

# COVID-19 mitigations rolled back in 9 Illinois regions

## LaSalle, Lee, Bureau counties see restrictions eased

By GRACE BARBIC  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Nine of 11 regions in the state’s COVID-19 mitigation plan have seen mitigations lifted in the past week, with two moving all the way back to Phase 4 restrictions.

The announcement came as hospitalizations and positivity rates continued to decline and the state launched a contracting effort to increase hospital staffing, adjusting the available bed metrics that determine mitigation levels.

Based on adjustments for hospital staffing, Region 3, which covers west-central Illinois counties including Sangamon and Logan, and Region 5, which covers southern Illinois, moved to Phase 4 mitigations. Under Phase 4, gaming and casinos, hotels, indoor fitness classes, offices and cultural institutions are able to reopen without tier restrictions.

Test positivity rates must remain below 6.5 percent for three consecutive days, staffed hospital and ICU beds must reach 20 percent or higher for three consecutive days and there must be a sustained decline in COVID-19 patients in the hospital for seven out of 10 days.

Region 1, which covers counties including Lee and DeKalb in northern Illinois, Region 2, which covers

north-central Illinois counties including LaSalle and Bureau, and Region 6, which covers east-central Illinois counties including Champaign and Macon have moved to Tier 1. These regions can now open indoor dining with limited capacity and restrictions in place.

Once a region moves into Tier 1 mitigations, indoor dining is allowed at a limited 25 percent capacity, indoor tables cannot exceed four people, reservations are required and establishments must be closed between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Although indoor bar service is allowed under Tier 1, it remains suspended unless food is being served at the establishment.

The requirements to move to Tier 1 include a test positivity rate below 8 percent for three consecutive days, with the same criteria for hospitalizations and bed availability as the previous tiers.

Prior to Monday, eight of the state’s 11 mitigation regions remained under Tier 3 restrictions.

“Hospital leaders have made clear the importance of staffing in their continued response to this pandemic and conveyed that staffing contracts will be extraordinarily valuable in their ability to meet the needs of their communities,” Illinois Department of Public Health Director

Dr. Ngozi Ezike said in a news release.

The surge staffing program was created to address capacity issues reported by Illinois hospitals and IDPH in partnership with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The program helps hospitals hire staff for to tend to existing beds that they otherwise cannot staff.

“We are pleased to see most of our regions move out of Tier 3 mitigations with this change, and it is critical that we maintain this progress,” Ezike added. “With new variants of COVID-19 spreading, it is more important than ever to follow public health guidance that keeps people safe.”

### Vaccine update

Pritzker also announced Jan. 15 that the entire state will move into Phase 1B of vaccine distribution starting Jan. 25, although some counties have already entered this phase.

Most of the state is only distributing the vaccine under Phase 1A, which includes health care workers and long-term care facility residents. Counties that have substantially completed the first phase have started Phase 1B, which includes

See Mitigations, Page A5



# Firefighter/paramedic joins MFD; council purchases storage tanks

By KIP CHEEK  
Staff writer

MENDOTA – A new full-time member was welcomed to the Mendota Fire Department at the regular meeting of the Mendota City Council on Jan. 18.

Brady Rutishauser was sworn in as a full-time firefighter/paramedic by Paula Daley of the Police & Fire Commission. He is the son of the current fire chief, Dennis Rutishauser. Chief Rutishauser humorously explained that he knew Brady was destined to be a firefighter when at a young age he attempted to put out a small flame that flared up as Dennis was cooking on the barbecue grill.

Brady Rutishauser has progressed through different phases of firefighter instruction, beginning with the Explorer program. He attended a firefighter course through the LaSalle-Peru Vocational School and was also a member of the Cadet program through the Mendota Fire Department. He has most recently been a firefighter/EMT. Brady replaces Terry Eutis, who retired in December.

Alderman Kyle Kim reported on the Mendota Area Senior Services lease agreement with the city. MASS occupies the Feik Senior Parlor at the Mendota Civic Center. He said it has been agreed upon to keep the monthly rental fee



Brady Rutishauser is sworn in as a full-time firefighter/paramedic by Paula Daley of the Police & Fire Commission at the Jan. 18 Mendota City Council meeting. (Reporter photo)

at \$250 through Sept. 30. Then on Oct. 1, the new rate will be \$400. The fee will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Alderman Jim Fitzpatrick presented a proposal for the city to purchase FRP storage tanks for disinfection process at the waste water treatment plant. The council accepted the bid of \$39,756 from Drydon Equipment Company of Elgin.

Also during Fitzpatrick’s report, the council adopted an ordinance establishing a Public Works Department and director. Tim Kimrey was appointed to the position to oversee the water,

sewer, streets and parks departments.

Mayor David Boelk said he felt it was necessary to have one person direct these departments as the city faces the challenges brought on by the economic impact of the pandemic.

“We are going to start budgeting for the new fiscal year very soon, and it’s a very important process,” stated Boelk. “There needs to be a lot of coordination with everything we have going forward.”

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

# Tax filing season begins Feb. 12

## IRS outlines steps to speed refunds during pandemic

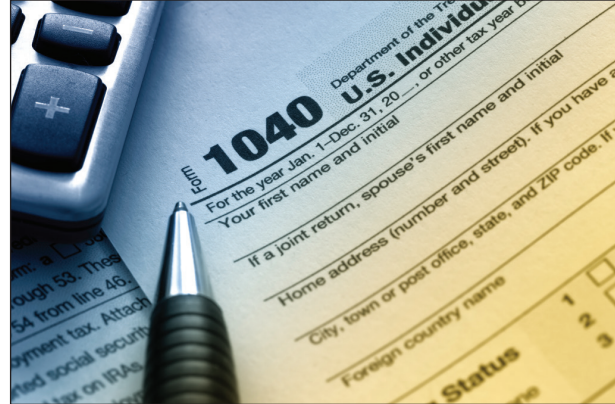
WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The Internal Revenue Service announced that the nation’s tax season will start on Friday, Feb. 12, 2021, when the tax agency will begin accepting and processing 2020 tax year returns.

The Feb. 12 start date for individual tax return filers allows the IRS time to do additional programming and testing of IRS systems following the Dec. 27 tax law changes that provided a second round of Economic Impact Payments and other benefits.

This programming work is critical to ensuring IRS systems run smoothly. If filing season were opened without the correct programming in place, then there could be a delay in issuing refunds to taxpayers. These changes ensure that eligible people will receive any remaining stimulus money as a Recovery Rebate Credit when they file their 2020 tax return.

To speed refunds during the pandemic, the IRS urges taxpayers to file electronically with direct deposit as soon as they have the information they need. People can begin filing their tax returns immediately with tax software companies, including IRS Free File



partners. These groups are starting to accept tax returns now, and the returns will be transmitted to the IRS starting Feb. 12.

“Planning for the nation’s filing season process is a massive undertaking, and IRS teams have been working non-stop to prepare for this as well as delivering Economic Impact Payments in record time,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “Given the pandemic, this is one of the nation’s most important filing seasons ever. This start date will ensure that people get their needed tax refunds quickly while also making sure they receive any remaining stimulus payments they are eligible for as quickly as possible.”

Last year’s average tax refund was more than \$2,500. More than 150 million tax returns are expected to be filed this year, with the vast majority

before the Thursday, April 15 deadline.

Under the PATH Act, the IRS cannot issue a refund involving the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. The law provides this additional time to help the IRS stop fraudulent refunds and claims from being issued, including to identity thieves.

The IRS anticipates a first week of March refund for many EITC and ACTC taxpayers if they file electronically with direct deposit and there are no issues with their tax returns. This would be the same experience for taxpayers if the filing season opened in late January. Taxpayers will need to check Where’s My Refund for their personalized refund date.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Gehant promoted to USN Chief Petty Officer

AWRC (NAC/AW/SW) – Justin J. Gehant USN, of Mendota, was recently promoted to Chief Petty Officer. During his naval career, Chief Gehant has participated in search and rescue efforts during Hurricane Katrina, is a veteran of the Iraqi Freedom campaign, and was part of a squadron that augmented fire suppression efforts during the San Diego fires in 2007.

The Mendota High School graduate is currently on his fifth Western Pacific Deployment serving as a Tactical Helicopter Crewmen with Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 73 (HSM-73) aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

His personal awards include an Air Medal (single action), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, in Silver Star in lieu of Sixth Award, numerous campaign and unit awards, and honor graduate of his class at Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor School.



J. Gehant, USN

His numerous qualifications include: Qualified SH-60B, F, H, and MH-60R, S, Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor, Mountain Flying Instructor, and Carrier Tactical Support Center (CV-TSC) operator, Helicopter Aerial Door Gunner Instructor, Small Arms Instructor, and Aviation Rescue Swimmer.

Chief Gehant is an expert tactician with relentless com-

mitment to the squadron's mission. As the US NAVY's #1 Tactical Helicopter Crewmen, he was hand-selected to instruct the Royal Australian Navy in SEAWOLF Tactics. He has conducted multiple deployments throughout his career in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Counter Narcotic Operations in the South

Pacific with the US COAST GUARD. He has also done two tours at NSA/CSS and NAWDC teaching SEAWOLF Tactics and Carrier Air Wing training, ensuring 100% mission readiness for the US NAVY in operations around the world.

Through his continued dedication, bravery, and honor, Chief Gehant represents the very best of our nation and Mendota.

## EDUCATION BRIEFS

### SIU dean's list, graduates

CARBONDALE – Southern Illinois University Carbondale has named its dean's list and fall 2020 degree candidates.

Students named to the dean's list include:

**Earlville** – Miriam Hoffman, junior; Josef McKee, junior; **Amboy** – Lucas Leffelman, senior; **Compton** – Daniel Menzel, senior; **LaMoille** – Thomas Stamberger, junior; **West Brooklyn** – Pearl Taylor, sophomore.

Students earning degrees include:

**Mendota** – Lyndsey Beetz, BS, Dental Hygiene. Virtual commencement was held on Dec. 12, 2020.

### Kish part-time student honors list

MALTA – Kishwaukee College has announced its part-time student honors list for fall 2020. Over half the students at Kishwaukee College attend school part time and many of these students have responsibilities that extend far beyond the classroom, including work and family obligations.

Local students include **Paw Paw** – Samantha

Katschke, Brooke Heiman, Jacob Pierce; **Earlville** – Sarah Stack.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must have completed a minimum of 6 (but less than 12) semester hours of college-level courses at Kish with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

### Bradley University dean's list

PEORIA – Two local students, Pamela Taylor of West Brooklyn and Meghann Harness of Earlville were named to Bradley University's fall 2020 dean's list. Taylor is majoring in environmental science and Harness is a nursing major.

To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria offering 5,400 undergraduate and graduate students the resources of a larger university and the personal attention of a smaller university. More than 185 academic programs are offered in business, communications, education, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and technology.

## Prusator: MHS to receive large stimulus payment

♦ Funds hoped to alleviate learning loss, digital divide, mental health of students

By BONNIE MORRIS

Editor

MENDOTA – Schools are expecting a new round of federal stimulus funding to help make up for various issues caused by the sudden shutdown last March due to COVID-19. Reporting at the Jan. 18 Board of Education meeting, Mendota High School Superintendent Jeff Prusator said the high schools is set to receive around \$425,000.

Last year, MHS got a \$130,000 stimulus payment. That money was spent on PPE (personal protective equipment), remote learning software, internet access, cleaning supplies/equipment and other necessities.

Prusator said this next round of federal money will be issued through the state, which is encouraging schools to use it to mitigate learning loss, the

digital divide and for the mental health of students. He noted that MHS is lucky to have already closed the digital divide by providing computers and internet access to all MHS students.

As for learning loss, the state suggests possibly having a longer school year, longer school days, and other ideas to provide extra help to students. Prusator said this is a huge responsibility for schools to make up for the lost time when schools closed last spring. "We hope the money doesn't have to all be spent in one year because we can't make up all the lost time in one year," he added.

Board president Jim Lauer said this money is a real opportunity to make a big difference in the learning loss students had last year.

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh gave

an update on spring semester, which begins Jan. 20. MHS has 534 active students including early graduates. She noted that MHS increased their early graduate requests due to the pandemic, and some of their certification is still pending with final grades. There are also out-of-district students and 25 eighth grade students in Honors Algebra I.

Aughenbaugh said 92 students had requested 100% remote learning for spring semester and she expected about 400 in-person students similar to what they had during the fall semester. That is about 55% of building capacity and 75% of daily in-person attendance. "We are very confident that social distancing will be safely maintained for the spring semester," she added.

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## IAA Foundation offers agriculture scholarships

BLOOMINGTON — Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) members, spouses and children are eligible to apply for 78 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$124,000 for the 2021-22 school year.

"We are pleased to recognize students through our growing scholarship program," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation. "It is a privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner. In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations such as Prairie Farms Dairy. For 2021, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly created Sara C. Andrews Memorial Scholarship and the H.R. Beeson Scholarship.

All applicants must be current high school seniors accepted for enrollment, or students already enrolled, at an accredited college, or university. Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academics, leadership experiences and community involvement. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available on the Foundation website, [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). Applications are now available and must be completed online by Feb. 15, 2021.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at (309) 557-2232 or e-mail Jennifer Smith at [jsmith@ilfb.org](mailto:jsmith@ilfb.org).

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

## CARL'S QUIZ

**What famous actress was kicked out of the John Murray Anderson School for the Dramatic Arts?**

- 1.) Judy Garland 2.) Bette Davis
- 3.) Joan Crawford 4.) Lucille Ball
- 5.) Elizabeth Taylor

*The answer to last week's quiz is: Maxwell House coffee was the best-selling brand of coffee for almost 100 years, ending its reign in the late 1980s. Maxwell House was introduced to the market by Joel Cheek, a wholesale grocer who developed the blend with Roger Smith, a British coffee broker. The coffee was named after the upscale Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.*

Answer next week in The Mendota Reporter and online at [www.mendotareporter.com](http://www.mendotareporter.com)



## ISA & Illinois Assoc. FFA announce 2021 Arbor Day collaboration

BLOOMINGTON — Illinois Soybean Association (ISA), in partnership with Illinois Association FFA, will host an essay contest in early 2021, encouraging Illinois FFA chapters to address the topic "Promoting a Culture of Sustainability & Conservation in our Communities." Three chapters will be identified as winners, and ISA will dispatch a local tree to be planted by a tree service in the winners' communities at locations of their choosing. Tree planting ceremonies will take place on Arbor Day, Friday, April 30.

"We're excited about this new collaboration, and the opportunity to grow awareness around sustainability and conservation," says ISA CEO, John Lumpe. "Arbor Day is meant to celebrate hope for the future. Our soybean farmers are committed to

sustainable practices, cleaner resources, and a healthier future, and this event seemed like a natural pairing between two organizations focused on improving the communities where we live and farm."

Mindy Bunselymeyer, Illinois Association FFA Executive Director, added, "You can't put a price on giving back to your community, especially when it also helps the environment for countless years to come. This type of effort is one that not only leaves a lasting impact on but also creates a fundamental tradition of investing time, talents and resources into bettering the world around us."

FFA chapters interested in entering the essay contest can find the application at <https://www.ilsoy.org/arborday2021>. Applications and

essays must be submitted by Feb. 26 for consideration. Winners will be notified by March 15.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) checkoff and membership programs represent more than 43,000 soybean farmers in Illinois. The checkoff funds market development and utilization efforts while the membership program supports the government relations interests of Illinois soybean farmers at the local, state, and national level, through the Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG). ISA upholds the interests of Illinois soybean producers through promotion, advocacy, and education with the vision of becoming a market leader in sustainable soybean production and profitability. For more information, visit the website [www.ilsoy.org](http://www.ilsoy.org).

