



Phase 1B of the state's vaccine distribution plan, which includes non-health care essential workers, residents over the age of 65 and inmates, began statewide on Jan. 25 by appointment only.

Five regions in state cleared for all sports, including Region 2

More people qualify for COVID-19 vaccine

By GRACE BARBIC
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – All high school sports – including the higher-risk football, basketball and wrestling – may now be played in five regions of Illinois as the state continues to loosen restrictions amid the pandemic. That includes Region 2 in north-central Illinois, of which LaSalle, Bureau and Lee counties are a part.

All regions of the state had moved out of Tier 3 mitigations as of Jan. 22 as the COVID-19 health metrics continue to show improvement statewide. The five of the state's 11 regions that have rolled back to Phase 4 mitigations are free to allow high school sports. Meanwhile, the entire state moved into Phase 1B of its vaccine distribution plan starting Jan. 25.

The statewide seven-day rolling case positivity rate decreased for a 17th consecutive day on Jan. 25, reaching 4.7 percent.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike and Gov. JB Pritzker made the unexpected announcement about high school sports during a news conference in Chicago.

All youth sports at the conference and intra-region levels will be allowed in regions that are in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, Ezike said.

Currently, Region 1 in northwest Illinois, Region 2 in north-central Illinois, Region 3 in west-central Illinois, Region 5 in southern Illinois and Region 6 in east-central Illinois are in Phase 4 and eligible to resume youth sports.

“With all regions of Illinois now out of Tier 3, we can now see that the entire state is headed down the right path,” Ezike said. “During the summer, we were on this same path. We know that we must continue to take

See Sports, Page A5

K. Archer composes musical fanfare for Biden's presidential inauguration

Mendota born gets honor of a lifetime

By BONNIE MORRIS
Editor

MENDOTA – Dr. Kimberly K. Archer recently received the honor of a lifetime when she was selected by “The President's Own” United States Marine Band to compose a fanfare to be played during the Jan. 20 inauguration ceremony of President Joseph R. Biden.



Archer, who was born in Mendota in 1973, is currently a Professor of Music Composition at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She was tasked with creating a three-minute fanfare, which she titled “Fanfare Politeia.”

“Politeia is the Greek word for republic – it's the word Plato used when he wrote his treatise on justice and democracy, which we think of as ‘The Republic,’” she explained. “I wrote in the program notes that I intended ‘Fanfare Politeia’ to celebrate our traditions of a free and fair election and of a peaceful transfer of power.”

Archer's mom, Mary Cole, daughter of Ed and Dorothy Cole, grew up in Mendota and her dad, Kerry Archer, son of Richard and Rita Archer, grew up in Compton. “My dad sang and played the piano for the Mendota High School choir, and my mom played flute in the band,” she said. “My dad still plays for his church, now in North Carolina.”

Dr. Archer holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Florida State University, a Master of Music in Composition from Syracuse University,

“If you had told my 20-year-old self that someday the Marine Band would play my music, much less for a presidential inauguration, I would never have believed it.”

–Dr. Kimberly K. Archer

and Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin. She currently teaches composition, music theory, analysis, counterpoint, and 20th century music at SIU Edwardsville. Her past appointments include Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Western Carolina University in North Carolina, and Southeast High School in Florida.

Archer first learned that she would be asked to compose a piece for the inauguration on Jan. 2 when she got a call from Maj. Ryan Nowlin, assistant conductor of the Marine Band. She and Nowlin first met at Bowling Green, when he was a graduate student and she was a first-year professor and they remained friends over the years.

“Ryan called me informally to give me a head's up that the request to compose a fanfare would be coming from his boss, Col. Jason Fetting, the conductor of the Marine Band,” she recalled. “Col. Fetting called later that night to extend the formal offer. They said I could have until Jan. 12 to deliver everything – the completed score and all the parts for

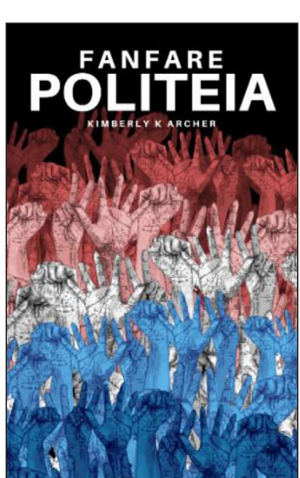


Dr. Kimberly K. Archer performs at a concert during the earlier days of her music career. (Photo contributed)

the individual performers. Normally, I would say work like that would take me 6-8 weeks, so wow, 10 days. No pressure!”

In offering this opportunity to Archer, Col. Fetting explained the band's role in the inauguration, as well as his goals in commissioning living American composers, so she had a general idea how the fanfare would be used.

“Most of my work is writing for bands of the same size and instrumentation as The President's Own, although it's widely accepted that the Marine Band is the best band in the world. Again, no pressure!” she said. “I've been working as a composer for about 30 years now, so I've done a few fanfares in that time. Most of my work lately is in the 20-25-minute range, so a three-minute fanfare felt manageable once I got into the flow of doing the work.”



Although Archer was actually able to deliver everything in only eight days, she said it took intense work and not much sleep. Now, she joins the ranks of iconic composers such as Leonard Bernstein and John Williams, who also previously penned

See Archer, Page A5

Illinois' online shoppers now get local tax hit on top of state tax

By COLE LAUTERBACH
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD – Burning through those online gift cards will go incrementally faster in 2021 depending on how high local sales taxes are in your local Illinois municipality.

That's because of a 2019 law that took effect with the new year.

In reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court's Wayfair v. South Dakota lawsuit, Illinois lawmakers sent Gov. J.B. Pritzker legislation that would require many online retailers, including Amazon and others, to collect state and local sales tax from online purchases. Online retailers have collected a use tax at the same rate as sales tax before the new year but the new law means where you live could add cost to the purchase.

“You're not just paying the 6.25%, you're paying 8.25% or 7% because they're taking that state 6.25% and they're taking county or other optional-to-enact taxes,” said Carol Portman, president of the Taxpayers Federation of Illinois.



of Illinois. “If it goes to me in my home in Downers Grove, it's one thing. If it goes to my office in Springfield, it's a different one.”

For instance, Chicagoans buying a stuffed animal from Amazon would pay Illinois' 6.25% rate but also Cook County's 1.75% and Chicago's 1.25% taxes for a total of 10.25%. The teddy bear shipped to Carbondale would see the state tax plus Williamson County's

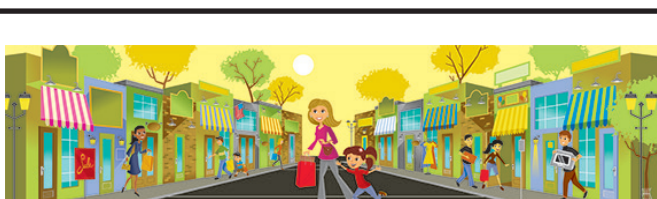
1% tax for a total 7.25% tax.

Sellers conducting business via an online marketplace like Amazon rely on the retail giant to collect the correct amount of taxes. Illinois had historically relied on the buyer to remit taxes, something that was regularly ignored. Illinois and others then changed course and began requiring retailers to collect sales taxes, putting the onus on them to remit the tax.

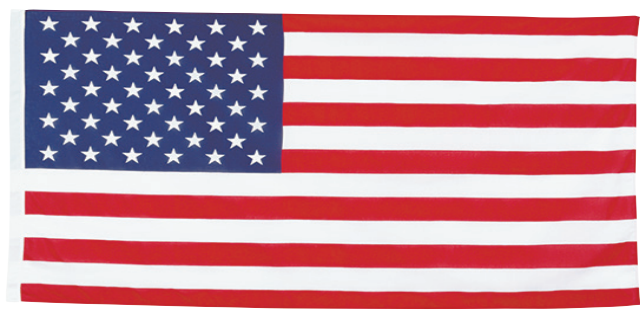
Retailers say this puts online sellers on even ground with local shops who must charge higher prices to account for local taxes and fees.

Online retailers who sell less than \$100,000 annual gross sales or have fewer than 200 individual sales to Illinois do not have to collect the tax. The tax change gets complicated if an online retailer has a physical presence in Illinois. According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, an online retailer that completes a sale from a location in Illinois would apply the taxes from that location. If the business sells something outside of the state, it would then apply the 6.25% use tax.

“Illinois' sales tax structure has always been complicated and this just adds another layer of complexity to it,” Portman said. “The good news is that, for brick-and-mortar retailers, there's no difference for any of their customers now whether you buy something from an online seller or if you buy it from the brick-and-mortar retailer.”



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LOCAL

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LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota Elks honors Teens of the Month for November

MENDOTA - The Mendota Elks have announced their November Teens of the Month, Brynn Hieronymus and Benjamin Henrikson.

Brynn, a senior at Princeton High School, is the daughter of Kevin and Kami Hieronymus. She is currently 1st in her class and has been on high honor roll every year of high school. She has been in the National Honor Society since junior year.

Brynn has participated in various sports including basketball (four years), volleyball (freshman and sophomore), golf (junior and senior) and softball (freshman). She was All-Conference Academic for basketball and golf junior year and was a co-captain in volleyball sophomore year. She was awarded the Sportsmanship Award in volleyball freshman year and in basketball junior year.

Brynn was the secretary of her class (freshman through junior), earned the Board of Education Academic Excellence Award (freshman through senior), received the D.A.R. American History Award and Keith Schultz Award (junior).

As a junior, she was in the school play, was in chorus all four years and in girls chorus as a junior. She was also in Spanish Club freshman through junior years and was a part of the Year One-Freshman Orientation as a junior and senior.

Brynn has enjoyed helping out the community through Safety Town, Vacation Bible School, Young Life Banquet, Basketball Camp and as an election worker. She enjoys



B. Hieronymus

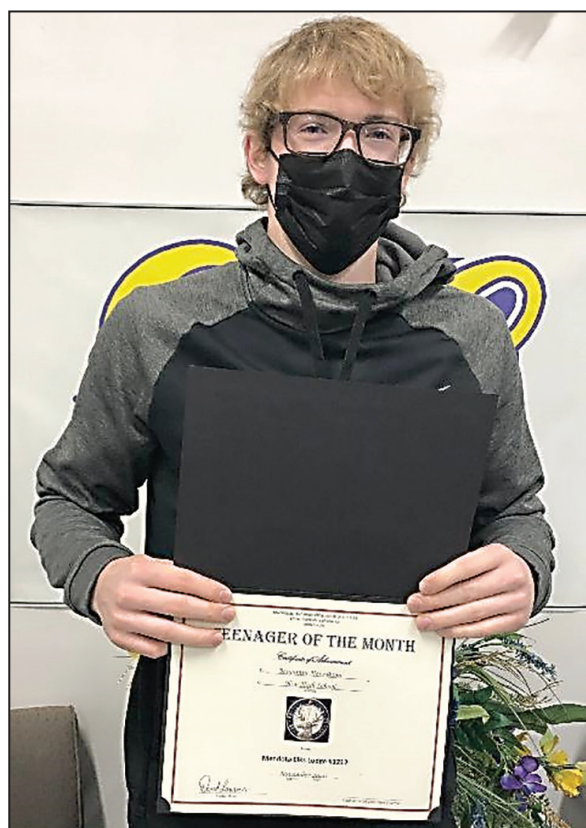
drumming in Praise Band, reading, watching historical documentaries and spending time with her family.

Benjamin, a senior at Ohio High School, is the son of David and Karen Henrikson. He is currently 3rd in his class and has been on the high honor roll all four years.

He participated in track, was a co-captain and All-Conference Academic sophomore and junior years. Benjamin was also in chorus

as a sophomore and junior and participated in the variety show since freshman year. He has been in Science Club since freshman year and in FFA and Drama Club as a sophomore and junior.

Benjamin volunteered at the concession stands since freshman year, helped with Student Council's Christmas activities freshman through junior years and volunteered with the "Mission Indy" (one week)



B. Henrikson

mission trip to Indianapolis, Ind. to aid inner city communities.

He enjoys playing video games, drawing and listening to music and likes watching television, architecture with Legos, playing basketball and reading books.

During the summer, he likes to spend his time doing lawn work and constructing silos. He also works in a food factory after school and on the weekends.

LEASE preschool screenings scheduled

MENDOTA - L.E.A.S.E. will hold preschool screenings for Mendota District 289 on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The screenings will take place at First United Methodist Church, 100 E. Sixth St., Mendota.

These screenings are for children who will be 3 or 4 years old by Feb. 15 and who are not currently enrolled in kindergarten. L.E.A.S.E. will screen key developmental areas such as motor development, speech, language, vision, hearing and general readiness. To schedule an appointment, call the L.E.A.S.E. office at (815) 433-6433.

Due to COVID-19, only one parent may bring the child. Parents and children must wear masks.

All children must be screened to be eligible for the Preschool for All Program. Any child currently enrolled in the Mendota District Preschool for All Program does not need to be screened again. Applications for Mendota District 289 Preschool for All will be at the screenings.

Place your next advertisement in The Reporter and get results

U of I Extension announces private pesticide applicator testing dates

MENDOTA - University of Illinois Extension - Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam Unit is offering three Testing-Only sessions and certification program for private pesticide applicators.

The sessions will be held in Henry on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 and at IVCC in Oglesby on Feb. 26.

Certification is required to apply restricted use pesticides. The sessions are held in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins will be allowed and space will be limited due to current state COVID regulations.

Henry - The Henry sessions will take place at the Marshall-Putnam Farm Bureau Building, 509 Front St., Henry from noon-3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29 and Friday, Feb. 5. Registration is required one

day in advance by calling (309) 364-2356.

Oglesby - The Oglesby session will be held at Illinois Valley Community College, Room CTC 124/125, 815 N. Orlando Smith Road, Oglesby on Friday, Feb. 26 from 9 a.m.-noon. Registration is required one day in advance by calling (815) 224-0889.

