



MHS alters semester exam requirement, sets graduation

By **BONNIE MORRIS**
Editor

MENDOTA—Changes in semester exams were announced and a shift to a daytime graduation was approved during the Dec. 21 Mendota High School Board of Education meeting.

Principal Denise Aughenbaugh said final exams will not be counted as 15 percent of students’ semester grades for this semester, although students may still be expected to take a mastery test in their classes. However, the mastery test grade will not impact semester grades by 15 percent.

The decision on exams was made because over 300 students have had extended absences due to quarantine or symptomatic exclusions of COVID-19, Aughenbaugh explained. “The administration and faculty have agreed to waive the 15 percent cumulative final fall exams this year because of attendance constraints,” she told the board.

Students who earn final exam exemptions will be rewarded in other ways. “MHS is still offering academic incentives during the last days of the fall semester and we want to motivate and reward students for their hard work and effort,” Aughenbaugh said. “Sophomores, juniors and seniors may earn a day off of in-person school attendance or a grade bump. We hope this motivation and reward opportunity encourages students to complete coursework.”

In addition, changes have been made to the school calendar. Students will return

“The administration and faculty have agreed to waive the 15 percent cumulative final fall exams this year because of attendance constraints.”
—Principal Denise Aughenbaugh

from winter break on Jan. 4 and the semester will end on Jan. 15. There will be a Teacher Institute on Jan. 18 and a Teacher Remote Learning Planning Day Jan. 19. Students will return to school for second semester on Wednesday, Jan. 20, which will be a Gold calendar day.

GRADUATION

Graduation for the Class of 2021 has been scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 29. Superintendent Jeff Prusator said this will be Memorial Day weekend, so having the ceremony at an earlier time for will allow families to make plans for that evening. He also noted that the early time would allow for the possibility of having more than one graduation ceremony that day if any restrictions on gatherings should be in place due to COVID-19. “We hope not, but we don’t know for sure what will happen,” he said.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mendota High School will soon have its own custom app. Aughenbaugh said students, parents and the community will be able to

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90th District State Rep. Tom Demmer of Dixon could be a candidate for governor or U.S. Senate in 2022.

Demmer considering statewide 2022 run

By **JERRY NOWICKI**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — State Rep. Tom Demmer, of Dixon, is considering a run for statewide office in 2022. Whether for governor, U.S. Senate or another position, he has not decided.

The 34-year-old Illinois House Deputy Minority Leader has most recently been in the news as the leading Republican on the House Special Investigating Committee of Democratic Speaker Michael Madigan. He’s also one of the House Republicans’ lead negotiators on the state budget and Medicaid legislation.

Demmer said in an interview with Capitol News Illinois that he began contemplating a statewide run after discussions with colleagues

on some of the “longer running issues” facing Illinois, including public corruption and seemingly never-ending budget pressures. Those issues, he said, have sewn distrust in government that he believes can be remedied through bipartisan problem solving and coalition building.

“You have to prioritize that idea that we need to restore trust in government, that we need to turn a page from the ludicrous run of scandals that have been part of Springfield culture my entire life,” Demmer said. “And which, every single day, frustrate and make the people of Illinois become more and more disenchant-

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Third-graders answer 12-Day Kindness Challenge

MENDOTA—Third grade students in Mrs. Ambler’s class at Lincoln School were given a 12-Day Kindness Challenge by their teacher, which ended on Dec. 18.

After the students did something kind for someone, they would tell Mrs. Ambler during Zoom, message her through Google Classroom, or email her. Then Mrs. Ambler wrote each act of kindness on a paper link, and each time the class met through Zoom, she would show them how much the chain had grown.

Mrs. Ambler said there were children cleaning rooms, houses, and mini-vans, doing dishes, helping grandparents bake and decorate for Christmas, delivering cookies to neighbors, helping younger siblings with homework, giving massages to parents and siblings, reading stories to family members, listening to friends who were sad, and many, many more kind acts.

In all, Mrs. Ambler said she collected almost 80 things that the students did out of the kindness of their hearts. That is 80 times that they added some positive energy to those around them, she noted.

“Kindness is already embedded in the hearts of these kids—I am not teaching them anything they don’t already know,” stated Mrs. Ambler. “I am just encouraging them to always show kindness to



Billy Bromenschenkel, left, Olivia Gallagher, center, and Karly Beetz stand next to the Act of Kindness Chain they made as part of Mrs. Ambler’s Lincoln School third grade class 12-Day Kindness Challenge. The students voted to hang the chain at Graves Hume Public Library. (Reporter photo)

everyone, and I am so proud of them.”

Mrs. Ambler said she asked for suggestions on where the best place to hang the chain would be, and the place that got the most votes was the Graves Hume Public Library. The

idea came from Olivia Gallagher, who has special ties to the library because her grandmother works there. Then, Mrs. Ambler just drew names to have a couple of other class representatives. The other students were Karly Beetz,

whose grandmother also used to work at the library, and Billy Bromenschenkel.

Gallagher and Bromenschenkel volunteered to make a couple of signs so patrons of the library would understand the meaning behind the students’ chain.



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24/7 - We’re always on at www.mendotareporter.com



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NEWSPAPER

LOCAL AND AREA

Mendota High School students chosen as Voice of Democracy winners

MENDOTA - Mendota VFW Post 4079 is pleased to announce its winners for the 2020 Voice of Democracy audio-essay (speech) competition.

This year's winners are all Mendota High School students. They include:

1st Place: Mary E. DeFore, 12th grade

2nd Place: Liam P. McGann, 11th grade

3rd Place: Karliann B. Miars, 10th grade

All winners were presented with a certificate and the 1st place winner was awarded a \$100 scholarship award prize and her audio-essay was forwarded to District 9 for the next level of competition, in which she competed against all other post winners within the district.

At the district level, Mary DeFore's speech received 3rd place, and she was presented an award certificate and a \$50 award prize. The 1st place district-level winner



Left to right, K. Miars, M. DeFore, L. McGann

was from Chillicothe and 2nd place winner was from Marseilles.

Students from MHS and the surrounding area high schools were

invited to participate. The Voice of Democracy theme this year was,



DeFore wins District Award

"Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" This program is a way for students to present their ideas, demonstrate their patriotism and receive awards for their work.

Find more information online at <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>.

Mendota VFW selects winning Patriot's Pen essays

MENDOTA - Mendota VFW Post 4079 is pleased to announce its winners for the 2020 Patriot's Pen Essay competition.

This year's winners are all 8th graders. They include:

1st Place: Quin Holland, Northbrook School

2nd Place: Kenley Wilson, Holy Cross School

3rd Place: Kirby Bond, Holy Cross School

These winners were presented with a certificate and an award prize of \$75, \$50 and \$25 respectively.

All three of the winning essays were forwarded to District 9 for the next level of competition, in which they compete against all other post winners within the district. At the district level, Quin Holland's essay received 2nd



Q. Holland

place and he was presented an award certificate and a \$75 award prize from the district. The 1st place district-level winner was from Chillicothe and 3rd place was from Bartonville.

Sixth, 7th and 8th grade



K. Wilson

students in Mendota and the surrounding area schools were invited to participate. The Patriot's Pen annual theme this year was, "What is Patriotism To Me" and is acclaimed as a way for students to present their ideas,



K. Bond

demonstrate their patriotism and receive awards for their effort.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>.

Apply now for Bureau Co. Community Impact Grants

BUREAU COUNTY - Farm Bureau and COUNTRY recognize it takes a large amount of hard work and sweat equity to make a lasting impact in a community. For over 100 years, the Bureau County Farm Bureau and its family of companies have offered programs and services in Bureau County to inform, strengthen and develop the agricultural industry in local communities.

They continue that same mission today by investing time and resources to provide information and support to improve financial stability and quality of life for members. To help meet this mission, they have created the Community Impact Grant Program to facilitate partnerships with local groups in Bureau County on projects that have an impact in local communities.

There are many great ideas for community-based projects which, unfortunately, do not become a reality due to funding support. The Community Impact Grant Program seeks to identify various projects that will improve communities and to create partnerships with groups and individuals to make those projects a reality.

Proposals will be accepted Jan. 1 through March 1, 2021. The submitting organization or individual must be based in Bureau County or have operations in the

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See Local News online at WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM



The following financial institutions will be closed the days listed below.

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Financial Plus Credit Union

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Member NCUA-ESI

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First State Bank

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2959 Peoria St.
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www.eurekasavings.com

LOCAL AND AREA

Kirchhoff recognized by international economic development group

OGLESBY—Fewer than 160 people worldwide hold the designation “Fellow Member” from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Mike Kirchhoff, President & CEO of the North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation, just became one of them. The award was presented during a 2020 Virtual Conference.

“I am honored, humbled, and thrilled to be recognized as a Fellow Member (FM) of the International Economic Development Council. What a nice way to celebrate my 31st year in the economic development profession and the 20th anniversary of attaining the Certified Economic Developer (CEdD) designation,” Kirchhoff said.

According to IEDC, the elite status is conferred on members who have “attained unusual stature in the field of economic development.”

In the course of his more than 30 years of economic development experience, Kirchhoff led the successful response for more than 120 site location projects representing nearly \$2 billion in corporate investment and the creation or retention of more than 15,000 jobs.

Having worked in metro, rural, utility and state government settings in four states, his background includes substantial experience in business retention and expansion, marketing, industrial attraction, downtown redevelopment, tourism, and entrepreneurship.

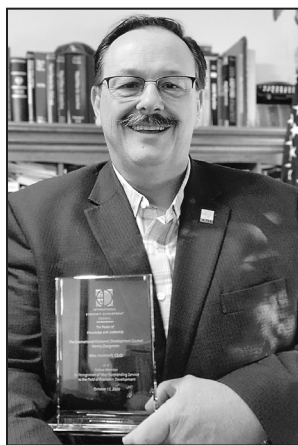
At the North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation (NCIEDC), Kirchhoff is solely focused on creating shared prosperity and economic opportunity in LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam counties by aggressively marketing the region’s locational ad-

vantages for business investment.

Founded in 2016, NCIEDC is supported by hundreds of investors in both the private and public sectors who collectively recognize that the regional approach is the best strategy for attracting quality jobs, additional business investment, and new tax revenue for the benefit of the three counties’ more than 150,000 residents.

During his time as an economic development consultant, Kirchhoff advised state, regional, metro, and rural organizations in multiple states on a wide array of projects such as industrial base analysis, real estate development and reuse, economic development streamlining, target sector identification and analysis, and other topics. He also authored multiple publications, articles and guides for economic development, including the business retention manual for the International Economic Development Council and articles for Economic Development Review, the Economic Development Journal, and other publications and has been a frequent speaker at conferences, workshops, and professional education programs.

Kirchhoff’s background includes leadership positions in several states’ economic development associations and local downtown redevelopment, regional marketing, tourism, chambers of commerce, and industrial development groups.



