



Mendota City Council adopts FY21 tax levy

Homeowners should see decrease on tax bill

MENDOTA – The Mendota City Council adopted its tax levy and renewed insurance premiums during a special meeting held telephonically on Dec. 16.

Alderman John Holland, serving as mayor pro-tem, presented the Fiscal Year 2020 annual audit, and said the city received an unmodified opinion by the auditing firm, which means it was a good report. The FY20 audit has been placed on file.

The council adopted the Fiscal Year 2021 annual tax levy. The total levy request is \$1,974,761, which is a 2.3 percent increase from FY20. However, mainly because of TIF VI sun-setting, the assessed valuation increased and therefore the city's overall tax rate will decrease. So, homeowners should see a decrease in the city's portion of their tax bill next year.

Leaders optimistic with the Moderna vaccine on horizon

By SARAH MANSUR
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker announced Dec. 18 that more than 17,000 doses of the first coronavirus vaccine have been administered to Illinois frontline health care workers outside of Chicago, up from 3,500 doses the day before.

Pritzker said Illinois hospitals could begin to receive shipments of a second COVID-19 vaccine, developed by the drug company Moderna, as early as this week. That announcement comes one day after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's advisory committee recommended the use of the Moderna vaccine in people ages 18 and older. The FDA is expected to grant Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine.

The first vaccine, developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, received such authorization from the FDA last week.

The Moderna vaccine was shown to be 94.1 percent effective after two doses four weeks apart, compared to the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine that was found 95 percent effective after two doses three weeks apart.

"This is yet another very exciting development, and it reinforces and it brightens the light at the end of the tunnel for all of us who have been fighting through COVID-19," Pritzker said.

Two of the state's 11 mitigation regions—Region 1, which encompasses the northern and western portion of the state, and Region 6, which covers portions of eastern and central Illinois—have met the conditions laid out by the Pritzker administration to return to Tier 2 mitigations, from Tier 3,

which all 11 regions entered by Nov. 20. But the governor said that does not mean existing regulations will be rolled back in the near future.

Both Region 1 and Region 6 have experienced a test positivity rate less than 12 percent for three consecutive days, had greater than 20 percent available intensive care unit and medical or surgical bed availability for three consecutive days, and saw a decline in the number of COVID-19 patients in the hospital in 7 out of the last 10 days.

Tier 3 mitigations strictly limit capacity at retail stores and other Illinois businesses and require casinos and video gambling terminals to close, among other economic restrictions, which would no longer apply in Tier 2. However, Tier 2 mitigations still prohibit indoor dining at restaurants or bars.

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IDVA officials say COVID-19 outbreak slowing at the LaSalle Veterans' Home

House Committee begins hearing about state's response to virus entering facility

By SARAH MANSUR
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—Infection control efforts at the LaSalle Veterans' Home have curbed the spread of the coronavirus since a deadly outbreak began at the facility last month, according to officials who testified last week before a House committee investigating the matter.

That outbreak has caused at least 33 resident deaths, the latest of which was reported two weeks ago.

The House committee on Dec. 16 heard testimony from Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs officials, including Director Linda Chapa LaVia, Chief of Staff Anthony Kolbeck, Illinois Department of Public Health medical consultant Dr. Avery Hart, and interim LaSalle Administrator Anthony Vaughn.

Despite that progress in containing transmission, several lawmakers on the committee raised concerns to IDVA officials about the state's response from when the initial outbreak was reported on Nov. 1 to the first on-site visit by an



official with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on Nov. 12.

The in-person subject matter hearing, which lasted about three hours, is the committee's first regarding the root cause of the outbreak at LaSalle. Committee chairwoman Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, said she expects the committee will have additional hearings into the matter.

The state Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held its own remote subject

matter hearing on Nov. 24.

Vaughn has been in charge of the home since when former administrator Angela Mehlbrech was fired several weeks ago. Kolbeck said he couldn't comment on her firing because it was a personnel matter.

Kifowit said Illinois Department of Public Health officials declined to attend the hearing—aside from the consultant Hart—citing an ongoing internal investigation into the LaSalle outbreak.

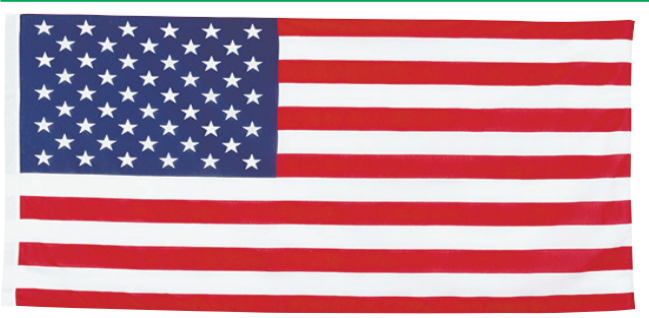
There are currently 16 residents still positive for the virus out of the 93 total residents remaining at LaSalle, and one positive employee, according to an IDVA spokesperson.

More than a quarter of the facility's residents have died since the first resident tested positive on Nov. 1. By Nov. 7, test results showed 22 residents and seven staff were positive. By Nov. 8, 59 residents and 64 staff tested positive for COVID-19.

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SEE SHOPPE LOCAL DIRECTORY AT WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM



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LOCAL AND AREA

Santa visits Mendota

Santa Claus, escorted by the Mendota Police Department, took a ride through Mendota with the 2019 Mini Queen Kennedy Mellott and King Landon Kent on Dec. 16. The Mendota Chamber of Commerce thanked sponsors – Mendota Optimist Club, Mendota Lions Club, Mendota Business & Professional Women, Mendota Women of the Moose and Mendota Rotary Club – who helped make this night possible. The Chamber also thanks Tony Troyer T2 Enterprises & Arabian Carriage, the Mendota FFA Alumni, and everyone for all the donations that were received during the event, which will go to Operation Elf Action. If you would still like to make a donation to Operation Elf Action you may drop off or mail to the Mendota Chamber of Commerce. (Photo contributed)



OSF Saint Paul to host blood and plasma drive, Jan. 8

MENDOTA – Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) will hold a blood drive from noon until 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8 in Conference Room C at OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center in Mendota.

Volunteer blood donors are invited to support the local blood supply by scheduling an appointment to give blood. Please call the Community Health Services Department at (815) 539-1411 to schedule (appointments required) and bring a photo ID for use in donor registration.

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is also accepting referrals from individuals who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection and would now like to be scheduled for plasma donation to help newly diagnosed patients fight the disease. Potential donors who can provide documentation of a laboratory-confirmed positive test for COVID-19 and meet other health and safety criteria, will be scheduled for a COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) donation.

Individual donors and care providers may refer themselves or their patients via the referral form available at www.bloodcenter.org or by calling (833) 610-1025. For additional information, potential donors or physicians may send inquiries to patientservices@mvrbc.org.

CCP donors must be fully recovered from their COVID-19 infection and must meet all standard eligibility criteria for blood donation. Plasma will only be collected from donors with laboratory-confirmed tests showing they had a COVID-19 infection and must be at least 28 days from the last date they experienced symptoms. These donors will have antibodies to help fight COVID-19 and will be scheduled for a plasma donation at a nearby donor center or mobile blood drive.

MVRBC is based in Davenport, Iowa with regional operations in Urbana (Community Blood Services of Illinois) and Springfield (Central Illinois Community Blood Center).

Sublette Board discusses trash removal problems and sale of village property

By TONJA GREENFIELD
Staff writer

SUBLETTE — A concern from the audience about Thanksgiving garbage pick-up was brought up during the Dec. 14 Sublette Village Board meeting.

The concern from the audience was that the garbage at multiple houses was missed the week of Thanksgiving, and not knowing what to do when the garbage doesn't get picked-up.

Sublette Village Board Trustee Julie Kessel said that 27 residents did not have their garbage picked-up that day.

Acting Village Board President John Stenzel said that the village had a different garbage driver that day.

"The driver we have does a very good job," Stenzel said. Adding that this was unfortunate but doesn't normally happen.

Stenzel said he would talk with Republic about the concern, and hopefully it won't happen again.

He added that there will be no change for

garbage pick-up in Sublette for Christmas or New Year – garbage will still be picked-up on Thursday.

In other board news:

- Votes are still be cast for your favorite Christmas tree created by Sublette's businesses on Sublette 365's Facebook page. Pictures of all of the trees are featured. Like your favorite tree to vote. Voting is available through Dec. 25. The winner will receive a \$50 Visa gift card, which the village of Sublette board approved to purchase.

- The board approved a resolution to sell the village property located at 109 W. Main St. Stenzel suggested a listing price of \$20,000 and the board approved the motion.

- Stenzel also said at the end of the meeting that the village may go back to virtual meetings if the COVID-19 cases continue to increase.

The next Sublette Village Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11 at the Ellice Dinges Center.



Donation to FFA

A pickup truck was recently donated to the Mendota FFA Chapter by Mark Dieter of J.D.S. Leasing and Joe Dieter & Sons, Inc. FFA advisor, Matt Meyer and the FFA officer team, pictured, expressed their appreciation for the generous donation, which will be used to safely complete all of the FFA's many upcoming events and activities. (Photo contributed)

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LOCAL AND AREA

Getting Around Illinois provides latest winter road conditions

SPRINGFIELD – With winter officially here, the Illinois Department of Transportation reminds the public to visit and bookmark GettingAroundIllinois.com for continually updated information on road conditions.

“Weather conditions can change quickly and whether you’re driving a short distance or several miles, Getting Around Illinois is a great resource to keep you updated on winter road conditions throughout the state,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Before you travel, always ask yourself: Is this trip really necessary? The safest decision you can make during inclement weather always is to stay home.”

The Centers for Disease Control advises that travel can increase your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19, however, if travel is necessary, be sure to visit cdc.gov (go to the Travel link) and take the steps provided there to protect yourself and others.

GettingAroundIllinois.com is available on your computer and optimized for smartphones. The site includes the ability to identify and zoom in to a location, travel route or destination on a state map. Road conditions are recorded by plow drivers out in the field and relayed to GettingAroundIllinois.com through a cloud-based system to provide a general overview on IDOT-maintained highways.



LaMoille students hold food drive

On Dec. 12, the LaMoille High School Student Council held a Drive-By Food Drive at the high school parking lot. The community of LaMoille was very generous enabling the Student Council to collect plenty of canned and dried food as well as monetary donations. Proceeds benefited the Bureau County Food Pantry. (Photo contributed)

First shipment of Pfizer vaccine delivered to hospitals in LaSalle Co.

◆ Vaccinations begin for frontline workers at IVCH, OSF Saint Paul & OSF Saint Elizabeth

OTTAWA - The LaSalle County Health Department announced on Dec. 16 that in coordination with the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, they had received and delivered their first shipment of Pfizer vaccine to all three hospitals within the county.

Hospitals began vaccinating their front-line workers over the following days. “The vaccine will provide our front-line health care workers with the protection they need while caring for patients

who have contracted the virus,” said Julie Kerestes, Public Health Administrator of LaSalle County Health Department. “We appreciate the partnership between our local hospitals, EMA, and Sheriff's Department. All have helped to ensure the timeliness and safety of the vaccine delivery into our county. While the vaccine is a step in the right direction, we need to continue our efforts to keep each other safe. The health department urges all residents, for the health and safety of our community, to continue wearing face-coverings, practice social distancing, wash hands often, and please stay home when you are sick.

