

The Beauty of Winter



While many people yearn for the sunshine and warmth of spring and summer, the winter season offers up a beautiful array of scenery that elicits the wonderful spectacle of the change of seasons. Lake Mendota allows the geese to saunter about on the ice while still being able to seek refuge on the small bit of still unfrozen water. Snow and ice cling to the branches of trees to offer up a picture postcard winter wonderland. Icicles hang like stalactites off of a Mendota building. And the snowfall is a perfect ingredient to put artistic talents to work. (Reporter photos)



Regions could have some mitigations loosened Jan. 15th

❑ Vaccine age requirement lowered

By GRACE BARBIC
Capitol News Illinois
SPRINGFIELD — State-wide Tier 3 COVID-19 mitigations could be lifted within the week.

Starting Jan. 15, exactly one incubation period from New Year's Day, any region that has met requirements for a reduction of mitigations will be able to move out of the Tier 3 mitigation plan, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced.

"I'm cautiously optimistic as there are some early signs indicating that some regions have made real progress and won't reverse that progress this week or next," Pritzker said.

The entire state has been under Tier 3 restrictions since Nov. 20 in an effort to combat a potential holiday surge in cases. Under these increased restrictions, businesses are required to follow 25 percent capacity limits, and close bars and restaurants to indoor service — a mitigation that will still be in place even when a region moves back to Tier 2.

Pritzker said that despite not seeing a post-Thanksgiving surge, he is still advising Tier 3 restrictions be upheld

"I'm cautiously optimistic as there are some early signs indicating that some regions have made real progress and won't reverse that progress this week or next."

—Gov. Pritzker

for one incubation period, or 14 days, to ensure infection rates remain as low as possible.

After Jan. 15, regions will be able to proceed past Tier 2, which would allow restaurants and bars to reopen for indoor service, depending on their future infection and hospitalization rates.

Because of high demand for the COVID-19 vaccine, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended two initial priority groups receive the first rounds of vaccination.

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Fight scammers who target your Social Security benefits

By Mike Weill
PERU — Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails.

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents and other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions. Here are three things you can do:

- Hang up right away or do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information, money, or retail gift cards.
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov immediately to Social Security's law enforcement team at the Office of the Inspector General.

You should continue to remain vigilant of phone calls when someone says there's a problem with your Social Security number or your benefits. If you owe money to Social Security, we will mail

you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email. Remember that we will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov.

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

Small business grant program ends, paying out more than \$275 million

By SARAH MANSUR
Capitol News Illinois
SPRINGFIELD — The grant program for small businesses owners in Illinois who suffered losses during the pandemic has run out of money.

Illinois' Business Interruption Grant program was the largest state program of its kind, but only about 20 percent, or 8,974 applicants, received a grant.

The Illinois General Assembly created the program using federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, money. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity helped administer the program, and awarded more than \$275 million since the first round of grants were issued in August.

DCEO Director Erin Guthrie said this particular set of federal dollars has been exhausted, but the department continues



to look for ways to help businesses statewide.

"We know that businesses are hurting and we wish that Congress would provide more relief," Guthrie said. "This virus has shut down so much of our economy, and that is a struggle for every person and business across our state. The other thing I would say is, we're constantly working with our federal counterparts, with other sources in ways that we can creatively provide

relief to those businesses."

She said government money is still available for business owners through the second round of the federal Paycheck Protection Program, which awards forgivable loans, as well as existing state loan programs dedicated to small businesses, such as Advantage Illinois.

More than a third of BIG funds went to businesses downstate, 40 percent of grants were made to minority-owned businesses statewide, and more than 80 percent were made to businesses with \$1 million or less in annual revenues, according a DCEO press release.

"(Gov. JB Pritzker's) decision to respond quickly to the virus, and also support, economically, our workers and our businesses has been key in getting

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SEE SHOPPE LOCAL DIRECTORY
AT WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM



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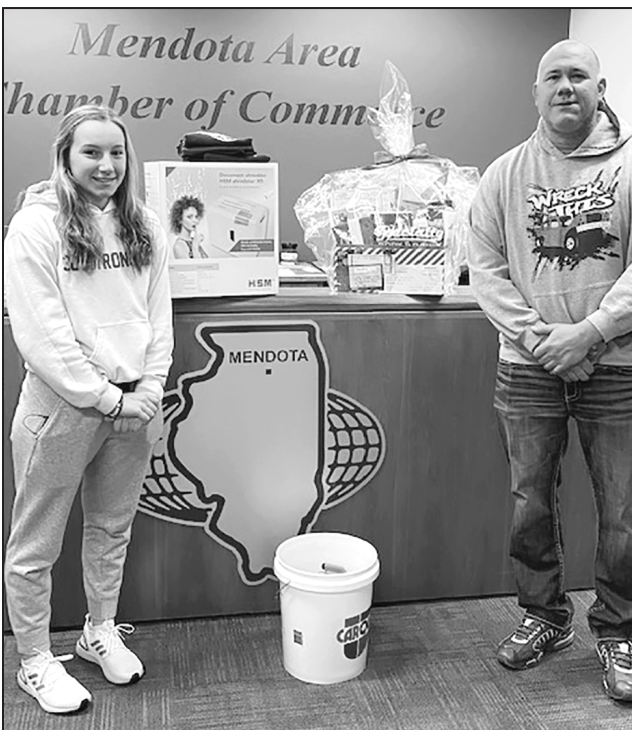
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LOCAL AND AREA



Grand Prize - Tracy Schwemlein (not pictured), Kaelyn Schwemlein and Steve Schwemlein



1st place - Joanne McNally

Chamber awards prizes to Shop Local winners

MENDOTA - The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the 2020 Shop Local winners.

This year's Grand Prize went to Tracy Schwemlein, the 1st place winner

was Joanne McNally, in 2nd place was Corrie Downer, and taking 3rd place was Yesenia Guerra.

In addition, there were 10 Gift Certificate winners. The Gift Certificate

winners include Carol Kern, Cindy Holdenrid, Kassidy Kobilsek, Pat Stocking, Clint O'Brien, Lindsey Gambrel, Eric Hatcher, Gail Grady, Luann Kromm, and Deb Hochstatter.



2nd place - Corrie Downer and daughter, Gracie Smith



3rd place - Yesenia Guerra (Photos contributed)

HONOR ROLL

Holy Cross announces top students

MENDOTA - Holy Cross School in Mendota has announced their 2nd Quarter honor rolls for the 2020-21 school year. Students achieving this honor include:

8th High Honor Roll
Lily Bokus—4.0, Kirby Bond—4.0, Alondra Delao—4.0, Ava Eddy—4.0, Bailey Engels—4.0, Cassie Gonzalez, Lauren Holland, Libby Huffaker—4.0, Ella Martin—4.0, Korinne Miars—4.0, Grace Royer—4.0, Kenley Wilson—4.0.

8th Honor Roll
Benjamin Bresley, Garrett Connelly.

7th High Honor Roll
Addyson Allensworth, Maren Atherton, Alex Beetz, Laylie Denault, Dane Doyle, Mae Hagenbuch, Brody Hartt, Alex Holland, Grady Jones, Ella Lewis, Peri Manning, Lily Soliman, Ryan Soliman, Joe Stewart, Aden Tillman.

7th Honor Roll
Anna Cyrocki, Addisyn Jones, Breanna Martinez, Kooper Novak, Nick Sheridan.

6th High Honor Roll

Emily Diaz, Emma Huffaker, Elaina Koch, Abbie Kreiser, Kara Miars, James Whitmore.

6th Honor Roll
Alexandrew Tillman.

5th High Honor Roll
Charlee Dankenbring, Komen Denault, Corbin Doll, Karson Doyle, Leah Henkel, Abby Magallanes, Gaby Martinez, Elsie Soliman, Ross Sondgeroth, Cole Tillman, Charles Wilson.

5th Honor Roll
Giselle Gonzalez, Kaylee MacDonald, Leah Schwemlein.

B.U.G. Roll
5th Grade

Charlee Dankenbring, Komen Denault, Gaby Martinez, Leah Schwemlein.

3rd Grade
Emme Beetz, Blake Cyrocki, Linda MacDonald, Lillee Monterastelli, Camden Pawlowski, Ellye Reppin, Molly Wilson.

2nd Grade
Eliana Escatel, Nolan Henkel, Jaxson Zimmerlein.

1st Grade
Rose Beetz, Bridget Cackley, Carissa Doll.

M.A.S.S. outreach assistance scheduled

EARLVILLE - Beverly Dunfrund, outreach specialist for Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS), will be at the Earlville Library District in Earlville from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20. In the morning, she will be at the Adams Township Building in Leland from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Face masks are required.

Dunfrund will assist any persons over the age of 60, as well as individ-

uals under 60 who have a disability, in obtaining access to services available in this area, applying for programs or simply answering their questions.

Feel free to drop in any time during those hours. No appointments are necessary.

Anyone with further questions should contact the MASS office at (815) 539-9673, (815) 539-7700, or toll free 1-800-535-5970.



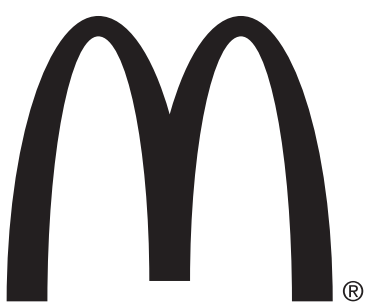
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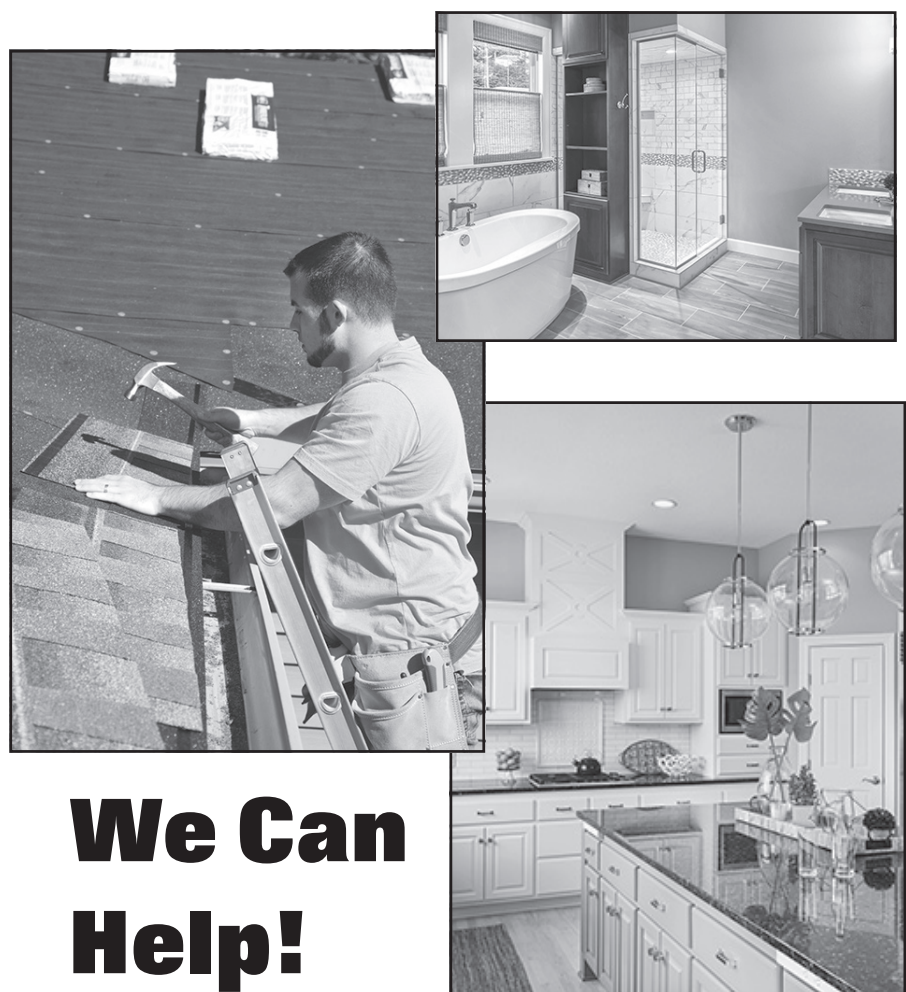
Their commitment to education will send informative, interesting & educational newspapers to the Mendota School System throughout the school year!



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LOCAL AND AREA

Obituaries

Continued from Page A4

Thomas L. Smith

LA MOILLE - Thomas L. Smith, 59, of LaMoille passed away Jan. 9, 2021 at St. Margaret's Hospital, Spring Valley.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 15 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with burial to follow at Prairie Repose Cemetery, Dover. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14 at the funeral home. Mask wearing is required and appreciated.