Kirchhoff

At the national/international level, Kirchhoff completed three terms as a board member of the International Economic Development Council, twice serving as chair of the board’s Performance Oversight and Monitoring Committee and as a member of the Governance Committee, having also served as a member of the IEDC Education and Certification Committee for more than 20 years.

An Effingham native, Kirchhoff is a Certified Economic Developer (CEdD), holds degrees in economics and business management from Eastern Illinois University where he was a triple major, and is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma. He also holds a Chancellor’s Certificate from the University of Missouri St. Louis. He and his wife Lynn are parents of two daughters, Amy, a medical researcher in Kansas City, and Cari, a senior pre-law student at the University of Denver.

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and provide a stable tax base.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Iowa State Univ. graduation

AMES, Iowa - Mari Biers of Mendota was among 2,001 students who earned degrees from Iowa State University this fall. The graduates were recognized in a virtual ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biers, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Health, graduated Cum Laude.

Continuing a practice started last spring, Iowa State prepared graduation day gift boxes for all graduating students. The box included a cardinal-and-gold tassel, musical card from President Wintersteen that plays “Pomp and Circumstance,” diploma cover, streamer

tube, I-State car window decal, Iowa State lapel pin, honor cords if applicable and a free introductory membership to the alumni association.

Iowa Wesleyan dean’s list

MOUNT PLEASANT, Iowa - Jodie Penman of Paw Paw is one of over 200 students named to the fall 2020 dean’s list at Iowa Wesleyan University. Students exemplifying academic excellence represent the United States and countries abroad.

Criteria to be a part of IW’s dean’s list include degree-seeking students taking 12 or more hours per semester with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Henkel named FNB president

AMBOY—The First National Bank in Amboy is proud to announce that Colleen Henkel will be promoted to president as of Jan. 1, 2021.

Henkel has spent her 40-year banking career at The First National Bank in Amboy, having served in many areas within the bank, most recently as executive vice president and cashier.

Besides her banking and family duties, Henkel has been a community leader. In addition to serving on the board of directors for the bank, she also serves on the KSB Board, the Northern Illinois Cancer Treatment Center Board, the Community Bank-

ers Association of Illinois Legislative Committee, the Lee County Soil and Water District Board, and as Finance Chair of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

“I am grateful for this opportunity,” Henkel stated. “The First National Bank in Amboy has a long tradition of serving our local communities for all of their banking needs. I look forward to continuing the values and culture we have created. We are fortunate to have an outstanding team who are passionate about serving the financial needs of individuals and businesses in the communities we serve. We will continue to deliver high quality financial products and services to our customers and I promise we will always give you our best.”

The First National Bank in Amboy was chartered in 1934 with roots dating back to 1867, with six locations in Lee and Ogle counties.



Henkel

CARL’S QUIZ

Which mammal has no vocal cords?

The answer to last week’s quiz is: “Silent Night” was first played on guitar. Originally written in German as “Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,” this popular carol was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics written by Joseph Mohr, a young priest. The song was first performed on Christmas Eve that year at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. It is said that the song was composed for guitar because the church’s organ had been damaged in a flood.

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

Grants

Continued from Page A2

county. Examples of organizations include schools, civic organizations, churches, 4-H clubs, food banks, FFA chapters, fraternities and sororities. Projects that have a lasting, multi-year impact will be favored over those with a short-term impact.

The awarded grant can be up to \$5,000 but the amount awarded will be determined at the time of selection. Grant awards will be announced in late spring, with project completion to occur by Aug. 15.










This grant is provided through a partnership between Bureau County Farm

Bureau and COUNTRY Financial representatives in Bureau County: Jim Scruggs, Crane Schafer, Mike Morris, Ron Behrends, Tyler Hansen, Ben Schmidt and Dan Kniss.

A link to the application is posted online at www.bureaucountyfarmbureau.org. Anyone with questions regarding the Impact Grant Program, please call (815) 875-6468, or e-mail Jill Frueh at jfrueh@bureau-countyfarmbureau.org.

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Mendota Weather Dec. 30, 2020

Seven Day Forecast		In-Depth Forecast		Regional Cities	
	Wednesday Rain Likely High: 41 Low: 21		Thursday Isolated Snow High: 31 Low: 23		Friday Scattered Snow High: 33 Low: 19
	Saturday Partly Cloudy High: 29 Low: 16		Sunday Mostly Cloudy High: 32 Low: 17		Monday Cloudy High: 37 Low: 24
	Tuesday Sunny High: 36 Low: 21				

Last Week's Local Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip	Rainfall	Normal rainfall	Departure
Monday	48	32	29/14	0.00"	0.01"	0.49"	-0.48"
Tuesday	44	25	29/13	0.00"			
Wednesday	61	22	29/13	0.01"			
Thursday	16	9	29/13	0.00"			
Friday	22	9	28/13	0.00"			
Saturday	37	18	28/13	0.00"			
Sunday	49	28	28/12	0.00"			

Data as reported from Peru, Ill.

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Wednesday	7:22 a.m.	4:35 p.m.	5:07 p.m.	7:58 a.m.
Thursday	7:23 a.m.	4:36 p.m.	6:09 p.m.	8:47 a.m.
Friday	7:23 a.m.	4:37 p.m.	7:16 p.m.	9:30 a.m.
Saturday	7:23 a.m.	4:38 p.m.	8:25 p.m.	10:06 a.m.
Sunday	7:23 a.m.	4:39 p.m.	9:35 p.m.	10:38 a.m.
Monday	7:23 a.m.	4:40 p.m.	10:45 p.m.	11:06 a.m.
Tuesday	7:23 a.m.	4:41 p.m.	11:56 p.m.	11:33 a.m.

National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain and isolated snow, highest temperature of 54 in Center, Ind. The Southeast will experience partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain, highest temperature of 79 in Immokalee, Fla. The central United States will see partly to mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms, highest temperature of 72 in Laredo, Texas. In the Northwest there will be partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, highest temperature of 54 in Coquille, Ore. The Southwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with the highest temperature of 67 in Palm Springs, Calif.

Local UV Index



UV Index

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

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Weather Trivia

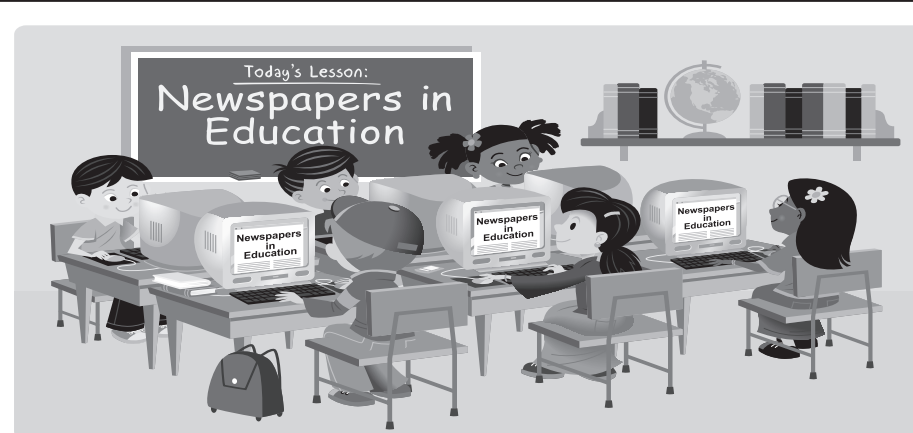
What is the Bermuda High?

Answer: Each summer, a huge area of high pressure sets up over the Bermuda.

Weather History

Dec. 30, 1988 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southwestern United States. A week of subfreezing temperatures in Southern California claimed the lives of five people. Redding, Calif. was blanketed with four inches of snow.

Dec. 31, 1962 - Perhaps the worst blizzard in the history of Maine finally came to an end. The storm produced 40 inches of snow in 24 hours at Orono and a total of 46 inches at Ripogenus Dam. Gale force winds produced snow drifts 20 feet high around Bangor.



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OBITUARIES / LOCAL NEWS

Charles T. Thompson

AMBOY - Charles T. "Charlie" Thompson, 15, of Amboy died Dec. 20, 2020 at the University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital in Madison, Wis.

Visitation was held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 23 at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Funeral service was held at 9 a.m. on Dec. 24 at the funeral home. Burial was at AuSable Grove Cemetery in Yorkville.

Charlie was born Oct. 12, 2005 in Dixon to Brad and Jennifer (Wilson) Thompson.

Survivors include his father; two sisters, Grace Thompson and Mary Thompson, both of Amboy; his paternal grandparents, Terry and Nancy Thompson of Ottawa; his maternal grandmother, Linda Wilson of Oswego; and his caregiver for the last 14 years, Linda Kagay.

He was preceded in death by his mother; one brother, Samuel; and his maternal grandfather, Jeffrey Wilson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ronald McDonald House in Madison, Wis. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.



Allen L. Horn

WASHBURN - Allen L. Horn, 65, of Washburn, passed away Dec. 25, 2020 at his residence in Washburn.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31 at the Calvert-Johnson Memorial Home in Washburn. Cremation will be accorded. Due to COVID-19, facemasks and social distancing are required.

Allen was born Feb. 5, 1955 in Mendota to Howard and Mary Harris Horn. He married Helen Ann Blackburn on Nov. 9, 1996 in Mendota. She preceded him in death in 2011.

Survivors include his children, April (PJ) Chaney, Adam (Sherry) Bend, Andrea (Mark) Langham, Abygail Horn and Zachary Horn; and 10 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Allen worked for Millwright Union Workers for many years. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish, and golf was a passion of his. He was also a talented and crafted woodworker.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Memories and condolences may be sent to his family at calvertmemorial.com.



Barbara E. Hathaway

MENDOTA - Barbara E. Hathaway, 85, of Mendota passed away Dec. 26, 2020 at Aperia Care, Spring Valley.

Private family burial services will be held at Restland Cemetery, Mendota. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is handling arrangements.

Barbara was born July 4, 1935 to Elmer and Helen (Eilers) Klein. She married John Hathaway on March 17, 1957 at the Baptist Church in Mendota. He passed away on Aug. 11, 1996.

Survivors include by her children, Jeff Hathaway of Mendota and Lisa (Tim) Trevier of Ladd; four grandchildren, Ian Kieran, Kavan and Taryn; one brother, Steve (Connie) Klein of Morton; one sister, Sharon (Sam) Hecox of Atlanta, Ga.; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a son, Edward Hathaway.

Barb was a 1953 graduate of Mendota High School. She went on to Galesburg Cottage College where she received her RN in 1956. She returned to school at Northern Illinois University and received her BSN in 1976. She was employed at Mendota Community Hospital and enjoyed the O.B. unit. She then went on to become the nurse at Mendota High School until her retirement after 36 years. She enjoyed sewing, quilting, needle point and counted cross stitch. She was also a member of the Mendota Moose Club and Troy Grove Grange. Her favorite pastime was being with her family and especially her grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry or Illinois Valley Animal Rescue.