“We have a plan in place to immediately start vaccinating our emergency department staff and other critical workers,” said Jennifer Sines, IVCH pharmacy director. “This is a big first step in getting the COVID

pandemic under control locally.”

Heather Bomstad, Vice President, Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center and OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, added, “OSF HealthCare is encouraged by the Food and Drug Administration's approval of an emergency use authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. We're proud to work with the State of Illinois who is managing the distribution of the vaccine, in collaboration with the federal government, through local county health departments. A vaccine is our best shot to eradicate the virus, and we are looking forward to our initial allotment and will proudly offer the vaccine to our eligible frontline caregivers.”

Holland & Sons announces upcoming dealership merger

MENDOTA – Holland & Sons, Inc. and Kelly Sauder Rupiper Equipment LLC, two family-owned and operated John Deere dealerships deeply rooted in North Central Illinois, plan to merge effective late January 2021. The combination of these companies will enhance each entity's ability to maximize service to homeowners, landscapers and farmers – together.

The new organization will operate as Prairie State Tractor LLC and employ over 200 people. Prairie State Tractor will be the responsible John Deere dealer for the territory as far west as the Mississippi River, extending up to the Wisconsin border, and down into Central Illinois. Dealership locations will continue to operate out of Dixon, Freeport, Geneseo, Lacon, Mendota, Pontiac, Princeton and Streator. The Mendota location will serve as the corporate headquarters.

“Expanding our reach in today's agricultural world is essential,” said Todd Holland, Board Chairman and Inventory Manager for Prairie State Tractor. “By combining our resources, we can offer a more expansive equipment selection and product offerings. Customers in our area are blessed with some of the best agricultural land in the world, and we are excited to grow with them.”

“This new partnership greatly expands our ability to better serve you as a customer,” said Chris Rupiper, Chief Executive Officer for Prairie State Tractor. “You'll continue to see the same faces you've worked with for years but will now benefit from access to more focused specialists.

“We have like-minded owners and operations; it made perfect sense to take the next step and come together as a dealer group,” added Rupiper. “We may be operating under a different name, but our reputation for strong customer service remains the same. We remain committed to ensuring our customers continue to receive the same support and service they have become accustomed to for generations.”

Prairie State Tractor will build on this rich tradition to bring the same high level of customer service along with new offerings that are made possible by expanded talent and geographic area. Management and employees look forward to the many benefits provided by this new partnership.

New company leadership will consist of many familiar faces. In addition to Chris Rupiper and Todd Holland, the leadership team will include Tony Morrow (Chief Financial Officer), Zack Sauder (Eastern Region Sales Manager), Ty Holland (Western Region Sales Manager), Matt Aeschleman (Used Equipment Manager), Paul Kelly (Human Resources Manager), Matt Holland (Marketing Manager), Klint Rice (Small Tractor/Turf Manager), Brett Dewey (Aftermarket Manager), and Jonathan Koch (Integrated Solutions Manager).

For more information, visit www.ksrequipment.com and www.hollandandsons.com.

About Prairie State Tractor LLC - The former organization of Holland & Sons, Inc. was first established in Mendota in 1972 by Gary Holland. Since, Holland and Sons has acquired four additional dealership locations throughout Northern Illinois. The former partnership of Kelly Sauder Rupiper Equipment LLC, also known as KSR Equipment, began in 2003 with the merger of three long-standing John Deere Dealerships in North Central Illinois: Gardner Sales

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CARL'S QUIZ

What instrument was the carol “Silent Night” first played on?

The answer to last week's quiz is: In Christmas movie “Miracle on 34th Street,” Santa Claus is put on trial.

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

Mendota Weather

Dec. 23, 2020

Seven Day Forecast

	Wednesday Isolated Rain High: 48 Low: 17
	Thursday Scattered Snow High: 22 Low: 9
	Friday Partly Cloudy High: 23 Low: 15
	Saturday Mostly Sunny High: 32 Low: 22
	Sunday Mostly Cloudy High: 34 Low: 23
	Monday Cloudy High: 33 Low: 25
	Tuesday Cloudy High: 32 Low: 22

In-Depth Forecast

Wednesday we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 30% chance of isolated rain, near record high of 48°, humidity of 73%. South southwest wind 15 to 19 mph. The record high for Wednesday is 51° set in 2015. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday night with a 50% chance of scattered snow, overnight low of 17°. West wind 16 mph. The wind chill for Wednesday night could reach 6°.

Regional Cities

City	Wednesday		Thursday	
	Hi/Lo	Wx	Hi/Lo	Wx
Aurora	49/19	ra	45/10	sn
Champaign	51/22	ra	48/11	sn
Chicago	49/21	ra	45/13	sn
Freeport	44/14	ra	40/5	sn
Joliet	50/20	ra	46/10	sn
Moline	45/15	ra	42/10	sn
Peoria	50/18	ra	47/12	sn
Rockford	47/15	mc	44/8	sn
Springfield	51/21	ra	46/13	mc

Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip	Rainfall
Monday	30	24	31/16	0.00"	0.00"
Tuesday	32	22	31/15	0.00"	0.48"
Wednesday	32	28	31/15	0.00"	-0.48"
Thursday	36	25	30/15	0.00"	
Friday	39	27	30/14	0.00"	
Saturday	43	34	30/14	0.00"	
Sunday	43	29	30/14	0.00"	

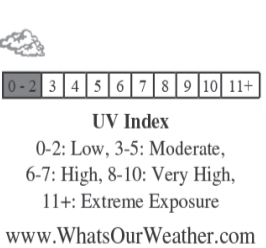
Average temp. 31.7°
Average normal 22.6°
Departure +9.1°

Data as reported from Peru, Ill.

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Moon Phase
Full 12/29	7:20 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	12:58 p.m.	1:01 a.m.	New 1/13
Wednesday	7:21 a.m.	4:31 p.m.	1:21 p.m.	2:00 a.m.	
Thursday	7:21 a.m.	4:32 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	2:59 a.m.	
Friday	7:21 a.m.	4:32 p.m.	2:13 p.m.	4:00 a.m.	
Saturday	7:22 a.m.	4:33 p.m.	2:46 p.m.	5:01 a.m.	
Last 1/6	7:22 a.m.	4:34 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	6:03 a.m.	First 1/20
Monday	7:22 a.m.	4:35 p.m.	4:12 p.m.	7:03 a.m.	
Tuesday	7:22 a.m.	4:35 p.m.	4:12 p.m.	7:03 a.m.	

Local UV Index



National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain and snow, highest temperature of 52 in Evansville, Ind. The Southeast will experience partly cloudy skies with isolated rain, highest temperature of 76 in Hialeah, Fla. The central United States will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and thunderstorms, highest temperature of 77 in McAllen, Texas. In the Northwest there will be partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 52 in Myrtle Point, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 70 in Orange, Calif.

Weather Trivia

What is the name of the high dense clouds that bring steady rainfall?

Weather History

Dec. 23, 1989 - A historic arctic outbreak spread to the Gulf Coast region and a total of 122 cities across the central and eastern United States reported record low temperatures for the date. Forty-one of those cities reported record lows for the month of Dec.

Weather History

Dec. 24, 1983 - The barometric pressure reached 31.42 inches at Miles City, Mont. to establish a record for the United States. It was the coldest Christmas Eve of modern record. More than 125 cities reported record low temperatures for the date.

ANSWERS: Altostratus.

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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Karon L. Baker

MENDOTA - Karon Lee (Devine) Baker, 70, of Mendota, formerly of Winfield, passed away Dec. 15, 2020 at Heritage Health, Mendota due to complications of COPD.

Due to the pandemic, there will be no service at this time. A celebration of life will take place at a future date. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is assisting the family.

Karon was born Dec. 31, 1949 in Geneva, to John and Dorothy (Pennington) Devine. She married Patrick J. Baker. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include one daughter, Jennifer (Cleveland) Lentz; two sisters, Patricia (Devine) Stuart and Christine K. Devine; one brother, Ted A. Devine; two grandsons, Nick Gast and Nolan J. Lentz; one granddaughter, Nicole (Kelm) Lozmack; a great-granddaughter, Charlotte S. Lozmack; two step daughters, Erin Baker and Shannon Baker; and three step grandchildren, Gianni, Draco and Fianna Figueroa.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her father; her mother, Dorothy Burton; her stepfather, Leo Burton; and two brothers, John E. Devin and Charles L. Devine.

Karon cherished her grandchildren and thoroughly enjoyed watching them open gifts during the holiday season. She had a passion for crafting and loved to gift her creations to those she loved, as well as a love for baking and cooking.

Memorials may be directed to Illinois Valley Animal Rescue or OSF Hospice, Ottawa.

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

James C. Cocanour

MENDOTA - James Culver Cocanour, 75, of Mendota passed away Dec. 17, 2020 at Franklin Grove Rehabilitation Center.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Dec. 22 at Lutheran Cemetery, Mendota with Rev. Mary Bohall officiating. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota assisted the family.

James was born Oct. 9, 1945 in St. Albans, Vt. to James and Helen (Culver) Cocanour. He married Darla Stone in 1977.

Survivors include his wife of Mendota; three sons, Wesley (Maricia) Cocanour of Mendota, Douglas Cocanour of Tulsa, Okla. and Tyler Cocanour of Mendota; two sisters, Nancy (Chuck) Robinson and Patricia (Chris) Baruxes; one brother, Bill (Gale) Cocanour; six granddaughters, Kalie, Riley, Lexi, Caia, Lauren and Madelyne; and one great grandson, Colton.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Sarah Cocanour Dalton who passed in 2013, and his parents.

In James' younger years he was a standout football player who earned himself a full ride scholarship to the University of Indiana. After college, he went on to open a pizza parlor/tobacco and pipe shop in French Lick, Ind. That is where he met the love of his life, Darla and the two married soon after. James enjoyed many activities such as golf, fishing, duck hunting and chess, and he was always up for a good game of cards. He was a gentle soul and a loving family man with an incredible drive to be the best that he could be in anything he did. After moving to Illinois in 1980, James began a career in the car industry working for a few different dealerships in the Illinois Valley. Most of those years were served at Schimmer, Inc. in Mendota.

Memorials may be directed to the family.



Dennis A. Matz

MENDOTA - Dennis Arthur Matz, 75, passed away Dec. 14, 2020.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Due to COVID-19, the family is not having a public service. A private family gathering was held at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery on Dec. 19. Wasmer Funeral Home was privileged to assist the family.

Dennis was born March 15, 1945.

Survivors include four children, Cherie (Toby) Easler, Roben (Randy) Woodward, Jennifer (Jeff) Benac, and Todd (Monica) Matz; and 11 grandchildren, Nathaniel and Elizabeth Easler, Trace, Hunter and Makayla Woodward, Jacob, Joshua and Hannah Benac, George and Trevor Gavitt and Wesley Matz.