Thomas was born June 6, 1961 in Mendota to Charles and Margaret (Newton) Smith.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Smith of LaMoille; three sons, Robert (Stacy) Smith of Ladysmith, Wis., Jesse (Shandar) Smith of LaMoille and Corey Winchel of Cape Girardeau, Mo.; three daughters, April (Nathan Schultz) Smith of Ladysmith, Wis., Dakota (Joseph) Foster of Cape Girardeau, Mo. and Jessie (Zac) Koesler of Cherry; three brothers, Samuel (Mary) Smith of LaMoille, Ronald (Stephanie) Smith of Cherry and Carl (Sally) Smith of Florida; one sister, Linda Smith of LaMoille; 24 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Thomas was a union laborer for many years. He finished his career at Del Monte before his health worsened. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping. He was always up for any new adventures. His pride and joy were his children and grandchildren. In the last days of his life he gave his heart to the Lord Jesus.

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

Wanda J. Burton

COMPTON - Wanda J. Burton, 57, of Compton passed away unexpectedly Jan. 8, 2021 at Rochelle Community Hospital.

Private family memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Susan Presley officiating.

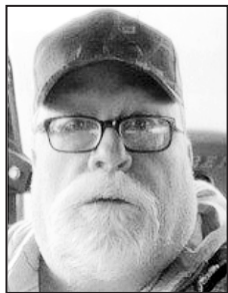
Wanda was born Aug. 18, 1963 in Rochelle to Terry and Marian (Hoelzer) Neal. She married Harold Burton on May 17, 2008.

Survivors include her husband of Compton; one daughter, Seneca Schneider of Compton; her father, Terry (Kris) Neal of Compton; her mother, Marian Neal of Compton; two brothers, Adam (Karla) Neal and Laen (Katie) Neal, both of DeKalb; one granddaughter, Ivy Wagner of Compton; and two step sons, Chris (Laura) Burton of Malta and Tyler Burton of DeKalb.

She was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents.

Wanda worked at Ryder Logistics in Rochelle for 13 years. She loved horses and owned several that she enjoyed raising, training and riding.

Memorials may be directed to a humane society of the donor's choice. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



U of I Extension partners with local food pantries

MENDOTA - Tracy Cooper, director of Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry in Mendota, will now be able to display the new sign and banner provided by University of Illinois Extension in two locations.

In addition to Mendota, since September, Cooper has been distributing food two Thursdays a month from a mobile food pantry at the city hall in Earlville. She will use the banners and signs at both locations to help clients easily find them on distribution days.

Currently, the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry serves 110 households per month at the two locations.

Local food pantries have been utilizing a drive thru/pick up model to minimize

contact due to COVID-19 and the University of Illinois Extension Illinois Nutrition Education program of Marshall, Putnam, LaSalle and Bureau Counties is providing outdoor signs (through a special grant) with healthy messages to local food pantries as a new way to support partners during this difficult time.

If you are interested in learning more about how to partner with University of Illinois Extension for educational programming focusing on healthy nutrition and lifestyles including food budgeting and food safety, please call Jani Kidd, program coordinator, at (815) 224-0889 or Sherry Todas, program coordinator, at (815) 875-2878.



Tracy Cooper, Mendota Food Pantry director, left, and assistant manager, Dan Carr, display a new sign and banner from U of I Extension. (Photo contributed)

Local Girl Scouts taking cookie orders until Jan. 30

MENDOTA - Local Girl Scouts set-up their cookie websites and started selling Girl Scout Cookies online in December for the Early Bird Online Only part of the annual program. Now that 2021 is here, girls may choose to take cookie orders safely in-person from Jan. 6-30, as they create new ways to connect with customers and offer contactless ordering and delivery door-to-door.

This year's cookie lineup features refreshing Thin Mints (vegan), caramel-y Samoas, peanut butter-stuffed Tagalongs, crunchy Do-si-dos, buttery Trefoils, sweet S'mores, toffee-chipped Toffee-tastics (gluten free), and more. Cookies are only \$5 per package. Girls

may accept orders safely in-person or through Digital Cookie 7.0, which allows them to take electronic orders for cookies. Customers can now order and pay for cookies online and have the option to have the cookies shipped directly to them (shipping charges apply), have a Girl Scout offer contactless delivery of cookies to their door, or donate cookies (with no additional handling fees).

If you do not know a Girl Scout, visit www.girlscoutsni.org/buycookies to be connected to a local entrepreneur who would love to add you to her customer list.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each local Girl Scout sets out to sell delectable cookies while also building

entrepreneurial and business skills imperative for leadership and future success. All net revenue raised stays in our northern Illinois area.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois uses cookie earnings to power amazing experiences for girls through their programming, while girls and their troops decide how to invest in impactful community projects, personal enrichment opportunities, and more. Skills girls learn in the cookie program also influence later success as data shows more than half (57 percent) of Girl Scout alumnae in business say the cookie program was beneficial to skills they possess today, such as money management, goal-setting, and public speaking.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Western Illinois University dean's list

MACOMB/MOLINE - A total of 1,313 undergraduate students were named to the fall 2020 dean's list at Western Illinois University. The total includes 140 students at the WIU-Quad Cities Campus.

Local students include Natalie Landgraf, a senior, of Mendota; Madeline Hewitt, a sophomore, of LaMoille; and Daniela McConville, a senior, of Earlville.

To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point average on a scale of 4.0, which equals an A in a minimum 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted.

CARL'S QUIZ

What was the best-selling brand of coffee in the U.S. until the late 1980s?

The answer to last week's quiz is: The word 'stymie' comes from golf. Until 1952 when rules were changed, balls had to remain in place. You could be stymied when another player's ball was between your ball and the hole and you had to loft your ball over it.

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

Honoring the Man and his Dream

The following financial institutions will be closed on **Monday, January 18** in honor of **Martin Luther King's Birthday.**

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Mendota Weather

Jan. 13, 2021

Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 36 Low: 28

Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 35 Low: 26

Friday
Isolated Snow
High: 31 Low: 18

Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 25 Low: 13

Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 27 Low: 14

Monday
Partly Cloudy
High: 25 Low: 13

Tuesday
Cloudy
High: 30 Low: 16

In-Depth Forecast

Wednesday we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 36°, humidity of 90%. Southwest wind 10 mph. The record high temperature for Wednesday is 55° set in 2006. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday night with an overnight low of 28°. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph. The wind chill for Wednesday night could reach 22°. The record low for Wednesday night is -12° set in 1974.

Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Monday	32	25	27/11	0.00"
Tuesday	31	25	27/11	0.00"
Wednesday	32	25	27/11	0.00"
Thursday	33	27	27/11	0.00"
Friday	32	28	27/11	0.00"
Saturday	31	27	27/11	0.00"
Sunday	27	24	27/11	0.00"

Regional Cities

City	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Aurora	37/28	mc	38/27	mc
Champaign	41/31	mc	42/28	mc
Chicago	39/31	mc	40/28	mc
Freeport	35/26	mc	36/24	mc
Joliet	38/29	mc	39/28	mc
Moline	39/29	mc	39/27	mc
Peoria	40/31	mc	41/29	mc
Rockford	36/27	mc	37/25	mc
Springfield	44/32	pc	44/30	mc

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:21 a.m.	4:49 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	5:21 p.m.
Thursday	7:20 a.m.	4:50 p.m.	8:44 a.m.	6:30 p.m.
Friday	7:20 a.m.	4:51 p.m.	9:20 a.m.	7:38 p.m.
Saturday	7:20 a.m.	4:53 p.m.	9:50 a.m.	8:44 p.m.
Sunday	7:19 a.m.	4:54 p.m.	10:15 a.m.	9:47 p.m.
Monday	7:19 a.m.	4:55 p.m.	10:38 a.m.	10:48 p.m.
Tuesday	7:18 a.m.	4:56 p.m.	11:01 a.m.	11:48 p.m.

National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 47 in Fort Washington, Md. The Southeast will experience mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 74 in Pembroke Pines, Fla. The central United States will see mostly clear skies with the highest temperature of 63 in Laredo, Texas. In the Northwest there will be partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 58 in Myrtle Point, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 77 in Fullerton, Calif.

Weather History

Jan. 13, 1888 - The mercury plunged to 65 degrees below zero at Fort Keough, located near Miles City, Mont. The reading stood as a record for the entire continental United States for 66 years.

Jan. 14, 1989 - A winter storm spread snow and sleet and freezing rain from the Middle Mississippi Valley to the northeastern U.S. Freezing rain in West Virginia caused fifteen traffic accidents in just a few minutes west of Charleston.

Local UV Index



UV Index

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

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather Trivia

What type of clouds do thunderstorms develop from?



Answers: Cumulonimbus clouds.

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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Mary C. Sondgeroth

PRINCETON - Mary C. Sondgeroth, 67, of Princeton passed away Jan. 4, 2021 at her home surrounded by her family and friends.

Cremation rites were accorded and a memorial service was held at noon on Jan. 9 at Grant-Johnson Funeral Home, Princeton with Deacon John Murphy, officiating. Visitation was from 10 a.m.-noon prior to the service on Jan. 9 at the funeral home. Due to COVID-19, masks and social distancing were required. Burial will take place in Troy Grove at a later date.

Mary was born Jan. 5, 1953 in Pontiac to Marguerite Kidd. She married Vernon Sondgeroth on Nov. 11, 1972 at Peterstown Church, Mendota.

Survivors include her husband of Princeton; four children, Lisa (Jeff) Fultz of Ohio, Lori Sondgeroth of Princeton, Ryan Sondgeroth of Princeton and Gina (Victor) DaCosta of Palm Coast, Fla.; six grandchildren, Kayla Griffin, Dustin Fultz, Zachary Tuft, Wyatt Fultz, Savanna DaCosta and Vanessa DaCosta; two great-grandchildren, Bennett Mathesius and Autumn Smith; her great-aunt, Dorothy Wallace of Troy Grove; many sisters-in law, brothers-in law and many very special nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother; her step-father, Vincent Lyons; and two brothers, David Lyons and Dale Kidd.

Mary graduated from Mendota High School. She worked at Prairie View Nursing Home for six years and at Sullivan's Food for 31 years and loved her customers. Mary loved her grandkids and great-grandkids. She loved to travel and take pictures to keep memories. She was very kind and enjoyed helping and giving to other people.

Memorials may be directed to Second Story or Freedom House. Online condolences may be sent to www.grant-johnsonfh.com.

Morris Anderson

LAKELAND, Fla. - Morris Anderson, 92, of Lakeland, Fla., formerly of LaMoille, passed away peacefully Dec. 14, 2020 at the Arbor Oaks Assisted Living facility.

Cremation and burial rites have been accorded and Morris has been laid to rest with his wife at the Greenfield Cemetery in LaMoille.

Morris was born Nov. 16, 1928 in Long Point to Russell and Edna Anderson. He married Lois Jean Kopp. She preceded him in death on Nov. 30, 2000.

Survivors include three children, Vickie (Dave) Geuther of Lenoir City Tenn., Bill (Lisa) Anderson of Trinity, Fla. and Sharon (Jim) Cook of Lakeland, Fla.; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Morris grew up on a farm in LaMoille with his six brothers and sisters. He told countless stories about his life on the farm and the good times with his siblings. He attended grammar and high school in LaMoille, where he met his future wife. After graduating from high school, Morris served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Following his time in the service, the couple returned to LaMoille to raise a family. They were both long time members of the First Baptist Church of LaMoille. Morris and Lois moved to Florida in 1981. He enjoyed the warm weather and spending time with his family. His hobbies included woodworking and doing puzzles.

See additional OBITUARIES, Page A3

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Barbara J. Dalton

MENDOTA - Barbara J. Dalton, 75, of Mendota passed away Jan. 5, 2021 at Ottawa Pavilion Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing, Ottawa.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 9 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota with Rev. Ken Gibson officiating. Burial was at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Visitation was for one hour prior to services. Mask wearing was required and appreciated.

Barbara was born Nov. 18, 1945 in Mendota to Alfred and Mary Helen (Wittgan) Zimmerlein.

Survivors include her children, Christopher (Martha) Dalton of Stuart, Fla. and Jennifer (Russell) Stachlewitz of Mendota; one sister, Sarah (Al) Echelbarger of Las Vegas, Nev.; one granddaughter, Perris Stachlewitz of Mendota; her long-time partner, Anthony Martinez of Mendota; her beloved Shih Poo, Fred; and several nieces and nephews including those with whom she had a very special bond, Amanda (Robert) Stachlewitz and Joshua (Kristin) Echelbarger.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Barb was a 1963 graduate of Mendota High School and attended the University of Illinois, Champaign. Much of her life was spent working in the Mendota grade Schools and at the Secretary of State Driver Services Facility in Mendota. While working at both locations, she befriended many co-workers, all of whom she loved dearly and considered family. She could find humor and fun in almost any situation. While she was both an avid reader and writer, she always preferred to be in the company of others. She enjoyed spending time cooking, baking and simply chatting and joking around with her family and friends. Everyone who entered her home was treated like family and never left hungry or without a good laugh. In her later years, she absolutely loved seeing new places while traveling with her long-time partner and their dog.

