

Vaccine operations in Illinois increase with federal aid

By GRACE BARBIC
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Vaccine operations and eligibility are expanding across the state as Illinois' seven-day rolling COVID-19 positivity rate dropped below 3 percent on Feb. 15, the lowest it has been since July 21.

While touring an Illinois Department of Human Services vaccination site at the Elgin Mental Health Center last week, Gov. JB Pritzker announced that over the last week, Illinois was the number one state among the top 10 most populous states in the nation for per capita vaccinations.

"And although Illinois is the sixth largest state in the country, we have now administered the fifth most vaccinations among all of the states," Pritzker said. "Those are things to be very proud of."

As of last Thursday, a total of 2.3 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered to the state.

Of those, 1.9 million doses have been delivered to health care providers and 456,100 have been allocated to the federal government's Pharmacy Partnership program for long-term care facilities.

As of last week, more than 1.6 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Illinois, including 231,814 for long-term care facilities.

The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered in the state is 56,094 doses.

See Vaccine, Page A5



Vaccination Day

Stonecroft Village Retirement Community in Mendota had its COVID-19 vaccination day on Feb. 12. A member of the staff at CVS Pharmacy administers the vaccination to Barb Gehant, who dressed in red for this wonderful vaccination day. Everyone at Stonecroft Village was thrilled the day finally arrived. (Photo contributed)

Former state senator vying for governor

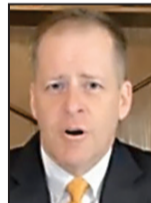
By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Former state Sen. Paul Schimpf, who spent four years representing the 58th District and was the Republican Party's candidate for attorney general in 2014, announced Feb. 15 he will run for governor in 2022.

Schimpf made the announcement via videoconference at 10 a.m., beginning a day of traveling the state with planned stops in Al-

gonquin, Rock Island and Morris Monday and Decatur, Morris and his hometown of Waterloo.

In his announcement, Schimpf sought to distance himself from Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker on both issues of policy and life experience.



Schimpf
Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker on both issues of policy and life experience.

"My vision for Illinois involves a return to responsible government, safe communities and economic growth in a free market," he said. "We need a governor who welcomes and insists upon legislative oversight of his administration."

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate and Marine Corps veteran, Schimpf

See Governor, Page A5



Brandon Hornung is given the oath of office by Dave McNally of the Police & Fire Commission at the Feb. 15 city council meeting. Hornung joins the Mendota Police Department as a part-time officer. (Reporter photo)

New P-T officer joins Mendota Police Dept.

By KIP CHEEK
Staff writer

MENDOTA – A new police officer was sworn in and met the Mendota City Council at the council's regular meeting on Feb. 15.

Brandon Hornung was administered the oath of office by Dave McNally of the Police & Fire Commission. Hornung joins the Mendota Police Department as a part-time officer. He is a 2005 graduate of Mendota High School. He was in the Army National Guard from 2008 to 2020 and made the rank of staff sergeant. Hornung had several tours of duty overseas and won many medals. He was also a state marksman-ship firearms instructor and won numerous multi-gun and handgun competitions.

Police chief Greg Kellen said Hornung is in his final stages of field training and the department hopes to have him ready to go on his own this spring.

In aldermanic reports, Jay Miller said that the Mendota Elks Lodge requested a license for the addition of one video gaming terminal. The request was approved by the council.

Jim Fitzpatrick announced a slight change to the hours of operation of the city's incinerator burn pit. The burn pit will be open from 3-6 p.m. on Monday, and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

In other items, Kellen informed council members that the police department's K-9 vehicle is completed. The department will be getting a K-9 officer in the near future.

At the conclusion of regular business, the council held an executive session to discuss the purchase of property. No action was taken.

The next regular meeting of the Mendota City Council will be Monday, March 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Pritzker's office says no tax hikes, flat spending in upcoming budget

State's budget deficit projected \$2.5 billion less than thought

By JERRY NOWICKI
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker's office says he will propose a budget with no tax increases for the upcoming fiscal year, and the deficit is now projected at about \$2.5 billion less than previously thought.

The governor introduces his proposed budget each year, but lawmakers in the General Assembly have the ultimate say as to what funding gets appropriated. Pritzker is scheduled to outline his full budget proposal on Feb. 17 in a virtual message, although details have not been finalized, according to his office.

In a brief, 250-word outline of the upcoming fiscal year 2022 budget proposal, the governor's office said the state will keep spending flat from a year ago while closing "corporate tax loopholes" worth \$900 million. The outline did not identify any specific loopholes.

Pritzker's office said the FY22 budget will continue to include \$700 million in state

government spending cuts his administration initiated this year upon the failure of the graduated income tax constitutional amendment.



Pritzker

capital infrastructure plan.

There would also be no new state funding for the evidence-based funding model for K-12 education, according to the outline.

"Significant federal funding for education will provide additional support for schools while the state maintains its existing investment, and the governor is committed to ensuring that education is fully funded in future

See Budget, Page A5



Winter creations

The snow art sculptors on Wisconsin Avenue in Mendota that showed their creations back in mid-January were back at it again after a series of snowfalls in mid-February gave them more art supplies to work with. Snowstorms have been occurring on a rather frequent basis in these parts and have more recently been accompanied by arctic blasts that have plunged temperatures into the single digits for highs during the day and below zero at night. The cold wave is beginning to show signs of departing with a long stretch of above-freezing daytime highs forecast to begin Sunday and continue through the end of the month. (Reporter photo)



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LOCAL AND AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Sew Quiltable

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcome Sew Quiltable as a new member of the Chamber family with a \$2 bill. Sew Quiltable offers longarm and custom quilting services. The business is located at 507 10th Ave., Mendota and can be reached by calling (815) 200-1113. Front row, left to right, are Ambassador Tina McPheeters, owners Jason and Tori Artman, Chamber president/CEO Shelby Weide and Ambassador Lee Stocking. Back row, Ambassadors Erin Lauer, left, and Kristi Carroll. (Reporter photo)



Chris Eller, The Retirement Specialists

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcome Chris Eller, The Retirement Specialists, as a new member of the Chamber family with a \$2 bill. The business offers investment and financial planning as well as tax and accounting services. Chris Eller, The Retirement Specialists, is located at 801 Jefferson St., Mendota and can be reached by calling (815) 539-3437. Chamber president/CEO Shelby Weide, front center, welcomes members of the Chris Eller team, front row, left to right, Bill Schwabenland, Eric Arkins, Anita LaShonse, Barb Meloy, Jennifer Eller and Chris Eller. Back row, left to right, are Ambassadors Lee Stocking, Erin Lauer, Tina McPheeters and Kristi Carroll. (Reporter photo)

Take a virtual visit to the World of Harry Potter

LASALLE - Calling all Harry Potter fans! Join the LaSalle Library on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. when they virtually host culinary travel guide, anglophile and former U.K. resident, Claire Evans, for her presentation, "Pottering Around the U.K.: Real-Life Locations from the World of Harry Potter."

In this program, armchair travelers will explore and discover the historic, scenic and culinary delights of Harry Potter's magical world in this unique virtual presentation. From the West Country to Scotland, and points in between, admire the amazing real-life locations film scouts picked throughout the best of the British Isles.

Evans started her love of most things

British as she and her mother watched countless episodes of "Are You Being Served," "Fawlty Towers" and "The Vicar of Dibley" on PBS.

Evans went on to study abroad in London, marry a British guy she met in Peoria, and then move to England for several years. While there, she got an immersive education in modern English cooking, pub dining, tea shops, and welly boots for every occasion.

This program is completely free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

To register for the program online, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/3sN7AAE>. Complete the simple

registration form and click submit. You will immediately receive an automatic e-mail from Zoom, which will contain the access link. When it is time to join the program, go to this e-mail and click the link. You will also receive two confirmation e-mails - one day before the program and one hour before the program - and both of these e-mails will also contain the access link.

If you prefer to connect to the program using an iPad or smartphone rather than a computer, need more information, or have questions, please contact Rachael Blomquist, Digital Content Librarian, at rblomquist@lasalle.lib.il.us or call the LaSalle Library at (815) 223-2341.

St. Bede Ambassadors make Valentine's Day cards for local seniors

PERU - St. Bede Academy students got to work several weeks ago and created over 200 Valentine's Day cards for Senator Sue Rezin's "Valentines for Seniors" card drive. After hearing about the card drive, students were determined to help uplift the spirits of long-term care facility residents.

"It means a lot for us to share our love with the community and to remind people that they are not forgotten during these tough times," stated St. Bede Ambassadors, Alyssa Heitz and Yadi Garcia.

Every day for several weeks, members of the Ambassador Team gathered in small groups to make as many cards as possible. Faculty and staff were impressed by their dedication and compassion. "As a Catholic school, we instill within our students the importance of kindness and service," noted Abbot Philip Davey, OSB.



St. Bede Ambassadors, left to right, Alyssa Heitz, Jacob Schirz and Yadi Garcia delivered over 200 Valentine cards to Senator Rezin's office earlier this month for the "Valentines for Seniors" card drive. (Photo contributed)

"When I started to see some of the cards and the words that were written, I was amazed. We are blessed to have such good students who are selfless and kind."

Group 'Hike the Canal' outing planned, Feb. 21

BUREAU COUNTY - The Friends of the Canal will hold their monthly Hike the Canal outing on Sunday, Feb. 21. This hike, which is 3.2 miles in length, has been named the "Kingfisher" and goes from Lock 17 to Lock 21.

Hikers will meet at Lock 21 (lift

bridge) at 1:30 p.m. and be shuttled to Lock 17 to begin the hike. Lock 21 is located approximately three miles west of Wyanet on Routes 6 and 34. There is no fee for the hikes. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and bring a friend, but please dress weather appropriately.

The monthly hikes were developed by the Friends of the Hennepin Canal as an opportunity for everyone to get to know the Canal personally by hiking it from the Illinois River to the Mississippi.

See HIKE, Page A3

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LOCAL AND AREA

LaMoille native publishes book, donates proceeds

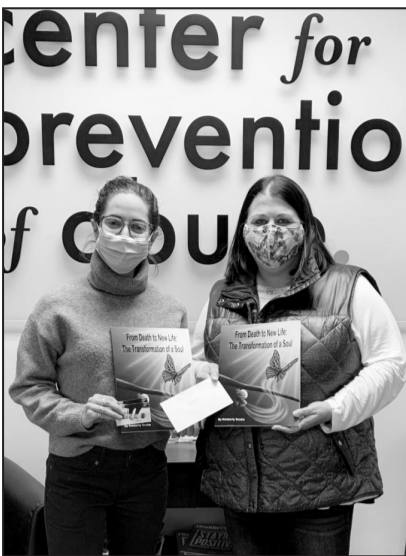
LA MOILLE - LaMoille native and 1996 graduate of LaMoille Community High School, Kimberly Souba, recently donated two copies of her first book, "From Death to New Life: The Transformation of a Soul" and a check from the proceeds to the Center for Prevention of Abuse in Peoria, where Kimberly received counseling services for nearly 10 years.

"From Death to New Life: The Transformation of a Soul" is a collection of poetry Souba has written since high school. The poems are arranged in a way that tells her life's journey of healing from childhood sexual abuse and abandonment through transformation in finding hope and peace.

The book's cover design was created by Brock Sondgeroth, also a LaMoille graduate and current Mendota High School art teacher.

Souba has years of writing experience as student editor of her high school newspaper for three years and as staff writer for The Catholic Post.

A graduate of Illinois Central Col-



Kimberly Souba, right, donates two copies of her book and the book's first proceeds check to Camille Yameen, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Center for Prevention of Abuse in Peoria. (Photo contributed)

lege in East Peoria and Valley City State University in Valley City, N.D., Souba currently teaches fifth grade in a small farm community. She has also volunteered for the Peterstown and Northwest Teens Encounter Christ Programs in many capacities, including writing monthly newsletters for the teens and adults who are involved in those communities.

Souba also wrote a monthly newsletter for her friends, family and the Religious Sisters of Mary of the Presentation while she was in formation with the Religious Community.

Souba's book may be purchased in the coming weeks at Lagron-Miller Company bookstore in Peoria or by visiting her website at www.ksouba.com. She is also on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Search "From Death to New Life: The Transformation of a Soul." All proceeds from the sale of her book will benefit the Center for Prevention of Abuse in Peoria.

A book signing event will be scheduled in the next few months as well.

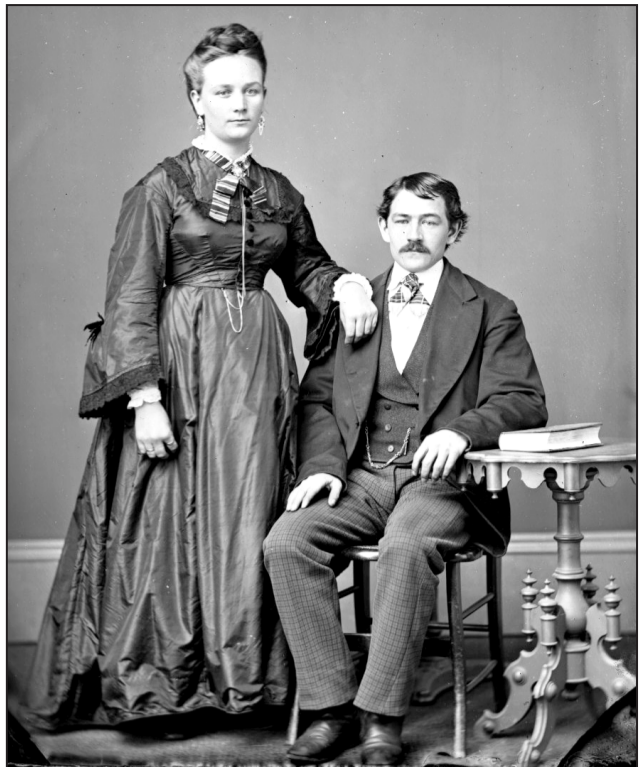


Photo from the Henry Immke Collection at the Bureau County Historical Society Museum.

Virtual program to feature photography collection

PRINCETON - The Bureau County Genealogical Society will host a program via Zoom on Thursday evening, Feb. 25 presented by David Gugerty on the topic of the Henry Immke Collection.

