BLESSED EVENTS

KOYAK – Andrew Koyak and Katherine Koyak of Peru, girl, March 22, 2021, at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley.

GARAGE SALES & NOTICES

ANNUAL MULTI FOUR-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
906 Carolyn St., Mendota North of Northbrook School.
Thursday, April 1 4-7 p.m.
Friday, April 2 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday, April 3 8-10 a.m.
(1/2 price day)
Beautiful name-brand clothing in perfect condition for girls & boys sizes newborn-adult, baby gear, crib, stroller, car seat, bouncer, quality toys, in-style home décor, current housewares, child & adult shoes, books, deluxe costumes, bedding & much more.
All items are like new & very clean.
Please wear a mask.
2t12msr

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you sincerely for your kind expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Gerald "Jerry" Leffelman. Many thanks to Kathy for her help and support, the American Legion and Fr. Randy Fronck for the services. Special thanks to Bob, Larry and Louie, true friends to the end.
Sylvia, Susan, Mark, Chris, Annette, Dale, Beth, Kevin, Keith, Grandkids and Great-Grandkids

The family of Ken Henkel would like to thank everyone for the cards, donations and memorials. Thank you also to Father Peter Pilon, Deacon Ray Fisher, Catherine Wasmer of the Wasmer Funeral Home, Ziggie's Catering, Dr. David Scholl, OSF Hospice, especially Andrea, and to Ken's nieces and nephews who served as readers and pallbearers.
Ron and Linda Henkel Janet and Bill Politsch Linda Kasprak

City Ordinances

Burn Ordinance

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

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

Animals-Pet Waste Ordinance

- The purpose of this section is to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in the City of Mendota so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.
- Requirement for disposal. All pet owners and keepers are required to immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste deposited on any property, public or private, not owned or possessed by that person.
- Exemptions. Any owner or keeper who requires the use of a disability assistance animal shall be exempt from the provisions of this section while such animal is being used for that purpose.
- Violations and penalties. Any person(s) who is found to have violated the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of no less than \$25 and no more than \$75.

POLICE BLOTTER

ALCOHOL CHARGE

Matthew J. Friel, 18, of Sublette, was charged with city ordinance violation for possession of alcohol by a minor after a traffic stop at 13th Avenue and Meriden Street at 1:40 a.m. March 20. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

Incinerator hours

MENDOTA—Incinerator (burn pit) hours for the city of Mendota are as follows:

- Monday – 3 to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thursday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Friday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

★

★

VOTE

On April 6th, elect
CARLOS AMBLER
Mendota Township
Road Commissioner

- ✓ 27 years experience with road and bridge maintenance and snow removal
- ✓ Worked with federal, state and local government agencies
- ✓ Heavy equipment operator
- ✓ Certified mechanic
- ✓ Welder
- ✓ Proven management and leadership skills

(Paid for by Carlos Ambler)

Need a Lift?

We can help.

Visit your local Authorized UltraComfort™ Dealer:

MEYERS
FURNITURE & FLOORING

1901 South State Highway 251
Mendota • 815-539-6263
meyersfurniture.com
Mon & Fri 9-6 • Tue & Wed 9-5
Thurs Closed • Sat 10-5
Sun Noon-4 09232019

It's Time for Change

Vote on April 6th

Holli Rapp

- ✓ Years of Experience teaching English language learners
- ✓ Decades of coaching
- ✓ Member of LaSalle Excellence Foundation
- ✓ Mendota alumnus

Amanda Coss

- ✓ Background in banking
- ✓ Improving our community
- ✓ Member of Imagine Mendota Committee
- ✓ Parent of students within the district

Mendota Education Association
paid for by MEA Political Action Committee

03292021

Since 1848

MAZE LUMBER

MAZE 173RD ANNIVERSARY 1848-2021

Illinois' longest operating lumberyard continues to thrive along Peru's historic riverfront. Maze Lumber has been providing top quality building materials to Illinois Valley contractors and homeowners for 173 years, still owned by the founding fathers (Maze).
Located in a 15,000-square foot showroom and office, we offer building materials for the modern home as well as a full line of the traditional lumber items used in home building, commercial construction, and industrial applications. Our experienced sales staff takes pride in their ability to provide knowledgeable assistance along with prompt delivery at reasonable prices.