## MHS

Continued from Page A2

### Commendations

• Aughenbaugh recognized MHS senior Samuel Lawrence, who received this month's Student Excellence Award from the LaSalle County Board Schools Committee. Lawrence, a senior, is an honor roll student. He is a natural leader, who has served as senior class treasurer and secretary as well as the captain of the wrestling and track teams. He is also involved in soccer, cross country and Spanish Honor Society. Outside of school, he is a dedicated worker at Heritage Manor Nursing center.

• Aaron Sester was commended for receiving an Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education and the Illinois Conservation Foundation. The \$1,000 grant will be used for the high school's butterfly garden. MHS was one of 43 Illinois schools to receive a Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant.

The Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant program supports the development or enhancement of wildlife habitat on the school grounds or other

public places. Funding for the program is provided through donations to the ICF. The Jadel Youth Fund and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation are the major sponsors for the program. More than \$329,000 in Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant funding has been distributed since the program's inception.

### Informational Items

• National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society Inductions will be conducted and presented in a virtual format in February.

• Registration of incoming freshmen will be conducted virtually for the class of 2025 because schools are unable to schedule open house events this winter.

• No school on Feb. 12, Lincoln's Birthday.

• All extra-curricular and group events are still on hold. The board will be updated as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### Fund Balances

Prusator said halfway through the fiscal year the

district's overall fund balances are good. Transportation costs are down so that fund will be under budget for the year. That will be offset by the building fund, which will be over budget due to a number of expenditures and projects that cost more than expected. Overall, he expects to end the year on budget.

### Phones

Prusator said the high school's phone system, which is now 20 years old, has been "in and out" for several weeks and it is important for the school to have reliable phones. Bids for new phones are expected to be from \$10,000-\$12,000. This is not in the budget so the board will vote next month to do it now or wait for July and the new budget.

### Sports

Some medium and low risk sports will be able to start on a limited basis due to COVID-19 restrictions being lifted but Prusator said he is not yet sure exactly what that would mean for each individual sport.

### PERSONNEL

Following closed session, the board accepted the resignation of Janet Nagel as assistant girls track coach. They hired Mary Collie-Emmons as a paraprofessional and approved an FMLA request from Adrienne Espinoza-Zamora.

Spring coaches were approved:

**Boys track** - Keegan Hill, varsity; Steve Villegas, assistant.

**Girls track** - Heath Raley, varsity.

**Girls soccer** - Nick Myers, varsity/FS.

**Boys tennis** - Shawn LeRette, varsity/FS; Tom Corrigan, assistant.

**Baseball** - Aaron Sester, varsity; Robb Nunn, sophomore; volunteers, Chance Blumhorst, Brian Blumhorst, Chad Hochstatter.

**Softball** - Joel Perez, varsity; volunteers, Larry Klema, Steve Gibertini, John McDowell; Brock Zinke, sophomore.

The next regular board of education meeting will be held at the high school on Monday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

## Mendota Weather

Jan. 20, 2021

### Seven Day Forecast

**Wednesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 34 Low: 27

**Thursday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 33 Low: 16

**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 24 Low: 11

**Saturday**  
Mostly Cloudy  
High: 23 Low: 12

**Sunday**  
Isolated Snow  
High: 25 Low: 11

**Monday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 23 Low: 12

**Tuesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 20 Low: 6

### In-Depth Forecast

Wednesday we will see partly cloudy skies, high temperature of 34°, humidity of 76%. South southwest wind 7 to 15 mph. The record high temperature for Wednesday is 53° set in 2006. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday night, overnight low of 27°. Southwest wind 11 to 15 mph. The wind chill for Wednesday night could reach 17°. The record low for Wednesday night is -18° set in 1994.

### Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Monday	31	24	27/11	0.00"
Tuesday	37	27	27/11	0.00"
Wednesday	40	35	27/11	0.00"
Thursday	37	32	27/11	0.07"
Friday	35	27	27/11	0.00"
Saturday	37	30	27/11	0.00"
Sunday	31	28	27/11	0.00"

### Regional Cities

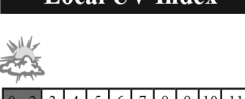
City	Wednesday Hi/Lo Wx	Thursday Hi/Lo Wx
Aurora	33/28 pc	36/18 pc
Champaign	37/30 s	42/22 pc
Chicago	33/29 pc	37/21 pc
Freeport	33/25 pc	34/12 pc
Joliet	33/28 pc	37/19 pc
Moline	37/28 pc	36/15 s
Peoria	39/30 s	40/20 pc
Rockford	32/26 mc	35/15 pc
Springfield	42/32 s	45/23 pc

Data as reported from Peru, Ill.

### Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:17 a.m.	4:57 p.m.	11:23 a.m.	Next Day
Thursday	7:17 a.m.	4:59 p.m.	11:46 a.m.	12:47 a.m.
Friday	7:16 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	12:13 p.m.	1:47 a.m.
Saturday	7:15 a.m.	5:01 p.m.	12:43 p.m.	2:48 a.m.
Sunday	7:15 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	1:19 p.m.	3:50 a.m.
Monday	7:14 a.m.	5:03 p.m.	2:03 p.m.	4:50 a.m.
Tuesday	7:13 a.m.	5:05 p.m.	2:55 p.m.	5:48 a.m.

### Local UV Index



#### UV Index

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

[www.WhatsOurWeather.com](http://www.WhatsOurWeather.com)

### National Weather Summary This Week



The Northeast will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated snow, highest temperature of 47 in Waldorf, Md. The Southeast will experience partly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 76 in Pembroke Pines, Fla. The central United States will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 74 in Brownsville, Texas. In the Northwest there will be partly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 50 in Brookings, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear skies with the highest temperature of 70 in Santa Ana, Calif.

### Weather Trivia

What time does the low temperature for the day usually occur?



Answer: Just after sunrise.

### Weather History

**Jan. 20, 1943** - Strange vertical antics took place in the Black Hills of South Dakota. While the temperature at Deadwood was a frigid 16 degrees below zero, the town of Lead, just a mile and a half away, but 600 feet higher in elevation, reported a balmy 52 degree reading.

**Jan. 21, 1988** - High pressure over northern Nevada and low pressure off the coast of Southern California combined to produce high winds in the southwestern United States. Wind gusts in the San Francisco area reached 70 mph.

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# OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

## Ricardo Sarabia

MENDOTA- Ricardo Sarabia, 33, of Mendota passed away Jan. 9, 2021 at University of Illinois Hospital, Chicago.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 14 at Holy Cross Church with Rev. Peter Pilon officiating. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery. Pallbearers were Guillermo Tellez, Tyler Nyman, Moses Correa Jr., Freddy Arteaga, Jose Sarabia, Arnulfo Sarabia Jr., Ypolito Salinas and George Hernandez.

Ricardo was born Nov. 24, 1987 in Chicago to Francisco and Ernestina (Arteaga) Sarabia Sr.

Survivors include his parents of Mendota; two brothers, Francisco (Tammy) Sarabia Jr. of Peru and Ivan Sarabia of Durham, N.C.; his paternal grandfather, Ampelio Sarabia of Atolinga, Zacatecas, Mexico; and special friend, Jenny Diaz of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, paternal grandmother and an uncle, Gabriel Arteaga.

Ricardo graduated from Mendota High School in 2006. He worked for Pizzas by Marchelloni in Peru. For many years, he was involved in the Mendota Men's Softball League, playing with a few different teams. He also enjoyed golfing as a pastime. He was a member of Holy Cross Church, Mendota.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



## Rufino Tovar

MENDOTA - Rufino Tovar, 90, of Mendota passed away Jan. 14, 2021 at St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley.

Services will be private. Pallbearers will be Martin Tovar, Jose Maria Tovar, Jose Carmen Tovar, Martin Tovar Jr., Roberto Rivera and Alejandro Tovar. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to be assisting the family.

Rufino was born Dec. 4, 1930 in Guanajuato, Mexico to Jose and Guadalupe (Moralez) Tovar. He married Maria Guadalupe Arreola in Mexico. She preceded him in death on Feb. 5, 2015.

Survivors include three sons, Jose Maria (Alicia Rodriguez) Tovar of San Antonio, Texas, Jose Carmen (Concepcion) Tovar of Austin, Texas and Martin Tovar of Elgin; six daughters, Rosaura (Roberto) Rivera of Mendota, Mary Cruz (Martin) Castenada of Rochelle, Matilda (Raul) Perez of Mendota, Adriana Hernandez of Mendota, Seraphina Tovar of Mendota, and Carolina (Enrique) Hernandez of Mexico; 37 grandchildren; 36 great grandchildren; and sister: Raquel Tovar of Mexico.

He was preceded in death by his wife, nine children, five brothers, two sisters and his parents.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



## Robert W. Sondgeroth

MENDOTA - Robert W. Sondgeroth, 90, of Mendota passed away Jan. 14, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. He died, in part, from a broken heart having lost his wife of 64 years only seven weeks to the day of his passing.

Private Mass of Christian Burial will be at Sts. Peter and Paul Church with Rev. Peter Pilon officiating. Burial will follow at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery with full military honors conducted by Mendota V.F.W. 4079. Pallbearers will be Andy Sondgeroth, Patrick, Dan Cashner, Stephen Cashner, Josh Randolph and Joel McComber. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Bob was born Nov. 12, 1930 in Mendota to Charles and Katherine (Walzer) Sondgeroth, one of eight children. He married the love of his life, Mary Kathryn Schultz in Ohio on April 7, 1956.

Survivors include one son, John (Patricia) Sondgeroth of Mendota; two daughters, Susan (Jeffrey) Spanier of Mendota and Rosemary Cashner of Chicago; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Clifford (Geraldine) Sondgeroth of Mendota and David (JoAnne) Sondgeroth of Mendota.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary on Nov. 26, 2020; one son, Kevin on Nov. 27, 1980; one granddaughter, Katie Sondgeroth on Feb. 18, 2019; two brothers, Lester Sondgeroth and Gene Sondgeroth; three sisters, Bernice Corrigan, Rita Miller and Pearl Blair; his parents and stepfather, William Haub.

Bob served honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a self-employed farmer his entire life. He was involved with the Knights of Columbus Post 2090, Mendota Elks Lodge 1212, Catholic War Veterans Post 1229, and Mendota Moose Post 714. He was a board member on both the Rural Electric Co-op and Mendota Farmers Co-op for many years. He was a devoted lifetime member of Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services or the Knights of Columbus Post 2090.

Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

## David J. Galloway

MENDOTA - David J. Galloway, 68, of Mendota, passed away Jan. 10, 2021 at his residence.

There will be no services. Cremation rites were accorded. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota handled arrangements.

David was born Sept. 1, 1952 in Sheboygan, Wis. to Walter and Mary Jane (Holbrook) Galloway.

He is survived by one brother, Daniel Galloway of Mendota. He was preceded in death by his parents.

David was a desk clerk at the Super 8 Motel in Mendota. Memorials may be directed to the donor's choice.

## Marliss J. Ventura

MENDOTA - Marliss Jean "Molly J" Ventura, 42, of Mendota passed away Jan. 15, 2021 at her home surrounded by family after a two-year battle with cancer.

Funeral services will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at Victory Baptist Church, Mendota with Rev. Steven Breedlove officiating. Cremation rites will be accorded after the services. Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday at the church. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Marliss was born July 15, 1978 in Spring Valley to Albert and Margo (Vaini) Ventura.

Survivors include her children, Jacob H. Ventura, 23, of Utica and Kambryah R. Ventura, 5, of Mendota; her siblings, Misty (Ben) Gracey of LaSalle, Amanda (David) Stevenson of Mendota, Thomas (Charity) Bye of Aurora, Diane (Gywan) Tanner of Wichita Falls, Texas, Albert Ventura III of West Palm Beach, Fla., Michelle (Jody) Stachowiak of Wichita Falls, Texas, Billy Ventura of West Palm Beach, Fla., Julie (Jamie) Cook of Wichita Falls, Texas, Dawn (Jeremy) Cromwell of LaSalle, Denise (Damien) Barroso of Peru, Darci Ventura of Spring Valley and Delilah Ventura of Aurora; and many cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother Margo Ventura, father Albert Ventura, Jr.; one nephew, Zach; one niece, Taylor; and her maternal and paternal grandparents.

Marliss was an employee at Horizon House for 14 years and was a long-time employee of Casey's in Ladd. She loved to surround herself with fun people. She loved to laugh, live life on the edge and fly by the seat of her pants.

Memorials may be directed to the family.



## Mobile home taxes due April 1

OTTAWA—Mobile home tax bills were mailed to residents of LaSalle County on Jan. 13, according to James L. Spelich, LaSalle County Treasurer.

The due date for the mobile home local services tax is Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Payment by check, made out to LaSalle County Collector, can be sent or delivered to LaSalle County Treasurer, 707 E. Etna Road,

PO Box 1560, Ottawa, IL 61350.

Please note that it is especially important that the mobile home local services tax be paid in a timely fashion. The penalty for delinquency in payment is \$25 per month beginning the day after the due date.

For more information, contact the LaSalle County Treasurer's Office at (815) 434-8219.

## NCIEDC adds Marquis Energy employee to its Board of Directors

OGLESBY — John McCormick, Board Chair of the North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation (NCIEDC), announced that the organization's board of directors has elected Danielle Anderson as its newest member.

"We're very pleased that Marquis Energy has rejoined NCIEDC and excited to add Danielle to our board of Directors," McCormick said. "For some time now, our team has been advising Marquis as it prepared to launch its new 1,800-acre, multi-modal industrial park outside Hennepin (www.marquisindustrialpark.com). As project manager of the new industrial park, Danielle is a talented partner. We look forward to her participation on our board of directors."

In her official title of Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Anderson represents and advocates

for Hennepin-based biofuels producer, Marquis Energy. The company is located on the Illinois River, a class 1 railroad and interstate highways. These are some of the advantages she believes make Marquis Energy a top producer and the Illinois Valley region so viable for businesses. She is passionate about advancing Illinois agriculture and touting the state's logistical advantages to shipping ethanol and other products across the globe.

She brings over 10 years of experience in government and political roles, from working as the press secretary for a national interest group to working on congressional campaigns and in the U.S. House of Representatives for a Florida congressman. An Illinois native, Anderson attended Lewis University in Romeoville and received her master's degree in Political Management from

George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Anderson resides in Princeton with her husband and three children. In her spare time, she enjoys going on a run or exploring nature in the Illinois Valley.

The North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation is exclusively focused on creating shared prosperity and economic opportunity in LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties by aggressively marketing the region's locational advantages for business investment. Founded in 2016, NCIEDC is supported by hundreds of investors in both the private and public sectors who collectively recognize that the regional approach is the best strategy for attracting quality jobs, additional business investment, and new tax revenue for the benefit of the three counties' more than 150,000 residents.

## GROWMARK announces agricultural scholarship program

BLOOMINGTON - The GROWMARK Foundation is once again offering a \$1,500 scholarship program for students in the United States and Ontario, Canada, who are pursuing two- or four-year degrees or trade school certification in an agriculture-related field.

"As our business has grown and evolved, we saw a need to provide a scholarship to students throughout the United States and Ontario, in addition to the scholarship programs already established in our core geography," said Amy Bradford, GROWMARK corporate communications manager and GROWMARK Foundation manager. "GROWMARK and the FS member coopera-

tives are strong supporters of youth leadership education and this is one more way we can contribute to the future of agriculture."