With snow-and-ice season here, public encouraged to prepare for winter driving

SPRINGFIELD - Now that snow-and-ice season is upon us, the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State Police are reminding the driving public that it's time for "Winter Weather - Get it Together." Because of the continuing threat of COVID-19, planning and preparation - as well as patience and understanding - will be needed more than ever from drivers this winter.

"Our snow-and-ice response teams have prepared throughout the year to make this upcoming winter driving season as safe as possible. Whenever you see them doing their jobs, please slow down and give them room to work," said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "This year, we need the public to always be planning ahead and truly asking themselves before heading out if snow and ice are in the forecast: Is this trip really necessary?"

"Like everyone else, we feel the effects of COVID-19 at IDOT. Although we are taking every precaution we can to keep employees safe, we are prepared for the possibility our staffing levels this winter will be impacted



by the coronavirus."

Since the start of the pandemic, IDOT has adopted several measures to help keep frontline personnel safe, including frequent cleaning and disinfecting of facilities and equipment. Employees responsible for snow-and-ice removal are instructed to wear masks, socially distance and avoid congregating in common areas at all times. Contingency plans will be in place to provide coverage and clear roads as quickly as possible if workers need to be quarantined, but response times could be affected.

At all times, motorists should be mindful of winter driving skills and build extra time into their schedules in the months ahead. As part of the "Winter Weather - Get it Together" campaign, travelers are encouraged to follow these simple guidelines:

- Bookmark GettingAroundIllinois.com to check travel conditions 24/7.
- Wear a seat belt. It is the law in Illinois. And it's your best defense if you are involved in a crash.
- Drop it and drive. Put down the devices - it, too,

is the law.

• Do not travel during bad weather unless absolutely necessary. If you do have to drive, check the forecast and make sure someone is aware of your route. Familiarize yourself with public transportation options.

• Slow down. Slower speeds, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking are required throughout the winter.

• Don't crowd the plow. A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they may not see you. Any plow that's hit must be pulled out of service, resulting in one less resource available to clear the roads.

• Watch out for black ice. A road may appear clear but can be treacherous.

• Be especially careful when approaching intersections, ramps, bridges and shaded areas. All are prone to icing.

• Prepare an emergency kit that contains jumper cables, flares or reflectors, windshield washer fluid, a small ice scraper, traction material, blankets, non-perishable food and a first aid kit.

• Carry a cell phone and a car charger in case of emergency.

• Give them distance. Obey the Move Over Law by slowing down and changing lanes when approaching ANY stopped vehicle with flashing lights.

For the upcoming winter, IDOT will have more than 1,800 trucks available for deployment to plow almost 16,000 miles of roads statewide, the equivalent of driving from New York to Los Angeles and back almost six times.

Last year, IDOT spread more than 427,000 tons of salt statewide. This winter, salt domes throughout the state are close to capacity, with more than 466,000 tons on hand.

"The men and women of the Illinois State Police will face additional dangers on patrol during winter weather months while protecting and serving all motorists," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "Please refrain from driving unless it is essential. If you must get on the road, remember to adjust your driving to the weather and road conditions. Winter road conditions are unpredictable and a crash could happen at any moment. The fewer drivers on the road, the fewer crashes, the safer everyone will be. If you approach an emergency vehicle with its lights activated or a disabled vehicle with flashing lights, please slow down and move over. Our goal is to ensure everyone makes it home safely."

See Obituaries online at WWW.MENDOTAREPORTER.COM

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Where is it... in Mendota?

Can you identify this photo?

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LOCAL AND AREA

MHS

Continued from Page A1

get the MHS app in the app store. The custom school app will link all of the high school social media and website links and information into one place. It will allow users to access information from websites, social media, broadcasts (You Tube or games), and important calendar events. Parents can receive “push” alerts for important notifications with the InTouch notification service. “This will be very convenient to use and we are really looking forward to having it,” she said. “It is being designed now and should be ready in the coming weeks.”

Aughenbaugh announced the annual Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution award winners. Twila Martinson, daughter of Todd and Lisa Martinson, was chosen as the DAR recipient and Perris Stachlewitz, daughter of Rusty and Jennifer Stachlewitz, was selected as the SAR recipient. Both are MHS seniors. Senior students and faculty vote for the recipients each year based on service, dependability, leadership and patriotism.

OTHER BUSINESS

• An HVAC Maintenance Plan was approved by the board based upon unanimous recommendation of the Building Committee. Board President Jim Lauer said he hopes that by having a maintenance plan, the high school will get more years out of the new system than they did with the old one.

Residents need to obey winter weather ordinances

MENDOTA – During winter weather conditions, the Mendota Police Department reminds residents to obey the following ordinances:

• Ordinance 41.38 – Parking After Snowfall

It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street in the city at any time after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred, unless the snow has ceased and has been plowed off or otherwise removed from the street.

Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association found violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for each violation of this ordinance and may be subject to towing said vehicle away. The cost of said towing shall be the obligation and expense of those violating this Section.

• Ordinance 6.21 – Depositing Snow in Streets

No person within the city shall remove any snow

Keep fire hydrants in your area clear of snow

MENDOTA – The Mendota Fire Department would like to ask residents of Mendota that during snow removal efforts to keep fire hydrants free from obstruction of snow. As you blade, shovel or push snow off your driveways and sidewalks, take time to clear away the snow from around fire hydrants.

During a fire, seconds count. The extra minute removing snow from around fire hydrants may save you or your neighbor’s home. If you are unable to clear the snow from around hydrants yourself, call the City Clerk’s office at (815) 539-7459.

Also, keep your house numbers readily visible. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

• The board approved a resolution to abate the Alternate Revenue Bond for the second-to-last stadium payment of \$233,350. Prusator said the board will have to do this one more time next year, and that will be the last payment on the stadium.

• The board approved the tax levy, which Prusator said was unchanged from his presentation at the October board meeting.

• The Non-Certified Seniority List was approved by the board.

• Prusator informed the board that MHS will be required to help pay for a Health Life Safety Project at the Area Career Center. He explained that 10 schools belong to the ACC and maintenance costs are divided between the schools based on the average number of students who attend from each school. The payments will be spread out over the next three years.

In closing, Prusator again congratulated everyone at MHS for their efforts in keeping the school open over the past four months. “We made it in-person until Christmas – many people didn’t think we would make it,” he said. “We are very thankful that we did and it was due to the support and cooperation from everyone. It wasn’t easy, but we made it. I thank the staff, the students and the parents for helping to make this possible.”

The next regular board of education meeting will be held at the high school on Monday, Jan. 18 at 6 p.m.

from his private property or from offstreet parking lots or right of way parking into any of the city streets or alleys. This Section does not apply to removal of snow from sidewalks. This Section is specifically directed to, but not limited to gasoline stations, medical and dental clinics, or any other business or corporation which has private parking on the property or in those areas where the berm of the city has been dedicated or given over for parking facilities.

The above ordinances are in place to assist the city of Mendota with snow removal from the city streets.

Candidates file petitions for local positions

MENDOTA – Candidates for local positions in the April 2021 general election turned in their election petitions by the deadline of Dec. 21.

In the City of Mendota, the positions of mayor, city clerk, city treasurer and one seat in each of the four wards will be decided in April. There will not be any contested races for any of the positions.

Incumbents David Boelk and Emily McConville were the only ones to file for mayor

and city clerk, respectively. Incumbent aldermen Jim Fitzpatrick (First Ward) and Kyle Kim (Third Ward) will also be the only candidates on the ballot in their wards.

Two current members of the City Council who were appointed to their positions will be on the ballot for the first time. Leo Hochstatter was appointed to the council in December 2019 to replace the late John Pierson in the Second Ward, and Vicki

Johnson was named to the council in March 2020 to take the Fourth Ward seat of Bill Hunt, who resigned.

Current city treasurer, Jeff Simonton, will not seek another term. No one submitted a petition for the treasurer’s post.

In Mendota High School District 280, there are five seats open and four candidates that turned in petitions. They are incumbents Jim Lauer, Jim Strouss and Jim

Sundberg. Current board member Aaron Elston also filed for the election. He was appointed to the board in 2018. Another current board member, Jason Motter, will not run for re-election.

In Mendota Elementary School District 289, six people turned in petitions. They are incumbents Sean Pappas, Tim Pohl and Joel Johnson, and newcomers Liz Zinke, Holli Rapp and Amanda Coss.

Illinois leading nation in COVID-19 vaccinations

□ Bars and restaurants to remain closed despite improving trend in virus positivity rate

By PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – More than 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Illinois since the first vaccine was approved for emergency use this month, more than any other state in the nation, and state officials expect the pace of the vaccination program to speed up as the federal government begins distributing a second drug this week.

Gov. JB Pritzker made that announcement during a virtual media briefing last week, adding that eventually, larger states like California and Texas will surpass Illinois simply because of the size of their populations.

“But the vaccine team in Illinois sprinted past them all in week one,” Pritzker said.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted Emergency Use Authorization Dec. 11 for a vaccine developed by the drug companies Pfizer and BioNTech, and the state began delivering those vaccines last week.

On Friday, Dec. 18, FDA granted the same authorization for a vaccine developed by Moderna and shipments of that vaccine are now being distributed to hospitals and local health departments throughout the state.

By Dec. 26, Pritzker said, the state expected to receive another 23,400 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, plus 174,600 doses of the Moderna vaccine for distribution throughout Illinois outside of Chicago. In addition, Illinois is dedicating another 37,050 doses of the Pfizer vaccine for a federal government’s vaccination program for long-term care facilities, which is being administered by the pharmacy companies CVS and Walgreen’s.

“And with this week’s Moderna shipments, vaccines will have officially reached all 102 counties in Illinois,” Pritzker said.

The city of Chicago, which receives its own shipments directly from the federal government, expected to receive 15,600 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 48,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine last week.

All of the vaccines being distributed in the first phase of the program are earmarked for health care workers and the residents and staff of long-term care facilities. State officials said they expect it will take four to six weeks to complete that phase before the program expands to cover people over age 75 and other front-line essential workers.

Meanwhile, the spread of COVID-19 in Illinois continued to show signs of improvement last week as the Illinois Department of Public Health announced a seven-day rolling average positivity rate of 7.5 percent, the fourth consecutive day below 8 percent.

Despite those trends, however, Pritzker said he has no immediate plans to lift the Tier 3 mitigations currently in effect statewide, which includes the closure of bars and restaurants to indoor service and strict limits on public gatherings.

“The challenge that we have is, what we don’t want to do is swing back and forth between mitigations and not having mitigations within days or a week or two of one another,” Pritzker said. “And as we head into the New Year, my concern is that we might see – we are going to likely see – some uptick from Christmas and from New Years in hospitalizations as well as cases.”

“Having said that,” he added, “even if we brought the entire state or specific regions from Tier 3 to Tier 2, that would not open bars and restaurants for indoor service yet. We need to bring it down even further and for a longer period of time.”