Memorials may be directed to Alzheimer's Association or Illinois Valley Animal Rescue. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Cynthia A. Knowlton

DIXON - Cynthia "Cindy" Ann Knowlton, 62, of Dixon, passed away Jan. 4, 2021 at her home surrounded by loved ones and her beloved dog, Bo.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private service for her family will be held at First United Methodist Church in Mendota with Pastor Mary Bohall officiating. A celebration of life will be held in the summer open to all friends and family. Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon.

Cindy was born Feb. 19, 1958 in Casper, Wy. to Ted and Doreen (Stratton) Davenport. She married James "Jimmy" Knowlton on May 23, 2008 in Mendota.

Survivors include her husband of Dixon; one son, Keith (Samantha) Sherer of Texas; one daughter, Kelsey (Atley) Bergsieker of Dixon; two step-sons, Barry (Rita) Knowlton of Florida and Kody Knowlton of Paw Paw; nine grandchildren, Eliot Bergsieker, Abel Dunn, Arlo Dunn, Max Knowlton, Irene Knowlton, Savannah Sherer, Kameron Sherer, Jessica Sherer and Katelyn Sherer; one sister, Becky Ledbetter of Alaska; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Linda Watson, Donna Young and Diana Triplett; and an infant brother, Richard Taylor.

Cindy was a registered nurse and worked at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital with Dr. Laxman S. Iyer, MD for many years prior to her retirement in October 2019. She cherished her patients and making sure they were always taken care of. She enjoyed tending to her flower gardens and yard. She loved spending time with her family and friends. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Memorials may be directed to GiGi's Playhouse in Rockford.

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.



Laura J. Prendergast

ARLINGTON - Laura Jane (Novotny) Prendergast, 99, formerly of Princeton and Arlington, died Jan. 3, 2021 in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

Funeral Mass was held at 11 a.m. on Jan. 13 at St. John Fisher Catholic Church in Rancho Palos Verdes with Rev. Bernard Kalu officiating. To access the video, see <https://livestream.com/stjohnfisher/special>. Interment will be at Calvary Cemetery, Arlington, preceded by Mass at St. Louis Catholic Church, Princeton, on dates to be determined. Arrangements are being made by Lighthouse Memorials, Torrance, Calif. and Norberg Funeral Home, Princeton.

Laura was born May 20, 1921 in Tama, Iowa, the youngest of seven children of Bertha Anna Schultz (Sulc) and Edward Novotny, a switchman for the Northwestern and Chicago Milwaukee Railroads junction. She married James Drummer Prendergast, son of Margaret and William Prendergast of rural LaMoille on Aug. 21, 1948 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Arlington. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include two daughters, Dr. Susan P. (William) Schoelwer of Washington, D.C. and Sheila A. (David) Bloodgood of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.; five grandchildren, Margaret Susan Schoelwer of San Francisco, Calif., William James (Melissa) Schoelwer of Charlottesville, Va.; Jennifer Laura Schoelwer of Washington, D.C. and Ryan James and Patrick Thomas Bloodgood, both of Rancho Palos Verdes; and three great-grandchildren, Vivian Jane, William Joseph, and James Henry Schoelwer of Charlottesville.

She was preceded in death by her husband; six siblings, Mildred Violet Burn, Joseph George Novotny, Marie Bertha Hanke, Margaret Estella Green, Elizabeth Novotny and Grace Dorothy Hurt; two nephews and a niece.

Following graduation from Tama High School, Laura landed a job with the local newspaper, where a colleague encouraged her to apply for University of Iowa scholarship. She graduated with a BA in English in 1944, becoming the first in her family to achieve a college degree. During World War II, she worked in the secretarial pool at Consolidated Vultee Aircraft, which was producing B-29 bombers in Tucson, Ariz., and then for the U.S. Navy at Terminal Island in Long Beach, Calif. When she came to LaMoille to teach high school English and history, she was introduced to Jim Prendergast by his sister, Jane, the home economics teacher. After a wedding trip to the Black Hills in South Dakota, the couple settled briefly in Champaign-Urbana while Jim finished his degree. His jobs took them to Detroit, Mich. and Quincy before landing in the new, planned Chicago suburb of Park Forest, where Laura taught elementary school. In 1955, they moved to a farm on the outskirts of Arlington, gradually restoring the Victorian house built by the town's founder, Michael Kennedy. Laura taught school in Malden and Van Orin, before earning a certificate in library science and becoming the school librarian in LaMoille. Moving to Princeton in 1982, the couple enjoyed a thriving enterprise renovating more than a dozen distinguished older homes.

Among her many interests, Laura especially loved books, music, gardening and antiques. She operated Village Antiques and Books for more than four decades with shops at Dover Homestead Farms and several locations in Princeton. In later years, she re-focused the business to online bookselling. She sang in the choir at St. Patrick's Church in Arlington, treated herself to a grand piano, and in her 70s adventurously took up playing violin. She researched several lines of family history and genealogy, compiled a volume of favorite recipes and composed a vivid memoir, "Smalltown Girl: Memories of an Iowa Childhood."

Memorials may be directed to St. John Fisher Catholic Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; St. Louis Catholic Church, Princeton, IL; Catholic Relief Services; or Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

Local photographers encouraged to enter contest

DIXON - Are you a nature lover, architecture fanatic or simply enjoy taking pictures around northwest Illinois? If so, this contest is for you! Area residents are invited to submit a photo in the "Rich History of the 90th District Photo Contest" offered by State Rep. Tom Demmer.

Contest participants should submit their photos of historical sites, buildings and landmarks that highlight the rich history of the region. A map of the 90th District can be found at tomdemmer.com.

Participants may submit as many entries as they would like before the deadline of

6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12.

Participants should include their name, phone number and location where the photo was taken with each entry.

Entries should be emailed to photos@tomdemmer.com.

Winning photos will be displayed in Springfield and at Demmer's Dixon office for the entire 102nd General Assembly (2021-2022), and the winning photographers will receive an official House of Representatives certificate of recognition.

The 90th District is located in portions of Ogle, Lee, DeKalb and LaSalle counties.



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HOW TO ENTER:

If you know where this scene is located in Mendota, write the answer briefly and concisely on a slip of paper and drop it off or mail it to The Mendota Reporter Office. All entries must be received no later than noon on Monday. One correct answer will be drawn each week.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Mitigations

Continued from Page A1

Those in Phase 1A, who are currently receiving vaccines, include health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities.

Phase 1B will include Illinois residents age 65 years or older and non-healthcare frontline essential workers. ACIP recommended residents 75 years or older be prioritized, but Illinois reduced the age by 10 years. Pritzker noted the average age of COVID-19 deaths is 81 for white residents, 72 for Black residents and 68 for Latino residents.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Ngozi Ezike supported lowering the vaccine eligibility age, noting that Latino and Black residents have statistically been dying from COVID-19 at three times the rate of white residents.

“Generally, Latino and Black populations have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with data showing related deaths at younger ages,” Ezike said. “We are hopeful that by lowering the eligibility age to 65 years we can help reduce this disparity.”

About 3.2 million people throughout the state would be eligible for vaccination in Phase 1B. These essential workers include first responders, education workers, manufacturing, distribution and agriculture workers, grocery store workers, U.S. Postal service workers, public transit employees, corrections workers and incarcerated people, among others.

The Illinois National Guard will be assisting in the development of mass vaccination sites. The state will also be increasing the number of providers to support widespread testing when the time comes.

Phase 1B will begin once Phase 1A is substantially complete, but a specific time period is not yet clear. Although about one-third of the healthcare workforce has already been vaccinated, Pritzker said that many healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents are still in the process of receiving the vaccine. Ongoing vaccine administration and a decrease in federal vaccine distribution could delay the move to the next phase.

The increase in federal vaccine distribution relies heavily on whether the Biden administration will implement the Defense Production Act. President Donald Trump invoked this Cold War-era law in response to the pandemic, which gave him emergency authority to control domestic industries.

The Defense Production Act was most recently used to prevent the hoarding of supplies, limit the export of medical goods like personal protective equipment and increase the production of critical supplies. Pritzker anticipates that there will be a significant increase in vaccine distribution once the DPA is invoked.

He also noted that Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca, along with a few other companies, are in the process of applying for Emergency Use Authorization for their vaccines through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“Whenever that is granted, that will give us other manufacturing facilities to rely upon,” Pritzker said. “So I’m hopeful that all of those things will allow vaccine production to increase significantly.”

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

Grant

Continued from Page A1

this all done. That’s the big picture. It’s really coming down from the top. It’s really coming from his vision and carrying it out in an equitable way,” Guthrie said.

Although the supply of funds could not match the demand, Guthrie said the agency continued to solicit for new applications because “we knew that we would continue to get those smallest, very smallest businesses to apply who were in the hardest hit industries, and that’s exactly what happened.”

The average grant size was \$30,000, and grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

Robert Gomez, owner of Subterranean music venue in Chicago, received funding through the BIG Grant program in mid-November after shuttering his doors in March.

Gomez said Subterranean was in a dire situation before it received a \$30,000 program grant, as he weighed the possibilities of refinancing his home, or tapping into his kids’ college funds.

Subterranean, which is in its 27th year, received federal PPP money but Gomez said he hasn’t touched the funds because his workers are not on his payroll, which is a required for loan forgiveness eligibility. “We’ve had to rely on donations from individuals, and a gift certificate program that we put in place where people can redeem it later,” he said.

“It’s like, no, we can’t go down like this. You work so hard to build something for almost 30 years, and then get wiped out because of the pandemic. It’s so hard to wrap my mind around that. But our only alternative, my only alternative, was to fight, to get creative, to push,” Gomez said.

Having spent his BIG funds, Gomez said he plans to apply for grant money that was allocated for venue operators in the second round of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding, which was passed by Congress in December.

“Thankfully, there seems to be a federal program that is specific for venues that would be the lifeline we need. But without the BIG grant, we wouldn’t have been able to sustain ourselves without some major financial overhaul,” Gomez said.

Nearly half of all BIG funds, or more than \$133 million dollars, went to restaurants and bars, according to the DCEO release.

A recent survey from the National Restaurant Association, along with the Illinois Restaurant Association, found 58 percent of Illinois operators say it is unlikely their restaurant will be open in six months without additional relief packages from the federal government.

Pritzker’s executive order that imposed an indoor dining ban on bars and restaurants, effective Nov. 18, has been especially painful for the industry.

Pat Doerr, managing director of the Hospitality Business Association of Chicago, said the fact that the agency awarded some grants to restaurants that never stopped serving customers indoors, in violation of the program’s eligibility rules, is one of his top grievances.

For example, Fireside Grille in Sugar Grove has continued to operate indoor dining after the governor issued his executive order but was issued a \$150,000 grant.

Owners of Fireside Grille did not respond to requests for comment.

A DCEO spokesperson said the department hasn’t received a formal complaint about Fireside Grille, adding that DCEO will be reaching out to this business owner to inquire.

Guthrie said the majority of grant recipients have followed the rules.

“If they aren’t, we really try to work with grantees to get them back in compliance. And then the very last line of defense would be to potentially claw back funds,” she said.

Guthrie said the department hasn’t clawed back any grant funds so far but one grant recipient that was not in compliance voluntarily returned their funds.

Doerr said the agency also failed to communicate an applicant’s realistic chance of getting money.

“They massively oversold the program,” he said. “The ship went down, and only one in five businesses got a lifeboat. Everybody’s happy for the one in five small businesses who made it in the lifeboat.”

Matt Strauss applied for BIG funds to help his Chicago restaurant — Table, Donkey and Stick — and Danke, a Chicago sandwich shop, where he is a managing member, but was denied funds for both businesses.

He said his businesses have remained afloat with PPP funds, and expects they will receive a second round of federal PPP money in the coming weeks.

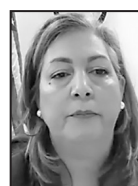
“The bottom line is (DCEO) should have taken applications, determined eligibility, and then distributed funds across the pool — the full universe of eligible applicants. It’s the only way to do it equitably,” he said.

“Obviously, everyone wants free money. And I wouldn’t say no, but I just know that there are thousands and thousands of businesses that are owned by people who have less than I have, and are probably going to struggle significantly because they didn’t get any funding.”