Applicants must complete an online application which includes academic information, community service and leadership activities, and essay questions regarding agriculture and cooperatives. Applications will be judged by a panel of agribusiness professionals.

High school seniors or students at any level of higher education may complete an application found at <https://www.growmark.com/about-us/corporate-commitments>.

Applications are due by midnight on April 15; recipients will be notified by July 1.

See Obituaries online at

**WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM**

## Contact us by e-mail

**Bonnie Morris, Editor**

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# LOCAL AND AREA

## Tax

Continued from Page A1

Overall, the IRS anticipates nine out of 10 taxpayers will receive their refund within 21 days of when they file electronically with direct deposit if there are no issues with their tax return. The IRS urges taxpayers and tax professionals to file electronically. To avoid delays in processing, people should avoid filing paper returns wherever possible.

### Tips for taxpayers to make filing easier

To speed refunds and help with their tax filing, the IRS urges people to follow these simple steps:

- File electronically and use direct deposit for the quickest refunds.
- Check IRS.gov for the latest tax information, including the latest on Economic Impact Payments. There is no need to call.
- For those who may be eligible for stimulus payments, they should carefully review the guidelines for the Recovery Rebate Credit. Most people received Economic Impact Payments automatically, and anyone who received the maximum amount does not need to include any information about their payments when they file. However, those who didn't receive a payment or only received a partial payment may be eligible to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit when they file their 2020 tax return. Tax preparation software, including IRS Free File, will help taxpayers figure the amount.
- Remember, advance stimulus payments received separately are not taxable, and they do not reduce the taxpayer's refund when they file in 2021.

### Key filing season dates

There are several important dates taxpayers should keep in mind for this year's filing season:

- Jan. 15 – IRS Free File opened. Taxpayers can begin filing returns through Free File partners; tax returns will be transmitted to the IRS starting Feb. 12. Tax software companies also are accepting tax filings in advance.
- Jan. 29 – Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day to raise awareness of valuable tax credits available to many people – including the option to use prior-year income to qualify.
- Feb. 12 – IRS begins 2021 tax season. Individual tax returns begin being accepted and processing begins.
- Feb. 22 – Projected date for the IRS.gov Where's My Refund tool being updated for those claiming EITC and ACTC, also referred to as PATH Act returns.
- First week of March – Tax refunds begin reaching those claiming EITC and ACTC (PATH Act returns) for those who file electronically with direct deposit and there are no issues with their tax returns.
- April 15 – Deadline for filing 2020 tax returns.
- Oct. 15 – Deadline to file for those requesting an extension on their 2020 tax returns.

### Filing season opening

The filing season open follows IRS work to update its programming and test its systems to factor in the second Economic Impact Payments and other tax law changes. These changes are complex and take time to help ensure proper processing of tax returns and refunds as well as coordination with tax software industry, resulting in the Feb. 12 start date.

The IRS must ensure systems are prepared to properly process and check tax returns to verify the proper amount of EIP's are credited on taxpayer accounts – and provide remaining funds to eligible taxpayers.

Although tax seasons frequently begin in late January, there have been five instances since 2007 when filing seasons did not start for some taxpayers until February due to tax law changes made just before the start of tax time.

## New Democratic speaker ends Madigan's near-four-decade House leadership run

By JERRY NOWICKI  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – One of the most transformative six-day periods in the history of Illinois government came to an end Jan. 13 with the election of Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch, D-Hillside, as the state's House speaker – the first Black man to hold the title.

Equally groundbreaking was the fact that Welch unseated Rep. Michael Madigan, D-Chicago, the nation's longest-serving legislative leader who had been speaker for all but two years since 1983.

Welch sought a unifying tone in his first floor speech as speaker, telling his fellow lawmakers “today will be the last time I talk about us as Democrats or Republicans.”

“We will need to work together to make difficult decisions, folks,” he said, receiving applause from Republicans. “Let's get ready. Because we are going to have to make some difficult decisions to control spending while we protect our most vulnerable residents and while we ensure schools receive the funding that they need.”

After the floor speech, Welch said during a news conference he had not had time to digest the historic events that led to his speakership. The House adjourned its Tuesday session at 4:14 a.m. Wednesday morning and reconvened to pass a massive criminal justice reform bill and certify Welch as speaker just hours later.

The 22 members of the House Black Caucus urged him to run for speaker in a closed-door caucus Tuesday, Welch said, and he had no plans to do so before their urging.

All but one of those members – Rep. Maurice West of Rockford – had supported Madigan on the first closed-door ballot between Democrats over the weekend. In the end, they provided the backbone for Welch's late push after Madigan suspended his campaign and Welch built

a broader support coalition than three other challengers – Reps. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, Stephanie Kifowit,



E. Welch

D-Oswego, and Kathleen Willis, D-Addison. West rose to nominate Welch for speaker on the floor of the Bank of Springfield Center, which served as the House chamber this week amid COVID-19 concerns.

“We are walking in uncharted territories, with COVID-19 still running rampant through our communities, a major budget crisis, a (legislative) remap, all while immediately following the huge footsteps and monumental legacy of Speaker Madigan,” West said, later calling for a standing ovation for Madigan. “But I firmly believe that Welch did not choose this moment. This moment chose Welch because he has the wherewithal to convene the great minds within this caucus, so that we could tackle these issues together.”

But Welch's election did not receive the backing of every Democratic member in the House. Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, and Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa, voted present.

Cassidy later issued a statement saying diversification of leadership in Illinois should be celebrated, but she called for a “vigorous review” into allegations against Welch that were outlined in a Chicago Tribune article in the waning hours of his run for speaker.

The Tribune cited a 2002 police report from west suburban Hillside that accused Welch of slamming an ex-girlfriend's head into a kitchen countertop numerous times after she called him “a loser.” The Tribune said the woman elected not to press charges after talking it over with Welch's relative, according to the report.

Welch denied the allegations at the time, according

to the Tribune report. He also issued a statement last week when confronted with the past allegation.

“This verbal argument occurred nearly two decades ago,” he said in the statement. “I will be honest that I have reconciled with the individual since that night. In fact, after our dispute we sought out the authorities ourselves. Their family lives in my district and are proud supporters of my public service and work.”

Cassidy said in her statement she respects Welch and considers him “a good man” but she reserved her vote “because, at the same time that we're ending years of scandal over allegations of sexual harassment and corruption, we have also just been made aware of troubling allegations from Speaker Welch's past.”

“He has denied each allegation, and we certainly have seen plenty of examples of Black men being wrongfully accused,” she said. “I feel strongly that I have been too outspoken on issues of sexual harassment and domestic violence to simply ignore these questions.”

Asked about the allegations in a news conference after his election, Welch said he did not see a need to go beyond the statement and he respected the privacy of the individuals involved.

“And I think my life's work here in the legislature shows my respect for women,” he said.

As Cassidy referenced, Madigan's decades-long vice grip on power as House speaker and Democratic Party of Illinois chairman was weakened in 2018 amid a sexual harassment scandal that led to the firing of several top aides from his administration, including his longtime chief of staff.

Madigan was further weakened last year when he was named in a court document by utility giant Commonwealth Edison. The company admitted to a yearslong bribery scheme aimed at influencing Madigan by providing jobs to his associates.

Welch and Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, both made statements Wednesday that they were willing to reach across the aisle, and they noted they live about five miles from one another.

But rifts in their relationship scratched the surface Wednesday in their floor remarks and in news conferences following the vote.

Durkin, prior to Welch's election, accused Welch of being an extension of Madigan, and he has been critical of Welch's handling of a House Special Investigating Committee into Madigan's ComEd ties. Republicans called that legislative committee after accusing Madigan of conduct unbecoming of a legislator. Welch chaired the committee, not requiring Madigan to testify and voting to end it after only three hearings in four months.

Durkin repeated again Wednesday that Welch, as chairman, “did a disservice to the body” and called the process “an embarrassment.”

While Welch thanked Madigan, Durkin, who is now the longest-serving legislative leader in Illinois having served in the post since 2013, said he did not “have anything positive to say” about Madigan, calling government institutions “better off” with him out of leadership.

Welch was more laudatory, although he later alluded to potential changes to the

committee process and leadership from the previous practices of Madigan's administration.

“While our state has many problems, our schools are better, more children have access to health care, and our working class families can more easily live the American dream thanks to the strong leadership of Speaker Madigan,” he said.

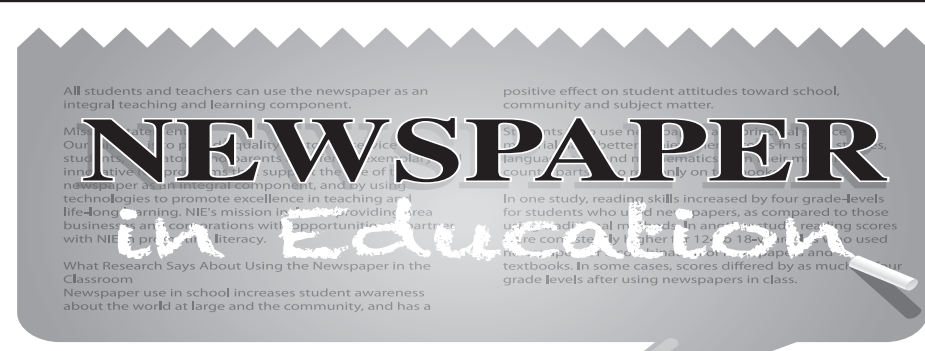
The new speaker and minority leader will also have to get past their disagreements with how the process played out over the previous six days in the General Assembly – Democrats frequently cut off floor debate in an effort to pass a sweeping Black Caucus agenda and other major reforms before the clock ran out and new lawmakers were seated.

“Speaker Madigan ran through a number of bills that were not well thought out,” Durkin said. “Despite the statements on the floor that these issues have been around for a long time, every one of these major bills that were passed have a cost tag to them, ... and many of them were dropped on us last night without any negotiation.”

Both suggested they are willing to move forward more collaboratively.

“I'm hopeful that he will see by my actions that today is a new day, a new opportunity to develop a new relationship in this space and we'll go from there,” Welch said of his relationship with Durkin.

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## Mitigations

Continued from Page A1

non-health care essential workers, residents 65 years or older and inmates.

As of Jan. 17, a total of 1,085,750 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were delivered to the state of Illinois.

About 781,150 doses were delivered to providers in Illinois, including Chicago, while the remaining 304,600 doses have been allocated to the federal government's Pharmacy Partnership program for long-term care facilities.

Currently the state is reporting a total of 495,563 vaccines administered, including 66,679 for long-term care facilities. Administrators have three days from when a vaccine was administered to report it.

The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 22,856 doses.

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# OPINION



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## The issue of police reform

*“This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.”*  
 — Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus put police abuse into a choke hold last week and are squeezing hard.

There was nothing gradual, incremental or temperate about their reforms.  
 They want justice now. And who can blame them?  
 Black and brown people have borne the brunt of police abuses for centuries.

I’ve been a journalist for more than 30 years in multiple states and covered police departments in big cities and small towns. I even produced a podcast examining wrongful convictions in various jurisdictions across the nation.

And based on that experience – and more university studies than you can shake a night stick at – Black people are treated far more harshly by law enforcement than their white counterparts.

Racial epithets were common in squad rooms and detective bureaus I covered whether in Illinois, Iowa, Texas or Nevada. More significantly, on the street I saw officers treat Black people more harshly.

Don’t kid yourself, racism is part of law enforcement culture. Is every cop a bigot? Nope. But every honest, fair cop sees it in some of their peers.

Key points of the legislation would:  
 • Eliminate the use of the choke hold by all law enforcement officers.

• Expand the use of body cameras to police departments throughout the state.

• Make police officers civilly liable when a defendant’s rights are violated.

• Eliminate cash bail for all crimes.

• Allow municipalities to refuse to negotiate over the firing of officers or other disciplinary issues as part of labor contracts.

Perhaps the most far reaching proposed reforms are in the area of accountability.

Labor contracts make it difficult to fire bad cops. I’ve seen it play out time and again where an abusive officer is fired only to be reinstated after going through labor arbitration appeals.

And the public is stuck with a bad cop back on the streets.

“Police officers aren’t bus drivers. They decide whether someone lives or dies and they need to be held to a higher standard,” said State Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago.

Who can argue with that?  
 In a state such as Illinois with a long history of strong government-worker unions, this is a radical but needed reform because it holds individual officers accountable for bad conduct.

A more curious accountability measure is the ending of “qualified immunity” for police officers. In almost all cases, police officers are not personally liable even when they violate a person’s civil rights, explained Jay Schweikert, an expert on qualified immunity at the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute.

Last year, Colorado became the first state to eliminate this lawsuit protection for police officers. If the Black Caucus’ bill becomes law, Illinois will be the second state.

“There are a lot of ways this can play out. If a police officer is found liable, the municipality that the officer works for can indemnify the officer and it ends up paying the judgment,” he said.

But, he added, since this is a new area of law there are other options.

“One option is that the officer pays something like 5 percent or \$20,000 of the judgment, whichever is less. This holds the officer financially accountable. Another option is for individual officers to purchase insurance much the way doctors do and the worse their records are the higher their individual premiums are.”

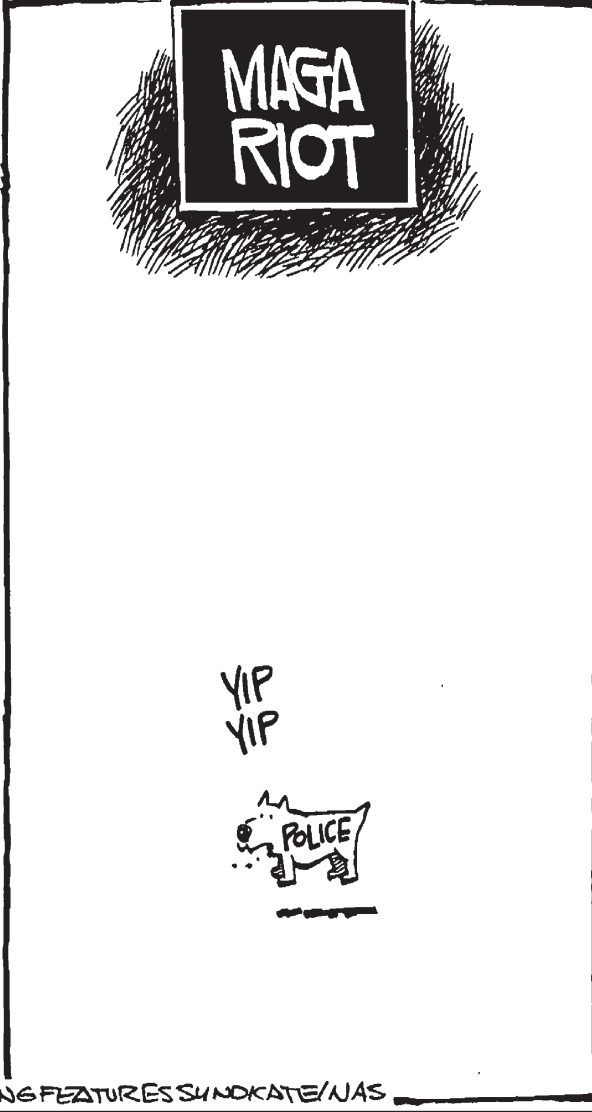
Perhaps the best option is for police labor unions to provide high-deductible liability insurance to their members. That way, there is a personal cost to the officer if there is a judgment and there is an incentive for the union to police its own ranks for those who shouldn’t be in the profession.