He was preceded in death by one son, Dan (Sharon) Matz. Dennis had a passion for life and enjoyed many activities including coaching Pee-Wee football, participating in his local Lions Club and riding his Harley. He worked in maintenance for many years and near retirement, he started in another field of employment driving school buses. He truly enjoyed driving his route and seeing "his kids" each day.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Mokena Lions Club or contact a family member for a local charity near you. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

Ralph M. Terry Jr.

MENDOTA - Ralph M. Terry Jr., 63, of Mendota passed away Dec. 17, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Memorial services will be at a later date. Cremation rites have been accorded. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to be assisting the family.

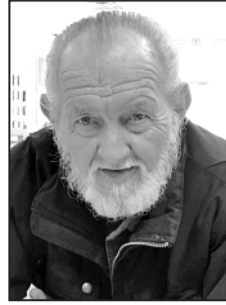
Ralph was born July 1, 1957 in Mendota to Ralph Sr. and Maxine (Cork) Terry.

Survivors include his mom and best friend, Maxine of Mendota; one brother, Kevin (Cheryl) Terry of Peru; four sisters, Linda (Larry) Walter of Missouri, Deb Phalen of Mendota, Kathy Reppin of LaSalle and Denise Holzner of Mendota; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his dad on Jan. 27, 1995 and by his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Ralph was part of the Class of 1975 at Mendota High School. During his work career, he was in maintenance with Liberty Village, Peru until his retirement. He enjoyed fishing and bike riding and often combined the two. He lived in Minnesota before his return to Illinois and continued to cheer on his Minnesota Viking football team. He was a friend to all at Liberty Village. He spread his compassion and cheer to his coworkers and patients' families alike. His outstanding character won him the Illinois Health Care Association 2018 Environmental Services Professional of the year award.

Memorials may be directed to Mendota Area Senior Services. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.



Lorene V. Eich

MENDOTA - Lorene Verda Eich, 87, of Mendota passed away Dec. 18, 2020 at Oregon Living and Rehabilitation Center, Oregon due to complications of respiratory distress and a long battle with dementia.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Dec. 23 at Restland Cemetery, Mendota with Rev. Susan Presley officiating. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota handled the arrangements.

Lorene was born Sept. 10, 1933 in Earlville to Lowrey and Mattie (Underwood) Burd, the third child among five siblings, Dorothy, Leroy, Donna, Gene and Jerry. She married Arthur Eich on June 30, 1951 in Earlville. He preceded her in death in 1989.

Survivors include four children, Terry Eich, Robyn (Michael) Miller, Kris (Don) Holdenrid and Richard Eich; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, with one on the way; three great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Donna (Kenny) Tillman; and two brothers, Gene (Janelle) Burd and Jerry (Ruth Ann) Burd.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one sister, Dorothy Brower; one brother, Leroy Burd; and one grandson, Joshua Eich.

Lorene was deeply loved by her family, friends and church. She was the center of love to a very large multigenerational family and her deep kindness is something that is still felt in their hearts to this day. She made the best blueberry muffins in the world and she often gifted others large plates of cookies. She also loved to knit and crochet. Her home was always welcoming and full of love and her laugh was one that stuck to your soul. Lorene did not take anything for granted in her lifetime and she was so grateful for everything that was given to her. She spent much of her free time reading the Bible and loved listening to Johnny Cash or Elvis Presley. Before moving into a nursing home, she was the eldest at her church and was very involved in church activities. She enjoyed spending winters in Arizona and frequently hosted holidays at her house with a big pot of chili. She collected owls because of her nickname "screech," which was given to her because of her large, beautiful eyes. She was a grandma who loved having her grandkids over and would wave to them from the driveway every time they left.

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Lights above door at Amtrak Station
Winner - Shane Allen

Carola Englehart

PAW PAW - Carola (Peterson) Englehart, 87, of Hamilton, Ohio, formerly of Paw Paw, passed away Dec. 13, 2020, making our world a little dimmer but the heavens brighter.

A remembrance and celebration of her life will be held in the spring or summer of 2021.

Carola was born May 6, 1933 in New Bedford to Oreetha (Monson) and Tracy Lee Peterson. She married Harold "Hezzie" Englehart. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include one daughter, Linda (Mike) Curme and her beloved grandchildren, Christopher and Mary Curme.

Carola grew up in rural Illinois where she helped keep an eye on her four loving brothers, Dick, Norm, Chuck and Tom. She attended Manlius High School, and then earned a teaching degree from Northern Illinois State Teachers College (Northern Illinois University). In 1960, she and Hezzie began 54 years of marital bliss, a union which produced their greatest blessing, a daughter, Linda Lee, born in 1963. For over 30 years Carola selflessly served the community through her work as a 4th grade teacher, mostly at Paw Paw Elementary School, until her retirement in 1986. Among other passions and interests, she loved music, her family and golf, and in all pursuits she excelled to a hole-in-one level (scoring at least one ace on the golf course). Carola was a highly intelligent, artistically gifted, gentle and giving person who was admired and loved by all who knew her. Her positive impact on the world will be forever felt through the many scores of students whose lives and intellects she touched and enriched. But perhaps her most enduring legacy will be through the love, nurture, guidance and wisdom she shared with her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, who held a most special place in her heart. She truly lived every day according to the golden rule, thereby making everyone she knew a little better, sometimes by an act as simple as adding a bit of lard to the mix when preparing her astonishing pie crust.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Woodland Country Manor Caregivers Fund, 4166 Somerville Road, Somerville, OH 45064



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LOCAL AND AREA

Home

Continued from Page A1

Kolbeck said the LaSalle home administrator notified the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of the outbreak on Nov. 2, and the LaSalle County Health Department notified IDPH “within the reporting system.”

On Nov. 9, Kolbeck said, there was a virtual meeting between IDPH staff and veterans home administrators “as a general touch-base on the facilities,” and there was additional correspondence that day between the LaSalle home administrator and USDVA.

Kolbeck said he also sent an email on Nov. 9 to IDPH, requesting an on-site visit “to explore potential opportunities for containment and control not otherwise identified.” On Nov. 11, he said, IDPH had a phone conversation with the facility administrator and the infection control nurse.

The facility reported seven resident deaths on Nov. 11.

Rep. David Welter, R-Morris, asked Chapa LaVia whether she spoke to Gov. JB Pritzker about the deaths reported on Nov. 11 when she and Pritzker were together in Chicago for a Veterans Day event.

“We discussed it briefly. And, like I’ve said prior, (Pritzker) has been kept abreast of everything going on,” she said, adding that Pritzker called her later on in the week for an update on the situation at LaSalle.

In response to questions about the immediate response from state and local agencies to the outbreak, Hart said the LaSalle County Health Department is the first line of defense.

“(Local department of public health officials) are the people who actually notify IDPH of the outbreak and send updates to IDPH, and I cannot speak for the local health department. But I am aware that they provided extensive guidance to the La Salle Veterans’ Home in the very early days of the outbreak on a number of topics, including how to manage the cohorting of the residents, how to handle the PPE, etc. So, there was an active intervention by the local health department in that very early phase,” Hart said.

Hart said an IDPH team visited the home on Dec. 14 to review the infection control practices put in place since the onsite visits.

During the Nov. 12 visit, a USDVA official noted several deficiencies at the LaSalle home, including the use of wall mounted hand sanitizer containers that had a non-alcohol based product. The facility also used hand sanitizer dispensers containing an alcohol-based product, which has since replaced the

sanitizer in the non-alcohol based wall mounts.

That site visit report also documented examples of staff failing to follow proper protocol for personal protective equipment. In one instance staff were observed eating with masks below their chins in the kitchen within six feet of one another.

Hart said at the Dec. 14 visit, staff at the LaSalle facility were found consistently in compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance regarding appropriate hand hygiene, PPE use and social distancing.

He said rapid antigen testing being conducted on home employees prior to every shift and all residents every day “has shown that transmission within the facility has been controlled.”

“We’re not seeing evidence of new transmission within the facility,” Hart said.

Late last month, the IDVA announced the acting inspector general from the Illinois Department of Human Services will conduct an independent investigation into the outbreak. Since then, three separate legislative committees have begun their own inquiries.

Illinois National Guard members were sent to the LaSalle facility, and National Guard members were also sent to assist with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks at veterans’ homes in Quincy and Manteno.

As of Dec. 15, the Quincy Veterans’ Home reported a total of three resident deaths related to COVID-19 illnesses and total of 70 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. The facility has reported that 37 residents have recovered.

Manteno Veterans’ Home has reported 17 total resident deaths related to COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, as of Dec. 15. The Manteno home reported 67 total residents have tested positive, and 46 have recovered.

Seven Army National Guardsmen were sent to LaSalle, while four Air National Guard Airmen were sent to Quincy and three to Manteno.

The National Guard members are helping staff with COVID-19 administrative tasks, such as processing COVID-19 testing data and questionnaires for IDVA employees and entering the information into the medical database within 24 hours, an IDVA spokesperson said.

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

Vaccine

Continued from Page A1

cases every day, and we still have a positivity rate that’s far from the (World Health Organization) recommended 5 percent,” Pritzker said in response to a question about the regions that met criteria to return to Tier 2.

Despite the regions meeting the criteria, Pritzker has said no regions will be removed from stricter mitigations at this time, and it is unclear when the rollback of mitigations may begin.

“Since the surge hit us, it’s been important for us to get the right trajectory of cases, and hospitalizations and ICU use, and to make sure that we get to the right level. Remember, there are still many hospitals around the state, that have limited ability to take in new ICU patients, or even new hospitalizations. And so we’re trying very hard to bring it down all across the state before we start to relieve the regions from Tier 3 to Tier 2.”

IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike was asked about whether the anticipated increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that was expected after the Thanksgiving holiday, due to greater numbers of people traveling and gathering, has been avoided since that spike has not yet occurred.

“I am really happy to say that we did not see the significant surge that we were very much concerned about in relation to all the reports that we saw of the large amount of travel here in the state of Illinois,” Ezike said. “I think all the mitigations that we had in place in advance of Thanksgiving have been helpful. So, no we did not see a surge following Thanksgiving. I’m waiting for this final week’s tally, which will come on Monday, but so far that is a good thing that we can report.”

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IVCC Board discusses opportunity to enhance manufacturing course offerings

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College is exploring an opportunity to enhance its manufacturing course offerings, President Jerry Corcoran announced at its Dec. 10 board meeting.

Corcoran said IVCC is considering joining a consortium of community colleges representing more than a third of central Illinois’s manufacturers to pursue one of two manufacturing academies being offered by the state.

Up to \$15 million is available from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to build the academies in central and southern Illinois.

“We’re interested in partnering with other colleges to offer students more advanced manufacturing opportunities,” Corcoran said. “If our consortium were to be selected for funding, the academy would be located at one of the colleges and IVCC would be one of the satellites.”

Foundational credit and non-credit-bearing courses would be offered at the satellites; advanced manufacturing would be offered online and at the Academy college.

“We believe this will benefit traditional students, non-traditional students upgrading their skills, and employers in need of incumbent worker training,” Corcoran said.

In other business, the board approved:

- A \$12.8 million 2020 tax levy representing a three percent increase over the \$12.4 million actual 2019 levy. The board adopted the “Tax Levy Resolution, Certificate of Tax Levy, Resolution of Intent, Notice of Intent to Increase Tax Levy, and Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act.”