Private applicator manuals and workbooks can be purchased online or at local Extension offices in Princeton, Ottawa, Henry and Oglesby on the IVCC campus. Participants will need to bring a calculator. Calculators must be simple function calculators. No smart phones or smart devices will be allowed. Questions may be directed to Daryle Wragge, Ag Program Coordinator, at (309) 364-2356.

Mask Policy: Properly worn face coverings

are required at all times within the testing locations. Those unable or unwilling to abide by the mask restrictions are directed to the IDOA online examination system at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/Pesticides>.

Social distancing restrictions will also be enforced. Do not come to a testing session if you have a fever greater than 100.4 F, if you or a household member have tested positive for COVID-19, if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, or if you are unable or unwilling to comply with the mask policy or other social distancing restrictions.

There is no charge for the testing. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please indicate when registering.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Diabetic dogs and cats needed for U of I microbiome study

URBANA - Veterinarians at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine are looking for dogs and cats that have been diagnosed with diabetes to investigate a promising treatment for the disease, one that acts via the microbiome. The treatment is called "fecal microbiota transplantation," and yes, that means exactly what it sounds like: the "good bacteria" from the poop of a healthy animal is transplanted into the gastrointestinal tract of the diabetic pet.

Dr. Arnon Gal, who is boarded in the fields of small animal internal medicine and veterinary pathology, is leading the study. He recently answered questions about the study and which animals would be eligible to participate.

Is there diabetes in pets?

"Diabetes mellitus is one of the most common hormonal diseases of dogs and cats," said Dr. Gal. "Treatment of diabetes requires the owner give daily injections of insulin to the pet, switching the pet to a 'diabetes-friendly' diet and making frequent visits to the vet to make sure the diabetes is in control."

Maintaining control of the diabetes means giving the right dose of insulin to keep the pet's glucose levels in a safe range to avoid hypoglycemia, or low levels of glucose in the blood. The time, stress, and expense of having a diabetic pet takes a toll on the owner.

"A recent study reported that 20 percent of dogs and cats were euthanized within a year of their diagnosis with diabetes due to the impact that the intensive management of diabetes has on the



Dr. Arnon Gal with a feline patient at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. (Photo contributed)

perceived quality of life of both the pet and the owner," Dr. Gal noted.

Finding a treatment that could reduce diabetic pets' dependence on insulin shots could help more of these pets live longer.

What is the microbiome?

The gastrointestinal microbiome has been defined as "a highly diverse community of microorganisms, primarily bacteria, that inhabit the intestinal tract." There are trillions of bacteria living in the intestinal tract of mammals, far more than the number of cells that make up the individual's entire body.

"The gut microbiome has recently been recognized as functioning like a hormonal organ (e.g., the thyroid and pancreas) because it produc-

es hormone-like molecules that affect dog and cat tissues," Dr. Gal said. "Several types of intestinal bacteria produce short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) by fermentation of dietary fiber. SCFAs influence energy levels, the immune system, and the health of the intestine."

"Recent studies have indicated a strong link between lower levels of SCFAs made by bacteria in the gut and diseases such as pre-diabetes and diabetes in people. Cats with diabetes have also been found to have fewer SCFA-producing bacteria in their gut microbiomes."

It is thought that SCFAs may impact diabetes by producing a substance called glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), which makes the pancreas more responsive to blood glucose levels.

Are fecal transplantations safe?

"Transplantation of feces from a healthy donor into the intestine of a sick patient have been done successfully in people, laboratory rodents, and dogs," explained Dr. Gal. "The procedure was shown to improve insulin sensitivity in obese humans with diabetes. In a recent study in New Zealand, fecal

transplantation from healthy dog donors resulted in enriched 'good bacteria' for up to 30 days in dogs with acute intestinal inflammation and hemorrhage after a single fecal transplantation."

Dr. Gal believes fecal transplantation has the ability to reshape the microbiome ecology of pets. "We are on the verge of a new era in veterinary (and human) medicine where we can substantially improve the clinical control of diabetes in dogs and people by manipulating gut microbiota," he said. "Cats develop diabetes through a different pathway from dogs. I believe fecal transplantation has a high potential to induce remission in cats with diabetes."

What is the goal of the trial and what should interested owners do?

"Currently, it is not known whether transplanting intestinal microbiota from healthy donors to diabetic patients will re-establish 'good bacteria' that make SCFAs, decrease the 'bad bacteria' associated with diabetes, and lead to better control of blood glucose levels," said Dr. Gal. The small animal internal medicine service at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana is seeking diabetic dogs and cats for this clinical trial to address that unknown.

"Eligible dogs and cats must have a diagnosis of diabetes, and their diabetes must be under good control. The animals must be otherwise healthy," he said.

If accepted in the study, all animals will get insulin for throughout the study at no cost. Owners bring their pet to the hospital several times for tests, funded through the study. Participants will be randomly assigned to receive either the transplant or a saline solution.

To see if your pet is eligible, complete the online form at go.illinois.edu/diabeticpet.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Iowa State Univ. dean's list

AMES, Iowa - More than 11,000 Iowa State University students have been recognized for academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2020 dean's list.

Local students receiving this honor include Mari Biers, a senior studying kinesiology and health, and Sean Dullard, a sophomore studying animal science, both of Mendota.

Students on the Iowa State dean's list must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale with a minimum 12 credit hours of graded course work.

UW-Whitewater dean's list

WHITEWATER, Wis. - Two local students, Holly Marsh and Emily Schmitt, both of Earlville, were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater dean's list for the 2020 fall semester. These students demonstrated their academic abilities by having a semester grade point average of 3.4 or above.

"I extend my heartiest congratulations to students who earned a spot on the dean's list," said interim Provost Greg Cook. "The 2020 fall semester was unlike any other, as our War-

hawks persevered during a pandemic and challenging circumstances."

NIU December graduates

DEKALB - Davy Arteaga of Mendota was among over 1,300 students who received degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Arteaga earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance.

NIU dean's list

DEKALB - Northern Illinois University announced its fall 2020 dean's list.

Local students include:

Mendota - Hannah Ambler, psychology - B.A.; Aylin Arellano, marketing - B.S.; JoAnn Kofoed, art studio; Kevin Lewis Jr., mechatronics engineering; Lillian Rodrigues, nursing; and Katherine Wohrley, mathematics education - B.S.

Compton - Joseph Gehant, Electrical Engineering

To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or minimum 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Healthy Heart - free online classes & cooking demonstrations

MENDOTA - Take better care of your heart by joining U of I Extension's two-part online class, Meals for a Healthy Heart. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention advises that living a healthy lifestyle can lower the risk of heart disease. A healthy lifestyle includes choosing heart-healthy foods and beverages, maintaining a healthy weight, and adding regular physical activity.

The online classes will be presented on Fridays, Feb. 5 and 12 from 10:30 a.m.-noon and will provide the tools to improve overall health, wellbeing and awareness of cardiovascular risk and prevention. The classes offer Illinois Extension research-based education for preventing and managing heart disease. Participants

See MEALS, Page A4

CARL'S QUIZ

What TV show won the most Emmys in 2018?

The answer to last week's quiz is: Lucille Ball was sent home the John Murray Anderson School for the Dramatic Arts after being told she would never make it as an actress because she was "too shy."

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

Mendota Weather

Jan. 27, 2021

Seven Day Forecast

Wednesday
Scattered Snow
High: 28 Low: 12

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
High: 24 Low: 13

Friday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 29 Low: 23

Saturday
Rain & Snow Possible
High: 37 Low: 30

Sunday
Rain & Snow Possible
High: 36 Low: 29

Monday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 35 Low: 30

Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 34 Low: 26

In-Depth Forecast

Wednesday we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 45% chance of scattered snow, high of 28°, humidity of 88%. North northeast wind 9 to 13 mph. Snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. The record high for Wednesday is 52° set in 2002. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday night, overnight low of 12°. North wind 8 to 11 mph. The wind chill for Wednesday night could reach 2°.

Regional Cities

City	Wednesday HI/Lo Wx	Thursday HI/Lo Wx
Aurora	29/15 sn	27/12 pc
Champaign	31/18 sn	30/17 pc
Chicago	30/21 sn	29/17 mc
Freeport	27/9 mc	24/11 pc
Joliet	30/16 sn	28/13 mc
Moline	29/10 sn	27/14 s
Peoria	31/14 sn	28/17 s
Rockford	28/11 mc	26/12 pc
Springfield	33/19 sn	31/21 s

Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	HI	LO	Normals	Precip	Rainfall
Monday	30	18	27/11	0.00"	0.00"
Tuesday	35	18	27/11	0.00"	0.32"
Wednesday	37	11	27/11	0.00"	-0.32"
Thursday	41	29	27/11	0.00"	
Friday	18	10	27/11	0.00"	
Saturday	31	6	27/11	0.00"	
Sunday	36	29	27/11	0.00"	

Data as reported from Peru, Ill.

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
Wednesday	7:12 a.m.	5:06 p.m.	3:55 p.m.	6:40 a.m.	New 2/11
Thursday	7:11 a.m.	5:07 p.m.	5:02 p.m.	7:26 a.m.	
Friday	7:10 a.m.	5:08 p.m.	6:12 p.m.	8:05 a.m.	
Saturday	7:09 a.m.	5:10 p.m.	7:24 p.m.	8:39 a.m.	
Sunday	7:08 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	8:36 p.m.	9:09 a.m.	
Monday	7:07 a.m.	5:12 p.m.	9:48 p.m.	9:36 a.m.	First 2/19
Tuesday	7:06 a.m.	5:14 p.m.	11:00 p.m.	10:03 a.m.	

National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 45 in Metropolis, Ill. The Southeast will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain and isolated thunderstorms, highest temperature of 81 in Pembroke Pines, Fla. The central United States will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 74 in Brownsville, Texas. In the Northwest there will be partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain and snow, highest temperature of 47 in Coos Bay, Ore. The Southwest will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, highest temperature of 63 in Brawley, Calif.

Local UV Index

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

UV Index

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

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather Trivia

Where are the sun's rays directly hitting the earth's surface on March 21st?

Answer: The sun's rays directly strike the Equator twice each year. Once on March 21st and again on September 21st.

Weather History

Jan. 27, 1772 - On this date the "Washington and Jefferson Snowstorm" occurred. George Washington reported three feet of snow at Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson recorded about three feet at Monticello.

Jan. 28, 1922 - The "Knickerbocker" storm immobilized the city of Washington D.C. The storm produced 28 inches of snow in 32 hours. The heavy snow caused the roof of the Knickerbocker movie theatre to collapse, killing 96 people.

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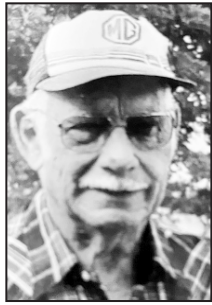
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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Don Clark

SUBLETTE - Don Clark, 85, of Sublette passed away Jan. 19, 2021 at home surrounded by family and loving friends, and his faithful cat "Charlie."

Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and committal service at St. Mary's Cemetery, Sublette will be private. Rev. Randy Fronek will officiate. Pallbearers will be Bryan, Bob and Jason Williams, Bob Stewart, John Kehoe and Skip Miller. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.



Don was born April 28, 1935 in Sublette to Raymond Aubrey and Valeria Catherine (Kellen) Clark.

In Don's life, he was lucky enough to have two families, his biological family and his car family. He held both families close to his heart, and they made his life complete.

Survivors include two sisters, Cora (Ron) Williams of Yorkville and Mary (Butch) Jones of West Brooklyn; three nephews, Bryan Williams, Jason Williams and Bob Williams; five nieces, Linda (Williams) Hernandez, Marjorie (Williams) Duerr, Jennifer (Jones) Huinker, Rachael (Jones) Wilson, and Elizabeth (Jones) Burgner; nine great-nephews; 10 great-nieces; one great-nephew and two great-step nieces.

He was preceded in death by two brothers in infancy and his parents.

Don owned and operated his auto repair shop, Clark Auto Repair in Sublette for many years. He was well known throughout the community and beyond for his love of antique and classic cars. He had the talent and ability to restore cars deteriorated by age to original condition. His knowledge of engine repair and restoration was sought after by people from all across the country. If Don did not know how to fix it, then no one could. His ingenuity and resourcefulness enhanced his reputation and people fully respected his knowledge and abilities, probably more than he ever knew.

Memorials may be directed to the family, memorials will be established. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneral.com.

Thomas J. Smith



MENDOTA - Thomas Judson Smith, 83, of Mendota passed away Jan. 21, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota after a brief illness.

A celebration of life will be planned in the near future. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Tom was born April 11, 1937 in Oak Park to Steven and Helen (Shales) Smith. He married Phyliss Hughes on Sept. 27, 1958 in La Grange. She preceded him in death in June of 2017.

Survivors include one son, Thomas Smith Jr. and partner Dave VanDanacker; two daughters, Jana (Patrick) Trainer and Pamela (Craig) Sears; six grandchildren, Bradley, Diana, Amanda, Taylor, Samantha and Nicholas; and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife and his parents.

Tom graduated from Lyons Township High School in 1955 then served in the U.S. Air Force until his marriage to Phyliss in 1958. He and Phyliss moved to Mendota in 1984 and Tom opened Smith's Flower and Greenhouse and established ENP Inc., which is still in operation today. Tom enjoyed many interests outside of his work including traveling, gardening and his family, and he particularly enjoyed his golf game. All of the family golfers fondly remember the many fun and sometimes frustrating games played at the Mendota Golf Club course digging up the turf.

Memorials may be directed to the donor's choice.

Kaine M. J. Pizano-Olson

MENDOTA - Kaine Michael James Pizano-Olson, 20, passed away Jan. 20, 2021 due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Services will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. The visitation will be from 2-5 p.m. and services will start at 5 p.m. following CDC guidelines. Reception for family and friends will follow the service at the Mendota Elks Lodge.

Kaine was born Aug. 25, 2000 to Tricia Beth Baker of Ladd and Michael Joseph (Heather) Pizano-Olson of Mendota.