BUILD IT ONCE -BUILD IT RIGHT



FIREPLACES



DECKING & FLOORING



INTERIOR DOORS



BATHROOMS



EXTERIOR DOORS



CABINETRY & COUNTERTOPS



WINDOWS



STONE, SIDING & ROOFING



KITCHENS

mazelumber.com
Water Street, Peru | 815-223-1742



SPORTS

Mendota blanks S. Valley; Dixon deals MHS 1st loss

Mendota rolled over Stillman Valley, 8-0, in a Big Northern Conference varsity boys' soccer contest on March 23 at Stillman Valley.

It was a team effort as five different players scored goals. Yahir Diaz led the way with four goals and one assist. Single tallies went to Ricky Orozco, Luis Garcia, Edgar Arteaga and Izaiah Nanez. Jasiel Watson picked up two assists and Orozco had one.

Manny Trejo was perfect

in goal with four saves.

Mendota claimed a 1-0 victory in the junior varsity game as Nanez booted home the lone goal.

The Trojans fell for the first time this season to a tough Dixon team, 4-1, on March 27 at the MHS field.

Mendota trailed 2-0 at halftime and could not catch up in the second half. Diaz had the Trojans' lone goal.

Trejo had 12 saves in goal for MHS (3-1, 2-1).

Spikers win 3 to run record to 5-0

Mendota remained perfect in Big Northern Conference play with two volleyball wins over league opponents to improve to 3-0.

The Spikers needed three sets to defeat Winnebago, 17-25, 25-19, 25-18 on March 23 at Winnebago.

Leaders in kills included Jaelyn Fitzgerald (eight), Paige Manning (six) and Reanna Brant (four). Jenna O'Donnell topped the team with three ace serves and 16 digs, while Ella Massey picked up 17 assists. Massey and Elly Buettner had six digs apiece.

Mendota and Stillman Valley also played to the limit and the Spikers prevailed, 17-25, 25-18, 25-17, on March 25 at the MHS gym.

Fitzgerald was a force at the net with 13 kills, while Brant added seven. O'Donnell and Massey picked up 18 and 14 digs, respectively, and Massey totaled 28 assists.

Mendota hosted Ottawa in nonconference play on March 29 and came away with a 25-16, 25-15 verdict to move its record to 5-0.

Lauren Martin and Fitzgerald had six and four kills, respectively, while Massey came away with four ace serves, six digs and 12 assists. O'Donnell recorded eight digs.



Lake Mendota a site for spring trout season

SPRINGFIELD — The 2021 Illinois Spring Trout Fishing Season will open Saturday, April 3 at 57 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites — the Spring Catch-and-Release Fishing Season — will open March 20. No trout may be kept during the catch and release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 3.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout will be stocked for the Fall Trout Fishing Season, which begins in October.

For the 2021 spring trout season, no trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from March 15 until the season opens at 5 a.m. April 3. Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

All anglers — including those who intend to release fish caught before April 3 — must have a fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp, unless they are under the age of 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The daily catch limit for each angler is five trout.

For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, check the website at www.ifishillinois.org.

Illinois 2021 fishing licenses and Inland Trout Stamps are available now at IDNR license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. For a list of locations, check the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

Fishing licenses and trout stamps also can be purchased online. Find the link on the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the open date.

Among the locations that will be open for the spring trout season are:

- Hennepin Canal Parkway-Bureau County
- Big Lake, Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area (SFWA)-Kendall County
- Illinois and Michigan Canal Lock 14, LaSalle-LaSalle County
- Lake Mendota, City of Mendota-LaSalle County
- Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park** - Ogle County
- Centennial Park Pond, Rock Falls-Whiteside County

(** Denotes site open for Catch-and-Release Early Spring Season fishing)



Top, Mendota's Jose Ruiz gets ready to deliver a shot on goal as Dixon's Ethan Fox moves in to defend on March 27 at the MHS field. Left, Mendota's Yahir Diaz races toward the ball in an attempt to get there before Dixon's Owen Grot. Dixon defeated the Trojans, 4-1, handing Mendota its first loss of the season. (Reporter photos)

K. Bond earns BNC honors

MENDOTA — The Big Northern Conference has named its boys' basketball all-conference selections for the 2020-21 season.

Sophomore Krew Bond was the lone representative from Mendota. He was chosen to the honorable mention team.