Gugerty is curator of the Bureau County Historical Society Museum where the Immke Collection is housed. His experience includes work at the university museum at SIU Carbondale and positions at arts centers in Kentucky and North Carolina.

This rare and valuable collection is the result of the photography work done by Immke during the time period from 1866 until 1923 in Princeton and the Bureau County area.

Gugerty will discuss the life and career of Henry William Immke and share with the audience how they can contact the Bureau County Historical Society Museum to see if the huge collection of over 18,000 glass plates might have pictures of interest to them, whether of people or historic scenes. Surname searches, digital scans and archival reprints can be made for the public at very reasonable rates by contacting the museum.

The program is open to the public and will be presented online via Zoom beginning at 7 p.m. Individuals who are not current members of BCGS need to send an e-mail request to the Genealogy Society at bureaucounty@gmail.com requesting an invitation no later than Feb. 23. A link will then be sent for the presentation.

BCGS is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For safety during the pandemic, appointments to research appreciated to ensure a staff person is present. For further information about the program or visiting the BCGS library, please call (815) 879-3133.

Bureau County Farm Bureau Foundation offers ag scholarships

PRINCETON - The Bureau County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering scholarships to area students majoring in agriculture. Over the last 24 years, they have awarded \$105,750 to college students. Last year the Foundation distributed \$7,000.

To be eligible for the scholarships, students must be Bureau County Farm Bureau members or a dependent of a Bureau County Farm Bureau member and must be pursuing a degree in an agricultural related field.

Applications are available by contacting the

guidance counselors at school systems in Bureau County, the Ag advisor at the school, advisors at state colleges and universities or by contacting the Bureau County Farm Bureau office. Applications are also available by e-mail; contact the Farm Bureau office or visit

their website at www.bureaucountyfarmbureau.org under the Foundation tab.

Applications can be e-mailed; if mailed, they must be postmarked by Feb. 26. If hand delivered, they must arrive by 4 p.m. on Feb. 26. For information call (815) 875-6468.

Hike

Continued from Page A2

(including the Feeder Canal) in small legs. Participants need not be members of the Friends to join any of the hikes.

For more information,

contact Ed Herrmann by e-mail at hikes@friends-hennepin-canal.org, call him at (815) 664-2403 or log on to their website at www.friends-hennepin-canal.org.

The next hike is planned for March 21.

Nurse practitioner scholarship applications available

BLOOMINGTON - Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

This scholarship program helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible, Illinois residents must be a registered nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited nurse practitioner program. Funding

provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus, online at RIMSAP.com or by writing Donna Gallivan, program manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at (309) 557-2350 or e-mail dgallivan@ilfb.org.

CARL'S QUIZ

Which U.S. President was inducted in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1992?

The answer to last week's quiz is: Minnesota had the city with the most snowfall last year. Baudette, Minn. recorded 90 inches of snow in 2020.

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

Mendota Weather

Feb. 17, 2021

Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 17 Low: 10

Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 23 Low: 4

Friday
Partly Cloudy
High: 16 Low: 3

Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 24 Low: 16

Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 26 Low: 17

Monday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 28 Low: 21

Tuesday
Scattered Snow
High: 29 Low: 20

In-Depth Forecast

Wednesday we will see mostly cloudy skies, high temperature of 17°, humidity of 78%. East northeast wind 3 to 8 mph. The record high temperature for Wednesday is 53° set in 1981. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday night, overnight low of 10°. Northeast wind 8 mph. The wind chill for Wednesday night could reach 0°. The record low for Wednesday night is -10° set in 1980.

Regional Cities

City	Wednesday		Thursday	
	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Aurora	20/12	mc	25/8	cl
Champaign	19/13	cl	22/6	sn
Chicago	21/15	mc	26/11	sn
Freeport	17/7	mc	22/3	mc
Joliet	20/12	mc	25/8	cl
Moline	18/8	mc	21/1	mc
Peoria	19/11	mc	23/3	mc
Rockford	19/10	mc	25/6	mc
Springfield	19/12	cl	21/4	cl

Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip	Rainfall	Normal rainfall	Departure
Monday	9	2	30/13	0.00"	0.00"	0.37"	-0.37"
Tuesday	7	-6	30/13	0.00"			
Wednesday	13	8	30/13	0.00"			
Thursday	16	2	30/14	0.00"			
Friday	8	5	31/14	0.00"			
Saturday	5	-4	31/14	0.00"			
Sunday	1	-3	31/14	0.00"			

Data as reported from Peru, Ill.

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
First 2/19	6:48 a.m.	5:32 p.m.	9:47 a.m.	11:35 p.m.
Wednesday	6:47 a.m.	5:34 p.m.	10:12 a.m.	Next Day
Thursday	6:45 a.m.	5:35 p.m.	10:41 a.m.	12:36 a.m.
Friday	6:44 a.m.	5:36 p.m.	11:14 a.m.	1:36 a.m.
Saturday	6:42 a.m.	5:37 p.m.	11:54 a.m.	2:37 a.m.
Sunday	6:41 a.m.	5:39 p.m.	12:41 p.m.	3:35 a.m.
Monday	6:39 a.m.	5:40 p.m.	1:37 p.m.	4:29 a.m.
Full 2/27				

National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 41 in Long Neck, Del. The Southeast will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain and snow, highest temperature of 85 in Marathon, Fla. The central United States will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain and snow, highest temperature of 65 in Cameron Park, Texas. In the Northwest there will be partly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 52 in Myrtle Point, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear skies with the highest temperature of 72 in Fullerton, Calif.

Local UV Index



UV Index

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

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather Trivia

Why can't a mercury thermometer go below minus 40 degrees?

Answer: Liquid mercury freezes at that point.

Weather History

Feb. 17, 1990 - The biggest winter storm of the season hit the Pacific Coast Region. In northern California, snow fell along the coast, and two day totals in the mountains ranged up to 67 inches at Echo Summit. Snowfall totals in the mountains of southern California ranged up to 48 inches at Green Valley, with 46 inches reported at

Feb. 18, 1990 - An intense but slow-moving Pacific storm worked its way across Utah over a two day period. The storm blanketed the valleys with four to 12 inches of snow and produced up to 42 inches of snow in the mountains. Heavy snow also fell across northern Arizona.

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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Terry L. Politsch

SUBLETTE - Terry L. Politsch, 80, of Sublette, departed this life on Feb. 10, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

Visitation was held from 3:30-6:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A funeral service followed at 6:30 p.m. with Rev. Ken Gibson officiating. Cremation rites were accorded afterward and burial will be at Restland Cemetery, Mendota at a later date.

Terry was born May 23, 1940 in Sublette, the first-born son of Ivan and Lois (Pierce) Politsch. He married Christie Smith on April 16, 1961. They later divorced. He married his current wife, Mary Rodriguez, on Nov. 29, 1985.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; three daughters from his first marriage, Deb (Dan) Hochstatter and Darci (Gary) Kettleborough, both of Mendota and Darla (Eric) Stroyan of Bloomington; two stepsons, Dan (Jenny) Pakenham of Rochelle and Brian (Cass) Pakenham of Colorado Springs; his beloved grandchildren, Brett (Sami) Hochstatter, Mallory (Josh) Martin, Alyssa (Brandon) Scheppers, Aaron (Paige) Kettleborough, Taylor Kettleborough, Emma, Ethan, and Ella Stroyan, Dillan (Allison) Pakenham, Kailee (Bill) Longmire, and Addison and Paige Pakenham; 10 great-grandchildren, Calvin, Eastyn, Josie, Hadley, Colton, Harrison, James, Tate, Noah, and Sophia; and one sister-in-law, Marie Politsch of Colorado.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gary; the mother of his children, Christie; one sister-in-law, Marjorie; and one granddaughter, Taryn Pakenham.

Terry graduated from Amboy high school in 1958. Throughout his life he worked for Black Brothers Co. in Mendota and then later worked for Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet Sublette. He also worked alongside his father on the family farm and continued farming throughout his life until his retirement. He took pride in maintaining his John Deere equipment and his Chevrolet vehicles. He enjoyed dining and socializing at many local restaurants. He was always eager to talk to people and tell it like it is, right or wrong, and most of the time he was right.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Paw Paw Village Board welcomes new trustee

PAW PAW - A new trustee, Pete Bollock, was sworn in during the Feb. 10 Paw Paw Village Board meeting. Bollock will fill the remaining three months of the village trustee position.

In other business:

- Mark Clayton, assistant Streets and Public Works, will take courses to be certified in water inspection, Class C and Class D.

- The area behind the Community Center will be tarred and chipped when weather permits, both east and west sides.

- Senior bingo and exercise have resumed, with a maximum of 50 people allowed to gather.

- The Community Building is now open to rent for affairs of up to 50 people.

- The Paw Paw Garden Club intends to replace the village planters.

- The Village Clerk's office will reduce its hours. After March 1, the office will be open on Saturdays by appointment only.

- The Village will unite with seven other areas to secure the lowest reliable electrical service. Rock River Energy Group will be researching and advising.

For further information regarding the Village, citizens may go online to pawpawil.org or www.facebook.com/PawPawIL.

Vicki A. Setchell

MENDOTA - Vicki Ann Setchell, 74, of Mendota passed away Feb. 11, 2021 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center, Rockford.

Private family graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 16 at Restland Cemetery, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota assisted the family.

Vicki was born Jan. 15, 1947 in Mendota to Burthal "Red" and Elizabeth "Betty" (Moore) Stevens.

Survivors include her daughters, Tracy Flaherty of Oveido, Fla. and Abby (Setchell) Anderson of Sterling; her beloved grandchildren, Craig (Gerenne) Skerston of Winter Park, Fla., Curtis (Hallie) Skerston of Red Wing, Minn., Kiefer (Ashley) Skerston of Palm Bay, Fla. and Elizabeth Martin of West Palm Beach, Fla.; her great-grandchildren, Gabriel Skerston, Brayden Skerston, Kora Skerston, and Jasper Skerston; one sister, Terri (Joe) Schmidt of Mendota; many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly; and her cherished feline companion, Sophie.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Robert Stevens; an infant sister, Nancy Kay Stevens; and step daughter, Janine Setchell.

Vicki loved her family more than anything and took her role as matriarch very seriously. Her daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy and she always made sure that each of them knew that. She enjoyed reading, crocheting, baking and following politics. She was the person everyone went to for advice. She cared greatly about everyone that walked through her door and needed help in any way. For this reason, she was an extra "mom" to so many people through the years. She was an incredibly strong person through the tough times and always made things feel right, when it felt like hope was lost. She was deeply loved by her family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Illinois Valley Animal Rescue in her name as this is where her beloved Sophie was rescued from. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Audrey J. Fitzgerald

TROY GROVE - Audrey J. Fitzgerald, 71, of Utica/Troy Grove passed away Feb. 11, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a celebration of life will take place at a later date. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Audrey was born Oct. 1, 1949 in Moline to Thomas and Phyllis (Putt) Smith. She married Thomas Fitzgerald on Nov. 5, 1972 in Ottawa.

Survivors include her husband of Utica/Troy Grove; one daughter, Jolene Fitzgerald of Utica/Troy Grove; and one stepson, Michael (Teresa) Fitzgerald of Missouri.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Daniel Smith and Thomas Smith.

Audrey and Tom worked together on the family farm. In addition to farming, Audrey was on the fuse assembly line at Westclox, was a scale operator for Manly Brothers, and retired after 16 years as Postmaster Relief at the Troy Grove United States Post Office. Along with her husband, she belonged to Living History Antique Equipment Club and Old Thrashers Club of Ohio, Ill.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services or IV Pads Peru. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Martin D. Eddy

WESTBROOKLYN - Martin D. Eddy, 57, of West Brooklyn passed away Feb. 7, 2021 at OSF St. Anthony's Medical Center, Rockford.

Memorial services will be held in June with burial at Melugin Cemetery. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Marty was born May 4, 1963 in Mendota to Alan and Leatricea "Tish" (Withrow) Eddy.

Survivors include his mother, Tish of Mendota; a sister, Tammy and brother-in-law, Jean Gordon of Bradenton, Fla.; a niece, Asya (Fred) Stolz of Salt Lake City, Utah; a nephew, Beau (Amanda) Gordon of St. Petersburg, Fla.; three great-nephews, Jackson, Parker and Torin; one great-niece, Ailyn Grace; a favorite uncle, Larry Eddy of West Brooklyn and aunt, Vicky Thomas of Ottawa.

He was preceded in death by his father in 2014 and a special dog, Angie.

Marty was a 1982 graduate of Mendota High School. He began working at the age of 10 as a paperboy in Compton and continued being a dedicated employee in various jobs until his health forced him to stop working. His passion was farming and he lived for harvest time. He helped many area farmers over the years. Marty was loved and respected by many and he genuinely cared about others and did not worry about personal gain. He leaves behind many life-long friends, cherished friendships and wonderful memories. If you were lucky enough to be his friend, he would go to the ends of the earth for you.

Memorials may be directed to the Compton Fire Department and the Illinois Valley Animal Rescue (IVAR). Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Larry A. Stamberger

MENDOTA - Larry A. Stamberger, 75, a resident of Dove Hill Care Center and Villas in Hamilton, Texas, formerly of Mendota, passed away Jan. 17, 2021.

Local services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 19 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Mendota with Rev. Ken Gibson officiating. Burial will follow at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.

Larry was born June 19, 1945 in Baltimore, Md. He was the adoptive son of Mr. E.H. "Ebe" Stamberger and Mrs. Mabel (Gordon) Stamberger of Mendota.

Survivors include his daughters, Harmony (Stamberger) Biggs and Leah Stamberger, both of Mendota and four grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Larry was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Memorials may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Patricia A. Sondgeroth

ORLANDO, Fla. - Patricia "Pat" A. (Panneck) Sondgeroth, 61, of Orlando, Fla., formerly of Peru, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 7, 2021 at Advent Health in Orlando.

Services and burial will be held in Illinois at a later date. Per family wishes, cremation rites have been accorded. Ptak Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

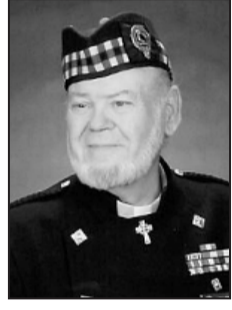
Pat was born Sept. 21, 1959 in Peru to John and Nina (Arnold) Panneck. She married Gregory Sondgeroth of Mendota on Aug. 12, 1989.