- The addition of a full-time administrative assistant in Continuing Education and Business Services. The department will now be responsible for handling its own student registrations, formerly processed by admissions.

- The retirement requests of instructors Dan Serafini, mathematics, and his brother Rick, accounting, effective July 31. “It has been both an honor and a pleasure instructing mathematics and being a part of IVCC,” Dan said in his retirement letter. Rick said, “IVCC has been an important part of my life beginning as a student in

1976. Please know that I will carry with me many fond memories of this great organization.”

- In 2021, the board will continue to meet at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of each month (with the exception of November). Meeting dates are Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 18 and Dec. 9.
- Closed session minutes from Nov. 12.
- Board chair Jane Goetz commended outgoing student trustee Tony Galindo for his service to the board from April to December. Galindo of Tonica is transferring to the University of Iowa this spring to study neuroscience. Naomi Ochuba of Peru was introduced as Galindo’s replacement.

The board learned:

- Longtime EMS instructor Rosemary McGinnis is retiring. “I have been honored and so enjoyed partnering with IVCC to bring the area EMS program from basic level to paramedic and now to an accredited, college-credit program,” McGinnis said. “We have come a long way from my start in EMS – teaching classes at area stations with minimal equipment to the high-tech professional program of today.”
- Third-shift custodians recently hired are Edward Bailey, Michael Schweickert and Ryan Vecchia.
- In a campus update, Director of Human Resources Leslie Hofer said only 11 percent of college employees eligible to retire in 2020 actually retired.
- IVCC’s Project Success excelled in all categories including persistence, academic standing, degrees, certificates and transfer rates in a recent performance report from the Department of Education.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 1810 entitled “Full-time Counselor Alternative Service Delivery” for the spring semester has been signed.
- Continuation of the lease agreement with the University of Illinois Extension for the 2021-22 academic year is underway. The Extension leases six rooms in C Building for \$18,204 annually.
- AFT Local 1810 President Tracy Lee commended the Learning Resources Center and Director Patrice Hess for assisting faculty with online instruction throughout the fall semester.

City Ordinance

Animals-Pet Waste Ordinance

• The purpose of this section is to establish requirements for the proper disposal of pet solid waste in the City of Mendota so as to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply.

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

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OPINION

The Mendota Reporter

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

A colleague's surprise gift

By Scott Reeder

SPRINGFIELD – Sometimes you'll read a news story about someone you thought you knew well and be flabbergasted.

That happened to me this month.

John Willard, a reporter I worked with for a decade at the Quad-City Times, died in 2017 at age 74. His wife, Carol, died a couple years later.

Last week, I read that they left a \$3 million estate to various charities.

John was a reporter and Carol a secretary.

"I'd be shocked if John ever made more than \$35,000 or \$40,000," said Linda Cook, another reporter who worked with us at the Times.

Former Quad-City Times editor Dan Hayes, demurred on how much Willard may have earned during his career saying only, "As you know, Scott, reporting is not something where you're ever going to get rich."

Except, John Willard managed to become rich. His net worth was in the top 3 percent of Americans at the time of his death. Just how he got there has some of his former colleagues scratching their heads.

Some have wondered if there was an inheritance that the Willards received that no one knew about.

So, I called up John's brother, Tom, in Pennsylvania, who is the lone survivor of the Willard clan. And he said, no, that there wasn't a significant inheritance.

"He just saved and invested really well," he said.

After a long pause, he asked just how much his brother's estate amounted to. When I told him \$3 million, his only response was, "That sounds about right."

Wealth accumulation has more to do with discipline and planning than it does with income," said William Danko, who co-wrote "The Millionaire Next Door."

The premise of the book is that there are many millionaires like the Willards, ordinary Joes and Janes, who have saved, invested and lived frugal lives.

In a telephone interview, Danko said couples deferring on small expenses can reap large returns.

For example, if instead of smoking three packs of cigarettes a day, a couple quit smoking and invested the equivalent amount of money into the tobacco company Philip Morris' stock, they would have had a portfolio worth more than \$2 million after 46 years, Danko said.

"Small expenses add up over time. If a person is disciplined and invests instead, it really accumulates," he said. "These people spend the first half of their lives working for money and the second half having their money work for them."

John and Carol owned one car and often rode the bus. During the decade I worked with him, I can only remember Willard wearing one pair of shoes to work – brown wingtips that were nicely polished but well worn.

Cook, who worked with him for about 30 years, said the whole time she knew him he wore the same coat. (If it was the one I remember, it was an off-white trench coat of perhaps 1970s vintage.)

"John didn't drink – he had no vices – and believe me, I would know if he did," said Bill Wundram, a retired editor and columnist, who worked at the Times for more than 70 years.

"Most of the time I knew him, he drove an old Volkswagen. He drove it until it was completely worn out and he didn't think it would go on any farther."

Willard was a meticulous reporter who worked at one speed: slow.

"He'd probably write one story a week and that would really upset some of the other reporters," Wundram recalled. "But I never got upset because I knew that one story would be really well written."

Willard worked for the Davenport, Iowa, newspaper for 34 years, retiring in 2007. He and Carol were married 46 years. They had no children.

They left their money to: Friends of Vander Veer (Park); Friends of Davenport Public Library; University of Illinois Foundation; George Williams College, Aurora, Ill.; Iowa PBS Foundation; Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport; the Genesis Hospice program; Humane Society of Scott County, and to a discretionary fund to be used in the community.

John's favorite restaurant was Ma's Studio Diner, a Davenport dive where the owner would holler at patrons if they didn't eat their vegetables. I ate there once with him and refused to return. Linda Cook said she accompanied him there twice.

"The cockroaches were tame – I wouldn't go back," she said.

Wundram hosted a retirement party for Willard at his home. "I just invited reporters – no husbands or wives – just the working press. I bought four cheap bottles of champagne and some food. John was really touched that I would do that for him. He came up afterwards and tried to give me \$100. I kept telling him, 'No.' I told him I knew he was a reporter and couldn't afford that. But he insisted and insisted, so I finally took the \$100. I guess I know now that he could afford it."

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



Kilowatt usage soars – December 1989

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's *Backtracks & Sidetracks* column reprinted from Dec. 21, 1994.)

By Jessica Nashold

Five years ago, on Dec. 21, 1989, Commonwealth Edison reported a record demand between 5-6 p.m. – 13,195,000 kilowatts. This exceeded the record set only one week earlier, on Dec. 14, for 12,705,000 kilowatts.

However, it was pointed out that the real peak demands occurred during the summer months because of air conditioning. On Aug. 17, 1988, for example, customers in northern Illinois set a record demand of 17.4 million kilowatts.

This record cold allowed the city to open Lake Kakusha for both ice skating and ice fishing. There was one stipulation –

No skating or fishing may be conducted in areas where aerators have been placed.

The aerators were installed to prevent the large fish kill sometimes occurring in frozen lakes.

No fishing or ice skating was allowed on Lake Mendota.

Members of the Mendota Moose played host to 289 senior citizens on Dec. 18, 1989, at their annual Christmas party. Dean Otterbach was emcee.

Poinsettias were presented to the oldest man present, William Mitchell, and to the oldest woman, Mary Reinhard.

A turkey dinner was served and the Sublette Country Squares presented entertainment. The seniors were residents of the Mendota homes, plus a few from the Maple Side Manor in Amboy.

James S. Carroll, president of Black Bros., retired after 40 years, continuing as board chairman. Richard A. King was named to succeed him. King had been with the company since 1963.

Matthew Black Carroll, a fifth-generation descendant of one of the founders, was appointed vice president. He had joined the firm in 1978.

The New Life Evangelical Free

Backtracks & Sidetracks

Church continued a tradition that had its beginning in 1983 when travelers were stranded in Mendota by a Christmas Eve snowstorm. That year they served many dinners at the Firemen's building and in succeeding years they invited all who were alone during the holidays to come to the Firemen's building for a free Christmas Eve dinner. Serving began at 5 p.m.

An Interact Club was organized at Mendota High School, funded by Rotary International. One of its goals was to bring together youngsters of the same age from different parts of the world. The 1994 visit by 19 Austrian students was sponsored by Rotary Interact.

First officers of the Mendota Interact were Kim Montavon, Beth McNair, Stuart Kirby and Daphne Farley. By December 1989, the membership stood at 23. This group launched a "Salute to America Night" during halftime at a basketball game. The national anthem was played and a huge cake, decorated as a flag, was cut and served without charged to the crowd.

The idea is to increase awareness of our democratic country, hostages in other countries, past wars and veterans.

Ingredients for the cake were donated.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Eisenhower Award of Achievement and Wisdom was established by Leon Gutterman, founder and president of the Wisdom Society for the Advancement of Knowledge, Learning and Research in America. First to receive the award was 91-year-old Horace D. Hume of Mendota, named also an Eminent Eisenhower Fellow. Hume had been inducted

into the Wisdom Hall of Fame in 1988.

The sale of Fred Brown & Son construction company to Dennis Jones, a 15-year employee, was announced. Owner Benton Brown told the Reporter about his grandfather's shop. Levi Brown had started the company in 1882. One of his projects was remodeling the old Methodist church on Sixth Avenue.

Benton's father, Fred Brown, was in charge of the business from 1935-1949. During the war years, while Bennie was in service, Fred worked at H.D. Conkey's.

After returning from service, Bennie studied drafting at LPO Junior College, rejoining his father in the business in 1949. During his tenure, the company built 140 homes, 100 of them in the Mendota area. They were also deeply involved in construction of a new office for Wayside Press. Said Brown –

We had to build the new one over the old office and take the old building out the front door in a wheelbarrow, because it was higher than the second-floor level of the new one.

The Graves Public Library District met and signed with a firm of architects to make a feasibility study for the proposed enlargement and remodeling of the existing library building. Cost of the study was set at \$7,000. It was suggested that a financial consultant be hired to determine how the estimated building costs would affect taxpayers.

The Industrial Arts Department at MHS was rejoicing in a new dark room, 10x14 feet, capable of accommodating four students at a time. Equipment was donated by Jerry Dempsey and Harry D. Conkey. The instructor was Jim DeFano.

Looking ahead, motorists were reminded that on Jan. 1, 1990, auto liability insurance would become mandatory for all vehicle owners.

Motorists who fail to buy the insurance are subject to fines and suspension of their license plates.

Trump hoisted with his own petard

By Rich Lowry

One of President Donald Trump's foremost achievements has been to erect a formidable obstacle to his own post-election legal challenges.

The federal judiciary, now seeded throughout with Trump-nominated judges, has given the back of its hand to pro-Trump election litigation, with Trump judges issuing notably harsh opinions.

It's always been strange that Trump, who will never be mistaken for a rigorous constitutionalist and who personalizes everything, has elevated a couple of hundred judges who, by and large, are deeply committed to the Constitution and feel no particular personal loyalty to him.

Hardly an institutionalist, Trump has buttressed the institution of the judiciary. Not one to honor norms, he's generally nominated sticklers for them to the bench.

The paradox reached its height in the weeks after the election. Trump and his allies launched a battery of litigation asking for millions of votes to be thrown out or elections to be decertified, hoping to catch a break from a judge somewhere or from the U.S. Supreme Court. Trump himself put out a call for "courage" from a justice or justices.