What we don’t want is for taxpayers to be on the hook for misconduct judgments or for there to be bad cops on the streets.

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

## Letters Policy

The Mendota Reporter welcomes letters to the editor on public issues of local interest. Letters must be signed for publication; authors’ names will not be withheld. Include your address and telephone number. The number will not be published but may be used to verify authenticity. Unsigned, anonymous letters are never published. Keep your letter as concise as possible. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for length and to withhold letters that do not meet The Reporter’s standards of taste and ethics. The Reporter reserves the right to accept or reject letters to the editor endorsing candidates for public office. The deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for Wednesday’s issue. Send letters to: The Mendota Reporter, 703 Illinois Ave., P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.



# New building for District 289 – 1955

*(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Jan. 19, 2005.)*

By Jessica Nashold

It was 50 years ago, on Jan. 11, 1955, that a special election finally won approval for a third elementary school in District 289 and the bond issue to build it. Because of over-crowding, the eighth grade classes were being held in the high school and kindergarten classes in St. John’s Lutheran parish house. This situation had existed for two years.

When a date was announced for the special election, parents began calling voters to make sure they were going to the polls. By a 3 to 1 margin, voters approved a new school on Heiman property facing Guiles Avenue and a \$570,000 bond issue to build it.

**When completed, eighth grade and kindergarten classes will return to the grade schools.**  
 \*\*\*

Mendota Jaycees sponsored the 1955 March of Dimes. In addition to funds to eradicate polio, the March would now provide treatment for those already stricken.

\*\*\*

Graves Public Library marked the 50th anniversary of the building, made possible by a \$10,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie, in 1904. Described as “classic in design,” the material used was Bedford cut stone.

**Total cost was slightly over \$11,000.**

Local sub-contracts were awarded to S.J. Madden and Henry Zolper. The general contractor was from Bloomington.

Spencer Johnson, secretary-manager of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, announced a meeting to be held Jan. 19, 1955, by the Chamber’s Committee on National Affairs. It was

## Backtracks & Sidetracks

headed by the Rev. W.J. Frost and included Chris Serup, Robert Stafford, Duane Dahnert and Walt Schuttler.

City clerk Carl Yost, “keeper of the archives,” reported final figures for 1954.

**147 deaths; 316 births.**  
 \*\*\*

Lincoln School presented “Tom Sawyer,” an operetta, 50 years ago. Leading roles were played by Ken Hampson, as Tom, Jack Drilling, as Huck Finn, and Jerry Virgil, as Injun Joe.

It was learned that a copy of “Magnificent Whistle Stop,” Mendota’s centennial publication, had been ordered by the New York Public Library, for its files.  
**Wayside Press was publisher.**  
 \*\*\*

Word was received here that a new elementary school in Naperville, to be dedicated in 1955, was to be called the Ralph E. Beebe School. Beebe had been Superintendent of Schools in Naperville since 1927.

**Beebe had been Superintendent of Mendota Schools from 1920-27.**  
 \*\*\*

The Mendota City Council approved purchases, in 1955, of two-way radios for city trucks, fire trucks and a police car.

**City clerk’s office will be in charge of responding during regular working hours.**  
 \*\*\*

The Waltham Curling Club spon-

sored a four-day Bonspiel at its rink in Triumph, in 1955.

**It attracted 28 entries.**  
 \*\*\*

At a Scout Appreciation Dinner in 1955, John Edwards received the President’s Award. John Keefe was recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

L.M. Donahue was elected director of the Illinois Retail Plumbers’ Association at a meeting Jan. 13, 1955, in Peoria.

John Drilling, manager of the telephone company, treated members of the Kiwanis Club to a presentation on the recently installed dial system in 1955.

**Drilling was Kiwanis president at the time.**  
 \*\*\*

The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Store Front Modernization Clinic in 1955. Dudley Munger came to Mendota from Chicago to make the presentation. This included “before and after” views of the stores in other towns that had undergone modernization.

**Expense of the clinic will be paid by the Retail Division of the Chamber.**  
 \*\*\*

The Mendota Men’s Garden Club devoted its meeting in January 1955 to planning for beautification of the Mendota Community Hospital grounds.

The city made arrangements in 1955 to blacktop 20 blocks on the west side of Mendota.

**Motor fuel taxes will be used.**  
 \*\*\*

Fifty years ago, many homes were still relying on two-wire electric service. Special inducements were being offered customers in 1955 to install three-wire service.

# Twitter deranged our politics

By Rich Lowry

Donald Trump was the president of Twitter.  
 What radio was to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and TV was to Ronald Reagan, communicating 280 characters at a time on a social media platform that is a watchword for hyperactive inanity was to President Trump.

It is symbolically appropriate that the effective end of his power after the siege of the U.S. Capitol has coincided with the suspension of his Twitter account.

He may well get impeached a second time, but for now, the punishment that really stings is Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey deciding after sitting down with his woke colleagues that Trump must pay the ultimate price for his post-election misinformation and agitation.

This judgment is as arbitrary as Dorsey’s worst critics would expect, and it will be impossible for Twitter to enforce anything resembling a consistent line following its Trump suspension (the platform didn’t seem particularly exercised by all of the voices valorizing last summer’s riots as an “uprising”).

But there’s no doubting Dorsey’s power. He has rendered the president of the United States practically mute.

Trump remains in the Oval Office and, in theory, commands the biggest megaphone on the planet. He could still make statements, hold press conferences, sit down for interviews or meet with his cabinet. In his reduced and isolated state, though, none of these options are as appealing as letting his thumbs do his work for him, one outlandish tweet at a time.

Now that this avenue is foreclosed to him, he’s less of a presence, even as the political world continues to be obsessed with him (in particular, the manner of his exit from office).

It’s not exactly a slow news environment. Yet, without Trump’s tweets stirring the pot at all times of the day, the nation’s political debate feels a little less fevered.

Twitter is Exhibit A for Marshall McLuhan’s axiom that the medium is the message. There is plenty of worthy news coverage and real-time commentary on Twitter. But that’s not where the emotional center of gravity is, as one would expect

of a platform built for instantaneous, unfiltered reactions.

It’s this aspect of Twitter that perfectly matched the president’s proclivities. He found a natural home in an environment that encourages, and often rewards, snap judgements, insults, soon-to-be-forgotten pronouncements, grotesque oversimplifications and the spread of false or dubious information.

Trump wasn’t careful about what he said anywhere, but he reserved his most lurid and poisonous communications for Twitter. It was the place easiest for him to, for instance, absurdly accuse Morning Joe host Joe Scarborough of murder or insult the looks of his alleged paramour Stormy Daniels.

It was a symptom of his erratic, easily distracted, and thoughtless governing style that he used Twitter as a tool of his administration. He warned foreign leaders, fired officials and made pronouncements on legislation on Twitter, often leaving allies and his own government baffled by what was supposed the line between “just a tweet” and an official order by the president of the United States.

Twitter was an especially ready forum for airing conspiracy theories. Asked prior to the election about his giving credence to the lunatic idea that Navy SEAL Team 6 had been assassinated, Trump shrugged and said it was only a retweet. In the wake of his election defeat, his Twitter feed became a nonstop source of bad information dredged up from the worst corners of the internet.

If Trump was the foremost offender, Twitter hasn’t done us any favors in this period of our national life. It has fed moral panics and enabled cancellation mobs. It has exposed journalists who once made a pretense of objectivity as rank partisans. It has enticed once serious people into crowd-pleasing clownishness. It has made politicians dumber and cruder. It has distorted political reality for people across the spectrum.

It, in short, has helped derange our politics, with the former Tweeter-in-Chief leading the way.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*



# SPORTS

## IHSA athletics remain on pause, contact days can begin pending IDPH approval

□ Board to meet Jan. 27 to review sports schedule framework

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 13, where the Board announced that all IHSA sports not operating under an official IHSA season calendar may begin to conduct contact days as soon as they are allowable per Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) mitigations and local school guidance. Contact days normally exist within the IHSA as informal voluntary offseason workouts.

“The IHSA acknowledges the immense mental, emotional, and physical strain that a lack of contact with school programs is causing Illinois high school student-athletes,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “It is our intention that these contact days provide sport-specific training under the leadership of high school coaches. This is an effort to provide a viable sports option to high school athletes given the growing number of student-athletes opting for higher risk opportunities within the state and across state lines.”

Additionally, the Board reviewed several options outlining a sports schedule framework for the remainder of the school year. The Board directed the IHSA staff to take feedback from the meeting, as well as any insight gained in the coming weeks, and bring forward viable scheduling options for a special Board meeting on Jan. 27. The Board will provide an update following that meeting.



Once state leadership allows for low-risk winter sports (boys' & girls' bowling, cheerleading, dance, girls' gymnastics, boys' swimming & diving) to begin participation, those teams will be allowed to begin practice immediately and then continue their season through the season calendar established by the Board later this month.

The IHSA Board of Directors released a joint statement following the meeting:

“We realize there is a desire for finality on a sports schedule for 2020-21, however, we did not believe it would be prudent to lock ourselves into a schedule at a time when IHSA schools are unable to conduct any sports. Per Governor Pritzker, we have hope that low-risk sports may be permitted in certain regions of the state as early as this Friday (Jan. 15). With that in mind, February seems like a realistic timeline to have sports resume statewide. We expect that the events of the next two weeks will go a long way toward informing our opinion on which scheduling option we decide to proceed with. We recognize that if no sports have resumed by February, season lengths could be impacted in certain sports, and that we may need

to take a longer look at the likelihood of true seasons being conducted in high-risk sports this year. Our overall goal remains unchanged, as we hope to conduct all IHSA sports during the remainder of the school year calendar. Please know that we see and read many of the comments and messages from student-athletes, coaches, and parents, and that we are doing everything we can to try and bring IHSA sports back within the current parameters we are working in.”

The IHSA successfully conducted seasons in golf, girls' tennis, cross country, and girls' swimming & diving through Sectional competition this fall, but all IHSA sports have been paused since Nov. 20.

“We remain collaborative in our efforts with IDPH and the Governor's office,” said Anderson. “We are trying to do our part to fight the pandemic, while simultaneously seeking safe participation opportunities for our student-athletes. We understand the real mental toll this pause in athletics is having on Illinois high school student-athletes. We believe that school-based athletic participation is better regulated, making it the safest participation option for our students, and more data continues to emerge supporting that stance. We will continue to share that information with state leadership in hopes that we can work together to provide participation opportunities for young people in our state.”

## IVCC cancels volleyball and basketball seasons

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College has cancelled its spring 2021 volleyball and men's and women's basketball seasons due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement was made by President Jerry Corcoran who said, “This was a tough call but one we were compelled to make in the interest of safety for our student-athletes, coaches and support staff. The health of our

people is preeminent.”

Vice President for Student Services Mark Grzybowski said, “This decision was not made hastily. And it is consistent with the majority of institutions in our athletic region.”

Athletic Director Cory Tomasson said, “We are committed to offering athletics but with the pandemic we feel this is the appropriate decision. It is consistent with our core values.”

## Importance of rest during exercise

Regular exercise has been linked to a host of health benefits. People who exercise regularly can lower their risk for chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes, and routine exercise can improve mood and potentially delay the onset of cognitive decline.

As vital as physical activity is to a healthy lifestyle, there is such a thing as too much exercise. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, rest is an important part of training. Without ample rest, the body does not have time to recover before the next workout. That lack

of rest not only adversely affects performance, but also increases a person's risk for health problems, including injuries that can sideline athletes for lengthy periods of time.

Committed athletes may have a hard time recognizing when they are pushing themselves too hard, and the line between perseverance and overdoing it can be thin. Many athletes credit their ability to push themselves mentally and physically with helping them achieve their fitness goals and thrive as competitors. Rest is as vital to an effective exercise regimen.

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# FOR THE HOME

## Seven signs you might need new water pipes

(BPT) – While spending more time at home, you’ve probably started noticing repairs you need to make. You may have even tackled a few home improvement projects. However, there are some improvements you might not consider, because they’re hidden until they reach their breaking point - like your home’s plumbing system.

You rely on the pipes to bring safe water into your home for cleaning, laundry and drinking every day. But you can’t usually tell something is wrong until they leak, creating water damage costing thousands of dollars.

There are signs that indicate it’s time to repipe your home. And when you do it right, that one project can save thousands of dollars and lots of future headaches by preventing leaks, water damage and unsafe drinking water.

Here’s what to look for.

1. Is your home over 50 years old?

If the original pipes weren’t replaced, repiping might be a good idea - before large-scale water damage occurs. Older homes typically used galvanized pipes prone to corrosion, leaking and bursting.

If your house was built even earlier - around the 1920s - the pipes were probably made of polybutylene and/or lead. These materials are dangerous and should be replaced immediately. Polybutylene is highly prone to breaking and leaking, so it’s only a matter of time before a serious problem occurs. And lead seeps into drinking water, which can cause serious health problems for your family.



2. Do you have low water pressure?

When pipes contain rust or mineral buildup, it eventually restricts water flow into the house. By the time it affects your water pressure, it’s the result of years of buildup - a clear sign repiping is needed.

3. Have you had leaks?

Bigger problems start small. If you’ve welded or patched leaks in small sections of pipe, this can indicate your entire system is at risk.

4. Do you see a problem?

Stains, flaking, indentations or rust on the pipes signals corrosion. Corroding pipes may leak and should be replaced. Rusty pipes can also turn water reddish or brown, indicating the need to repipe to make your water healthy to drink.

5. Does your water taste or smell bad?

An unappealing smell or taste may also mean your water is unsafe, because of a breakdown of your pipes. It’s best to have them inspected immediately - and drink bottled water in the meantime.

6. Is it making odd noises?

If your plumbing rattles, clanks or bangs, this is a sign of a larger problem. You should have your pipes checked right away.

7. Does it run hot and cold?

If your shower quickly switches from icy cold to burning hot, corroded materials may have broken off inside the pipes and jammed the anti-scald device or valve regulating your water temperature.

If any of these signs sound familiar, contact a professional. Each house is different, requiring a unique repiping solution.



Lighting is an often-overlooked home improvement. While the light itself brightens the room, the lighting fixture can also add a striking visual accent or focal point.

## Four ways to instantly upgrade your interiors

(BPT) - There’s a simple reason for the recent boom in home improvement: Everyone’s spending more time at home. Staying at home more makes it clearer what areas are lacking and reveals opportunities for upgrades. Fortunately, there are many ways to make a huge impact on the appearance of those rooms - instantly.

Here are four ways you can easily enhance and refresh your existing interiors.

1. Start with the foundation

If your room feels uninspired, refreshing the flooring can instantly transform it. Recent design trends favor using consistent flooring throughout the home, or at least on each floor, for a more continuous feel - especially for homes with an open plan.

While hardwood flooring is still the top choice, many other quality products mimic the look of hardwood flooring, like vinyl, tile and porcelain flooring, often for a much lower price point.

Area rugs are also trending for use on any kind of floor. Rugs can add a pop of color or provide a focal point, while also helping to protect the floor underneath. For a quick and easy fix involving zero installation, a high-quality area rug instantly upgrades your space.

2. Light up your life

Lighting is an often-overlooked home improvement. While the light itself brightens the room, the lighting fixture can also add a striking visual accent or focal point.

In terms of utility, the impact of improved lighting is most strongly felt in the kitchen and bath.

“Decorative lighting has become a way to easily personalize a space,” said Erin Hoover, director of design at a nationally-known lighting company. “Years ago, matching suites were very popular, but as bathrooms

and kitchens reflect more individual personality, more design elements are being added. Lighting can help you update these spaces without a lot of investment and effort.”