Pritzker did announce that his ad-

ministration is increasing funding for child care providers that take part in the state’s Child Care Assistance Program, or CCAP, a program that helps low-income families pay for child care.

Pritzker said the state will invest \$20 million of its remaining allocation from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES Act, to pay for all eligible days of child care for families enrolled in the program, regardless of the child’s actual attendance, for all of December, January and February.

In addition, he said, the Department of Children and Family Services will lift the capacity limits all licensed family child care providers this month, returning them to full capacity. He said licensed child care centers may return to full capacity in early January, if the COVID-19 rolling positivity rate remains below 9 percent.

The money will also be used to buy and distribute personal protective equipment to child care providers throughout the state.

Pritzker said the intent of the additional funding is to provide some financial stability to child care providers who have seen their enrollments decline or have had staff call in sick during the pandemic.

“These tumultuous times have rained down in multiple ways on our early childhood network of providers,” Pritzker said. “And I wanted to make it easier for them so that we can make sure that childcare is available to parents who need it.”

(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.)

IVCC holding Virtual Express Registration in January

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 Ser-

vices Quintin Overocker.

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

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



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OPINION



The Mendota Reporter

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A believer in miracles

By Scott Reeder

Do miracles really happen?

It's a question you'll hear uttered at hospice bedsides, in Sunday School classrooms and pondered by many while awaiting slumber late at night.

As humans, we long for the inexplicable, something that transcends our daily existence. And yet, we all harbor doubts.

The ultimate miracle for Christians is the Christ child, God in human form lying in a manger.

As we celebrated Christmas, our thoughts turned to the Bethlehem star, angels bearing messages and heavenly hosts rejoicing.

It's a time I find myself reflecting on miracles I've witnessed.

Seventeen years ago, my father was diagnosed with stage-three esophageal cancer. The prognosis was bleak. Doctors told him he had a 5 % chance of living one year – with treatment.

He underwent chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. We prayed for his doctors. We prayed for my father. We asked for a divine healing.

But during surgery, his vocal chords were inadvertently damaged. For months afterward, he couldn't speak above a raspy whisper. Doctors told him to expect that to be his new normal.

One day, my wife and I called my parents to announce that we were expecting our first child. On hearing the news, my Dad exclaimed, "That's great!"

His voice was suddenly normal. And it remained so for the rest of his life. And the cancer? He lived another 13 years and remained cancer free, dying at age 83.

I've experienced other miracles as well.

When I was a 20-year-old college student, I worked a summer at a camp in Colorado and was assigned to mentor a 14-year-old boy. He just drove me nuts, every day. He wouldn't shut up. He had opinions on everything and, boy, did he love to argue.

During that summer, I learned a lot about prayer. The camp pastor, Gil Wesley, spoke to the staff, who were mostly college students, about spiritual intimacy and our desire to someday marry.

After our lesson, we hiked into the mountains and prayed by ourselves. I picked a hill overlooking a vast mountain valley, pitched a tent, built a fire and prayed that someday I would find a woman to share my life with.

Shortly before I finished working at the camp that summer, I gave the boy I was mentoring a copy of the New Testament. I wished him well and wondered for years whatever became of him.

Seventeen years later, I was engaged to marry a beautiful woman I met in Springfield and we decided to vacation in Colorado. On the trip we had a major argument, which was entirely my fault.

We decided to stop at the camp where I had worked nearly two decades earlier. After introducing my fiancé, Joan, to the directors of the camp, we were asked, "When are you two getting married?"

Joan gave me a look and I mumbled we haven't figured that out yet. Then they asked, "Where are you getting married?" I shifted uncomfortably from foot to foot and said, "Well, we don't know."

Danny, one of the directors, said, "You ought to get married in our chapel." I responded that I didn't know they had one. He laughed and said they had built it after I had left. He then turned and pointed to a church sitting atop the once barren hilltop where I had camped and prayed 17 years before.

I then asked if they knew whatever happened to that 14-year-old I had mentored. They looked at me and exclaimed in unison, "John Stultz?" They then explained he had just graduated from seminary and had joined the camp as its chaplain.

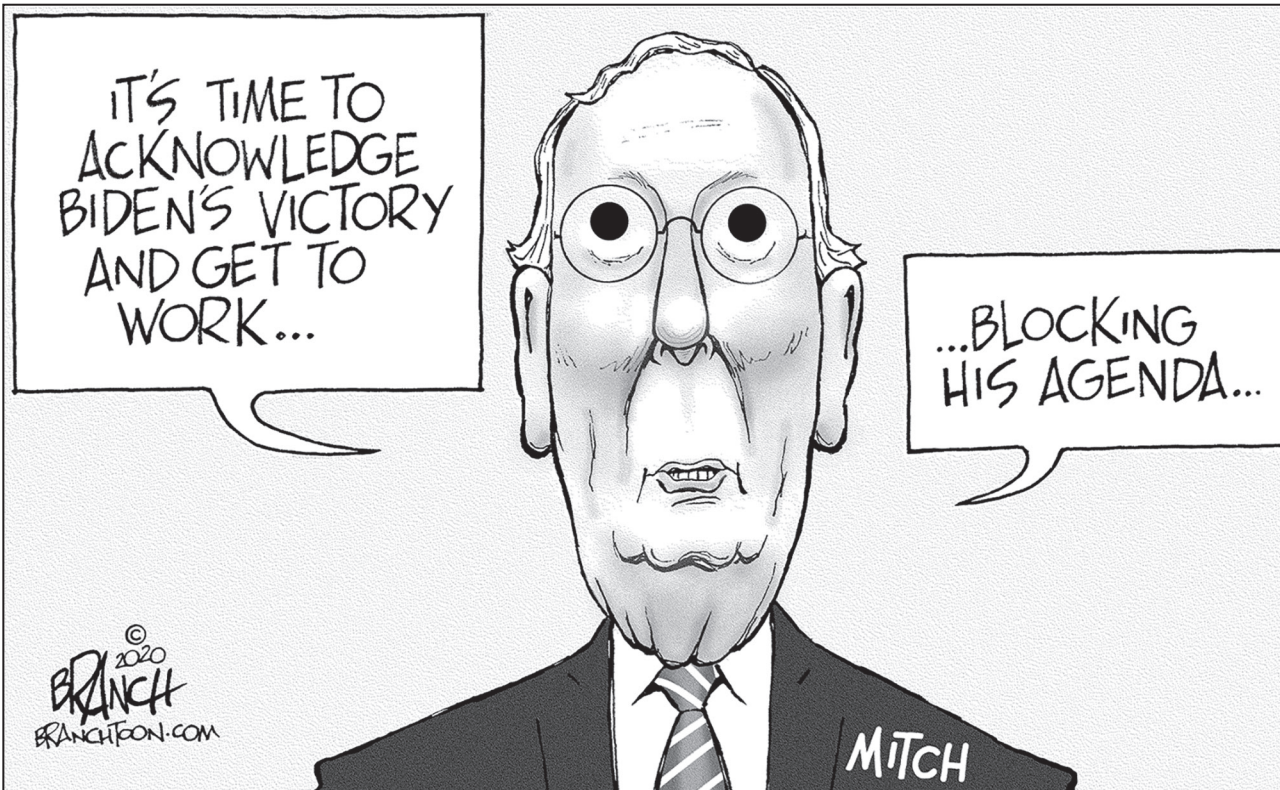
No sooner, had they said this when the door to a neighboring building opened and a 32-year-old man came out and gawked at me. He then turned, ran into his office and came out carrying a worn Bible.

"Scott Reeder, you were the first person to ever give me a Bible," he said as he hurried toward us. Later he said, "If you guys get married here, yours will be the first wedding I'll have officiated."

A few months later, we did return to that once barren hilltop to exchange vows. We've been married now almost 18 years and have three daughters.

Yes, I believe in miracles.

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



Toasting the Civic Center – Midnight 1987

(The following is from Jessica Nashold's Backtracks & Sidetracks column reprinted from Dec. 31, 1997.)

By Jessica Nashold

Ten years ago, on Dec. 30, 1987, contractors and committees were working feverishly to ready the new Civic Center for a New Year's Eve party the following night.

Material needed had not been received though ordered in plenty of time for New Year's Eve.

Of special importance were the kitchen and banquet areas.

Four hundred reservations had been received. The event had been entitled New Beginnings. Hors d'oeuvres would be served from 9 to 11:30. Music from Pro DJ, Inc. of Chicago had been arranged for dancing on the portable dance floor.

Manager Chere Motter reported the contractor had promised work in the key areas would be completed in time for the big event. And so it was.

More than 450 celebrants enjoyed a lavish assortment of Swedish meat balls, ham balls, barbecued chicken wings, cheese balls with crackers, deviled eggs, relishes and dips.

Goldy Goldstein, the disc jockey from Pro DJ, performed for more than six hours. He staged a hula hoop contest in which Cindy Beetz bested Nancy Campbell. A weekend trip for two to the Clock Tower, donated by Dr. and Mrs. William Skutta, was won by Rose and Paul Faber.

Taking the floor, and captured on film, was H.D. Hume dancing with granddaughter Marsha Jones. A number of couples marked wedding anniversaries: Kim and Jerry Pohl, 11 years; Clarence and Maurice Faber, 40 years; Lois and Earl Waldorf, 42 years. The Bob Staffords, former residents, returned from Naperville for the history-making occasion.

At midnight, the New Year was toasted in champagne and a breakfast was served at 12:30 a.m.

Although there is still much to be done, all agreed the new Civic Center to be –

Backtracks & Sidetracks

A beautiful building.

Manager Motter said the Senior Lounge would be ready the first of the year. The Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS) office moved to the center on Jan. 4, 1988. The youth area was not yet fully equipped.

After a late December snowfall of several inches, The Reporter camera found an unusual snowman in the yard of 805 Pennsylvania Ave. It represented William (The Refrigerator) Perry, tackle for the Chicago Bears, and was dressed in a Mendota Trojans uniform. Builders were John McLeod, Marty and Matt Sawin, and Jamie Banks.

Reporter editor Lyle Ganther pinpointed what he considered the most newsworthy events of 1987: the resignation of Mayor Jim Troupis and the appointment of Jim Strouss as acting mayor; failure in April of a MHS referendum seeking a tax increase of 60 cents per \$100 valuation and passage by a narrow margin in November of a referendum asking 45 cents; new ownership of Hart Carter Co. and its renaming as HCC, Inc.; a big contract for road wheels at Motor Wheel; formation of a union by some city employees; demolition in December of Kakusha Motel; the appointment of John Clark as new police chief.

A few achievements of MHS athletes in 1987 ranked as notable: Trojan basketball team played in Sweet 16 Class A; Spikers placed third in IHSA Class A Girls' Volleyball; Trojan football team played in 3A semifinals; and Sherry Hoffman placed first in high jump at IHSA Girls' Track Meet.