Instead, the Trump team got nowhere, even with Trump-nominated jurists.

At a fraught time when most Republican elected officials in Washington were keeping their heads down, Trump judges involved in post-election litigation issued their rulings without fear or favor. They have shown a commitment to facts, reason and the law, and great institutional self-confidence.

Progressives portrayed Trump judges as right-wing hacks. Elizabeth Warren called Trump's picks "aggressively unqualified," while the editor of the left-wing website Talking Points Memo, Josh Marshall, tweeted: "The federal judiciary is corrupt. The Supreme Court is the most deeply corrupted."

With the president of the United States raging at our electoral system and desperately seeking assistance from the courts, the alleged partisanship and corruption of the Trump-influenced judiciary has been nowhere in evidence.

Trump nominated University of Pennsylvania law professor Stephanos Bibas to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017. The signature Trump litigation in Pennsylvania landed in his lap, and Bibas wrote an unsparing opinion for a unanimous panel of the 3rd Circuit dismissing it.

In Georgia, U.S. District Judge Steven D. Grimberg, nominated by Trump last year, denied a request by Trump super fan Lin Wood to stop the certification of the results.

And the Supreme Court denied a request to block certification of the Pennsylvania results in a curt, one-sentence order with no public dissents.

One of the main Democratic lines of attack on Justice Amy Coney Barrett during her confirmation was that, as Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin said, she was "being sent on assignment to the Supreme Court by President Trump" in order to "be there if the president needs her on an election contest."

Where does Barrett go to get her apology?

Surely, the overtly transactional Trump would have been happy for her to have actually been his political tool on the court, along with his other two picks. But Barrett and her colleagues, trained and soaked in the law and profoundly cognizant of their institutional role, are not susceptible to such influence. Neil Gorsuch is not Corey Lewandowski; Stephanos Bibas is not Rudy Giuliani.

Nothing underlines the merits of Trump judicial selections quite like their willingness to deny him and his allies, as warranted.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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LaSalle County Board

LOCAL AND AREA

Pritzker orders more than \$700 million in spending cuts

By PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois
 SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker announced more than \$700 million in spending cuts last week, calling it a “first step” in closing a \$3.9 billion revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year’s budget.

As part of those cuts, Pritzker said his office is negotiating with employee labor unions to identify \$75 million in personnel cost reductions, which could include furloughs, and that he is establishing a work group to identify possible closures of Department of Corrections facilities due to lower inmate populations.

“These cuts reflect the first phase of our path forward, doing what is within my powers, unilaterally and without the legislature,” Pritzker said. “This is going to be tough. And as my ongoing conversations with General Assembly leaders would indicate, there is a great deal of work the legislature must do when it convenes next month.”

The plan includes hiring freezes at several state agencies as well as reductions or freezes in several grant programs at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources. It also includes a freeze on school maintenance capital grants, which are funded from casino gaming revenues.

It also calls for delaying a scheduled rate increase for home health aids who provide in-home and community-based services to the elderly through the state’s Community Care Program.

In addition to the spending cuts, Pritzker earlier announced a plan to borrow \$2 billion through the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility, a program launched earlier this year to help state and local governments close budget gaps that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

But that still leaves more than \$1 billion in savings that will have to be identified, unless Congress authorizes a relief package that includes aid to state and local governments, something that Republican leaders in Congress strongly oppose.

Pritzker said about \$2 billion of this year’s shortfall is due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has drastically cut into state revenues. The rest, he said, is part of an ongoing “structural” deficit in the state budget, one that he had hoped to fill with passage of his proposed graduated income tax amendment, and he lashed out at Republicans in Illinois who worked to defeat that proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot.

“It’s been two years since Republicans announced their wholesale opposition to the ‘Fair Tax,’ and it’s been 40 days since the election, and they have yet to produce any viable answer for balancing

the budget,” Pritzker said. “They worked and spent endlessly to defeat the best option Democrats put on the table. And after all their bluster, it turns out that Republicans have no plan at all, to put the state on a firm fiscal foundation.”

But GOP leaders in the General Assembly responded quickly, arguing that the budget shortfall is the result of Democrats being unwilling to cut spending earlier.

“The Governor can blame others all he wants for the state’s financial mess, but the fact of the matter is this is a bed of his own making,” Senate Minority Leader-elect Dan McConchie, of Hawthorn Woods, said in a statement. “Voters fundamentally rejected his graduated tax proposal because of their lack of trust in state government, which stems from years of Springfield increasing taxes and ignoring the reforms that Republicans have put on the table time and time again.”

House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said the deficit was built in to the budget that the Democratic-controlled General Assembly passed in May, which was predicated on passage of the tax amendment and the state receiving about \$5 billion in federal aid that so far has not materialized.

“Governor Pritzker, (Senate) President (Don) Harmon and (House Speaker) Mike Madigan were repeatedly warned about the dire short-

FY21 Budget Reductions on Enacted Budget

(\$ in millions)

Illinois Office of Management and Budget

December 15, 2020

Agency	Appropriation/Line Item	Total Impact	Notes
Healthcare/Human Services			
			\$200.2
Department of Human Services	Operational and Grant Reductions	\$126.3	Reductions in operational expenses and grants (hiring freeze, reduced overtime, and reduced grants due to lower than expected caseloads)
Department on Aging	Care Coordination/Community Care Program	\$27.0	Lower than expected caseload
Department on Aging	Community Care Program - Rate Increase	\$15.0	Delay provider rate increase by 3 months
Healthcare/Human Services Agencies	Operational and Grant Reductions	\$31.9	Includes HFS, DPH, Aging, GAC, DHR (hiring freeze, travel reductions, and shifting to online resources)
Public Safety			
			\$71.1
Department of Corrections	Reductions in Population	\$25.4	Identified savings due to lower offender population (including phase down of wings and reduced commodities, utilities, and overtime costs)
Public Safety Agencies	Operational and Grant Reductions	\$45.6	Includes DCC, DJJ, CJA, DMA, PRB, LETSB, SPMB, ISP
Economic Development, Environment and Culture			
			\$135.1
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	Grant and Administrative Cost Reductions	\$60.4	5% reductions to multiple grant lines, plus freeze on un-obligated portions of grants to further review
Department of Agriculture	Grant Reductions	\$2.6	Includes multiple grant lines and grant programs (due to cancellation of 2020 state and county fairs)
Department of Natural Resources	Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grants	\$29.0	Freeze 2020 new round of grants
Economic Agencies	Operational and Grant Reductions	\$43.0	Includes ALPLM, Agriculture, DCEO, DNR, EPA (reduced visits at State Parks due to COVID and freezing vacancies)
Government Services			
			\$304.8
All Agencies	Personnel Cost Adjustments	\$75.0	Structure to be developed through negotiations with the unions
Department of Transportation	Operational Reductions	\$68.0	Includes \$32.6 million reduction for equipment purchases (reductions will not impact the Capital Program)
Central Management Services	Group Insurance Savings	\$65.0	Cost savings due to negotiated union contract and slower liability growth
Capital	School Maintenance Capital Grants	\$40.0	Freeze 2020 new round of grants
Government Service Agencies	Operational Reductions	\$56.8	Includes CMS, DoIT, CDB, DOR, Lottery, IGB, DOL, DOI, DFPF, Gov. Lt Gov, GOMB (reduction in vehicle purchases, reduced travel, delayed technology projects, reduced equipment purchases, and hiring freeze)
Total			\$711.2

falls in the fantasy budget that relied upon the passage of the graduated tax and a ‘fingers crossed’ hope for a federal bailout,” Durkin said in a statement. “Instead of living within our means, they attempted to trick voters into raising taxes, and were sorely rejected by Democrat, Republican and Independent voters across the state.”

The state’s largest public employee labor union pushed back on the cuts. Roberta Lynch, executive director of

AFSCME Council 31, issued a statement saying the union “is firmly opposed to any demands that unfairly target state employees.”

“Undoubtedly our state faces a severe fiscal crisis and action is urgently needed. However, it is grossly unjust to suggest that frontline state employees who have already sacrificed so much in our current public health crisis should bear an outsized share of the burden of fixing the state’s fiscal crisis as well,” she said

in the statement. “Moreover, it is counterproductive in the extreme to target these employees at a time when the need for state services and the demands on state government are greater than ever.”

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



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As we celebrate the holidays, we're reminded of how fortunate we are to be surrounded by good people and pets like all of you. We greatly appreciate your support and friendship, and we look forward to sharing more visits with you in the coming year.

May your holiday season be trimmed with every happiness, including friendship, love, health and good fortune. We wish you all the best. Merry Christmas!

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Christmas Tree Contest

It's time to VOTE for your favorite decorated Christmas Tree.

Click on the banner ad at www.MendotaReporter.com to vote.

Voting starts on Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. and runs through Dec. 25 at 11 p.m.

The top vote getter will receive a \$50 cash prize

THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

TWO ARRESTED

On Dec. 10, the city of Mendota Liquor Commission met with Ronald G. Larsen, owner of Ron's Easy Corner/Bower's Corner Tap located at 616 Main St., Mendota, concerning numerous ordinance/dram shop violations that had occurred at the tavern. During the meeting, it was agreed the tavern's liquor license would be suspended.

At approximately 12:52 a.m. Dec. 11, Mendota police officers observed numerous subjects in the tavern being served alcoholic beverages in violation of the liquor license suspension. Police officers closed the tavern and issued the bartender, Michelle R. McCaffity, 47, of 1102 Chicago St., Mendota, and the manager, Heather R. Vickrey, 26, of 618 1/2 Main St., Mendota, ordinance citations for violating 110-2 Alcoholic Beverages/License Required. Both subjects were released with Ottawa court dates.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Austin Sessler, 22, of 106 S. Third Ave., Apt. 2,

Mendota, was charged with domestic battery after police officers were called to the 100 block of South Third Avenue at 1:56 p.m. Dec. 14 in reference to a disturbance. The subject was transported to the LaSalle County Jail to appear before a judge.

WARRANT ARREST

Delia Arredondo, 60, of 301 Second St., Mendota, was arrested at 1:31 p.m. Dec. 16 on a valid LaSalle County failure to appear arrest warrant for driving under the influence of alcohol. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

PET WASTE VIOLATION

David Terrazas, 25, of 707 1/2 Illinois Ave., Mendota, was charged with a city ordinance violation for failure to properly dispose of pet waste at 7:40 p.m. Dec. 17. The subject was released with an Ottawa court date.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

A 17-year-old female juvenile was charged with domestic battery at 11:42 p.m. Dec. 17 after an investigation by

Mendota Police. The subject was released to a parent and the charge is referred to the LaSalle County juvenile court.

SUSPENDED LICENSE

Devon C. Hall, 23, of 1305 Guiles Ave., Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after a traffic stop at 14th Avenue and Washington Street at 1:15 p.m. Dec. 18. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Mary A. Jimenez, 36, of 26711 Meridian Road, Apt. 2, Mendota, was arrested at 3:32 a.m. Dec. 20 on a valid LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear for larceny. The subject posted bond and was released with a LaSalle County court date.