Thoughtfully choosing lighting fixtures to complement your current aesthetic can take your room from ho-hum to amazing.

3. Color your world

What is the color palette of the room? Is it an eclectic mix, reflecting years of adding elements that don’t go with the walls? How recently was it painted?

Especially if you’re not prepared to invest in new furniture, simply painting a room can make an enormous impact.

• Is the room on the small side, or doesn’t get much light? Paint a shade or two lighter to brighten the space.

• Does the room seem cold or impersonal?

Choose a warm color, from yellow through red, to make the space feel more welcoming.

• Prefer neutral colors like whites or grays?

Consider one colorful accent wall to make a statement.

4. Adjust your window dressing

Updated window treatments can boost the appearance of a room, while also providing more privacy and insulation. Consider not just the color and style as it affects the look of the room, but also the function. How much privacy and light is needed? Options for window treatments today are more numerous than ever. Blinds, shades, curtains or drapes all make distinct visual statements, while also potentially enhancing the room’s livability.

Updating a space doesn’t require a complete redesign, a lot of time or a lot of investment. Design elements like lighting, window treatments and color provide the perfect tools to transform any room into the home of your dreams.

## 6 ways to make bathrooms a safer place

Homes should be safe havens. But each year injuries in and around the home contribute to millions of medical visits and many fatalities each year.

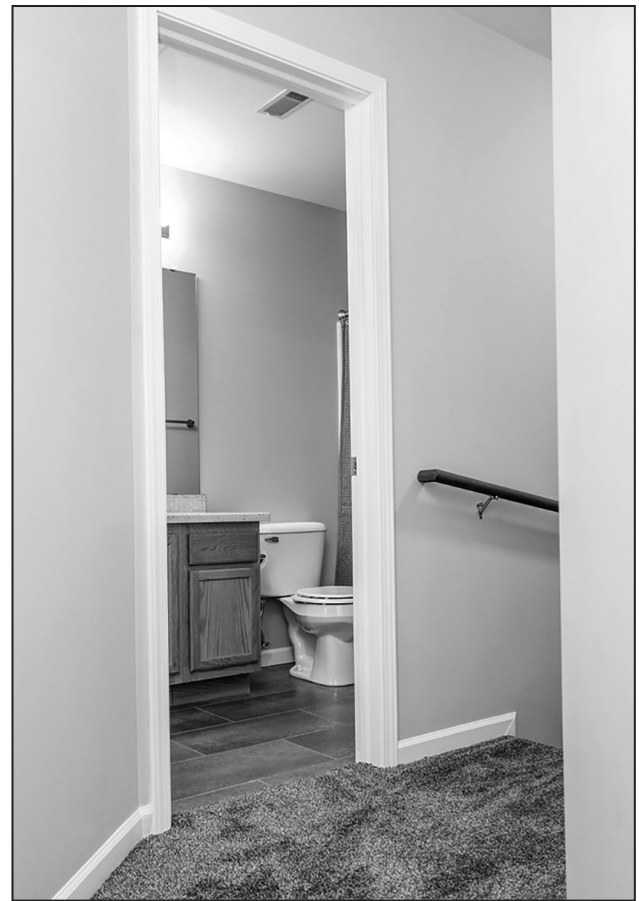
Although anywhere in a home can be the scene of an accident, bathrooms tend to be the most dangerous room in the house. Slippery tile, the presence of water, stockpiled medications, and many sharp and hard edges in a small space pose several different hazards in the bathroom, particularly for young children and people age 65 and up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says falls, which can result in serious injuries like hip fractures and head trauma, are the cause of 80 percent of all bathroom accidents.

Many bathroom accidents are preventable with some easy modifications.

1. Reduce slippery surfaces. Wet tile is a recipe for slick conditions. Bath rugs with rubber backing can provide traction in the bathroom, as can nonslip mats placed on the floor of the bathtub or shower enclosure. Water-resistant flooring made from recycled rubber is another option. It is softer, less slippery and more forgiving than traditional tile flooring.

2. Install lever-style fixtures. Round knobs in the bathroom can be difficult to grasp, especially for the elderly or those with arthritis. Lever-style fixtures are easier to maneuver and can help alleviate scalding from not being able to adequately adjust the water temperature.

3. Utilize transfer benches and shower seats. A transfer bench can help reduce injuries



that occur when trying to climb over a tub wall. Benches are placed outside of the tub and a person sits and then swings his legs over the ledge. Transfer benches also can be used in conjunction with shower seats. This is a chair or bench that allows people to sit while they shower.

4. Discard old medications. Clean out the medicine cabinet of old or expired medications, including both prescription and over-the-counter drugs. This reduces the likelihood of medication confusion, and does not put potentially harmful pills and syrups into the hands of children.

5. Install grab bars. Prop-

erly installed grab bars around the shower and toilet area can provide leverage and stability. AARP says many injuries to seniors occur when they are attempting to sit or get up from the toilet. Grab bars or an elevated toilet seat can help.

6. Install motion-detecting lights. These lights turn on automatically upon detecting movement, making them beneficial for people who routinely visit the bathroom in the middle of the night. Adequate illumination also can help reduce fall risk.

Bathroom safety should be made a priority. Various modifications can make bathrooms safer for people of all ages.

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# FOR THE HOME

## 6 steps to organize your home office

Remote working has become popular in recent years, but the “working-from-home” economy bloomed exponentially as the world was forced to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Stanford economist Nicholas Bloom, as of summer 2020, 42 percent of the United States labor force was working from home full-time.

The need for home office spaces has increased as more people work from home. Many people have retrofitted various spaces around their homes into areas to get work done. More organized home work spaces can increase productivity. Individuals can follow these guidelines to create effective, organized home offices.

### Begin with the desk

The desk is the primary spot where work will take place. The right desk accessories can provide visual appeal and also serve practical purposes. Have cups for holding pens and pencils, baskets and bins for larger items, and store whatever you can elsewhere so it does not lead to clutter on the desk. Store wireless printers in a cabinet or even on a bookshelf so it doesn't take up real estate on the desk.

### Create a printing station

While you're moving that wireless printer elsewhere, designate a space to serve



The need for home office spaces has increased as more people work from home.

as the central printing hub. This way children who need to print assignments for school will know where to go as well. Printer supplies like extra ink cartridges and printer paper can be kept in decorative storage boxes nearby.

### Increase your shelving

Shelving can help keep items organized and off the desk in home offices without closets or drawers. Look for shelves that blend in with decor but are sturdy enough to be functional.

### Organize paperwork

Figure out a system that works for you to help tidy up papers you choose to save. While some papers can be scanned and stored as digital files, color-coded file folders can organize statements and other important documents. This makes it easy to find the folder

you need when looking for certain documents.

### Establish a charging station

Repurpose certain items, such as a desk organizer, into an easily accessible electronics charging station where phones and tablets can charge at one time.

### Make essential binders

HGTV suggests making binders that can store the most important papers for easy access — even in an emergency. Set up a binder for automotive paperwork, including repair receipts, a medical binder where key medical records are kept, a binder for manuals for devices in the home, and one to store financial planning documents.

These organizational tips can help remedy common problems around a home office.

## Renovation trends that figure to be popular in the year ahead

Home renovation trends are ever-changing. Renovations that might have been de rigueur 20 years ago may seem dated now. Recognizing the potentially popular trends of tomorrow is a great way for homeowners to give their homes a fresh new look and put themselves in position to capitalize on popular trends when they put their homes on the market. That's especially so after 2020, a year when millions of people spent more time at home than ever before. All that time working from home and relaxing at home gave millions of homeowners ideas about what they like about their homes and what they hope to change. The following are some renovation trends that various experts suspect could emerge in 2021.

- Eco-friendly living: Climate change, and how to combat it, was a hot button issue during the 2020 presidential election in the United States. So it should come as no surprise that urdesign-mag.com, a web magazine that showcases creative trends in design, architecture, art, technology, and fashion, predicts that eco-friendly living solutions figure to be hot commodities in 2021. Eco-friendly appliances, furniture and designs can help to conserve energy and reduce waste, which environmentalists and government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency note are two critical components in the fight against climate change.

- Large windows: Large windows can provide stunning views of the outdoors and allow ample natural light into a home. It may not be a coincidence if large windows prove to be a hot trend in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic that dominated much of 2020 forced many people to spend considerably more



time at home. Darker homes without much natural light can adversely affect mood, especially when people are spending more time at home. HGTV predicts that homeowners will seek ways to bring more natural light into their homes in 2021, and large windows naturally brighten homes while making rooms appear bigger, helping people feel less cramped. That's an especially beneficial characteristic when spending more time indoors at home.

- Minimalism: The anticipated popularity of minimalism in 2021 may also be

connected to the pandemic. As professionals were forced to work from home and many families spent more time together inside their homes than ever before, they may have recognized a need to cut back on clutter, including extra furniture. A minimalist approach is both simple and clean, which can make homes feel less claustrophobic.

- Multi-functional spaces: Homeowners asked a lot of their homes in 2020, as rooms were transformed into multi-functional spaces seemingly overnight. HGTV notes that spending more time at home showed homeowners that it may not make sense to dedicate entire rooms of a home to a single purpose. Renovations that can help homeowners transform rooms into multi-functional spaces figure to be hot commodities in the years ahead.



A kitchen often benefits, both practically and aesthetically, from different types of lighting.

## How to choose the right lighting inside your home

Lighting in a home serves both practical and aesthetic purposes. It's easy to maneuver around a well-lit home, reducing the risk of slips and falls, and the right lighting can help homeowners create their desired ambiance, which typically changes depending on which room you're in.

When choosing lighting for their homes, homeowners must walk a fine line between appearance and functionality. A fixture in the foyer that instantly impresses visitors likely won't prove as awe-inspiring if it's installed in the living room. When choosing lighting for a home, some general rules about what works in each room can help homeowners make the most informed decision.

### Kitchen

Kitchens are often the busiest room in a home, so lighting here can be especially important. A kitchen often benefits, both practically and aesthetically, from different types of lighting. For example, pendant lighting above kitchen islands can make meal preparation easier and safer, but such lighting likely won't work in breakfast nooks and informal dining areas in the kitchen. Recessed lighting works best in such areas. In kitchens with no island, under-cabinet lighting can be used to illuminate countertops and simplify meal preparation.

### Formal dining room

Many people enjoy the look of chandeliers in formal dining rooms, and such fixtures can be installed directly above the dinner table. The interior design experts at Better Homes & Gardens advise hanging chandeliers roughly 33 inches above the table in dining rooms with eight-foot ceilings, adding three inches for each additional foot above eight feet. Darkened dining areas may be ideal in restaurants, but homeowners may want to split the difference at home and choose dimmable chandeliers for their dining rooms. This allows homeowners to dim the lights for romantic dinners but turn them up for family gatherings with lots of people around

### Living room

Adaptability also is important in the living room, where homeowners may host anything from movie nights to book clubs to parties for the big game. It can be a tall order to accommodate such a wide range of activities, and many homeowners come down to deciding between recessed lighting and track lighting. If the living room currently has neither style, homeowners should recognize that it will cost considerably less to install track lighting than recessed lighting. Better Homes & Gardens notes that flexible track lighting provides ambient, task or accent lighting, and track lights can even be moved to change lighting schemes at any time, making them a budget-friendly option for homeowners whose living rooms are multi-purpose spaces. Recessed lighting also works well in living rooms, especially ones with low ceilings. That's because recessed lighting is installed into the ceiling, meaning it does not take up any visual space in the room. That can help living rooms feel bigger.

### Bedroom

The home improvement experts at Bob-Vila.com note that bedroom lighting should provide enough light when getting dressed, but also be able to be toned down as residents prepare for their bedtime routines. Both portable and installed lighting can be used in bedrooms to serve these various functions. Recessed fixtures that dim can ensure there's ample light to get dressed in the morning, but they also can be dimmed at night as residents try to get ready to sleep. Portable nightstand lights can make it easier for couples sharing a bedroom, allowing one person to stay up and read while the other goes to sleep.

Homeowners have many options and many needs when choosing lighting for their homes. A professional consultation with a lighting expert or interior decorator can help homeowners find lights that provide both practical and aesthetic appeal.

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# THE BACK PAGE

## CARDS OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for your expressions of sympathy, prayers, memorials, cards, calls, gifts, and food following the loss of our mothers, Arlene Maas and Beverly Gentner. Thank you to OSF Saint Elizabeth's nursing staff for your compassion in caring for Beverly Gentner.

**Mike and Sandi Maas & family**

## POLICE BLOTTER

### DUI

Bradley M. McCully, 37, of 202 Third St., Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after a traffic stop at First Avenue and U.S. 34 at 11:28 p.m. Jan. 17. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

### WARRANT ARREST

Edward D. Hardison Jr., 30, of Henry, was arrested at 9:45 p.m. Jan. 18 on a valid LaSalle County arrest warrant for failure to appear on a charge of driving while license suspended. The subject was unable to post bond and was transported to the LaSalle County Jail for a bond hearing.

### City Council schedule

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council meeting schedule for 2021 is as follows:

Feb. 1 & 15; March 1 & 15; April 5 & 19; May 3 & 17; June 7 & 21; July 6 & 19; Aug. 2 & 16; Sept. 7 & 20; Oct. 4 & 18; Nov. 1 & 15; Dec. 6 & 20.

Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and are held in the City Council Chambers, 607 Eighth Ave., Mendota.



The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile.

## IRS issues standard mileage rates for 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2021 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Effective on Jan. 1, 2021, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) is:

- 56 cents per mile driven for business use, down 1.5 cents from the rate for 2020,
- 16 cents per mile driven for medical, or moving purposes for qualified active duty members of the Armed Forces, down 1 cent from the rate for 2020, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2020.

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

It is important to note that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses. Taxpayers also cannot claim a deduction for moving expenses, unless

they are members of the Armed Forces on active duty moving under orders to a permanent change of station. For more details see Moving Expenses for Members of the Armed Forces.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

Taxpayers can use the standard mileage rate but must opt to use it in the first year the car is available for business use. Then, in later years, they can choose either the standard mileage rate or actual expenses. Leased vehicles must use the standard mileage rate method for the entire lease period (including renewals) if the standard mileage rate is chosen.

Notice 2021-02 PDF, contains the optional 2021 standard mileage rates, as well as the maximum automobile cost used to calculate the allowance under a fixed and variable rate (FAVR) plan. In addition, the notice provides the maximum fair market value of employer-provided automobiles first made available to employees for personal use in calendar year 2021 for which employers may use the fleet-average valuation rule in or the vehicle cents-per-mile valuation rule.

## MPD offers winter driving safety tips

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

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

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



Lexi Klein

## Lexi Says...



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# SOCIAL SCENE/LOCAL NEWS

## Graves-Hume Library's Winter Reading Challenge open to all ages

MENDOTA - Graves-Hume Public Library's Winter Reading Challenge is underway. This program is open to all ages - pre-school through adult - and this year, the Library challenges readers to complete a custom BINGO card for each age group.

To participate, just stop in the Library to pick up a BINGO card. The more you read, the more chances you have at winning a prize. "The BINGO cards challenge you to read outside your comfort zone," explained Emily Kofoed, Library Director.



"Examples include reading a childhood favorite or selecting a book with a one-word title. We have great prizes for the kids and adults! And all you have to do is read!"

Winter Reading Challenge ends Feb. 28. Participants must have a Graves-Hume Public Library card to join the fun.