Survivors left to cherish her memories include her husband, Gregory; three children: Kelsey (Jacob) Thompson of Davenport, Iowa, Haley Sondgeroth of Orlando and Dominic Sondgeroth of Orlando; her fur-child, Arlo of Orlando; two sisters, Mary Panneck of Peru and Elizabeth Holcomb of Champaign; and many other family members.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved dogs, Michelle, Casper and Rollie.

Pat attended Peru Catholic schools for early education, followed by St. Bede Academy (class of '77) and IVCC, where she was extremely active in theatre and drama. During a production of "The Wizard of Oz," she met her future husband, Gregory. She worked as a COA for the Gailey Eye Clinic in Peru for many years. Afterwards, she worked as a personal secretary for Dick Janko, also in Peru. Along the way she wore many hats, working to help serve those around her in many different capacities. She loved to travel and be in the warmth and sunshine. Her favorite place to go was Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and she made countless memories there with family and friends. She loved bowling, golfing, exploring Florida's theme parks and cheering on and supporting her children and all those she loved like family in all of their endeavors. She used her humor and optimism to bring smiles and laughter to everyone she met and to make the best of every situation, no matter how difficult it seemed. She was excited and looking forward to becoming a grandmother this year, with her first grandchild due this July.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to St. Bede Academy or the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Online condolences and memories may be shared at PtakFH.com.



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Artistic Memorials

The Mendota Reporter

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWER:
Stained glass over entrance to Zion United Methodist Church, 808 Jefferson Street
Winner - Haydon Schmidt

DRIVER'S REVIEW CLASS

Mendota Area Senior Services is sponsoring a "Virtual" Online Class on
Monday, February 22, 2021
9:30-11:30 a.m.

Please call MASS for more information or to register
(815) 539-7700

Masks will be required.

02152021

LOCAL AND AREA

Vaccine

Continued from Page A1

Pritzker's administration also announced that, by request of the state, three federally resourced Disaster Survivor Assistance teams will be deployed to assist local health departments at county-run vaccination sites in underserved communities with vulnerable populations.

Each of the three teams are made up of eight people from all over the country, and will support county call center operations in making vaccination appointments as well as assisting various organizations with community outreach to seniors and other eligible populations about the availability of the vaccine.

"My administration's vaccine plan prioritizes equity and accessibility for all Illinois residents and federal resources like the Disaster Survivor Assistance teams will help support community outreach efforts with a keen focus on underserved populations," Pritzker said in a statement. "Local health departments are on the front lines of this initiative and it is critical that we provide them any and all support they need."

The last time DSA teams were deployed to Illinois was in 2013, when tornadoes and severe storms devastated areas of the state.

More than 340 new retail pharmacy locations have been added to the list of COVID-19 vaccination sites in the state since Feb. 10, with federal vaccine allocations going directly to some pharmacies.

The new sites include 339 Walgreens stores and four CVS locations. The newly added Walgreens sites will be receiving doses of the COVID-19 vaccine out of the federal allocation previously reserved exclusively for the Pharmacy Partnership program, instead of from the state's allotment.

There are now more than 850 vaccination locations open to the public in Illinois. Vaccines are currently being administered by appointment only. Eligibility in Phase 1B has been expanded to include lawmakers and residents of all ages who have comorbidities and underlying conditions. Those eligible can find vaccine information and where to schedule an appointment at coronavirus.illinois.gov

Governor

Continued from Page A1

was an outspoken advocate for veterans in the Senate, serving as minority party spokesperson on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. In 2005, Schimpf served as the chief American advisor in the trial of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps.

A biography distributed by Schimpf's campaign emphasized that he wrote an article in 2004 for the Military Law Review on "the need to establish a victim-victim advocate evidentiary privilege within the Department of Defense" in an effort to improve treatment of sexual assault victims. Those practices were adopted in 2012.

Beginning in 2004, Schimpf was a judge advocate, or military attorney, at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif. There, he served as the head prosecutor, supervising other attorneys and litigating drug, sexual assault and attempted murder cases, according to his campaign.

He was elected to the state Senate in 2017, retiring in January ahead of his run for governor. He said his proudest accomplishment as state senator was his work with a higher education working group that produced legislative changes such as AIM High grants, which aim to provide Illinois' highest performing students with the means to remain in Illinois for college.

He is an of counsel attorney with the law firm of Stumpf & Gutknecht P.C. in Columbia, meaning he is not an equity partner in the firm. "More important than all those experiences, however, is the perspective that I will bring to the governor's office," he said. "For far too long, we have had literally governors who were either career politicians or wealthy corporate executives who couldn't understand or empathize with the struggles that the people of Illinois face."

He touched on a number of issues that have been lynchpins of Republican legislative dissent in recent years and weeks, noting a governor should "give clear

unambiguous support to the law enforcement community."

He also addressed Illinois' tax burden, quoting Ronald Reagan and stating Illinois needs a governor who "understands those day-to-day challenges that we all face" and who will "stand up to the entrenched special interest groups that have done so much damage to our state."

"I know what it feels like to wake up in the middle of the night wondering how my wife and I are going to pay for our kids' education, or what the next property tax increase is going to do to our family budget," he said.

While Schimpf tied himself to popular Republican icon Reagan, Illinois Democrats quickly sought to tie Schimpf to a less popular, more recent Republican elected official — ex-Gov. Bruce Rauner, who presided over a two-year budget impasse, which saw the state's backlog of unpaid bills balloon to over \$16 billion.

Mary Morrissey, Executive Director of the Democratic Party of Illinois, referred to Schimpf as a "Rauner/Trump acolyte" in a statement.

"Schimpf was a consistent vote for Bruce Rauner's catastrophic agenda, even going along with his attempts to continue the historic budget crisis that resulted in Illinois going 736 days without a budget," Morrissey said. "He supported Donald Trump's re-election, even after the former President failed at his central task of keeping Americans safe by lying about the dangers of the coronavirus and instead promoting conspiracy theories."

Schimpf's biography touted his vote against the compromise budget, which raised the state's flat income tax and ended the two-year budget impasse in 2017.

Kristina Zahorik, president of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association, referred to Schimpf as "Rauner 2.0" and "a wolf in sheep's clothing."

"Paul Schimpf has built a facade of being pro-labor and moderate," Zahorik said in a statement. "When given the opportunity to prove that during his short

time in the Illinois Senate, he opposed key labor issues like supporting increasing the minimum wage. He also consistently voted to extend the Rauner budget crisis that crippled our state."

Schimpf, however, emphasized an "every man" image, distancing himself from the billionaire Pritzker and multi-millionaire Rauner.

He said he expects to do better than he did in his last statewide run in 2014, when he challenged former Attorney General Lisa Madigan as the Republican candidate. In that election, he lost by nearly 800,000 votes, gaining 37.8 percent of the vote.

"I did not have enough financial resources to get my message out," he said. "That is one of the lessons that I learned when I ran statewide in 2014 for Illinois attorney general is that it doesn't matter how good your message is, if you don't have the resources to get it out, you will not be successful."

His candidate committee, Citizens for Schimpf, had \$149,529 cash on hand as of Feb. 15, according to campaign database Illinois Sunshine.

Still, Schimpf said, money can only go so far, and he cited the failed Democratic presidential campaign of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"You can't buy elections with money," he said. "I know that Gov. Pritzker has a lot of resources. I don't expect to be able to match him dollar for dollar, but I do expect to be able to get my message out with a lot of hard work. I do expect to be able to win this race."

The primary election for statewide office is scheduled for March 15, and Schimpf joins businessman Gary Rabine, who is chairman and founder of the paving, roofing and snow removal company Rabine Group, in announcing their candidacies for governor.

(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.)

Budget

Continued from Page A1

years," the governor's office wrote in an email.

The evidence-based funding model was passed in 2017 and called for an added \$350 million in state investment in schools each year to be driven toward the districts that were furthest from funding adequacy based on a number of factors. But this year will mark the second straight in which the state did not direct any new money toward the formula.

"There is no question that this budget will include painful choices, but as the effect of the pandemic diminishes over the coming months, the governor will continue to focus on economic recovery for the hardest hit," the governor's office said in an email.

In a bit of good news, however, the deficit for FY22 is now projected to be \$3 billion, down from the \$5.5 billion of previous estimates,

as the state's economy "performed more strongly than expected." The governor's office also cited his decision to expedite repayment of \$700 million borrowed from the federal Municipal Liquidity Facility program as a contributing factor to the lowered anticipated deficit.

"The governor will also continue to advance long-term structural budget improvements that continue the stronger fiscal trajectory Illinois was on before the pandemic," his office said in an email.

The new fiscal year begins July 1 and lawmakers generally look to pass the annual operating budget by the time of the scheduled adjournment of the General Assembly on May 31 each year.

"The governor looks forward to collaborating with the General Assembly to finalize a responsible state budget," his office said in an email.

IVCC News Briefs

Black History Month events set

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee's Black History Month schedule is available at www.ivcc.edu/dei.

The month features virtual events hosted by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History as well as online events featuring IVCC faculty, students and alumni.

IVCC instructor Amanda Cook Fesperman facilitates Discussion Two of the book "How to Be an Antiracist," by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Alumnus Jibril Church will discuss the HBO television series "Lovecraft Country" at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25.

The 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Writing Contest winners reception is at noon Friday, Feb. 26 via Zoom. Contest winners will read their essays.

"By working with the ASALH, we're able to bring a wider variety of events for the IVCC community to experience," Cook Fesperman said.

Links to each event will be available at www.ivcc.edu/dei. For information, contact Cook Fesperman at amanda_cook-fesperman@ivcc.edu.

ACT Test Prep course available

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College's Continuing Education office offers "ACT Test Prep" (YOU-3501-02) from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27 and from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 6 on main campus.

The class will provide test taking strategies including how to handle time constraints and a review of the ACT scoring system. The English, reading and math portions of the exam will be covered. Students will learn techniques and test taking strategies to help them feel comfortable and confident on test day.

The textbook "Accelprep for the ACT Test" is included; students must bring a pen or pencil and notepaper to class. Seating is limited and registration must be completed by Friday, Feb. 19. Cost is \$135. Register at (815) 224-0447.

SENIOR HOMESTEAD & OWNER OCCUPIED EXEMPTIONS

NEW APPLICANTS

This Notice is for persons filing for the Homestead Exemption for the first time. All senior citizens who are or will be 65 years old during 2021 and who own and reside in their own home, are eligible for the \$5,000 Senior Homestead Exemption on the 2022 real estate tax bill. A copy of the deed and the owner's driver's license (and any other persons on the deed driver's license(s)) are needed for the application. The signature on this form must be notarized.

EXISTING SENIOR HOMESTEADS

Renewal forms for existing Homesteads were mailed out in early February 2021. All recipients should read the form, answer all questions completely and return them to the Township Assessor's Office. (See address below.) If needed, one of our staff members can help you fill out the form.

ASSESSMENT FREEZE

Renewal forms for the Assessment Freeze Exemption are included in the mailing with the regular Senior Homestead Exemption. Your total gross household income must be **\$65,000 or less**. This exemption freezes your assessed valuation, **not** your taxes. Forms must be filled out, signed, and returned to the respective township offices. Staff members can assist you with all of this. If your income is between \$55,000 & \$65,000 or shows a loss, we will need a copy of your 2020 form 1040 and the loss schedule.

NEW HOMEOWNERS

If you bought a new home, this past year and were living in it by January 1, 2021, you will need to fill out an owner occupied exemption form with your local assessor. Your signature on this form must be notarized.

VETERANS

Exemptions for Veterans were created by House Bill 664 — one for disabled veterans and one for returning servicemen. Forms are available at our office.

DISABLED PERSONS

An exemption created by House Bill 664 allows a \$2,000 exemption for a Class II disabled person. Forms are available at our office. The Mendota Township Assessor's Office is located at the Mendota Township Offices at 602 S. Main St. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 9am-12pm & 1:30pm to 3 pm or by appointment. Completed forms may be mailed to Mendota Township Assessor, PO Box 465, Mendota, IL 61342. Staff members can make home visits for homebound individuals. Bilingual assistance is available by appointment. If you have any questions, call the office at 815-539-3201.

ALL NEW APPLICANTS

All New Exemption Applications must be Notarized. There are (2) Notaries in the Mendota Township Assessor's Office.

OWNER-OCCUPIED EXEMPTION

New Home Owners have to file an Owner-Occupied Exemption Form to get this Exemption. These forms are available at the Mendota Township Assessor's Office. This form has to be Notarized.

CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

If the tax bill is to be mailed to a different address, a Change of Address Form must be filled out. These are available at the Mendota Township Assessor's Office. This form must be Notarized.

Patricia Rich, CIAO
Mendota Township Assessor

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OPINION

The Mendota Reporter

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

Many would love to work

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD – Would you like your milk in a bag? Nah, I'd just assume you keep it in the bottle.

The cashier rolled her eyes at me and may have even smirked behind the mask. She'd likely heard the joke more than a few times. But in this time of COVID I thought it might be time for a bit of humor.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, she and millions like her have been showing up for work every day risking infection. Some people have labeled folks such as she "heroes." I'm not so grandiose. I call them something better: "workers."

Workers are the folks who get the job done day in and day out with little fanfare or notice. They don't seek recognition. They're doers not talkers.

I think about my niece, a nurse who works with COVID patients at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. She works in the intensive care unit and because she is pregnant hasn't been able to get vaccinated. And yet, she comes to work every day and runs the risk of infection to help people in need.

Sadly, there are a lot of folks who want to work who can't because of the pandemic. Restaurant workers, barbers and hair stylists, hotel workers and others are among those feeling the pinch. They are still waiting to go back to their jobs.

But there are others who aren't so keen on showing up. For example, Gov. JB Pritzker recently made Illinois legislators eligible for COVID vaccinations ahead of most folks. There was a fear that many lawmakers wouldn't come to Springfield unless they were vaccinated first.