State veterans’ affairs director resigns amid LaSalle Vets’ Home fallout

By SARAH MANSUR
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Linda Chapa LaVia announced her resignation Jan. 11 following a contentious House committee hearing on the deadly COVID-19 outbreak at the LaSalle Veterans’ Home that has killed more than a quarter of the facility’s residents.



Chapa LaVia

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to serve our veterans,” LaVia said in a news release announcing her resignation. “I’m proud of our accomplishments and I look forward to assisting the interim director in any way possible as the department continues its work to serve our heroes.”

Chapa LaVia’s resignation came after the House Civil Judiciary Committee questioned her role in the outbreak at the LaSalle home, where 36 residents have died of COVID-19 since Nov. 1.

Three members of the committee — Reps. Deanne Mazzochi, R-Elmhurst, David Welter, R-Morris, and Daniel Didech, D-Buffalo Grove — issued statements calling for Chap LaVia’s resignation immediately following the committee hearing.

The lawmakers said Chapa LaVia’s performance during the hearing reflected poor leadership, which caused them to lose confidence in her ability to lead the agency.

Maj. Gen. Peter Nezamis has been named the department’s interim director.

IVCC News Briefs

Real Estate course begins Jan. 19

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College’s Continuing Education Center offers Real Estate Broker Pre-License (REA-1200-300) 6 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 19 through May 11 and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 20 and March 27.

The 75-hour class will prepare students for entry into the field. Upon successful completion of this course, students have met the pre-license requirements to be eligible for the Illinois Real Estate Broker Examination.

All real estate brokers and managing brokers must be licensed by the state to conduct transactions in Illinois.

There is no class March 16. For information, call the CEC at (815) 224-0427; to register call (815) 224-0447.

Virtual Scholarship Workshop planned

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College’s Admissions office hosts a Virtual Scholarship Workshop at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The free session will cover the 2021-22 IVCC Foundation scholarship application, essay guidelines and common grammar and punctuation mistakes. Former recipients will share advice and offer feedback.

Assistant Director of Admissions, Records and Transfer Services Aseret Loveland said, “The Foundation scholarship application is fully online and with the Feb. 11 deadline approaching, we wanted to offer our students an online session to learn how to make their essay stand out.”

“Over 400 applications were submitted last year and 331 students were awarded scholarships. We hope this workshop will help students refine their essay to increase the odds of receiving an award,” she added.

Awards range from \$500 to \$4,500. For information, call (815) 224-0439. RSVPs are encouraged at www.ivcc.edu/visit.

Several adult education classes offered

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College’s Adult Education program will offer free Adult Basic Education (ABE), High School Equivalency (HSE) traditional and online preparation classes as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) and Citizenship classes beginning Feb. 1 and 2.

ABE/HSE and ESL classes are offered during the day or evening on main campus and at IVCC’s Ottawa Center. Evening ESL classes at DePue begin Feb. 2.

Before joining a class, all students must attend a registration session.

Director of Adult Education Sara Escatel said, “We are excited to begin a new semester for our adult learners. Following the college’s COVID guidelines, class sizes are limited, so we encourage students to sign up for a registration session soon.”

ABE/HSE students should call Cindy at (815) 224-0358 and ESL and citizenship students should call Sara at (815) 224-0355 by Wednesday, Jan. 27 to sign up for a registration session. Para preguntas en Español, llame (815) 224-0355, Sara.

MPD offers winter driving tips

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

Take the time to clean the snow and ice from all vehicle windows prior to driving on the road. Keep your speed down to assist in keeping control

of your own vehicle when driving on slick icy roads. If traveling long distances remember to pack a few emergency items to take along in the event your vehicle should go off the roadway, including a cell phone, blankets and water.

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

To the Policyholders of Mendota Mutual Insurance Company

- ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE -

The one hundred forty-sixth Annual Policyholders Meeting of Mendota Mutual Insurance Company will be held at the Company Office at 1019 Main Street, Mendota, Illinois at 1:30 P.M., on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 to conduct business and to elect two directors to the board.

The Company annual report will be on file at the Company Office during business hours for anyone desiring to review the report.

In compliance with public act 86-1407, you are hereby notified that any complaints relating to coverage provided by Rockford Mutual Insurance Company, may be directed to P.O. Box 5626, Rockford, IL 61125, Phone 1-800-747-2957.

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2021 Valentine Baby Contest

Sponsored by the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce

Who: Babies up to 36 months

How: Submit a photo of your baby by emailing it to sweide@mendotachamber.com. Include baby's full name, sex, age, parents' names, address & phone number.

(*Due to Covid-19 all photos will be posted on the Mendota Area Chamber website. By submitting your photo entry, you give us permission to post photo to our website.)

When: Entry deadline is Friday, Jan. 15. Voting runs Jan. 18 to Feb. 12 until noon. Every cent is one vote. (One penny = 1 vote. One dollar = 100 votes)

Where: You may view contestants and vote at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce website – www.mendotachamber.com/valentine. Click on the link to vote for your favorite Valentine.

Winners will be announced on the Chamber Facebook page on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 12. Prizes will be awarded to first- and second-places in each category. All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce.

For questions or more information, call 815-539-6507.

01062021

OPINION

The Mendota Reporter

Award-winning
Newspaper
IPA/NINA
Ill. Press Assoc./No. Ill. Newspaper Assoc.

Kip Cheek, Publisher
Bonnie Morris, News Editor
Tonja Greenfield, Advertising
Jennifer Griffith, Bookkeeping

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writer or artist. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Reporter management or staff.

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

Remap too important to leave to Madigan

By Jim Nowlan

The dance of democracy continues in 2021 with the once-a-decade ritual of drawing new state legislative and congressional district lines in Illinois and across the nation. In two-thirds of the states, including Illinois, the legislators themselves draw the lines. This means the party in power draws maps that favor incumbents and enhances its partisan control.

This is done rather simply by “cracking” (breaking apart) pockets of opposition party strength or, conversely, by “packing” (concentrating) a party’s voters so as to limit the numbers of districts the opposition can win.

A couple of election cycles ago, a friend of mine tallied the total number of votes across Illinois for Democratic and Republican House candidates, respectively. He found that Democrats received 50 percent of the total vote, yet won 60 percent of the legislative seats. (That is what is called “gerrymandering,” in honor of Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry, who in the early Republic drew a district, favorable to his allies, that looked like a mythical, contorted salamander.)

But this year can be different, as I explain below.

In 2001 and 2011, Democratic House Speaker Mike Madigan controlled the process and drew maps that were laughingly unconstitutional. The Illinois Constitution clearly states that districts shall be compact and equal in population. However, the 2011 map for the Illinois Legislature includes districts that are stringy, arthritic fingers that reach from central city Chicago out into nearby suburbs, to pick up enough population to provide districts for incumbent Democratic members.

As soon as the new census figures are tallied and reported to the states, redistricting will begin in earnest. In normal times, Mike Madigan would draw the maps; they would be contested in the courts by opposition Republicans who would scream foul, and the courts would say, tsk, tsk.

This past election, a group of us campaigned successfully to oust Democratic Illinois Supreme Court Justice Tom Kilbride, whom we believed had paid his union dues faithfully to his benefactor Mike Madigan, via highly partisan court opinions.

Immediately upon Kilbride’s ouster, the other justices appointed a temporary appointment until 2022. They elevated the man Kilbride had been personally appointing to the state appellate court for 16 years. So, the court remains 4-3 in the hands of the Dems, and ready once again to support a gerrymandered map.

As I say, however, this year is different. First, Madigan and his fellow Dems are under an electron microscope, because the speaker is implicated in a brazen corruption scheme. Even if he loses his speakership contest in the coming weeks, the Dems who follow in his footsteps will be judged on whether they are just like Mike, or can be better.

Second, Gov. JB Pritzker has proclaimed repeatedly that he will support only a “transparent” map-drawing process that is thought to be fair.

So, what to do? Borrowing from an old adage about candidates, you can’t beat a bad map with no map. Thus, I propose that good government groups like Change Illinois, the Better Government Association and the League of Women Voters get together to draw alternative maps that are based on the criteria used in neighboring Iowa, which is considered to have the gold standard in mapping. The legislature in Iowa turns the process over to its legislative research agency, which is prohibited from using factors of incumbency or political party in drawing new district lines.

Illinois is more diverse than Iowa, and courts and Congress have decreed that minorities must have a fair shot at electing their own. Further, in 2011 the Illinois Legislature added “communities of interest” to the criteria here, to protect Chinatown in Chicago from being fractured in such a way that the community could not elect one of its own.

Fortunately, there is widely available, off-the-shelf technology that allows citizen groups to draw the maps. They could direct a computer to maximize, as much as possible, population equality, compactness, minority opportunities, communities of interest—and to avoid like the plague incumbency and partisan considerations.

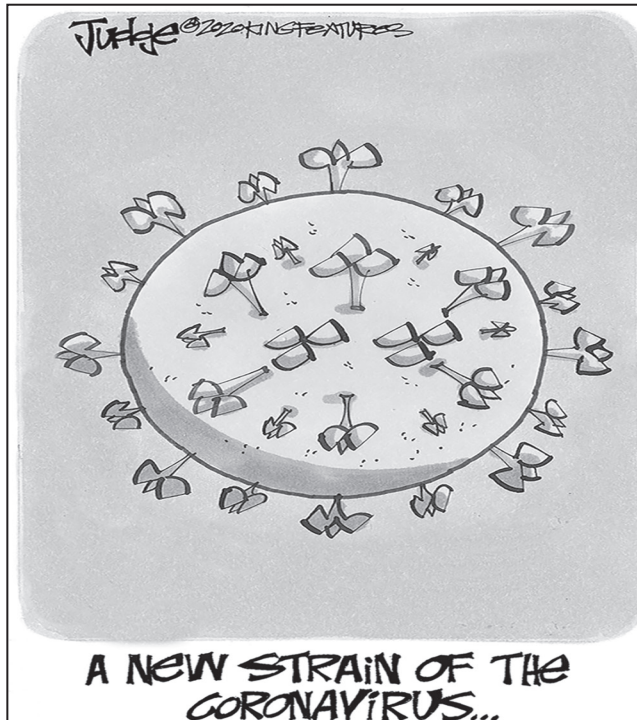
The computer whirs for a while and then spits out one or more maps based on those criteria. I am sure independent-minded lawmakers can be found to introduce these maps into the legislature for consideration, along with the in-house gerrymandered version.

But, appreciate that few inside either party will like these nonpolitical maps drawn by outsiders, (probably using the same software as the gerrymanderers). And these maps won’t alone transform the legislature from Dem to GOP majority control. The state is too Blue for that.

Independent, nonpartisan maps will, however, be drawn to the benefit of the voters, rather than the elected officials. And such maps would probably result in more competition, that is, more choices for the voters.

All of the above won’t happen without relentless public pressure on lawmakers and courts to support nonpartisan maps. I never said democracy was easy.

(Jim Nowlan voted for the new Illinois income tax in 1969, as a freshman House member. A former senior fellow at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Nowlan has worked for three unindicted Illinois governors.)



Memorable basketball at MHS – 1971

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Jan. 10, 1996.)

By Jessica Nashold

It was good to be a Mendota Trojan basketball fan in 1971. On Jan. 14, The Reporter carried the news that the Trojans had started their season with 15 wins in a row. Although Jerry Pohl had suffered an ankle injury in the Pekin Tournament, Gary Metzen was proving “a very capable replacement.” Outstanding players on the team were Terry and Rick Jacobs, Brian and Brad Phalen, and Doug Hamel.

Uncle Dick’s Sports Review carried its own tribute to the team.

Mendota is receiving statewide publicity about the success of the MHS basketball team, which remains undefeated so far this season with 15 consecutive wins.

In an Associated Press poll, MHS Trojans placed sixth.

The unbroken string of victories continued through a 20th. Pohl was back. The overall record published on Feb. 25, 1971 was 22-1. But the Trojans had a 10-0 record in NCIC play and were declared champions for northern Illinois.

Coach was Bob Beals, who was interviewed by the Trojan Tattler. Eleven of his 16 years of coaching had been spent at MHS. When asked what his choice would be if he could coach any team in the United States, he answered: “Right now it would be the Mendota High School Trojans.”

They are the most exciting team in Illinois.

Although the Trojans placed second in the sectional at Normal, it was still a banner year.

In 1971, girls’ basketball was sponsored by the Girls’ Athletic Association and consisted of a chance to play every Monday and Tuesday. How times have changed!

The grade school board, having seen another referendum go down to defeat in November, devoted its January meeting to pinpointing cuts needed to achieve a \$125,000 reduction in the budget.