Final conference standings: Rockford Lutheran 10-0; Genoa-Kingston 8-2; Rockford Christian 7-3; Byron 6-4; Stillman Valley 6-4; Winnebago 6-4; Dixon 6-4; Rock Falls 3-7; North Boone 2-8; Oregon 1-9; Mendota 0-10.

FIRST TEAM

Zach Tucker, Sr., Byron; Jake Gaither, Jr., Dixon; Ethan Ackerman, Sr., Winnebago; Micah Johnson, Sr., Stillman Valley; Zach Derus, Sr., Rockford Lutheran; Walt Hill Jr., So., Rockford Lutheran; Isaac Johnson, Jr.,

SECOND TEAM

Max Connell, Jr., Byron; Carl Firch, Jr., Winnebago; Alec Golembiewski, Jr., Genoa-Kingston; Colin Nesler, Jr., Genoa-Kingston; Tyler Penny, Sr., Rockford Lutheran; Mike Jones Jr., Fr., Rockford Lutheran; Javeion Hoover, Sr., Rockford Christian

HONORABLE MENTION

Owen Ketter, Sr., Oregon; Aydin Lambert, Sr., Byron; Ray Maurchie, So., Winnebago; Luke Akerman, Sr., Rock Falls; Chad Gerig, Sr., Stillman Valley; Will Doetch, Jr., North Boone; Krew Bond, So., Mendota; Jake Gates, Jr.; Garrett Bertrand, Jr., Rockford Lutheran; Isaiah Johnson, Sr., Rockford Christian

D. Arteaga on all-BNC team

MENDOTA — The Big Northern Conference has named its girls' basketball all-conference selections for the 2020-21 season.

Senior Daisy Arteaga was the lone representative from Mendota. She was chosen to the honorable mention team.

Final conference standings: Dixon 9-1; Winnebago 9-1; Byron 8-2; Rock Falls 7-3; Stillman Valley 7-3; Genoa-Kingston 4-6; Rockford Lutheran 4-6; Rockford Christian 3-7; Mendota 2-8; Oregon 2-8; North Boone 0-10.

FIRST TEAM

Abby Guthrie, Sr., Dixon; Ava Kultgen, So., Byron; Lexi Lichty, Sr., Stillman Valley; Abi Peyton, Sr., Rock Falls; Miyah Brown, Jr., Winnebago; Renee Rittmeyer, Jr., Winnebago; Caylin Kimmel, Sr., Dixon; Lily McPherson, Sr., Genoa-Kingston; Mikayala Huffine, Jr.,

SECOND TEAM

Karli Fischbach, Sr., Rock Falls; Lauren Spangler, Sr., Rockford Lutheran; Campbell Schrank, So., Winnebago; Izzy McKinley, Jr., Byron; Ella Govig, So., Dixon; Madison Smith, Sr., Rockford Christian; Faith Fowler, Sr., Stillman Valley

HONORABLE MENTION

Ella Grundstrom, So., Byron; Sam Tourtillot, Jr., Dixon; Sydney Carlson, So., Rockford Lutheran; Daisy Arteaga, Sr., Mendota; Bridget Babb, Sr., Genoa-Kingston; Hadley Lutz, So., Oregon; Anika Bielskis, Jr., Winnebago; Courtney Park, So., Rockford Christian; Makenzie Yarc, Sr., North Boone; Payton Barger, Sr., Stillman Valley; Kylie Fischbach, Sr., Rock Falls

N. Boone strikes early, downs Trojans, 49-7

POPLAR GROVE — The Mendota Trojans were roughed up by North Boone, 49-7, in the spring football season opener on March 26 at Poplar Grove.

North Boone struck quickly with three touchdowns in the opening stanza. They came on passes of 64, 25 and 7 yards from quarterback Logan Emanuel.

The Trojans got on the board at the 4:16 mark of the second quarter on a 5-yard TD run by quarterback Ted Landgraf, followed by an Emilio Perez extra-point kick.

But that proved to be the only time Mendota got in the

end zone, while the Vikings added two more scores before halftime to take a 34-7 lead to intermission.

North Boone finalized the scoring in the third frame on touchdown strikes of 20 and 13 yards from Emanuel, who ended up completing 13 of 19 passes for 215 yards and five touchdowns. He also ran in for a score.

Mendota generated 157 yards of offense compared to 342 for North Boone. Landgraf rushed 15 times for 55 yards and he threw for 53 yards with seven completions. The Vikings intercepted four of his passes.