Deciding who gets first dibs on being vaccinated is a political decision in the hands of the governor. While many Republicans are squawking about Pritzker's change in policy, I'm ambivalent. We elect governors to make tough choices, like who is the first to get a potentially life-saving vaccine. The governor made the decision and now it's time to move on.

What does concern me though is that some lawmakers apparently were threatening not to come to Springfield until they were vaccinated. If you can't or won't do your job, it's time to resign.

There are plenty of folks struggling to get by who would love to be called back to work, vaccinated or not. They wonder how they will feed their families and keep a roof over their heads. I can't imagine any of them being particularly impressed by lawmakers, earning more than \$70,000 for a part-time job, not wanting to show up to work.

If your fear of COVID-19 is so great that you don't think you can do your job, it's time to resign. Blue-collar and service industry workers don't have the luxury of not showing up and still getting paid. Why should lawmakers?

I know that may sound harsh, but we are 11 months into this pandemic. It's time to make those tough personal decisions.

President Joe Biden has called for returning students to their classrooms within the first 100 days of his presidency. It's an admirable and obtainable goal.

Our children are being shortchanged by this distance learning. Why? Well, they aren't learning nearly as well as when they are in a classroom. Also, multiple studies have found that schools are not the major transmission points for the disease as once was thought.

For example, Sacred Heart Griffin High School in Springfield has had only one child contract COVID-19 at school since the school reopened for in-person learning in August, Principal Kara Rapacz said. Mind you, there have been other students who have come down with COVID-19 but detailed contact tracing found only the one child has caught the virus at school.

"The safest place for children to be is in school," said Paul Vallas, who was superintendent in school districts as diverse as Chicago, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Bridgeport, Conn.

"The Archdiocese of Chicago's schools have been open for in-person learning for the entire school year without any major problems. There is no reason why public schools can't be open for in-person learning as well."

Vallas, a Democrat who once unsuccessfully sought this party's nomination for Illinois governor, is critical of teacher unions for not readily embracing returning to classroom learning.

"The entire state of Florida has its schools open. There is no reason we can't, too. The best scientific evidence points to schools being the safest place for kids. At least one-third of car jackings happening in the city are being done by kids under 18. Last year, 83 school-age children were murdered in Chicago and 567 were shot. Those kids would be much safer in school."

Vallas noted that during the same period, only eight people in Chicago under the age of 20 have died of COVID-19 and all had preexisting conditions.

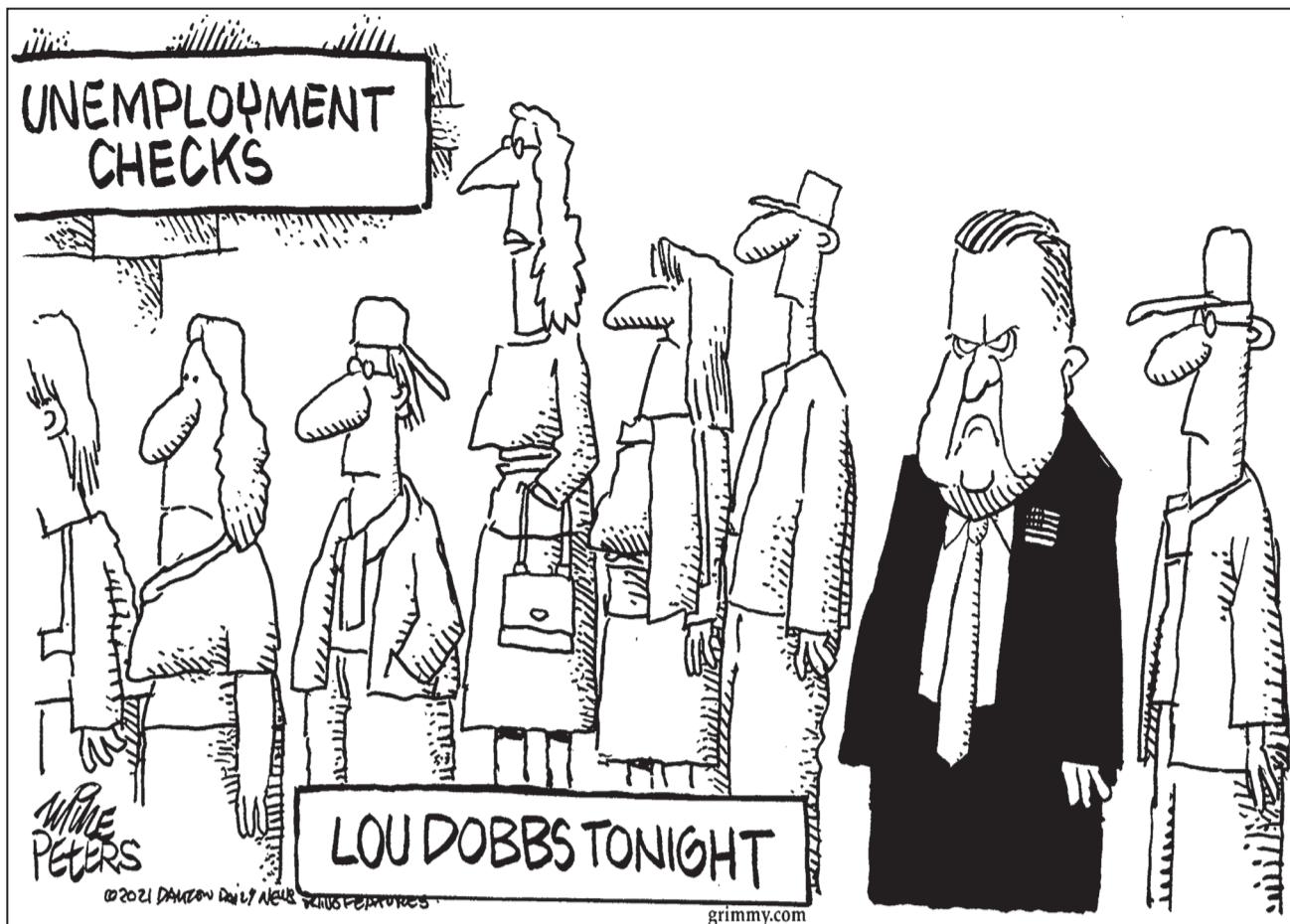
Are schools 100 percent safe? No. But staying home is less safe for most students. Why? Many youngsters are left unattended in front of computer or phone screen because their parents must work. This leaves plenty of opportunity for children to get themselves into troubling situations.

Other parents have chosen not to work so they can watch their children during the day. But this often means with less income coming in, the household lacks necessities. Again, the child suffers.

Let's be honest, teachers staring into a camera lens have a harder time discerning if pupils are comprehending. And options for disciplining an inattentive or disruptive student in this virtual world are limited at best.

If children don't return to in-person learning, it will be something we will regret for years to come, because that is how long they will be struggling to catch up.

(Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist and a freelance reporter. ScottReeder1965@gmail.com.)



Starting the 1980s in Mendota

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Feb. 21, 1990.)

By Jessica Nashold

Ten years ago, Faber Hotel was still standing. Gibraltar Corp. wanted to buy it and create 25 apartments with a loan from Housing and Urban Development.

Corporation president Carl Reardon came to a city council meeting and explained he would need the 30 parking spaces leased by the city from the Illinois Central Railroad. He said HUD required that parking adjacent to the building be guaranteed for the life of the loan, probably 40 years.

Reardon told the council Gibraltar had already completed seven projects. Four more were under construction.

The remodeled Faber would have stores on the ground floor and 25 apartments designed for the elderly and handicapped. None of the units would be suitable for families. Five would be restricted to low income elderly occupants only.

Current owners would be responsible for keeping the Faber in "a safe condition." The building would also have to pass inspections by both corporation and government engineers. Once these had been cleared, the 25 units could be ready for occupancy in about six months.

The hurdles were never cleared and the Faber came down the following year.

Street Superintendent Bob Preston and Joe Hochstatter took to a boat to deal with accumulation of ice in Mendota behind the Elks Lodge, beside the old fire station and at another bend further south. It was hoped this would prevent flooding.

The city council voted down a request that snowmobiles be allowed to operate within city limits. Police had been making arrests.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

At Motor Wheel, 69 of 270 employees had been laid off since the previous November. The Reporter interviewed two of the employees on layoff. A 19-year-old man with a 19-year-old wife and infant daughter had been getting \$190 weekly at Motor Wheel. His unemployment check was \$153. His wife had a salary of \$180. They were spared the \$40 weekly expense paid a babysitter when both were employed.

A mother of three said two of her three children were employed. With their help and her unemployment check, she was getting along but "missed her \$200 a week."

Things could have been worse. Many agreed that it was a lucky thing Motor Wheel made tractor wheels for all agricultural implement manufacturers as well as wheels for Chrysler.

Postmaster Louis J. Kerns retired after a career that started with a job as letter carrier under Postmaster Etta Lutz 43 years before. With the exception of three years in the army, all of that time was in the Mendota office. Kerns was appointed assistant postmaster in 1958 and postmaster in 1971. His last day was Feb. 18, 1980. Norman Nelson was named to take charge until a new postmaster was appointed.

The grade school board was coping with a ruling that physical education be offered on a daily basis. The options included new facilities, which would involve new construction, offering physical education in connection with

other classes and replacing playtime at recess with a physical development program.

The Mendota schools had been notified by the state that if necessary corrections were not in place before the end of the year, the schools would go on probation and eventually lose state aid – approximately \$195,000.

Mendota's Alcohol and Drug Dependency Assistance program was reviewed in The Reporter. Mendota Community Hospital administrator E.E. Williams said the program had treated about 600 people a year in the alcoholic detoxification unit over a five-year period.

A short-term detoxification program included 21 days as an in-patient followed by outpatient counseling. Group therapy was offered to help people understand the reason for the problem and what to do about it. Admission to the program had to be arranged through a doctor.

The report sought the views of personnel officers at local plants. Hart Carter referred employees with a problem to the treatment center at company expense. Persons who had been through treatment and were otherwise qualified were considered for employment.

Del Monte at one time had treated alcoholism as a discipline problem, but was now finding a treatment approach successful.

Motor Wheel expected employees with problems to seek help themselves, but company-paid insurance covered the costs of treatment.

The Mendota Federated Woman's Club presented two cassettes for use in the detoxification program at Mendota Community Hospital – "Welcome to Our Group" and "Foundation for Living." Presentation was made by Helen Hof, club president, and Helen Beemer, community improvement chairman.

Don't quit on the GOP

By Rich Lowry

After losing a national election, it's natural that a political party goes through a period of soul-searching and internal turmoil.

The Republican Party, though, has taken it to another level. President Donald Trump brought most of the GOP along for the ride during his conspiracy-fueled attempt to overturn the election.

His loyalists have been scouring the landscape searching for Republicans to censure or primary for insufficient loyalty to him.

The most famous Republican House freshman mused not too long ago about a space laser starting the 2018 California wildfires.

And Trump has maintained his hold on the party seemingly effortlessly.

This dismaying chapter has led to declarations that the party is doomed or calls to split it up.

A former chair of the Washington state GOP wrote in an op-ed in The Seattle Times urging, as the headline put it, "Let's form a new Republican Party." This prompted a Chris Cillizza item at CNN headlined, "Should Republicans disband the GOP?"

There's been a spate of articles by erstwhile Republicans announcing they are done with the party.

Jonathan Last wrote a piece in The New Republic titled: "The Republican Party is dead. It is the Trump cult now." Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker declared, "The party isn't doomed; it's dead."

This seems a mite premature about a party that represents roughly half the country and is on the cusp of a majority in the House, tied 50-50 in the Senate, and in control of the governorships in 27 states and both the governorship and state legislature in 22 of those.

If we are going to consider this geographically diverse collection of officeholders -- whose careers in many instances pre-date Trump and will outlast him -- a mere personality cult, the word "cult" has lost its meaning.

The fortunes of our political parties ebb and flow and their iterations change over time, but they are deeply embedded institutions of our public life.

As Dan McLaughlin, my colleague at National Review, points out, the Republican Party has, since its inception, been a fusion of a classic liberal wing with a more populist, elemental conservatism.

What's different about Trump is that he represents the ascendance of the populist wing after it had long been in a subordinate position in the party. Even he, though, retained key traditional policy priorities of the GOP, from tax cuts and judges to religious liberty and abortion.

That said, the party does need to get beyond Trump, who is a three-time loser now -- in the 2018 midterms, in his 2020 reelection campaign, and in the Georgia special elections. In electoral terms, "all the winning" stopped circa November 2016.

It feels now as though the post-Trump GOP will never arrive, American politics moves quickly. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974, leaving the GOP in utter disarray -- and yet Reagan won a landslide six years later. The Tea Party sprang to life from nowhere in 2009 and had disappeared by 2016, subsumed into the Trump phenomenon.

There will inevitably be an overwhelming controversy in the Biden administration or a crisis that moves us beyond the politics of the Trump presidency and the immediate aftermath.

New issues will emerge, and there are plenty of talented, ambitious Republican politicians who think they are better suited to win a presidential election and serve as president than Donald Trump 2.0. The incentives are for them to slipstream behind Trump for now, but that won't always be true.

The temptation to splinter from the GOP might be alluring to elements of both the populists and the Republican traditionalists, but this a dead end.

The Republican Party is the only plausible electoral vehicle for any sort of right-of-center politics in America. It is worth fighting over, and it will be.

That struggle is sure to be toxic and unpredictable -- except for the fact that at the end of the day the Grand Old Party will still be standing.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Illinois taxpayers paying former lawmakers \$2.1 million a month from underfunded pension system

By **GREG BISHOP**
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois taxpayers pay more than \$2.1 million a month to retired part-time state legislators or their surviving spouses from a fund that's only 16% funded. The individual monthly payouts are as high as \$18,000 per month. Some pensioners aren't actually retired but still getting paid.

There are 425 people drawing off the General Assembly Retirement System, ranging from \$122 a month to \$18,000.

At 16% funded, state Rep. Mark Batinick, R-Plainfield, said GARS is the worst of the state's five public sector pension funds.

"You got there by skipping payments and being unrealistic and that's a microcosm of what's happened with all the funds," Batinick said.

All five of the state's pensions funds combined have an unfunded liability of more than \$140 billion.