A public meeting was held Jan. 19, 1971 to outline the choices. President Roger Krenz explained that the board

Backtracks & Sidetracks

was not allowed to transfer money from one fund to another. Some reasons the referendum had failed, he said, were a crop failure due to blight and public displeasure with taxes, particularly on the part of voters with fixed incomes.

A few of the projected cuts would be closing the Troy Grove school, eliminating all sports and summer band, dispensing with a half-time speech correctionist and a half-time band teacher.

Krenz said it would be necessary to borrow in order to meet commitments for the end of the 1970-71 year. That borrowed money would have to be repaid as soon as 1971-72 tax money came in. a gloomy outlook.

MHS debaters were champions in the Rockford Classic Tournament on Jan. 9, 1971. There were 17 schools competing. The team of Kirby Boner and Mike Morgan won three, lost one. Jim Troupis and Hugo Feugen won four.

A Senior Citizens Club was organized Jan. 19, 1971 at the Kanteen. There were 43 in attendance and officers were elected – Dorothy Auchstetter, president, and Leona Henkel, vice president. All men and women of retirement age were invited to become members.

Cub Scout Pack 110 at Northbrook announced that 3,630 pounds of glass had been collected for recycling at the truck parked east of Library Park on Jan. 8, 1971. The truck was furnished by Conco. It was planned to repeat this collection on Fridays from 6-8 p.m. during January.

Labels do not have to be removed. Simply wash or rinse, discard tops or other metal and put in box or bag for the Scouts.

After January, the Scouts expected to have one collection per month.

George Frost Jr. advertised homes available under the FHA 235 Program. With a down payment of \$200, a 30-

year mortgage could be arranged with interest ranging from 1.2% to 9.2%, depending on family size and income.

Widmers held a grand opening to introduce the line of American motors they were adding at their garage, 814 Illinois Ave. Included were the Ambassador, Javelin, Matador, Gremlin and Hornet.

Virgil Scott, who had been visiting his son in California at the time of the 1971 Rose Bowl game, reported that he had visited a machine shop where contractors were building floats for the New Year’s Day parade. On New Year’s Eve, between 10-11 p.m., he was driving along the parade route.

People were already camping along the street to be sure of a good spot to see the parade.

Scott said he watched the game itself on TV. In the 1971 Rose Bowl, Stanford bested Ohio State, 27-17.

The Trojan Tattler reported on a party at the school that had not been a success. The critic cited as reasons for the failure were “disorganized games, terrible music and a 50-cent admission charge, which only a 10-cent Coke and a 5-cent cookie.”

A volleyball game, a cookie and a Coke may last for a while – but four hours? That’s expecting a lot.

Jacob Spanier was honored by his family at a hasenpfeffer dinner on his 93rd birthday. Spanier had been mayor of Mendota from 1936-41.

Jaycees used a full-page ad in The Reporter to outline their many projects and highlight a few awards they had made. Dean Lubbs was named Outstanding Young Educator. Jill Hutchinson received a Citizenship Award. E.L. Scheidenhelm was declared Boss of the Year.

Mrs. Mary Phalen was pictured on the snowmobile she had begun operating after her 85th birthday. She gave two great-grandsons a two-mile sleigh ride behind her vehicle.

Jim Walker, former Mendotan, was introduced as new agent at the Standard Oil station in Sublette.

The mystery of the lame duck session

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD – Just call it the lame-duck shrug. State representatives returned to Springfield last week, but if you ask any of them what they expect to consider, you’re more than likely going to get a shrug.

No one knows. It’s a mystery, wrapped in a conundrum and bound up in a riddle.

“House Speaker Mike Madigan is keeping things pretty close to the vest. We are just a few days out and we just don’t know,” said state Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield. “I had members of the majority party, Democrats, calling me to see what I had heard about session. They thought I might know, because I represent Springfield. That’s pretty telling when members of the party in control don’t have a clue.”

Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said he anticipates lawmakers will consider legislation being pushed by the House Democratic Black Caucus. But, as of early last week, no bills had been filed with the House clerk pertaining to that caucus’ agenda.

Among the issues said to possibly be a part of that agenda is a measure that would eliminate “qualified immunity” for police officers. This would allow victims of police misconduct to personally sue the officers as well as the governmental body that employs them.

Leaders of the Black Caucus also are pushing measures pertaining to job training, education funding equity and Medicaid financing.

Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, declined to discuss specifics of the Black Caucus agenda. But he and other members of that caucus have expressed dismay that there are not more minority owners in the state’s marijuana dispensaries.

But state Rep. Avery Bourne, R-Morrisonville, said it is not enough to know the broad issues to be discussed, legislation needs to be reviewed carefully.

“So far, we haven’t seen any bills,” she said. “And we really can’t weigh in until we have seen specific legislation.”

Unfortunately, lawmakers are often kept in the dark until shortly before they are about to vote on a bill. This minimizes the opportunity for voters and interest groups to lobby against a bill before it comes up for a vote.

“Children are taught civics, but there are some who don’t like to see it practiced,” said Ari DeWolf, a government affairs specialist for the Illinois Policy Institute.

“Lame duck” is the colloquial term for the period between an election and an inauguration. Some of those serving have either lost the election or have chosen not to seek re-election.

These members are thought to be less inhibited in voting against their constituents’ wishes. Indeed, during past lame duck sessions Illinois lawmakers have approved such controversial measures as abolishing the death penalty, creating same-sex civil unions and increasing the state income tax by 66 percent.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said in a virtual news conference that he fears Madigan will again push for a lame duck tax hike after voters rejected a constitutional amendment to create a graduated income tax.

“They refused to listen to our warnings over and over again,” he said. “And now, after voters just sent the Democrats a message, Madigan and his cohorts will be trying to sneak a tax increase – yes, sneak a tax increase – into the lame-duck session.”

Brown pooh-poohed the notion that lawmakers may consider an income tax hike during the waning days of the legislative session saying he hadn’t heard the matter discussed.

The session could run until Jan. 13, when the new General Assembly will convene to inaugurate its members.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, lawmakers haven’t met since late May when they held a brief session to pass a budget and a few other items deemed essential.

That budget is out of whack by \$5 billion. It was passed on the hope that Congress would pass a stimulus package that would include aid to struggling state and local governments and that voters in November would approve a constitutional amendment to allow the state to levy a graduated income tax. Neither happened.

Rep. Ford said, “Lame duck session is the time to ramp up taxes if we are to avoid cutting needed programs.”

On the other hand, when tax decisions are left to lame ducks – taxpayers should expect to be goosed.

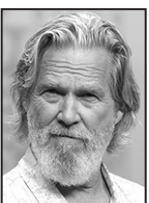
(Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist and a freelance reporter. ScottReeder1965@gmail.com.)

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I heard that actor Jeff Bridges was diagnosed with cancer. How is he doing? Is he done acting or will he continue while he fights the disease? -- **H.B.**



J. Bridges

A: Jeff Bridges and his longtime wife, Susan, posted a very cute photo of themselves with their dog on Twitter, wishing everyone a Happy New Year. He had recently shaved his head and sported a red beret while wearing matching pajamas with Susan.

In October, the 71-year-old actor was diagnosed with lymphoma and began treatment. He's still working, at least as much as is permitted during the pandemic. His new project is the upcoming Hulu TV series "The Old Man," which is based on the novel of the same name by Thomas Perry. According to TV Guide, Bridges plays a "retired intelligence officer who becomes marked for death and is pulled into the world he left behind." It also stars John Lithgow ("The Crown") and Amy Brenneman ("Judging Amy").

With a cast like that, it's bound to be a hit, but no specific premiere date has been set.

Q: I saw a commercial for a new show that's similar to "America's Got Talent." I forget the name, but it had WWE star Cody Rhodes as one of the judges. Does this mean he's done wrestling? -- **C.P.**

A: Cody Rhodes, a son of the legendary Dusty Rhodes, left the WWE in 2016 and later helped start the All Elite Wrestling league. He was still wrestling in the AEW in 2020, but now, at age 35, Cody's body might be telling him to slow down.

The new "Go-Big Show" is part of TBS' Thursday night lineup, and while it appears similar to NBC's "America's Got Talent," it's more extreme and, as its name implies, big, with acts that involve monster trucks, alligator wrestlers, tightrope walkers and fire breathers.

Joining Rhodes at the judges' table are rapper Snoop Dogg, actress Rosario Dawson ("The Mandalorian") and singer Jennifer Nettles. It features a socially distant, drive-thru audience cheering on the competitors as they vie for a \$100,000 prize.

Q: Where have I seen the actor who plays the male lead in the new sitcom "Bob Hearts Abishola"? Was he a stand-up comedian? He looks very familiar. -- **Y.A.**

A: Billy Gardell plays Bob in "Bob Hearts Abishola," the CBS sitcom produced by the very successful Chuck Lorre ("Two and a Half Men," etc.), and he's probably triggering some déjà-vu because he starred for six seasons in another CBS sitcom, "Mike & Molly." Before his successful television career, he was a stand-up comedian from Pennsylvania.

"Bob Hearts Abishola" actually is not new. It's in its second season, but has been heavily promoted in recent months. Gardell plays a successful business owner who falls in love with his nurse, Abishola, played by Nigerian-born Folake Olowofeye, who pursued her dream of being an actress after enrolling in the City College of New York.

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

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Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- Lady Gaga has chosen her first project since her Oscar-nominated "A Star Is Born," to be directed by three-time Oscar-nominated director Ridley Scott ("Thelma & Louise," "Gladiator" and "Black Hawk Down"). In "Gucci," she'll play the controversial character of Patrizia Reggiani, dubbed "The Black Widow" by the Italian press. She is the ex-wife of Maurizio Gucci (a former wealthy Italian socialite and high-fashion personality) who was tried and convicted of orchestrating her ex-husband's assassination on the steps of his office building in 1995. She served 18 years in prison before her release in 2016 (she's now 72 years old).



Lady Gaga

Ridley Scott's powerful cast to support Lady Gaga includes Oscar-winners Jeremy Irons, Jared Leto and Al Pacino, as well as Jack Huston and Reeve Carney (who co-starred in "Penny Dreadful" for 27 episodes). Irons replaced Oscar-winner Robert De Niro in the title role. Ridley Scott recently completed "The Last Duel," with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Adam Driver, for an Oct. 15 opening.

Carrie Hamilton, the 38-year-old daughter of American treasure Carol Burnett, played Reggie Higgins in the TV series "Fame" from 1985-87. She toured in the musical "Rent," co-starred in the film "Tokyo" in 1988 and then with Brad Pitt, Kim Basinger and Gabriel Byrne in the film, "Cool World." After Carrie kidnapped Carol in the film "Hostage," they collaborated to turn Carol's memoir, "One More Time," into the stage play "Hollywood Arms." Carrie was to have starred in the play, but died from complications of pneumonia and lung cancer, at 38, on Jan. 20, 2002, before it was produced. Now Burnett's best-selling memoir, "Carrie and Me: A Mother-Daughter Love Story," is slated to be filmed by Apple TV+, with Tina Fey as an executive producer.

It follows the painful, public struggle Carrie had with drug addiction before finding the cure and successfully becoming an actress, writer, musician and director. Carol can be seen in the Netflix film "All Together Now" (based on Matthew Quick's book "Sorta Like a Rockstar"), available for streaming since August. Tina Fey is busy mostly producing shows such as the new Ted Danson NBC series "Mr. Mayor," the upcoming Peacock series "Girls5Eva" and the animated Netflix series "Mulligan."

Perhaps if "Ammonite" had been released in theaters at a better time, the steamy love scenes between Kate Winslet and Saoirse Ronan, as the real-life paleontologist Mary Anning and Charlotte Murchison, might have had greater impact. But when both the Cannes and Telluride Film Festivals were canceled, it fizzled, even though Winslet won the Tribute Actor Award from the Toronto Film Festival. Maybe women in love scenes has finally become old hat and less shocking!

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Couch Theater

By Amy Anderson

A cold front is moving across my living room – snow, ice and everything (sometimes not so) nice. Winter weather can be quite dramatic, but also playful, romantic, nostalgic and scary! Here are some movies that bring winter into the story in very different ways, playing up the many facets of this seasonal gift.

Comedy: "Groundhog Day" – A narcissistic weatherman, Phil (Bill Murray), goes on assignment in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and cannot escape. He's forced to live the same day -- Feb. 2 -- over and over again until he gets it right.

Action: "The Day After Tomorrow" – An instantaneous ice age cannot stop a geologist (Dennis Quaid) from rescuing his college-age son (Jake Gyllenhaal) who's stuck above the freeze line. To get there, he'll cross a frozen landscape on foot, if necessary. (Spoiler alert: It's necessary.)