Among new laws that became effective Jan. 1, 1988, were mandatory

testing for AIDS by couples applying for marriage licenses; a charge of \$2 for each notice sent to drivers delinquent in taking care of traffic citations; a deadline of July 1, 1988 for installation of smoke detectors in sleeping areas; requirement that at least two-fifths of new enterprise zones must be wholly or partially in counties with unemployment rates of 8 percent or above; police allowed to use preliminary breath testing for alcohol levels before taking a motorist in for further tests.

A cold wave descended on Mendota with a Jan. 4, 1988 reading of 15 below zero and Jan. 6 reading of 20 below. Two shelters were provided for birds wintering at Lake Mendota.

It was announced that Starved Rock State Park Lodge would close Jan. 5, 1988 for a \$5 million renovation. The work was expected to take about three months.

Mendota merchants interviewed at the close of the holidays credited bad weather for keeping people in town to do their shopping. Mitch Kaleel had another explanation for a better-than-expected season.

The stock market crash probably helped us. People quit buying big things and bought more little things.

At Spurgeon's, the "hottest selling item" was a little fuzzy buzzer that removed fuzz balls from sweaters. Little accessories and scarves went well at The Grapevine. At Barr's Shoes, the New Year's Eve party at the Civic Center led to the sale of more "party-type" shoes. At the Ben Franklin, Tom Schultz expressed the majority opinion –

In general, it was a very good Christmas.

Frank Duro assumed his duties as director of the Physical Therapy Department at Mendota Community Hospital on Dec. 21, 1987. He supervised two employees. Duro came to Mendota from Monroe, Wis., where he has served in its clinic for 12 years.

No, Joe, we're not in a 'climate crisis'

By Rich Lowry

Former Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel's famous axiom is that a crisis is a terrible thing to waste. It's an even worse thing to manufacture.

Although President-elect Joe Biden obviously disagrees. Creating an unwarranted sense of drama and urgency around climate change is central to his approach, in order to catalyze action unsupported by the facts or common sense.

In announcing his climate and energy team, Biden declared climate change a crisis requiring a "unified national response." Going even further, he called it "an existential threat of our time," a frankly preposterous claim if taken literally, or even seriously.

To maintain that increasing global temperatures are a threat to human existence itself entails believing that human beings -- an endlessly adaptive species that has drastically increased its own lifespan over the past century -- will be snuffed out if the planet gets a few degrees hotter.

If the worst comes and sea levels rise significantly, we won't move away from the coasts and find better ways to control flooding. If summers get much hotter in places unaccustomed to it, we won't invest more in air conditioning. If droughts markedly increase, we won't husband our water resources more intelligently. If some areas become uninhabitable, we won't leave for more hospitable climes.

No, a humanity that is wealthier and more technologically proficient than ever will be content to expose itself to the worst depredations of nature that it has done so much to master over the past millennium.

This is a laughable account of how the world works. The globe has been getting warmer for decades now, with no adverse effects on human population or longevity. Heck, even

polar bears, once held out as the pitiable victims of global warming, aren't being driven to extinction.

In a climate speech during the campaign a few months ago, Biden relied on the tried-and-true alarmist tack of attributing every adverse weather event to global warming, including the flooding in the Midwest. Somewhat counterintuitively, Biden also blamed drought in the Midwest on climate change.

Finally, Biden cited Hurricane Laura, the Category 4 storm that made landfall in Louisiana, as yet more climate-driven extreme weather. The studies do show more storm activity in the Atlantic, Lomborg writes, but there's no global trend in tropical cyclones.

Biden spoke of "a feeling of dread and anxiety" over climate change, but this isn't a sentiment that, to the extent it exists at all, he wants to address or assuage. Instead, he seeks to stoke it, and if that requires frankly distorting the scientific consensus to paint catastrophic scenarios, so be it.

There is no doubt that human activity contributes to climate change. It is a long-term challenge that we should seek to understand better and prepare to address through adaption and innovation should the worst come decades from now.

But that's not enough for Biden. He doesn't want to get us thinking about climate change, but rather to suspend all rational thought about the issue -- especially about the downsides of costly measures to crimp the U.S. economy in the name of saving the planet.

In short, he needs a crisis atmosphere, the facts and science be damned.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Mendota City Officials

- MAYOR**
- David Boelk, 803 Meadowview Drive,815-538-3924
- FIRST WARD ALDERMEN**
- James Fitzpatrick, 807 Pennsylvania Ave., ...815-538-2474
- John Hessenberger, 1406 Hillcrest Drive,815-539-9934
- SECOND WARD ALDERMEN**
- John Holland, 902 West Lawn,815-528-5367
- Leo Hochstatter, 1102 S. Park Ave.,630-841-1315
- THIRD WARD ALDERMEN**
- Kyle Kim, 504 First Ave.,815-538-2414
- Jay Miller, 702 First Ave.,757-412-9374
- FOURTH WARD ALDERMEN**
- Mark Peasley, 2111 Cedar Ave.,815-252-7243
- Vicki Johnson, 206 Ninth St.,815-910-0816

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LOCAL AND AREA

Demmer

Continued from Page A1

ed that their government is actually working for them.”

He specifically cited the dual role of Madigan as House speaker for all but two of the past 37 years and, for two decades, as head of the state’s Democratic Party. Madigan was named as “Public Official A” this year in a deferred prosecution agreement in which utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted to a bribery scheme aimed at influencing the speaker.

In the November elections, Republicans successfully deployed Madigan’s name and image in advertising on a wide scale, pummeling Democratic candidates for direct or tenuous ties to the speaker. Distrust in state level politicians was also a theme used to defeat a graduated income tax constitutional amendment, a key priority of Gov. JB Pritzker.

Madigan has not been charged and denies wrongdoing, but that did not make the ads any less potent, and the number of high-profile Democrats and members of Madigan’s caucus seeking his ouster is growing. Republicans hope the weakening of the speaker brings broader change.

Demmer, who works as director of innovation and strategy at Katherine Shaw Betheda Hospital, which has locations in Lee and Ogle counties, touts his experiences with making deals in the General Assembly. He also touts a “common man” upbringing as the son of a public school teacher whose mother founded the Home of Hope Cancer Wellness

Center after his father’s death from brain cancer.

“I think that Illinois needs representation from average citizens across Illinois,” he said when asked what lessons could be learned from the four-year term of Republican ex-Gov. Bruce Rauner. “That we need to have representatives of the House and Senate and executive branch offices who really understand what it means to live and work and raise a family in Illinois.”

He has represented the 90th District since 2013, which includes parts of Ogle, LaSalle, DeKalb and Lee counties. Prior to that, he was elected at 23 years old to the county board in Lee County, where he resides with his wife and daughter.

Demmer last week criticized the governor for what he believes is a lack of bipartisan will, citing quick, partisan approval of a minimum wage hike in Pritzker’s earliest days in office, as well as a “unilateral” response to the pandemic.

But some of the bipartisan proposals Demmer promotes as his own wins became law with Pritzker’s signature.

Among them were a series of jobs-focused measures, which were included in a budget and capital infrastructure package, which came together in the eleventh hour of Pritzker’s first year as governor in 2019.

Those include the Blue Collar Jobs Act, which off-sets some portion of labor costs of large-scale industrial projects, a phased-in repeal of the state’s franchise tax and added incentives for bringing data centers to Illinois. That helped spur Facebook’s announcement this year of an \$800 million

data storage facility planned for DeKalb.

Still, while Pritzker and Republican and Democratic leaders alike praised the 2019 budget and Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure plan after their bipartisan passage, Demmer said he believes bipartisanship is the “exception to the rule” when it comes to the governor. That’s despite the fact Pritzker had supportive supermajorities in each chamber in his first year, meaning legislation could be passed without Republican support.

He pointed to Pritzker’s pandemic response, which has included limited legislative action from lawmakers in Springfield. The governor has said, however, that he would prefer if lawmakers did meet and take further action on pandemic-related measures.

Lawmakers met briefly in May to pass mail-in voting expansion and other limited-scope pandemic-related measures, as well as a budget, which included a \$3.9 billion deficit that moved forward on partisan lines. Other than that, Democratic leaders have canceled session, citing health concerns, and Pritzker has not used his authority to call a special session.

Demmer said the lack of involvement of legislators in response to the pandemic adds another layer of distrust to state government. While Pritzker frequently cites ongoing discussion with Republicans, Demmer said the role of the General Assembly is to meet deliberatively, not to serve as “consultants” in private calls to the governor.

“The result of that is that many people around the state of Illinois feel like their

voice hasn’t been heard,” he said. “They feel like their community hasn’t been taken into consideration. And it’s harmed the ability for local officials to implement and enforce these executive orders. And it’s also harmed the general public’s ability to trust, and comply with those decisions.”

Pritzker – who last week announced more than \$700 million in budget cuts to address the anticipated \$3.9 billion deficit in the budget he signed – has criticized Republicans for opposing his budget proposals without offering alternatives.

Demmer and fellow Republicans in May opposed the governor’s budget, saying it was based on “hypothetical revenues” created by the graduated income tax, which failed, and a federal stimulus package for states that has stalled in Congress. But when asked if Republicans should propose a list of budget cuts going into negotiations, Demmer said that’s not his preferred way of negotiating.

The state should first adopt a realistic revenue estimate and host appropriations hearings throughout the session to plan on spending the anticipated revenue, he said, instead of adopting a revenue estimate to accommodate spending at the end of a legislative session. It’s customary in Springfield that budgets are negotiated by nonpublic working groups then brought to rank-and-file lawmakers in the waning hours of session with limited time for review.

Demmer and Pritzker have also agreed that Madigan should have testified before the legislative commit-

tee launched by Republicans to investigate his ComEd ties. Democrats recently dissolved the committee, asserting that it was called for political purposes.

Asked if his intent to run for statewide office gives credence to the claim that the committee was called to advance Republican members’ visibility, Demmer pointed to the seriousness of the allegations.

“Given the facts that are laid out in federal court, I would be shocked if that happened in any state if there wasn’t an investigation into the only public official who’s identified in the court filings and one who was at the very center of an incredibly comprehensive scheme that was admitted to by a public utility,” he said.

For a statewide run, Demmer would have the support of House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs.

“Tom, I think, fits the profile of what the Republican Party needs to put forward in this next election cycle,” Durkin said, praising Demmer’s budget skills and ability to distill the complicated document into “common language.”

Durkin also touched on divisions within the Republican Party – often visible within the House Republican caucus – and what he believes is Demmer’s ability to bridge them.

“Tom believes in Republican principles, but he’s also a person who believes that we can resolve differences that we have to improve the state,” he said. “So that’s what a great majority of people are looking for – people want results. They

want leaders that are going to be collaborative. They’re looking for leaders to get things done.”

Jeffrey Brincat – a political donor who supported Rauner’s two campaigns, was appointed by the former governor to the Illinois Racing Board and served as finance chair on the campaigns of former U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk and former U.S. Rep. Bob Dold, both Republicans – said he will also back Demmer.