Survivors include his parents; four siblings, Patience Stallings, Macy Pizano-Olson, Serjio Orozco and Isabella Orozco; his maternal grandparents, Tom and Pat Olsen of Mendota; his paternal grandparents, Kim Olson of Spring Valley and Donna Olson of Ladd, Dave and Sue Pizano of Depue, Jim and Tammy Wormack of Bee Branch, Ark., Bob Thomas of Mendota and Steve and Kathy Reppin of Mendota; and many aunts, uncles and cousins who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his maternal great grandmother, Donna Bugiyne, and by his lifelong friends, Ben Bokus and Taryn Pakenham.

Kaine was a 2018 graduate of Mendota High School. He enjoyed playing sports, loved basketball and showed his passion for the game on the court for MHS and the Illinois Ambush Travel League. He loved music and went to every concert he could. Anyone who knew Kaine remembers his infectious smile and his love for his dog, Trey. He was employed at Premier Products in Peru. During the summers, he also worked for his grandfather and with his uncles at Olsen Construction in Mendota.

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



Janelle M. Geiger

LA MOILLE - Janelle Marie Geiger, 44, of LaMoille, passed away Jan. 19, 2021 from injuries sustained in a vehicular accident near Princeton.

Visitation was held from 1-4 p.m. on Jan. 24 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. Private family burial was on Jan. 25 at Union Cemetery, LaMoille with Rev. Paul Darveau officiating. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota assisted the family.

Janelle was born July 27, 1976 in Rockford to Joseph and Frances (Bantista) Beattie. She married David Geiger on Dec. 12, 1997 at Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion.

Survivors include her husband; one son, Owen Geiger; one daughter, Cassidy Geiger; her parents, Joseph and Frances Beattie of LaMoille; one brother, Brian (Judy) Beattie of Mendota; and her mother-in-law, Anita Geiger.

She was preceded in death by her maternal and paternal grandparents; one brother, Stephen Beattie; one sister, Laura Curtis; and her father-in-law, Dan Geiger.

Janelle was a 1994 graduate of LaMoille High School. She worked at Mendota Child Development on and off in between motherhood. She was an EMT for LaMoille Ambulance. She was the #1 fan of the Green Bay Packers and #1 fan of Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Jr. She loved working in her garden in the summer, summer vacations in Siren, Wis. and holidays, especially Christmas when she enjoyed baking, cooking and decorating the house.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to LaMoille Ambulance, Breast Cancer Awareness or LaMoille FFA.

Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.



Marion H. Schammel

LA MOILLE - Marion Helen Schammel, 80, of LaMoille passed away Jan. 19, 2021 at home after a courageous battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Marion went to sleep and woke up in heaven with her Lord and Savior, Jesus and was reunited with family and friends who went before.

Funeral services were held at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 22 at Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion with Rev. Phil Gronbach officiating. Burial was at Clarion Cemetery. Visitation was held for two hours prior to the funeral. Masks and social distancing were required due to COVID restrictions. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota assisted the family.

Pallbearers were Mark Bickett, Keith and Lori Rosenwinkel, Charlene Zimmerman, Donna Zinke and Tom Weeks. Honorary pallbearers were Josh Bickett, Allen Zimmerman and Joyce Sondergroth.

Marion was born Nov. 8, 1940 in Mendota to Roy and Freida (Zimmerman) Haefner. She married Howard Schammel 61-plus years ago on June 21, 1959 at Clarion Lutheran Church.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Becky Schammel of Rockford and Colleen (Mark) Bickett of Princeton; one grandson, Josh (Abby Sheets) Bickett of Chicago; her first great-grandson coming in May of 2021; two sisters-in-law, Sue (Dave) Brown and Eileen Weber, both of Sandwich; and two brothers-in-law, Douglas (Karen) Schammel of Sublette and Alan (Sandy) Schammel of Compton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her parents-in-law, Charles and Ethel (Kleckner) Schammel; one sister-in-law, Dorothy (Schammel) Prewitt; and one brother-in-law, Delbert Weber.

Marion attended Basswood Corner Country School until second grade and graduated from LaMoille High School in 1958. After high school, she worked briefly as a nurse's aide at Mendota Hospital and then settled happily into married life as a farm wife and mother. She also worked from 1995-2005 in the cafeteria at Mendota High School. She loved working hard, climbing windmills, riding beloved horses and raising milk cows, hogs and chickens on the centennial farm where she grew up and lived all her life. She was affectionately known as the "egg lady" for all her egg deliveries to homes and businesses throughout the area. She was a woman of great faith and lived her confirmation verse of Luke 10:42 with complete trust in the Lord as evidenced by the yellowed and tattered pages of her well-worn, read and highlighted Bible. She started her day at an early hour reading her Bible and devotions and praying throughout the day especially for Howard and her girls and for any she knew that were struggling. She was very active in her church, serving many years as a Sunday school teacher, on the church council, in women's circles, and was involved in Bible studies. She was an avid reader. Marion lit up the lives of everyone with her ever-present smile and laughter and practiced kindness daily. She never met a stranger.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to LaMoille-Clarion Public Library, Graves-Hume Public Library in Mendota and the Zion Lutheran Church of Clarion cemetery fund for upkeep of the cemetery.

Leroy M. Haub

DE KALB - Leroy M. Haub, 92, of DeKalb died Jan. 19, 2021 at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford.

A private family memorial service will be held on Friday, Jan. 29 at the Anderson Funeral Home in DeKalb. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until the time of services at 2 p.m. on Jan. 29 at the funeral home. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks and social distancing will be required at both the visitation and memorial service.

Leroy was born Jan. 2, 1929 in West Brooklyn to Joseph and Emma (Schneider) Haub. He married Doris Gunn on Feb. 16, 1949 at St. Mary Catholic Church in West Brooklyn.

Survivors include his daughters, Diane (Robert) Masson, Sheryll (Alvin) Bonnell and Karen Clifton; six grandchildren, Ryan Bonnell, Christine (Erik) Mitchell, Eric Masson, Jeffrey (Kannie) Masson, Steven (Christina) Bonnell and Jordan Clifton; nine great-grandchildren; and three siblings, Catherine (the late Ernie) Radtke, Gilbert (Celia) Haub and Darlene (the late Kenneth) Shaw.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Flora Grothen and Shirley Lauer; and one brother, Marvin Haub.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Leroy M. Haub Memorial Fund, addressed to the Haub Family in care of Anderson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 605, 2011 S. Fourth St., DeKalb, IL 60115.

For information, visit www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com or call (815) 756-1022.

Leslie A. Reppin



OGLESBY - Leslie "Les" Arthur Reppin, 62, of Oglesby passed away Jan. 20, 2021 in his home.

A private memorial will be held for family members. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota assisted the family.

Les was born in Mendota on March 5, 1958 to Arthur and Jean (Phillips) Reppin.

Survivors include his mother; one brother, Tim Reppin; one sister, Pam Schultz; three children, Christopher, David and Jennifer; and five grandchildren.

He was a 1976 graduate of Mendota High School. He served in the U.S. Army for three years. He loved the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. He was married to Kathy (Terry) Reppin for 11 years.

Memorials may be directed to the donor's choice.

See additional OBITUARIES, Page A7

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Meals

Continued from Page A3

will also watch cooking demonstrations live on Zoom and receive recipes and health resources via e-mail. Everyone is welcome.

Register at <https://go.illinois.edu/healthyheartmeals>. For information, call Susan Glassman at (815) 224-0889.

Where is it... in Mendota?

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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Eraser on pencil on Pohl's Office Supply Sign

Winner - Eric Buland

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Darlene I. Fischer

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We love and miss you forever.

Linda (Ron)

Fred (Chrissy)

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LOCAL AND AREA

Sports

Continued from Page A1

precautions and be smart about how we relax some of the mitigation measures, which are in place to protect our health and safety.”

Region 4 in the Metro East area near St. Louis was the last region to advance to Tier 2 mitigations effective Friday. Region 8, which includes Kane and DuPage counties west of Chicago, Region 9 in the north suburbs, Region 10 in suburban Cook County and Region 11 in the city of Chicago remain under Tier 2 mitigations.

Region 1 in northern Illinois, region 2 in north-central Illinois and region 7 in south suburban Chicago are under Tier 1 mitigations, and thus may allow indoor dining at 25 percent capacity and bar service only if food is being served.

In order to move out of tier mitigations, regions must meet certain metrics of case positivity, have staffed intensive care unit bed availability greater than 20 percent for three consecutive days and sustained decline in hospitalized COVID-19 patients on a seven-day rolling average.

Although Pritzker said he is pleased with the progress of the state, health officials warned that a new variant of COVID-19, which originated in the United Kingdom and has been detected in Illinois and other areas of the United States, could become the dominant strain by March.

“The risk of a resurgence in Illinois, particularly with extremely contagious new variants, is serious,” Pritzker said. “Our ability to have limited indoor restaurant service and to restart youth sports could be cut short if we aren’t extremely careful.”

While all regions have transitioned out of the strictest Tier 3 mitigations, health officials are keeping an eye on numbers, and Ezike confirmed that increased restrictions could be likely if cases and hospitalizations creep back up to mitigation-triggering criteria.

Vaccine update

Phase 1B of the state’s vaccine distribution plan, which includes non-health care essential workers, residents over the age of 65 and inmates, began statewide on Jan. 25 by appointment only.

“So don’t try to line up at your local store or call your local pharmacy,” Pritzker said. “When we have a steady stream of vaccines coming in from the federal government, we will launch walk-in locations and round-the-clock operations.”

The Illinois National Guard mobile vaccination teams have begun operations at six vaccination sites in Cook County. Pritzker said over the next three

weeks approximately 25 additional vaccination teams are deploying in high-need areas across the state, in addition to the sites that were announced last week in St. Clair County.

Vaccination appointments can be made online through Walgreens, CVS and Jewel-Osco. The Illinois National Guard vaccine sites and local health departments also started taking appointments Jan. 25.

By Feb. 1, Pritzker said pharmacies within HyVee, Mariano’s and Kroger will also be available as vaccine sites. More vaccine sites will become available as the state receives more vaccine doses from the federal government.

As of Jan. 21, more than 1.4 million total doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines had been delivered to the state of Illinois. Of those doses, 922,235 doses had been delivered to providers across the state, including Chicago, and 524,050 doses have been allocated to the federal government’s Pharmacy Partnership Program for long-term care facilities.

IDPH reported a total of 616,677 vaccines have been administered, including 93,683 for long-term care facilities. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 24,190 doses.

“This week alone, Illinois set three days of records for vaccine doses administered. Our new high blew past our last by more than 10,000 (doses administered),” Pritzker said.

But he expressed frustrations with the slow pace of the federal government’s pharmacy program for long-term care facilities under former President Donald Trump’s administration.

“I have expressed that concern to the Biden administration, and to the pharmacy partners,” Pritzker said. “They must accelerate the pace of vaccines to our most vulnerable residents.”

The state is expecting 126,000 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to arrive next week, outside the city of Chicago, which adds up to less than 4 percent of the eligible Phase 1B vaccine population, Pritzker said. There are 3.2 million Illinoisans that are eligible for the vaccine in Phase 1B.

“Until the vaccine supply improves, we will all, frankly, need to be patient,” Pritzker said.

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New high school graduation requirements drawing criticism

By PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — New high school graduation requirements that were part of an omnibus education bill passed during the lame duck session are drawing criticism from some members of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Those new requirements were included in House Bill 2170, Amendment 3, which was introduced by Sen. Kimberly Lightford, D-Maywood. They include the addition of two years of foreign language classes and two years of laboratory science instead of just science courses.

“And so, the message this sends to me is that somebody has decided that two years of a foreign language class are more important than art, more important than music, more important than career and technical education courses, in a school day that is already so full and so very limited with time,” ISBE member Susie Morrison, of Carlinville, said.

Morrison also noted that foreign language is also an area where there is a significant shortage of teachers in Illinois, and she predicted that many districts will have a hard time finding qualified staff to meet the requirements.

The legislation, which Gov. JB Pritzker is expected to sign, will establish the laboratory science requirement for students entering ninth grade during the 2024-2025 school year. The foreign language requirement is scheduled to take effect for students entering ninth grade for the 2028-2029 school year.

However, lawmakers have said the target date for the foreign language requirement was a drafting error in the bill and there will likely be a follow-up bill in the current legislative session to move that date up.

In addition to the foreign language and laboratory science requirements, beginning

in the 2023-24 school year, students entering ninth grade will be required to take one year of a course that includes “intensive instruction in computer literacy,” but that can include English, social studies or any other course that also fulfills another graduation requirement.

Those changes were all part of a 218-page omnibus education bill that was advanced by the Legislative Black Caucus.

ISBE’s legislative affairs director Amanda Elliot said during the board meeting the additional requirements overall were intended to align the state’s graduation requirements with the admission standards at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

She also said the laboratory science requirement would not be a significant change because that content is already needed to meet the state’s learning standards for science.

Regarding the foreign language requirements, Elliot said, “I think this was something that was a pretty large priority for the members of the Black Caucus and I don’t know that there was much we could have done to really make any additional changes.”

Board member Christine Benson, of Ottawa, said her concerns about the foreign language requirements come from her belief lawmakers had not properly researched the issue and did not consult with ISBE before passing the bill.

“What’s the best time to teach a foreign language? It is not high school,” Benson said. “What’s the second-worst time to teach a foreign language? It’s junior high. So, they did no research on this. They just added it on.”

Morrison said she would like to see ISBE do a complete review of all of the state’s graduation requirements, an idea Board Chairman Darren Reisberg, of Chicago, said was a possibility.

Lightford did not immediately respond to a request for comment or reaction to the criticisms.

Archer

Continued from Page A1

works for the executive branch.

“It was stunning to hear ‘Fanfare Politeia’ performed,” Archer said. “I knew what the gravitas of the occasion was when I first started writing, of course, but there’s something very different about being present in the moment.”

As she watched the inauguration ceremony on TV, Archer noticed that her piece began playing just as President Biden’s motorcade was pulling into the Capitol grounds.