Horror: "The Shining" – Jack Nicholson is terrifying as a writer who takes his family to a remote Colorado resort to live as off-season caretakers. With winter closing in and a psychically sensitive son, it's hard to tell who's more haunted: the resort or the writer.

Western: "The Revenant" – Mauled by a bear, his son killed, then left for dead, Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio, in an Oscar-winning performance) claws his way back through a wild and unforgiving climate to seek vengeance on the man who did him wrong.

Romance: "The Holiday" – Two women trade houses at Christmastime, each having sunk to the depths of heartbreak. One, a movie-trailer maven from LA (Cameron Diaz); the other, a writer from merry old England. You think they'll find love and a healthier self-view? You betcha!

Animated: "Frozen" – Queen Elsa's magical gift is delicate enough to build a snowman (we love you, Olaf!) and disastrous enough to unleash permanent winter in Arendale. When she runs off to an ice castle in the mountains, her plucky, dedicated sis Anna enlists the local ice salesman as a guide and follows her, determined to heal Elsa's frozen heart.

Thriller: "Wind River" – Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen star in this thriller about a Fish and Wildlife officer and an FBI agent investigating the death and sexual assault of an indigenous woman on an impossibly cold reservation in Wyoming.

Drama: "Titanic" – OK, yes, the Titanic set sail in spring (April), but a frozen mass definitely played a significant role in its demise. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet play ill-fated lovers -- one low born and one high-brow -- on a voyage to America on the Unsinkable Ship.

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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* To train new operatives during the Cold War, the Soviets built fully functional replicas of American towns. Their residents consisted of retired deep-cover operatives who taught the trainees everything they needed to know about blending into American life.

* In 1963, the Bronx Zoo had an exhibit called "The Most Dangerous Animal in the World." It was a mirror.

* The U.S. Navy has a tradition that no submarine is ever considered lost at sea. Subs that don't return, including 52 lost during World War II, are considered "still on patrol."

Every year at Christmas, sailors manning communications hubs send holiday greetings to those listed as still on patrol. * An outbreak of the common cold occurred at an Antarctic base after 17 weeks of complete isolation.

* In the category of Best Song Titles Ever, country music stars Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty recorded a duet titled "You're the Reason Our Kids Are So Ugly." (Despite which fact, the lyrics make clear that the couple is still in love.)

* After high school senior Allison Closs dressed up a cardboard cutout of Danny DeVito to go with her to prom, the actor returned the favor by bringing a cardboard cutout of Allison to the set of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

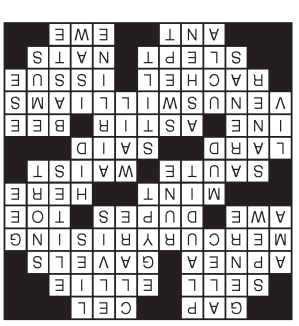
* A \$3 million lottery winner was sentenced to 21 years in prison after using his winnings to finance a meth trafficking ring.

* Actual town names in the U.S. include Rabbit Hash (Kentucky), Two Egg (Florida), Ding Dong (Texas) and Bacon (Delaware).

* Ever have trouble finishing your veggies? Try taking a tip from Leigh Knight, who in 2006 sold an unwanted Brussels sprout left over from his Christmas dinner for £1,550 (\$2,100.72 USD) to aid cancer research.

Thought for the Day: "May your coffee kick in before reality does." -- Unknown

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Solution time: 24 mins.
Answers
— crossword King —

• Trivia Test •

1. MOVIES: Who was the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?

2. ASTRONOMY: How many phases does the Moon go through each month?

3. MEDICAL: What are leukocytes?

4. TELEVISION: What are the names of the three animated "Powerpuff Girls"?

5. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the first battery?

6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country in Africa in land area?

7. MEASUREMENTS: What does a Geiger counter measure?

8. LITERATURE: What

item did the crocodile swallow in "Peter Pan"?

9. FOOD & DRINK: What is grenadine made from?

10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goat called?

Answers

1. Sidney Poitier, in 1964
2. Eight
3. White blood cells
4. Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles

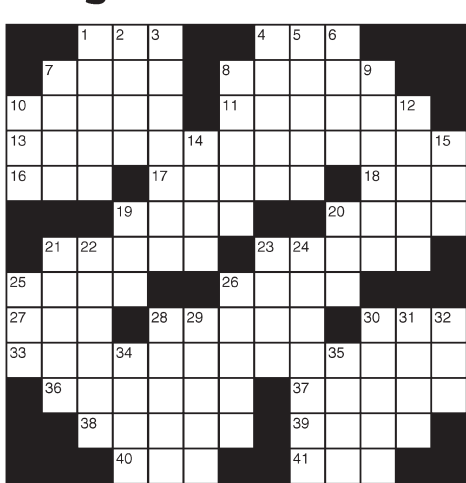
5. Alessandro Volta
6. Algeria
7. Radiation
8. A clock
9. Pomegranates
10. A kid

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Opening
- 4 Cartoon frame
- 7 Vend
- 8 "Dallas" matriarch
- 10 Sleep problem
- 11 Court hammers
- 13 1998 Bruce Willis thriller
- 16 Shock partner
- 17 Hoodwinks
- 18 Water tester
- 19 Gum flavor
- 20 Roll call reply
- 21 Fry lightly
- 23 Belted area
- 25 Cooking fat
- 26 Uttered
- 27 Chemical suffix
- 28 Up and about
- 30 Quilters' get-together
- 33 Wimbledon champ of 2008
- 36 Wife of Jacob
- 37 Edition
- 38 Nodded off
- 39 D.C. baseball team
- 40 Picnic crasher



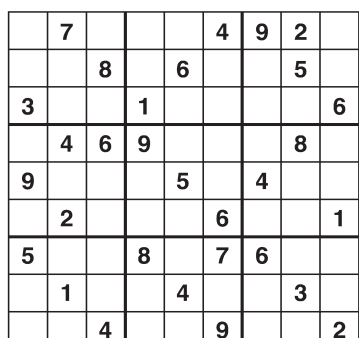
DOWN

- 1 Category
- 2 Sir Guinness
- 3 Enthusiastic approval
- 4 County of Ireland
- 5 Graceland idol
- 6 Fibs
- 7 Gush
- 8 Pharaoh's land
- 9 Upper crust
- 10 Docs' org.
- 12 Bull's sound
- 14 Ancient letter
- 15 "My word!"
- 19 Wet dirt
- 20 Secreted
- 21 Less loony
- 22 Sports venues
- 23 Banshee's cry
- 24 Delta, for one
- 25 Actress Tyler
- 26 Long-legged shorebird
- 28 Wan
- 29 Used a broom
- 30 Butter up the turkey
- 31 Flightless birds
- 32 Compass pt.
- 34 Bruins' sch.
- 35 Caesar's "vidi"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

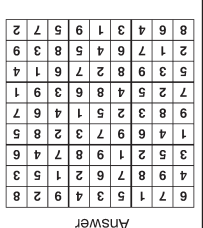


Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED

Dustin L. Sikorski, 25, of Pleasant Prairie, Wis., was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at 12th Street and First Avenue at 9:27 p.m. Jan. 6. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI

Abigail K. Arredondo, 24, of 104 Fourth St., Mendota, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after a traffic stop at Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street at 10:26 p.m. Jan. 7. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

TWO CHARGED

Laura C. Kaufmann, 33, of Dalzell, was charged with city ordinance violation for disturbing the peace and Jennifer L. Lesley, 47, of 404 Fourth Ave., Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers

responded to a disturbance at Uncle Joe's Gaming, 900 Washington St., at 11:01 p.m. Jan. 8. Lesley was transported to the LaSalle County Jail. Further investigation into the disturbance is pending and additional criminal charges are expected.

RETAIL THEFT

A 14-year-old male juvenile was charged with city ordinance violation for retail theft after police officers were called to the 900 block of Illinois Avenue at 4:07 p.m. Jan. 9. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DUI

Antonio C. Escatel, 21, of Peru, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after police officers investigated a one-vehicle accident at First Avenue and Division Street at 2:19 a.m. Jan. 10. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

BLESSED EVENTS

WELLS M. UHEN

Michael and Ashlyn (Kennedy) Uhen of Milwaukee, Wis., are the parents of **Wells Michael**, born Dec. 23, 2020. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Tim and Kim Kennedy of Mendota. Paternal grandparents are Dan and Mary Ann Uhen of Wheaton. Great-grandparents are Norma Schultz of Ohio, Ill., John Hansen of Mendota, Gus and Jeri Kennedy of Rib Lake, Wis., Lee MacAdam of Vernon Hills and Marge Cheshier of Oklahoma City, Okla.

MIRA H. HOLLAND

Dr. and Mrs. Marshall (Farrell Lowers) Holland of Portland, Ore., are parents of **Mira Hadley**, born Dec. 18, 2020 at OHSU in Portland. She was welcomed home by a brother, Taeden, 2. Grandparents are Todd and Nancy Holland and Rick and Becky Lowers, all of Mendota. Great-grandparents are Gary and Judy Holland of Mendota and Jerry and Donna Lowers of Atlantic, Iowa.

JABCZYNSKI—Mr. and Mrs. Jabczynski (Roberts), boy, Jan. 7, 2021.

Snowmobiles, ATVs not allowed on MHS property

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

Snowmobilers must stay on routes

MENDOTA—For those individuals who are operating snowmobiles throughout the city of Mendota, please obey all traffic laws and show respect for private and public property. Remember, routes are in the curb edge of the roadway only, not the shoulder, through yards or on sidewalks. Those found in violation will be subject to any and all applicable fines, including restitution for any damage done.

Designated snowmobile routes in Mendota are as follows:

- Cherry Street from First Avenue west to Seventh Avenue
- Seventh Avenue from Cherry Street north to Fifth Street
- Fifth Street from Seventh Avenue east to alley between Seventh and Sixth avenues
- Alley between Seventh and Sixth avenues north to Seventh Street
- Seventh Street to Front Street
- Front Street north from Seventh to Eighth streets
- Eighth Street west crossing BNSF railroad tracks
- 15th Street from First

Avenue west to Lincoln Avenue

• Lincoln Avenue from 15th Street south to 12th Street

• 12th Street from Lincoln Avenue west to E. Main Street

• E. Main Street from 12th Street north to Illinois Route 251

• Third Street from W. Seventh Avenue west to

12th Avenue

• 12th Avenue from Third Street south to Second Street

• Second Street from 12th Avenue west to 14th Avenue

• 14th Avenue from Second Street south to Division Street

• Division Street from 14th Avenue west to west city limits

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TAX PREP GUIDE

Taxpayers should check out these tips before choosing a tax preparer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As taxpayers get ready to file their 2021 taxes, they may be thinking about hiring a tax preparer. People should choose a tax preparer wisely. This is important because taxpayers are responsible for all the information on their return, no matter who prepares it for them.

There are different kinds of tax preparers, and a taxpayer's needs will help determine which kind of preparer is best for them. With that in mind, here are some quick tips to help people choose a preparer.

When choosing a tax professional, taxpayers should:

- Check the IRS Directory of Preparers. While it is not a complete listing of tax preparers, it does include those who are enrolled agents, CPAs and attorneys, as well as those who participate in the Annual Filing Season Program.

- Check the preparer's history with the Better Business Bureau. Taxpayers can verify an enrolled agent's status on IRS.gov.

- Ask about fees. Taxpayers should avoid tax return preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund or who offer to deposit all or part of your refund into their financial accounts.

- Be wary of tax return preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than others.

- Ask if they plan to use e-file.

- Make sure the preparer is available. People should consider whether the individual or firm will be around for months or years after filing the return. Taxpayers should do this because they might need the preparer to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return.

- Ensure the preparer signs and includes their preparer tax identification number. Paid tax return preparers must have a PTIN to prepare tax returns.

- Check the person's credentials. Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in tax matters. Other tax return preparers who participate in the IRS Annual Filing Season Program have limited practice rights to represent taxpayers during audits of returns they prepared.

New things taxpayers should consider as they get ready to file taxes in 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When people get ready to file their federal tax return there are new things to consider when it comes to which credits to claim and what deductions to take. These things can affect the size of any refund the taxpayer may receive.

Here are some new key things people should consider when filing their 2020 tax return.

Recovery rebate credit
Taxpayers may be able to claim the recovery rebate credit if they met the eligibility requirements in 2020 and one of the following applies to them:

- They didn't receive an Economic Impact Payment in 2020.
- They are single and



their payment was less than \$1,200.

- They are married, filed jointly for 2018 or 2019 and their payment was less than \$2,400.

- They didn't receive \$500 for each qualifying child.