Brincat has also donated to former Democratic House member Scott Drury and current Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego – a pair of lawmakers who have publicly feuded with Madigan.

“There’s a very commonsense, good judgment perspective a guy like Tom brings to Illinois politics,” Brincat said. “And I would argue that maybe that’s the sea change shift we need to make a government stop working for the powerful and well connected and make it work for Illinois again.”

The filing period for petitions to run in the March 2022 primaries is expected to be Nov. 22-29 of 2021, according to a spokesperson for the Illinois State Board of Elections. Established party candidates can begin passing petitions 90 days before the last day of filing, which would be Aug. 31, 2021.

(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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THE BACK PAGE

POLICE BLOTTER

THEFT

Peter P. Dancy, 46, of 28471 2900 North Ave., LaMoille, was charged with theft (under \$500) after police officers were called to the 200 block of Second Street in reference to a theft at 12:05 p.m. Dec. 21. The subject was released with a LaSalle County court date.

WARRANT ARREST

Caleb L. Wilson, 22, of 800 Chicago St., Mendota, was arrested at 8:14 p.m. Dec. 22 on a valid Ogle County arrest warrant for illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor. The subject was released with an Ogle County court date.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

A vehicle driven by Lynn M. Hann, 63, of Oswego, and a bicycle operated by George Reutner, 76, of Mendota, collided at the intersection of Washington Street and 10th Avenue at 3:23 p.m. Dec. 23. Reutner was transported to OSF Saint Paul Medical Center. The crash is being investigated by the Mendota Police Department.

DRIVING WHILE

LICENSE SUSPENDED

Jacob Albers, 26, of 569 N. 46th Road, Mendota, was charged with driving while license suspended after police officers investigated a motor vehicle crash at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and U.S. Route 52 at 4:26 p.m. Dec. 23. The subject was released with an Ottawa court date.

ENDANGERING

CHILD

Megan M. Watson, 32, of 916 Main St., Mendota, was charged with endangering the life or health of a child after police officers were called to the 900 block of Illinois in reference to a young child walking alone at 6:29 p.m. Dec. 23. The subject was released with an Ottawa court date.



Top tree

Cindy Holdenrid of Mendota is the winner of The Mendota Reporter's Online Christmas Tree Contest. Entries were submitted through Dec. 16 and then voting was done online from Dec. 16 to Dec. 25. Holdenrid's tree was the top vote-getter and she is the winner of the \$50 prize.

MPD offers winter driving safety tips

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

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

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

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The family of Dorothy Elston would like to thank everyone for all of the acts of kindness we received upon the passing of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The many cards and memorial donations given to Holy Cross Church and School and Mendota Area Senior

Services in Dorothy's name is very much appreciated. We wish to thank Fr. Pilon and the organist, soloist and lector from Holy Cross Church for the beautiful funeral service. The hymns played and sung reminded our family of times past when Dorothy had also sung them as soloist in the Holy Cross Church

choir. Andrea, Kelly and Robin from OSF Hospice team and staff and Dorothy's caregivers were incredibly caring and knowledgeable, and provided much-needed assistance to our family. Thank you to Catherine Wasmer of Wasmer Funeral Home for your excellent service at this difficult time.



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 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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—Police Chief Greg Kellen

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- This year we lost some great stars, notably Sean Connery, Olivia DeHavilland, Alex Trebek, Regis Philbin, Little Richard, Eddie Van Halen, Helen Reddy, Diana Rigg and sadly, Chadwick Boseman. Best known for "Black Panther," Boseman also portrayed pioneering Americans Jackie Robinson, James Brown and Thurgood Marshall. He was 43.



Boseman

Many famous people have memorable messages on their tombstones. The outlaw Jesse James' mother wrote on his tombstone, "Murdered Apr 3, 1882 By a Traitor and Coward Whose Name is Not worthy to appear here." Legendary comedian Ed Wynn, best remembered as the laughing man on the ceiling in "Mary Poppins," hand signed his stone with a message to God that says "thanks."

Comedian Sam Kinison's family wrote, "SAMUEL BURL KINISON IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED A PROPH-

ET." Legendary comic Stan Laurel's tombstone reads: "AMASTER OF COMEDY, HIS GENIUS IN THE ART OF HUMOR BROUGHT GLADNESS TO THE WORLD HE LOVED." His partner Oliver Hardy's reads: "A GENIUS OF COMEDY, HIS TALENT BROUGHT JOY AND LAUGHTER TO ALL THE WORLD."

Talk show host and game show creator Merv Griffin ("Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune") had written on his stone what he said the most on his talk show, "I WILL NOT BE RIGHT BACK AFTER THIS MESSAGE." Famous for saying "I get no respect," comedian Rodney Dangerfield had written on his stone, "THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD." Mel Blanc, "the man of a thousand voices," including Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and many Looney Tunes characters, wrote, "THAT'S ALL FOLKS."

Johnny Cash and June Carter were laid to rest side by side and share a tombstone that says, "CASH-CARTER I WALK THE LINE." Louis Armstrong, best remembered for his mega 1962 hit "Hello Dolly," which he sang with Barbra Streisand in the film version, simply has his

nickname, "SATCHMO LOUIS ARMSTRONG," while Frank Sinatra has "FRANCIS ALBERT SINATRA, THE BEST IS YET TO COME." His buddy Dean Martin also has a song title on his marker, "DEAN MARTIN, EVERYBODY LOVES SOMEBODY SOMETIME."

Sex symbol Jayne Mansfield's family wrote on her stone, "WE LIVE TO LOVE YOU MORE EACH DAY." Oscar-winner Jack Lemmon used his stone as a marquee. Because he appeared in almost 60 major films, he simply had "JACK LEMMON in ..." put on his tombstone. The legendary Bette Davis has "BETTE DAVIS SHE DID IT THE HARD WAY." John Wayne's family had his quote from a 1971 Playboy interview written on his, "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday."

As you can see from what they wrote, an actor's legacy is not enough -- they have to have the last word!

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Celebrity Extra

By Dana Jackson

Q: Do you think the original judges from "American Idol" will ever return to that show? I know Simon Cowell is with "America's Got Talent," but I miss the old days of "AI." There's too many of these shows on the air now anyway. -- **O.S.**



P. Abdul

A: It's hard to believe it's been almost two decades since we met Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson on our television screens. We children of the '80s already knew Paula Abdul from her pop music career, but she became a household name to all the generations who watched her as a judge on "American Idol." She left the show in 2009. Cowell followed a year later, and Jackson was the last to depart. Each has gone on to other projects, either in front of the camera or behind the scenes as producers.

Cowell has been recuperating after breaking his back in August while riding his electric bike. Abdul can be seen as a panelist on the

new Fox reality competition show "The Masked Dancer." Randy Jackson served as a producer of "America's Best Dance Crew" series and currently promotes a brand of health supplements. Jackson underwent gastric bypass surgery in 2003 and has kept the weight off.

As for a revival of the original "American Idol" judge crew, I'm all for it. Maybe it'll happen for its 20-year anniversary in 2022. However, in the meantime, season 19 of "Idol" will begin airing in February with judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan.

Q: Is the actress who plays Flo on the soap "The Bold and the Beautiful" the same one who played the intern on "30 Rock"? -- **C.T.**

A: Yes, she is. Actress Katrina Bowden was cast on the NBC comedy "30 Rock," created by and starring Tina Fey, at just 18 years old. She played Cerie, the beautiful but mostly incompetent assistant behind the scenes of a fictional sketch comedy show. She later appeared in a few movies, but returned to television on the CBS daytime soap.

Don't knock soaps though. With their fast pace and loads of dialogue to memorize, soaps are a great training ground for actors. Several stars who started their careers in primetime or film find the pace too much of a challenge, so I applaud Bowden for exceling at it.

Q: I just read about the passing of author John Le Carré. He was my father's favorite writer. Dad especially loved the book "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy." Did he have any books waiting for publication at the time of his death? -- **P.M.**

A: Le Carré recently passed away from pneumonia at the age of 89. His final novel, "A Legacy of Spies," was published in 2017, and it's not known yet if he was working on anything before his death. The film adaptation of "Tinker" came out in 2011 and starred Gary Oldman, who was nominated for an Oscar for the role.

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

Netflix has a new documentary series that explores some very niche competitions. It's called "We Are the Champions," and if you're not watching it, you're missing out. Rainn Wilson narrates a collection of weird and wonderful battles in such diverse subject matter as competitive hair design, hot pepper consumption and chasing a wheel of cheese down an impossibly steep hill.

It's all great fun, but I found myself yelling at the TV, completely emotionally invested in someone's progress. And so much laughing. Of course, like most easily digestible and highly entertaining series, it was over in what felt like a minute -- leaving me searching for more. So here are a few movies that satisfy a weirdly competitive itch, some more mainstream than others.

"Pitch Perfect" -- Serious musical ambitions almost stop Beca (Anna Kendrick) from joining an all-girl singing group her freshman year at college. Fortunately, a deal with her dad keeps her on the Bellas. Pitted against the winning all-male

Treblemakers, who also have aca-aspirations for the ICCA crown and a spot at Lincoln Center, Beca and her Bellas get acoustically creative.

"TAG" -- Five man-child fools maintain a decades-long game of TAG, played one month of the year, every year, since they were kids. Hoagie (Ed Helms) is on a mission to tag the game legend, Jerry (Jeremy Renner) -- who has NEVER been tagged. How far will a grown man go to tag another grown man? Pretty far, it seems.

"Bring It On" -- The Rancho Carne Toros' new cheer captain Torrence (Kirsten Dunst) inherits a national title-winning cheer squad with a dirty little secret: Their routines are stolen from East Compton High's Clover squad led by Isis (Gabrielle Union). Both teams pull out all the stops to win at nationals.

"Akeelah and the Bee" -- Eleven-year-old Akeelah (Keke Palmer) from South LA takes a shot at the national spelling title in this uplifting drama with moving performances from Laurence Fishburne and Angela Bassett.

"To Wong Foo, Thanks for

Everything! Julie Newmar" -- Two New York drag queens -- Vida Boheme (Patrick Swayze) and Noxeema Jackson (Wesley Snipes) -- take their co-won title on a cross country road trip to LA, to face the fierce competition at Drag Queen Nationals, bringing along Miss Chi-Chi Rodriguez (John Alberto Leguizamo), a newbie with a ton of passion.

"Fight Club" -- An emotionally troubled man (Ed Norton) walks us through his descent from an unfulfilling job through insomnia and an addiction to support groups to his friendship with an enigmatic soap-seller (Brad Pitt) and the creation of an underground fight club where pugilistic hedonism reigns supreme.

"Rocket Science" -- Hal Hefner (Reece Thompson) is a 15-year-old with a speaking problem: He stutters, so it's only natural that pert and competitive debater Ginny (Anna Kendrick) seeks him out as a debate partner. Only problem? Hal has a soul-crushing infatuation for Ginny, and Ginny has some questionable motives.