Being an Illinois state lawmaker is considered a part time job and Batinick said members of GARS getting that much per

month in retirement is out of line.

"So, part time offices, I just don't think that a pension is in order," he said. "It doesn't make sense. It complicates the system and makes the math bad."

Another reason the funds are woefully underfunded, state Sen. Robert Martwick, D-Chicago, said, is pension sweeteners that previous lawmakers passed for themselves.

"The good news is much of that has been done away with," Martwick said. "The bad news is that the way that our system is set up there's no way to remove that benefit structure. That is, those benefits will continue to be paid until those legislators pass and are no longer pulling retirement."

For those in the state's public sector pension system before 2011, there's a 3% cost of living adjustment that compounds every year. There's also free health care for state government retirees.

Some have advocated to amend the state constitution to reduce the state's unfunded pension liability for all the state's funds. Proposals to change the state constitution's pension protection

clause to reduce owed benefits like the compounding interest have never advanced at the statehouse.

"I believe that the estimates that I've heard is [a constitutional amendment] could shave off \$20 billion, which is good, but we'd still owe \$120 billion," Martwick said.

Of the 425 former lawmakers drawing a pension, former state legislator turned judge Edward Petka, who served in the statehouse from 1987 to 2006, is getting \$18,062 per month from GARS. That's \$216,000 a year.

Base pay for a state representative is about \$68,000.

Former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, who also served in the statehouse, gets \$15,100 a month, or \$181,000 annually. Former Gov. Pat Quinn, who also served in the statehouse, is drawing \$12,900 a month, or \$154,800 a year just from the GARS system.

Other former state lawmakers getting more than \$10,000 a month include Richard M. Daley, Lee Daniels, Barbara Flynn Currie, Emil Jones Jr., Roland Burris, Gary Hanning and more.

Of more recently retired lawmakers, Christine Radogno is getting around \$7,500 a month. Pam Althoff and Raymon Poe are each receiving about \$7,000 a month. Former Senate President John Cullerton receives about \$6,900 a month.

Former state Sen. Ira Silverstein, who lost a reelection bid several years ago after a citizen alleged he abused his power as a lawmaker by making sexual advances, is getting \$6,600 a month from taxpayers.

Some pensioners aren't retired and are working elsewhere, but they're still receiving a pension.

There are members of U.S. Congress drawing from GARS. Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Bost receives \$6,200 a month. Democratic U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky is getting \$2,600 a month.

Illinois Auditor General Frank Mautino of Spring Valley, who has a civil case against him still pending alleging improper use of campaign funds, receives about \$6,200 a month in pension benefits while still being employed as the Auditor General.



Town & Country Services' Joe Guskusky, left, and owner Bob Guskusky with IVCC President Jerry Corcoran outside their Tonica headquarters. (Photo contributed)

HVAC business creates scholarship at IVCC

OGLESBY — Town & Country Services of Tonica has created a scholarship for Illinois Valley Community College students studying heating, ventilation and air-conditioning.

Starting this fall, the \$1,000 annual scholarship funded by Bob and Vicki Guskusky will support full-or-part-time students enrolled in the one-year HVAC certificate program. The scholarship covers tuition, books and fees.

"It is wonderful to see a successful local business like Town & Country support students pursuing work in this critically important trade," said IVCC President Jerry Corcoran.

"Bob and Vicki's investment in our students will strengthen the workforce by enticing more students to pursue HVAC careers," he added. "Enrollments in HVAC have been steady. We are very optimistic about the program's future."

Town & Country, a family owned business since 1919, provides full service plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling services to residential and commercial customers across the Illinois Valley.

To create an IVCC Foundation scholarship, contact Fran Brolley at (815) 224-0466 or fran_brolley@ivcc.edu.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Jennifer Lopez and Armie Hammer were teaming up for Lionsgate's \$65 million romantic comedy "Shotgun Wedding" -- that is until some disturbing messages by Hammer, detailing sexual fantasies, were leaked. How this will affect his upcoming releases -- "Crisis," with Gary Oldman; "Death on the Nile," with Kenneth Branagh and Gal Gadot; "Next Goal Wins," with Michael Fassbender and Elizabeth Moss; and the "Call Me by My Name" sequel -- is anyone's guess.

The Kennedy Center Honors began in 1978, but the 2020 "Honors" were a pandemic casualty. This year, the Honors will be taped during the week of May 17. The annual event, usually to a packed house and the U.S. president (except the previous POTUS, who refused to attend four years in a row), will be socially distanced.
The first of this year's five honorees is choreographer and actress Debbie Allen, for her work with Michael Jackson, Dolly Parton and as Lydia Grant in the '80s

series "Fame," among other accomplishments. Allen admitted, "I have a real purpose in life to be as creative as possible and to expand the reach and possibilities of others."
Also being honored is top country-music singer/songwriter Garth Brooks: "As one of the world's bestselling music artists he heightened country music profiles like no other singer before him." Brooks confessed, "I've watched many of my heroes sit in that booth. I had the joyous honor of singing for some on their special night. The hope is to contribute to humanity, to inspire to be the most we can, but most of all, to simply laugh, cry, love and dream through music."
Singer-songwriter and activist Joan Baez is being honored "because she breathed new life into the folk genre, powering rock music's turn to social and political consciousness." A lesser-known honoree is violinist Midori Goto, "whose

international presence, over 35 years, combines graceful precision and expression for performances building connections between art and the human experience."
Last, but not least, is Dick Van Dyke, honored "because of the charm that has made him one of the most cherished performers in show business history." Some of his best vehicles were "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Mary Poppins" and its sequel, and "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." Van Dyke remembers "Many years ago, I hosted a similar event, held in private, with The Kennedy Family. I saw the care with which the recipients were chosen from an impressive list of nominees. Being included this year, in this small, illustrious group, is the thrill of my life."
The show has always aired between Christmas and New Year's, but this year it will reach our homes on Sunday, June 6, on CBS. At 95, Dick Van Dyke is still working, wondering what that strange word "retire" means!
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Van Dyke

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: Is there going to be a continuation of the series "Virgin River" on Netflix? I texted Netflix but did not get an answer. The show had a lot of people hooked and ended at such a terrible time! Please let me know ASAP. -- *G.H.*
A: Good news! The Netflix drama "Virgin River," based on the Harlequin romance book series, has been given the greenlight for a 10-episode third season. Set in gorgeous Northern California (but filmed in British Columbia), it stars Alexandra Breckenridge ("American Horror Story," "The Walking Dead") as a nurse-practitioner who relocates to a small town. The second season ended in a tragic cliffhanger, so it would have been extremely disappointing if viewers were left without a resolution.
I don't know how long you'll have to wait, but I do know that Zibby Allen ("Nancy Drew") has joined the cast as Jack's (Martin Henderson) sister. In the



Breckenridge

meantime, if you'd like to read the novels, there are 22 of them, all written by author Robyn Carr.

Q: Is there going to be a normal Academy Awards ceremony this year? Will there be enough movies to fill all the categories? -- *G.S.*
A: The Academy is giving it their best shot to have as traditional a ceremony as possible despite the limited pool of movies released due to the pandemic. The telecast has been postponed to Sunday, April 25, and whether there will be a live audience inside the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles remains to be seen.
The Golden Globe Awards will be broadcast Feb. 28 on ABC. The Oscars traditionally award dramas in its Best Picture category, so if the Golden Globes nominees are any indication, the top contenders include "The Father" (Anthony Hopkins), "Mank" (Gary Oldman), "Nomadland" (Frances McDormand), "Promising Young Woman" (Carey Mulligan) and "The Trial of the Chicago 7" (Eddie Redmayne). Although some theaters are open, most of the nominees will likely be

viewed from home through streaming platforms or via pay-per-view. Oscar nominations will be announced Monday, March 15.
Also in doubt is whether the Oscars will ever have a host again.

Q: Is the TV show "Project Blue Book" coming back? -- *F.B.*
A: "Project Blue Book" is a historical sci-fi drama about UFOs that debuted on the History channel two years ago and starred Michael Malarky. The title is from the same name that the real-life U.S. Air Force termed its series of studies of the mysterious objects from the 1950s until 1970.
Alas, the TV show was canceled after just two seasons. Fans were so upset that they started an online petition hoping another network or streaming service would renew the series. If you'd like to add your name to the list, visit [Change.org](https://www.change.org) and search for "Project Blue Book."
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
There are a lot of happy hearts out there after Feb. 14. After all, it's one of the most popular days for popping the question, and millions of couples worldwide get engaged on Valentine's Day. And so, Feb. 15 begins the event planning season for many brides and grooms to be. Need inspiration? Look no further than the following films:
"Four Weddings and a Funeral" -- The British charmer that launched the career of Hugh Grant (himself a British charmer), this untarnished gem features a group of 20- to 30-something friends attending the weddings of friends, looking for love, sometimes finding it and always being humbled by its power. The weddings include a Scottish castle affair, and the funeral will tear the heartstrings from your body.
"Crazy Rich Asians" -- This all-out fantasy rom-com features a regular gal, Rachel Chu (Constance Wu), whose seemingly normal longtime boyfriend takes her East to his best friend's wedding

-- and to meet his family. The boyfriend is considerate, elegant and, well, crazy rich. Fierce backstabbing females and handsome playboys flank a disapproving mother all set in a backdrop of elaborate ostentatiousness!
"Muriel's Wedding" -- Muriel (Toni Collette) just wants to get married. But she's hindered by an overbearing dad and so much awkwardness. But when she makes friends with a kindred spirit, they move to the big city to live their dream -- but will those wedding bells make her heart ring?
"Father of the Bride" -- Steve Martin plays George Banks, a shoe manufacturer whose daughter, Annie (Kimberly Williams-Paisley) is getting married. Simple story, but so sweetly delivered. From Annie's engagement to an over-the-top wedding planner, a mild midlife crisis and more, George learns to let go of his little girl.
"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" -- At 30, Toula worries she's missing her window. She works at her family's

restaurant, the Dancing Zorba, and not much else. But as she begins to break out of her shell, she meets a man and falls in love: He's not Greek. The resulting journey of Toula's family accepting him and eventually embracing him is pure comedy gold.
"Bride Wars" -- Two best friends (played by Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway) share a common dream: to be married at New York's Plaza Hotel. Who could have guessed that they'd get engaged at just the same moment? The bigger problem is that there's only one opening! Who will get the day?
"Mamma Mia!" -- On the eve of Sophie's (Amanda Seyfried) wedding, she interacts with three special guests -- the three men who could potentially be her father. All were lovers of her free-spirited single mom Donna (Meryl Streep), who runs a bed and breakfast on a gorgeous Greek island. It's a musical, using only the songs of the Swedish super pop group ABBA.
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• Trivia Test •

1. THEATER: Which city was the setting for the musical "Cabaret"?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "veritas vos liberabit" mean?
3. TELEVISION: What was the name of the pet "dog" on "The Flintstones"?
4. ASTRONOMY: What is a zenith in terms of our solar system's sun?
5. HISTORY: How many days were in an ancient Roman week?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of zebras called?
7. LITERATURE: Which 19th-century novelist's last work was titled "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"?
8. ADSLOGANS: Which brand of pet food uses the slogan, "Tastes

- so good cats ask for it by name"?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state's residents might be called "Nut-meggers"?
 10. GEOGRAPHY: Which four countries are included in the United Kingdom?
- Answers
1. Berlin, Germany
 2. The truth shall set you free
 3. Dino
 4. When the sun is directly overhead and objects cast no shadow
 5. Eight
 6. A dazzle or zeal
 7. Charles Dickens
 8. Meow Mix
 9. Connecticut
 10. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Seize
- 5 Butte's kin
- 9 Cardinal cap letters
- 12 "Othello" villain
- 13 In -- (lined up)
- 14 Weeding tool
- 15 Reality show for aspiring entrepreneurs
- 17 PC key
- 18 Minor quibbles
- 19 Hospital sections
- 21 Type of beam
- 24 Pack (down)
- 25 Reverberate
- 26 Rubber wedge, say
- 30 Small battery
- 31 All better
- 32 Actress Thurman
- 33 Hoedown musicians
- 35 Author Harte
- 36 Seeing things
- 37 Tubular pasta
- 38 Tribal emblem
- 40 Coffee, slangily
- 42 Mess up
- 43 Temporary
- 48 GPS suggestion
- 49 Last write-up
- 50 Despot
- 51 British verb

DOWN

- 1 USO audience
- 2 Fan's cry
- 3 Khan title
- 4 Third-largest island
- 5 "The Martian" actor Damon
- 6 Historic periods
- 7 Junior
- 8 Clumsy
- 9 Mountain road feature
- 10 Snitched
- 11 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 16 White wine cocktail
- 20 Mornings (Abbr.)
- 21 Piece of lettuce
- 22 Exotic berry
- 23 Elm, for one
- 24 Low digits
- 26 Union payment
- 27 Bruins legend
- 28 Portent
- 29 Canape spread
- 31 South Carolina uni-

versity

- 34 Decorate
- 35 Actor Warren
- 37 Beetle
- 38 Garr of "Tootsie"
- 39 Scraps
- 40 Unite
- 41 Museo display
- 44 Showtime rival
- 45 Jargon suffix
- 46 Squealer
- 47 Hosp. scan

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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	9			8				1

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Member FDIC

Do you Kasasa?

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer

Brought to you each week by

FIRST STATE BANK
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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* A team of Japanese scientists and engineers created a fire alarm for the deaf that works by spraying vaporized wasabi into the air -- it will even wake them up if they're sleeping.

* Bees can fly higher than Mount Everest.

* In 1960, during a period of high tensions between Havana and Washington, a Cuban cow got hit by a chunk of a falling U.S. satellite. Islanders got a dig in at their American neighbors by parading another cow through the streets sporting a sign that read, "Eisenhower, you murdered one of my sisters!"

* Before trees existed, the earth was covered with giant white mushrooms.

* All astronauts going to the International Space Station have to learn to speak Russian, as the controls of their Soyuz spacecraft are in that language.

* Fried chicken originated in Scotland.

* Off-duty paramedic Matthew McKnight earned the dubious Guinness World Record for furthest distance thrown by a car when he was hit by a vehicle traveling 70 mph and was catapulted 118 feet. Amazingly, while he suffered serious injuries, he managed to recover.