• Trojan Yardstick •

NORTH BOONE 49, MENDOTA 7

Mendota	0	7	0	0	-	7
North Boone	20	14	15	0	-	49

SCORING SUMMARY

NB - Doetch 64 pass from Emanuel (kick failed) 8:14 1Q
NB - Linn 25 pass from Emanuel (Bernal kick), 5:41 1Q
NB - Doetch 7 pass from Emanuel (Bernal kick), 2:35 1Q
ME - Landgraf 5 run (Perez kick), 4:16 2Q
NB - Doetch 83 kickoff return (Bernal kick), 4:04 2Q
NB - Emanuel 2 run (Bernal kick), 0:32 2Q
NB - Doetch 20 pass from Emanuel (Bernal kick), 8:30 3Q
NB - Doetch 13 pass from Emanuel (Linn pass from Emanuel), 2:19 3Q

	ME	NB
First Downs	13	20
Rushes-Yards	40-104	28-127
Passing Yards	53	215
Passes	7-21-4	13-21-0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	4-1
Punts-Avg	2-8	3-25
Penalties-Yards	1-10	3-35

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing — MENDOTA: Landgraf 15-55, Magallanes 10-27, Angulo 11-20, Huffake 1-2, Childs 3-0; NORTH BOONE: Beard 12-56, Emanuel 10-49, C. Doetch 2-22, Alderman 4-0.

Passing — MENDOTA: Landgraf 7-21-4-53; NORTH BOONE: Emanuel 13-19-0-215, Alderman 0-2-0-0.

Receiving — MENDOTA: Magallanes 6-45, Angulo 1-8; NORTH BOONE: W. Doetch 4-104, Linn 3-47, Braun 3-37, Urtiz 2-16, Beard 1-11.

SPORTS

IDNR launches new outdoor recreation licensing and campground reservation platform

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced the launch of a new user-friendly licensing, registration and reservation platform for outdoor enthusiasts interested in hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling and camping.

Visitors to <https://ExploreMoreIL.com> and <https://Camp.ExploreMoreIL.com> will discover quick and easy solutions for hunting and fishing licensing and permitting; watercraft and snowmobile titling, registration and renewals; as well as campground reservations on any device, at any time.

The platform features a clean, modern design, streamlined content and a 24/7 call center (866-716-6550) to enable fast and easy transactions. The system also provides users a seamless transition from the previous wildlife and fish licensing system and Reserve America. Prior users will simply need to log in as they've done in the past with existing credentials. All profile, license and past purchase information, as well as active campground reservations, have been loaded into the

new system. New users can easily create a username and password.

"We want to invite Illinois residents and visitors to our state to explore more of Illinois, and the new ExploreMoreIL.com and Camp.ExploreMoreIL.com platforms make it easy for everyone to enjoy the outdoors and all the great places and activities Illinois has to offer," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan.

IDNR partnered with digital government solutions firm NIC Inc., to develop and manage the new licensing, registration and reservation platform. NIC has 20 years of experience in outdoor licensing solutions across 12 states, including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Alabama, Maine and South Carolina, in addition to extensive expertise in managing digital government services and payment processing solutions.

"NIC as a proud partner to the State of Illinois, is pleased to roll out the new outdoor recreation system and support the platform and its users as we enter a new year of hunting, fishing,

boating, snowmobiling and camping," said Sandi Miller, Vice President of NIC Outdoors. "This new platform is easy to use from any device with quick order options that save users time that is better spent outdoors."

For customers who prefer to purchase hunting and fishing licenses in person, the system is available at over 700 issuing agent locations, including bait shops, convenience stores, sporting goods retailers, Walmart stores and Illinois Natural Department of Resources locations, as well as over the phone. More than 1 million transactions will be processed each year in the new system.

New Features and Enhanced Functionality

- Enhanced user experience
- Clean, modern design and streamlined content
- Fast and easy transactions
- Mobile-friendly interface works on any device
- 24/7 phone customer service support is available for users

Additional New Features for Hunters, Anglers, Boaters and Snowmobilers

• Customer dashboard provides information specific to each user's profile

• One-stop access to licenses, applications, permits and registrations

• Eligible products (based on profile data) displayed for fast purchase

• Hassle-free features like auto-renewal for fishing licenses so users don't have to worry about remembering to get next year's license

• Customers can now title and register their snowmobiles and watercraft online in addition to renewals

Additional New Features for Campground Reservations

• Visually stunning interactive site maps for users to quickly explore parks and sites

• Simple attributes to help customers search/filter the available parks and sites

• Customer profile allows users to manage/change/cancel upcoming reservations

• Embedded messaging notifications to keep customers aware of park activities or closures

IDNR's system is flexible and allows for quick modifications and updates to licensing requirements.