“It was coincidental but I was glad they happened to play my music just then,” she said. “Col. Fetting talks about the Marine Band’s playing for the inauguration as ‘providing the soundtrack to history,’ and it felt like that to me, hearing my music as the soundtrack to the arrival of the next President. Also, I have to admit, my first thought when I heard the announcer read my name at the Capitol grounds was, ‘Wow. My dad just heard that.’ And then, of course, there’s the thrill of hearing my music played perfectly by such an amazing band!”

“This is an incredible honor,” Archer added. “If you had told my 20-year-old self that someday the Marine Band would play my music, much less for a presidential inauguration, I would never have believed it.”

IVCC plans health profession showcase

OGLESBY — Illinois Valley Community College’s Admissions Office will host a Health Professions Academic Showcase at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 via Zoom.

Current and prospective students and their parents are encouraged to attend sessions with program coordinators from IVCC’s nursing, dental assisting, Medical Assistant, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and EMT/EMS to learn how to get into the programs; what students will learn in the classroom, lab or clinical setting; and job opportunities.

Assistant Director of Admissions, Records and Transfer Services Aseret Loveland said, “We’re excited to host this and other Academic Showcases to allow students to make a connection with our instructors and program coordinators.”

“The pandemic has limited face-to-face interaction, but with these virtual events, there’s an opportunity for students and parents to ask questions so they can feel more confident in their chosen major,” she added.

Learn more and register at www.ivcc.edu/visit.

Snowmobilers need to stay on routes

MENDOTA — The Mendota Police Department would like to remind all snowmobile drivers to stay on the designated routes when traveling through the city.

The snowmobile routes are all clearly marked and are provided for riders to have a safe course of travel. Snowmobiles are prohibited in city parks, especially near the lakes and dam area. Riding on private property is also prohibited unless permission is given by the property owner.



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*1995 Ford 8970 tractor, MFWD, #D405138, 6435 hrs, 20.8R42 axle duals, 420/90R30 fronts, 2 remotes, 3 point, 16 speed Ultra Command trans;

COMBINE & HEADS:

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*2008 New Holland 890N2 forage corn head, earlage, 2R30s, #219225;
*Case IH 1020 platform, #JJC0326342, 20', for and aft, poly skids, 3" cut;
*Unverferth 24' head tote;

CHOPPING AND FEEDING EQUIPMENT:

*Gehl MF 8285 feed wagon, #7966, 540 pto, scales, relined and replaced augers, new bunk elevator;
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*New Holland 890N2 forage corn head, earlage, 2R30s, #219225;
*New Holland 900W forage pick-up head, #828709;
*Miller Pro 4100 silage wagon, pto, 11L-15 tires;
*Gehl 970 silage wagon, pto, tandem axle gear;
*Badger 1200 silage wagon, pto, tandem axle gear;
*(3) Gehl 970 silage wagon, tandem axle, salvage;
*Phoenix Creep Feeder, 100 bu, single axle

EQUIPMENT:

*2004 Case IH 1200 Planter, 12r30's, insecticide, row managers, monitor, good condition;
*Case IH Tiger Mate II, 34', #JFH0015048, walking tandems, 5 bar spike harrow, nice;
*Salford 9700CTS ripper, #0716829, spring shank, 3 bar tyne harrow, rolling basket; *Unverferth 8000 grain cart, coner auger, 30.5-32 tires; *(2) DMI 340 center dump gravity wagons, 11L-15 tires; *(2) Kory 340 gravity wagons on Kory 8278 gear; *Westfield MK80-61 swing a way auger, nice; *Westfield 8x61 swing a way auger; *Kewanee 1020 disc, 21', hyd flat fold; *McFarlane 8 bar spike harrow; *White 445 disk ripper, spring shank, hyd disk gang; *Glenco Soil Saver, 13 shank; *Hardi TR500 sprayer, #2407, 50' boom, pto pump, foamer; *JD 717 RM mower, salvage;

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

Read it to your mother

By Scott Reeder

Joe Biden has advised his aides to avoid academic or elitist language when sharing ideas, but what stands out is how he told them to do it.

According to the New York Times, here is what he had to say: “Pick up your phone, call your mother, read her what you just told me. If she understands, we can keep talking.”

It’s surprising advice coming from a man married to a woman with a doctorate, who is also a mom. Mothers can speak in elitist or academic language just as much as anyone else.

Without really trying, Biden is engaging in sexist behavior.

Now, I’ll be the first to admit that in the pantheon of chauvinist sins, Biden’s advice pales in comparison to some of the daily utterances of his predecessor.

But such advice diminishes presidential discourse. The language is being dumbed down so that it no longer uplifts, but condescends.

Imagine if Abraham Lincoln took this approach with the Gettysburg Address.

“Four score and seven,” would become “87 years.” I guess they mean the same thing but the poetry and majesty of the words have been stripped away.

Biden’s “Read it to your mother,” advice has been issued by journalism professors and editors to young reporters for generations. The idea is to get people to write the way ordinary people talk.

One editor I worked with switched it around and would say, “Is this something you would say to your dad?”

Decades ago, that editor didn’t like my use of the word “linchpin” in one of my stories. I’d quoted someone saying a particular clause was the “linchpin” of the U.S. Constitution.

She said, “You wouldn’t say a sentence with “linchpin” in it to your Dad would you?”

My response, “Well, yeah, I would.”

With a flick of the wrist she replied, “Well, your dad is really well educated. Come up with a different word.”

My Dad was a farmer. We used linchpins every day to hook wagons and other farm implements to tractors. It was part of my agrarian lexicon. (Farm vocabulary.)

But I figured I’d dug a deep enough hole for myself that day and didn’t need to add that to my argument.

This desire to write like the common Joe or Jane is rooted in a desire of politicians and news outlets to be approachable and down-to-earth.

But like anything, it can be taken to an extreme.

Instead of using a word like “infrastructure,” I’ve advised young reporters to use words like “roads,” “bridges” or “sewers.” The only COLA allowed in the newsrooms where I’ve worked came out of the pop machines. We used phrases like “pay raise” or “fatter paycheck” rather than “cost of living adjustment.”

I hate letting jargon infiltrate (seep in) my news stories.

Back when I was a rookie reporter in Galveston, Texas, and I was writing a story about corporal punishment (spanking) in schools, the school superintendent (Big Cheese) said the word “paddle” was too harsh a word for the device used to whack kids’ backsides.

So, I rechristened it “an instrument of flagellation.” My editor glowered (gave me a bad look) and changed it back to “paddle.”

She made a point of informing me that reporters shouldn’t let know-it-all sources dictate what words we use.

There was another time when I was an intern at the Galesburg Register-Mail that I really took this advice to heart. I wanted to rewrite obituaries and change “cremate” to “incinerate.”

The editor said in this instance, funeral home jargon was just fine, thank you very much.

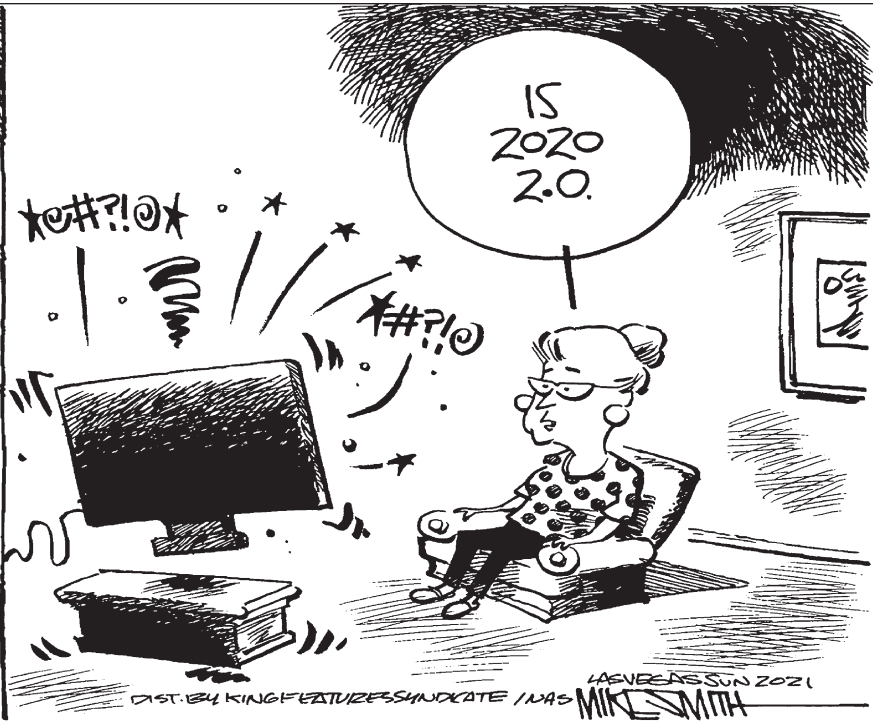
I roll my eyes when folks talk about the “media elite” or the “political elite.” I’ve spent most of my professional career around politicians and journalists. I know how they write. I know how they talk.

Both groups have a host (a whole bunch) of faults. But more than any other group they try to communicate in an approachable manner.

It’s difficult to fault them for their efforts.

But it’s quite natural to wish life were as simple as the language they use.

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



Land needed for hard roads – 1924

(The following is from Jessica Nashold’s *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Jan. 27, 1999.)

By Jessica Nashold

Seventy-five years ago, a meeting was called in the office of town clerk J.A. Lamberton to which all owners of property needed to proposed highways were invited. They were provided with plats showing routes for roads north, south and west of Mendota.

A representative of the highway department made it clear that if these roads were to be built, owners of land through which they would pass would have to relinquish rights-of-way without compensation. The state and county had no funds to cover a purchase.

If those along the routes want the roads they will have to act quickly.

In January 1924, Alexander Lumber Co. on Sixth Street purchased the J.C. Simpson lumber yard located on the “Y” north of the depot. The Alexander was managed by Clarence Anderson, while D.M. Lotts had charge of the Simpson yard.

When the announcement was made it was stated that Anderson would remain in charge of the combined yards. Lotts would leave after final details of the sale were complete. He would be transferred to another Simpson yard.

SIDETRACK: On March 4, 1924, it was announced that Clarence Anderson had been transferred to Reedsburg, Wis., and D.M. Lotts would be manager of the Alexander in Mendota.

J.H. Walker and O.J. Gray, who conducted the Walker dry goods store, acquired Theodore Schildberg to manage the rug, curtain and drapery department. Extensive changes were made in the building, now occupied by Dr. Wm. R. Skutta, optometrist. Display space for the rugs was created as well as fitting rooms for Walker’s ready-to-wear department on the second floor. Gray managed yard goods, underwear and gloves on the ground floor. Business was handled on a mezzanine between the first and second floors.

C.C. Hayes, manager of the Café in the Hotel Faber, sold an interest in his business to Ray Scallan of Ohio, Ill.

Backtracks & Sidetracks

They added a lunch counter to accommodate those desiring quick service.

Frank Gurney opened an electric shop in the Our Hope office on Washington Street, just east of the present post office. Gurney was prepared to take care of all kinds of electrical installations and repairs. He also handled Blue Seal Guaranteed Radios.

Fred Oester also advertised radios. His Grebe CR-9 operated on dry cell or wet cell batteries.

You can use this radio anywhere, whether you have electricity or not.

Dr. W.M. Wagner, a dentist, was also on the move. His new office was above the Stenger shoe store on Washington Street, a few doors west of Main.

He asks his clients to note the change.

Members of the Kiwanis held their first ever Ladies’ Night on Jan. 24, 1924, at the Elks Club. Wives, daughters and lady friends were invited. A banquet was served by ladies of the Baptist church. Each guest received a favor, which could be drawn from a vanity case by a red ribbon.

R.N. Crawford led the members and guests in song, accompanied by Miss Betty Brooks at the piano. R.E. Beebe chaired the entertainment committee. John W. Dubbs, D.L. Barnett and D.M. Lotts spoke of progress on various community projects.

Mrs. A.W. Bush responded for the ladies present, and suggested another evening might be arranged to acquaint sons with Kiwanis enterprises, since only daughters had shared in Ladies’ Night. Mrs. Bush was glad so many Kiwanis objectives helped the Woman’s Clun in reaching its goals.

Mrs. James Quigg, who had been teaching Latin and German at Mendota Township High School, left at the end of the first semester in 1924 for her home

in Detroit. Helen B. Kelley of Beloit, Wis., arrived at the beginning of the second semester in January to take her place and remained as Latin instructor at MTHS until 1936.

A.J. Hardy, principal at MTHS, began giving spelling exams, without previous warning, on words commonly used and most frequently missed in business schools. He kept track of words most often misspelled by Mendota students. There were 150 words on the list. Five girls had perfect scores and one boy, Robert Allen, a freshman. Among the girls was Mary Miller, who went on to teach in Mendota schools. Some may remember being in her classes.

The CB&Q freight handlers reported “a jolly good time” at the North Schoolhouse. A roast rabbit supper was served and the men enjoyed “one of the best evenings all winter.”

They look forward to these monthly meetings.

Elks’ Ladies had an unusually large attendance at their card games on January night in 1924. Prize winners were Mrs. E.J. Cannon in 500 and Mrs. Robert Fischer in bridge.

The Elks sponsored a Million Dollar Frolic on Jan. 24, 25, 26, 1924. Vaudeville acts, games and dancing to Eddie Bieser’s orchestra could be enjoyed for a 10-cent admission.

This is a splendid time to get acquainted with the Best People on Earth, the B.P.O. Elks.

Sadie Wilcox, Mendota’s long-time librarian, was praised for her ability to speak on a wide range of subjects.

She has inherited the talent of her distinguished grandfather, P.W. Wilcox, an orator of much fame.

A Mendotan, Mrs. M.A. Sherwood, earned a dollar for a rhyme she submitted to a column in the Chicago Tribune.

His love he vowed, but what of that. She listened not, he was too fat.

SIDETRACK: A Margaret Sherwood was secretary at Mendota High for many years. Could she have been the prize-winning rhymester?