NO VALID LICENSE

Martin Gutierrez-Sanchez, 34, of 26711 Meridian Road, Apt. 2, Mendota, was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at Meriden Street and Ben Mar Avenue at 5:07 a.m. Dec. 20. The subject was released with an Ottawa court date.

IVCC News Briefs

IVCC plans virtual express registration Jan. 5, 6, 12, 13

OGLESBY – Virtual Express Registration events are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 5, 6, 12 and 13 at Illinois Valley Community College.

Students can apply, register, speak with a counselor and, if necessary, a financial aid representative, said IVCC Director of Admissions and Transfer Services Quintin Overcker.

"All students need do is call (815) 224-0324. We will direct them to everything they need," said Overcker.

Students unable to pay for spring semester classes beginning Thursday, Jan. 14 are encouraged to call Financial Aid at (815) 224-0438.

IVCC Foundation's annual report is available online

OGLESBY – Illinois Valley Community College Foundation's 2020 Annual Report is available online at www.ivcc.edu/foundation.

The report highlights new scholarships created in 2020, the latest additions to the 21st Century Scholars Society class and Foundation board news.

Executive Director of Community Relations and Development Fran Brolley said, "Thanks to our many generous donors, the Foundation has been instrumental in helping our most at-risk students attend college."

For a hardcopy of the report, contact Janice Corrigan@ivcc.edu or call (815) 224-0253.

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY DEADLINES

The following deadlines for editorial, advertising and photos will apply for the Reporter Money Saver and The Mendota Reporter:

- Money Saver for Dec. 28 -** Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.
- Mendota Reporter for Dec. 30 -** Wednesday, Dec. 23 at noon
- Money Saver for Jan. 4, 2021 -** Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 10 a.m.

12212020

Last year, we started off our letter to you with the very positive information about our economic expansion, and then touched on how the soggy conditions in our area affected so many people. What a change from last year! Where do we even begin? We started using words that we never thought we would use on a daily basis: pandemic, quarantine, social distance, shut-down – just to name a few. Or how about *derecho*? That was a new word for us! But we also learned some positive things. At Leffelman & Associates, we learned that we were unexpectedly ready for this. On March 18th, we started working from home. After a few tweaks to our phones and computers, everything worked as if we were working from the office. And then something extraordinary started to happen. We were swamped with new business! It has been a remarkable year for us, and we would like to thank ALL of our customers – old and new. For many of you, you probably never even knew that we were not working from our offices. For those of you who visit us on a regular basis, we got it all worked out to safely take care of you. As usual, we have seen our communities come together to help those who have not been so lucky. Our area communities are so blessed with people helping each other – several food pantries giving out food, community organizations, churches, and city governments helping those in need of other things. From what we can see, the support for our local businesses has been amazing. So on behalf of all local business, we would like to thank everyone for your support. Maybe 2020 will make us all realize how important it really is to shop local. We pray that everyone stays safe and healthy this season. If you are not able to physically be with family members, call them often, stay in touch. And have a warm and wonderful Christmas and new year filled with health and happiness.

May the Christmas Spirit be with you & your family today & throughout the New Year.

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING HEADQUARTERS

Looking for a truly "Mendota" gift?

Mendota Area Chamber Gift Certificates!

Mendota Shops offer a large and varied array of gift giving ideas for everyone on your Christmas List. **Puzzled?** Wondering what to get those hard to buy for relatives, friends and fellow employees? How about Mendota Area Chamber Gift Certificates!

They can be made for any denomination and they are always the right size and color! The Certificates may be purchased at the Chamber office.

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No Expiration Date

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LOCAL AND AREA

Christmas Coloring Contest winners announced

MENDOTA – The Mendota Reporter is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Santa's Christmas Coloring Contest.

- 1st Place – Karly Beetz, age 9, Mendota
- 2nd Place – Brooks Pawlowski, age 6, Mendota
- 3rd Place – Lila Coss, age 8, Mendota

Each of the winners received cash prizes and sweet treats. The Mendota Reporter gives a big thank you to all of the girls and boys that entered this year's contest, and we appreciate all of the fine sponsors that made the contest possible. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



1st - Karly Beetz



2nd - Brooks Pawlowski



3rd - Lila Coss

L.S. Co. Stockman's Association announces scholarship recipients, essay winners and other awards

LA SALLE COUNTY - The 2020 Annual LaSalle County Stockman's Association Awards and Recognition Banquet was not held due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, the Stockman's Association has continued to be active by recognizing LaSalle County youth throughout the past year.

LCSA has offered their congratulations to the four 2020 recipients who were selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. They include Jacob Wiesbrock of Lostant, who attends the University of Illinois, majoring in Ag and Biological Engineering; Emma Freebarian of Ottawa, who attends Lakeland College, majoring in Ag Education and Ag Leadership; Katie Corcoran of Ottawa, a student at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, majoring in Physical Therapy Assistant; and Alyson Utteg of Grand Ridge, who attends Kansas State University, majoring in Animal Science and Animal Nutrition.

The Win-A-Show Animal Essay Contest has been an outstanding project of the LCSA. Young people who enter the contest write an essay (up to 250 words) on, "Why I Want To Win A Show Animal." They must choose one species of interest - beef, swine, sheep or goat. The LCSA expressed their appreciation to two former recipients of this contest, Jacob Black and Lance Moritz, who were donors this year.

Youth selected as this year's winners in beef, swine and sheep include Mollie Thomson of Tonica, winner of a heifer donated by the Dan Lukach Family, River Bend Farm, Grand Ridge; the swine winner is Kendall Sundberg of Mendota, swine donated by Lance Moritz, Streator; and the sheep winner is Marlee Grubar of Ottawa, donated by Jacob

Black, Grand Ridge. These young people will show their animals at the 2021 LaSalle County 4-H Fair.

A virtual LaSalle County 4-H Fair was held in July. The LCSA wishes to recognize and honor the 2020 Champion Breeding Animals. They include Grand Champion Heifer, Kara Freebarian of Ottawa; Reserve Grand Champion Heifer, Sophia Pyszka of LaSalle; Grand Champion & Reserve Champion Pure Bred Gilt, Carter Meyer of Earlville; Grand Champion & Reserve Champion X-Bred Gilt, Audra Marneic of Oglesby; Grand Champion Doe Goat, Brayden Wilson of Earlville; Reserve Grand Champion Doe Goat, Mollie Thomson of Tonica; Grand Champion & Reserve Champion Ewe, Nick Angus of Seneca; and Grand Champion Ram, Nick Angus of Seneca; and Reserve Grand Champion Ram, Kara Killelea of Ottawa.

The LCSA also congratulated Miriam Hoffman of Earlville on her election as the FFA's Eastern Regional National Vice-President. Hoffman, a junior studying agri-business and economics at SIUC, is a past recipient of a Stockman's scholarship.

During 2020, the LCSA donated a half-hog to the Streator Food Pantry, sponsored monetarily the following events and activities: LaSalle County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom, Section 7 FFA-Grand Champion Winners, LaSalle County 4-H Fair Bred & Owned Sponsorship, LaSalle County Stockman Scholarships, and Win-A-Show Animal Contest.

Serving as 2021-22 LCSA officers are President Ken Bernard, Grand Ridge; Vice-President Sarah Lukach, Streator; Secretary Melissa Bernard, Grand Ridge; and Treasurer Lisa Corcoran, Ottawa. The 2020-21 board of directors include George A. Lukach, Davis Isermann, Andy Goodbred, Chris Over, Ralph Walter and Floyd Crane.

Due to COVID-19, LCSA meetings will resume at various locations throughout the county once health guidelines allow. Follow them on Facebook at "LaSalle County Stockman's Association" for information on upcoming announcements and activities.

The Stockman's Association looks forward to 2021 by continuing to provide scholarships, awards and recognition to LaSalle County youth in agriculture and they appreciate everyone's support as they look forward to many exciting and successful years.

Nicor offers payment option to small business

MENDOTA - As small business owners in northern Illinois struggle with deepening challenges and risks to their operations related to COVID-19, Nicor Gas is offering extended bill payment arrangements and other resources to help them stay afloat and roll into 2021 with a plan.

Nicor will help every eligible small business customer take advantage of special payment arrangements with zero down payment and nine monthly installments to bring their accounts up to date. Businesses are eligible for one payment arrangement every 12 months. Inquire by visiting nicorgas.com or call 888.Nicor.4U.

For added protection, the Nicor Gas Small Business Emergency Assistance Program will provide eligible customers with a one-time grant in the form of a credit on their account equal to one-half of the past-due balance up to \$500. Funding for the relief program is limited to small business customers with 50 or fewer full-time employees. Eligible customers will receive a communication from Nicor Gas.

Christmas Services

Thursday,
Dec. 24
6 p.m.

Christ's Church

1107 Main St., Mendota • 815-503-1273

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." -Matthew 11:28

12142020

ONLINE

Worship
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Christmas EVE SERVICES

Live-streamed at

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Thursday, Dec. 24 • 5 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

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The 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!



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Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

• **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.

• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office

• **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

YES! Send me my 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

(Please Print)

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Christmas Blessings!
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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo
HOLLYWOOD -- Loyal "Jeopardy!" fans were saddened to learn that their favorite host, Alex Trebek, had pancreatic cancer. Alex vowed he would fight as hard as he could to beat it. Bravely he soldiered on, taping episodes of "Jeopardy!" until the last two weeks of his life. On Nov. 8, at the age of 80, he went to host that great big "Jeopardy!" game in the sky. We'll all miss Alex very much, but he wanted the show to go on. The big question is who can fill his shoes? The answer is Ken Jennings, the highest earning American game show contestant of all time. Jennings won 74 consecutive "Jeopardy!" games with the highest average of correct responses per game. He won \$2,520,700 for 74 wins, \$2,000 for placing second in his 75th appearance, \$500,000 second-place prize for the "Jeopardy! Ultimate Tournament of Champions" (2005), \$300,000 second place prize



K. Jennings

for the IBM Challenge (2011), in which he lost to the Watson Computer, \$100,000 second place prize for the "Jeopardy! Battle of the Decades" (2014), \$100,000 second place prize (his share of his team's \$300,000 prize) in 2019's "Jeopardy! All Star Games," and finally, \$1 million as first-place winner of "Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time" (2020), for a grand total of \$4,522,700. Jennings is 46 years old, a graduate of Brigham Young University who has written several books, including "Brainiac: Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs" (2006). He and his wife, Mindy, and their two children, 18-year-old Dylan and 15-year-old Caitlin, live in Seattle. In 2020 he became a consulting producer of "Jeopardy!" and now, beginning Jan. 11, he'll be what is being called the guest host, the first in a series of "in-house" guest hosts. But this avid comic book and movie geek (how did he ever miss being on "The Big Bang Theory"?) will undoubtedly become the new host of "Jeopardy!"

Question: When will they let us in on this!