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KIDS' FUN PAGE



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-8.
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.

	5		8
3	0		11
7		6	17
11	9	16	

6	4	7
8	0	3
2	5	1

Solution

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1865:** GEN. ROBERT E. LEE SURRENDERS TO GEN. ULYSSES S. GRANT AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE.
- **1939:** CONTRALTO MARIAN ANDERSON GIVES A CONCERT AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.
- **1963:** WINSTON CHURCHILL BECOMES THE FIRST HONORARY U.S. CITIZEN.

SCIENCE FACT!



THIS OCCURS WHEN WATER DROPLETS CONDENSE ON ONE ANOTHER, CAUSING THEM TO GROW AND BECOME HEAVY.

ANSWER: RAIN

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

P R L I A W S R H S O E

Answer: April Showers

New Word

DOWNPOUR

heavy rainfall

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Rain

SPANISH: Lluvia

ITALIAN: Pioggia

FRENCH: Pluie

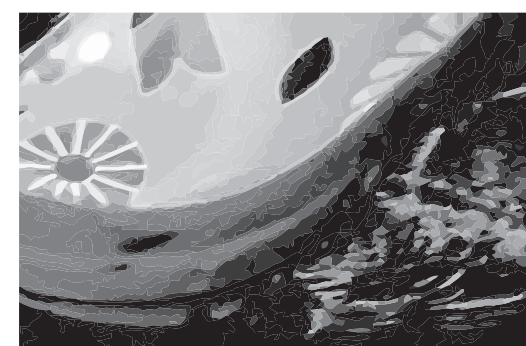
GERMAN: Regen

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GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAIN BOOTS

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Kylie Smith



Andrew
Stamberger



Allison Stewart



Alex Stremlau



Jacob Swope

Not Pictured

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Briana Avila

Natalie Bodmer

Lizzie Bresley

Elly Buettner

Lesly Caracheo

Zachari Compell

Shaylee Davis

Yahir Diaz

Jacob Ensor

Vanessa Escatel

Marisol Felix

Giselle Gomez

Kayla Guerra

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LOCAL AND AREA

The danger of strife

We've all experienced the effects of strife in one way or another. Strife can manifest itself through arguing, screaming and yelling. Other times, it can be more subtle, like when someone gives you "the silent treatment" and refuses to talk at all.

The dictionary defines strife as "bickering, arguing, a heated disagreement, or an angry undercurrent."

I think the most dangerous form of strife is an angry undercurrent,

because it's not as easy to recognize. It's something you can feel in the atmosphere. You know something's not quite right, but no one wants to address it. Maybe nothing is specifically said, but it's quite clear that everything is not okay.

In the early years of my marriage, I perfected the art of arguing with my husband, Dave, without having to say a word. I spent entire Saturdays stomping around the house and cleaning every room, ignoring

him for hours at a time. Thankfully, Dave was a peacemaker and mature enough to not give in to my tantrums.

Our enemy, Satan, works relentlessly to try and fill our lives with strife because he knows how powerful it is when God's children walk in peace and unity.

Psalm 133:1 (NIV) says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" It goes on, in verses 2-3, to give an illustration of what unity is like.

This psalm tells us that unity brings the anointing and God's blessing. The anointing is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to help us in every area. We need the anointing to raise our children, perform well at our jobs, have a successful marriage, and simply enjoy our lives.

Conversely, if there is not unity—if your home or business is full of strife—you will not have the anointing and God's blessing.

First Peter 3:11 (AMPC) says, "...[Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]"

"Pursue" is a strong word. It implies mak-



ing an effort and taking action. If we're really going to pursue peace, we can't wait around for everyone to come apologize to us. Chasing after peace means resolving issues quickly and even apologizing to others when we don't feel like it.

Romans 12:16 (AMPC) says, "Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits."

Living in peace requires us to take responsibility for our own thoughts and actions. We're going to have to humble ourselves and do some adapting and adjusting.