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• Trivia Test •

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Canadian province British Columbia?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which university or college has sports teams with the nickname "Golden Gophers"?
3. MEASUREMENTS: How many cups equal 1 quart?
4. TELEVISION: What was the name of the mansion in the TV series "Dark Shadows"?
5. ANATOMY: What are the tissues that hold bones together?
6. SCIENCE: What is the study of plants called?
7. MOVIES: What are the main food groups, according to Buddy in the movie "Elf"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the scientific adjective

- used to describe fish?
9. CURRENCY: What is the basic currency of Haiti?
10. INVENTIONS: Who is credited with the invention of vaccines?

Answers

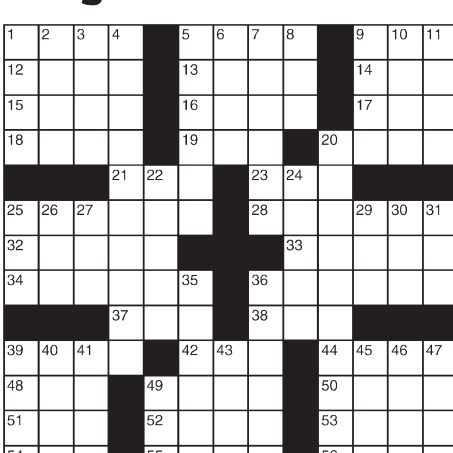
1. Victoria
2. University of Minnesota
3. Four
4. Collinwood
5. Ligaments
6. Botany
7. Candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup
8. Piscine
9. Gourde
10. Edward Jenner

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Lang Syne"
- 5 Steed stopper
- 9 Plead
- 12 Dandling site
- 13 Reactions to pyrotechnics
- 14 Preceding
- 15 Mid-month date
- 16 Automaker Ransom Eli
- 17 Have a bug
- 18 Small winning margin
- 19 Go blue?
- 20 Air for a pair
- 21 "How I Met Your Mother" net
- 23 Census stat
- 25 Off-course
- 28 Auction, often
- 32 Use crib notes
- 33 Rechargeable battery
- 34 Grow canines
- 36 Tourist attractions
- 37 Moray or conger
- 38 Coop occupant
- 39 Witty one
- 42 Clay, now
- 44 "Super-food" berry
- 48 Tramcar contents



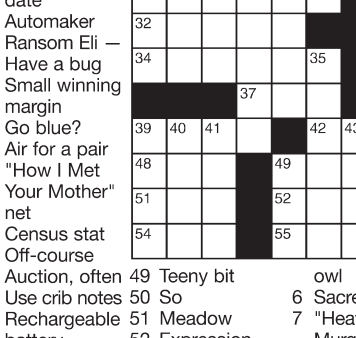
DOWN

- 1 Related
- 2 Loosen
- 3 Dregs
- 4 Treated with reverence
- 5 "Give a hoot, don't pollute"
- 6 Sacred
- 7 "Heavens to Murgatroyd!"
- 8 Donkey
- 9 Suitor
- 10 One of HOMES
- 11 Money
- 20 Like some drivers or hitters
- 22 Wash
- 24 Aladdin's ally
- 25 Performance
- 26 The girl
- 27 Shirt shape
- 29 Interlaken
- 30 Long, crosser
- 31 Mag. staffers
- 35 Very happy
- 36 Vibrate abnormally
- 39 Filly's brother
- 40 Vicinity
- 41 Harvest
- 43 Byron or Tennyson
- 45 Burn somewhat
- 46 Atmosphere
- 47 "It Romantic?"
- 49 Chowd down

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

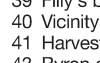
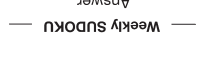
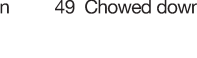
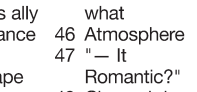
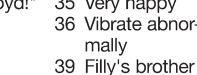
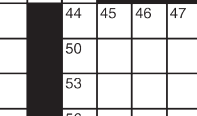
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers



Member FDIC

Brought to you each week by

FIRST STATE BANK

Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* On Earth you need heat to fuse metal, but in space, due to the lack of atmosphere, two pieces of the same kind of metal will fuse together with just a little pressure in a process called cold welding.

* The average person will grow 590 miles of hair in their lifetime. Nose hairs alone contribute 6.5 feet of that.

* Digging a hole to China is possible if you start in Argentina.

* While adult giraffes usually sleep standing up, their offspring get more comfortable by hunkering down on the ground and taking advantage of their extra-flexible necks, twisting around to plop their heads on their own posteriors.

* The U.S. government gave Indiana University \$1 million to study memes.

* Caffeine, which is found in tea leaves, guarana berries, kola nuts and, of course, coffee beans, acts as a natural pesticide. It overloads the nervous systems of insects that try to eat the plants containing it, paralyzing and even killing them before they can do too much damage.

* Liquids can boil and freeze at the same time.

* Can't get your kids to eat their carrots and broccoli? Perhaps they suffer from lachanophobia, otherwise known as the fear of vegetables.

* Hurricanes release the energy of 10,000 nuclear bombs.

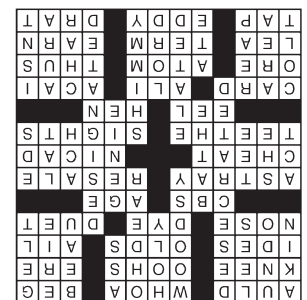
* Harry Truman was the first president to celebrate Hanukkah in the White House. In 1951, he accepted a menorah from David Ben Gurion, the prime minister of Israel.

* Charles Dickens believed that sleeping facing north would improve his writing.

* Finland was the first nation to experiment with autonomous vehicles in urban conditions. The country's laws don't oblige drivers to be inside the vehicle.

Thought for the Day: "When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world." -- George Washington Carver

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Solution time: 24 mins.
Answers

King Crossword

HAPPY 21st Birthday Michelle!



We love you! Mom, Dad, Billie & Susie

FUN ADS!
Put A Little Fun In Someone's Life!

Bring In A Photo With A Poem, Verse Or Message--or just a verse or message
(No extra charge for photo)

You can run any size ad \$6⁵⁰ per column inch for Reporter OR Money Saver \$8⁵⁰ per column inch in BOTH (See examples)

Call 815-539-9396 for more information

CONGRATULATIONS! on passing your State Exams

Carol Ann Smith, RN

Love, Joey



The Mendota Reporter

Stop In Today To Place Your Ad 703 Illinois Avenue • Mendota



COMMUNITY MATTERS

ASSISTED & INDEPENDENT LIVING

Stonecroft Village
1700 Burlington St.
815-538-5300
stonecroftvillage.com

AUCTIONEERS

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Specialty Body & Paint
1503 W. Washington St.
815-539-7801
Se Habla Español

AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

Mendota Ford
Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9314
www.mendotaford.com

Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy

Rt. 251 S.
815-539-9343
www.schimmergm.com

Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet
505 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Sublette
815-915-4170
www.vaessenbrothers.com

BEAUTY SALON

J.C.'s Headquarters
Hair • Nails • Massage • Tanning
810 Washington St. • 815-538-5171

BOOKKEEPING/TAX SERVICE

Baker's Computer & Office Services
4119 N. State Hwy. 251 • Mendota
Ph. 815-538-6290
Fax 815-538-7032
email: tux_dawg@frontier.com

CARPENTRY

Jones Home Improvement
Anthony J. Jones
815-539-6175

CARPET & FLOORING

Meysers Furniture & Carpet
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
800 Washington St.
815-539-6507

CONCRETE CONTRACTOR

Barkman Concrete Construction, Inc.
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-3705
Decorative Concrete - Foundations -
Driveways - Sidewalks

CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

Mauch Carpentry
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-7867
License #104005528

DENTISTS

Krenz Dental, Ltd.
Robert Krenz, D.D.S. • Jon Krenz, D.M.D.
704 Indiana Ave. • 815-538-5316

ELECTRICAL

Triple Service
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

Carriage House Electric
105 12th St.
815-538-5598

FAST TITLE & LICENSE

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 6th St. • Mendota
815-539-9311

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Eureka Savings Bank
1300 13th Ave.
815-539-5656
Member FDIC

Financial Plus Credit Union
1905 13th Ave.
815-539-3444
Member NCUA-ESI

First Federal Savings Bank
1205 Washington St.
815-539-6757
Member FDIC

First State Bank
706 Washington St. • Main
1403 13th Ave. • Plaza
815-538-2265
firststatebank.biz
Member FDIC

Pioneer State Bank
Earlville • 815-246-8411
Paw Paw • 815-627-2651
Sublette • 815-849-5242
Woodhaven • 815-849-5918
Member FDIC

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Chris Eller, The Retirement Specialists
801 Jefferson St.
815-539-3437
chris@chris-eller.com

FIREPLACES

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

FLORISTS

Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse
1207 22nd St.
815-539-9306

FUNERAL HOMES

Wasmer Funeral Home
2112 W. Main St.
815-539-8500

FURNITURE

Meysers Furniture & Carpet
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

GROCERY STORES

Sullivan's Foods
1102 Meriden St.
815-539-9341

GYM

YMCA
Route 251 South • Mendota
815-539-9343

HARDWARE STORES

Stephenitch Do It Best Hardware
Rt. 251 North
815-539-9394

HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

Campbell Plumbing & Heating
Heating • Cooling • Plumbing
1211 Chicago St.
815-539-5083
In Business 38 Years • IL Lic. #058-097742

Triple Service

Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

Walter Bros.

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling
909 Washington St.
815-538-6516
IL Lic. #058-102682

HOSPITALS

OSF HealthCare
Saint Paul Medical Center
1401 E. 12th St.
815-539-7461
www.osfsaintpaul.org

INSURANCE

First State Insurance
715 Washington St. • 815-539-5651

Kurt Bruno State Farm
1103 Main St. • 815-539-3878

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St. • 815-539-9311

KITCHEN & BATH

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742

MATTRESSES

Meysers Furniture & Carpet
1901 S. 13th Ave.
815-539-6263

OFFICE SUPPLY

Pohl's Office Supply & Equipment
809 Washington St.
815-538-5741

PET GROOMING

Dirty Dawgs
918 Main St., Ste 2
815-538-2550

PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

Campbell Plumbing & Heating
Heating • Cooling • Plumbing
1211 Chicago St.
815-539-5083
In Business 38 Years • IL Lic. #058-097742

Triple Service
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
801 Monroe St.
815-539-3828
IL Lic. #055-041123

Walter Bros.
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling
909 Washington St.
815-538-6516
IL Lic. #058-102682

POST FRAME BUILDERS

N.J. Morton Buildings, Ltd.
203 N. 4099th Road
815-539-9325
New construction & repair

REALTORS

Erbes Realty, LLC
1922 Tower Road • Sublette
815-535-6295 • Lorierbes@gmail.com

Homestead Realty
1316 Lakewood Plaza, #5
815-539-3811

McConville Realty & Auctioneering
612 Main St.
815-539-5673

Town & Country Realty
607 Sixth St.
(815) 539-6635

Woodhaven Lakes Realty
509 LaMoille Road • Sublette
815-849-5476

RECYCLING

Buckman Iron & Metal
705 5th St.
815-539-9563

RESTAURANTS

Main St. Station Bar & Grill
714 Main St.
815-539-7011
www.mainstreetstationbar-grill.com

McDonald's in Mendota
2 locations
Stop in and see us today!!