## From Uptown Girls to Downton Abbey

### • How American Gilded-Age heiresses invaded the British Aristocracy

LA SALLE - If you love Downton Abbey, join the LaSalle Public Library on Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. for a virtual program that recounts the tales of some of the wealthy young Americans, who infused bank accounts of many stately homes in the UK, including close relatives of Winston Churchill and Princess Diana.

In this unique presentation, Claire Evans, culinary travel guide and former U.K. resident, will present the "rich" history of Dollar Princesses from the U.S.

Long before the "British Invasion" of the 1960s, the cash-strapped lords, viscounts and dukes of Great

Britain shifted their focus from hunting foxes and pheasants to more lucrative targets: cash-flush Gilded-Age American socialites who were willing to trade their family's money for an ancient title and often a chilly reception in the British aristocracy.

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. She went on to study abroad in London, marry a British guy she met in Peoria, and move to England for several years, where she got an immersive

education in modern English cooking, pub dining, tea shops, and welly boots for every occasion.

This program is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. To register, copy and paste the following link into your web browser <https://bit.ly/3s0KV3r>.

If you prefer to connect to this 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](mailto:rblomquist@lasalle.lib.il.us) or call the Library at (815) 223-2341.

## Sublette Village Board recognizes Samuelson

By TONJA GREENFIELD

Staff writer

SUBLETTE — Orion Samuelson, long-time farm broadcaster on WGN Radio and Television stations in Chicago was recognized by the Sublette Village Board on Jan. 11.

Samuelson, who retired at the end of December after spending 60 years in the business, has been a strong supporter of the Sublette Farm and Antique Tractor Show as well as other agriculture related events in the community.

The board approved a resolution thanking Samuelson for spotlighting the community over these many years and saluting him for his 60 years of dedication to agriculture and rural communities and wishes him a long and happy retirement.

Each year, during the toy show in Sublette, Locust Street is renamed Orion Samuelson Drive to honor his commitment to agriculture and rural towns.

### Gaming refunds

The village board approved a motion to waive the video gaming license fees for four businesses in the village, citing that the video gaming machines have been shut off for about two months. Roadhouse and Sublette BP each pay a fee of \$100 and Bonnell's General Store and LaFiesta each pay a fee of \$75.

### Elections

In April, the residents of Sublette will vote for their representation on the village board. Those open positions include three village trustee positions, village clerk, and village president. The following candidates will appear on the ballot in April: for village president, incumbent John Stenzel; for village clerk, Katherine Leffleman; and for village trustee, incumbent Robert Bulfer, incumbent Julie Kessel, Mackenzie Belan, Doug Worrell and Larry Ellis. Current village trustee Brian Wilson is not seeking re-election.

### In other board news:

- The board continued to ban any rentals of the Ellice Dinges Center due to COVID-19 restrictions. When the annual toy show was mentioned, Acting Village President John Stenzel said he didn't see how the village could hold the toy show this year.

Village Trustee Scott Hansen said anything that happens before June 30 is probably off the table.

- The village replaced the furnace in the water plant for \$4,400 and is looking into furnace replacement options at the Ellice Dinges Center.

The next Sublette Village Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Ellice Dinges Center.

## Paw Paw to resume Bingo, exercise classes

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Village Board met on Jan. 13. With the region having reached "Tier 2" in COVID-19 restrictions, Senior Bingo and exercise will be able to resume with masks and social distancing.

Exercise will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 25 and Senior Bingo will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m.

The Paw Paw Public Li-

brary has been selected for a grant from the American Library Association for a new initiative: "Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries."

Head librarian, Barbara Zeman, intends to buy a pre-programmed computer, which is a learning device that encourages children to read and learn. Focusing on library and community

engagement, she will collaborate with the school for the betterment of the community, focusing on our youth. Zeman will attend several webinars, take six E-courses, and meet with some local school personnel.

Board member Kristie Romanski has resigned. There are three 4-year positions available and one two-year unexpired term open in the coming April election.

## Free/reduced-cost dental clinics scheduled

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College's Dental Assisting Program will once again offer free/reduced-cost dental clinics for IVCC students, staff and the community.

Clinics are 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays, Jan. 29 through May 7 (excluding March 19) in the Dental Lab (B214).

Screening days for new patients only are Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 and include X-rays, a comprehensive exam, treatment plans and oral hygiene instruction. Recommended treatment will be scheduled.

Treatments are free for IVCC students and employees and qualifying patients are charged \$30. The May 7 clinic is for small restorations at \$25 per restoration.

The clinics do not provide any oral surgery, removable or fixed prosthetics (dentures/partials), orthodontic procedures or prescribe any medications.

IVCC Dental Assisting students have taken courses on Getting Ahead of the Next Stage of the COVID-19 Crisis as well as Interim Dental Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for the COVID 19 Response.

All IVCC faculty, staff, student and volunteering dentist will be following proper CDC guidelines, and wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

Patients will be required to fill out a pre-screening form before entering the building, temperature checks at the door, and antimicrobial mouth rinses before treatment begins. Patients must come alone, unless a minor.

Dental assisting program coordinator Heather Seghi said, "Our students are excited to start their clinics to hone their skills. They need a required number of patients, so reliable patients are desired as there is not time for rescheduling missed or canceled appointments."

"We do have outside resources for those unable to have the cleaning completed in our clinic, and we are very happy to help in any way we can to ensure they receive the best care," she added.

To schedule an appointment, call (815) 224-0227 or e-mail [ivccdentalassisting@ivcc.edu](mailto:ivccdentalassisting@ivcc.edu).

## ANNIVERSARIES



Joe & Terri Schmidt

## Schmidts celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

MENDOTA — Joe and Terri Schmidt of Mendota celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 15, 2021.

Joseph William Schmidt and Terri Lynn Stevens were united in marriage in Mendota in 1971.

They are the parents of Brian (Laura Heckert) of Littleton, Tricia (Mike Hernandez) of Rochelle and Rob (Lucy Espinoza) of Mendota.

They are the grandparents of Drew and Dillon Schmidt of Littleton, Grace Hernandez of Rochelle, and Josh and Zachary Schmidt of Mendota.

Before retiring, Joe was a farmer and machinist at Black Bros. Terri did volunteer work through Holy Cross and worked for many years at the Christian Food Pantry. She is also a homemaker who makes the most incredible food this side of the Mississippi River.

The family hopes to hold a celebration of this accomplishment pending the pandemic.

## Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship offered

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

To be eligible for the scholarships, a student must be a Bureau County Farm Bureau member 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 if you contact the Farm Bureau office or on their website at [www.bureaucountyfarmbureau.org](http://www.bureaucountyfarmbureau.org) under the Foundation tab.

Applications can be e-mailed. If they are mailed, they must be postmarked by Feb. 26. If the application will be hand delivered to the office, it must be in the office by 4 p.m. on Feb. 26. For more information, contact the Bureau County Farm Bureau at (815) 875-6468.

## Transportation committee to meet

MENDOTA - The Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) - Region 3 - Transportation Committee will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 22. The meeting will be held remotely due to COVID-19. Region 3 includes Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle and Putnam counties.

Individuals with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, especially human service organizations serving individuals who use public

transportation.

The Regional Transportation Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of the Human Services Transportation Plan. HSTP identifies needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans.

For information about NCICG or HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Lisa Lau at (815) 433-5830.

## Bark voyage: Traveling with pets requires careful planning & preparation

Pet owners choosing to travel domestically while following the appropriate precautions or those planning a post-COVID adventure may be apprehensive about leaving their animal companion at home during their vacation.

Carrying a critter cross-country may seem daunting, but with the proper planning, pet owners should feel confident that they can get their furry friend where they need to go.

Dr. Christine Rutter, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that pet owners need to notify their airline, lodging, and veterinarian of their intention to travel with their pet as early as possible. Owners should also reach out to the appropriate authorities to ensure their pet has the proper documentation.

"Technically, any transport of an animal across state lines requires a USDA health certificate issued by a USDA certified veterinarian," Rutter said. It is best to check the specific requirements of your destination to ensure that you are in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations when you arrive.

When obtaining the proper documentation from your veterinarian,



owners should ensure that their pet is up to date on all vaccinations, heartworm prevention, ectoparasite (such as fleas and ticks) prevention, has a registered microchip with current contact information, and has a legible tag on their collar or harness. Tags should include a pet's name, an emergency phone number, and any pertinent medical information.

"If your pet receives daily medications, be sure you have enough to last through your trip and ask your veterinarian if it would be worth having a paper copy of pre-

scriptions in case medications get lost," Rutter said.

Owners of pets who rely on a medical device, such as a glucose monitor or pacemaker, should speak with their veterinarian about what resources are available near their destination. If your pet struggles with anxiety or motion sickness, ask your veterinarian how to best accommodate their needs during travel.

"Many of our pets don't live terribly exciting lives when it comes to travel, so the hustle and

bustle of travel can come as a real shock," Rutter said. "Weeks before you travel, familiarize your pet with the crate or carrier that they will be traveling in. Hiding treats or feeding your pet in the carrier, providing a comfortable bed in the carrier, and going on short drives in the car (full of praise!) in the carrier can help make the travel experience less scary."

Rutter also recommends keeping your pet in a travel crate or carrier when they are unattended in a new environment. This keeps your pet out of mischief and ensures that your pet is in a safe and familiar place.

Owners can also help foster a familiar environment for their pet by using the same litter their cat uses at home when traveling, and by feeding them a consistent diet. Avoiding the introduction of new food and treats while traveling may also reduce the risk of digestive incidents.

Most importantly, Rutter recommends that pet owners anticipate the needs of their furry friend and prepare for emergencies. This includes carrying waste bags, water, time-sensitive medications, and at least a small portion of your pet's food. Owners should also be

aware of airport pet relief areas, as applicable.

Owners may wish to research where local emergency veterinary centers are along their route or near their destination. They may also wish to purchase pet insurance for their animal and should keep their policy on-hand when traveling. If possible, include insurance information on your pet's collar or harness tag.

Finally, Rutter reminds owners that their furry friend may behave differently when exposed to the stressors of travel. Be sure your pet wears a collar or harness with a tag at all times while traveling in case of escape attempts. Fearful pets may also bite, so give your pet ample time to acclimate to new environments before challenging them with meeting new people and other animals, and ensure that they are properly monitored.

Although traveling with pets requires additional preparation and consideration of their special needs, it is possible to transport your furry friend safely and comfortably to wherever they need to go.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

**HOLLYWOOD** -- The pandemic has changed life for all of us. As vaccines become more available and we try to return to what used to be our normal lives, there's a lot to adjust to. Moviegoers are not rushing back to theaters, and movie makers are trying to get them back.

Warner Brothers will release its first 17 films of 2021 to theaters and on the HBO Max streaming platform on same day, as it did with "Wonder Woman 1984." Other additional releases are "The Matrix 4," "Dune," "The Suicide Squad" sequel, "Godzilla vs. Kong," Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In the Heights," "Cry Macho" (Clint Eastwood's latest), a "Conjuring" sequel, "Space Jam: A New Legacy" and "The Sopranos" prequel, "The Many Saints of Newark."

The New York Times views this as a warning sign, calling it "a strikingly grim comment on the future of movie theaters." Meanwhile, HBO Max has struggled to attract subscribers to its \$15 a month platform since its May

premiere. That despite offering access to HBO Max at no additional cost to those who subscribe to HBO through their provider or any other add-on service.

\*\*\*

**Chris Pine** is following "Wonder Woman 1984" with the action film "Violence of Action," with Ben Foster, and is currently shooting the psychological thriller "Don't Worry Darling," with Florence Pugh, pop star Harry Styles and Olivia Wilde. But even more exciting is that he'll star in the film version of the Hasbro Game "Dungeons & Dragons." Paramount Pictures emerged from long court disputes over the movie rights for this film, and since Chris Pine is still the star of its "Star Trek" franchise, they wanted him as star to create a new franchise. Filming starts soon in Belfast.

\*\*\*

Jamie Bell danced as "Billy Elliot" and was Ber-

nie Taupin in "Rocketman"; Margaret Qualley played dancer Ann Reinking (who passed away recently) in the miniseries "Fosse/Verdon." Now they will become the dynamic dance duo Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in "Fred & Ginger, a backstage story of how they became a duo, created their dance magic and disliked each other so much that it broke up the act.

In fact, when the Kennedy Center honored Rogers, Astaire's widow, jockey Robyn Smith, 45 years his junior, demanded, as per Astaire's will, that they pay to show clips of Fred and Ginger dancing, knowing they'd never pay for clips. In 1986, famed Italian director, Federico Fellini starred his wife, Giulietta Masina ("Juliet of the Spirits"), and Marcello Mastroianni (frequent Sophia Loren co-star) in "Ginger & Fred," which Ginger Rogers sued over because of the use of her name and story.

Finally, we'll get to see if Fred or Ginger snaps!

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.



Chris Pine



Queen Latifah

By Dana Jackson

**Q:** Is the new "Equalizer" starring Queen Latifah a new version of the old TV show by the same name?

-- **C.B.**

**A:** Yes, the original action crime drama "The Equalizer" from the 1980s is returning with a modern-day spin. Sadly, it won't star Edward Woodward, who passed away in 2009, but the new cast is a strong one with Queen Latifah ("Single Ladies"), Chris Noth ("Law & Order") and Adam Goldberg ("God Friended Me").

The "The Equalizer" producing team is from the duo behind "Castle," but even better, Richard Lindheim, who co-created the original series, is an executive producer. Look for the 2021 version of "The Equalizer" to premiere Sunday, Feb. 7, on CBS right after the Super Bowl.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Is Mindy Kaling still acting? I really loved her as Kelly in "The Office," and I also enjoyed her autobiography. I heard she had a second child recently. Will she return

## Celebrity Extra

to TV soon? -- **J.S.**

**A:** Mindy Kaling started out in a dual role of writer and actor on "The Office," the NBC comedy series that has since gained a huge following on Netflix, and more recently, on the new NBC streaming service Peacock. Kaling then created and starred in "The Mindy Project" and wrote and starred in the film "Late Night" opposite Emma Thompson.

Her most recent projects include creating the coming-of-age series "Never Have I Ever" on Netflix, which was inspired by Kaling's own upbringing as an Indian-American. She's also welcomed her second child into the world during the pandemic and is co-writing the screenplay, along with Dan Goor ("Brooklyn Nine-Nine"), for "Legally Blonde 3," starring Reese Witherspoon as the iconic character Elle Woods, who will be turning 40 in the new sequel.

\*\*\*

**Q:** I was sad to see that soap actor John Reilly died. Most remember him from "General Hospital," but I seem to recall him being in a number of films in the 1970s, including one with Barbra Streisand. Am I remember-

ing correctly? -- **G.F.**

**A:** Yes, John Reilly, best known as Sean Donely on "GH" off and on for more than a decade beginning in the mid-1980s, recently passed away at the age of 84. I don't know if you remember the brief prime-time spinoff "General Hospital: Night Shift," but he reprised the role of Sean for that serial as well, which aired on SOAPs Net for 13 episodes. His other daytime credits included "As the World Turns," "Passions" and "Sunset Beach."

Reilly (not to be confused with actor John C. Reilly) was a highly employable guest star on dozens of classic television shows during the 1970s and '80s, including "Dallas" and "Dynasty," "Simon & Simon" and "Hart to Hart." You name it, he probably appeared on it. The film you're recalling with Barbra Streisand is the romantic comedy "The Main Event," which also starred Ryan O'Neal as a boxer.