 Plans are afoot for re-releasing films into theaters again. The roll out began slowly but starts to pick up with the pre-Christmas opening of "Monster Hunter," starring Milla Jovovich and Ron Pearlman. Then things really heat up with the Dec. 25 release of the Civil War drama "News of the World," starring Tom Hanks, and "Wonder Woman 1984," starring Gal Gadot and Chris Pine. January sees the debut of "Pieces of a Woman," starring Shia LaBeouf, Vanessa Kirby and Ellen Burstyn; and "The 355," starring Jessica Chastain, Penelope Cruz and Lupita Nyong'o. Also coming in the new year, "I Carry You With Me," about a gay couple from Mexico seeking a better life in the U.S., starring Armando Espitia and Christian Vasquez. Are these stars and films enough to force us to give up being lumpy couch potatoes? Stay tuned!
 (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson
Q: I recently watched the finale of "Supernatural." They really did a great job with the way they ended it. Now that the series is over, I know Jared Padalecki is going to be on the new "Walker, Texas Ranger," but does Jensen Ackles have anything in the works? -- **K.L.**
A: As far as his acting career goes, Ackles, who played Dean on "Supernatural," has landed a role on the upcoming season of "The Boys." It's an Amazon original series about a group of vigilantes who go after corrupt superheroes. Ackles will play a character named Soldier Boy, who fought in World War II. You can stream the first two seasons of "The Boys" now to get yourself familiar with the plot, as season three likely won't air until fall of 2021. Ackles also inked a deal to develop shows for Warner Bros., and he and his wife, Danneel, have formed a production company. Danneel also had a recurring role on "Supernatural" as Sister Jo and an angel named Anael. She's no stranger to the CW network, having previously played Rachel on "One Tree Hill" for several seasons.

Q: Whatever happened to Brandon Routh, the actor who played Superman before Henry Cavill. I really liked him. He's second only to Christopher Reeve as the true Superman, in my eyes. -- **J.E.**
A: He's still around! After playing the Man of Steel in the 2006 film "Superman Returns," Routh's career seemed to fizzle. Henry Cavill carried on the Superman franchise in feature films, but Routh actually continued in the role on television. He played Superman, and other roles, on the CW series "DC Legends of Tomorrow," "The Flash" and others. Next up is a recurring role as a cop on the new season of ABC's "The Rookie."
 You can follow Matt on Instagram @MattBrown511, where he showcases his artwork and quiet new life in California.

Q: I heard there's a new series based on the classic "Hardy Boys" books. I grew up reading the books, along with "Nancy Drew." Wasn't



B. Routh

there an old "Hardy Boys" TV show years ago? -- **G.F.**
A: There have been several TV shows and movies based on the "Hardy Boys" mystery novels, but the one you're probably thinking of is "The Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew Mysteries" starring Shaun Cassidy and Parker Stevenson. Pamela Sue Martin played sleuth Nancy. It aired from 1977-79. The latest installment of "The Hardy Boys" streams on Hulu and stars Rohan Campbell ("Virgin River") and Alexander Elliot ("Locke & Key"). The books on which the series takes its name were first published in 1927, and Hulu's version is vastly different. It takes place in the 1980s, which will inevitably lead to comparisons to Netflix's "Stranger Things" series. "The Hardy Boys" is a show that families can watch together, and we definitely need more programming like that while we're all cooped up. Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.
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Couch Theater

By Amy Anderson
 One outstanding benefit of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic is an increased interest in cooking -- in particular, baking. My inner fat girl -- and my outer fat girl, if I'm being honest -- is excited for all the holiday goodies being roasted and rolled, proofed and powdered, sprinkled and sauteed out there. What activity pairs best with these kinds of culinary delights? Christmas movies, of course. Bake and watch the day away with these four classics!
"Elf" -- Director Jon Favreau helms a wholesome family story of Buddy the Elf (Will Ferrell), who was raised by elves in the North Pole but always felt a little ... different. When he finds out that he's not actually an elf, he sets off for Manhattan in search of his real dad, Walter (James Caan), a book publisher whose heart is a size too small. While Walter's busy resisting the fact that childlike Buddy is his son, Buddy gets to work

spreading holiday cheer -- to Walter's family, at the local department store and in the heart of delightful store clerk Jovie (Zooey Deschanel).
"Die Hard" -- Can an action movie also be an iconic Christmas movie? Yippee-kai-yes! Bruce Willis stars as John McClane, a NY cop who flies out to sunny California to attend the office Christmas party of his mildly estranged wife at Nakatomi Plaza. When a group of German terrorists headed by Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman) takes over the tower, McClane goes into overdrive to free the hostages and take out the bad guys one by one before they can steal \$640 million in bearer bonds. The resulting cat and mouse action hatched a series of "Die Hard" films.
"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" -- Ron Howard directs the classic Dr. Seuss tale with a larger-than-life Jim Carrey in the role of the great green meanie. Looking down on all the Whos in Whoville at

their joyous celebration of the season, the Grinch is seized by a terrible idea: steal Christmas so he won't have to hear all that infernal exuberance. All he needs is the right red suit, a sizable sleigh pulled by a questionable reindeer and the cold-heartedness to take every present and bow. It doesn't work out the way he plans.
"A Christmas Story" -- An American staple that's been enjoyed by generations, this is the story of Ralphie, a 9-year-old boy who wants nothing more than a Red Ryder BB gun. Rebuffed with excuses from his mother and teacher, he appeals to the local department store Santa, but the message is the same: You'll shoot your eye out. But will he? Along the way to the answer, Ralphie, his family and friends will face down neighborhood bullies, battle some dogs, win a major award and have a very memorable Christmas dinner.
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Trivia Test

- MOVIES: In how many movies did Sean Connery play the character James Bond?
- ADVERTISING SLOGANS: What product is touted as "the fabric of our lives"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many laps do drivers have to complete in the Indianapolis 500 race?
- HISTORY: How many Pyramids of Giza (Egypt) were constructed?
- MUSIC: Which pop song repeats the chorus, "Why can't you see? You belong with me"?
- LITERATURE: What kind of novel is written in a series of letters?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many cups are in 1 pint?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek gods?
- ANATOMY: How much of the adult human body is made up of water?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the most densely populated continent on Earth?

- Answers
 1. Seven
 2. Cotton
 3. 200
 4. Three
 5. "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift
 6. Epistolary
 7. 2 cups
 8. Olympus
 9. About 60%
 10. Asia
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King Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Doctrine
 4 Commotions
 8 Mid-May honorees
 12 Cattle call
 13 "Arrivederci"
 14 "So be it"
 15 Wordplay specialists
 17 Hindu royal
 18 Locate
 19 Piece of cheesecake?
 20 Subsequently
 22 Reedy
 24 Concoct
 25 Good news for bargain hunters
 29 Bard's "always"
 30 Unrefined
 31 Id counterpart
 32 Ruins
 34 Touch
 35 Cincinnati team
 36 Gets up
 37 -- Valley (California ski resort)
 40 Family member
 41 Cather's "One of --"
 42 Expensive seafood
 46 Platter
 47 Between jobs
 48 Carnival city
 49 Remain
 50 Ball-bearing items
 51 Agent
 7 "Mayday!"
 8 Leatherneck
 9 Mideast nation
 10 Options list
 11 Use scissors
 16 Gush forth
 19 Snapshots
 20 Sleeping, perhaps
 21 Release
 22 Cafeteria stack
 23 Greet the villain
 25 Motivate
 26 -- Dictionary
 27 Chills and fever
 28 Deteriorates
 30 Staff
 33 In poor taste
 34 -- She Sweet?"
 36 Strategic tricks
 37 Turfs
 38 Resign
 39 -- Major Competent
 42 Illuminated
 43 Rhyming tribute
 44 Tear
 45 Tofu base
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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne
 * Snakes can help predict earthquakes. They can sense a coming earthquake from 75 miles away, up to five days before it happens.
 * Pure cocoa can help prevent tooth decay.
 * According to Roger Highfield, author of "The Physics of Christmas: From the Aerodynamics of Reindeer to the Thermodynamics of Turkey," Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system.
 * The original game of Clue, patented in 1947 by a British man who invented it to pass time during World War II air-raid blackouts, included a lead pipe token made of real lead (it was eventually replaced by steel, then pewter). The original version also included slightly more exotic weapons like a hypodermic syringe and an Irish walking stick.
 * There are no muscles in your fingers. Their function is controlled by the muscles in your palms and arms.
 * No one ever called "The Lion King" a documentary, but one hyena researcher was so incensed by the film's inaccuracies that he sued Disney for defamation on behalf of hyenas everywhere.
 * There's a town called "Big Ugly" in West Virginia.
 * The Eiffel Tower was originally supposed to be erected in Barcelona, but the project was rejected because citizens considered it an eyesore.
 * It's illegal in New Zealand to name your child Sex Fruit, Fat Boy, 4Real, Cinderella Beauty Blossom, or Fish and Chips.
 * Your tonsils can grow back if there was tissue left behind during the removal process.
 * If you could use your nose in space, you'd discover it smells like a mixture of hot metal, diesel fumes and barbecue, thanks to compounds called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that emanate from dying stars.

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Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

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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King Crossword
 Solution time: 27 mins.
 Answers

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S	R	S	I	S	B	O	R	S	N	O
			I	N	V		M	V		
S	I	I	R		S	O				
I	B	A	S	A	O	H	S	E	D	
O	G	S	H	V	O					
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			N	I	H	L		F	A	V
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S	M	O		O	I					

LOCAL AND AREA

IVCC Foundation names 21st Century Scholar recipient for 2020

OGLESBY – Grace McCormick of Peru is the Illinois Valley Community College Foundation's 21st Century Scholar for 2020.

The 14th annual Society celebration is available online at www.ivcc.edu/foundation and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beZta4G-4OE>.

McCormick, a 4.0 GPA student, plans a career in nonprofit management and hopes to eventually run an agency aiding the homeless or victims of domestic violence. She plans to transfer to the University of Wisconsin Madison or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The daughter of John and Holly McCormick is a PADS homeless shelter volunteer and helped raise over \$2,000 for the agency while in high school. She is IVCC's Rotaract President, a Student Ambassador, member of the admission's recruiting team and a counseling center receptionist/student worker.

As the 21st Century Scholar, McCormick will receive \$3,000. Four other finalists will receive \$1,500 each and 15 merit award winners \$750 each.

Finalists include Skylar Arwood of Utica who plans to become a physician. She is a student worker in the biol-

ogy and chemistry labs and a math and science tutor. A 4.0 student, she finished number six in an LP graduating class of 263 in 2019. The daughter of Keith and Darsi Arwood is a Student Ambassador, blood donor and Oglesby election judge planning to transfer to Northern Illinois University.

Ryan Lane of Peru will study civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville or UIUC. After college, he plans to work on public works construction projects and open his own business. The son of Dave and Lori Lane is a Student Ambassador who works part-time at Menards and for the City of La Salle.

Paula Taylor of Granville is planning a career in early childhood education. A librarian and Granville Boy Scout Troop leader, Taylor will transfer to Illinois State University and hopes to teach Pre-K in a public school. She and her husband Troy have three children: daughter Carden and sons Preston and Jonathon.

Reid Tomasson of Oglesby has a 4.0 GPA, is President of SPAMO (Students of Performing Arts & Music Organization), is co-editor of the student literary magazine River Currents, a Student Ambassador and performed in IVCC productions of Elf,

Broadway Backwards and Legally Blonde. He has worked in 50 community productions and has directed Stage 212 plays. The son of Cory and Traci Tomasson will transfer to Columbia College in Chicago to major in filmmaking with an emphasis in screenwriting and directing.