The Flight 93 post-election

By Rich Lowry

President Donald Trump finally did what the foremost metaphor associated with his political rise would have suggested -- he plowed his plane into the ground.

That metaphor is Flight 93, courtesy of Michael Anton, author of a famous essay before the 2016 election about how Republicans had no option but to get on board with Trump. “Charge the cockpit or you die,” Anton wrote.

“The Flight 93 Election” became a signature statement of Trumpism and remains incredibly relevant today. Its mood perfectly captures the post-election period and especially what happened at the U.S. Capitol -- fevered, dark and apocalyptic.

Anton wrote as if the end of the republic were upon us, and there’s nothing like a rabble storming a citadel of American democracy to buttress this view.

Of course, it was the man Anton believed could be our savior who whipped up this crowd. The mob didn’t charge the cockpit metaphorically, but charged the Capitol literally, in the grip of a more extreme, rough-hewn version of Anton’s logic and narrative.

Anton is obsessed with a coming Democratic tyranny or coup. So, too, are Trump and his most fanatical supporters, who weren’t content simply to write highfalutin essays about how to resist the coup, or “Stop the Steal.”

If the pen is mighty, only baseball bats and projectiles can really make Mike Pence and Nancy Pelosi afraid.

Make no mistake: A Flight 93 mentality led to the Jan. 6 presidency, now defined not by any of the good it accomplished but by a hideous act of extremism in its desperate, spittle-flecked final days.

In Anton’s defense, he never said he believed that Trump knew how to fly a plane. In the future, when hiring someone to pilot the most advanced jetliner on the planet, he might want to add that to the job description, and check a couple of references.

Anton wrote that “only in a corrupt republic, in corrupt time, could a Trump rise.” Rather than concluding that this spoke poorly of Trump, he made it into a kind of virtue. “Yes, Trump is worse than imperfect,” he wrote. “So what?”

So what, indeed.

Trump was supposed to be a winner when other Republicans, Anton argued, were hopeless losers.

In reality, Trump won a fluky victory in 2016, with just 46.1% of the vote. Predictably, he lost the House in 2018. He then lost his re-election bid and contributed to the loss of the GOP Senate majority with his outlandish claims of election fraud.

In office, Trump didn’t win saving-America-from-the-apocalypse-type victories, as one would have expected from Anton’s hysterical advocacy. Instead, they were the achievements of a standard Republican with a populist bent -- tax cuts with tariffs on top.

Trump threw away his presidency in the end, though, largely because of the character flaws that Anton dismissed or valorized.

In his essay, Anton attacked his conservative enemies as caring only about their careers and money, while throwing in with a rank egoist who fetishizes his wealth and status, who didn’t care enough about his supporters or his own political cause to work harder in office or moderate his behavior, who led his most committed supporters into a box canyon of lies and conspiracy theories after the election because he couldn’t admit that he lost.

What made Anton’s essay so bracing was its undercurrent of nihilism, a sense that character and norms no longer matter, not when we are engaged in an existential struggle for power.

Trump has acted in keeping with an exaggerated version of this ethic, throwing aside truth and the law in pursuit of a second term to which he is not entitled.

We have seen that this path isn’t suited to saving the republic, but to tearing it apart and embarrassing it before the world. It can’t and shouldn’t work, and produced an immediate backlash and second impeachment.

This is not really fighting. It is giving up.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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OBITUARIES

Obituaries, continued from Page A4

Clifford L. Sondgeroth



MENDOTA - Clifford "Cliff" Louis Sondgeroth, 88, of Mendota, passed away Jan. 22, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota due to complications brought on by a COVID-19 infection.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 27 at Holy Cross Church in Mendota with Rev. Peter Pilon officiating. Burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota with full military honors by Mendota V.F.W. Post 4079. Pallbearers were Kyle Sondgeroth, Carl Gustafson, Craig Sondgeroth, Eric Kelsey, Kurt Wright, Mark Stouffer and Daniel Ladd. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota assisted with arrangements.

Cliff was born July 17, 1932 in Mendota to Charles and Katherine (Walzer) Sondgeroth, the sixth of eight children. He married his soulmate, Geraldine "Geri" Funfsinn on June 20, 1953 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Peterstown.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 67 years, Geraldine Sondgeroth of Mendota; one son, Steven (Kathleen) Sondgeroth of Peru; two daughters, Michelle (Steven) Stouffer of LaMoille and Jane (Jeffrey) Berman of Buffalo Grove; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one brother, David (JoAnne) Sondgeroth of Mendota; and one sister-in-law, Katherine Funfsinn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his step-father, William Haub; three brothers, Lester Sondgeroth, Robert Sondgeroth and Gene Sondgeroth; and three sisters, Bernice Corrigan, Rita Miller and Pearl Blair.

Cliff attended parochial school at Sts. Peter

and Paul School, leaving formal schooling after grade school to begin a long life of hard work as a farmer. In his teens, he worked on the Sondgeroth family farm and as a hired man for other farmers. He entered the U.S. Army in 1954 and was proud of serving his country in Japan for two years after the Korean War. After his return, he and Geri bought their first farm south of Arlington where they lived, farmed and raised their family. They moved to Mendota in 1985 to spend their retirement in the home he helped build. The word "retired" never fit Cliff, though, as he was a relentless hard worker. During retirement, he was a part-time delivery driver for AgView FS in LaMoille. He never wanted to be idle and somehow always turned hobbies into businesses. Cutting wood for the fireplace yielded a firewood delivery business. Fishing during winters in Florida led to a commercial fisherman's license so he could sell fish and crabs to fishmongers. His pastime of picking up aluminum cans became a venture in selling all kinds of scrap metal and used equipment he refurbished in his garage. One of his many witty mottoes beloved by his family was "the harder I work, the luckier I get." Cliff was a devoted Catholic and supporter of his church, St. Patrick in Arlington for many years. He was an active member of the Holy Name Society of the church and was a church trustee. In later years, he and Geri attended Holy Cross Church, Mendota. He was a member of Mendota Elks Lodge 1212. He will be deeply missed by his big family, which was his pride and delight.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Holy Cross Church or donor's choice. Condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Jessica L. Albert

COMPTON - Jessica Lyn Albert, 51, of Avancer Home, Genoa passed away Jan. 23, 2021 at Kishwaukee Hospital, DeKalb.

Private family funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Jan. 28 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Compton with Rev. Jeff Schlesinger officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is handling arrangements.

Jessica was born Jan. 29, 1969 in Chicago to Charles Albert and Jean (Ross) Albert.

Survivors include three brothers, Timothy (Bonnie) Albert of Utica, Scott (Hyoson) Albert of San Antonio, Texas and Russell

(Susan) Albert of England; and seven nieces and nephews, Heather, Angelia, Zachary, Kirsten, Cody, Brandy and Noah.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a niece, Rebecca.

Jessica was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Her favorite thing to do was spending time with friends and family. Her cousins and closest friends were her rock and meant everything to her. She would offer anyone a smile and a hug and brought happiness and joy to everyone she met. She was truly a shining light on this Earth.

Memorials may be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

James H. Hessenberger



MENDOTA - James H. Hessenberger, 81, of Mendota passed away Jan. 23, 2021 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Public visitation will be held from 9-10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28 at the Wasmer Funeral Home. Masks are required, and social distancing and numbers will be observed. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 28 at Holy Cross Catholic Church with Rev. Peter Pilon officiating. Pallbearers will be Luke Hochstatter, Matthew Hochstatter, Drake O'Donnell, Zeke Hessenberger, Gil Buttles, Brandon Thompson, Brad White, John "JD" Setchell, and Paul "Vinny" Christman.

After services, cremation rites will be accorded and a Memorial Mass and burial of ashes will be at a later date.

Jim was born Sept. 27, 1939 in Ottawa to Harold and Hilda (Hochstatter) Hessenberger. He married the love of his life, Silvia Phalen, at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Nov. 1, 1958. She preceded him in death on July 24, 2009.

Survivors include three daughters, Denise

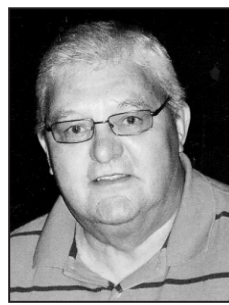
Leo) Hochstatter, Lisa Thompson and Nicole (Mike) O'Donnell, all of Mendota; two sons, John (Linda) Hessenberger of Mendota and Jeff (Donna) Hessenberger of Neosho, Wis.; 15 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one brother, Jerome "Buck" (Tomi) Hessenberger of Beloit, Wis.; and two sisters, Hazel (Roy) White of Kansas City, Kan. and Renee Hessenberger of Hudson.

He was preceded in death by his wife, a son in infancy, his parents and a son-in-law, Brandon Thompson.

Jim graduated from Mendota High School in 1958 and was recruited and played football for L-P-O (LaSalle-Peru-Oglesby) Junior College where he continued his education and received an Associate degree. During his long work career, he was an ironworker and proud member of Ironworkers Local Union 386 LaSalle. He was also a member of Mendota Moose Lodge Post 714, Mendota Elks Lodge 1212, Knights of Columbus Post 2090, was a social member of V.F.W. Post 4079, and a faithful member of Holy Cross Church where he helped with the offertory and ushering for many years.

Memorials may be directed to Holy Cross Church or School, or Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

Floyd Royer



ROCK FALLS - Floyd "Ed" Royer, 73, died Jan. 22, 2021.

Visitation was held from 9:30-11 a.m. on Jan. 27 at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Rock Falls. Mass of Christian Burial followed at 11 a.m. with Rev. Richard M. Russo officiating. Burial with military honors was at Oak Knoll Memorial Park. Arrangements were handled by the McDonald Funeral Home.

Ed was born Nov. 4, 1947 in Rock Falls to Floyd Everett and Evelyn (Silvey) Royer. He married Connie Sue Johnson on Feb. 10, 1967 in Rock Falls. She preceded him in death on April 13, 2012.

Survivors include three daughters, Becky McKinley, Tracy (Sean) Fowkes and Jill Royer, all of Rock Falls; six grandchildren, Ed and Cameron McKinley, Brady, Mack-

enzie and Syrinidie Fowkes and Klarady Royer; three sisters, Alice (Joe) Billings of Sterling, Nina Holloway of Rock Falls and Marsha Chapinski of Sterling; one brother, Al (Tara) Royer of Rock Falls; his mother-in-law, Maggie Johnson; two sisters-in-law, Joan Atilano and Willie (Jerry) Clayton; and one brother-in-law, Mike Johnson.

He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; three brothers, Jackie, Vern and Larry Royer; and one sister, Judy Barger.

Ed attended school in Rock Falls and was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving in the U.S. Army from Sept. 7, 1965 until Sept. 8, 1968. He worked for 30 years at Northwestern Steel and Wire Company and when they closed, was a supervisor in the shipping department. He then worked at HCC in Mendota for approximately 12 years. He was a member of St. Andrew Catholic Church. He enjoyed playing cards and watching old westerns on TV.

Memorials in his memory are preferred to St. Andrew Catholic Church or School.

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



No-till practices in vulnerable areas significantly reduce soil erosion

By Marianne Stein

URBANA – Soil erosion is a major challenge in agricultural production. It affects soil quality and carries nutrient sediments that pollute waterways. While soil erosion is a naturally occurring process, agricultural activities such as conventional tilling exacerbate it. Farmers implementing no-till practices can significantly reduce soil erosion rates, a new University of Illinois study shows.

Completely shifting to no-till would reduce soil loss and sediment yield by more than 70%, says Sanghyun Lee, doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at U of I and lead author on the study, published in Journal of Environmental Management.

But even a partial change in tilling practices could have significant results, he adds.

“If we focus on the most vulnerable area in terms of soil erosion, then only 40% no-till shows almost the same reduction as 100% no-till implementation,” Lee says.

The study used physical data and computer modeling to estimate soil erosion in the Drummer Creek watershed, which is part of the Upper Sangamon River watershed in Central Illinois. The area’s main crops are corn and soybeans, and tillage is a predominant agricultural practice.

“The rate of soil erosion is increased and accelerated by unsustainable agricultural production. One of the main reasons is conventional tillage in the field,” Lee says. “Our model provides a tool to estimate the impacts of tilling on soil erosion across the watershed.”

Lee and co-authors Maria Chu, Jorge Guzman, and Alejandra Botero-Acosta developed the modeling framework, coupling a hydrological model (MIKE SHE) with the Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) to examine the impacts of no-till practice in the watershed. The WEPP model provided the sediment sources from the agricultural fields under different tillage practices and the hydrologic model simulated sediment transport across the watershed.

The researchers included historical data on climate, soil properties, sediment sample data, and other relevant measures, then used the coupled model to predict how different management practices affect soil erosion rates.

“Farmers may prefer tilling because wet climate conditions cause compacted soil,” Lee says. “However, soil erosion removes topsoil, which contains lots of nutrients, and this may reduce yield in the long term. Soil erosion also affects water quality, both locally over time and at a distance.

“Therefore, farmers need to weigh the benefits of tilling with the consequences of soil erosion and choose the best management strategies.”

The modeling framework can help identify the most vulnerable areas, so producers can implement sustainable management practices where it matters most, Lee notes.

(The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering is in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and The Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois.)



Sarah Frey, the founder of Frey Farms in southern Illinois, speaks during the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference. Frey was “Pumpkin Queen of America” in a New York Times story. (Credit: Illinois Farm Bureau)

‘Pumpkin Queen’ nearly left the family business before buying it

By CHRISTOPHER HEIMERMAN

For Illinois Press Association

BLOOMINGTON – Sarah Frey sees and appreciates the irony when she looks out at her once-small family farm that became a big player in the specialty crops industry.

“This place I’d spent my entire life trying to escape from, in 2020, it became my escape,” said Frey, the founder of Frey Farms in southern Illinois and “Pumpkin Queen of America” in the words of the New York Times.

Frey was the keynote speaker at the annual Illinois Specialty Crop Conference, put on virtually by the Illinois Specialty Growers Association. She described to the audience how long before the COVID-19 pandemic saw people fleeing the congestion of cities, as a teenager she dreamt of stepping into a high-rise and ascending the elevator to her office.