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

Many jokes have been made at the year 2020's expense. We could all have done without the fear and anxiety of a global pandemic that's still all too real today, but being homebound has had some benefits. Maybe you learned to bake bread or tend a potted garden, mastered homeschooling or finally fixed that leaky toilet. It wasn't all bad. Here are five films that were released for home viewing in 2020 that prove my point.

"Jumanji: The Next Level" (PG-13) -- Spencer Gilpin, home on a college break, jumps right back into Jumanji -- forcing his gang (Bethany, Fridge and Martha) to follow suit. For good measure, Spencer's grandpa Eddie (Danny DeVito) and Eddie's estranged business partner Milo (Danny Glover) are sucked into the game, too. With mixed-up avatars and some fun new additions (Awkwafina joins as a new avatar, Ming Fleetfoot), this fantasy comedy delivers a racing pace, some rollicking good laughs and a surprisingly sweet ending.

"Jojo Rabbit" (PG-13) -- Young Jojo is a Hitler Youth believer. He believes so hard that Adolf Hitler is his imaginary friend (played hilariously by Taika Waititi, who also writes and directs), the one who gives him a bucking up when the boys at camp come down on him. He has a perennially positive and optimistic single mother (Scarlett Johansson) with a secret. Its discovery leads Jojo to reflect on his own nationalistic beliefs and racism while the makeshift family confronts the final days of World War II.

"Parasite" (R) -- South Korea's sleeper hit is a black comedy that effortlessly tackles social aspirations and class conflict. The Kim family lives in a squalid basement of a basement, with no prospects and no resources. Son Ki-woo fakes some credentials and takes a job as a tutor to the daughter of the filthy rich Park family, living the good life by association. Getting there was only part of the battle, though. The ends inevitably begin to unravel, with macabre consequences. Written and directed by acclaimed director

Bong Joon Ho.

"Just Mercy" (PG-13) -- Michael B. Jordan plays a young, morally ambitious Harvard law graduate who goes to Alabama to seek justice on behalf of poverty- and racism-stricken death row inmates. He starts with Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), wrongfully convicted of murder and overcome by hopelessness. It's uplifting and tugs at your heartstrings, plus it's filled with top-notch actors and is based on a true story.

"1917" (R) -- A riveting first-person war story by celebrated director Sam Mendes, "1917" centers around two British lance corporals, Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) and Schofield (George MacKay), who are sent across enemy territory to stop a division of British soldiers from advancing into a deadly German ambush. In the thick of war, through the dead of night and with almost no time in which to complete this impossible feat, the two soldiers set out with singular, unwavering focus.

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## • Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the longest river in Asia?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the trashcan dweller in PBS' "Sesame Street"?
3. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nuts are used to make marzipan?
4. MOVIES: What incantation did the fairy godmother use to transform the character in Disney's animated "Cinderella"?
5. MEDICAL: What is a more common name for onychocryptosis?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a male goose called?
7. LITERATURE: In which famous work did the phrase "eat, drink and be merry" appear?
8. MUSIC: What is the most

- watched video on YouTube?
9. CHEMISTRY: What is the chemical symbol of potassium?
  10. AD SLOGANS: Which company sells its popular clothing with the slogan, "Quality never goes out of style"?

- Answers
1. Yangtze River
  2. Oscar the Grouch
  3. Almonds
  4. "Bibbidi bobbidi boo"
  5. Ingrown toenail
  6. A gander
  7. The Bible
  8. "Baby Shark Dance"
  9. K
  10. Levi's

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Wordsworth work
- 5 Spasm
- 8 Billie -- King
- 12 Against
- 13 Granada gold
- 14 Sea eagle
- 15 500 sheets
- 16 Chess piece
- 17 Right on the map?
- 18 On an angle
- 20 Dines
- 22 Donald Duck's outfit
- 26 Birth-related
- 29 "Exodus" hero
- 30 Vitamin stat
- 31 Prior nights
- 32 Pvt.'s superior
- 33 Grant basis, at times
- 34 Seminary subj.
- 35 Take to court
- 36 Smartens (up)
- 37 Produce aisle display
- 40 Pan handler?
- 41 Rookie
- 45 Boyfriend
- 47 Business mag
- 49 Press
- 50 Formerly, once
- 51 French vineyard

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
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31				32			33			
34				35			36			
37			38			39				
40						41		42	43	44
45	46				47	48		49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

### DOWN

- 1 Law firm aide, for short
- 2 Till bills
- 3 List-ending abbr.
- 4 Brunch cocktails
- 5 "Only Love" actress
- 6 Lyricist
- 7 Monarch's spouse
- 8 Army vehicles
- 9 Test-paper smudges
- 10 Reply (Abbr.)
- 11 Court divider
- 19 Chum
- 21 Swiss canton
- 23 Beer type
- 24 Nantes notion
- 25 Tiny amounts
- 26 Soft ball?
- 27 Say it's so
- 28 Put on the air
- 32 Be enough
- 33 Blockheads
- 35 That lady
- 36 Golfer
- Michelle
- 38 Closes
- 39 Full-length
- 42 Party cheese
- 43 Greek vowel
- 44 Seth's son
- 45 Wager
- 46 Historic period
- 48 Big D.C. lobby

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
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45	46				47	48		49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Member FDIC

Do you Kasasa?

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FIRST STATE BANK

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## Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

\* The most leaves ever found on a clover is 56.

\* In 2012, General Mills sent professional basketball player Jeremy Lin a special jersey made entirely out of Fruit Roll-Ups after he tweeted about his love for the snack.

\* The southern polar region of Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, contains cryovolcanoes, an exotic type of geyser that spews ice instead of magma.

\* Aluminum is infinitely recyclable, with nearly 75% of all aluminum ever produced still in use today.

\* The first footprints on the moon will remain there for a million years.

\* A Kansas man requested that an Iowa court grant his motion for trial by combat. His opponents? His ex-wife and her attorney, whom he desired to meet "on the field of battle" in order to "rend their souls from their corporeal bodies."

\* The world's largest recorded snowflake measured 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick.

\* Similar to how human babies suck their thumbs for comfort, baby elephants suck on their trunks.

\* In the Middle Ages, a man's wealth was measured by his stockpile of pepper.

\* A 639-year performance by an automated organ, based on avant-garde composer John Cage's "As Slow as Possible," started in September 2001 and is still running at St. Burchard Church in Germany. Progressing so slowly that visitors have to wait months for a chord change, it is scheduled to conclude in 2640.

\* Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin brought a chalice, bread and wine to the moon to take communion.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Yet I had rather be remembered as those brave beginners are, though many of them missed the triumph, than as the latecomers will be, who only beat the drums and wave the banners when the victory is won." -- Louisa May Alcott

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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# LOCAL AND AREA

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Every day, we are faced with hundreds of decisions. We decide whether or not to get out of bed, what we'll eat, what we'll do, what we will think about, and what we will say. We make decisions about everything from how we style our hair to how we will react to more serious situations at work or at home.

While it may seem like many of our daily choices are not that

significant, the truth is they do matter.

In Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV), God says, "...I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

It's important to understand that every choice you make is a seed you sow, and those seeds produce fruit in your life—either for life or death. And if you want to have the

life Jesus died to give you—a life filled with peace and joy—then you need to make wise choices.

I think many times we can be good at focusing on life's "big" decisions only to be defeated by the small ones. The Song of Solomon 2:15 actually tells us that it's the "little foxes" that spoil the vine. Likewise, the many small decisions we make every day add up and greatly impact our lives.

For example, I make it a habit to go to bed at 9 o'clock every night so that I can be asleep by about 9:30. If I get to bed on time, then I'm able to get up on time and spend quality time with God before I have to go on with the rest of my day.

Some people might think, Does your bedtime really matter that much?

Yes! Because if I decided to go to bed whenever I felt like it, I would sabotage my time with God—the very thing I need to grow as a Christian. After a few days, I would also end up feeling tired and worn-out from staying up late and



begin to wonder why everything seemed so difficult.

It's so simple, yet I believe things like this affect our lives more than we realize. We have to learn to live deeper than what we want, what we think, and what we feel.

Wisdom always chooses to do now what it will be satisfied with later on.

Conversely, foolish choices are often made without any consideration of the consequences. I've actually seen the word foolishness defined as "without common sense."

Now here's the great news: If you've made foolish choices (and we've all done it) and you're not happy with the way things are right now, you can change.

The first step is to take responsibility for the wrong choices you've made. It's important to be honest with yourself because Jesus says that the truth will set us free (John 8:32), and that includes the truth about ourselves.

The next step is to make a determined decision to change, to begin making wise choices for your future.

We need to realize that none of us can change ourselves. Only God can give us the strength and ability to change our habits

and the way we think, talk, and act. Only He can help us make great decisions for our lives.

I know this because there was a time in my life when I desperately wanted to change but it was clear that I couldn't do it on my own. I needed God to heal me, strengthen me, and make me secure and whole in Christ. Only then was I able to choose life on a regular basis.

Whatever changes you need to make, I encourage you to go to God for help. Pray and ask Him to guide you and give you the strength to make wise choices.

In addition, look up scriptures and study the Bible in the areas where you are struggling—whether it's anger, unforgiveness, self-control, or anything else. There is power in God's Word to change your life, and the more you read and study it, the more joy, strength, and freedom you will experience.

So, think about this: What could your life be like if you started making better choices right now? Don't put it off any longer. The truth is there won't be a more convenient time, and you don't have to waste another day missing out on a better future.

With God's help,

you can do it! If your progress seems slow, don't get discouraged because when you stay determined to make wise choices, things will eventually start to change...and you will begin to see the great life God has for you.

\*\*\*

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-teaching CD series Unleashing God's Wisdom. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 100 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and her newest devotional QUIET TIMES WITH GOD (FaithWords). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

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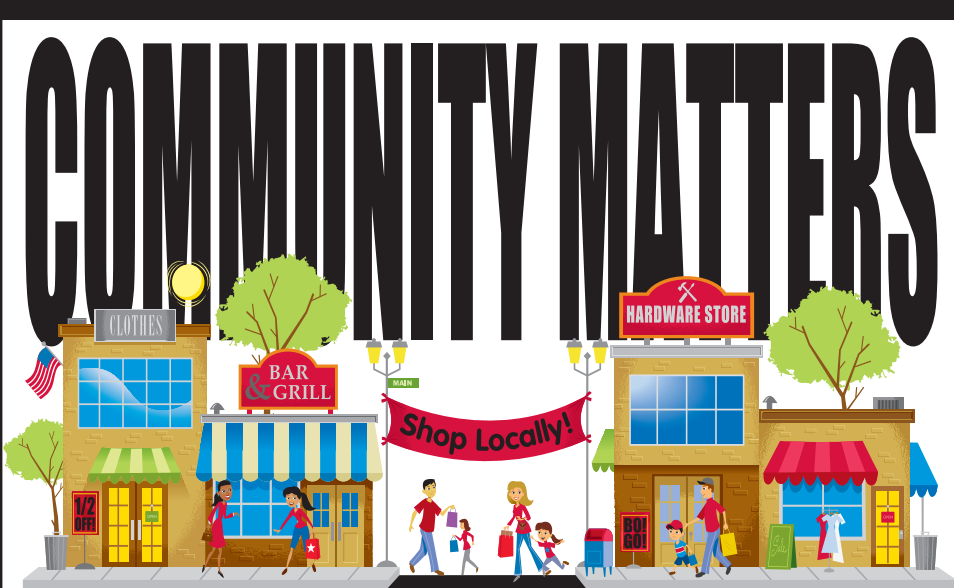
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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF SALE OF TIMESHARE ESTATE OR ESTATES UNDER SECTION 10-50 OF THE ILLINOIS REAL ESTATE TIMESHARE ACT OF 1999

By virtue of 770 ILCS 103/10-15 et. seq and in execution of certain mortgages on the timeshare estates given by the owners of the timeshare estates set forth below for breach of the conditions of said mortgages and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at public auction starting at 11 o'clock a.m. on January 26, 2021, at the east entrance of Etna Road Government Complex, 707 Etna Road, Ottawa, IL 61350, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgages.

Each timeshare estate is a 1.923% and/or 0.9615% undivided interest (each, a "Unit") as tenant-in-common at Fox River Resort, a vacation ownership project in LaSalle County, Illinois, as per the recorded plat(s) thereof and according to the Amended and Restated Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions recorded under File No. R2000-31258 and any Supplemental Declarations recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, LaSalle County, Illinois, as supplemented and amended from time to time (the "Declaration"), together with the exclusive right to occupy the Unit during the designated Use Period Number(s), as said Use Period is defined in the Declaration, upon and subject to all of the terms, restrictions, covenants, conditions and provisions in the Declaration.

MAYOLITA AMASON, CYLE AMASON, 5301 W DONNA DR, MILWAUKEE, WI, 53223, according to the Mortgage dated April 19, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 08153, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 5062014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0420, Use Period Number(s) 03 Phase 7

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PAMELA COOPER, 1262 W 72ND PL, CHICAGO, IL, 60636, according to the Mortgage dated June 02, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 13023, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 6182013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0381, Use Period Number(s) 39 Phase 3

PAMELA COOPER, 1262 W 72ND PL, CHICAGO, IL, 60636, according to the Mortgage dated June 02, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 13023, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 6182013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0392, Use Period Number(s) 46 Phase 6

HERMAN DAILEY III, MICHELLE WILLIAMS, 30 W 140TH CT, RIVERDALE, IL, 60827, according to the Mortgage dated April 06, 2012 and recorded under File No. R2012 08563, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 4242012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0035E, Use Period Number(s) 17 Phase 1

HERMAN DAILEY III, MICHELLE WILLIAMS, 3411 KINGS RD APT 323, STEGER, IL, 60475, according to the Mortgage dated April 06, 2012 and recorded under File No. R2012 08563, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 4242012, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0035E, Use Period Number(s) 17 Phase 1

GERHARDT DAMRAU JR, AYL A FUCIK, 7040 BECKWITH RD, MORTON GROVE, IL, 60053, according to the Mortgage dated January 07, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 01522, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 1272015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 01240, Use Period Number(s) 15 Phase 2

TAMMY GEBHARDT, K E N N E T H GEBHARDT, 12191 W 4000N RD, BONFIELD, IL, 60913, according to the Mortgage dated February 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 03816, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for

LaSalle County, Illinois, on 3032015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0007, Use Period Number(s) 27 Phase 1

GABRIELA GOMEZ, VICTOR AMAYA FLORES, 6107 W HENDERSON ST, CHICAGO, IL, 60634, according to the Mortgage dated January 10, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 01546, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 1272015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00140, Use Period Number(s) 04 Phase 1

GABRIELA GOMEZ, VICTOR AMAYA FLORES, 4531 S 23RD ST #5, MILWAUKEE, WI, 53221, according to the Mortgage dated January 10, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 01546, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 1272015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00140, Use Period Number(s) 04 Phase 1

SHEILA HAGLER-THOMPSON, DEBRA WARD, 9911 S PROSPECT AVE, CHICAGO, IL, 60643, according to the Mortgage dated September 04, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 18069, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 9222015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0391, Use Period Number(s) 24 Phase 6

SHEILA HAGLER-THOMPSON, DEBRA WARD, 501 AVON LN APT 19B, OTTAWA, IL, 61350, according to the Mortgage dated September 04, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 18069, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 9222015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0391, Use Period Number(s) 24 Phase 6

DAVID C JOHNSON, 329 PAISLEY PKWY, SULPHUR, LA, 70665, according to the Mortgage dated June 04, 2011 and recorded under File No. R2011 13784, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 6272011, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0402, Use Period Number(s) 20 Phase 6