I learned a tough lesson in this area. A few years ago, Dave and I were in an art store at the shopping mall. Dave found a picture he really liked for our house, but I didn't like it at all.

He really wanted it, but I wouldn't give in. I argued until he finally said, "All right, just do what you want."

At first, I felt smug and congratulated myself on the victory. Then, right there in the mall, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said, "You

think you won, but you lost."

It pierced my heart. I knew right then that I was wrong. If Dave really liked that picture, there were plenty of places we could have hung it. At the very least, I could have been more loving in how I handled the entire conversation.

Pursuing peace requires compromise. We should never compromise our beliefs or what God tells us to do, but we will be required to compromise our preferences and desires in order to truly love others and keep strife out of our relationships.

Living in peace will also require us to sacrifice our pride. We all like to be right and win every argument, but being right is highly overrated! We may win the battle, but when we insist on having our own way at the expense of a relationship, we do tremendous damage.

Always remember, real love gives up its right to be right. If you truly want to have a healthy marriage or strong relationships with others, I recommend that you learn to say (and sincerely mean) this statement: "I think I'm right but I may be wrong."

Even if you know you're right, you don't always have to argue about it and prove your

point. It's true that some things are very important and you need to stand your ground, but there are so many things in life that just don't make a difference.

You won't always agree with your spouse, family or friends, but you can still respect and appreciate them. And as you do your part to "keep the peace," God will not only honor your commitment, He will also bless your life in greater ways than you can imagine.

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series Understanding Your Triggers & Avoiding the Trap of Offense. 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 120 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and her newest devotional QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on March 12, 2021 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 Big Worm located at 206 Oregon Street Troy Grove, IL 61372. Dated: March 12, 2021. Edward Marsh Applicant. No. 0311 (Mar. 31, April 7, 14)

NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on March 15, 2021 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 Peter's Landscaping located at 207 13th Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342. Dated: March 18, 2021. Pedro Arroyo Applicant. No. 0309 (3/24, 3/31, 4/7 2021)

PUBLIC NOTICE
EXHIBIT A
PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that on March 25, 2021, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of the City of Mendota, Illinois adopted an amendment to Chapter III, "Examinations - Original Appointments," of their Rules and Regulations, creating new Section 9.1, entitled "Lateral Entry for Police," which establishes a lateral hiring process for police officers in the City of Mendota, as authorized by 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-14. Copies of the amendment are available from the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of the City of Mendota, Illinois. This amendment shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of this public notice. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have sent my hand this 25 day of March, 2021. David R. McNally Chairman Board of Fire and Police Commissioners City of Mendota, Illinois No. 0312 (Mar. 31)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY,

ILLINOIS ESTATE)Case OF) No. Todd L.)2021 Barrett,)P 59 Deceased)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Todd L. Barrett of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 15, 2021 to Beverly A. Barrett of 1600 Lincoln Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 and Jeanne M. Barrett of 409 Division Street, Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 5, 2021. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to

the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed. No. 0313 (Mar. 31, April 7, 14)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS ESTATE)Case OF) No. James,)2021 H.)P 66 Hessenberger) Deceased)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of James H. Hessenberger of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 24, 2021 to Denise Hochstatter of 1102 Park Ave., Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the LaSalle County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 5, 2021. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to

to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed.No. 0314 (Mar. 31, April 7, 14)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT LASALLE COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)
Request of: Cade Andrew Corinescu
Case Number: 2020MR000279
There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: Cade Andrew Corinescu to the new name of: Cade Andrew Hansen The court date will be held: On May 18, 2021 at 10:30 am, at 119 W. Madison St. Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois in courtroom #204. Dated: August 19, 2020. Cade Andrew Corinescu No. 0315 (Mar. 31, April 7, 14)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Public Meeting
On Friday, April 16, 2021 at 8:30 a.m., a meeting conducted by Mendota Community Consolidated School District #289 will take place at the District 289 Education Center Board Room, 1806 Guiles Avenue, Mendota, IL 61342. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students

with disabilities who will attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are a parent of a home-school or non-public school student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of Mendota CCSD #289, you are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Dr. Kristen School, Supt. at (815)539-7631. No. 0317 (Mar. 31)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on March 9, 2021 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 BsDesigns located at 613 Betty Street Earlvile, IL 60518. Dated: March 9, 2021. Rebekah L. Sedlock Applicant. No. 0316 (Mar. 31, April 7, 14)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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