* There is a Fictitious Athlete Hall of Fame. Inductees include Rocky Balboa, Mr. Miyagi and Happy Gilmore.

* You're more likely to be bitten by a human than a shark.

* Not that we think you'd actually drink this much, but 10 gallons of carrot juice will kill you. Its vitamin A content is high enough to make your brain swell, along with other nasty symptoms. By the way, you can also overdose on the vitamin by eating a pound of polar bear liver every day.

Thought for the Day: "Actually, in my opinion you never completely find yourself because you are always growing as a person and learning throughout your life. It is a process." -- Robert A. Bofman

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King Crossword
Solution time: 23 mins
Answers

1	E	A		E	N	O	N		E	S	I
2	H	A	S	I		L	I	B	O		E
3	M	B	E	L		I	A	V	O	H	S
4				V	A	V					
5	E	N	N	E		D		S	E	A	E
6	I	E	B		S	R	E	B		T	O
7	A	N		D		E	N	O			
8	P	O	L	S		H	O	O		O	
9											
10	S	O	H			S	I				
11	L	O	V		K	N	O				
12	O	H									
13	L	I	S		M	E	S	A			


FEBRUARY 20-27

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

American agriculture is an important part of the economy. Besides producing enough for our nation's needs, American farmers also produce enough to feed the world.

Agricultural advances allow us to grow more and do more. But the backbone of our agricultural success is the individual farmer.

That's where the FFA comes in!

We help students develop the technological and agricultural know-how for today's demanding market. In the classroom, in the field or on the job, FFA is growing a bumper crop of future farmers and technicians.

We'd like to take time during National FFA Week to recognize the achievements and contributions FFA and FFA members have made, not only to American agriculture, but to American society and the world.

Keep agriculture growing, support the FFA programs in our schools and communities, and help us help the farmers and leaders of tomorrow.


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815-246-8261
385 Chicago Rd. • Paw Paw
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The Mendota Reporter

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815-539-9396

McDonald Trucking & Paving

210 S. Memorial St. • Ohio
815-376-5261

Grainco FS Inc.

3107 N. State Route 23 • Ottawa
815-434-0131

THE BACK PAGE

CARDS OF THANKS

This thank you goes out to the honest lady Samaritan who found and promptly turned in my purse, with all items intact, at the Target store in Peru. You appeared and disappeared so suddenly, I truly believe you were my guardian angel that day. Your kind actions saved me immeasurable grief and despair for which I am so grateful. I pray this message finds you and reminds others to do the right thing. May God bless you and may good karma always find you.

A lucky lady in Mendota

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of JERRY HILD JR., who passed away 22 years ago, Feb. 24, 1999.

When loved ones Have to part To help us feel We're with them still And sooth a grieving heart They span the years And warm our lives Preserving ties that bind Our memories build A special bridge and Bring us peace of mind.

Sadly missed, By your Family

Prohibited Parking

MENDOTA – The City of Mendota reminds citizens that Chapter 41.49 of the Mendota Municipal Code in regard to Prohibited Parking reads as follows:

- Parking is prohibited along both sides of First Avenue for the entire length of the avenue.

- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Sixth Avenue from Second Street to Fifth Street.

- Parking is prohibited on the east side of Main Street from Sixth Street to Washington Street.

- Parking is prohibited on the south side of Washington Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Iowa Street.

- Parking is prohibited on both sides (north and south) of Washington Street from Iowa Street to U.S. Route 251.

Grants, scholarships to aid IVCC ag program

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College is partnering with Compeer Financial, a Farm Credit cooperative based in the upper-Midwest, and other community and technical colleges to bolster vocational agriculture education programs and make them more accessible to young adults.

Compeer has committed \$1.9 million in grants and scholarships over the next five years through its Agriculture and Rural Initiative to 30 post-secondary colleges.

Representatives from Compeer's Fund for Rural America Board met with the colleges to announce the first major gift from its Agriculture and Rural Initiative. The initiative provides training for young adults pursuing agriculture-related careers.

A shortage of skilled workers is an ongoing challenge for farmers and other agriculture-related businesses.

Compeer Financial is addressing the problem and putting significant financial support behind the effort.

IVCC ag program co-coordinator Willard Mott said, "IVCC is excited about the opportunities the Compeer partnership will provide for students, farmers and businesses in the area."

Co-coordinator Kathryn Seebruck agrees. "These grants will provide us with even more classroom technology as well as ease the financial burden on students."

The Agriculture and Rural Initiative invests in programs and projects that directly address the needs of farmers and others who work in agriculture. Compeer Financial clients often list workforce development among their highest concerns.

Compeer is investing \$1.6 million in grants and \$375,000 in scholarships. Participating schools serve

144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin and each has an established agriculture program. Colleges may use the grants for equipment and technology, recruitment, retention and teacher training.

Partner colleges will receive two annual \$1,250 ag scholarships over the next five years.

In addition to extending financial support, Compeer will also connect partner colleges with team members who are alumni or live in the area to serve as resources to the ag program.

Compeer will be a conduit between graduates looking to put their training to work and clients who have jobs available.

"Compeer is a strong supporter of high school programs and organizations focused on agricultural education for youth," said Roger Newell, a trustee of the Fund for Rural America.

Snowmobiles, ATVs are not allowed on MHS property

MENDOTA – Public notice from Mendota High School: Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are not allowed on any District 280 school property. Violators will be prosecuted.

IVCC reaches ag transfer agreements

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College recently announced agriculture transfer agreements with Illinois State University and Southern Illinois University.

With these agreements, IVCC students can pursue and complete an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agronomy or Agricultural Business Management and transfer to ISU or SIU to complete a bachelor's degree

in agriculture.

IVCC ag program co-coordinators Willard Mott and Kathryn Seebruck are excited for the impact the agreements will have on IVCC students.

Mott said, "These agreements mean students pursuing traditional, non-transfer career degrees can now seamlessly transfer and finish a bachelor's degree in agriculture at a major university."

"These agreements provide more versatility for students who may be undecided on whether they want to transfer after two years at IVCC," Seebruck added.

Former IVCC students holding an AAS in agriculture also can take advantage of this new agreement.

For information, contact Seebruck at (815) 224-0495 or Mott at (815) 224-0413.

POLICE BLOTTER

TWO CHARGES

Joseph Patterson, 20, of 1311 Guiles Ave., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license and unlawful use of a weapon after a traffic stop at First Avenue and 16th Street at 1:48 p.m. Feb. 12. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Connor J. Carreon, 27, of 812 Main St., Apt. 11, Mendota, was arrested at 9:20 a.m. Feb. 12 on a LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear on a charge of reckless driving. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

MPD offers winter driving tips

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

Take the time to clean the snow and ice from all vehicle windows prior to driving on the road. Keep your speed down to assist in keeping control of your own vehicle when driving on slick icy roads. If traveling long distances remember to pack a few emergency items to take along in the event your vehicle should go off the roadway, including a cell phone, blankets and water.

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

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AUCTION ALERT!

FARM MACHINERY AUCTION OF JOHN DEERE EQUIPMENT, MOSTLY ONE OWNER & SHEDDED EQUIPMENT
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021
Starting @ 9:30 am
3934 East 2351st Road AKA Homsey Road, Serena IL 60549
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Lunch available Comfort Station

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2013 John Deere 6170R, MFWD, one owner, Approx. 1509 hrs., 3 remotes, Duals, Weights, Auto Quad plus, Transmission, Deluxe light package, 1983 John Deere 4250 approx. 7202 hrs., duals, weights, Quick Hitch, w/ power beyond, rear tires, 8R – 38, 1979 John Deere 4240, approx. 8193 hrs., 2 remotes, Duals weights, 2001 John Deere 9550 combine, 4270 engine hrs., Sep. 2766 hrs., Mower Bin extensions, extra spout length, chopper / spreader. J/D 693 Poly corn head Hydro deck plate, J/D 620F full finger 20" bean head, 20" 672 e-zee trail head mover, Wacker RD 80 double wheel pavement roller.

TILLAGE- PLANTERS- SEED TENDER- WAGONS- SPRAYER & OTHER RELATED FARM EQUIPMENT

John Deere 1760 Max Emerge plus vacu meter 12 row 30" planter, John Deere Computer-trak 250 monitor, 15' John Deere 1560 no till grain drill, 10' John Deere Van Brunt planter w grass seed attachment, John Deere 630 Disc, 22", 7.5" spacings, JD 714 Disc Chisel 10 shank w front disc 9" spacings, w transport lights, **Easi Load 2 box seed Tender electric start Honda GX160 engine, poly cup auger**, 24' McFarlane drag cart, J/D 856 12 row Cultivator, J/D 400 15' Rotary Hoe square bar, (3) Kory 550 gravity wagons brakes lights, spare tires, Brent 440 gravity wagon, Killbros 375 gravity wagon on 1075 J/D gear, 2 barge box wagons on John Deere gears w hoist, Demco Tandem Axle sprayer w 45' booms & pump, (2) 16' Hutchinson loading augers w motors, 66' & 71' 8" grain Augers, Hay wagon on John Deere gear.

MISC. USEFUL FARM RELATED EQUIPMENT & COLLECTIBLE ANTIQUE ITEMS- LIVESTOCK PANELS & FENCING MATERIAL- BARN LUMBER & BEAMS-

(3) 500-gal fuel tanks 1 w elect pump, 150-gal fuel tank on trailer, 7' livestock utility trailer w sides wood floor, NO TITLE, 3 pt. HD Quick hitch, 5' front mount blade, 10' livestock bunk feeder, 30 gal Monmouth stoneware crock & 20 gal Tonic crock, Anvil, painted Kitchen cabinet, nail kegs, wood pulleys, hay hooks, Forney Welder, Portable air tank, 2 pc roll away tool box, ¾" Mac socket set, John Deere hand crank Corn Sheller, brass tag milk cans Albert Dolder, & Walter Kennedy, knipco bullet heater, fruit Press, Dekalb Seed & Millbrook Farmers Elevator Thermometers, cage fan blower, Misc. farm hardware & misc. implement & tractor parts, Primitive hand farm tools, Cye w wood cradle, One bottom walk behind plow, wood time rake, Hinged Box w metal Coca cola sign, metal shell chair, upright Victrola as is, Simplicity tool box, Air America 20 gal portable Air compressor, sm. elect motors, sev. wire hog panels & gates, steel & Wood post, sev. 14' Doug Fir planks & others, Barn lumber rafters & Beams, flat flag stone for landscaping, Tin roof A-frame hog shelter, tin barn siding, antique wood working tools, live trap, toboggan, chicken feeders & waters, coca cola bottle carrier, 2-man cross cut saw, iron pile, Alu Canoe, other items too numerous to mention,

Terms: Cash, good check, Credit & Debit cards. Must have proper photo Id to register. All items sell to best and highest bidder. No property removed until settled for prior to removing from property. **NO BUYER'S PREMIUM for those attending live!** Not responsible for items or accidents once sold, all sales are final. 5% buyer's premium for any purchase on line

SCHPEPLER FARMS, OWNER

Questions concerning machinery contact Ray Scheppeler @ 815-228-7719

AUCTIONEERS:

Chris Wegener Sandwich IL. 815-451-2810 & Joel Prestegaard, Hinckley IL. 815-761-7426

Mike Espe 630-669-2667 Elburn IL.

See photos on Auction Zip; AUCTIONEER ID #13150 or Go2wegenerauctions.com for equipment facts link.

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SPORTS

MHS sophs struggle in pair of losses

MENDOTA – Rockford Christian came out on fire to open the game and coasted to a 71-24 triumph over the Mendota sophomore boys' basketball team on Feb. 10 at the MHS gym.

The visitors poured in 28 first-quarter points while the Trojans managed only seven as the game was decided in a hurry. Christian held a 45-17 halftime lead and a 67-19 cushion after three periods.

Johnathan Cortez paced the Trojans in scoring with eight points, while Isaac Guzman dropped in six tallies.

"Our guys played hard, but could not match the scoring of Rockford Christian," said Mendota coach Nick Ganz. "The guys worked their tails off and got every loose ball and did a good job of boxing out a bigger Christian team."

Another fast start by the opposition, this time Byron, did in the Trojans, 57-24, on Feb. 12 at the MHS gym.

The visitors raced out to a 20-6 lead after the opening stanza and coasted to the victory. The count was 34-18 at intermission and 57-22 after three.

Guzman netted 11 points and Ryne Strouss chipped in with five for Mendota.



Mendota's Krew Bond splits between Byron defenders Zach Tucker, left, and Maxwell Connell on his way to the basket on Feb. 12 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Trojans upended by R. Christian, Byron

MENDOTA – Mendota's varsity boys' basketball team couldn't keep pace with Rockford Christian and dropped a 63-34 verdict to the Royal Lions on Feb. 10 at the MHS gym.

Christian zoomed out to a 21-7 first-quarter lead and never looked back. The visitors increased the count to 32-13 at the break and they owned a 50-30 cushion with three quarters in the books.

Only four Trojan players managed to dent the scoreboard, led by Krew Bond with 19 points. Rafa Romero also hit double figures with 11 markers.

The Trojans hung tough with Byron before coming up on the short end of a 59-54 decision on Feb. 12 at the

MHS gym. Mendota's record stands at 1-3.

Mendota kept the contest close throughout the first half, trailing by six (15-9) after the initial stanza and 26-22 at the half. It looked as though Byron was going to take control in the third quarter when it led 45-34 heading to the fourth, but the Trojans clawed back.

Mendota was down by as many as 12 points in the fourth, but made a last-minute charge. Ted Landgraf and Bond knocked down back-to-back three-pointers to pull the Trojans to within four points (55-51) with 29 seconds left, but that's as close as they could get.

Bond paced the offense with 20 points, while Landgraf closed with 10 tallies, including eight in the fourth frame. Josue Arteaga added eight markers.