SEAMLESS ROOFING

DuroLast Roofing
705 Illinois Ave.
815-539-5142
License #104005528

SPORTING GOODS/CLOTHING

Sports-N-Stuff
804 Washington St.
815-539-6354

TAX PREPARATION

H&R Block
1313 Meriden St.
815-539-7610
Fax: 815-539-5047
hrblock.com

Setchell Agency, Ltd.
618 Sixth St.
815-539-9311

THRIFT STORES

Nightengales Thrift Shop
708 Jefferson St. • 815-539-6100
Supports Trinity Health Care Clinic • 815-910-0200

TRANSPORTATION

Mendota Area Senior Services
1901 Tom Merwin Drive
815-539-7700
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

TOWING

Ramer Automotive & Towing
Paul & Matt Ramer
4266 E. 4th Road
815-539-5321

VETERINARIANS

Ancare Veterinary Clinic
Stephen J. Dullard, DVM, ABVP
1205 Sixth Ave.
815-539-3844
www.ancarevet.com

Mendota Companion Animal Centre
Cathy J. Wolf, DVM
Rt. 251 N.
815-539-6601
www.mendotavet.com

WINDOWS & DECKING

Maze Lumber
Water Street • Peru
815-223-1742



City of
Mendota

800 Washington Street
815-539-7459
www.mendota.il.us

Eureka Savings
BANK
MEMBER FDIC

1300 13th Ave.
815-539-5656
www.eurekasavings.com

FIRST STATE BANK

706 Washington St. • Main
1403 13th Ave. • Plaza
815.538.2265

f i firststatebank.biz t i n



FIRST STATE INSURANCE

715
Washington Street
815-539-5651



FINANCIAL + plus
CREDIT UNION

Membership Open to the Community

Mendota Branch

1905 13th Avenue | Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-3444



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Free cheeseburger when you purchase a cheeseburger!

One coupon per customer per visit. Not valid with any other offer. Only redeemable at McDonald's in Mendota.

Now Hiring. EOE



2 locations
Mendota



LOCAL AND AREA

The secret to becoming who you're meant to be

Because I was sexually abused by my father throughout my childhood, I believed I was damaged goods and could only have a second-class life. I was so insecure and thought no one could really love me or accept me. I believed my worth was based on what I did; the only time I felt good about myself was when I worked hard and was productive.

But as I became serious about my relationship with God and began studying His Word more diligently, I discovered

that my past didn't have to determine who I am or what my future would be like. Learning about God's love for me and who I am in Christ changed everything!

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." And John 10:10 says Jesus came that we "may have life, and have it to the full."

If you have a poor self-image, you won't

be able to fulfill God's plans or enjoy your life. Because we can't live with His peace and know our true value to Him if we are insecure and have a low opinion of ourselves.

Discovering who we are in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) is the key to becoming who God created us to be and making a difference in this world. And we realize that the less we think about ourselves, the happier we will be.

Die to Self and Find a Life Worth Living

I remember when God dealt with me about my selfish, self-centered, "What about me?!" attitude. He spoke to my heart one day and said, "You're selfish. You've studied My Word about spiritual warfare, healing, having power and authority as a believer in Christ...but how much time have you studied about My love?"

It made me realize I would never be happy and have peace until I learned to love like Jesus loves.

When we know and experience God's love, we can share it with others. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone who calls themselves a Christian would really love each other with His love.



Think about it: There would be no gossip, no judgment or criticism, no exclusive attitudes that make others feel rejected, and people's needs would be met much more than they are.

The truth is serving others is God's ultimate plan for our lives. And Jesus gave us very real, practical examples of how to love others like He loves us by serving them.

Loving Others "to the Highest Degree"

John 13:1 says Jesus "loved them...to the highest degree" (AMPC). In the following verses, He demonstrates what it means to love others like this.

In those days, there were servants who washed people's feet when they came to visit. It's likely they were considered the lowliest servants in the household. Now Jesus, the Son of God Himself, got up from supper, took the servant's towel, and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. His message to them was to love one another by being a servant, because God wants His love to flow through us and touch other people's lives.

Love is not just a feeling or a theory; it's a decision we make and an action we take. It's so important for us to study what the Bible

teaches about God's love so we can learn to love like Jesus—to be a servant who "washes feet" by helping others.

Loving Others Like Jesus Loves

Matthew 7:12 (NIV) says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...." Showing God's love means investing in the lives of others by giving them support, encouraging them, helping to meet their needs as we're able to do so.

It's easy to want to help people you like or those you want to impress, but when it comes to doing something for someone you don't know or even your family, it can be a different story. We have to realize we're naturally selfish, and we must make a conscious decision to think of others on purpose or we'll miss many opportunities to serve them.

I want to encourage you to read John 13 and pay close attention to what Jesus did and what He said. Spend some time studying scriptures about God's love and pray for Him to show you ways you can serve the people in your life. You'll probably find it's easier and more simple than you thought it would be to help make someone's life better.

God wants us to enjoy our lives, and the key is to die to self, get over being the center of our world, and focus on helping someone every day. When you do this, you'll discover you're actually more secure, content, peaceful and happy than you've ever been in your life!

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.

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

We're Spreading The News... All Over Town!

Pick up your copy of The Mendota Reporter at any of these fine locations:

- Bonnell's General Store, Sublette
- Casey's General Store
- Earlville BP
- Beck Oil Co. Truck Stop
- Sublette BP, Sublette
- Beck Oil Co.
- Mendota Marathon
- Mendota Food Mart
- Mendota Shell
- Road Ranger, I-39
- Stephenich
- Do It Best Hardware
- Sullivan's Foods
- CVS Pharmacy
- Subway

The Mendota Reporter

703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL (815) 539-9396
FAX: (815) 539-7862

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!



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250** PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

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: Merlins
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)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: _____

Clip and mail this form along with \$22 (\$20 per calendar plus \$2 per calendar postage) to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068

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*The Merchants
on this page urge
you to attend a
house of worship
this week.*

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.

 Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words
- one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)


MENDOTA • EARLVILLE • LAMOILLE • TRIUMPH • TROY GROVE • SUBLETTE • COMPTON • WEST BROOKLYN • PAW PAW

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

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

113 FINANCIAL

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

203 HELP WANTED

PART-TIME LPN - CNA - MA - Wanted in Doctor's Office. 815-761-2503. Email jio8082@hotmail.com (01-03-20)

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

301 ANTIQUES

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

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

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$65 for Pick-up Load. Free Delivery Rochelle Area. 815-751-8719. (12-30-20)

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

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 & 2 - BEDROOM Apartments. Clean, Quiet Available Now. Some Utilities Included. Call For Showing 815-762-6650 or 815-761-3968. (12-23-20)

APARTMENTS FOR RENT: MENDOTA

1 & 2 Bedrooms, Appliances, A/C. 779-201-0532 815-498-2262.

203 HELP WANTED

Well-established contractor looking to hire person with general carpentry skills who works well with others and possesses good work ethic.

Pay established according to skill level. Please send resume to W.E.C. c/o The Mendota Reporter, P.O. Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342.

12092020

07272020

INFORMATION

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

Phone:
815-539-9396

Fax:
815-539-7862

Email:
jgriffith@mendotareporter.com

Address:
703 Illinois Ave., Mendota

Mail:
P.O. Box 300
Mendota IL 61342-0300

DEADLINES:

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

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

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

DISCLAIMER:

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

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2019 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier



GM Certified, 1-Owner, Local Trade, Leather Interior, Sunroof, Heated/Cooled Seats, 38K Miles, Pearl White

\$36,900



CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

- 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan
- 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

- 6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty
- 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- 172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process
- 3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee

2020 Chevy Tahoe 4x4 LT Leather, Sunroof, DVD Nav, Silver\$49,900

2020 Buick Enclave Avenir AWD, Loaded, GM Exec Black or White.....\$45,900

2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4x4, 26K Miles Silver.....\$44,900

2019 Chevy 1500 Trail Boss Crew Cab, 4x4, White.....\$42,900

2019 Chevy Traverse Premier AWD, 38K Miles Pearl White.....\$36,900

2019 Chevy Traverse 3LT Leather, AWD, Gray . \$31,900

2019 Buick Encore Preferred FWD, 10k mi, White. \$20,900

2018 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 54K Miles Silver.....\$30,500

2018 Chevy Equinox LT AWD 20K Miles, Pepperdust ..\$22,900

2018 Chevy Impala LT 47K Miles, Blue\$19,000

2018 Chevy Malibu LT Leather, Nav., 50K Miles Silver.....\$18,900

2018 Chev Equinox FWD LT Sunroof, 62K Miles Black\$17,500

2018 Chevy Malibu LT 45K Miles, Tan\$16,500

2017 Buick Envision Preferred AWD, 21K Miles, Black\$24,900

2017 Chevy Cruze LT Remote Start, Power Seat, White.....\$15,500

2016 Chevy Equinox FWD LT 43K Miles, Silver\$15,500

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2018 Chevy Traverse 3LT, AWD Leather, Gray.....\$26,900

2017 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab 4x4, Z71, LT, Diesel Black\$39,500

2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4, LT, Maroon.....\$30,900

2017 GMC Acadia Denali AWD, Maroon\$28,900

2016 Chevy Malibu LT Leather, 98K mi., Gray\$13,900

2014 Chevy 1500 Double Cab Z71, 4x4, Black.....\$23,500

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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. Any claim not filed within the time allowed is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that on the 22nd day of December, 2020, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of the City of Mendota, Illinois, voted to adopt new Rules and Regulations. The printed copies of the new Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk, Mendota, LaSalle County, Illinois. The new rule changes shall be operable 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Fire and Police Commission
Mendota, LaSalle County, Illinois
No. 1206
(12/30/2020)

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

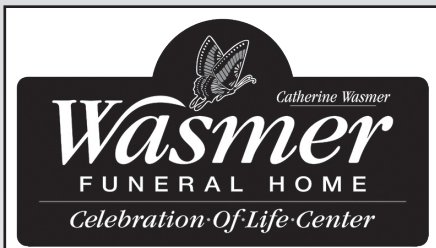
CLAIMS NOTICE

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

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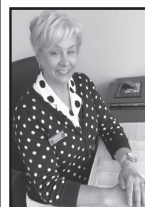
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