Refund interest payment
People who received a federal tax refund in 2020 may have been paid interest. The IRS sent interest payments to individual taxpayers who timely filed their 2019 federal income tax returns

and received refunds. Most interest payments were received separately from tax refunds. Interest payments are taxable and must be reported on 2020 federal income tax returns. In January 2021, the IRS will send a Form 1099-INT, Interest Income, to anyone who received interest of at least \$10.

New charitable deduction allowance

New this year, taxpayers who don't itemize deductions can take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations. For more information, people should review Publication 526, Charitable Contributions.

Other refund-related reminders

- Taxpayers shouldn't rely on receiving a refund by a certain date, especially when making major purchases or paying bills. Some tax returns may require additional review and processing may take longer.

- Refunds for taxpayers claiming the earned income tax credit or additional child tax credit can't be issued before mid-February. This applies to the entire refund, not just the portion associated with this credit.

- The fastest and most secure way to receive a refund is to combine direct deposit with electronic filing, including the IRS Free File program. Taxpayers can track the status of their refund using the Where's My Refund? tool.

Tax season 2020 will look different: Here's how to prepare

(BPT) — It's no secret that 2020 has been a tumultuous year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Americans found themselves out of work - at least temporarily - and received unemployment benefits. Others may have experienced employment changes, like working from home or taking on multiple jobs. All of these factors will have even more of an impact come time to file income taxes on tax day, April 15, 2021.

"For many, the 2020 tax season will likely look different," says Mark Steber, Chief Tax Information Officer at a nationally-known tax service company. "The pandemic brought unexpected, overwhelming changes."

To help you prepare and get the maximum tax refund you deserve, Steber offers the following tax tips.

1. Understand how unemployment benefits work

If you received unemployment benefits this year, it may have been for the first time. Make sure you're aware of how they affect your taxes.

Unemployment benefits are taxable and must be reported to the IRS on your

tax return. Taxable benefits also include any special compensation authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act earlier this year. That means if you did not withhold enough taxes from your unemployment benefits, you could see a big tax bill or a much smaller tax refund than you normally receive.

Unemployment benefits can affect tax credits. Unemployment is considered unearned income, so it won't count toward certain credits. For example, you must have earned income to qualify for the Child Tax Credit or the Earned Income Tax Credit. Additionally, your adjusted gross income must be below certain levels to get certain credits.

2. Set money aside to cover unexpected taxes

If you received unemployment benefits and did not withhold any federal or state income tax, you'll need to pay tax on that money. To prepare, consider setting money aside now to cover those taxes on your 2020 return and brace yourself for a much smaller refund or no



refund at all this tax season.

3. Take advantage of possible deductions

Every taxpayer will get a charitable donation deduction for 2020. Make a list of any IRS-approved donations you made this year and locate any receipts. Whether itemizing or taking the standard deduction, under the CARES Act, all taxpayers are eligible to deduct up to \$300 worth of monetary donations to qualified organizations.

And while many Americans have been working at home for months, a home office deduction is not guaranteed. The home office deduction is only available to those who are self-employed.

4. Consider major life changes

Life goes on, even during a pandemic, and life changes can bring sizeable tax implications. Some changes that cause the biggest impact include getting married or divorced, having a baby or adopting a child, buying or

selling property, retiring, or starting a business. If you experienced any of these events in 2020, know that your return will look different.

5. Keep track of important documents

Even if your taxes won't be affected by unemployment, make sure you gather all your documents, such as W-2 forms and 1099s for interest dividends and even retirement distributions. Remember to include the Notice 1444 you received with your stimulus check for your 2020 tax records. Collect your charitable contribution totals, mortgage interest, property taxes you've paid, and any additional state and local income taxes paid for the year. If you were furloughed and able to pick up a temporary job, gather your W-2s for each job you worked. If you worked a side gig, make sure to keep a record of your income, the miles you drove, and any additional expenses. And if you're not filing single, be on the lookout for family members that may have been impacted to make your tax return more complicated.

No matter your 2020 situation, follow these tips to prepare for any unexpected tax implications.

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SPORTS

IHSA updates high school sports status following meeting with IDPH

□ IHSA officials contend sports can be safely conducted

BLOOMINGTON – Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Executive Director Craig Anderson, members of the IHSA staff, and Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) staff members met virtually with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz, and IDPH Chief of Staff Justin DeWitt on the evening of Jan. 6.

“We appreciate the dialogue with state leadership and believe it is crucial that it continue moving forward,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “We understand that the state faces shifting priorities as it continues to fight the pandemic, while also beginning the distribution of the vaccine. There was no expectation that a single meeting would resolve all our questions. However, we believe that collaboration with state officials is vital for the IHSA to be able to develop an informed plan for the 300,000-plus student-athletes and over 800 high schools that encompass the Association.”

IHSA and IESA leadership used the meeting to reintroduce recommended



mitigations from the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), as well as to seek understanding on any preliminary insight IDPH may have related to the return of interscholastic sports. The IHSA also asked IDPH leadership to review the risk levels of all remaining sports, with consideration for lowering some sports from their current risk levels.

“We believe that there is both data and science that validates the idea that we can safely conduct sports,” said Anderson. “We have seen it work in other states and believe it can in Illinois if we utilize the mitigations provided by IDPH and the IHSA SMAC. Students are already leaving or participating out-of-state on weekends. We believe that competing for their high school remains the safest venue for participation.”

All IHSA sports remain on pause at the moment. Low risk sports may not begin until the state returns to Phase 4 in the All Sports Policy. The IHSA Board of Directors are scheduled to meet again on Jan. 13.

“Our Board of Directors is going to have difficult decisions to make regarding the seasons’ for medium- and high-risk sports very soon,” said Anderson. “With no specific IDPH timeline or statistical benchmarks established for the return of sports and the calendar shrinking, putting together a puzzle that allows for all sports to be played becomes increasingly improbable. We continue to urge all residents of our state to be diligent in their efforts to adhere to safety guidelines, as a lower positivity rate remains the key to athletics returning.”



Accidents are often preventable if snowmobile drivers and riders take reasonable and proper precautions.

Snowmobilers should focus on safety when hitting the trails this winter

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reminds snowmobile operators and riders to focus on safety this winter when snowfall allows for snowmobile riding.

“Snowmobile operators should carefully review their safety checklist before hitting the trails this winter,” said Jeff Hopkins, IDNR Safety Education Administrator. “Accidents are often preventable if snowmobile drivers and riders take reasonable and proper precautions.”

Basic safety tips for safe snowmobiling include:

- Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during a ride;
- Know your equipment, and make sure that equipment is in proper working order;
- Wear sensible, protective clothing designed for snowmobiling, including a full-size helmet, goggles, or face shield to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips, and flying debris;
- Avoid wearing long scarves, which may get caught in moving parts of the snowmobile;
- Know the terrain you are going to ride;

- Be aware of trails or portions of trails that may be closed;
- Drowning is one cause of snowmobile fatalities; when not familiar with the body of water or thickness of the ice, avoid these areas;
- Know the weather forecast, and especially the ice and snow conditions in the area;
- Always use the buddy system and never ride alone or unaccompanied;
- Be careful when crossing roads; come to a complete stop and make sure no traffic is approaching from any direction; and
- Travel at a reasonable rate of speed for visibility and conditions.

“In most instances, knowing the trail and traveling at a reasonable rate of speed for trail conditions can prevent accidents,” Hopkins added. “Staying alert and sober is a must. Unfortunately, far too many accidents involve impaired operators, resulting in injuries and fatalities.”

Snowmobile safety information is available on the IDNR website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/safety/Pages/Snowmobile-Safety.aspx>

S. Williams ranked most famous female athlete

National Girls and Women in Sports Day takes place each February and marks the perfect opportunity to shed light on female professional athletes who dominate the courts, tracks, fields, and much more. The following are the seven most famous female athletes as ranked by ESPN’s World Fame 100.

1. Serena Williams (Tennis)
2. Maria Sharapova (Tennis)
3. Venus Williams (Tennis)
4. Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
5. Caroline Wozniacki (Tennis)
6. Simona Halep (Tennis)
7. Alex Morgan (Soccer)



Serena Williams

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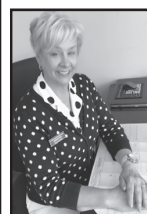
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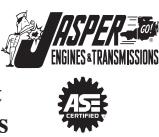
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LOCAL AND AREA

Honoring God with your body

The Bible teaches us that when we accept Christ as our Savior, we become the home of God—His Spirit comes to live in our spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) says: “Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.”

It seems that many times, we expect God to be concerned about our spiritual health, and we think our bodies are ours to do whatever we want to do with them. But these verses clearly show us that we have a responsibility to “honor God” in our bodies.

I haven’t always done a good job taking care of my body. There were many years when I worked all the time, and because I didn’t balance my schedule to get enough rest, ex-

ercise and eat properly, I felt terrible most of the time. It made me irritable and weary, and I didn’t enjoy life very much.

When we don’t feel good, it’s easier to be rude to people and get angry, and it’s harder to pray, to study the Word and to hear what God is speaking to our heart. And if you feel lousy all the time, you probably aren’t going to do everything God is calling you to do with your life.

I’m so glad God was patient with me and helped me get on track with a healthier lifestyle. In the process, I had to do my part to get there. We have to understand we’re partners with God: we have a part and He has a part; He won’t do our part and we can’t do His.

We tend to want God to do everything for us when we pray for help. But many times when we pray for Him to fix a problem, He gives us something to do.

In January of 2015, I wrote in my journal: “God, I need more energy.” Shortly after that, I had a strong desire to start walking for exercise. Over a six-month time pe-



riod, I walked 950 miles, and I lost 17 pounds doing it! I’ve had more energy and have really enjoyed that time, walking outside, spending time alone with God and improving my physical health.

God didn’t just “zap” me with more energy when I prayed; He gave me direction to walk more. I had to make an investment in my future by making more time to walk, and I feel so much better than I did before.

I want to encourage you to do what you can to establish a healthier lifestyle. Remember that the body you live in is where God has chosen to live. You are the home of God! Having this perspective can help you be more motivated to take better care of yourself.

Romans 12:1 says to “give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”

If you are struggling with some kind of sickness or just don’t feel good, now is the time to start doing the right thing for your physical

health. I realize there are some situations we can’t do anything about, but if you are able, there are simple, practical ways you can get started:

- Drink plenty of water. Some experts recommend drinking half your body weight in ounces of water each day.

- Get the amount of sleep you require to be well rested each night.

- Eat healthy most of the time, but allow yourself a treat now and then if it’s okay for you to do that. On average, I have one dessert a week.

- Exercise on a regular basis. Walking is great, but if there is another activity you enjoy more, make it a priority to do it consistently.

- Have a well-balanced life! Work hard, but take time for rest and to do things you enjoy.

- Do what you can to eliminate excessive stress from your life. We aren’t built to withstand continual pressure and stress.

God loves you and He created you with a plan and purpose to fulfill. You are valuable to Him and deserve to take care of yourself. Pray and ask

God for wisdom about how you can establish a healthier lifestyle. Over time, you’ll reap the benefits of making an investment in yourself.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s teaching resource Healthy Living—Spirit, Soul & Body. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times best-selling 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.

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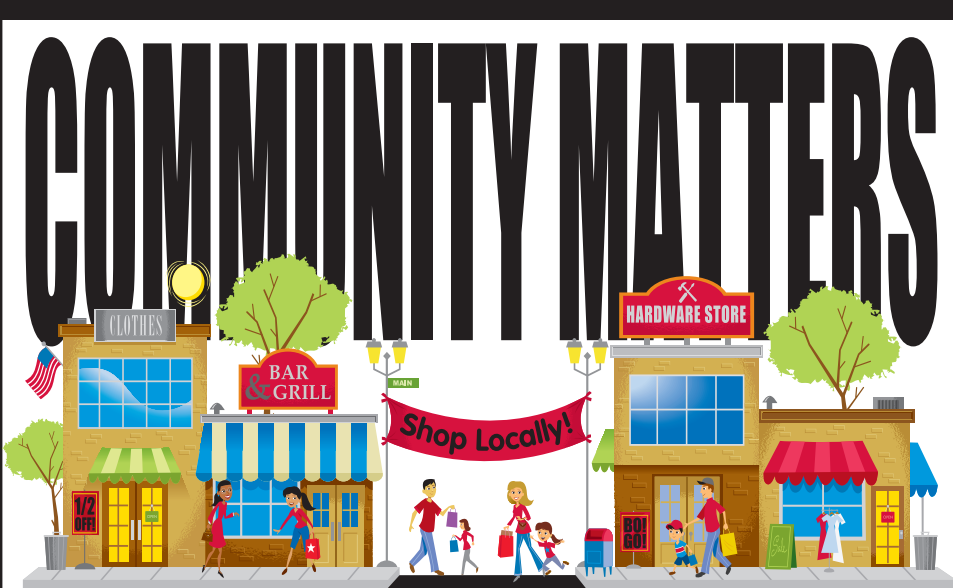
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Each timeshare estate is a 1.923% and/or 0.9615% undivided interest (each, a "Unit") as tenant-in-common at Fox River Resort, a vacation ownership project in LaSalle County, Illinois, as per the recorded plat(s) thereof and according to the Amended 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.