R. CHRISTIAN 63, MENDOTA 34

Rockford Christian (63)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
McGraw	3	0-0	0	9
Cummings	0	0-0	1	0
Hoover	2	2-2	1	6
Is. Johnson	3	0-0	1	7
Hodges	5	0-0	2	13
Miller	0	0-0	1	0
Longley	1	2-4	2	4
Latham	1	2-4	0	4
Elsbree	2	0-0	0	5
Ik. Johnson	7	1-1	3	15
Totals	24	7-11	11	63

Mendota (34)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Bond	6	4-8	1	19
Magallanes	0	0-0	3	0
Romero	5	0-2	2	11
Landgraf	1	0-1	0	2
Stamberger	0	0-0	1	0
Strouss	1	0-0	0	2
Figuerroa	0	0-0	3	0
Totals	13	4-11	10	34

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
R. Christian	21	32	50	63
Mendota	7	13	30	34
Three-point goals: Mendota - Bond 3, Romero 1; Rockford Christian - McGraw 3, Is. Johnson 1, Hodges 3, Elsbree 1				

BYRON 59, MENDOTA 54

Byron (59)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Lambert	2	2-2	2	6
Binkley	2	2-4	1	6
Tucker	8	4-5	1	22
Griffith	3	0-0	2	6
Connell	2	0-1	5	4
Lorenz	2	3-4	1	8
Potter	1	2-3	1	4
Murphy	0	0-0	1	0
Gooden	0	3-4	1	3
Totals	20	16-23	15	59

Mendota (54)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Bond	7	3-7	0	20
Magallanes	2	0-2	4	5
Romero	2	1-4	3	5
Perez	3	0-2	4	6
Landgraf	4	0-0	2	10
Arteaga	3	2-4	4	8
Totals	21	6-19	17	54

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Byron	15	26	45	59
Mendota	9	22	34	54
Three-point goals: Mendota - Bond 3, Magallanes 1, Landgraf 2; Byron - Lorenz 1, Tucker 2				

Mendota girls drop 2

Mendota couldn't match the hot shooting of Rockford Christian and suffered a 57-33 loss in varsity girls' basketball action on Feb. 10 at Rockford.

The Lady Trojans also struggled in other areas of the game, including rebounding and making good decisions.

"We were extremely sloppy mentally and physically on offense with rushed passes and shots," said Mendota coach John Hansen. "We also got hammered on the boards. We are playing hard, we just need to play smarter."

Christian doubled up the score, 14-7, after the opening stanza and added one point to its lead heading to the locker room.

The Royal Lions pulled away in the second half when they knocked down eight of their 11 three-pointers in the contest. Christian held a 37-20 advantage after three frames.

Reanna Brant paced the Lady Trojans with nine points and 10 rebounds. Daisy Arteaga chipped in

with eight points and two steals, while Jenna O'Donnell picked up two steals and two assists.

It was a forgettable game for the Lady Trojans at Byron as they struggled to put together any offense and fell by a 44-14 count on Feb. 12.

Mendota scored two first-quarter points and trailed 10-2 at the conclusion of eight minutes, then only managed four points in each of the next three frames. The Lady Trojan were down 24-6 at the half.

"We struggled on offense and rushed a lot of shots," noted Hansen. "This weird season hasn't given us the time to fully step into our new roles on offense and it really showed."

Brant and Arteaga each had six points to lead the Lady Trojans, who fell to 1-3 on the season. Brant and Karly Reel handled five rebounds apiece. O'Donnell had a pair of steals.

BYRON 44, MENDOTA 14

Mendota (14)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
O'Donnell	0	0-0	1	0
Nanez	0	0-0	3	0
Brant	3	0-0	5	6
Arteaga	2	2-2	4	6
Bodmer	1	0-0	2	2
Reel	0	0-0	5	0
Tolentino	0	0-2	3	0
Salinas	0	0-2	0	0
Totals	6	2-6	23	14

Byron (44)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
M. Carlson	2	2-2	1	6
Salisbury	2	2-2	0	7
Roush	1	0-0	2	2
Julian	0	1-2	0	1
G. Kultgen	1	1-2	2	3
Grundstrom	2	2-4	2	6
Bukoski	3	1-2	1	9
Meyers	1	0-0	2	2
Bielskis	1	0-0	0	2
A. Kultgen	2	2-2	2	6
Jones	0	0-0	2	0
Totals	15	11-16	14	44

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	2	6	10	14
Byron	10	24	35	44
Three-point goals: Byron - Salisbury 1, Bukoski 2				

R. CHRISTIAN 57, MENDOTA 33

Mendota (33)				
	FG	FT	Reb	TP
O'Donnell	1	1-2	1	3
Nanez	2	0-0	3	4
Manning	0	1-2	1	1
Brant	3	3-4	10	9
Arteaga	3	1-6	2	8
Bodmer	1	2-2	1	4
Reel	1	2-3	1	4
Totals	11	10-19	19	33

Rockford Christian (57)				
	FG	FT	Fls	TP
Combs	2	2-2	2	6
Park	3	0-2	1	9
Park	5	0-1	3	10
Park	2	0-0	3	5
Columbie	3	0-2	2	8
Proper	0	0-0	1	0
Smith	5	0-0	2	15
Demo	1	0-0	2	2
Harvey	1	0-0	2	2
Totals	22	2-7	18	57

SCORE BY QUARTERS				
Mendota	7	13	20	33
R. Christian	14	21	37	57
Three-point goals: Mendota - Arteaga 1; Rockford Christian - Park 3, Park 1, Columbie 2, Smith 5				

F-S girls beaten twice

Rockford Christian topped the Mendota freshman-sophomore girls' basketball team, 43-17, on Feb. 10 at Rockford. The Lady Trojans found themselves staring up at a 15-2 deficit after the first quarter and trailed 23-10 at the half.

Emily Stewart led the offense with five points, while Karly Reel and Reanna Brant provided four points apiece.

Byron posted a 50-17 triumph over Mendota on Feb. 12 at Byron.

The home team held an 11-6 lead at the end of one and then increased the margin to 28-10 at the break.

Katie Jenner's six points topped the Mendota scoring column, while Brant added four.



Mendota's Rafa Romero secures a rebound from Byron's Maxwell Connell while Damien Magallanes also gets in on the action on Feb. 12 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Freshman boys suffer setbacks to Rockford Christian, Byron

MENDOTA – Mendota had trouble putting the ball in the basket and suffered a 56-19 setback to Rockford Christian in freshman boys' basketball action on Feb. 10 at the MHS gym.

The Trojans scored only two points in the opening stanza compared to 19 for Christian. Mendota heated up slightly in

the second quarter with 10 points, but then it went scoreless in the third frame as the visitors opened up a 40-point lead.

Mason Koch led the Trojans with seven points, while Owen Aughenbaugh and Ryan Stevenson added three points apiece.

The Trojans were taken down by Byron, 57-29, on Feb. 12 at the MHS gym.

Byron increased a 10-6 first-quarter lead to 28-15 at the half. Mendota was outscored 29-14 in the second half.

Jace Baird had 11 points to lead Mendota in scoring. Stevenson and Logan Wujek each had four points.



Mendota's Damien Magallanes has the inside track to the hoop over Byron's Aydin Lambert on Feb. 12 at the MHS gym. (Reporter photo)

Mendota High School bowling

Feb. 11 vs. Ottawa
(varsity girls)

Ottawa 3296, Mendota 3046

Mendota scores: Michael Fenwick 115, 120, 106 – 341; Clay Buffington 148, 118, 183 – 449; Sam Lawrence 169, 140, 151 – 460; Alex Hermosillo 171, 148, 145 – 464; Kasen Novak 223, 212, 210 – 645; Landon Bauer 199, 262, 226 – 687

(varsity boys)

Ottawa 3296, Mendota 3046

Mendota scores: Kelsie Martin 83, 99, 67 – 249; Talya Schwaegerman 117, 103, 118 – 338; Isabelle Escatel 159, 161, 124 – 444; Janeth Hermosillo 120, 189, 135 – 444; Blind 91, 79, 106 – 276

BOWLING

Monday Night
Mixed League

Standings as of Feb. 11 – 1. Bad Kats 28-17; 2. CM Farm 27-18; 3. Mendota Agri-Products 20-25; 4. Sports-N-Stuff 20-25

High team game (scratch) – Mendota Agri-Products 1103, Bad Kats 759, Sports-N-Stuff 753

High team game (hdcp) – Mendota Agri-Products 1303, Bad Kats 1224, CM Farm 1198

High team series (scratch) – Mendota Agri-Products 3158, Sports-N-Stuff 2189, Bad Kats 2125

High team series (hdcp) – Mendota Agri-Products 3758, Bad Kats 3520, CM Farm 3433

Men's high game (scratch) – Jose Sarabia 277, Bob Thomas 257, Luke Ross 222

Men's high game (hdcp) – Jose Sarabia 322, Bob Thomas 284, Ed Roulston 270

Men's high series (scratch) – Jose Sarabia 747, Bob Thomas 716, Luke Ross 629

Men's high series (hdcp) – Jose Sarabia 882, Bob Thomas 797, Carl Reistad 690

Women's high game (scratch) – Gail Sessler 227, Emily Thomas 186, Kassidi Guerrero 186

Women's high game (hdcp) – Gail Sessler 282, Debbie Berger 266, Brenda Westphal 266

Women's high series (scratch) – Gail Sessler 556, Emily Thomas 540, Kassidi Guerrero 526

Women's high series (hdcp) – Brenda Westphal 733, Debbie Berger 732, Emily Thomas 723

LOCAL AND AREA

Refuse to settle for less than God has for you

Many years ago, when God gave me a revelation of His promise for my life in John 10:10, it was literally life-changing. The truth that Jesus came “that they may have life, and have it to the full” (NIV) gave me a determination to no longer settle for just barely getting by in my everyday life.

As I became more serious about my relationship with God and discovered how to really “do life” with Him, the

more I experienced the peace and joy that only Jesus can give. And it made me passionate about helping others take hold of everything God has for their lives, too.

So many people are hurting, struggling to find joy, peace and fulfillment. They’re missing out on the good plan God has for them because they don’t know that He wants them to have life in Christ “to the full” now, in this

life. Sadly, many who get this realization often settle for less than God’s best because it requires determination and diligence to get there.

Hard Things Can Bring Good Results

These days, with all the modern technology we have, it’s easy to be lazy and expect to just glide through life. Some people don’t have the tenacity to press through challenges because so much of life is automated and convenient.

I remember when simply making a phone call required some effort. And when I first started studying the Bible and teaching, it was quite a job to put even one message together because we didn’t have the Internet to get all of our information from.

We like things to be easy, but when things are too easy, it isn’t necessarily good for us because we lack perseverance and determination to press through them. When hard times and challenges come (and they will come), we will need to do some pressing or we’ll give up.

Never Give Up!

When I talk about “pressing,” what I mean is we have to press



against the pressure that’s coming against us, holding us back from doing what God is leading us to do. For example, maybe you’ve experienced rejection, betrayal, abandonment, injustices, discouragement or disappointment. You need to forgive someone, but it feels impossible to do it and move on.

In His Word, God says, “If you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:15 NIV). And in John 13:34, Jesus says, “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Romans 12:21 clearly says, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

You may be thinking, “Joyce, it’s too hard. You don’t know what they did to me!” Understand. And I know it’s not easy to press through your pain and fear to do what God is showing you to do. It took time and determination for me to forgive my father for abusing me and my mother for knowing about it but not having the courage to get me out of that situation. But God helped me to do it, and ultimately, it set me free to move forward in His call on my life to minister to people all over the world.

Press Past Feelings and Put Your Trust in God

The key to getting your breakthrough is making a determined decision to press past the pain of feelings and do what you know you should do even while you’re hurting. In other words, you can’t wait until you feel like doing what is right.

God wants you to move forward in His plan for your life. But the only way you are going to do that is by starting now to do what you need to do, the things you’ve been putting off because you don’t feel like doing them. Choose to believe that by God’s grace and with His help, you can do what you know in your heart you should do, not just what feels good.

If you’re struggling with this, let me encourage you. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose...]” (AMP). And 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV) says that God’s “divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

Whatever your challenge may be—getting out of debt, strengthening your marriage, pur-

suing a new job, getting in better physical health, etc.—God’s grace can empower you to do it. Ask Him to help you. Trust Him to be with you, and start taking steps of faith, doing what you know you can do today. Press on to the great things Jesus came to give you!

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-CD series Pressing In and Pressing On. 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 QUI-ET 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.