RAFAEL LAGUNAS, NANCY GONZALEZ M A L D O N A D O , 5811 W ROSCOE ST, CHICAGO, IL, 60634, according to the Mortgage dated September 13, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 20233, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 10272015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0094, Use Period Number(s) 24 Phase 2

TONY LOR, 1509 S THEODORE ST, APPLETON, WI, 54915, according to the Mortgage dated June 13, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 12284, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 7012015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0098, Use Period Number(s) 31 Phase 2

PAMELA MANNEY, 8837 S MUSKEGON AVE UNIT 1, CHICAGO, IL, 60617, according to the Mortgage dated September 22, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 19930, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 10162014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0372, Use Period Number(s) 50 Phase 3

AGUSTIN PEREZ RIOS, CARMEN BURGOS, EILEEN PEREZ, PO BOX 34012, CHICAGO, IL, 60634, according to the Mortgage dated February 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 03841, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 3032015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0086, Use Period Number(s) 23 Phase 2

AGUSTIN PEREZ RIOS, CARMEN BURGOS, EILEEN PEREZ, PO BOX 34012, CHICAGO, IL, 60634, according to the Mortgage dated February 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 03841, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 3032015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0086, Use Period Number(s) 23 Phase 2

AGUSTIN PEREZ RIOS, CARMEN BURGOS, EILEEN PEREZ, 624 CRYSTALS BLVD, WINTER HAVEN, FL, 33884, according to the Mortgage dated February 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 03841, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 3032015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0086, Use Period Number(s) 23 Phase 2

AGUSTIN PEREZ RIOS, CARMEN BURGOS, EILEEN PEREZ, 6901 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD # 2ND FLOOR, CHICAGO, IL, 60634, according to the Mortgage dated February 14, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 03841, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 3032015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0086, Use Period Number(s) 23 Phase 2

CARMEN M. REYES, ERNEST ELIAS REYES, DANIELLY REYES, 7311 N OAKLEY AVE APT 1A, CHICAGO, IL, 60645, according to the Mortgage dated June 21, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 12818, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 7082015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0096E, Use Period Number(s) 38 Phase 2

CARMEN M. REYES, ERNEST ELIAS REYES, DANIELLY REYES, 408 PLEASANT RUN DR APT A, WHEELING, IL, 60090, according to the Mortgage dated June 21, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 12818, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 7082015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0096E, Use Period Number(s) 38 Phase 2

MELENDY RILEY-STEEL, DONZELER STEELE, 801 HARTFORD AVE, ROCKFORD, IL, 61102, according to the Mortgage dated April 17, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 08859, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 5142014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0014, Use Period Number(s) 28 Phase 1

ROBERSON, 2841 MONTICELLO DR, HOUSTON, TX, 77045, according to the Mortgage dated September 05, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 18103, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 9222015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0377, Use Period Number(s) 13 Phase 3

N E W C O L O W SLAUGHTER, 3147 W 83RD PL, CHICAGO, IL, 60652, according to the Mortgage dated August 06, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 16973, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 9052014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00780, Use Period Number(s) 16 Phase 1

IVORY SMITH III, 8808 LAWSON ST APT 4, EL PASO, TX, 79904, according to the Mortgage dated September 26, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 19790, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 10222015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0393, Use Period Number(s) 12 Phase 6

LYNDORA SOSTRES, 880 THIERIOT AVE APT 6D, BRONX, NY, 10473, according to the Mortgage dated March 28, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 06939, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 4142015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0425, Use Period Number(s) 13 Phase 7

JUAN VILLASENOR, 2328 S CENTRAL AVE STE 1, CICERO, IL, 60804, according to the Mortgage dated January 03, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 03364, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 2232015, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 01030, Use Period Number(s) 29 Phase 2

ARQUILAH WILSON, 4109 ORCHARD LN, MATTESON, IL, 60443, according to the Mortgage dated September 04, 2014 and recorded under File No. 2014 18448, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 9252014, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 00180, Use Period Number(s) 24 Phase 1

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 individual lots unless there are no individual bidders, in which case, they may be sold as a group. In the event the holder of the mortgages or its authorized agent is the purchaser of one or more of the timeshare estates, the holder of the mortgages 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 mortgage(s) (and thus, credit bid). Other terms may be announced at the public auction.

Silverleaf Resorts, LLC, A Texas Limited Liability Company  
By: Deborah A. Quirk  
Its Agent  
No. 0101  
(Jan. 6, 13, 20, 2021)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, IL PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER )  
OF THE ESTATE OF )  
GEORGE E. )  
THOMPSON, )  
DECEASED. )  
NO. 2020-P-000253

### CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of George E. Thompson, of Peru, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 29, 2020, to Robert P. Thompson of Katy, TX, as INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR, whose Attorneys of record are SCHWEICKERT LAW GROUP, LLC, 2101 MARQUETTE ROAD,

PERU, IL 61354.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Downtown County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate, the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

Dated: January 11, 2021

Greg Vaccaro

LaSalle County Circuit Clerk

Ottawa, IL 61350

No. 0103

(1/20, 1/27, 2/3 2021)

### NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

To All Owners And Occupiers Of Lands Lying Within The Boundaries Of The LaSalle County Soil And Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 18th day of February 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 1691 N 31st Road, Ottawa, IL. A ballot box will be located in the outer lobby. Masks are required. Two (2) Directors will be elected to serve the LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise.

Only such persons, firms or corporations are eligible to vote.

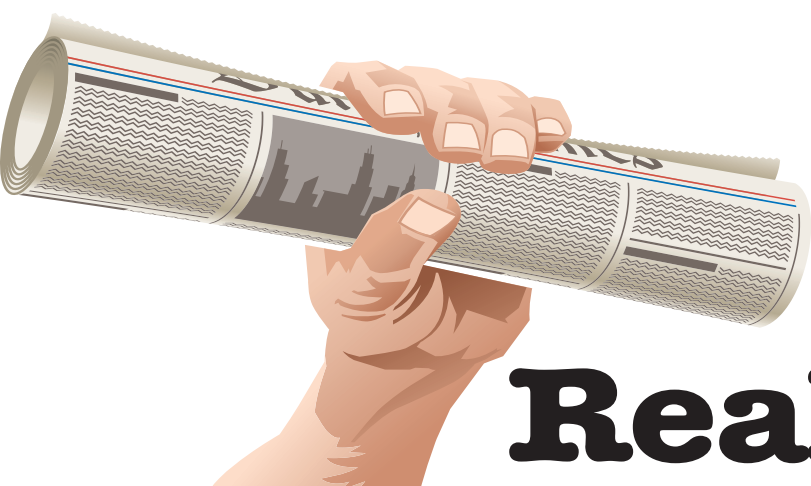
*For J A*

LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District

DATED this 7th day of January, 2021.

No. 0104

(1/20 & 2/3 2021)



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

### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

### 113 FINANCIAL

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

### 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

### 203 HELP WANTED

### 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

### 203 HELP WANTED

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

**Opening for a part-time position in the Animal Care field.**  
Accepting caring, hardworking applicant for animal caretaker/ animal assistant.  
**Please drop off resume at Mendota Companion Animal Centre, 1701 13th Ave., Mendota. 815-539-6601**

### 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

### 301 ANTIQUES

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

### 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Craftman Table Saw 10" Direct Drive, \$100. Black & Decker Miter Saw 9", \$25. Call 815-539-6942. (01-20-21)

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.

### 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

### 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ROCHELLE: LARGE 2-BEDROOM, 1-Bath. All Utilities Included. Washer/Dryer in Unit. Off Street/Parking. 1 - Garage/Space. \$1200/Month, \$600/ Security-Deposit. Email or Call for Application rentals464@gmail.com 815-762-6440. (01-24-21)

1&2-BEDROOM Apts. Clean, Quiet. Available Now. Some Utilities Included. Call For Showing 815-762-6650 or 815-761-3968. (02-03-21)

**MENDOTA**  
Well-maintained, 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, various price ranges. All with appliances included. Some with utilities included. No pets. Security deposit and lease required.  
**815-539-3747.**

### 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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**2 bedroom apartments available now**  
Rent is based on 30% of adjusted gross income and includes water, sewer & garbage pickup. On site laundry, major appliances, off street parking.  
**Please call 1-800-686-5576.**

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider. Equal Housing Opportunity.

### 203 HELP WANTED

### MAINTENANCE MECHANIC WANTED

Responsibilities include: preventative maintenance on mechanical equipment and machines, use of hand and power tools necessary, electrical experience a plus, perform daily inspections of premises and equipment. Send resume to Box 619 Mendota Ill 61342

### 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ROCHELLE: 2-BEDROOM Duplex. \$250/Security Deposit. \$600/Month. No Pets. 630-692-1962. (01-24-21)

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA**  
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815-498-2262.

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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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2020 Chevy Tahoe 4x4 LT Leather, Sunroof, DVD Nav, Silver .....	\$49,900	2019 Buick Encore Preferred FWD, 10k mi, White .	\$17,500
2020 Buick Enclave Avenir AWD, Loaded, GM Exec Black or White .....	\$45,900	2018 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 54K Miles Silver .....	\$30,500
2019 Chevy K-2500 Crew Cab, LTZ, Black, 4x4, Z-71, Midnight Ed, Diesel .	\$56,900	2018 Chevy Malibu LT Leather, Nav., 50K Miles Silver .....	\$16,500
2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4x4, 26K Miles Silver .....	\$44,900	2018 Chev Equinox FWD LT Sunroof, 62K Miles Black .....	\$17,500
2019 Chevy 1500 Trail Boss Crew Cab, 4x4, White .....	\$42,900	2018 Chevy Malibu LT 45K Miles, Tan .....	\$16,500
2019 Chevy Traverse Premier AWD, 38K Miles Pearl White .....	\$36,900	2017 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, Silver, 57k Miles .....	\$35,500
2019 Chevy Traverse 3LT Leather, AWD, Gray .	\$31,900	2017 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab LT 4X4, Red 32K Miles .....	\$34,900
		2017 Chevy Cruze LT Remote Start, Power Seat, White .....	\$15,500

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Analyze credit information and formulate loan presentations for commercial and agriculture loans. As such, candidate's responsibilities and duties shall include the following:

- Work with loan officers to insure collection of all data required to properly prepare credit analysis and loan presentation for bank board of directors.
- Analyze and interpret financial statements and tax returns as well as proforma and projections using trend analysis, ratio analysis, cash flow analysis, discounted cash flow analysis and industry averages, as well as macro/ industry trends review. This could include working with the loan officer and/ or the potential/present customer when necessary to obtain the needed data.
- Review credits for document deficiencies and perfection while reviewing the financial condition of the borrower. This may include making recommendations as to what documentation is required for potential loans.
- Provide a written narrative of the loan proposal including any relevant information discovered while analyzing the financial statements. This may include providing recommendations and concerns regarding the prospective/ present customers.
- Maintain continued high credit quality for Pioneer State Bank.
- Complete ongoing loan review of existing credits working closely with the respective loan officer to gain a comprehensive view of any relevant changes in the financial condition of the borrower.
- Generate monthly and annual reports for submission to the board of directors.
- Attend loan committee meeting as needed and provide input and answers to any questions on loan proposals which candidate has prepared.

#### Qualifications/Experience

- Degree in Business, Finance, Accounting or related field.
  - 1+ years of Commercial Credit analysis is a must. Additional experience with agricultural lending/underwriting is preferred.
  - Must be detail oriented with strong math and analytical skills.
  - Demonstrate excellent verbal and written communications.
  - Strong MS Word and Excel skills, Fiserv skills a plus.
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Please forward resume to Quint Harmon, President –  
qharmon@pioneerstatebank.com

01132021



# REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE



**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.



**MLS# 10952640 801 2nd Ave, Mendota, IL \$124,900** 5 bedroom 1 1/2 bath home on corner lot. 2 new bathrooms, new carpet upstairs, new flooring in kitchen. 1st floor laundry with 1/2 bath. New kitchen appliances. Many updates, newer windows and siding, front porch added. Alley access with 60x150 lot. Call for all the amenities.



**MLS# 10908570 3644 E. 5th Rd, \$187,000** Follow Vermillion St in Troy Grove over rail road track and house is on the left side on the curve.. Unique property sit on 3 acres.. 3 car garage, swimming pool above ground, jacuzzi, fenced yard for small dogs. 3 bedrooms 2 bath. Lower level family room with fireplace. Call for all the amenities.

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815-200-2233

Richard McConville,

Broker 815-539-5673

Sharon Kimrey, Broker

815-343-3600

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Mendota  
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Rebecca McPheeters, Designated Managing Broker

**607 Sixth St.,  
Mendota  
(815) 539-6635**

**Town & Country Realty**

www.tcrealtysales.net

**Evening Phone Numbers**

Becky McPheeters, Designated Managing Broker

708-220-3338

Rita Lilja

815-539-9255

Jami Bauer, Broker

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Lori Munson, Broker

815-228-4852

Helping people find homes since 1983.

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1316 Lakewood Plaza

Rte. 251 N. • Mendota

Gloria Cogdal, Designated Managing Broker

Sally Corrigan, Broker - 815-830-8101

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**1506 Lincoln Ave., Mendota \$125,500**  
• 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Story Home w/ 2 Car Garage  
• Stunning Wood Flooring, High Ceiling, Large Windows Allowing Natural Light In  
• Tons of Updates!



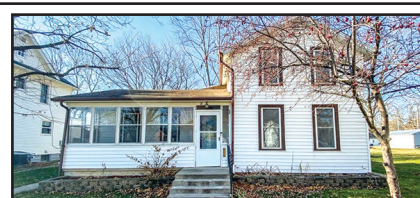
**206 S. Popular St., Sublette \$133,900**  
• 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 2 Story Home in Sublette  
• Natural Woodwork Throughout  
• 3 Car Garage With Heat and Concrete Flooring



**606 W Main St., Sublette \$129,900**

• 2 Bed 1 Bath

• New flooring, windows, doors, trim  
• Kitchen cabinets professionally refinished, new counter tops



**18 N Blackstone Ave., Amboy \$114,400**

• Cozy 3 Bed, 1 Bath Home w/Gas Fireplace

• 2 Main Floor Bedrooms  
• 3 Car Detached Garage, Concrete Patio, Spacious Yard



**1003 Chicago St \$107,900**  
3 BDR, 1.5 BA, CORNER LOT, attached garage



**240 W. Pleasant AMBOY \$29,900**  
HANDYPERSON SPECIAL!!



**304 3rd Ave \$59,000**  
3 BDR, 2 BA, UPDATED KITCHEN, nice backyard, spacious garage!!



**1206 Burlington St \$126,000**  
VICTORIAN home with all the trimmings still INTACT, HUGE backyard!!



**1001 3rd St \$128,500**  
Primary BDR & bath on MAIN LEVEL, 2 car garage!!, updated BA's and kitchen!!!



**1109 8th St LaSalle \$38,500**  
Commercial building with tenants!



**701 Illinois Ave Mendota \$165,000**  
Floral/giftshop & building!!

901 CLARK ST., OGLESBY .....	\$289,400
568 SLANT ROAD, WEST BROOKLYN .....	\$180,000
1460 SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD, AMBOY <b>PENDING</b> .....	\$109,500
209 S JEFFERSON ST., AMBOY .....	\$95,900
319 W PIERONNET ST., AMBOY .....	\$89,900
112 S. MASON, AMBOY <b>PENDING</b> .....	\$49,900
109 W. MAIN ST, SUBLETTE .....	\$20,000

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