But before her long-planned exodus, she reflected on years of working the earth with her parents and her four older brothers.

All of 19 years old, she decided to change course and buy the family farm.

“My inspiration to go into business wasn’t the business side of things,” she said. “It was about having a place in the world to build a strong foundation. The sun was setting, and I stood on the ground where I’m talking to

“So when you look at a piece of ugly fruit, what do you do with it? You make juice. To me, life is no different. Optimism is the secret to everything, waking up every day and looking for the good.”

—Sarah Frey

all of you today, and I made the decision I would stay and create a life here.”

And what a life it is.

Frey Farms, headquartered in Keenes, has facilities in eight states. Fruits and vegetables grown on its 12,000-plus acres are distributed throughout the country through Frey’s Homegrown label. It employs more than 500 seasonal workers – in addition to her brothers.

“They invested a lot of time into my personal development as a child – challenging me to do things I might not have done,” Frey said.

You know, like write a book about her journey. “The Growing Season: How I Built a New Life – and Saved an American Farm,” has been optioned for a series on ABC.

“So when we will be able to see your story on TV?” Reghela Scavuzzo, the executive director of Illinois Specialty Growers Association, asked during the session.

“That’s the million-dollar question,” Frey said, laughing before saying more details will be coming soon.

Frey said she got her nickname from the Times because she started out predominantly growing pumpkins – according to her bio,

Frey Farms still sells more pumpkins than any other American producer – but that in addition to growing cantaloupe, sweet corn and squash, the company’s biggest crop is watermelon. The team “follows the sun,” she said, every year starting in Florida and making its way to the Midwest.

In 2014, she launched a line of juices through Sarah’s Homegrown Tsamma Watermelon Juice, which now distributes to more than 2,000 retail locations.

A core mission of Frey Farms is to end food waste in the fresh produce industry.

“So when you look at a piece of ugly fruit, what do you do with it?” she said. “You make juice. To me, life is no different. Optimism is the secret to everything, waking up every day and looking for the good.”

The market is ripe for more specialty crop sales, she said.

“No one really thinks about the Midwest as a fruit-and-vegetable-producing region,” she said. “But consumers are hungry for and demanding fresh produce in season. They’re the ones that make the voting decisions. They vote with their dollars, in what they’re going to buy.”

Frey said to keep talent

in the specialty produce industry, you have to hook kids when they’re young – so they don’t, say, flee for the big city and never return to the family business.

“Exposure is very important to young people,” she said. “So much of it starts with education and programs to get kids involved with.”

Frey commends her local school district building a greenhouse, providing a path for not just children growing up on a farm but also students who simply live in rural America.

“I remember visiting the greenhouse for the first time, and it was amazing to see the joy and the pride students were taking in growing plants for their plant sale,” she said.

She said a key to success in the industry is starting early, and that learning finances is just as important as learning how to work the land.

“We want to go out, work with our hands, to build, grow and create,” she said. “We don’t want to be bogged down by spreadsheets and financial statements. But it’s important to understand the business side of things. It doesn’t matter whether you’re living on 40 acres or 40,000 acres.”

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THE FARMER'S REPORT

Getting farm to table faster

□ Ag leaders, nonprofits address food insecurity in Illinois

By **CHRISTOPHER HEIMERMAN**
For Illinois Press Association

BLOOMINGTON — It takes a lot of moving parts to connect fresh produce with the communities that need it most.

You need farmers growing quality food. Funding to pay them. Food banks, pantries and food marts in place to store and distribute. And don't overlook one of the biggest roadblocks: transportation to get the food from farm to kitchen table.

"Transportation is a critical, critical issue, in terms of time and cost," Steve Miller, an at-large board member of Illinois Specialty Growers Association, said recently during a virtual session at the annual Illinois Specialty Crop Conference.

Here's the rub, though: To assure that food is fresh when it arrives, the fewer literal moving parts the better.

"If produce comes in from a producer on Thursday or Friday, then sits in a warehouse over the week, it doesn't get to the families until Monday or Tuesday," said Dan Kenney, the founder of DeKalb County Community Gardens, who attended the virtual conference.

In DeKalb, nonprofits have finally cut out the middle man.

'Night and day' difference in DeKalb County

Enter Klein's Farms in Elgin, just on the other side of the DeKalb County line. Since late last spring, the farm has been selling produce directly to nonprofits in the county at wholesale prices.

"The quality is night and day," said Joey Moore, who runs the Barb Food Mart that's served the DeKalb School District 428 community since 2012. "When they're out picking produce that morning, it's the highest quality."

"And there's the nutritional value," Kenney added. "Once you harvest something, it starts losing its nutritional value right away."

Even before Klein's partnered with DCCG and the Food Mart, DeKalb County was light years ahead of other parts of the state in terms of getting food from farm to table as quickly as possible.

Kenney founded DCCG a couple of months after Barb Food Mart launched in 2012. DCCG has since produced more than 200,000 pounds of food, according to its website. In 2017, it launched its Grow Mobile refrigerated truck program. In January alone, two trucks will make 11 distribution stops around



Joey Moore, director of the Barb Food Mart, stocks the pantry housed at Huntley Middle School in DeKalb. (IPA photo by Christopher Heimerman)

the county.

The end result? Rather than receiving produce that's sat on shelves at food pantries, or been donated by grocers who can no longer sell it, families in need in DeKalb are getting farm-fresh produce.

"The message it sends out to people attending food pantries is that they deserve fresh, high-quality food," said Heather Edwards, DCCG's associate director who has overseen the launch of the Genoa Area Community Food Hub in the northern reaches of the county. "We all deserve that. Nobody should feel that they get a lesser quality than they deserve. It's about their dignity."

Moore said it's common for food donated by grocers to be inedible — "I've gotten salad that's basically soup," she said — and that the only reason it gets donated is so the businesses can write it off.

Food security is in relatively good shape in DeKalb County because a lot of work has gone into it.

DCCG has more than 70 partners and sponsors. A food security council made up of growers, food pantries, the health department, even hospital staff have resumed meeting on a monthly basis. That community buy-in keeps all the key prongs — funding, infrastructure and transportation — running in concert.

Kenney has been working with Steve Ericson, executive director of Feeding Illinois, an association of food banks throughout the state, for a few years, and hopes to help other regions emulate DeKalb's success.

According to data on Feeding Illinois' website, about one in 10 Illinois residents struggles with hunger, including one in every eight children, and it would cost more than \$630 million to meet the statewide food need.

Farmers sound off during session

Ericson and Shantanu Pai, an assistant sustainability re-

searcher with the University of Illinois' Prairie Research Institute, hosted the virtual convention session. They, along with the growers association and Illinois Farm Bureau are carrying out a six-step process that will culminate with launching pilot programs throughout the state that address food insecurity.

The study is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to Food Bank grant. Ericson said it's imperative to find funding mechanisms beyond communities' contributions.

"We have a tendency to always go back to donations," Ericson said. "I've been around this long enough to know we're not going to end food insecurity on donations."

He and Pai hope to get at least 10 percent of the state's 3,000 specialty growers to fill out a survey and share what incentives and programs have helped get fresh food into the hands of people in need.

"People don't often write about what they've tried that hasn't worked," Pai said. "We'd really like to know what people have tried in the past, and what simply didn't work."

While he awaits survey results, a few farmers sounded off during the session.

Nicoele Arseneau, who along with Bill Belluso owns and operates 3 Winds Farm in Kankakee, said the area is

poverty-stricken and small farms want to donate their surplus, but the local food bank won't take perishable items because it has nowhere to store them.

Ericson immediately intervened.

"You and I need to talk," he said, before sharing his contact information with her.

Louise Meyer, an Illinois Herb Association board member, piggy-backed on Miller's concerns with transportation. She said her business, Amrita Naturals in Elburn, actually got out of the vegetable business.

"We had plenty of organic produce, but the transportation cost — we were left to do that," she said. "We were donating it, but we didn't see how we could afford to transport it."

She said Illinois is a bit behind the 8-ball, that the food needed in the north — Chicagoland in particular — is predominantly grown in southern Illinois.

"Can you even get it there while it's edible, especially during the summer?" she said.

She said when she worked on the East Coast, things ran smoothly and electronically. Farmers were reimbursed at the point of pickup.

Kenney said the Ohio government budgets \$15 million a year for food grown by local farmers.

"If Illinois could ever get out of debt, that's something we could work toward," he said.



Applications being accepted for Wetland Reserve Easements

CHAMPAIGN — Ivan Dozier, State Conservationist, announced the application period for the 2021 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-WRE). USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps provide long-term protection of Illinois' farmland, wetlands and grasslands through ACEP.

"The first application cut-off date has been established," Dozier explains. "Right now we're accepting applications for Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). Applications that are received and meet program eligibility by Feb. 5, 2021 will be considered for the 2021 program."

For ACEP-WRE in FY21, Illinois was allocated \$4.5 million. NRCS may establish a second application funding cutoff opportunity later this year if all funds are not used in the first application cutoff or if more funds become available. Dozier reminds farmers and landowners they can apply for ACEP—and all conservation programs—at any time, as sign-up is continuous and applications can be submitted any time.

NRCS offers two types of easements through ACEP: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland

Reserve Easements (WRE). NRCS will establish an application cutoff for ALE at a later date. NRCS is still finalizing ranking criteria for fiscal year 2021. The Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs) are DRAFT but available for applicants to view. The GARCs establish the rate per acre that NRCS pays to landowners for the ACEP-WRE easement.

The purpose of the Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) is to help landowners enhance and protect habitat for wetland wildlife on their lands, reduce impacts from flooding, recharge groundwater, provide outdoor recreation, and increase habitat for migratory waterfowl.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of these easements, and eligible landowners can choose to enroll in either a permanent easement or a 30-year easement. To apply for a wetlands easement through ACEP - WRE, visit NRCS at your local USDA Service Center.

Find more information about ACEP and other NRCS conservation programs in Illinois online at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/il/programs/>.



2021 Cover Crop Program application period ends

SPRINGFIELD — The second year of the Illinois Department of Agriculture's (IDOA) Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program ended with 768 applications requesting over 185,000 acres submitted to IDOA.

The discount program opened the application period at 12:01 a.m. Dec. 15 and saw the acreage limit met within its first 24-hours. In 2019, over 500 applications requesting over 133,000 acres were received. Consistent with last year's program, qualified applicants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We were expecting great interest after a successful first year, but to meet our 50,000-acre allotment so quickly was astonishing," said Jerry Costello II, IDOA Acting Director. "It shows there's a great interest out there for cover crops and IDOA is committed to promoting conservation farming in Illinois."

All Fall Cover for Spring Savings acres that were applied for are still being certified with the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (USDA-RMA) crop insurance program. The certification process is currently underway and applicants will receive an email in the next 30 days to notify them of whether they will receive a premium discount.

The program is applicable for acreage in Illinois planted to cover crops in the fall of

2020 that will be planted to an insurable crop in 2021. Recipients of the premium discount program receive \$5 per acre on the following year's crop insurance for every acre of cover crop enrolled and verified in the program.

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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
Arturo Hermosillo, 36, of 111 S. 13th Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after an investigative traffic stop at 111 S. 13th Ave. at 5:05 p.m. Jan. 20. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED
Roger A. Wilde, 67, of Aurora, was charged with driving while license suspended after a welfare check on a vehicle at 2705 E 12th St. at 10:07 p.m. Jan. 21. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST
Heather R. Vickrey, 26, of 618 ½ Main St., Mendota, was arrested at 9:36 p.m. Jan. 22 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST
Candice J. Bonnell, 42, of 714 Illinois Ave., Mendota, was arrested at 10:48 p.m. Jan. 22 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for contempt of court. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

AGGRAVATED BATTERY
Matthew S. Williams, 40, of 111 S. 13th Ave., Lot C-5, Mendota, was charged with aggravated battery after police officers were called to his residence at 10:52 p.m. Jan. 23. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County Jail.

NO VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
Ivan Gomez, 33, of 1109 Sixth St., Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Indiana Avenue and Jefferson Street at 10:10 p.m. Jan. 24. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

20-year-old Mendota man dies in 2-vehicle crash on Route 251

MENDOTA – A 20-year-old Mendota man died in a two-vehicle accident on Route 251 on Jan. 20.
Kaine M. Pizano-Olson, of Mendota, died at the scene of the crash, which occurred at approximately 4:53 a.m. south of Mendota on Route 251, one-quarter mile north of North 40th Road. His vehicle collided with a semi-trailer truck driven by Kyle Hall, 28, of Amboy.
According to a report from the LaSalle County Sheriff's Department, Hall stated he was southbound on Route 251 about one-quarter mile north of North 40th Road when a northbound vehicle driven by Pizano-Olson veered off the road and appeared to attempt to regain control. The vehicle driven by Pizano-Olson crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic and crashed head-on into the Hall vehicle in the southbound lane.
Hall was transported to OSF Saint Paul Medical Center for treatment. He was charged with failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.
The accident is under investigation by the LaSalle County Coroner's Office, the Illinois State Police Accident Reconstruction Team and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Department.

Keep fire hydrants clear of obstruction

MENDOTA – The Mendota Fire Department would like to ask residents of Mendota that during snow removal efforts to keep fire hydrants free from obstruction of snow. As you blade, shovel or push snow off your driveways and sidewalks, take time to clear away the snow from around fire hydrants.
During a fire, seconds count. The extra minute removing snow from around fire hydrants may save you or your neighbor's home. If you are unable to clear the snow from around hydrants yourself, call the City Clerk's office at (815) 539-7459.
Also, keep your house numbers readily visible. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

IVCC offering many scholarships

OGLESBY – Students planning to attend Illinois Valley Community College next fall are encouraged to apply online for approximately 130 scholarships totaling over \$300,000.
Current students, high school seniors and anyone else planning to enroll in fall or spring 2021-22 are welcome to apply for the IVCC Foundation awards.
Scholarships, valued at \$500 to \$4,500, are available in specific disciplines ranging from agriculture, to healthcare, to STEM fields. In addition, there are about 40 "open scholarships" available to students in any discipline.
The online application must be submitted by 9 p.m. Feb. 11.
Visit www.ivcc.edu/scholarships to access the application. For questions, contact Foundation secretary Donna Swiskoski at (815) 224-0551 or donna_swiskoski@ivcc.edu.