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MARTIN BERNAL, LAURA BERNAL, 4245 S FRANCISCO AVE, CHICAGO, IL, 60632, according to

the Mortgage dated September 28, 2013 and recorded under File No. 2013 25317, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 11132013, are the owners of the timeshare estate to be foreclosed, more particularly described as Unit No. 0098E, Use Period Number(s) 01 Phase 2 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. 0124O, 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. 0014O, 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. 0014O, 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 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) 42 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) 42 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. 0003E, Use Period Number(s) 04 Phase 1 GARICK LAUDO, BRIA BYNUM, 2125 S 4TH AVE APT 204, MAYWOOD, IL, 60153, according to the Mortgage dated July 11, 2015 and recorded under File No. 2015 16199, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for LaSalle County, Illinois, on 8252015, 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, 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, DANELLY 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, DANELLY 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 STEEL, 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 A N T O I N E T T E 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. 0078O, 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. 0103O, 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. 0018O, 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)

NOTICE

The Meriden-Ophir-Troy Grove Township Multi-Township Assessment District 2021 regular meeting dates and times are as follows: January 19, 6:00 p.m. February 16, 6:00 p.m. June 15, 7:00 p.m. August 17, 7:00 p.m. November 16, 6:00 p.m. December 21, 6:00 p.m. All meetings to be held at the Troy Grove Township Offices. Bill Pakenham M.T.A.D. clerk No. 0102 (1/13/21)



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NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers
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Responsible for operational issues relating to Checking, Savings, Item Processing, Wire transfers, and ACH.

Duties include: Responsible for bookkeeping operations including but not limited to stop payments, large item processing, wire transfers, uploading cash letter to Fed, as well as amount entry, reject repair, balancing, encoding, ACH, lockbox services, drive up assistance, and cash letter preparation.

Requirements:

- Attention to detail and accuracy
- Able to multi-task, prioritize, work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Ability to communicate complex data clearly
- Excellent data entry skills
- Great interpersonal and customer service skills

A high-school diploma and background check are required. Salary commensurate with experience and a full benefit package is offered.

Forward Resume to Sarah Cansino at
scansino@pioneerstatebank.com

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PIONEER STATE BANK

COMMERCIAL CREDIT ANALYST

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General Description and Essential Functions

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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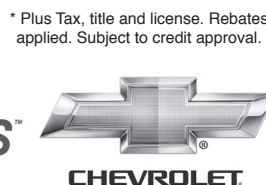
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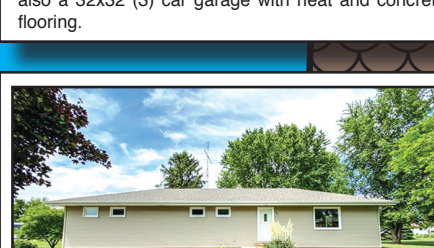
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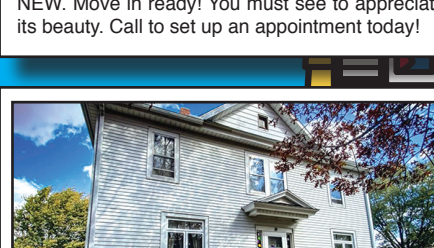
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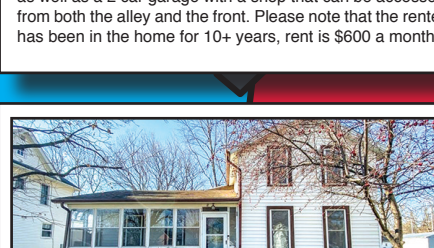
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Charming 2 bedroom 1 bathroom home in Sublette. Just updated with all new lavish flooring, windows, doors, trim, and so much more. Ask realtor for property checklist. Kitchen cabinets were just professionally refinished and the counter tops are NEW. Move in ready! You must see to appreciate its beauty. Call to set up an appointment today!



209 S Jefferson St., Amboy \$95,900

Two story Amboy home. Offers 4 bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. Spacious main floor with living, dining, kitchen, and laundry. Take a walk up the beautiful open staircase to the second story to find a bathroom along with all of the bedrooms. Outside you will find a large deck with stairs and a ramp as well as a 2 car garage with a shop that can be accessed from both the alley and the front. Please note that the renter has been in the home for 10+ years, rent is \$600 a month.

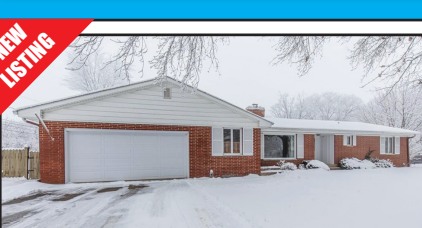


18 N Blackstone Ave., Amboy \$114,400

Cozy 3 bedroom home with a gas fireplace! This 1.5 story offers main floor laundry and 2 main floor bedrooms. The upstairs bedroom is spacious and unique. Appliances that are in the home stay (dishwasher, washer, and dryer). Equipped with central air and gas heat. Also includes an extra lot for more privacy and space with a shed. The backyard features a concrete patio, spacious yard, and a paved path to the 3 car detached garage. This home is all ready for you!

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

SEE US ABOUT WOODHAVEN LAKES PROPERTIES!



3 BD. 1.5 BRICK RANCH IN NORTHBROOK

ADDITION ON CORNER LOT WITH 2 CAR GARAGE, FIREPLACE, SCREENED PORCH - COME SEE THIS CHARMING HOME!

LASALLE - COMM. BUILDING - 2 TENANTS

REDUCED.....\$38,500

AMBOY - 3 BDRM - REHABBER.....\$29,900

MENDOTA - 3 BDR, 2 BATH.....\$59,000

MENDOTA - 1/2 DUPLEX, 2 BEDROOM FIREPLACE

PENDING.....\$74,900

MENDOTA - 3 BRD, 1.5 BATH - FULL BASEMENT.....\$109,900

3 BDR, 2 BATH VICTORIAN - LARGE YARD, SOLD...\$119,000

MENDOTA - 3 BEDROOM RANCH - 2 BATHS - ALL ONE FLOOR SOLD \$119,000

BRICK COLONIAL - 3 BDR, 1.5 BATH, SOLD.....\$123,000

MENDOTA - 4BD, 2BA, VICTORIAN - LARGE YARD.....\$126,000

MENDOTA - 3 BEDROOM - 2 BATHS - REMODELED KITCHEN AND BATH

-REDUCED.....\$ 128,500

MENDOTA - BRICK - 4 BDR, 2 BATH - RANCH - COUNTRY

REDUCED.....\$157,000

BRICK - 3 BRD, 2 BATH - COMPLETELY REMODELED, SOLD.....\$164,500

NEW LISTING - MENDOTA - BRICK RANCH 3 BDR. - 1.5 BATHS - NORTHBROOK.....\$174,900

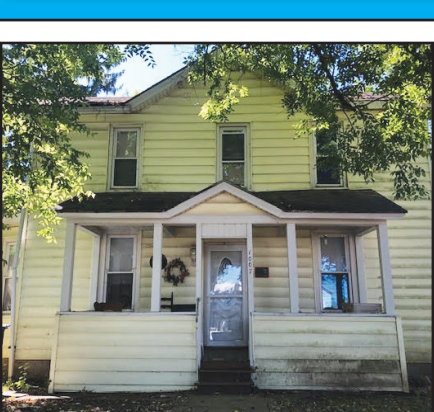
MENDOTA - COMM BUILDING & WELL ESTABLISHED RETAIL BUSINESS.....\$176,500

MENDOTA - RANCH - 3 BDR, 2 BATH, SOLD.....\$178,500

BUILDING LOTS

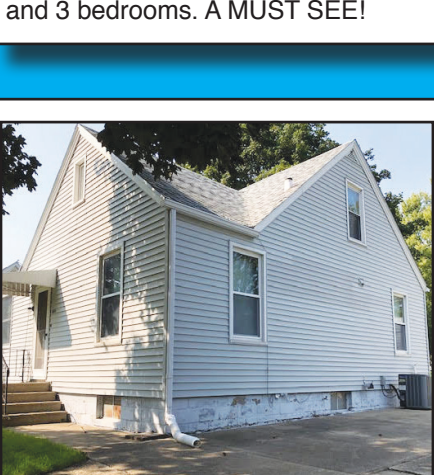
15 ABBALLEE WAY, MENDOTA - COUNTRY SUBD.....\$19,900

318 W BRYANT WOODS, PRINCETON - GREAT VIEWS.....\$33,000



Looking for a Great Family Home with many updates, then this is the one!

Maintenance Free Exterior with a nice size lot. Large Living Room to Entertain and eat in Kitchen table space with Breakfast Bar. Enjoy the Kitchen with lots of cabinets, appliances STAY! Off the Kitchen you will enjoy a first floor Laundry Area and a built in Pantry closet. Enjoy the 2 Car garage. Home has 1.5 Bathrooms and 3 bedrooms. A MUST SEE!



GREAT LOCATION! GREAT STARTER HOME! PERFECT FOR A FAMILY! THIS ONE HAS A EXTRA LARGE KITCHEN WITH NEWER OAK CABINETS. OPTION FOR FIRST FLOOR LAUNDRY. FEATURING SOME HARDWOOD FLOORS, VINYL SIDING, A GARDEN SHED AND NEW VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. THIS PROPERTY SITS ON .25 ACRE LOT WITH A CEMENT DRIVEWAY, SIDEWALKS AND PAVED STREET. HOME HAS NEWER ROOF, NEW FURNACE AND CENTRAL AIR SYSTEM. THE BIG ITEMS ARE DONE!



*****HOME WARRANTY OFFERED*** GET A START ON YOUR DREAM OF COUNTRY LIVING.**

This house has 3 bedrooms. One bedroom, full bathroom & laundry on the main floor. Sliding glass doors open to the wooden deck off the living room. Large living room, family room and dining room. Home has a new roof (less than a month) whole house Generac generator-2-3 yrs old. Newer water softener, furnace, AC and water heater. Well-5 years old, septic 3-4 years old. 3 LP tanks on property. One is rented, two are owned. One is for the house, one for the grain dryer and one for the whole house generator. 42X80 Machine shed with concrete floor and 2 large doors for entry. Large 30X60 garage that has Garage doors on each end. Also has a grain bin with a dryer. Outside access to the basement.



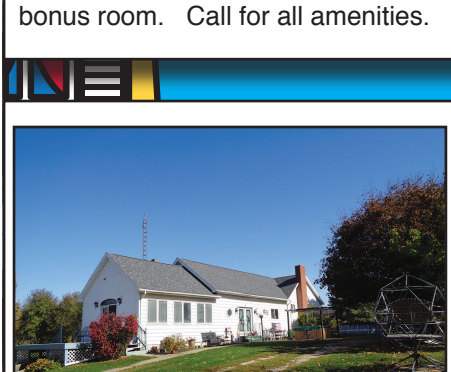
MLS #10923322 301 E. Van Buren St, Ohio, IL \$50,000.

1300 sq ft. Lot size 75 x 125. 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath home in small town. Older home with lots of potential. Call McConville Realty



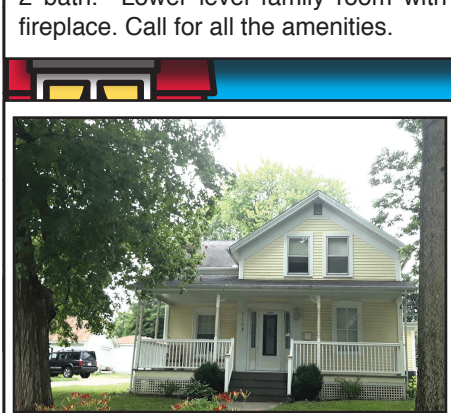
MLS#10803738 622 Clark St. Marseilles, IL \$89,900.

This affordable 2 bedroom 1 bath on a corner lot will be sold "as is". Great open front porch. 14.16 deck in the backyard that is partially fenced in. Hardwood floors, laundry room, bonus room. Call for all 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 siton 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.



1107 5th St., Mendota, IL #10528563 \$120,000.00

Charming 3-4 bedroom home with first floor laundry and master bedroom and bath. Eat in kitchen and dining area. 2 car detached garage. Screened porch and lovely front porch. Roof repairs have been completed. Call for all the amenities.