Merit winners were:

- Joseph Baker, son of Jeff and Deanna Baker of Utica, a business administration major;

- Riley Boehler, son of Samuel and Lori Boehler of Ottawa, automotive technology;

- Alexanderia Borys, Princeton, daughter of Benjamin Borys and Katie Guerrero, criminal justice;

- Emma Ebener, daughter of Paul and Carol Ebener of La Salle, chemical engineering;

- Gabrielle Englehaupt, daughter of Dan and Rebecca Englehaupt of Ladd, diagnostic medical sonography;

- Benjamin Gensler, son of Todd and Meigan Gensler of Peru, computer engineering;

- Kallie Hansen, daughter of Lee and Samantha Hansen of Spring Valley, accounting;

- Gorge Leon of Ottawa, son of Agustin Leon and Rosa Bautista, accounting;

- Alec Lockwood, son of Kirk and Dawn Lockwood



IVCC 21st Century Scholars Society finalists include Ryan Lane, left, of Peru, Skylar Arwood of Utica, 21st Century Scholar Grace McCormick of Peru, Paula Taylor of Granville and Reid Tomasson of Oglesby. (Photo contributed)

of Peru, graphic design and visual communications;

- Ashly Mauk, daughter of Jason and Lisa Mauk of Ottawa, elementary education;

- Hailey Newton, daughter of Gregory and Mary Newton of Seatonville, business administration;

- Ryan Skoog, son of Andy and Holly Skoog of La Salle, civil engineering;

- Madison Solomon, Hennepin, daughter of Shannon Jenkins-Solomon and

step-father Roger Richardson, exercise science;

- Clay Wells, son of Glenn and Garilyn Wells of Mironk, speech pathology; and

- Michelle Windy, daughter of Greg and Karen Windy of Peru, special education/visually impaired.

In all, 20 students received a total of \$20,250; since its founding in 2007, the Society has awarded over \$197,000 to 177 students.

Currently made up of 40

members contributing \$500 annually, the Society rewards IVCC's most promising returning students. To qualify, students need a minimum 3.5 GPA as well as extensive college involvement and community service.

The Society welcomed new member Dr. Patrice Hess of Peru, IVCC Director of Learning Resources. The online ceremony also includes a welcome from IVCC President Jerry Corcoran.

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LOCAL AND AREA

Discover how God sees you

In today's society, insecurity and self-rejection have reached an all-time high. More than ever before, so many people simply don't like themselves.

Over the years, I have met countless people who believe God is angry with them because they haven't "arrived" at the place of perfection. As a result, they live in a state of perpetual frustration—continually rejecting themselves and feeling bad every time they make a mistake.

But Jesus didn't give His life for us to walk

around feeling guilty and condemned. He wants us to feel good about ourselves and our relationship with Him. And it all starts with discovering our true identity in Christ.

Are You a Believer or an Achiever?

For many years, I tried to please God with my works. It seemed as if I was living on a performance treadmill—always trying to do something to feel good about myself and feel like I was in right standing with Him. In the process, I became

wearily, worn-out, and unhappy. I would think, "Something is just not working."

I was right. No matter how much we love God and choose to do what's right, we will always be frustrated until we understand this life-changing truth:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8 NIV).

There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation or right standing with God; we have been made right with Him through our faith in Jesus Christ. A believer that is lacking this understanding is like a jumbo jet on the runway with no gasoline—he has all the equipment but is going nowhere!

In His mercy, God allowed me to see that there was absolutely nothing I could do to make Him love me any more or less than He already did. All He wanted was for me to believe in Jesus, "the one he has sent" (John 6:29 NIV) and receive the righteousness He has provided.

See Yourself Through God's Eyes

In order for us to experience true freedom and grow in our relationship with God,



we must learn to accept ourselves right where we are and see ourselves the way God sees us. As we do, we will begin to understand that becoming like Christ is a process that takes time... and God will be faithful to finish the good work He has started in us (see Philippians 1:6).

Second Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

This is the basis of self-acceptance—knowing that God accepts us through Jesus and sees us as totally righteous. This does not mean that we don't sin anymore or that we can dismiss it like it's no big deal. It simply means that God loves us even while we are in the process of becoming like Christ—before we have "arrived."

For example, when she was two years old, one of our granddaughters would throw fits when she didn't get her way. She'd throw herself on the ground and scream uncontrollably.

Now, even though I disliked her behavior, I still loved her tremendously. I don't stop loving my grandchildren or kick them out of the family because they do wrong things. I love them and work with them to de-

velop the good character I know they need to succeed in life.

The same is true with God, our heavenly Father. He doesn't love our wrong behavior, but He certainly loves us. Romans 5:8 says that He proved His love for us by sending His Son "while we were still sinners." In other words, He didn't wait until we were righteous to send Jesus—He sent Jesus because we would never be righteous without Him!

Put On Your Robe

Isaiah 61:10 (NIV) says, "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness..."

What does this mean for us? It means when we make mistakes, God literally has us covered with His robe of righteousness. So when the enemy comes against us with thoughts of guilt or condemnation, we can stand firm against his accusations. We can stand on God's Word and say...

"I am the righteousness of God in Christ. I am clothed in His righteousness—not mine. The Bible says that if I confess my sin, God is faithful to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I am loved!" (See 1 John 1:9)

God is on your side, and He wants you to feel good about yourself and the progress you are making. So don't spend your time frustrated because you haven't "arrived." God is not mad at you because you aren't perfect—He is only disappointed if you quit running the race!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's teaching resource *Knowing Who You Are in Christ*. 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* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday*

Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

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*Written by Thomas Merton, 1968:
 My Lord God,
 I have no idea where I am going.
 I do not see the road ahead of me.
 I cannot know for certain where it
 will end.
 Nor do I really know myself, and
 the fact that I think I am following
 your will does not mean that I am
 actually doing so.
 But I believe that the desire to
 please you does in fact please you.
 And I hope I have that desire in all
 that I am doing.
 I hope that I will never do anything
 apart from that desire.
 And I know that if I do this you will
 lead me by the right road, though I
 may know nothing about it.
 Therefore will I trust you always
 though I may seem to be lost and
 in the shadow of death.
 I will not fear, for you are ever
 with me, and you will never leave
 me to face my perils alone.*

Posted by Rev. Susan Presley

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*The angel answered,
 "The Holy Spirit will come
 on you, and the power of the
 Most High will overshadow you.
 So the holy one to be born will
 be called the Son of God."
 - LUKE 1:35*

"Angel" by Thomas Derrick (1930)
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Accessible
DIGITAL SCHEDULE:
Sunday Worship:
 Please see our Facebook page
 www.facebook.com/fpcmendota
 to see if we are open and to watch
 services live online at 10 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship:
 https://us02web.zoom.
 us/j/85746317823
 To call in for audio only, dial
 (312) 626-6799 - use meeting
 ID: 857 4631 7823
 Live Zoom at 11 a.m.
 Let's catch up!

Wednesday Evening Gathering:
 Live Zoom at 7 p.m.
 https://us02web.zoom.
 us/j/86402369150

To call in for audio only, dial
 (312) 626-6799 - use meeting
 ID: 864 0236 9150
 Might be Bible Study, might be
 fellowship, might be sharing.
*No passwords are required for any
 of these, and the links and phone
 numbers will be good through the
 duration of our adventure.*

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 SUNDAY SERVICE**

BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. The main Christmas story is paraphrased from what two New Testament books? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation
2. From Luke 2:34, who prophesied to Mary that this Christ child is set for the fall and rising again of many? Melchior, Simeon, Cyrenius, Felix
3. What bright phenomenon led the wise men (Magi) to the young Jesus and Savior? Whirlwind, Star, Rainbow, Rain-fall of sparkling gold
4. Where was the young child when the Magi came to visit Him to present gifts? Manger, Under the stars, House, Temple
5. By what method did the shepherds learn of Christ's birth? New star, Angel appearance, Walking stranger, Donkey speaking
6. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7

ANSWERS: 1) Matthew/Luke; 2) Simeon; 3) Star; 4) House; 5) Angel appearance; 6) Zero
 (c) 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.



*Silente nacht, heilige nacht
 silent night, holy night
 alles schläft, einsam wacht
 all is calm, all is bright*

~~~~~  
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 you to attend a  
 house of worship  
 this week.*  
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101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF) PATRICIA A.) WHITMORE,) Deceased.) Case No. 2020-P-000221

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of PATRICIA A. WHITMORE. Letters of Office were issued on November 23, 2020 to GERALD G. WHITMORE, 1704 Meriden St., Mendota, IL 61342, as Executor, whose Attorney is MICHAEL G. BOKUS, 609 Eighth Avenue, Mendota, Illinois 61342.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the LaSalle County Circuit Clerk, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison Street, Ottawa, Illinois 61350, or with the representative, or both, before the date stated in this notice, which date shall be not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

61350, or with the representative, or both, before the date stated in this notice, which date shall be not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to her Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Date of first publication: December 9, 2020, A.D. Claim Deadline: May 10, 2021, A.D. CIRCUIT CLERK LASALLE COUNTY OTTAWA, ILLINOIS Michael G. Bokus, Attorney at Law 609 Eighth Avenue Mendota, IL 61342 Phone: 815/ 539-5002 FAX: 815/ 538-5771 ARDC No. 6285775 No. 1202 (12/9, 12/16, 12/23 2020)

NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2020 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 Toil and Thyme located at 127 West Van Buren Street, Ottawa, IL 61350.

Dated: December 11, 2020. Aubrey Sipula Applicant No. 1203 (Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2020)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF) SHIRLEY S. HEISS,) Deceased.) 2020 P 000231

CLAIMS NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Shirley S. Heiss, of LaSalle County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on the 10th day of December, 2020 to Patricia A. Mucha and Nanci H. Stark whose attorney is Eric B. Deobler of White, Marsh, Anderson, Martin, Vickers, Deobler & Goode, 511 E. Etna Road, Ottawa, IL 61350.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Downtown Courthouse, Ottawa, Illinois 61350, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 16, 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

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LASALLE COUNTY, OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF) THE ESTATE OF) PHYLLIS V.) THOMPSON,) Deceased.) Case No.: 20 P 237

CLAIMS NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Phyllis V. Thompson, of Mendota, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 16, 2020 to Kim M. VanRheenen, 4656 E. 3rd Rd., Mendota, IL 61342, whose attorney is David M. Kaleel, 806 Jefferson Street, Mendota, Illinois 61342.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, LaSalle County Courthouse, 119 W. Madison St., Ottawa, IL 61350 or with the representative, or both, on or before July 12, 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 that Notice, if later than the date shown above.

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. No. 1205 (12/23/20, 12/30/20 & 1/6/21)

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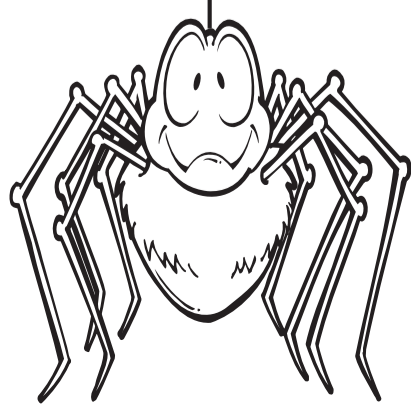
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