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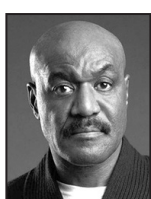
By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- In the late 1950s, when major film studios were losing patrons to television, they were desperate to come up with ways to get moviegoers away from their TVs and back into theaters. Among their brainstorms were CinemaScope, Stereophonic Sound, Scratch & Sniff (a card you sniffed for an enhanced viewing experience) and, of course, 3D. They even wired seats to give shocks during horror films.

More recently, movie distributors reinvented 3D, and with IMAX got moviegoers away from their TVs, computers and other electronic devices. With theater closures because of the pandemic, movie studios began releasing films, such as Warner Brothers' "Wonder Woman 1984," to theaters overseas, in the U.S. at drive-ins and on streaming platforms. "WW84" would normally have been a tent pole release in IMAX, but Warner Bros., which was having difficulty finding subscribers for its HBO Max streaming platform, saw its subscriptions balloon from

8.6 million to 12.6 million on the opening day of "WW84," which grossed \$85 million worldwide. All this has prompted WB to fast-track "Wonder Woman 3" into pre-production for a quick release.

The New York Film Critics annual picks, made prior to award season, are usually on the money. Their picks have often been a barometer for the Oscars. However, this year will be tough. Some of their choices may be unfamiliar to most of us. British-American actor Delroy Lindo (best known for "Malcolm X") nabbed best actor, while the late Chadwick Boseman was named best supporting actor, both for Spike Lee's "Da 5 Bloods," about vets who return to Vietnam seeking the remains of their fallen squad leader. The best actress nod went to 21-year-old non-binary woman Sidney Flanigan (that's another story) for "Never Rarely Sometimes Always," which concerns



D. Lindo

two teenage girls who travel to NYC to get medical help for an unintended pregnancy. The best supporting actress pick was Maria Bakalova, the 24-year-old Bulgarian actress who played Tutar Sagdiyer in "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm." The critics' choice for best picture was "First Cow," about two travelers on the run from vengeful hunters in the 1920s Northwest dreaming to strike it rich. It all boils down to the secret use of a prized dairy cow.

Will you be returning to theaters when they reopen, or like most of us, will you become a couch potato, streaming films at home on the half dozen platforms available to us?

Dwayne Johnson is producing and starring in "Black Adam," a 1940s DC Comic book villain corrupted by power, who becomes an anti-hero in the 2000s with his disregard for rules and conventions. What will they think of next: "Black Ev" for the sequel?

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Couch Theater

By Amy Anderson

Shame, shame, shame? A few years back on Facebook, I outed myself for a movie faux pas -- I had never seen "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." It's one of those films that are quoted and referenced in all manner of ways, assuming much of the time that it's been universally viewed. And it turns out there are a great many of these films and just as many people out there who have never seen them -- in the dark about their plots, not in on the joke and never intending to be. My post became a completely unofficial survey, with several titles popping up again and again. Have you seen them? What's your guilty little movie secret?

"Star Wars" -- George Lucas' space saga has many chapters, and very opinionated fans. There are those who have seen the first three films from 1977-1983 (episodes 4, 5 and 6), but not the prequel trilogy from 1999-2005 (episodes 1, 2 and 3). Or those who have seen

1-6 (all by Lucas), but not the subsequent trilogy (episodes 7, 8 and 9) done after he sold the franchise.

"Gone With the Wind" -- The Civil War raged, Scarlet O'Hara pouted and Rhett Butler didn't give a damn. So, too, did several people in my survey, who admitted that an almost four-hour running time was no enticement to view this 1939 classic.

"The Goonies" -- This mid-'80s adventure starring Sean Astin as a little kid who chases the legend of One-Eyed Willie was pure gold to me, but not to many of my younger friends, who admit to not having made time to "Never Say Die!"

"The Godfather" -- Marlon Brando and Al Pacino shepherd the Corleone family through good times and bad, but you have to see it to know what offer the Don makes that can't be refused or what it means when someone "sleeps with the fishes."

"The Wizard of Oz" -- "Follow the yellow brick road" to a place that's "not in Kansas anymore." Many

of my respondents admitted that even if they hadn't seen the film start to finish, they feel like they've seen it as ubiquitously as the film is referenced.

"A Christmas Story" and "It's a Wonderful Life" -- Two holiday masterpieces that run so much during the season that it's hard to believe ANYONE could have escaped viewing, but nonetheless both ranked highly on the secretly-never-seen list.

"Pulp Fiction" -- Quentin Tarantino turned the movie-making industry on its head with this super-cool and eminently quotable flick that weaves together the stories of criminals and criminal adjacents.

"The Sound of Music" -- Julie Andrews plays Maria, governess to seven children, who sparks a love of music and joy that lead to a family band. Today's teeny-boppers may be surprised to find that one of this musical's numbers is the source of Ariana Grande's "7 Rings" riff.

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: I just watched "News of the World" with Tom Hanks, and he was great as always, but who was the little girl in the movie? How old is she in real life? She was really good, and I could see her being around on screen for years to come. -- **A.G.**



Tom Hanks

A: "News of the World," which was released in theaters and via video-on-demand, is a post-Civil War era film directed by Paul Greenberg. Hanks' character makes his money by reading the newspaper to townspeople as he travels throughout Texas. Along his journey, he finds an orphaned girl, played by Helena Zengel, and the two ride through treacherous territory, in more ways than one, to rehome her with her mother's relatives.

Zengel is 12 years old. She caught the attention of Greenberg with her lead performance in "System Crasher," which earned her the German equivalent of a best actress Oscar. She speaks her native German,

but had to learn the language of the Kiowa people in "News" since her character was raised by the Native American tribe after her parents were murdered.

"News of the World" was filmed around Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is based on the 2016 novel by Paulette Jiles. I suspect you'll be seeing much more of Zengel in the years to come. She's never had an acting class and really held her own against the seasoned Hanks and other strong actors in the film, including Mare Winningham ("The Affair") and Elizabeth Marvel ("Law & Order: SVU").

Q: What happened to teen singer Brandy? Is she still around? I never hear about her anymore. -- **F.A.**

A: In yet another confirmation of the cliché "time flies," teen singer Brandy is 41 years old! She won a Grammy at age 19 for her duet "The Boy Is Mine" with singer Monica, and also became a TV star with her hit sitcom "Moesha" on the UPN channel. However, her fame had already been solidified when she attended Kobe Bryant's high-school prom as his date.

Brandy has had her share

of ups and downs. She was in a car accident in 2006 and has battled severe depression, but decided to seek help for the sake of her daughter, Sy'Rai, who is now 18. Brandy also has a new album out, her first in eight years, titled "B7."

Q: Is there going to be another season of "Riverdale" on Netflix? If so, when? I hope we don't have to wait too long. -- **G.G.**

A: The new season of "Riverdale," its fifth, premiered Jan. 20. The first three episodes were originally intended to cap the end of season four, but due to the pandemic, they weren't able to complete last season's scripted episodes.

According to TVGuide.com, the new season will begin by wrapping up the teens' senior year of high school, with their prom and graduation. After that, the writers have figured out a way for the group to return to town in a storyline that will launch the remainder of season five.

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

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• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: The United States shares a land border with how many countries?
2. HISTORY: When did the Great Fire of London take place?
3. MEASUREMENTS: What does a sphygmomanometer measure?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of food has varieties called castelvetrano, manzanilla and nyon?
5. TELEVISION: What was the name of the Coneheads' home planet ("Saturday Night Live")?
6. MOVIES: How many versions of "A Star Is Born" have been made?
7. LITERATURE: The title of William Faulkner's novel "The Sound and the Fury" is taken from which of Shakespeare's plays?
8. SCIENCE: What does the

- acronym DNA stand for?
9. MUSIC: What is a diggeridoo?
 10. CURRENCY: Whose likeness is depicted on the U.S. \$50 bill?

Answers

1. Two, Mexico and Canada
2. 1666
3. Blood pressure
4. Olives
5. Remulak
6. Four
7. "Macbeth"
8. Deoxyribonucleic Acid
9. An Australian wind instrument
10. Ulysses Grant

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Atlas page
- 2 Act of faith?
- 3 TV's "Warrior Princess"
- 4 Oklahoma city
- 5 Operatic solo
- 6 Sick as --
- 7 Newscast opener
- 8 Cathedral area
- 9 Villes
- 10 Half of a '60s group
- 11 Sad song
- 12 Begged
- 13 Early Peruvian
- 14 Taylor Swift's genre, say
- 15 R-V link
- 16 Beetle
- 17 Bailey's boss
- 18 As well
- 19 Auctioneer's cry
- 20 Citi Field team
- 21 Society new-bie
- 22 Neptune's realm
- 23 Ride the waves
- 24 Actress Cameron
- 25 Cowboy Cassidy
- 26 Challenge
- 27 Matty of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
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49				50				51		

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| baseball | 7 Salary | 28 Mozart's "— fan tutte" |
| 48 Old Olds | 8 Idyllic place | 30 Whirl |
| 49 Auctioneer's cry | 9 Dutch cheese | 33 Stunned |
| 50 Citi Field team | 10 Bright star | 34 Sagan or Sandburg |
| 51 Society new-bie | 11 Mellows | 36 Waikiki wind-dings |
| | 12 Long tale | 37 Probability |
| | 13 Viral Web phenomenon | 38 Pisa farewell |
| | 14 Platter | 39 British noble |
| | 15 Division word | 40 Espy |
| | 16 Sweat outlets | 42 Deli meat |
| | 17 Women's links org. | 43 Flamenco cheer |
| | 18 Buddies | 44 Born abroad? |
| | 19 Silicon Valley school | 45 Sailor |
| | 20 Cupid's alias | |
| | 21 Tire filler | |
| | 22 Teeny bit | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		6	7			3	
5				8			2
	7				6	9	
		9		7			6
7			2			9	
	4				3	8	
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1			4				5
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

— Weekly SUDOKU —



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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* The human brain would be able to perform 38 quadrillion (38 thousand trillion) operations per second if it were a computer.

* Lisa Jakub, who played teenager Lydia Hilliard in "Mrs. Doubtfire," was kicked out of her Toronto school for taking the five-month-long film gig. When co-star Robin Williams found out, he wrote a letter to the school asking them to reconsider. School officials framed his letter, but didn't change their mind about Jakub.

* Pope Francis was once a nightclub bouncer in his native Argentina.

* Neptune was the first planet to be found through mathematical predictions rather than telescopic location.

* The Iberian ribbed newt uses its own bones as weapons! Special tubercles in its abdomen allow its ribs to poke out through its skin when the newt is frightened. As an added bonus, the skin secretes a toxic chemical, turning this little creature into a killer of anything that tries to bite it.

* Allodophobia is the fear of opinions.

* In Ghana, people like to be buried in something that represents their lives. These include coffins shaped like planes for pilots, fish for fishermen and a Mercedes for a businessman.

* Many companies try to be as ethical and environmentally friendly as possible, but Stella McCartney bags took that initiative a step further by making some of the accessories out of corn.

* "Psycho" was the first movie to show a toilet flushing.

* As part of standard convention, pilots and co-pilots do not eat the same food before a flight in case of food poisoning (or worse). If one of the pilots is incapacitated (in other words, unable to leave the bathroom), the other pilot can take over.

Thought for the Day: "The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

KIDS' FUN PAGE



What's the Difference?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B



Answers: 1. Extra glue stick 2. Leaf missing
3. More grass around tree on left 4. Another tree trunk and branches drawn on right

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1573:** FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS SANCTIONED IN POLAND WITH THE SIGNING OF THE WARSAW CONFEDERATION.
- **1813:** "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE" BY JANE AUSTEN IS PUBLISHED.
- **1915:** THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IS CREATED BY MERGING THE U.S. LIFE SAVING SERVICE AND THE U.S. REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE.



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ANSWER: MUSEE DU LOUVRE

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Paint

SPANISH: Pintar

ITALIAN: Dipingere

FRENCH: Peindre

GERMAN: Malen



ARTISTIC ABILITY AND CREATIVITY ARE TWO DIFFERENT TRAITS. GOOD ARTISTS MUST HAVE A COMBINATION OF BOTH TO BE SUCCESSFUL.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: EASEL

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LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC vying for Central Illinois Manufacturing Academy

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College will join a four-college consortium vying for a \$7.5 million Central Illinois Manufacturing Academy.

If the consortium's grant application is one of two chosen by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the academy would be built in East Peoria near Illinois Central College. Satellite sites would be at IVCC, Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield and Spoon River College in Canton.

The academy would significantly enhance IVCC's ability to meet advanced manufacturing workforce needs, President Jerry Corcoran told the IVCC Board of Trustees on Jan. 14. There are an estimated 45,000 manufacturing jobs in the four-college region.

As a satellite, IVCC would receive \$100,000 to upgrade its manufacturing facilities. In return, IVCC commits to paying \$40,000 per year over three years for operational expenses such as the employment of a full-time manager and lab assistant at the academy.

"In my mind, extraordinary benefits to IVCC include shared curriculum, data collection, instructional materials including online training software, apprenticeships, common instructional training and part-time faculty," Corcoran said.

"The academy will provide students access to credentials that lead to high-paying, family-sustaining wages," he said. "It will benefit traditional students and nontraditional students upgrading their skills, and employers in need of worker training."

Each site would offer welding, manual machining, manufacturing basics, and

"The academy will provide students access to credentials that lead to high-paying, family-sustaining wages. It will benefit traditional students and nontraditional students upgrading their skills, and employers in need of worker training."

– Jerry Corcoran, IVCC president

essential skills. Rapid prototyping, quality assurance and AWS welding certification and online instruction will be offered through the East Peoria site.