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

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

under File No. R2009
28722, in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 11182009
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0386, Use Period
Number(s) 07, Phase 6,
KENNETH P ROBY,
CATHERINE L ROBY,
1122 ROMONA TER-
RECE, MACHESNEY
PARK, IL, 61115, ac-
cording to the Deed
dated July 12, 2000
and recorded under
File No. R2000 21494.
in the Office of the
Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 8182000
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0141, Use Period
Number(s) 17, Phase 2,
ORLANDO RODRI-
GUEZ, RAMONA RO-
DRIGUEZ, DALIMAR
RODRIGUEZ, 3016 JU-
LIP DR, KISSIMMEE
FL, 34744, according to
the Deed dated August
22, 2000 and recorded
under File No. R2000
31372, in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 12052000
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0138, Use Period
Number(s) 27, Phase 2,
JOE ROY RUIZ, 2094C
CABOT AVE, LAKEVIL-
LE, IN, 46536, ac-
cording to the Deed
dated May 23, 2007
and recorded under
File No. R2007 14782.
in the Office of the
Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 6212007
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0126, Use Period
Number(s) 36, Phase 2,
HOWARD J SACHS,
STELLA M SACHS,
11151 BRIGHTON LN,
FRISCO, TX, 75033
according to the Deed
dated October 02,
1998 and recorded
under File No. R98
28154, in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 12181998
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0037, Use Period
Number(s) 32, Phase 1,
JUDITH A. SEELEY,
WILLIAM S. SEELEY,
754 NEEDLEGRASS
PKWY, ANTIOCH, IL,
60002, according to the
Deed dated December
30, 2004 and recorded
under File No. R2005
01272, in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 1172005
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0011, Use Period
Number(s) 10, Phase 1,
JENNIFER SOTO,
8301 TOWER RD, WIL-
LOW SPRINGS, IL,
60480, according to the
Deed dated November
12, 2011 and recorded
under File No. R2011
25039, in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 12062011
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-
ularly described as Unit
No. 0205E, Use Period
Number(s) 02, Phase 4,
KELLY TAYLOR, MAG-
DALEN NAVARRO,
7543 S RIDGELAND
AVE, CHICAGO, IL,
60649, according to
the Deed dated May
03, 2011 and recorded
under File No. R2011
12488, in the Office of
the Recorder of Deeds
for LaSalle County, Il-
linois, on 6082011
are the owners of the
timeshare estate to be
foreclosed, more partic-

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

ularly described as Unit No. 0282, Use Period Number(s) 24, Phase 4 WINNIE R TAYLOR, 3714 TUTTLE ST, DANVILLE, IL, 61832, according to the Deed dated May 19, 2005 and recorded under File No. R2005 16088, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 6232005, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0376, Use Period Number(s) 46, Phase 3 DOUGLAS L THOMPSON JR., SHELIA ASHBURN, 7711 S CONSTANCE AVE, CHICAGO, IL, 60649, according to the Deed dated September 21, 2008 and recorded under File No. R2008 22652, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 10082008, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0121, Use Period Number(s) 45, Phase 2 OSVALDO TORREBLANCA, HILDA TOR-

REBLANCA, 5418 W SCHUBERT AVE, CHICAGO, IL, 60639, according to the Deed dated December 22, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2014 00456, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 1092014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0153, Use Period Number(s) 28, Phase 2 BLANCA TRUJILLO-RAZO, ARSENIO RAZO, ARSENIO RAZO JR, 9241 KESWICK DR, WOODRIDGE, IL, 60517, according to the Deed dated September 28, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 23419, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 10172013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0099, Use Period Number(s) 34, Phase 2 RICHARD A. WALTON SR., SHIRLEY A. TAYLOR, 3800 MOUNT NEBO RD, DE KALB,

MS, 39328, according to the Deed dated April 07, 2001 and recorded under File No. R2001 11226, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 4252001, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0157, Use Period Number(s) 39, Phase 2 RICHARD A. WALTON SR., SHIRLEY A. TAYLOR, 1051 N CENTRAL AVE, CHICAGO, IL, 60651, according to the Deed dated April 07, 2001 and recorded under File No. R2001 11226, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 4252001, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0157, Use Period Number(s) 39, Phase 2 TERMS OF SALE: At the time and location noted above, the timeshare estates listed above will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for cash. The timeshare estates will be sold in individu-

al lots unless there are no individual bidders, in which case, they may be sold as a group. In the event the managing entity lienholder or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the managing entity lienholder or its authorized agent may offset against the purchase price of the timeshare estate(s) an amount equal to all or a portion of the amount due under the managing entity lien(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction. Fox River Resort Club, An Illinois Not-for-profit Corporation By: Deborah A. Quirk Its: Attorney-In-Fact No. 0201 (2/3, 2/10, 2/17 2021)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS NOTICE OF PUBLICATION FOR NAME CHANGE
In Re the Petition of:)

Patrick Kevin Biers)
To Change the)
Name of Adult.)
Case No: 2021MR2)
PUBLIC NOTICE is)
hereby given that on)
Friday, March 5th, 2021)
in Courtroom 204 of the)
LaSalle County Court-)
house, 119 W. Madison)
Street, Ottawa, LaSalle)
County, Illinois, at)
the hour of 10:30 a.m.,)
or as soon thereafter)
as this matter may be)
heard, a Petition will)
be heard in said Court-)
room for the change of)
name of Patrick Kevin)
Biers to Kevin Patrick)
Biers, pursuant to 735)
ILCS 5/21-101 et. seq.)
Dated: January 29,)
2021, at Mendota, Illi-)
nois.)
Patrick Kevin Biers)
pro se, Petitioner)
No. 0202)
(2/3, 2/10, 2/17 2021)

NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 3, 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 the persons owning, conducting and trans-

acting the business)
known as Expressions)
Salon located at 709 Il-)
linois Avenue Mendota,)
IL 61342. Dated: Febru-)
ary 3, 2021.)
Marion Quintana.)
Applicant)
No. 0204)
(2/10, 2/17, 2/24 2021)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF)
Larry A. Stamberger,)
Deceased)
Case No. 2021-P-22)
CLAIM NOTICE

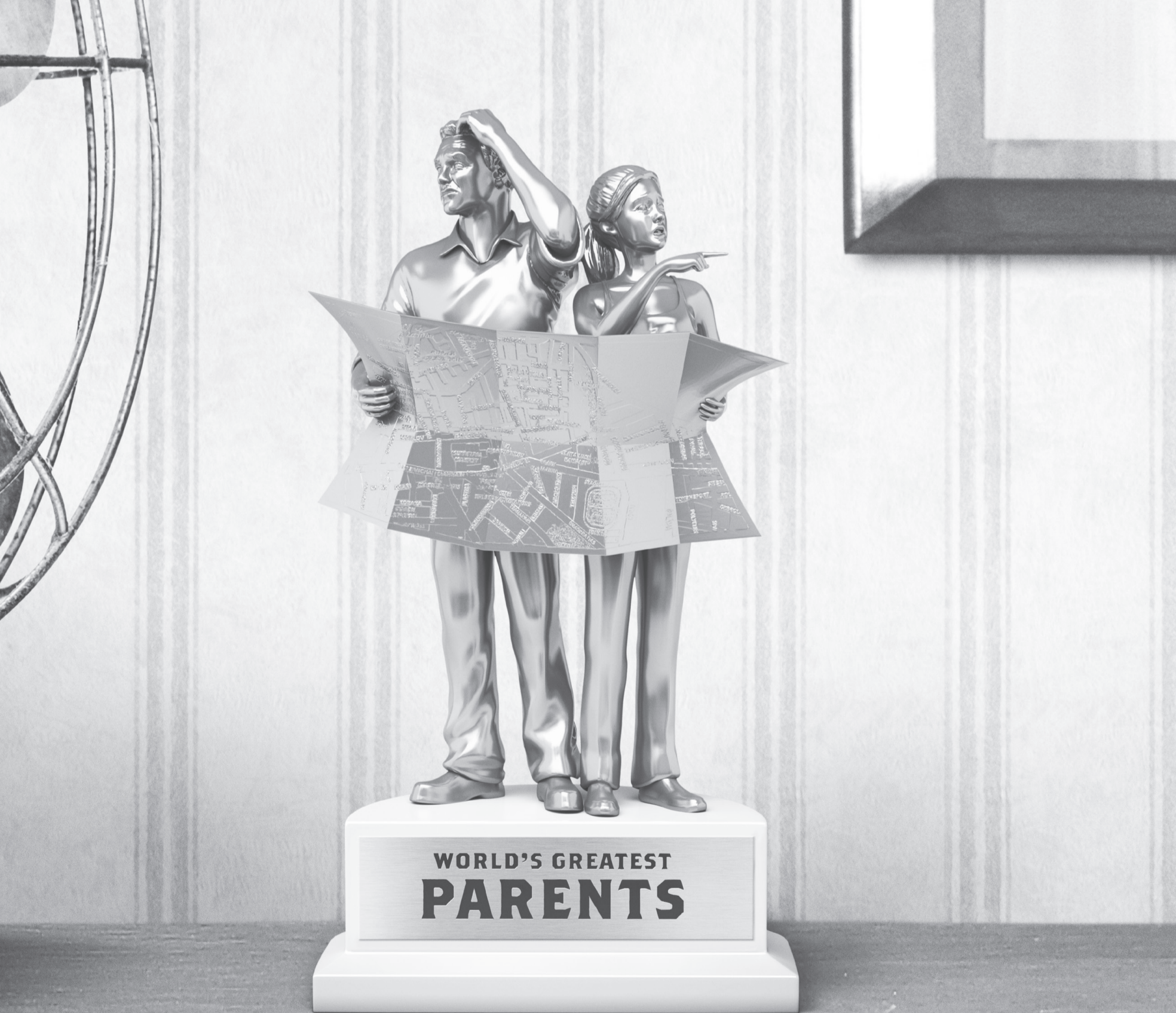
Notice is given of the death of Larry A. Stamberger of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 27, 2021 to John Beetz of 684 N. 44th Road, Mendota, IL 61342 whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Court-house, 119 W. Madison, Ottawa, IL 61350, or

with the representative, or both, on or before August 20, 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. 0205 (2/10, 2/17, 2/24 2021)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF)
Bruce A. Smith,)
Deceased)
Case No. 2021-P-29)
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Bruce A. Smith of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office

were issued on February 4, 2021 to Claudia Carstens Smith of 1808 Washington NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418 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 Court-house, 119 W. Madison, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 20, 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. 0206 (2/17, 2/24, 3/3 2021)



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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

JNJ JUMPERS Indoor/Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

203 HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS Wanted. (Rochelle) Several Routes Open. Call 815-561-2112 For More Information.

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

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301 ANTIQUES

furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-NOON ONLY. SEE RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

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INFORMATION

Office Hours:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Phone:

815-539-9396

Fax:

815-539-7862

Email:

jgriffith@mendotareporter.com

Address:

703 Illinois Ave., Mendota

Mail:

P.O. Box 300

Mendota IL 61342-0300

DEADLINES:

- Mondays at 10 a.m. to start in Wednesday Mendota Reporter
- Thursdays at 5 p.m. to start in Monday Money Saver

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 high-traffic newspaper websites:

- Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$15.99 for garage sale ads.

DISCLAIMER:

If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.

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Marketplace**

203 HELP WANTED

Mendota Elementary School District 289 is seeking a candidate for the position of Secretary to the Superintendent.

This position is a 12-month, full-time position, with benefits including health and life insurance.

Basic secretarial responsibilities, maintaining personnel files, the board of education responsibilities, student information, teacher certification, and employment record-keeping. A high level of confidentiality is required with this position. Work hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Paid holidays are included. Bilingual preferred. Starting hourly salary \$14.20.

Fill out an application by going on the District 289 website and clicking on the AppliTrack Employment link.

02102021

City of Mendota

The City of Mendota has an opening for a full-time permanent employee in the **Public Works Department**. Applicant must have a strong welding and mechanical background and have experience with hand tools, power tools and heavy machinery. Applicant must be able to obtain a Class B CDL with air brake and tanker endorsements at minimum. High school diploma or equivalent is required. Vocational school graduates encouraged to apply. Resumes accepted until 4:00 pm March 1, 2021.

Self-motivated individuals can send resumes including employment history to:
**City of Mendota
ATTN: Personnel
800 Washington Street
Mendota, Illinois 61342**

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02152021

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2020 Buick Enclave Avenir AWD, Loaded, GM Exec Black.....\$45,900	2018 Chevy Equinox LT FWD, Gray.....\$17,500
2020 Chevy Equinox Premier AWD, Blue.....\$27,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD LT Sunroof, 62K Miles Black.....\$17,500
2020 Chevy Equinox AWD LT, Silver.....\$24,900	2018 Chevy Malibu LT Black.....\$16,900
2019 Buick Encore Preferred FWD, 10k mi, White.\$17,500	2018 Chevy Equinox LT FWD, Blue.....\$16,900
2018 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 54K Miles Silver.....\$30,500	2018 Chevy Malibu LT 45K Miles, Tan.....\$15,500
2018 Chevy Equinox LT FWD, White.....\$18,500	

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2018 Chevy Traverse 3LT, AWD Leather, Gray.....\$26,900	2015 Chevy 1500 Dbl. Cab LT 4x4, 51K Miles, Brown.\$27,900
2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4, LT, Maroon.....\$30,900	2015 Chevy Equinox 2 LT FWD, White.....\$14,500

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801 2nd Ave. Mendota \$119,000
MLS#10952640

5 bedroom home on corner lot with alley access. New baths, new carpet upstairs, new flooring in kitchen. 1st floor laundry with 1/2 bath. New kitchen appliances. So many updates. Newer windows and siding. Front porch recently added. 60x150 corner lot. Move in ready.



MLS #10967058 \$169,900
610 Sunset Ave, Earlville, IL

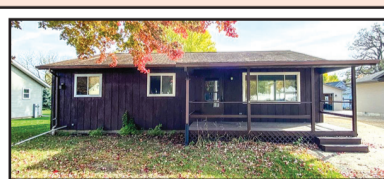
Nice brick ranch, 2 bedroom with a partial basement. 2 car attached garage. Large Lot. Call McConville Realty for all the amenities.



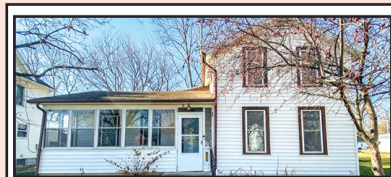
1506 Lincoln Ave., Mendota \$119,900
Remarkable 3 bedroom 2-story home in Mendota on a wooded and shaded lot! If you are a fan of old houses, this is the one for you. Features stunning wood flooring, 2 huge bathrooms, a walk in closet, and an area for laundry. Tons of updates, ask to see the checklist! There is a large deck attached to the back with a super unique summer kitchen! 2 car garage with large workshop and office w/air condition/heat within it.



206 S. Poplar St., Sublette \$133,900
Captivating and spacious 2 story Sublette home. Features 3 beautifully bright bedrooms, an office, and 1 bathroom. Stunning natural woodwork throughout the entire home. Equipped with central air and heat, as well as provisions for a woodburner. All appliances stay besides the clothes washer and dryer. There is also a 32x32 (3) car garage with heat and concrete flooring.



319 W. Pieronnet St., Amboy \$89,900
Cozy ranch style Amboy home! Offers 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. Some recent updates, ask listing agent. The kitchen/dining area has large windows that fill the room beautiful natural light. Appliances in the kitchen are new and stay. The basement is full and unfinished. Walk out the back door and find a spacious backyard with a partial fence and a detached garage. Move-in ready!



18 N Blackstone Ave., Amboy \$113,400
This home is all ready for you! Cozy 3 bedroom home with a gas fireplace! This 1.5 story offers main floor laundry and 2 main floor bedrooms. The upstairs bedroom is spacious and unique. The backyard features a concrete patio, spacious yard, and a paved path to the 3 car detached garage.



568 Slant Rd., West Brooklyn \$180,000
1.5-story fixer-upper on 5 acres! Enjoy the beautiful country views from the front screen room. Offers 5 bedrooms, 1 bath, and a spacious dining area. Land has many outbuildings perfect for animals or they can be purposed to fit your needs

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