Corcoran said DCEO is expected to announce its central and southern Illinois academy sites by early spring so the initiative can be "well underway by fall."

In other action, the board approved short-term criminal justice certificates in social justice, criminology and forensic science.

The 21-credit social justice certificate is for students interested in racial disparity, unequal representation, government control and an imbalanced criminal justice system. Courses in African American History, Women Through Culture and Centuries, Police Community Relations and Social Problems are included, among others.

The 21-credit criminology certificate is tailored for students interested in sociology, psychology and the exploration of the criminal mind and "what makes a person commit a crime," said Kevin Hermes, criminal justice program coordinator.

Forensic Science is for students interested in the physical sciences and criminal investigation. The 20-hour certificate includes chemistry and biology courses.

The board also approved:

- Purchase of 20 multi-

stage welders from Airgas USA for \$59,872 for the welding program.

- A two-year contract renewal with Blackboard for a total of \$113,423.

- Extension of the leasing agreement for two trucks with Central Truck Leasing for \$44,631 for truck driver training.

- Emergency underground pipe repairs by John's Service and Sales of Oglesby for \$37,811. The hot water return pipe between buildings C and G was leaking.

- The full-time appointment of welding instructor Theresa Molln who had been a part-time instructor in the program.

- The resignation of agriculture instructor Kathryn Seebuck effective May 22. "I am a scientist both by training and by heart and hope to pursue it as my profession. It will be difficult to leave the faculty, staff and administration at IVCC," Seebuck said in her letter of resignation.

- The retirement of nursing instructor Pam Mamma who began teaching at IVCC in 1989 and was hired full-time in 1993. "I have enjoyed working with the students and my co-workers for the last 30 plus years," she said. "I am excited with the direction that I believe Dr. (Jennifer) Grobe will lead the nursing division." Her retirement is effective Aug. 14.

- The retirement of Vice President for Business Services and Finance Cheryl

Roelfsema effective July 31. Roelfsema, who has held her current position since 2008, said in her letter to Corcoran, "It has been a privilege to be part of your management team and I appreciate the confidence and trust you and the Board of Trustees have placed in me."

- Changes to board policies involving alternative credit, chronic communicable diseases and required academic placement testing.

- Closed session meeting minutes from Dec. 10.

- Additional data breach notification and monitoring services with Kroll for \$71,551. In October, the board contracted with Kroll for nearly \$260,000 to notify potential victims of the April data breach incident. Approximately 162,000 names were submitted as potential victims. Since then, the college discovered additional potential victims.

In other business, trustees learned:

- A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the college and American Federation of Teachers Local 1810 entitled "COVID-19 Quarantine Day."

- An update was made to the student code of conduct.

- The college is contracting with Cumulus Media Chicago on a digital marketing campaign to run February through August.

- Ottawa Center information specialist Vicky Jackson has resigned.

- A \$13,673 change order was made in the Building C air handler replacement project.

- There were 160 fall graduates earning 175 degree and certificates compared to 153 graduates earning 178 graduates in fall 2019.

- Student trustee Naomi Ochuba of Peru participated

in her first meeting. Ochuba will serve through the May 22 commencement.

- Corcoran credited the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for facilitating a Jan. 13 development day presentation by Paul Gorski and Marceline Dubose. The presentation will help the college develop its DEI plan, Corcoran said.

- Overall fall GPA for athletes was 3.09 including a women's basketball GPA of 3.19.

- Corcoran thanked LaSalle County Health Department Administrator Julie Kerestes and her staff "for being so responsive to everyone's needs during the pandemic."

- The new Illinois Valley Career Guide for 2021-22 will soon be available.

- Corcoran credited director of facilities Scott Curly, Casey Wood and his G4S coworkers, and Oglesby police for their handling of the Dec. 29 campus incident in which shots were fired.

- Spring semester classes began Jan. 14 but students can still enroll in second 8-week classes starting March 22 such as CNA, phlebotomy, medical assisting, criminal law, business, keyboarding, wellness, psychology, Spanish, therapeutic massage, forklift operations and welding.

- Corcoran read a letter from LaSalle-Peru High School Supt. Steve Wroblewski referencing a recently created IVCC Foundation scholarship for LP students in memory of former IVCC librarian Melva Richards. Wroblewski said, "This is another example of the amazing relationship between the college and high school. I have no doubt Mrs. Richards helped me find a book at some point during my time as a student at IVCC."

Snowmobile 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 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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LOCAL AND AREA

Decisions, decisions!

One of the greatest gifts the Lord has given us is the power to choose. In fact, every day we are faced with literally hundreds of choices. The question is, are we making the right ones?

Think about your own life for a moment. When you have a decision to make, do you normally go with the flow, doing whatever feels right...or do you pray for wisdom and ask the Lord for insight?

I love Proverbs 3:5-

6. It says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (NIV).

If you are anything like me, you know how easy it is to lean "on your own understanding." However, just because something might sound good, feel good, and look like the right thing to do, it doesn't mean it's God's best for you or necessarily the right direction to take.

Let me give you an example. Early in my ministry, I had the idea to do a local TV talk show in St. Louis. We got a group of ladies together who were well educated in the Bible, and we rented some studio space at a local TV station to do the taping.

I was trying to do an interview show, but every time I asked a question, I'd answer it myself! I just couldn't quiet down long enough to let anybody else respond.

Obviously, this didn't work because it was my plan, not God's. In six months we received one piece of mail!

A few years later, the Lord directed us to go on TV and we didn't have a clue what we were doing. We rented a banquet room where the ceiling was too low and some of the tiles were caving in. We placed a podium on a stage, and for a backdrop we took this blue thing that looked like a shower curtain and strung it up on a pole behind me.

It looked ridiculous, but the very first day my program aired, we received 125 calls! That was the beginning of our television ministry, which continued to expand and now airs



throughout two-thirds of the world.

Proverbs 3:7 says, "Do not be wise in your own eyes." I believe God is telling us, "Don't think you can run your life and do a good job without My help and direction."

Sure, we can come up with some good ideas on our own, but many times we settle for good when God wants to give us great.

It seems many Christians struggle with making decisions because they're afraid they won't hear from God. However, the Lord longs to give us direction, and He desires to speak to us in so many ways...

First and foremost, He has given us His Word. The Bible tells us that God's Word is alive, active and powerful (see Hebrews 4:12). In fact, John 1:14 says this about Jesus, "The Word became flesh."

So, when we read and study the Bible, we're not just reading a good book; we are actually spending time with God Himself. And the Bible is our instruction book for life!

The Lord can also speak to us through our conscience, other people, and even the world around us. But one of the main ways the Lord will direct us is through peace. Colossians 3:15

says, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

This is saying that just as the umpire in a ball game decides if the ball or player is "in" or "out," similarly, peace is the umpire that decides if something in our lives should be in or out.

There have been times when I have been invited to speak at a conference or special event, and I have really wanted to accept. However, I didn't have peace about doing it, so I decided to decline.

Now, I may not always know why I shouldn't go, but I have learned (sometimes the hard way) that God knows things I don't.

I encourage you to let the peace in your heart decide with finality every question that arises in your mind. If you are getting ready to make a major decision, ask the Lord for His guidance. Remember, when you acknowledge Him in all your ways, He will direct your path (Proverbs 3:6).

If you aren't used to praying about decisions, it may seem awkward at first. But the more you seek the Lord and ask for help, the easier it gets... and the more sensitive you will become

to His presence and direction.

Don't settle for "good enough." God has a great plan for your future, and as you seek Him for guidance, He will be faithful to lead you in every single decision you make.

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

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

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

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, IL PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF)
GEORGE E.)
THOMPSON,)
DECEASED.)
NO. 2020-P-000253
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of George E. Thompson, of Peru, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 29, 2020, to Robert P. Thompson of Katy, TX, as INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR, whose Attorneys of record are SCHWEICKERT LAW GROUP, LLC, 2101 MARQUETTE ROAD, PERU, IL 61354. Claims against the estate may be e-filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Downtown Coun-

ty Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the Representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this Notice. If the claim notice is personally mailed or delivered to a creditor of the above estate, the claim must be filed in the above entitled cause within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later. Any claims not filed within the above periods are barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 758, par. 5/28-4) any interested person

terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk. Dated: January 11, 2021
Greg Vaccaro
LaSalle County Circuit Clerk
Ottawa, IL 61350
No. 0103
(1/20, 1/27, 2/3 2021)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LA SALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF)
Beverly Bassing,)
Deceased)
Case No. 2020-P-171
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Beverly Bassing of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 3, 2020 to Kimberly Duitsman of 539 Quail Creek Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030 whose attorney

is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa, IL 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before July 30, 2021. If a claim notice is mailed or delivered personally to a creditor of the decedent, the creditor's claim may be filed on or before the date stated in the notice, if later than the date shown above. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed. No. 0105
(1/27, 2/3, 2/10 2021)

NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 6, 2021 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of LaSalle County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Jurassic Bark located at 207 E. 6th Street., Mendota, IL 61342. Dated: January 6, 2021. Tiffany Aska Applicant.
No. 0106 (1/27, 2/3, 2/10 2021)

INFORMATION

Office Hours:
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Fax:
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Email:
jgriffith@mendotareporter.com
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Mendota IL 61342-0300

DEADLINES:

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

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 high-traffic newspaper websites:
• Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

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

DISCLAIMER:

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers
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127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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Mendota High School is accepting applications for a Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach beginning in the 2020-21 season.

Submit applications to Steve Hanson, athletic director. Telephone 815-539-7446, FAX 815-539-3103 or email shanson@mendotahs.org.
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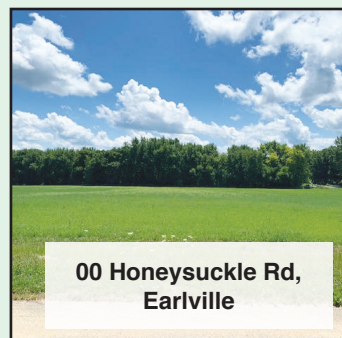
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Marty McConville, Broker 815-200-2233

Richard McConville, Broker 815-539-5673

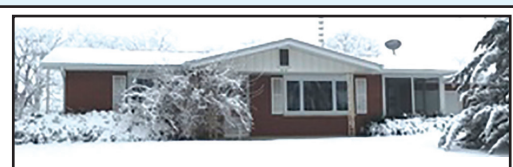
Sharon Kimrey, Broker 815-343-3600

Melody Nanzer, Broker 815-228-2842

Ryan Coss, Broker 815-830-8636



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



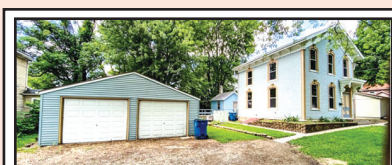
MLS #10967058 \$169,900 610 Sunset
Ave, Earlville, IL Nice brick ranch, 2
bedroom with a partial basement. 2
car attached garage. Large Lot. Call
McConville Realty for all the amenities.



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.



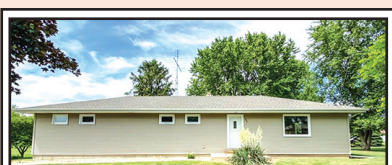
MLS# 10908570 3644 E. 5th Rd, \$187,000 Follow
Vermillion St in Troy Grove over rail road track and house is
on the left side on the curve.. Unique property siton on 3
acres. 3 car garage, swimming pool above ground, jacuzzi,
fenced yard for small dogs. 3 bedrooms 2 bath. Lower
level family room with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



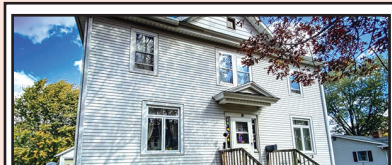
1506 Lincoln Ave., Mendota \$125,500
Remarkable 3 bedroom 2-story home in Mendota on a
wooded and shaded lot! If you are a fan of old houses, this
is the one for you. Features stunning wood flooring, 2 huge
bathrooms, a walk in closet, and an area for laundry. Tons
of updates, ask to see the checklist! There is a large deck
attached to the back with a super unique summer kitchen!
2 car garage with large workshop and office w/air condition/
heat within it.



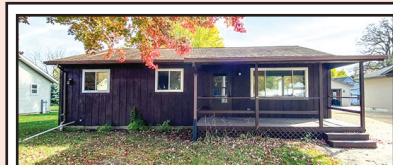
206 S. Poplar St., Sublette \$133,900
Captivating and spacious 2 story Sublette home.
Features 3 beautifully bright bedrooms, an office, and
1 bathroom. Stunning natural woodwork throughout
the entire home. Equipped with central air and heat, as
well as provisions for a woodburner. All appliances stay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



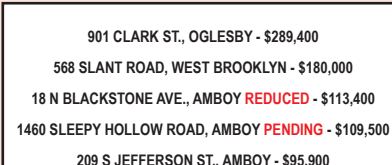
606 West Main St., Sublette \$129,900
Charming 2 bedroom 1 bathroom home in Sublette.
Just updated with all new lavish flooring, windows,
doors, trim, and so much more. Ask realtor for
property checklist. Kitchen cabinets were just
professionally refinished and the counter tops are
NEW. Move in ready! 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.



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



901 CLARK ST., OGLESBY - \$289,400
568 SLANT ROAD, WEST BROOKLYN - \$180,000
18 N BLACKSTONE AVE., AMBOY **REDUCED** - \$113,400
1460 SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD, AMBOY **PENDING** - \$109,500
209 S JEFFERSON ST., AMBOY - \$95,900
112 S. MASON, AMBOY **PENDING** - \$49,900
109 W. MAIN ST, SUBLETTE - \$20,000
**SEE US ABOUT WOODHAVEN
LAKES PROPERTIES**

*From all of us at Erbes Realty we wish
you an amazing 2021 and thank you for
your continued support!*



1922 Tower Rd., Sublette, IL
815-535-6295



Lori Erbes, GRI
Designated Managing Broker

Abigail Vaessen, Broker
815-508-9715

